

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Man Arrested after Gun Incident

By Jack Toomey



Men in skirts can only mean one thing. See Celtic Festival on page 5.



Girls' lacrosse captains, Delaney Cecco and Sophia Mense. More on the team in Youth Sports on page 6.



Recumbent cycling was a big part of a big event. See details in Local News on page 9.



Bruce Kirby, St. Peter's man in charge of facility maintenance, was on a new mission. Read more on page 15.

Montgomery County Police arrested a Prince George's County man and charged him with a serious gun offense after a tense standoff in the 15800 block of Budd Road.

Police said that at about 1:30 p.m. on May 3, a man came to a residence in the 15800 block of Budd Road. He was met at the door by an occupant of the house who had fired him the day before from a landscaping business that is apparently run from that address. The occupant pointed what the visitor thought was a shotgun at him. The visitor left the property and called the police. When initial attempts at communication between the police and the occupant of the house failed, an Emergency Response Team (ERT) was called out.

The ERT is made up of SWAT team members, hostage negotiators, and snipers. Some travel in military vehicles. Poolesville residents began to hear sirens coming from several different directions as the ERT chose Our Lady of the Presentation Church as its staging point. At one point, at least fifty vehicles occupied the parking lot.

At about 4:30 p.m., a *Monocle* reporter



The Montgomery County Police Emergency Response Team made an arrest with no one harmed.

was at Hughes Road and Budd Road when a man came out of the woods and approached an officer who was blocking access to Budd Road. He was identified as the wanted man and was taken into custody. He had apparently snuck out of the house and had hidden in the woods while ERT was responding. Corporal Rick Goodale, a police spokesperson, said that police arrested Fernando Flores-Sandoval, age 47, of Metzert Road in Adelphi and charged him with First Degree Assault. Goodale added that the enormous police response was

necessary because, at the time of dispatch, the police didn't know if the man had one gun or ten guns or whether there was one armed man or ten armed men. Goodale said the firearm turned out to be a rifle. Flores-Sandoval was released on bond on May 5.

Resident Patricia Hess said, "It was frightening to see that many emergency vehicles coming into town. I would have thought that for such a serious response that the community should be alerted by text message through the Montgomery County Alert System."

The Maggie Nightingale Library Officially Opens

By Rande Davis

Through a Montgomery County proclamation issued by County Executive Isiah Leggett, the Poolesville Library was renamed in honor of deceased town resident Maggie Nightingale.

On Saturday, April 29, Parker Hamilton, director of the county libraries, was joined by Leggett, other library and town dignitaries, and scores of friends and family for the unveiling and official renaming of the facility in Maggie Nightingale's honor. Ms. Hamilton recalled meeting Maggie in 1992, and quickly learned that Maggie was a "powerful force and advocate for the Town of Poolesville, the library, and learning."

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Ike Leggett and Tom Nightingale surrounded by family and friends of Maggie on a grand day to honor a grand lady.

Photo by Diana Bass

Family Album



The 2017 Falcon boys' lacrosse team in action.



Congratulations on Poolesville's proclaiming May 15 as Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day: Delegates Aruna Miller and David Fraser-Hilgado, State Senator Brian Feldman, Sean, Lauren, and Brynleigh Shillinger, and Greg Shores.



The family of Maggie Nightingale at the renaming of the former Poolesville Library in her honor.



A large crowd attended the library renaming ceremony.



The Maggie Nightingale Library staff hosted a reception after the rededication ceremony.



Arbor Day tree planting at JPMS.



Jerry Klobukowski and Wade Yost helped students plant a tree at Poolesville Elementary.



The beautifully-remodeled Asian House of Poolesville bar area. Enjoying a lunch were Bob Settelmeier, Mike White, Nancy White, Candice Eck, Jeff Eck, and Linda, owner of AHOP.



Arbor Day tree planting at PHS.

Town Government Commissioners Hear From State Delegation

At their May 3 meeting, the commissioners listened to a local family recount the challenges they have faced with a serious but little-known genetic disease, Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC). They also proclaimed May 8 as "Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Global Awareness Day" in Poolesville.

Lauren and Sean Shillinger, the parents of Brynleigh, who has TSC, appeared before the commissioners to talk about how the disease has affected their daughter and their lives. Since Brynleigh's illness was diagnosed, they have committed themselves to educating the public about TSC and pushing for research and funding to help combat the disease. The Shillingers live in Adamstown, but Lauren was raised in Poolesville and is the granddaughter of local residents Greg and Linda Shores.

Lauren Shillinger explained that TSC is a congenital disease that leads to the formation of tumors in major organs of the body. The tumors are benign and can be removed, but, unfortunately, often reoccur. People, such as Brynleigh, with the disease have to be routinely monitored to ensure that new tumors are not forming.

In Brynleigh's case, tumors formed in her brain and caused severe and repeated seizures. These continued for many months until doctors in Texas performed delicate brain surgery that has since eliminated the seizures. Even so, Brynleigh will face a life of continued threats from possible tumors.

Mrs. Shillinger said that one in six thousand people are born with TSC. About fifty thousand people have the disease in the U.S., and it is more common than better-known diseases such as ALS and cystic fibrosis. There is no cure for TSC, but Mrs. Shillinger and her husband have been leading efforts to try and educate the public about the disease and obtain funding for research. Recently, the Department of Defense authorized six million dollars toward research on TSC.

President Jim Brown thanked the Shillingers for bringing the issue to the attention of the commissioners. He added that while the commission cannot do anything directly to help fight the disease, it can serve as a means of educating the citizens of Poolesville about it and about what is being done to fight TSC. He praised the work of the Shillingers and read a proclamation highlighting the impact of the disease and calling for more awareness about

it and the work being done to fight it.

The commissioners heard next from state legislators of the Montgomery County delegation to Annapolis. Appearing before the commissioners were Senator Brian Feldman and Delegates Aruna Miller and David Fraser-Hidalgo. They highlighted the work of the Montgomery Delegation in the just-completed Maryland General Assembly session in Annapolis.

Senator Feldman started the presentation. Over three thousand bills were submitted in this session of the General Assembly. His focus has been on finance issues and healthcare since he is on the Finance Committee in the senate and chairs the Subcommittee on Health.

He said that, in Maryland, the governor has a lot of authority when it comes to the budget. The General Assembly cannot increase funds in the budget or shift funds from accounts. It can cut funding, but that only provides limited leverage in negotiations with the governor. The legislature is constrained because the state constitution requires a balanced budget.

Senator Feldman said that despite these limitations, the governor and the legislature collaborated to come up with a budget that did not increase taxes, maintained the state's Triple A bond rating which makes borrowing easier and cheaper, and provided funds for expenses such as school construction in Montgomery County. The state's continued reliance on federal programs and federal employment is a worry, and further diversification of the economy is needed since it appears that significant cutbacks of federal spending are likely.

With regard to healthcare, he said that most states are nervous about what will happen to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This is not a partisan concern since fifty thousand Marylanders now have healthcare who did not before the ACA was passed in 2010. Many of these people obtained healthcare insurance through the expansion of Medicaid which is a part of the ACA, and this program may be in jeopardy.

The legislature did pass legislation on healthcare to help lower costs, Senator Feldman said. He pointed to the passage of a bill that gives the attorney general of the state the authority to investigate possible pharmaceutical company price gouging. Companies can be prosecuted if they have been found to impose "unconscionable price increases."

Delegate Aruna Miller added that the state's \$43.6 billion budget is funded by a mix of lottery funds, income taxes, sales taxes, and substantial funding from the federal government.

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Commentary

Hot Potato

By John Clayton

Remember Hot Potato? Toss a ball or a bean bag around and get rid of it as quickly as possible? That is health-care policy in the United States Congress. Nobody wants it, but since one party is in control—guess what?—it's theirs, whether they like it or not. This past week or so, the Republican House celebrated passing a healthcare bill that they know will go nowhere, but they celebrated anyway, because the hot potato is now in the hands of the Republican Senate.

Let's look at the high points:

First, either health insurance is a right, not a privilege, or it is a privilege, not a right.

Second, the American Health Care Act isn't about insurance, it's about money.

The "right" group is populated primarily by Democrats. They are not in the conversation at the present time, being a minority in both houses of Congress. The debate, since the election, has been solely among House Republicans, who occupy the "privilege" group. As a party, they are comfortable with health insurance being inaccessible to large numbers of people. Oh? Not true? Let me rephrase that: They are comfortable with everyone having access to health insurance, even though many millions will be unable to afford it. I stand corrected. The number of people a Republican congressman can tolerate not being able to afford health insurance is directly proportional to how reliably rightwing one's district is.

After passing numerous bills to repeal, defund, sabotage, or just harass Obamacare, House Republicans and the president have learned about healthcare what Barbie® infamously said about math: It's hard. The AHCA, the brainchild of house leadership, never came to a vote, as a sufficient number of Republicans couldn't be persuaded to support it. After a significant modification to mollify the hard-rightwing folks, and a subsequent tweak to mollify the centrist folks, it passed—but barely. The House Republicans did the happy dance and tossed the hot potato to the senate. Does the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) like this new legislation? We don't know; there wasn't time to ask them.

Who doesn't like it? I don't want to cherry pick, but here's a sample: American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, Federation

of American Hospitals, AARP, Club for Growth, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Osteopathic Association, to name a few. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce likes it, particularly the tax cuts and preserving the handling of employer-sponsored health insurance; however, the Republicans of the United States Senate don't like it, and they will start from scratch to design their own bill, which would have to be reconciled with the House bill. The president said, "This has really brought the Republican Party together," but I'm not sure what he meant.

So what about the money? The CBO has not studied the modified plan, but most of its prior study is probably still on point. I'm not going to throw around numbers because there isn't enough space to do it fairly, but it is fair to say there are big savings to the government, reducing the federal deficit over time, just like before. The CBO and Joint Committee on Taxation report says, "The largest savings would come from reductions in outlays for Medicaid and from the elimination of subsidies for nongroup health insurance. The largest costs would come from repealing many of the changes [Obamacare] made to the Internal Revenue Code—including an increase in the Hospital Insurance payroll tax rate for high-income taxpayers, a surtax on those taxpayers' net investment income, and annual fees imposed on health insurers—and from the establishment of a new tax credit for health insurance."

As they also said, this leads to large increases in uninsured Americans. How many is too many? Well, if it's my family without coverage, or someone I know, then that's one family too many. What's your number?

The modification that launched the GOP victory changed the way we insure people with pre-existing conditions, i.e., increasing their costs. To keep a long, detailed story short, the GOP moderates thought this was too risky politically, or maybe just bad policy, so a sum of money was added to help pay higher premiums for people forced into high-risk pools. Many sources have declared this money woefully inadequate, and by the way, these high-risk people also would have higher deductibles. It's hard luck for people who don't have extra income for this sort of thing. Stay healthy and hang in there as best you can until you qualify for Medicare.

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Local News

Fox 5 DC Returns To Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The last time Fox 5 DC came to town in 2010, it was for their special summer feature called Hometown Fridays. Town and area residents turned out in huge numbers with such enthusiasm and a variety of fun features throughout the morning that the channel staff told us that Poolesville was the best morning show of the summer. Now they are coming back!

On July 21 from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. the Fox morning show will be broadcast live from Whalen Commons. They return to help us celebrate our 150th town anniversary, officially the sesquicentennial for trivia buffs, a term that is reported to have been first used in 1880.

As the TV personalities stage their show throughout the morning with interviews and various visits around town, they love to have enthusiastic residents around to add to the excitement. Residents raised the bar quite high the last time the station came to town, but the expectation is that the town can do even better this time.

Whalen Commons will be chock full of events with music, food, and vendors, both commercial and nonprofit, and maybe even a corn-eating contest between commissioners and station stars.

Hopefully, the Falcon cheerleaders and poms can gather together enough even at this summer event to boost the fun. Do you or someone you know have a highly-unique, even odd job that might intrigue TV viewers? Let the town staff know as the station wants to interview them.

Cathy Bupp and her team of volunteers have much planned even before that special day with each event keeping the big anniversary date in mind. This coming May 30 is the 150th day of the year, and on that day the town will draw the name of a family to be interviewed for a special feature in the Monocle about the family's history. The newspaper with that story will be encapsulated in a time capsule to be opened in 2067, the town's bicentennial. The winning family from the drawing will also receive a commemorative framed version of the town's 150th aerial photo.

The annual SpringFest: BBQ, Beer, and Blues Festival is on deck for May 20, and it will feature beer tastings for adults, eighteen commercial vendors,

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Local News

Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival: The Culture of the Isles Comes Alive

By Rande Davis

If you haven't had a chance to travel to Scotland or the Emerald Isles, here is some good news for you. That joyous and historic Celtic experience is coming to you in the form of the 17th Annual Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival, sponsored by the Saint Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland.

On Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mount Airy Fire Company Carnival Fairgrounds, there will be a wide range of Celtic culture, including food, games, music, both rock and traditional, dance, food, beverages, including beer and whisky (spelled the Scottish way). On top of that, the festival has partnered with Platoon 22, a veterans' care organization dedicated to addressing and ameliorating issues surrounding veteran suicides that occur, on average, twenty-two times a day. Their motto: We will win this War.

Five stages will abound with music and dance. The Guinness Beer stage features Celtic bands with a contemporary twist of rock and tradition: The American Rogues stomp with electric guitars swinging to a steady beat of bagpipes and drums; the Kilmaine Saints and the Dublin 5 keep up the high energy and add violins.

The Acoustic Stage will feature the soul-inspiring traditional sound of acoustic performers like the Capital Celtic, a trio of flutist, banjo, and viola; and Dileab Phriseil (Precious Heritage) a six-person ensemble of friends that formed from a church group and features traditional songs of Scotland and Ireland in English and Gaelic. Then there are the Wild Irish Roses, a pair of violin dueling sisters, offering a riveting and vivacious performance.

The Traditional Stage will have duets and trios offering so much of the sound of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, including the hauntingly-beautiful harps, flutist, and dulcimers.

The dance stage will offer hour after hour of a wide variety of ten Celtic dancing groups of Scottish/Irish Highland dancers and cloggers.

The Piping Events include the most impressive marching Chesapeake Caledonian Pipe and Drum Band, along with the students from MacMillian Pipe as well as the John F. Nicoll Pipe Band with its military-style performance.

There are plenty of activities for the whole family, including the wee ones. For them, there will be child-sized Highland games of Hurl, Caber Toss, Tug-o'-war, archery, and more. Also, they will be amused by the Scottish-themed crafts and coloring pages, special children's music performances, and dance.

Let's not forget the official Pro/Am contests of Highland games. There is something about putting a man in a kilt that makes him want to toss something. The contests include the traditional Braemar Stone and open stone toss, heavy weight toss, Sheaf Toss (throwing sheaves of hay high into the air), the hammer throw and the Caber (tree) toss.

There will be a British Auto Show and Dog Show, featuring the Celtic dogs with obedience and sheep-herding demonstrations.

Plenty of Irish and Scottish food specialties will whet the appetite as well as whisky and beer tasting. For rugby fans and those who are new to the sport, there will be rugby games to entertain the crowd by the Frederick Rugby Club. A special attraction is the the Schythe Man, a special agrarian demonstration: a man, a blade, and a field. Alfonso Diaz grew up in an area of spectacular green valleys in the north of Spain (Asturias, a Celtic region) where the predominantly-rural farming community still uses scythes nearly year-round. He started mowing with a scythe on his family's farm when he was about eight or nine years old and helped his father mow hay and grass for the cows, clear brush, and maintain the fields throughout the year.

General admission is \$20 (\$15.00 for active military duty with ID). For more information, visit midmarylandcelticfestival.com.



The Mid-Maryland Celtic festival brings a broad Scottish smile to everyone's face, no matter whence they hail.

Photo by Diana Bass

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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Lacrosse Team Looking for Something More

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team won eleven games last year and is likely to win as many again this year. In spite of a tough early season schedule that matched them against county powers, Damascus and Churchill, the girls are 5-2 at mid-season and quietly establishing themselves as a perennial power.

"We have been doing really great and working as a unit on and off the field," said senior defenseman and captain, Delaney Cecco, "and I think we are going to do really well. I think the strength of our team is communication. When are working the ball up the field, we talk, and it works really well.

"Our best game was against Damascus even though we lost. It was a really good challenge, and it showed what we need to work on and to improve on. Junior Hannah Bush has been doing really well. She is our center middy and does really well on the draw to start us off well. I am looking forward to playing Damascus again in the playoffs and seeing if we can change the outcome."

Delaney picked up three ground balls in a 17-6 win over Magruder on March 24. Hannah is tied for second in goals with ten. Junior Haley Harkins and junior Cubby Schmidt also have ten. Senior Captain Sophia Mense leads the team with twelve (five against Watkins Mill). Junior Andrea Johnson has four. Cubby scored twice in the opener against Damascus.

Harkins also has nine assists, fifteen ground balls, and has won twenty-three draws.

"It's going pretty well," said Harkins. "It's getting better as time goes on. We are improving every day...I think working together is the strength of this team. Remy Anderson has been a surprise. She is a freshman and has stepped up to be our varsity goalie in her first year in high school, and she is playing really well... Sapna Bagalkotkar, a junior, is playing really well on attack and she is pretty new to the sport. I am looking forward to beating Damascus in the playoffs."

Remy had eleven saves against Damascus and ten against Watkins Mill.

"I am pretty happy with everything," said coach Rachel Stream. "Spring break set us back a little bit, but I think we are still going to improve and move forward.

"I think our best game was against Northwest (a 15-3 win on April 4). We



The Falcon girls' lacrosse team is off to a good start for 2017.

really started clicking as a team. We just came out playing as a team. We have really figured things out since then. I think our attack is the strength of our team. We have good speed, so we have to go with speed on offense and have our defense work along with that. I think my defense is stepping up and really getting to understand the game a little bit more, so that has really impressed me so far. It is improving tremendously. When we start putting it all together, hopefully, everyone will see why we are a huge threat.

"There has been a huge improvement overall in the short amount of time this season. We are really focusing on improving teamwork. The season has been a pretty fun one, and it's the girls that make it that way. They are so much fun to be around, and when it's time to work hard, they do. They all have great attitudes and the will to work. I believe if we keep up the hard work with our skills and, more importantly, the knowledge of the game, we can have a great season.

"No matter what sport I am coaching, that team comes first. I absolutely love coaching and no matter what or who I am coaching I am going to push them. This team has so much potential. They can go far, and they are working towards that goal. I believe in these girls, but, more importantly, they believe in themselves. No matter where this ends for us, we know how hard we are working. We know we are improving.

Continued on page 8.

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Tidbits

WUMCO Turned a New Leaf on April 26

The April 26 annual meeting of WUMCO marked the retirement of long-time president and twenty-eight-year veteran of the board of directors, Nancy Allnut. She turned the gavel over to Ray Hoewing who himself has served for more than two decades. Also retiring after well over a dozen years was Tracey Forfa whose legal advice was very valuable.

The event also was noteworthy for another reason: it was the first annual meeting since the organization completed its first-ever paid membership program during the fall of 2016. The very-successful effort netted almost 170 donors, resulting in nearly \$40,000 in revenue. Members were especially invited to the annual meeting to hear a guest speaker and to approve the organization's 2017 budget and the nominees for directors. WUMCO expects that the annual renewals of memberships will comprise a significantly-enlarged level of support from past years to fund its emergency services programs.

The guest speaker for the evening was JoAnn Barnes, senior executive of Montgomery County Health and Human Services, who brought twenty years of experience in various health and welfare programs of the county. Her well-received presentation described statistics, trends, and future outlook for county services, with many of her comments relating to the western Upcounty, the area that WUMCO serves.



Nancy Allnut held up a gift she received upon her retirement as president of WUMCO. Help. Tracy Forfa also retired from the board this year. Adam Debaugh was elected vice president.

Incumbents approved as board members were founder Jane Stearns (nearing the end of her forty-ninth year), Ray Hoewing (president), Adam Debaugh (vice president-secretary), Barbara Polak (treasurer), Catherine

Beliveau (executive director), Carly Stoliker, and DeLaine McCord. The roster was rounded off by the election of newcomer Joel Tjornhof who brings to the board years of experience in community service.

Barnesville Town Election Results

The town of Barnesville elected a new Board of Commissioners through an election that had fifty-seven votes, including nine submitted absentee. The election results were Holly Larisch (55), Mildred Callear (48), Audrey Morris (41), and Diana Karns (21). The top three will join Luke Fedders on the board. After the newly-elected commissioners were sworn in, the commissioners voted Mildred Callear as President of the Commission/Mayor.



Retiring commissioner Luke Fedders with newly-elected Audrey Morris, Holly Larisch, and the new president and Mayor of Barnesville, Mildred Callear.

Frederick Arts Council Announces Partnership with Ausherman Family Foundation to Develop Public Art Planning Process for Frederick County

The Frederick Arts Council announced an initiative in partnership with the Ausherman Family Foundation and others to develop a public art planning process for Frederick County.

The process, under the guidance of public art planning consultant Todd Bressi, will allow Frederick to continue deepening its sense of place through public art, developing a coherent set of procedures for placing public art throughout the county, and helping create a set of sustainable funding streams for the construction and maintenance of the county's public art. "This is an enormously-exciting prospect for everyone in Frederick who believes in the power of art to strengthen communities," said Louise Kennelly, Executive Director of the Frederick Arts Council.

Todd W. Bressi has been hired as a facilitator and guide in this process. He leads an innovative design practice

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) Events:

Pickleball: Mondays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Game Day: Tuesdays. 1:00 p.m. Poolesville Baptist Church.

May 12

AHOP Entertainment

Band: Off the Lawn, performing inside at 8:30 p.m.

May 12 and 13

JPMS Phantom Players' Performance

Disney's *Aladdin, Jr.* Cost: \$10.00 at box office. PHS auditorium. Friday and Saturday nights: 7:00 p.m.; Saturday matinee: 1:00 p.m.

May 13

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Plant Swap

Dig and divide your most prolific perennials, shrubs, and tree seedlings to share at a plant swap. Put them in old pots, cardboard boxes, or plastic bags. Label them as best you can. Bring for sale signs with clear prices. Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Community Breakfast and Yard Sale

This is a free-will donation to benefit the youth group's mission trip. Breakfast includes eggs, sausage, bacon, hot-cakes, baked goods, coffee, milk, and juice. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival

A day for everything Celtic: music, dance, food, games, beer- and whisky- (like the Scots spell it) tasting, children's games, Scottish crafts, baking contest, Highlanders athletic contests, rugby, and much more.

Sponsored by St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland. \$15.00 Mt. Airy Fire Company Carnival fairgrounds, 1003 Twin Arch Road, Mr. Airy. Visit www.midmaylandcelticefestival.com. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

100th Anniversary of Fatima

Rosary at 4:30 p.m., Mass at 5:00 p.m., and Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's Pavilion.

AHOP Entertainment

Bobby Lewis Band on the patio at 4:30 p.m.

May 18

PASC: Book Discussion Group

Featuring *Undaunted Courage*. Maggie Nightingale Library. 7:00 p.m.

May 19, 20, and 21

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Featuring music by Christopher Doto on Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Let your home décor be inspired with great ideas and gifts. Open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m.

May 20

Open House - Living Word Bible Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to drop by and meet us. Enjoy a fun, relaxed time, free food (pig roast, hot dogs, and hamburgers), play games, make animal balloons, or receive prayer. 16500 White's Ferry Rd., Dawsonville (Rt. 107 at Rt. 28) 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

7th Annual Springfest

Beer- and wine-tasting tent, vendors, and live music. Whalen Commons. 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 23

PASC Special Event

The Montgomery County Commission for Women will hold a special presentation. Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

Continued from page 6.

PHS Girls' Lacrosse Team Looking for Something More

"I am trying to bring more to these girls than just the basics of lacrosse... I want to teach them to become better student-athletes and better people. I think that is what some people forget when they are coaching. They are so focused on just the sport, but there is something more, and that's the reason I coach."

Other seniors are Beckah Trainor, Kate Heimbach, Madi Miller, Emily Yin, and Julia Montone on defense, and Bella Lawbaugh and Carmela Wasilik on attack. Other juniors are Katie Morrow, Brigit Shields, and Charlotte Mallow on attack, and Adey Harris on defense. Sarah Mullikin on attack is a sophomore.

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Local News

UMCVFD Hosts Lunch Break for 500 Cyclists

On Saturday, April 29, the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department once again hosted nearly five hundred cyclists riding from the Pentagon to Gettysburg in a mission to show support for military personnel, veterans, and first responders.

Using the Beallsville fire house as a pit stop for rest and refreshment before heading out to Frederick in the afternoon, their break included lunch. The bicycle and hand cycle riders are part of the Face of America ride sponsored by World T.E.A.M. Sports. The 110-mile journey spans two days. Many of the participants are themselves wounded veterans, some are even double amputees.

Created in 2000 as a cross-country ride of two teams of veterans who met in St. Louis, the Holbrook, New York-based nonprofit organization redirected Face of America in 2007 to honor and acknowledge the substantial sacrifices veterans with disabilities make in serving their country.

Participating veterans from several other countries joined teams from the navy, coast guard, army, marines, and air force. Walter Reed National Military Medical Center also organized a team of injured veterans.



Local News

Poolesville Recognizes May 15 as National Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day

By Rande Davis

The Town of Poolesville has proclaimed May 15 National Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day in honor of Brynleigh Shillinger, the daughter of Sean and Lauren Shillinger and the granddaughter of Greg and Sharon Shores of Poolesville.

Sean and Lauren Shillinger are the proud parents of three-year-old Brynleigh who was a happy and healthy little girl until she began having seizures at nine and a half months old in September of 2014. They immediately took her to Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. for what they thought was testing to confirm she was having seizures. After a week-long stay and a multitude of tests, she was diagnosed as positive for a rare genetic disorder called Tuberos Sclerosis Complex often called TSC. The news completely turned their world upside down, and life has not been the same from that moment on. TSC is a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors/tubers to form in vital organs, primarily the brain, heart, eyes, kidneys, liver, lungs, and skin. There is currently no cure for TSC. Right now, Brynleigh has several tumors in her brain and heart and will have yearly scans to check all of her major organs as she grows. TSC requires bi-annual monitoring and frequent testing.

The biggest issue for the little girl has been uncontrolled seizures. She has intractable epilepsy. Without treatment, she had anywhere from one to twelve seizures daily and has had them for over the past two years. Numerous seizure medications have failed to help her. Her best chance was determined to be brain surgery to remove the tumors that are causing her uncontrolled seizures. The best place for this specific kind of surgery is at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas. In October, the family traveled to Houston for that surgery. On October 11, she had her first brain surgery to place depth electrodes in her brain to do final intracranial testing and to monitor her seizures. This final intracranial monitoring



The Town of Poolesville proclaimed May 15 as Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day. Attending the proclamation were Linda Shores, Jim Brown, Sean Shillinger, Lauren Shillinger, Brynleigh Shillinger, Greg Shores, and Commissioners Martin Radigan, and Jerry Klobukowski.

took three days to capture over twenty seizures and allowed the team to internally confirm her seizure focus to complete final surgical planning/mapping. Although released from the hospital, she still had to stay in Houston for one week of rest and recovery. In total, the parents and child were gone from their home for eighteen days. After three months, she needed to go to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for post-surgical brain scans to compare to the pre-surgical scans to access how her brain has healed and see how successful the surgery was for Brynleigh.

In addition to caring for their daughter, Sean and Lauren have devoted themselves to being TSC volunteers, fundraisers, and advocates. Tuberos sclerosis affects as many as 25,000 to 50,000 individuals in the United States and about one to two million individuals worldwide.

Continued on page 11.

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**POTOMAC
HUNT RACES**

Continued from page 1.

The Maggie Nightingale Library Officially Opens

Hamilton also noted that April 16, 2016 was officially declared Montgomery County Maggie Nightingale Day by Leggett. She added that Maggie, through her mission for the library in the town, became well known throughout the county for her great work. In Poolesville, she was honored as a past grand marshal of Poolesville Day and received the prestigious community service award from Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, for which she served as secretary.

Ike Leggett, in his remarks, observed that Maggie came to Poolesville in 1977, and immediately rolled up her sleeves to begin serving the community and her church as a volunteer. Maggie was a tireless advocate for more than simply a bookmobile. In 1979, a county library was established in the Poolesville Junior-Senior High school. Leggett praised her for her love of books that led her to her passion for library advocacy and the advisory committee. "Maggie believed this community deserved an independent library that did not compete with the school for resources and would be

open to the public beyond school hours. She remained passionate for everyone to have access to information and literature. She always advocated not just for books and learning for children, but also believed learning is a lifelong mission of people of all ages. In renaming the library in her honor, it properly reflects and honors her many years of devotion and hard work which will benefit many generations to come."

Town Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski remembered Maggie's indomitable spirit. "Maggie was not one to wonder if something would happen, she made it happen. She was a role model for initiative, perseverance, and willingness to work with others."

Ralph Hitchens, who has shared much of the leadership of the town's Library Advisory Committee, had worked with her as a fellow volunteer for nearly twenty-five years. He referred to her leadership and energy as the "magic of Maggie." He added, "[She possessed] an intense focus on what needed to be done." He felt that her spirit was present at the event and that her humble demeanor would have led her to say, if she had been present, that the honor was nice, but "let's get on with the

good work of the library." Ralph closed in reminding us that "although short in stature, we all stand in her shadow today."

Maggie's youngest daughter, Tish Brownlee, warmly remembered her mother as always having books around. She made her goal of advocating for library improvements and expansion so seriously, she even took classes in public policy lobbying. It was from her mother that Brownlee learned the importance of "faith, determination, and commitment to a goal, and that dreams come true."

Gillian Jablonski, one of eight grandchildren, told the gathering that Maggie was a great role model and while the family, sometimes, in a loving yet joyful tease, might refer to her as "pocket grandma" due to her physical slightness, she also proclaimed, "Don't let her stature fool you, she was mighty. She led by example. She only asked once and then, through her firm but kind and calming presence, she got things done and accomplished." She closed the ceremony by remarking how wonderful the renaming was and that it was an incredible honor to have this observance of her grandmother's legacy.

Continued from page 10.

Poolesville Recognizes May 15 as National Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Awareness Day

This past March, the parents lobbied on Capitol Hill for federal funding for the Tuberos Sclerosis Alliance Research Program (TSCRAP) in an effort to find better treatments and ultimately a cure for TSC. Lauren and Sean are on a crusade to raise awareness of TSC, and proclamations like the one Poolesville has issued help them in that goal.

Their fundraising team is called "Brynleigh's Believers" and there is a walk coming up on Sunday, June 25, 2017 in Washington, D.C. People can be directed to giving.tsalliance.org and the Step Forward to Cure Tuberos Sclerosis Complex Campaign to either join their team to participate or can make a tax-deductible donation to their fundraising efforts which raises money for research to find new treatments and hopefully a cure for TSC.

For more information, please feel free to visit www.tsalliance.org to find various ways to help.

7th Annual SpringFest
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Focus on Business

A New Café Opening Soon

By Susan Petro

Breakfast all day long, delicious and unique lunch menu selections made from locally-sourced meats and produce, served on freshly-baked buns, comfortable sofas and seating, and, oh yeah, located right in the heart of Poolesville—What else could one wish for? Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, May 15, the Watershed Café, located in the space formerly occupied by Zaglio's Bakery, will be opening its doors for business and offering the residents of Poolesville a new place to eat, hang out, or grab a cup of coffee.

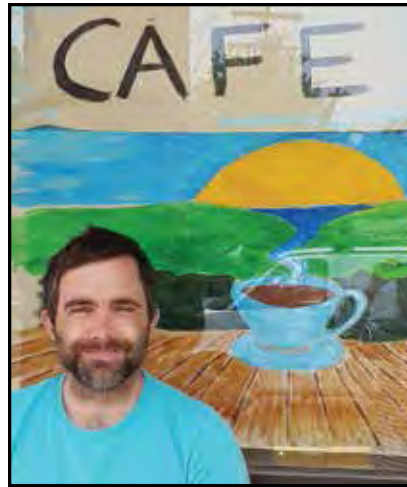
The Watershed Café is the brainchild of local resident and chef, Ben Ritter, and his wife Cara Iadarola. "It's really been a project we've both been interested in for a long time," said Ritter. "We love going out and finding new places to eat, especially on vacation and when going to a new spot." Although Iadarola works full-time, she hopes to be a part of the restaurant, as well. Ritter said she has already contributed to the design, the paint colors, and the furniture selection, and she plans to add some paintings to the walls. "We were both artists in college and in our twenties before getting real jobs," said Ritter, who majored in music and lived in New York City for a while after college.

Breakfast will be served all day at the café. "Breakfast is my favorite meal and favorite thing to cook," said Ritter, who most recently spent time serving as the chef for the nearby Bassett's Restaurant. The breakfast menu includes a variety of meals and à la carte items including selections like pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, breakfast sandwiches, and made-from-scratch biscuits with sausage gravy. Fresh pastries will be offered daily.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., the Watershed Café will begin serving lunch. Ritter says they plan to add a twist to their lunch menu. "None of them are going to be your basic deli sandwich sort of thing." Ritter created the sandwich menu with input from his wife. The menu includes some gluten-free and vegetarian choices, as well.

In addition to breakfast and lunch, the café offers freshly-baked pies, muffins, and cookies that will change on a regular basis.

Of course, no café would be complete without a good cup of coffee, tea, or espresso. Ritter is excited to



Ben Ritter, owner of the newly-opened Watershed Café in Poolesville.

offer coffee from a Philadelphia-based coffee supplier, La Columbe, a socially-responsible company with strong ethical values. "They buy directly from farmers, give back to charities, and it's delicious coffee," said Ritter.

Ritter grew up in Potomac before moving to upstate New York to go to college and work. A desire to live closer to family brought him back to the area. He especially loved the Agricultural Reserve and the Potomac River. After spending two years working on Capitol Hill, Ritter was inspired to join the farming community by his brother, Dave Ritter, who was working for Calleva and convinced his brother to come there to work. Ritter spent eight years working for Calleva, the local summer camp, where he taught youngsters how to farm.

One unique recipe item that the café serves called chow-chow, a southern-style sweet and tangy pickle relish, comes directly from Ritter's experience of teaching kids how to farm. "The goal was to have enough going on at the farm to make it interesting for all the kids coming out, but that meant that all the vegetables we were growing didn't necessarily have a destination," said Ritter who added that chow-chow is not a recipe, but a concept. "It basically means taking all of your extra vegetables, especially at the end of the summer, like green tomatoes, green peppers, maybe hot peppers, onions, and cabbage (cabbage is optional, but traditionally is in there) and you basically chop it all up and make a relish out of it." Ritter describes chow-chow as kind of a sweet and tangy relish that happens to be pretty healthy. It varies seasonally depending upon which vegetables are ready when it is being made.

The name Watershed refers to the geographic area that drains all the streams and rainfall into a common

Continued on page 20.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 5 pm / Sundays at 8, 9:30, and 11 am
Confession Saturday at 4:15 pm

100th Anniversary of Fatima

Saturday, May 13

Rosary 4:30 pm / Mass 5 pm / Potluck Supper 6:00 pm

All are Welcome, call for details

Musical Mother's Day Meditation on Mary

Sunday, May 14, 2:00 pm

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Youth Sports

Goldsboro, Dahlin, And Ransom Lead Young PHS Softball Team

By Jeff Stuart

"I didn't know what to expect from this young team," said Coach Laurie Wohnhas. "I had only three players with any varsity experience. I knew we would struggle at times, but I am proud of how they have improved each game. They have really come together as a team and, most importantly, they are coachable."

"My highlight of the season would be hitting a triple in the second game of the season," said junior third baseman Kelly Dahlin. "As a team, our best game of the season was the Rockville game. We put together a full seven innings. Samantha Goldsborough, the senior shortstop, got a throw to me, and we got a runner out at third. Sam and I definitely work really well together. I am going to miss that next year. She is not only a great all-around athlete, but she is also a great person."

"Our pitching was great against Rockville. Our fielding was good. We didn't have as many errors as we usually do. We had a couple of rallies with two out. We haven't done that in a while."

"Sophomore centerfielder Maddie Burdette is definitely the most improved player. She has got tons of clutch hits...She is very consistent: She always gets on base, she always makes the catch, and we know she is going to do it."

With two out and runners on in the top of the first in the Rockville game, Goldsborough made a sparkling over-the-shoulder catch of a soft line drive that seemed destined to be a hit, holding the Rams scoreless. The Falcons scored the first run of the game in the bottom half. With the bases loaded and score tied at 2-2 and two out in the bottom of the fourth inning, Burdette singled softly to right scoring two runs. A two-out, five-run rally in the bottom of the sixth put the game out of reach.

Against a really strong Quince Orchard team on May 2, Poolesville had some good moments though the Cougars dominated. Freshman pitcher Gwen Boe pulled a solid double to left early in the game, and with runners at second and third and two outs, another freshman, Jess Convers, very nearly hit it over the right fielder's head, but



PHS softball captains: Samantha Goldsborough and Kellie Dahlin.

the Cougars' right fielder made a great catch.

"Our hitting was okay," said Allie Ransom, "but our fielding wasn't very good that game."

Allie hit a bases-loaded double to punctuate a ten-run first inning rally at home against Einstein. "It was sort of the same situation with Damascus... We ended up losing that game, but we played really hard. We never stopped fighting. We kept pushing. I think that was something we didn't show a lot last season, and I am very proud of this team for that...This team is very, very passionate about the sport, and we have really come together to play as a team."

"Holly Raines has really stepped up as a pitcher, and she is only a freshman. We really didn't know who we were going to have as a pitcher this year, but she took over and has really worked hard at it. She has improved a lot." Holly took over the pitching duties from her sister Jolie Raines who graduated last year.

Goldsboro leads the team with a .533 average, sixteen hits, and eleven RBIs. She has ten stolen bases. Sam and Allie Ransom have one homerun each, the team's only homers on the season. Dahlin is hitting .429 with six doubles, six stolen bases, and ten RBIs. Ransom has eight RBIs. Kelly and Allie have the team's only triples, one each.

Freshman Alaina Shields is batting .354 with four stolen bases, and Stroud is hitting .359 with eleven runs scored.

Convers is batting .304 and Burdette .281. Freshman Alyson Gotlewski has three stolen bases and four RBIs.

First baseman Cassie Volkle is the only other junior on the roster. Outfielder Clare Wilson is a sophomore.

Continued from page 7.

Tidbits

that explores the intersection of city design, place planning, and public art.

"It's time to be purposeful and strategic about public art in Frederick," said Marvin Ausherman, Chairman and Co-Founder of the Ausherman Family Foundation. "With the right procedures in place, we will be able to collaborate to use public art as a way to express our community's identity, making Frederick even more of a special and unique place."

This initiative builds on an established tradition of public art in Frederick which is already well known for pieces such as the Community Bridge, the array of murals downtown, and Sky Stage public art and amphitheater that attract visitors from near and far.

The process will take place over the next ten months, during which the consultant and the Arts Council will survey community needs and construct planning procedures based directly on that feedback.

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Entrées:

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Stuffed Chicken
Boneless chicken breast stuffed with a blend of sundried tomatoes, spinach and goat cheese, drizzled with a balsamic reduction; served with mashed potatoes and the vegetable of the day

Pan Fried Rainbow Trout
Pan fried butterfly trout topped with lemon butter caper sauce; served with rice pilaf and the vegetable of the day

Dessert Special:

Strawberry Shortcake
Fresh strawberries served over one of our flaky, home-style biscuits; topped with whipped cream and sliced strawberries



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OUR NEW SPRING MENU IS HERE!

Local News

Helping Hands Of Poolesville Helping Again

By Rande Davis

This past April 29 was a great day for the partnership between Helping Hands of Poolesville (HHP) and the Rebuilding Together organization as over forty volunteers, primarily from local churches and civic groups, joined to do their home-makeover magic for another deserving family in our area.

The goodwill and generous spirit of area residents shine each year when

Rebuilding Together undertakes another project. This year the group was able to correct drainage issues, improve landscaping, replace lost mortar, repair shingles on the roof, waterproof the basement, room painting, replace several windows, repair the sump pump, upgrade electrical work, and more.

Such good work is done through the organizing leadership of HHP president Craig Cummins, Ray Hoewing, and Catherine Beliveau. They handle the fundraising, the initiative to obtain volunteers, and participate in selecting the homeowner. The project management for the day is done by Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscaping and Joe Hetrick of Chrisler Homes. Included in the list of volunteers with

expertise are Dick Hanna of Hanna Electric and Paul Paoletti of Paoletti Construction.

A project like this is accomplished by the many volunteers, and HHP asked that each be recognized by name: Charlie Auer, Bob Bailor, Catherine Beliveau, Carl Brill, Amy Budd, Deonte Campbell, Kelly Campbell, Chuck Copeland, Kim Copeland, Craig Cummins, Valaree Dickerson, Kelle Dockery, Michael Everond, Mark Granger, Dick Hanna, Joe Hetrick, Ralph Hitchens, Ray Hoewing, Pete Horsley, Cheyenne Johnson, Lalon Kasuske, George Kephart, Bruce Kirby, Steve Kocur, Bill Kraegel, Steven Lightcap, V. Phymeon Lyles, Steve McCraith, Carolyn McFall, Bennett McPhatter, James McPhatter,

Nina Menroe, Bernie Mihm, Ross Ohmen, Paul Paoletti, Thomas Randall, Russell Reed, Lincoln Reyes, Joe Ryba, Crystal Sauder, Vernon Sauder, Eddie Schwartzbeck, Jack Shawver, William Simon, and Berry Thomas.



Paul Paoletti, Eddie Schwartzbeck, and Bennett McFall with the day's youngest volunteer, James McFall.



Ralph Hitchens, Carolyn McFall, and HHP president Craig Cummins.



Ray Hoewing said, "If ya gotta, might just as well enjoy it!"



Bernie Mihm, Carl Brill, Pilar Garrett, Catherine Beliveau, Valaree Dickerson, Mike Garrett, Joe Hetrick, and Craig Cummins.



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Continued from page 3.

Commissioners Hear from State Delegation

A large part of her work this session—and that of the Montgomery County delegation—was to “bring back funds” to Montgomery County from the state level. She pointed to an extra ten million dollars in funds that the delegation secured to provide more money for school construction in the county. President Brown and Commissioner Klobukowski acknowledged this effort but reminded her that Poolesville High School remains far down the list to be modernized and reiterated that it is important that the school not fall farther down the list.

Delegate Aruna also mentioned the passage of the one-million-dollar bond bill which will help construct a proposed grape-crushing facility where the old clubhouse at the Poolesville Golf Course now stands.

After the delegation made its presentation, the commissioners moved on to town business. They first considered a proposal from Town Manager Wade Yost to add to a contract that was awarded last year to repair manholes in various parts of town. The contract targeted forty-four manholes for repair that were leaking or had major cracks or decay. Those repairs were successfully completed essentially on time and within budget. Recent rains made it possible to do testing on other manholes in town. An additional forty were found to have leaks or cracks, and Yost proposed to amend the contract to add these manholes to the original contract. The commissioners voted unanimously to proceed (Commissioners Dickerson and Stump were absent).

Next, the commissioners considered a proposal from the Parks and Streets Board to prohibit parking along Cattail Road up to the entrance to the elementary school parking lot. Parking along the road during the mornings and afternoons when kids are brought to school and dropped off has created congestion, and the school principal supported the recommendation. It was unanimously approved. The commissioners also unanimously approved the final budget and tax rates for FY 2018.

They discussed further the proposal to allow USP, an insurance company that provides insurance to cover the costs of repairs to private water and sewer lines, to use the town’s letterhead to send out a letter informing the public about the company’s programs. The commissioners deferred action on that matter until the next meeting.



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

First degree assault: 15800 block of Budd Road.

Identity theft: Hillard Court.

Vandalism: 19600 block of Seymour Court.

Past Crime

May 12, 1918 Two fifteen-year-old boys from Washington found themselves in trouble after they asked the wrong man for directions. The boys were said to have taken the automobile belonging to Admiral T. F. Jewell from in front of his home on 21st Street, N.W. They then drove to Rockville where they encountered Sheriff Viett and asked him directions to Frederick. His suspicions were aroused, and Viett detained the boys until he could communicate with his counterparts in Washington. He then determined that the car was stolen and arrested the two youths.

May 14, 1914 A fourteen-year-old boy was arrested and charged with

burning down his employer's house near Goshen. Officials said that the boy did not like his job and wanted to quit, but his mother would not let him leave the job.

May 19, 1919 Two Rockville men were under arrest and charged with murder after the shooting death of a brother-in-law and the wounding of the other's wife. Authorities said that the party had spent the day in Washington and when they returned home, an argument broke out. One of the men obtained two shotguns, and gunfire broke out, resulting in the death of the relative. Both were locked in the Rockville jail pending a court hearing.

May 20, 1912 Representative Bird McGuire and Mrs. McGuire decided to do a little motoring in their new electric car. Their travels took them into Montgomery County. In Rockville, Deputy Brooks saw that their auto did not display Maryland tags. He pulled over the congressman who protested that he did not know that electric cars needed special tags to drive in Maryland. McGuire exclaimed, "You are not going to take me to jail are you?" Brooks replied, "Not this time, but you must forfeit \$29 and appear in court next week." Later in the day,

Brooks snagged two other motorists for speeding.

May 20, 1919 On a charge of possession of intoxicating liquors, a Takoma Park man was arrested in Rockville. The back seat of the man's auto was filled with liquor. He denied that he intended to sell it and instead claimed that it was for his personal use.

Some material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post

Continued from page 4.

Fox 5 DC Returns to Poolesville

plenty of food vendors, and lots of music and games for kids, so save the date.

Celebrations keep on coming after that when the Fridays on the Commons kick off on June 16 with the popular Poolesville Elementary School Carnival, the Bark in the Park on June 23, and the rescheduling of the Big Flea used item sale on June 24.

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Mystery History

May Day in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

May Day has been a public holiday for many generations, and these pictures show a typical May Day celebration in Poolesville in 1931. May Day is an old and traditional spring festival celebrated particularly in Europe and North America. It includes dancing, music, cakes, and baked goods, and the famous May Pole dance.

In the late nineteenth century, the socialists and communists used the celebration to promote their causes, but the history of the day is primarily much more benign and designed for fun and to honor workers and labor without other political connotations.



May 10: Flags flown at half-staff in memory of Army Staff Sgt. Mark R. De Alencar, of Edgewood, Maryland, who died on April 8, 2017 in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Continued from page 10.

A New Café Opening Soon

outlet. Ritter realized there was so much locally-sourced meats, dairy, eggs, and produce coming from the local farms located right here in the Agricultural Reserve and not nearly enough outlets taking advantage of those resources. "We already have two pigs in the freezer that we bought from a local Poolesville High School junior and 4-H member who raises pigs, cows, and eggs on a nearby farm," said Ritter who has already spoken to a few local farmers and believes he should be able to get most of his meats and vegetables from local farms and sources.

In terms of what they serve, Ritter says, "The whole philosophy in this is to do a few things really well." Currently, the café does not serve dinner, but they may do so in the future as the business grows. The plan is to grow in stages as business allows. Ritter hopes to get a beer and wine license in the near future and add some outdoor seating. The space next door is available to add more seating if needed, but for right now, Ritter is focused on getting his first phase of his business up and running.

To learn more about the Watershed Café and its menu, or to call ahead to place an order, check out the website at www.cafewatershed.com or stop by in person on or after May 15 to see Poolesville's newest eating establishment.

Continued from page 4.

Hot Potato

Confirming that this is all about the money, the president said it would be better to do healthcare reform before tax reform because the savings from healthcare could be used to further reduce taxes in his tax reform legislation. Let us note that the savings from AHCA tax cuts and his proposed tax cuts all fall predominantly on the wealthy—no big surprise there. It has also been pointed out that since the reductions in spending on healthcare for lower income folks already offset AHCA tax cuts, they can't also be available to cover more tax cuts elsewhere. It's a very hot potato.

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Normal urine in a healthy dog or cat is transparent yellow, also known as straw yellow or pale gold. To check the color of your pet's urine, collect it in a clear plastic cup or on a white plate. Be sure the cup or plate are clean.

Different shades of yellow other than the pale gold can be an indicator of potential health abnormalities. If the urine is very pale or colorless, it could indicate that excessive water intake or retention is occurring, so persistent increased water intake and clear, colorless urine output that lasts for more than a couple of days should be brought to your veterinarian's attention as soon as possible. Additional tests on the urine can be done to look for glucose (diabetes), or kidney/liver changes.

Urine that is very dark yellow could indicate a lack of adequate water intake or access to water. Water is the most critical nutrient to which we and our animals must have ready access on a daily basis. Long term water deprivation can produce kidney, liver, heart, and other organ dysfunction. Be sure that clean, fresh, and safe water is always available to your friends.

Urine that has an orange, brown, or black appearance is an important sign of a potentially-dangerous metabolic change in your pet. It can indicate liver, bile duct, gallbladder, pancreatic, red blood cell, or kidney damage. You should bring your pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible if you see this color urine.

Reddish urine is an indication that there may be free blood in the bladder or kidneys. You should not wait to see if it clears, but bring your pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible. This color change could indicate a bacterial, viral, or, in rare cases, parasitic infection. In many cases, the urine color returns to more normal as the disease progresses, so normal color after a red color is not always an indication of return to normal.

If you have any concerns about how your pet is urinating, take a video to share with your veterinarian and collect some urine as indicated above. Be sure the urine is fresh and not frozen. Do not let it sit for more than an hour before submitting it to your veterinarian. You may also wait and have your veterinarian and staff collect the urine for you.

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