



Foster dogs Willie and Parker await better days. Read about the organization and the people that are helping them on Page 14.



Has Poolesville become a venue for a destination wedding? See Tidbits on Page 14.



Coach Fred Swick is back, coaching his team to victory. See Youth Sports on Page 3.

Local Haiti Relief Efforts

Many local churches, synagogues, civic groups and other organizations are coordinating funding and supplies for the Haitian earthquake victims. For a list of these local organizations, or their affiliated relief groups, please visit www.monocleonline.com. We will continue to update the list as we learn of more opportunities to help.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Volume VI, Number 21.

Planning Board Moves Ahead On Boyds Tennis Facility

By Kristen Milton

In spite of some cost questions from commissioners, the Montgomery County Planning Board gave the green light to start working on a new public/private partnership that would bring a tennis facility to South Germantown Recreational Park in Boyds. "This is a very exciting prospect," Chairman Royce Hanson noted as the January 7 hearing on the prospective Jack Schore Tennis Facility closed. "Germantown has waited a long time for this corner of the park to get filled in."

The board's unanimous vote of approval, made subject to further review of lease provisions, allows the negotiations to begin on a lease of just under twenty years anticipated for the tennis center. The approximately nine-acre facility would be located in a corner of the intersection of Central Park Circle and Germantown Park

Drive.

Some commissioners wanted more information about the monetary side of the arrangement, questioning whether the suggested rent was too low or the maintenance and administration costs too high. "We're running out of money," said Commissioner Joe Alfandre, referring to recent budget cuts. "We've got to start somewhere."

Hanson also suggested the facility set parameters such as receipt of free and reduced lunch to determine qualifications for participation in programs for the underprivileged. Shore said he has generally been less formal about such matters; however, commissioners and staff alike praised the concept for the center, proposed as a facility that would operate seven days a week to offer tennis leagues, classes, individual play, camps, and events for area residents from toddlers to senior citizens.



A new tennis center may join the Soccerplex in Boyds.

Three to four tournaments annually are anticipated.

The facility would include eight indoor tennis courts under two permanent air-conditioned "bubble" structures as well as four lighted outdoor courts to be added to the two existing courts at the site. A clubhouse and forty-two parking spaces were also part of the plans. A later phase includes four more indoor and two more outdoor courts with another

-Continued on Page 7.

Remembrance "Mayor" of Sugarland Passes Away

By Kristen Milton

Poolesville's Sugarland community lost a link to the past and a valuable part of its present with the January 7 death of Phillip "Sammy" Johnson.

Niece Gwen Reese of Gaithersburg said Johnson, 90, was known unofficially among



friends and family as "the mayor of Sugarland" while members of St. Paul Community Church considered him a "father of the church."

"Because he was the eldest person in the church and because everyone looked up to him for guidance, it was an

honorary title," said Reese, who serves as a St. Paul trustee as well as president of the Sugarland Ethno History Project, which gathers information about the historically African-American community just south of Poolesville.

Reese said Johnson, a third-generation resident of Sugarland who remembered the ex-slave grandfather for whom he was named, was invaluable in her efforts to document the region's history.

"We've interviewed him many times," she said. "He was

-Continued on Page 15.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Behold the happy ex-warriors of the American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247. They recently switched their meeting place from Boyds to the Poolesville Town Hall. Area veterans interested in joining up should know they meet the first Thursday of every month. Give Commander William Poole a call at 301-972-8007 for more information.



Jeff Nordin (far right) won the grand prize one-year free membership drawing at the 15th annual open house at Healthworks. He is joined by wife Dawn and son Everett (right) with Kim Sain and Carolyn McFall at the left. Kiki Hallanbauer, mother of Terrie Daniels, Healthworks owner (center) was happy to greet all the visitors.



Parents and players were also fans at the Knights of Columbus basketball shootout.



Ally Johnson drives it home during some 3 on 3 at the Knights of Columbus basketball shootout.

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Focus on Business

New Year's Resolutions and All that Jazz

By Rande Davis

It's the first of the year—and this time you really mean it. No more fooling around. Gonna get in shape, lose some weight, start getting healthy, and all that jazz. For a number of area women, that's exactly what they have done by joining Poolesville's Jazzercise.

Jennifer Sambataro, who has the local franchise of this national organization, started out as a student of Jazzercise in 1985. She became certified as an instructor in 1990 and started Poolesville Jazzercise the same year—all while pregnant with her third

daughter, Daniela.

Born in Michigan and raised in New York State, Jennifer is married and has two other daughters, Marisa and Laura. She has a dance background—years of ballet classes—although she is quick to let us know that while the dancing is the part that makes the exercise fun, you don't have to be ready to compete in "Dancing with the Stars" to enjoy this class.

Working with her is Kathy Bassett, who trained to become an instructor of Jazzercise and joined Jennifer in 1994. Kathy is a southern California girl (Pasadena), married with two children, Melanie and Zane. She loved dancing and got started with Jazzercise in 1981 under instruction from Judi Missett, the founder of Jazzercise. "I was walking by the neighborhood church and heard great music, popped in to take look, and was warmly greeted, invited to join, got hooked, and

never looked back." She likes the exercise as a great way to stay balanced in life. "I Jazzercised through two pregnancies, a divorce, a new marriage, and work stress with a smile."

Jennifer points out that worry that the dance routines will be too difficult to follow is the greatest apprehension from prospective students. "The class is taught in the follow-the-leader format where low-impact and the lighter side are always shown. Everyone 'dances' at their own level."

Conversely, it is also the dance and music that is the most often-cited reason for liking the program. "It's fun, and when the hour is up, you don't even know you burned five hundred calories. It's a full-body workout incorporating a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, and kickboxing movements all in one hour."

For Jennifer and Kathy, running Jazzercise also gives them a great opportunity to get involved in the community as they do in Poolesville Relay for Life (Team-



Instructors Jennifer Sambataro (top) and Kathy Bassett from Poolesville Jazzercise.

Jammin' Jazzers), and looking for other ways to follow the founder's philosophy of giving back to the community. Jennifer has taught Jazzercise, Jr. classes at Poolesville Elementary School in an after-school dance program since 1992.

While there are, inevitably, the students who come and go, some

Continued on Page 10.

Youth Sports

For Coach Swick, the Thrill Is Back

By Jeff Stuart

He's Poolesville's all-time winningest boys' basketball coach (187-112 in fourteen years) and its all-time winningest girls' basketball coach (138-74 in nine years). Fred Swick is back after a three-year stint as athletic director. "I am really enjoying working with the kids," says Swick. "That's probably what I missed the most, the interaction with the kids on a regular basis. As the AD, most times you are dealing with parents and other coaches and adults." So the old coach is the new coach.

The team, though, is basically new. Most of the players that helped the Falcons reach the regional finals in the last two seasons have graduated. Swick is familiar with most of his players through summer youth basketball camps he ran in Poolesville over the years, but coaching them is another thing. "We are a young team," says the coach. "A majority of the scoring from last year's

team has graduated. Only one senior [Mary Beliveau] at this point is getting a lot of playing time." Coaching a team that has not had the time to gel and play together a lot because of its age has been a challenge. "Some of the games we have played, the losses especially," explains Swick, "have helped me see what specifically we have to work on, and we are trying to make some lineup adjustments, so that we have our best combination on the floor by the end of the year." At this writing, three freshmen are getting a lot of playing time: Kelsey Carnahan, Kelly Hughes, and Jocelyn Bodmer. The other four girls that are in the top of the rotation include juniors Katelyn Keese, Lindsay Poss, and Holly Chittenden.

Forwards Sahara Saasta and Sasha Trope, both juniors, sophomore forward Patti Maloney, and senior forward Beliveau are all 5'-10", and junior forward Kelly Johnson is 5'-11", so the Falcons have some size to work with.




So far, so good. The girls (6-4) began their season at home with a 43-37 win over Magruder in overtime on December 4. Chittenden finished with ten points and

-Continued on Page 8.

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Commentary

John Huber, Head of School at the Barnesville School, sent this message to school families in the school's bi-weekly newsletter.

Apples and Impermanence

This week marks the last week of the school year for Barnesville to give away locally-grown apples. Kingsbury's Orchard, just down the road, shut for the season recently, and Lewis Orchard will be closing for the winter at the beginning of this week.

I always find this moment to be a little sad—the last fresh apples of the season. From time to time, I consider extending this program by bringing in non-local fruit in order to encourage our students to keep thinking about healthful snack choices into the winter months. I recall a few years back when we gave away bananas purchased at Costco on a cold February day. Needless to say, it didn't go over as well as the apples.

Despite my feelings of melancholia at the season's end, I believe it teaches our students an

important lesson about seasonality and impermanence. These apples are so wonderful because we know that they won't last forever. We need to enjoy them now, not just because they are sweet and fresh, but precisely because they are a special treat that can only be enjoyed in the fall.

This lesson may contradict our parental instincts to provide for our children the best of everything always. If something is good for our children, shouldn't they get it all the time? We certainly live in an always-on world when watermelons can be purchased in January, and entertainment of any sort can be carried around on our iPhones. Yet as we debate how sustainable these practices are, few of us would volunteer to have fewer choices. That is why it is good for our students to learn this simple lesson of seasons. There are times of bounty, and there are times of scarcity.

This being said, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, my favorite holiday of all. Please take this moment to appreciate the impermanence of our most special things, and give thanks that we may enjoy them when we can, for so long as we can.

Commentary

The Trials and Tribulations of My Trial and Tribulation

By Rande Davis

When I got a letter calling me to jury duty, I must confess my initial reaction was not uncommon, "How do I get out of this?" And, probably like most people, the problem wasn't so much I didn't want to serve; it was more like, "just not now."

With a heavy feeling of reluctance, I found myself in a room with 153 other citizens hoping that I would not get selected, and that if I did, it would be a quick

trial. We were greeted warmly by Circuit Court Judge Robert Greenberg who thanked us for being there and reminded us how essential the jury role is in our system of justice. My level of reluctance began to diminish.

Then I happened to see Owen Laug, a fellow Monocacy Lion. Because he is "over the age limit," he was not required to serve jury duty. He didn't have to be there, yet there he was anyway. With guilt feelings rising for not wanting to be there, my reluctance meter went down another notch or two.

After watching a film on the importance of serving on a jury, the narrator thanked us for doing our duty. Duty? That did it. Like a wrestler about to get pinned, I

-Continued on Page 10.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Department continue to investigate recent daytime residential burglaries that have occurred in the Potomac and Darnestown areas.

Since November 18 of last year, there have been residential burglaries in several Potomac and Darnestown neighborhoods that are believed to be related. Most of the burglaries have occurred on weekdays during the daylight hours. In all of the burglaries, force was used to gain entry into the house either through a window or a door. In each burglary, jewelry has been the target of the suspect(s).

Residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows and to make sure that their garage doors are secure when they are not at home. Residents are also asked to notify their neighbors and are encouraged to have a caretaker stop by the house when they are away for extended periods of time.

Current Crimes

Police responded to the fol-

lowing locations for suspected drug use: 19100 block of Dowden Circle, 19500 block of Wootton Avenue, 17500 block of Hoskinson Avenue.

Police responded to the following locations for disorderly conduct complaints: 17500 block of Kohlhoss Avenue, 19500 block of Wootton Avenue, 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft from vehicle: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Theft: 16600 block of West Willard Road, CVS, 19500 block of Fisher Avenue.

Assault: 19200 block of Hempstone Avenue.

Past Crimes

January 21, 1935 Two employees of the Capitol Transit Railway Company were found shot to death after the robbery of the company office at Chevy Chase Lake. An employee arriving for work found a bookkeeper shot to death and lying on the floor of the office while the second employee was found hours later also shot and dumped into Rock Creek at the bridge over Connecticut Avenue. The double murder

is still unsolved and is the oldest open murder case in the annals of the Montgomery County Police Department.

January 22, 1905 Hilleary Jones of near Sellman was arrested for stealing coal from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

January 27, 1958 A transient mill worker burned to death in a fire at a Buckeystown rooming house.

February 2, 1880 There was considerable excitement in Frederick County after the sexual

assault of a county woman. It was believed that if the suspect fell into the hands of his pursuers that he would be lynched. At the time, Page Wallace, the suspect, was confined to the jail at Leesburg awaiting the arrival of the Frederick authorities.

February 3, 1901 Scarlet fever had affected many communities in Montgomery County, and it was decided to close the public schools. The sheriff and his deputy were charged with ensuring compliance with the order.

Remembrance

MCPS School Teacher - Betsi Kelly

Mrs. Elizabeth "Betsi" Kelly, 40, of Poolesville, formerly of New Jersey, died of kidney cancer on January 11, 2010. Betsi was the wife of Frederick "Freddy" Kelly and was an artist and teacher in the Montgomery County Public School System.

Born on February 25, 1969 in Austin, Texas, she was the daughter of Sheila Eberhardt of New Jersey and the late Joseph Eberhardt.

Survivors, in addition to her husband and mother, include three daughters, Cassidy S. Kelly, Caitlyn M. Kelly, and Helena L. Kelly, all of Poolesville; and three brothers. She was preceded in death by one brother and one sister.

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2010 International Year of Biodiversity

By Maureen O'Connell

The United Nations (UN) has proclaimed 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). Throughout 2010, more than one thousand organizations across the world will be taking part in this global program. The objectives are to increase public awareness and understanding of the role biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth and to highlight how individuals, communities, and nations are inextricably linked. Too many people are unaware of the extent to which their material, social, and cultural well-being is founded on the biodiversity of our planet. Ecologically, flora and fauna are interrelated. One example of this symbiotic relationship is a plant's need for animals and insects for seed fertilization, seed disburse-

ment, and flower pollination. All living things, animals and plants, cannot live in isolation or they will die.

What exactly is biodiversity? In simple terms, it is the variety and diversity of life—humans, animals, and plants, the places they live, and their surrounding environment all over the world. These ecosystems provide us with food, fuel, health, wealth, and other vital services. Of all the natural living systems, only humans have the power to protect or destroy it. Regardless of your acceptance or denial of global warming, over the centuries, humans and their lifestyles have impacted biodiversity at alarming rates. Our losses are irreversible, but it is not too late to take steps to prevent future damage to our life support system.

This is the time of year when many people make resolutions, such as to lose weight, stop smoking, or get more exercise. This year, let's add to this list a pledge to do something for our local biodiversity. Here are some specific actions that you can take

in your community and your gardens that can positively impact our ecosystem.

Plant one or several indigenous trees in your yard. You could describe trees as the lungs of our environment. They take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen via photosynthesis. They provide a home to a diverse group of animals and insects. Trees create many chemicals, seeds, and fruits that are of great use to man. On a different level, they add beauty to our world throughout all four seasons.

Create an oasis for plants and animals in your yard. Birds need protection from the elements all year, from the biting winds of winter to the scorching rays of the sun in the summer. I have six very large boxwoods in my middle garden that are splendid apartment houses for the robins, finches, blue jays, cardinals, and woodpeckers. There is a very tall and fat holly tree right outside my kitchen window. It hides a good part of my views of my middle garden. It should be

removed or drastically pruned, but I can't do it. In the winter, it provides a warm sheltering hideout for my bird friends, and in the summer, it hosts several protected nests for the young birds. While we are discussing birds, don't forget to feed them now, when there are no insects or berries to eat. They also need a source of water.

Birds, insects, and small animals need shelter all year. I have, throughout my gardens, several birdhouses, bat houses, and butterfly houses. Two years ago, while at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, I bought a ladybug birch log house. These little beneficial insects do a great job of controlling harmful pests.

When selecting plants and shrubs for your garden, choose native species. Over time, they have evolved to survive in the particular conditions of their environment. They are therefore better able to deal with heat, humidity, drought, disease, and harmful pests. I choose garden

-Continued on Page 15.



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"Planning Board" Continued From Page 1.

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Chairman Hanson said he supported the creation of two new residential lots at Duck's End, a twenty-eight-acre property on the west side of Bucklodge Road, because he believed the request was not made "to further a series of real estate transactions" and thus was in keeping with the spirit of the county's "child lot" policy.

The Montgomery County Council and planning board have spent the last several years reviewing provisions that allow a farm owner to build a home for a child in hopes of closing loopholes and preventing the privilege from being used to create new subdivisions.

Soccerplex Report is Positive

The annual report for the Maryland Soccerplex in Boyds, reviewed in the planning board's December 17 meeting, sounded positive notes as the facility approaches its tenth anniversary.

The report, required under the provisions of the public/private partnership, summarized changes over 2009, including the introduction of the women's professional soccer team, Washington Freedom, and laid out plans for 2010.

Average attendance at the Freedom games was 4,200 people, the report said, and the "beer gardens" accompanying each match were successful. The coming year will see the installation of a "mini jumbo-tron" video screen as well as a new scoreboard and sound system.

Other recent developments included goalie and field skill clinics for non-league players, held for the first time this winter, and an ID card system for adult leagues instituted in November. According to the report, the cards are intended to reduce participation by suspended or non-member players.

The Soccerplex, consisting of approximately two dozen indoor and outdoor fields in South Germantown Recreational Park, will reach its tenth anniversary in October.

Planning Board Approves Two Tot Lots

While the policy of allowing new homes for farmers' children

in the Agricultural Reserve has been controversial in recent years, the planning board approved two such homes for a Boyds farm December 10.

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According to testimony and submitted documents, property owners Charles and Joanne Weber took initial steps about ten years ago to create new home sites. Early plans requested three child lots with more acreage than the two smaller lots eventually approved.

"Our intent is for child lots, not to flip lots," Joanne Weber told the board December 10, recounting how her children and stepchildren had planted trees and raised pigs, horses, and cows during the family's four decades on the farm. With the approval of the two lots, the family hoped to "move forward and kind of let our nightmare become our dream," she said.

Under the approved plans, two home sites of about two acres each will be constructed near the Webers' existing home, leaving the remaining acreage to continue in agricultural use. Currently, the land is used for hay production and horses, according to the planners' report.

School News

Academics and Sports: Can You Have Both?

By Doug Fiedler

Clarksburg High School says, "Yes!" With a record-high academic eligibility score of 82.1 percent, the numbers prove it. A poster in the hallway proudly proclaims a goal of 85 percent, and charts indicate the goal is within reach. Just look at the wrestling team.

Senior Jerrial Barnes was academically ineligible as a freshman at Clarksburg. He admits he had issues with grades, "They were terrible, but Coach Munsey would encourage me to take care of my business so I can do well in wrestling." Today, Barnes's GPA is 3.28, and he credits Munsey and the sport for his rise to success.

"The team represents fun, tough guys. Wrestling changed me for the better. My self-esteem and confidence were all built in wrestling. It's a sport I love, but I've also learned grades are important, too. I know I have to do well in the classroom to stay on the team," stated Barnes, now team captain.

Coach Josh Munsey, a Special Education teacher at Clarksburg, is a noted wrestler in his own right. Claiming a second place spot in his high school state championship, he continued wrestling in college at Gannon University and the University of Maryland. His brother, Scott Munsey, is assistant coach and was a three-time state champion himself.

"It's not about me. It's about finding the way to motivate each boy. Our team started with just fourteen in the school's first year. Today, we have sixty dedicated guys on the team. The kids work really hard, and it is a very humbling sport. If you lose, it's all on you. That instills something in the guys," Coach Josh related. "If

you want to accomplish something, you join the team."

Jonathon Ko, also a senior, says, "Wrestling has been everything to me. It's a lot of effort and hard work, but it has changed my life for the better." Ko is also a member of the marching band and recently joined the school's trip to China for an invitational performance to which only two schools from America were invited.

Wrestling, though, is his first love. "My personality changed for the better. People here are inspired and we grow exponentially. We don't cut anyone – it's all up to you," Ko says.

Coach goes on to say that the team includes "guys with 4.0 grade averages, members of the National Honor Society, guys with criminal records, and guys that haven't always been successful in life." The team is more of a family than just a sports team. The well being of the boys is paramount.

A mother of a wrestler who declined to be named stated, "Teachers go out of their way to

help the boys yet also hold them accountable in a supportive way. The amount of extra support, encouragement, and follow-up has been very helpful to many of the wrestlers. That team and Coach Munsey have changed kids' lives."

The family theme came through in the story of one wrestler who needed to choose between wrestling and watching his two sisters at the end of the school day while his mom was at work. Family came first for him, so he chose to watch his sisters. The team found out about the situation and rallied around him. The team moms formed a baby-sitting circle, so the wrestler could wrestle.

"Coach Munsey just touches us, and this is what we have to do. They were so thankful for the extra support and were very touched. This is how we are at this school," related the mother.

"PHS Girls' Basketball" Continued From Page 3.

fourteen rebounds for Poolesville. The game was tied at the half, but Poolesville trailed by four after three quarters. Poss led all scorers with thirteen points. They lost to Blake away, 59-31. Poss again led the Falcons with ten points. Back at home, they defeated Tuscarora, 56-34 on December 11. Poss had twelve points. Before the snow and winter break, the girls lost at Walter Johnson on December 15, 53-37. Poss had a season-high sixteen points. The first round of the Sugarloaf Holiday Tournament, hosted by Poolesville, was a definite season highlight. Chittenden, held scoreless in regulation, hit two crucial baskets in overtime, and Kelly Hughes made two game-winning free throws in a 51-49 victory over Quince Orchard on Monday, December 28. The Falcons, who trailed 39-27 deficit early in the fourth quarter, made eight of nine free throws. The Falcons succumbed to a scrappy and fast Northwest team (4-3) in the

tournament final the next night, 37-25.

The Falcons started the New Year off with another close win at home over Clarksburg, 48-47. Kelly Hughes led Poolesville with sixteen points, and Poss had fourteen. The Falcons again rallied after trailing by ten at the half. With a minute left to play, Chittenden made two free throws, giving Poolesville its first lead, but the Coyotes made two free throws with six seconds to retake the lead. The Falcons executed three quick passes, the last to Chittenden. Holly rattled home a hard bank shot near the buzzer for the game winner. A blowout win over Rockville, 72-25, followed on Thursday night. Then came a 64-39 loss at Damascus (7-3), but Poolesville rebounded for another close win over QO at home, 46-42, on January 11.

Not every team bonds, but these close wins and late-game rallies can bring a team together, and Coach Swick will enjoy putting the pieces together.



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Things To Do

Donate to the UMCVFD Auxiliary and Receive a Free Portrait Just in time for Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, or No Occasion Day, the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary's annual Photo Fund Drive is in full swing. All local area patrons will be receiving their information letters and donation return envelopes shortly, if they have not already. In appreciation of patrons who mail a minimum \$35.00 donation to the UMCVFD Auxiliary, a Portrait Certificate will be issued and is redeemable for a free 8" x 10" portrait of themselves, their family (including well-behaved pets), or any preferred combination.

Local photographer Hilary Schwab has been contracted for this important fundraising event. Call Ms. Schwab at 301-349-2322 with your Portrait Certificate reference number and book your appointment for any Saturday in February from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The photos will be taken at the UMCVFD which has an elevator and is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, you may call Marie Allnutt Monday through Friday, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 301-385-3503.

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January 25

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month's discus-
sion is Thomas
Cathcart and
Daniel Klein's
Plato and a Platy-

pus Walk into a Bar. This unique look at philosophy with a batch of humor makes for an enjoyable look at life. Copies of the book will be available for a six-week loan and are held at the Checkout Desk for pickup.
7:30 p.m.

January 28

JPMS Science Fair
All Day

Poolesville Library
Three-to-Sixes Story Time
Stories, fingerplay, and music
10:30 a.m.

January 30

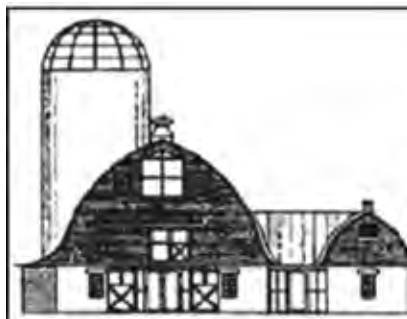
Cugini's
Entertainment: Bill Euler
8:00 p.m.

January 30

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VARSITY SPORTS HOME GAMES			
Date	Sport	POOLESVILLE	Time
1/22	Basketball - Boys	Wheaton	7:00 p.m.
1/23	Wrestling	Einstein	2:30
1/27	Basketball - Boys	Damascus	5:15 p.m.
1/27	Basketball - Girls	Damascus	7:00 p.m.
2/3	Wrestling	Gaithersburg	6:00 p.m.
2/5	Basketball - Boys	Seneca Valley	5:15 p.m.
2/5	Basketball - Girls	Seneca Valley	7:00 p.m.
CLARKSBURG			
1/22	Basketball - Girls	Churchill	7:00 p.m.
1/23	Wrestling	Blair	2:30 p.m.
1/25	Basketball - Boys	Poolesville	5:15 p.m.
1/25	Basketball - Girls	Poolesville	7:00 p.m.
1/29	Basketball - Boys	Watkins Mill	5:15 p.m.
1/29	Basketball - Girls	Watkins Mill	7:00 p.m.
2/3	Wrestling	Northwest	6:00 p.m.
2/5	Basketball - Boys	Damascus	5:15 p.m.
2/5	Basketball - Girls	Damascus	7:00 p.m.

1/25-Indoor Track MCPS Championship - P.G. Sportsplex- 2:00 p.m.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER January 2010

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The Benefit Performance Ruse

When the AgReserve was established the basic idea was to safeguard traditional agricultural land from the urban sprawl. The AgReserve has become a successful reality enabling not only farmers to protect and enhance their production but also attracting visitors from urban areas seeking to enjoy the special natural beauty of this part of Montgomery County. Unfortunately, in recent times the AgReserve has also become a magnet for associations and enterprises seeking to improve their financial net worth by requesting permits to hold soccer games, polo matches, and other large events under the disguise of benefit performances.

In Montgomery County as elsewhere, certain non-profit benefit events are seen as a matter of right, for example, an outdoor church bazaar, and the county permit is readily available because of the transparency of the event. However, the number of benefit performance permits issued in recent years has risen rapidly not because of an increased number of small non-profit benefit events but because of growing competition by large associations for use of inexpensive rural land for what they call benefit performances. In part because of less than efficient enforcement of the existing restrictions for activities allowed in the AgReserve these large events have taxed the capacity of rural roads, created roadblocks for farm machinery, brought noise and light pollution, and have contributed to making rural land more expensive.

For its January meeting the Sugarloaf Board invited Council members **Phil Andrews** and **Marc Elrich** to hear our concerns and to discuss present trends in the issuance of benefit performance permits. SCA along with other civic organizations are emphasizing transparent procedures and effective enforcement of existing restrictions for use of land for non-profit events in the AgReserve. The meeting provided hope that our concerns were understood and that close cooperation between the area's civic associations and County officials may result in permitting policies and their enforcement which will benefit bona fide non-profits as well as resident farmers and all visitors to the area.

Special Notice!

The second annual Sugarloaf Seed and Plant Swap at Linden Farm will take place May 8. When you start seeds in a few weeks plant extras to swap with gardening neighbors.

Think Spring!

"Jury Duty" Continued From Page 4.

began to relax and accept my fate. Now I was ready to do my duty—for a short trial, at least.

That was not to be. With only one long trial scheduled on the docket, I found myself in a pool of thirty-three headed for jury selection. As each potential juror stood to state his or her name, both teams of lawyers eyed us. On the one hand, I thought, maybe I won't be picked, but on the other, I was thinking, if not, "How dare they."

Another juror, Phil Shanholtzer, was from Poolesville. Maybe that was a clue. If you are over fifty (okay, over sixty) and from the Upcounty, it appears the courts like you, they really like you. Poor Phil, he not only got picked first but, in so doing, was the court-selected foreman.

The opening statements had more drama than the rest of the trial combined. Both sides tried to push the emotional buttons right from the start. One side talked greed, the other the American Way. Both turned off equally.

There were times the lawyers

were so slowly and painstakingly building their cases, I confess I wanted to smack them on the head and tell them to get a move on it. In the final analysis, though, the detail and deliberativeness of their presentations were downright impressive.

Finally, on Friday afternoon, we heard the summations, got explicit instructions from the court, and headed to the jury deliberation room. After a couple of hours, we all knew we were headed in the same direction. The more challenging question was recommendation of financial settlement. With the day ending and a snowstorm coming, we left for the weekend ready to wrap it up Monday morning with the assurance that the court does not close for snow.

Monday came, as had the snow. The courts were closed.

On Tuesday morning, now a full week into the process, We the Jury gathered in the court lobby hopeful that we could still be done by noon. Not to be. A few minutes before we were ordered to enter the court, security ordered us to

leave. A bomb threat had been made.

Three hours later, we were allowed to return. As we entered the courtroom, we were instructed to take our jury seats and not go to the deliberation room. Then the surprise came. The parties had decided to settle—and just like that we were done. The trial and our tribulation were over.

Judge Greenberg was wise enough to let have us have a cathartic time of discussion of the case and answered many of our questions. After all was said and done, there was one question I could answer myself: Was it worth it?

I can say, without a shadow of doubt, absolutely. For one thing, my experience further strengthened my faith in our deliberative judicial system. For another, I came away with great respect for the judge, appreciation for the professionalism of the lawyers, and admiration of my fellow jurors, I left the courtroom with a new found sense of American pride and more than just a little sense of self-satisfaction.

"Focus on Business" Continued From Page 3.

couldn't leave if they wanted: "I started Jazzercise when Jen opened her class twenty years ago, and I can't stop coming. I'm addicted!" enthuses Ann Turley. Some addictions should be left untreated. Added to that, Gina Beck says, "I love it! Jazzercise is a great stress reliever, and it energizes me."

Let's see now, if a class burns off about five hundred calories, and if Jennifer has averaged at least three classes a week for twenty years, my calculation comes to about 1.5 million excess calories burned off. Wow, from my point view that's a lot of donuts, pizza, and French fries! Of course, guilt-free eating isn't her motivation, but I bet it factors in there somewhere.

Jazzercise holds classes at Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville on Monday and Wednesday in the evening, and in the mornings on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. You can check out Jazzercise.com or call 301-916-3535 for more information.

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Tidbits of the Past | Youth Sports

By Jack Toomey

January 3, 1936 Mrs. Mary Clements Beall, age 82, died at her home in Gaithersburg. She was born at the family home, Elysian Fields at Barnesville. During her childhood, she witnessed skirmishes between Union and Confederate forces in the fields near her home. She also saw the passage of both armies as they passed near Barnesville. On one occasion, the famous Confederate General Fitzhugh Lee dined with the family.

January 10, 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allnutt left for a six-week trip to South America. They planned to visit their daughter Mary who lived in Texas and daughter Ann Lee who lived in Panama.

January 10, 1937 Mr. Charles Horace Davis and Miss Mabel Coatsworth, of South Dakota, were married in Frederick. They planned to make their home at Charline Manor just outside of Poolesville.

January 15, 1935 Sidney Thompson was elected as president of the Poolesville Bank. G. Robert Gray was elected vice president and George Smith as cashier.

January 18, 1934 The Bethesda High School girls' basketball team defeated the Poolesville girls' team, 37-20. Miss Butler scored fourteen points for

Hackett, Johnson Have Clarksburg Girls' Basketball On the Run

By Jeff Stuart

Going into the basketball game against Quince Orchard (2-7) on Friday, January 8, the

Poolesville.

January 20, 1932 The Bethesda High School scored a double victory over Poolesville. The boys' team won, 40-12, while the girls were victorious, 39-15. Walter Johnson, Jr. scored six points for the Bethesda team.

January 20, 1935 Mr. Mansfield White celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday at a dinner given in his honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Daniel of Poolesville.

January 25, 1936 Miss Edythe Turner, the county home demonstration agent, was touring the county giving lectures to young women on how to better dress themselves for success. Meetings were scheduled to be held at Barnesville, Dickerson, and Poolesville.

January 31, 1937 Mrs. Charles Sellman and Miss Emma Hodges returned from New York after spending a few days there.

Clarksburg girls' basketball team (5-5) wanted to make a statement. They believe they are a pretty good basketball team. They wanted to erase all doubt. The slogan on their warm-up jerseys reads, "TEAM-Where Toughness, Excitement, Amazing Magic Happens." They had won their own Howl-a-Day Christmas tournament for the first time in school history, but there was no magic for them in their one-point loss at Poolesville, 48-47. In that game, the Coyotes had surrendered a

seventeen-point lead. Against the QO Cougars, Clarksburg built a twelve-point lead in the first half. Quince Orchard cut the lead to four before junior guard Anna Hackett made some magic of her own, driving from her right to left under the basket and dropping in a sparkling reverse layup. Her teammates followed suit. The Coyotes led by fourteen at the half and finished strong, scoring nineteen points in the fourth quarter. They won, 74-51. Mission accomplished—for the moment. Senior guard Tia Johnson had twenty-four points, Hackett had eighteen. Aliyyah Payne had nine points and contributed some good ball handling and confident inbound passes. CHS had the toughness to withstand some late QO scoring runs. They generated some excitement. Anna's reverse layup, at least, was amazing—and for the Coyotes, there was some magic this time: TEAM.

"I am looking forward to an



The Clarksburg Coyotes plan their next move.

-Continued on Page 15.

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Tidbits

Karen Toomey Earns Master's Degree

Karen Elizabeth Toomey, a 2002 graduate of Poolesville High School, was recently awarded a Master's Degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus. Ms. Toomey earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland at College Park. She is the daughter of Jack Toomey and Carla Toomey, both of Poolesville.

Poolesville Becomes Destination Wedding Site

Katherine Faith Ridenour, daughter of Andy Ridenour and E. Joyce Ridenour of Charleston, West Virginia, and Brock Preston Daniel, son of Mike Daniel and Myra Free of Richmond, Virginia, were married at the Poolesville Museum on Saturday, December 26, 2009. This is the first wedding and reception held at the newly-renovated historic building, formerly the original Town Hall, with catering provided by Bassett's Fine Food & Spirits.

The evening ceremony, officiated by Pastor Jeff Maszal of Alexandria, Virginia, was witnessed by approximately forty friends and family under candlelight.

The wedding party consisted of the bride's sister, Johanna Ridenour of Charleston, West Virginia, escorted by the groom's brother, Bryan Daniel of Roanoke, Virginia, and the bride's friend, Meredyth Thurston of

Richmond, Virginia, escorted by the groom's brother, Michael Scott Welch of Boyds, Maryland. Carrying bouquets of white, ribbon-tied calla lilies, the bridal attendants were escorted down the aisle to Pachelbel's Canon in D, played by Mindy Miller and Chris Compton. The bride also carried a bouquet of white, ribbon-tied calla lilies and was escorted down the aisle by her father.

Brock, a 2004 graduate of Virginia Military Institute and a Specialist in the United States Army, currently resides at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona, while completing training in Military Intelligence. Katherine currently lives and works in Northern Virginia while attending George Mason University full-time to complete a degree in the School of Management with a focus in Marketing.

Brock and Katherine would like to extend a special thanks to all those who contributed to make this a very special wedding and to the town of Poolesville for making them feel at home.

Looking for a New Best Friend?

Willie and Parker are adorable hound mix puppies in search of their forever homes. They are being fostered by the Andreassen family of North Potomac and are available for adoption through Homeward Trails Animal Rescue. Willie and Parker came from a shelter in rural West Virginia and are about four months old. These smart boys are housebroken, are working on

their crate training, and are learning lots of tricks. They love to play, chase tennis balls, and run around, and they especially love to snuggle and be held. Willie and Parker have been neutered and are ready to find permanent adoptive homes.

Willie and Parker are two of the many animals currently in foster care with Homeward Trails. Homeward Trails, based in Arlington, seeks to find permanent adoptive homes in the D.C.-metro area for dogs and cats from high-kill shelters or whose owners can no longer care for them. Because of foster families like the Andreassens, Homeward Trails has rescued over 7,500 animals in the past eight years. Homeward Trails seeks to reduce the rate of euthanasia of adoptable animals through the rescue and placement of homeless animals; to support proactive spay/neuter practices; to promote positive and ongoing behavioral training; and to educate the public about how to care for their animals in a humane way. Home-

ward Trails not only facilitates adoptions from local shelters, but also supports a large network of foster care providers who take homeless dogs and cats into their homes, care for them, rehabilitate them when needed, and prepare them for their permanent adoptive homes.

For more information about Homeward Trails, visit www.homewardtrails.org.

For more information about Willie and Parker, email adopt.doggies@yahoo.com and visit their blog at willieandparker.blogspot.com.

*"Mayor of Sugarland" Continued
From Page 1.*

the oldest living descendant of the Sugarland families...His life was rich in history, and his presence was an inspiration to the Sugarland community, family, and friends."

Born April 30, 1919 in Poolesville, Phillip Samuel Johnson III enlisted for a four-year-term in the U.S. Army in 1940, eventually serving in the all-black 95th Engineers in Fairbanks, Alaska and as a motor sergeant in the convoy that followed the invasion under General George Patton's 3rd Army, delivering supplies to the front lines. He was later employed as a building services supervisor for Montgomery County Public Schools and after retirement in 1982, worked for Montgomery College.

At St. Paul Community Church, Johnson's childhood church that has since lost its congregation, Johnson served in various capacities on the deacon and trustee boards, chairing homecoming celebrations and assisting with cemetery and building maintenance, Reese said. He also joined Elijah Methodist Church.

Reese said her uncle was an avid fisherman, often found on a

*"International Year of Diversity"
Continued From Page 6.*

plants that are naturally disease and drought resistant. I have also started to plant in my gardens and containers more xerophytic plants. They thrive under arid conditions similar to our hot, dusty days of July and August. More garden catalogs and garden centers are now carrying a larger selection of succulents that come in a variety of textures, shapes, and colors.

Over the past several years, I have switched from chemical insecticides and fungicides to natural ones. Most of the chemical products on the market kill beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, bees, green lacewings, and parasitic nematodes, as well as pests. Gardens Alive (GardensAlive.com) claim that they carry

boat the day after discharge from the hospital, as well as an active member of the Eastern Star, Free Masons, and American Legion organizations. He was active and clear-headed to the end, she said, driving to Frederick to pay bills the day before his death and summoning the ambulance to his home at the last.

"He was a very happy person," Reese said. "He was very comfortable with himself and you know, he never changed who he was...He got up every morning with a purpose is how he put it, and he got the job done."

Johnson is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Mary Johnson; daughters Nettie Lannaster and Gloria Davis, both of Poolesville; grandchildren Angela Watts-Perry and James Davis; great-grandchildren Jason Perry, Jr. and Jared Perry; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other friends and family.

Johnson's funeral service was scheduled for January 16 at St. Paul Community Church on Sugarland Road in Poolesville. Fredericktonian Masonic Lodge #12 was expected to participate.

environmentally-responsible products that work. They have a fascinating catalog with hundreds of natural garden supplies. I have tried many of their products with great success.

I have given you a few suggestions that you can easily adapt to your gardens and lawns. Biodiversity is a complex, scientific subject that we need to be aware of. It is an exciting story for it is the story of life and the systems that sustain it. We can see all around us practices and lifestyles that are stressing our ecosystems and destroying biodiversity. We must stop this loss. The International Year of Biodiversity is our chance to prove we will.

*"CHS Girls' Basketball" Continued
From Page 13.*

exciting year. We are going to be fast and will run an up-tempo style of play," said Head Coach Sissy Natoli before the season. In addition to Hackett and Johnson, both capable scorers, senior forwards and centers, Jackie Coronado, Alexa Walker, and Brenna Metz all contribute, as do senior guards Aliyah Payne and Charnay Ryland.

The girls started off the season at home with a frustrating, 67-66, loss to Blair. Behind thirty-seven points, the Blazers overcame a sixteen-point second half deficit. Blair answered a nineteen-point third quarter run by the Coyotes with thirty fourth quarter points of their own. Hackett and Johnson each had twenty-one for Clarksburg.

Double-digit scoring by Hackett and Johnson led to comfortable wins over Magruder and Rockville, but the girls headed into the holiday break with losses to undefeated Gaithersburg (9-0) and Kennedy. Hackett had a season-high twenty-six points against the Gaithersburg Trojans. Johnson had twenty-two against Kennedy, but Hackett was held to just eleven

points. The Coyotes trailed Kennedy by seven at the half but pulled within two points on a layup from Johnson with 2:20 in the third period. Hackett then hit back-to-back layups to give Clarksburg a 46-43 edge, but thirty turnovers were too much to overcome. The Cavaliers prevailed, 60-54.

The Coyotes have some talent. Their biggest challenges and hopefully their best basketball lie ahead of them. They face rival Damascus and will have a rematch with Poolesville at Clarksburg on January 25.

Local News

State of the Town Government Report

The annual State of the Town report for Poolesville was presented by the various department and committee chairs of the town government. Each presented the accomplishments and highlights for 2009 with goals for 2010.

The meeting held on Tuesday, January 19 was past the *Monocle's* deadline for this issue. The full *Monocle* town report can be read online at www.monocleonline.com.

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