

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Porch portrait of the White Family stepping outside for needed fresh air. See more in Family Album on page 2.



Local restaurant gives back. Details in Tidbits on page 4.



Calling all Trivia buffs: What Indian tribe dominated in our area? Find out in Mystery History's Poolesville Trivia Pursuit: Mission Impossible on page 5.



Local PHS slugger in home run derby. He met a great man's great-granddaughter. Youth Sports on page 12 reveals the details.

Town Braces for Pandemic Impact on Town Revenues

By Link Hoewing

As Montgomery County remains with a stay-at-home order in place, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville heard a review of the draft FY 21 budget and considered actions and plans regarding future town-sponsored events and programs at their May 18 meeting.

Town Manager Seth Rivard noted that public comment was scheduled for the evening's meeting, but no one had signed up. Rivard had set up a system so citizens could comment remotely and be heard by the commissioners.

Rivard went ahead with a high-level overview of the draft FY 21 budget which must be adopted by June 1. First, the town will be able to retire one of the loans it has taken out to do capital improvements work on the town's sewer system. He said that, despite the ongoing work to reduce leakage into the sewer pipes that can lead to heavier loads on the sewer plant, more work



A deserted Whalen Commons symbolizes the impact of the pandemic on our local economy.

will need to be done. As a result, the town will need to take out another loan in the near future to conduct more Inflow and Infiltration (I and I) work on the system.

He next pointed out that the town is anticipating a revenue shortfall due to

reductions in income tax receipts which make up more than forty percent of town revenues. This is clearly a result of the impact of the pandemic on the economy. He projected the

Continued on page 3.

Local Volunteers Help UMCVFD Firefighters and EMTs

By Rande Davis

The call went out, and many responded!

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) wishes to extend a huge thank you to the wonderful ladies who volunteered their time and sewing talents to produce well over five hundred cloth non-medical masks.

It all started when Montgomery County Fire and Rescue services mandated the wearing of cloth masks while on duty in the fire station. Using washable cloth masks would go a long way toward stopping the spread of the virus while at the same time conserving the precious medical grade PPE for use during emergency responses.

Montgomery County quickly realized that protecting the first responders,

Continued on page 7.



UMCVFD personnel wearing station masks made by volunteers.

Family Album

Photos by Terri Pitts.



CVS Pharmacy



Ron Poole of the Poolesville Post Office wearing a gag Trump mask. They also had a Hillary mask to be balanced.



Cugini's Restaurant



CVS Store



Armenta Family



Franklin Family



Dollar General

Continued from page 1.

Town Braces for Pandemic Impact on Town Revenues

shortfall would be about \$120,000 and would reduce total receipts from income taxes from over \$1.4 million to around \$1.3 million. Reductions in receipts for water usage, among other things, means that the total revenue shortfall for the town in this proposed budget is anticipated to be \$446,000 in a budget of close to \$4 million.

To cope with the shortfall, the draft budget proposes an increase in water and sewer fees of two percent, using \$141,000 from the town's unrestricted cash reserves (sometimes called the Rainy Day Fund), holding off on some purchases (for example, the purchase of a new truck), and reductions in bonuses and a nnuual pay increases for employees. No increase in property taxes is proposed in the draft budget.

In the case of employees, annual pay raises in the proposed budget would be eliminated. In the case of bonuses, the total was reduced from \$32,000 to \$18,000, a reduction of \$14,000. Rivard explained that, due to the pandemic, employees in most cases were working on shifts, a portion coming in on one day and another group the next. Despite this staggered work pattern, all employees are being paid full weekly salaries and all benefits. He went on to say that given the uncertainty of future economic impacts, these reductions and others in the budget are being taken to preserve jobs over the long term. Rivard said that "this is the last position we wanted to find ourselves in" and expressed admiration and support for the employees.

The commissioners generally received the news in a subdued manner but understood that the town's fiscal situation is under pressure. Even so, the Rainy Day Fund has a balance of more than \$600,000, and the town is able to continue with major programs such as road repaving. Commissioner Jim Brown added, however, that employees did not get overtime last winter because there was little snow removal needed and they are not getting overtime now during the summer when heavy parks maintenance and grass cutting usually occurs. He and other commissioners said that the situation regarding employee pay should be reviewed again in December because the fiscal situation will possibly have improved.

Since there were no public comments, the budget is now awaiting final review and approval by the commissioners. That is expected to take place at the next meeting on June 1.

During the public comments segment of the meeting, two local residents asked to speak. Joy Zuckerman-Tierman and Janet Lamb wanted to urge the commissioners to consider activities or programs the town might support that could help local citizens who are feeling stress and mental anxiety as a result of being isolated within homes. Zuckerman-Tierman explained that she feels the tensions in her own home sometimes and sees anxiety on many faces as she takes walks through town. Lamb, who is a mental health professional, said there are programs that can help provide uplifting activities and engagement to help reduce mental stress and anxiety. Some examples were cited, and one idea was to help build and provide information about mental health resources and online programs citizens can easily access.

Commissioners were generally supportive but said that the town government itself is not geared to offer such programs; however, Commission President Kerri Cook said she wanted to continue the dialog with Zuckerman-Tierman and Lamb, and Commissioner Valaree Dickerson also mentioned her interest in such a dialog.

During his town manager's report, Seth Rivard referenced Governor Hogan's recent announcement regarding Phase 1 but also said that Montgomery County has not yet moved to eliminate its stay-at-home order. The county is allowing more access to parks and facilities, and the town, as of May 18, had decided to open parking lots for town parks and allow access to tennis courts and the dog park. On May 26, the town will take another step and allow access to soccer fields, basketball courts and play equipment although no organized sports will be allowed.

The commissioners also discussed various town events and activities and postponed the Big Flea that normally takes place in September. The town will try to reschedule it for later in the year. The commissioners also cancelled the June Friday on the Commons events but held off deciding about the events for July. Summer Camp is unlikely to be held, but the commissioners decided they could wait until the June 1 meeting to make a final decision.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

Schools are Now Open (in the Netherlands!)

By Rande Davis

MCPS will not be opening schools any sooner than next September—if then. Some colleges have already decided to skip the on-campus classroom option this fall, preferring to wait it out until 2021.

All throughout the Netherlands, elementary schools have begun opening earlier this month. High schools remain online. A very good friend of ours, Barbara Mindé, is a principal at the Nutcracker School in The Hague which is equivalent to our elementary schools here. Her classes start with four-year-old preschoolers and extend to twelve years of age. Average class size runs from twenty to thirty students. The country of seventeen million has 44,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 5,700 deaths and a death rate of thirteen percent. Currently, the U.S. has around 90,000-plus cases with a six percent death rate.

Schools there are open throughout the year with a system of eight weeks on and then scheduled breaks ranging from one to six weeks with the longest being over the summer. The current spring session will break in the middle of July.

The return to the classroom process is intriguing: the classes are at fifty percent capacity Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday while Wednesday remains online. One half of the school will attend in the mornings in the beginning of the week and then in the afternoons at the end of the week. The other group alternates that schedule with the largest class being fifteen students at any one time. Only teachers, students, and some support staff are allowed in the school. No other adults can come in. This allows the students to sit in an arrangement of two by two with one desk separating all students from each another. All students sanitize their hands upon entry and must maintain social distancing in the halls and on stairways. Most surprising is that no one is required to wear a face mask, and only foreign students seem to do so. In

Holland, the vast majority of the students live near the school, ride their bikes to class, park in huge bike racks before entering, and return home for lunch during this half-day schedule. There is a short “recess” period in each section.

Attendance was optional in the beginning, but most parents decided to have their children attend. When classes are on online, each class is arranged through a Zoom-like Microsoft system which lists all in attendance and then shows the face of each student speaking. It’s still too early in the development to assess impact of additional outbreaks. The Prime Minister had scheduled a nationwide broadcast in the evening of the day we talked to Barbara with the expectation being that he was to announce that all schools would be moving to a more full-time approach. It was still unclear during our interview what that start date would be.

It’s still too early to tell whether the Dutch are right to open this spring. My greater point in presenting their case is to emphasize that this is a worldwide concern, that we are not alone, and that there may not be any one clear way to proceed. The advantage of us watching the Dutch results is to better guide our fall schedule. One thing we probably share is that one of the key motivators for making their decision was not based solely on health, but on the demands of parents. It’s not just in America that homeschooling has made things at home a bit crazy, and it seems most parents there want to get back to work. For other countries, it is clear that waiting for a vaccine is not an option. Here we have a Federal government establishing parameters but with each state making localized decisions. We can watch countries like Holland, France, and Spain as they now begin to reopen as we make our own decisions. As each of us takes sides on these issues and debates what is the best approach, perhaps we can at least admit that neither side has all the answers and, like everything else in life, those that lead will show the rest the right way. It’s always hard to lead. A price is always paid. That’s why leaders are so honored, but this time we can be grateful to Holland for making its decision now to “roll.” For better or for worse, showing us the way should be of great help to us.

Tidbits

A Petition to Ensure Upcounty Representation

A petition to change the Montgomery County Council alignment of voting districts from seven to nine is now available online. The current County Council is comprised of five specific district representatives and four at-large representatives. Today seven of the nine council members live in the area largely made up of Silver Spring and Takoma Park referred to as the “down county crescent.” Of the remaining, one lives near Gaithersburg and the other in Rockville. There are no county representatives living in our Ag Reserve area.

The objective of the petition is to abolish the current at-large districts and to assign them to specific areas so that the Poolesville area would be guaranteed at least one representative. District boundaries drawn after the 2020 Census will be in place for ten years. The petition now is to demand nine compact districts.

For those interested in signing, the 9D petitions are now available on www.ninedistrictsformoco.org to sign electronically and email to petition@ninedistrictsformoco.org.

ninedistrictsformoco.org. You need adobe acrobat on your computer to sign the PDF electronically.

Another option is to print it, sign by hand, and either scan it and email it to the address above or send it via the U.S. postal service to P.O. Box 437, Glen Echo, MD 20812. There are only seventy-five days to collect twelve thousand signatures.

Poolesville July 4 Fireworks Cancelled

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department posted the cancellation of the Poolesville July 4 Fireworks event via facebook on May 13. Although the announcement was disappointing, the responses have been overwhelmingly supportive. UMCVFD felt it may be helpful to provide some background on the decision and the timing of the decision.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our community and the UMCVFD staff are paramount. Accurately predicting the future is difficult at any time. The pandemic clouds things even further. The fireworks event requires months of advance planning, permitting, and contracting on several levels: State of Maryland, Montgomery County, the fireworks company

Continued on page 18.

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Mystery History

Poolesville Trivia Pursuit: Mission Impossible

By Rande Davis

In these times of quarantine, we have been tested in many unexpected ways that stretch our imaginations and creativity to fill our time with activity. Like rainy days at the beach, we turn to old movies, books, jigsaw puzzles, and board games to stave off boredom. Trivia is very popular locally with many residents challenging each other in teams at local restaurants. In that spirit, we thought we would offer up a similar game—but an even more difficult one—called “Poolesville Trivia Pursuit: Mission Impossible.”

We will start with twelve questions focusing on our early history and will expand to the Civil War and late nineteenth century, in coming issues.

The following are a series of historical questions about our area that are selected for their high level of difficulty. It should be fun for each member of the family to give his/her best guess to the answers for each question. The rules are simple: After each person gives his/her best guess, the group then votes for the answer they think is the best one. We promise to surprise and intrigue you with the answers. The fun will come not in getting the answer correct but in discovering the answer.

Warning: In this game, getting one in four correct, gives you an A grade.

Pledge of Honor: Do not go to the answer page before anyone else in the family. It will be more fun for all in the group to read the answers together.

Good luck!

1. The John Poole House and Trading Post was built in 1793. What was the name of Poole’s wife?
2. John Poole held two other key roles in Poolesville besides retail store owner. What were they?
3. What cash crop served economic needs in the early days? What caused it to be dropped?
4. What Native American tribe dominated in our area?
5. Where did this dominating tribe come from and why did they come here?
6. Which Native American tribe passed through our area twice?
7. What unusual item is said to be buried in the John Poole House back yard?
8. In the early days there was no Fisher Avenue. What was the name of main street?
9. Something happened in 1804 that caused Poolesville to celebrate its first 150th anniversary in 1954. What was it?
10. The Monocacy Aqueduct was finished in 1833, a design based on Roman aqueducts. At the ends of the railings are obvious cut marks in the iron bars. What caused them?
11. The Monocacy River (original spelling is Monnockesey) is said to have two meanings from two different Indian translations. Can you provide even one of the meanings?
12. What famous Washington, D.C. building was built with stone from the Seneca quarry. Why did the quarry go out of business?

Answers on page 8.



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Garden

The Weed from Hell

By Maureen O'Connell

Two weeks ago, there was an article in *The Times* (London) entitled "Japanese Knotweed Sniffed Out by Intrepid Dogs," accompanied by a photo of two fox-red Labrador retrievers, Mick and Mack. It said that a new weapon had been developed in the war on this destructive, invasive weed and it comes with "in-built propulsion and a highly sensitive detection system." Mick and Mack started work in early May sniffing out the invasive plant, where its tuberous roots lurk underground and can wipe out thousands of pounds from the value of a home. The retrievers are thought to be the first dogs in the United Kingdom trained to detect knotweed. They were trained by RFA Security, which supplies dogs to the security services to detect explosives. They can cover a garden in a few minutes and indicate by freezing when the plant is detected. Their fee is £750 plus VAT (US \$1,380) for a residential dog survey.

What is this plant and why is it considered a weed from hell? It is a large species of the herbaceous perennial plant of the Knotweed and buckwheat family commonly known as Japanese knotweed and it is native to East Asia in Japan, China, and Korea. It was introduced into Europe by the German physician, botanist, and world traveler Philipp Franz van Siebold (1796-1866). While visiting Nagasaki, Japan in the early 1840s, he noticed this ornamental plant which was heralded as a gold-medal shrub and prized for its "gracious flowers" and advertised as an ornament, medicine, wind shelter, soil retainer, dune stabilizer, cattle feed, and insect pollinator. Its stems could be dried to make match sticks or cut and cooked like rhubarb. What was there not to like about it? He shipped many cuttings to the Netherlands and Kew Gardens in London. He had no idea that this attractive plant with heart-shaped leaves, bamboo stems, and pretty, little white flower tassels would leave a trail of mayhem wherever it went. It was not a problem in Japan as a range of Japanese soil fungi and plant diseases attack all parts of the plant. Its original home is a hostile environment which helps to suppress it. Irish botanist William Robinson (1838-1935) spoke highly of this plant



Unlike the UK whizpups, these pups, Spencer and Winston, can't sniff out an invasive weed yet, but maybe they can be trained to. New ad coming in the Monocle: Pups for Hire!

in his book *The Subtropical Garden*, describing it as "having large and noble tufts of lively green leaves which increase in beauty from year to year." What a difference 170 years would make. Knotweed is now one of the most destructive, invasive plants in the UK. The plant made its way to the U.S. in the late 1860s as a gift to a Manhattan nursery owner. It was eventually planted in several places around New York City, including Central Park.

Knotweed grows very quickly, reaching heights of ten to twenty feet with a possible horizontal spread of up to twenty feet. It can block drains, crack buildings and foundations, and push through tarmac, and it is notoriously hard to kill.

In the UK, people who discover the weed on their property and want to sell their home, often find it impossible to attract a buyer. Some mortgage lenders refuse to grant a mortgage to those wishing to buy such a property. In 2013 in Manchester, England, a man beat his wife to death with her perfume bottle and then took his own life. In his suicide note, he said that he feared a "growing madness" that a patch of Japanese knotweed growing near their property would prevent the couple from selling their home. "I am not an evil man."

In May 2019, journalist Jan Wesner Childs, of weather.com, reported, "A killer is stalking the U.S., terrorizing victims as it makes its way from populated areas to isolated forests. Its name

Continued on page 17.

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Continued from page 1.

Local Volunteers Help UMCVFD Firefighters and EMTs

firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics would be paramount in maintaining full operational capability for the duration of this pandemic. Montgomery County needed two thousand masks.

At the time, there were only six people actively cutting material and sewing the masks. One of these sewing masters is Carla Myers. Carla is a well-known, long-term career firefighter/paramedic at MCFRS Station #14 in Beallsville. When Carla explained that two thousand masks were needed with only six people sewing, it was clear that more people were needed to sew the masks.

On April 6, UMCVFD posted a facebook request for volunteers to sew masks. The offers to help were immediate and many. Ladies responded from not only Poolesville, but from all over the county and even beyond: Barnesville, Dickerson, Darnestown, Germantown, Frederick, Ijamsville, Potomac, and elsewhere.

Upon hearing the news, Carla began preparing the mask sewing kits. Each kit contained enough pre-cut materials along with instructions to produce ten cloth masks. The kits were distributed to the sewing ladies by EMT Peter Poggi and Jeff Eck. Some of the ladies even stepped up to take multiple kits. This was the multiplier that was needed to meet the demand. Over the next few weeks, the number of completed masks added up, with the final count reaching well over five hundred.

The feat could not have been accomplished without the enormous help from community volunteers. Jeff Eck would like to personally thank each of the following ladies for their volunteer spirit, sewing skills, and their initiative to answer the call. We have a wonderful community indeed: Sara Beckstrand, Patricia van Bergen, Melissa Bingha, Beverley Bosselman

Melissa Cissel, Mary Ann Clem, Aimee Fraser, Lisa Fronczek, Tricia Grubb, Deborah Harrington, Carol Hayden, Penny Jones, Lorraine Jones, Carol Knoblach, Pam Landis, Cathy Miller, Judith Murgia, Tilly Murray, Lorraine Plazinski, Cindy Poggi, Amanda Schaaf, Laura Sharp, Maggie Smith, Brenda Sparenborg, and Joy Zucker-Tiemann

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**Answers to Poolesville Trivia Pursuit:
Mission Impossible**

1. Priscilla.
2. He was a lay reader and vestry member of St. Peter's Church, often leading services when rectors were unavailable. His other title was Factor. A Factor served as an economic judge, determining (factoring) a fair price when two parties in a transaction could not agree on a price.
3. Tobacco. It depleted the nutrients in the soil and could no longer successfully be grown.
4. Piscataway-Conoy. It was not Seneca. The Seneca did not reside here. Why the heavy use of the name in the area? The British Colonial Army allied with the Seneca in the French and Indian War and during the Revolutionary War. It was common for them to call all native American tribes Seneca.
5. The Piscataway settled near the mouth of the Monocacy and hailed from Southern Maryland. They were chased from their homeland in the Eastern Shore by the Susquehannocks, a belligerent Pennsylvania tribe said to value their crabs, clams, and oysters.
6. The Tuscarora (like the Seneca, an upstate New York Iroquois tribe) passed through on their way to settle in the Carolina region. Ultimately, they lived here again for a short time as they once more returned to their native region in New York.
7. Mr. Money's finger. A past owner, he accidentally cut it off and chose to bury it in the yard to be retrieved upon his death so he would not go to the afterlife without it. Alas, the finger was never found again.
8. Coxen Road. Today it is called Beall Street and hosts Poolesville Town Hall and one of the *Monocle's* offices. Due to frequent flooding, the main street was moved and named after the Fisher family farm.

Continued on page 9.



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Continued from page 8.

Answers to Poolesville Trivia Pursuit: Mission Impossible

9. The John Poole House officially became a post office. Charles Elgin, a long-serving postmaster for Poolesville, who later became Poolesville's longest-serving "mayor," organized a sesquicentennial in 1954 to honor and celebrate this occurrence.
10. Mules tied to barges pulled the boats the length of the canal and across the aqueduct. Over time, the ropes actually cut marks in the iron.
11. Monocacy comes from the Shawnee name for the river, Monnockkesey, which translates to "river with many bends"; however, another local tradition asserts that it means "well-fenced garden" in an Indian language.
12. The Smithsonian Institution Building (The Castle). Design tastes in Washington changed from red stone to white, and the quarry collapsed in short order.



Smithsonian Institution 'Castle' building, Washington, D.C., 1864. (From the Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.)



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Fun Fact...

Poolesville Trivia Pursuit: Mission...Possible!

Mules were the preferred "engines" of the C&O Canal boat because they were cheaper to purchase than horses and were less prone to illness and injury. Mules adapted very well to life on a canal boat and could pull a 140-ton boat eight hours a day, seven days a week. Mules had both longer life spans and longer work lives than horses, and could pull canal boats for twenty years if they were taken care of properly. A statue of a mule and his driver are cemented in time at Canal Place, the former Western Maryland Railway station, erected in 2000 to honor their place in history.

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Youth Sports

PHS Baseball's Luke Tryhall: Rounding Third and Heading for Home

By Jeff Stuart

What have been your major highlights/achievements in baseball?

Winning the state championship in 2017 was a night I will never forget. Also, this past summer, my club team won the first tournament of the season in Flemington, New Jersey; it was also a great game and tournament. Winning tournaments with my club team has been great. I am proud that I earned my playing time. My sophomore year I started on varsity because I worked my tail off that previous summer. I earned that spot, and earning a spot on the pre-season All-Maryland team for the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches this winter was an honor as well.



Luke Tryhall at home run derby with Brian Domenico, the CEO of the Power Showcase. The event took place in Phoenix, and the great-granddaughter of Babe Ruth, Linda Ruth-Tosetti, was in attendance.

Tell readers about the homerun contest you were in last summer.

This past November, I took part in an amateur home run derby in Phoenix, Arizona. The event was three days at Chase Field. It was run by a man named Brian Domenico with Power Showcase who called Coach Orsini and asked about me. He had seen my junior year spring season and had seen that I had hit seven home runs, so he asked me to represent Maryland in this contest. I was the only person from Maryland at the derby. In the preliminary round, I hit ten home runs which was the most out of about twenty participants in the 2020 class. In the Championship round, I had only hit five home runs and was defeated by a player who had hit nine. Overall, I placed third. The event was an amazing experience I will always remember. I was able to hit 400-foot-plus home runs in a major league stadium and to play on the Arizona Diamondbacks field. I made a few new friends too which was awesome. Hitting against the amazing talent I did and the outcome had me very excited for college and the things I would do there.

Tell readers about your coaches and teammates and the Poolesville experience?

My teammates are a great bunch of guys I have been able to call my friends. Spending every day with them for three months out of the year is awesome. Joking around after practice and hanging with them is great. I wouldn't trade them for the world. Coach Orsini is a wonderful head coach. He listens to his players but not to where he is out of control. He understands what works and what doesn't and loves winning just as much as I do. The Poolesville experience is something like no other. I have been going to school with some of my classmates since preschool and it is amazing; I still have them as friends. I love being able to live in a small town, even though there isn't much to do. Being a part of this community is amazing. It is very hard to mention just a few people because the baseball team at Poolesville High School is my family. I am close with almost

Continued on page 15.

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Still no baseball, but at least we have the Orioles!

Photo by Susan Petro

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Continued from page 12.

PHS Baseball's Luke Trythall: Rounding Third and Heading for Home

everyone on that team. Max Fisher is someone who stands out. I have been playing with him since I was eight years old. There have only been a few seasons when we were not on the field together. He is playing baseball at the Merchant Marine Academy in New York next fall. Max and I tend to talk to each other about things the team needs to improve and ways to work on these things in practice. Another person I have played with since I was eight years old is Eamon Murphy. Eamon and I have been friends outside baseball since middle school. We work on almost everything together, but everyone on the team is important to me, and it is a real bummer I didn't get to spend another season with them.

If you could get a redo or reset for anyone moment, what would it be?

If I could reset on something it would have to be this season. Being committed to UMBC made me very excited for my senior season, and it was something I was looking forward to all of my baseball career.

How competitive are you on a scale from one to ten?

Definitely a ten; I love winning.

Do you have any pregame rituals, superstitions?

I am very superstitious, but I do not have any pregame rituals.

Do you like or participate in other sports?

In the winter, I participate in rec basketball. When I was younger, I played football for PAA.

When did you get your start in baseball?

When I was younger, almost every kid played T-ball. I played and enjoyed it so much my grandfather, John, would take me to minor league games. We watched the Frederick Keys play, and he eventually signed me up for camps. I fell in love with the game.

What are your main motivations for participating in athletics?

I find it incredibly fun. I have made some lifelong friends on some of the teams I have played on, and I wouldn't have met them elsewhere. I also enjoy working out and being able to see myself improve at something the more time I put into it.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of athletics or PHS?

I love the outdoors. Hiking, fishing, and going camping with my friends are some of my favorite things to do. I also love playing video games and just hanging out with friends and family.

How do you handle stress and pressure?

I understand what my priorities are and understand my strengths, so I can get things done and perform well when needed. Baseball is a stress reliever for me. If I am stressed about something, just hitting off a tee helps me take my mind off whatever is bothering me.

How do you balance athletics and academics?

It is definitely a struggle. I just understand what my priorities are and manage my time effectively. Time management was a practical skill I learn to improve throughout high school. Realizing school is the most important thing for your future at the moment makes you work hard at it and sports come second.

What subject do you enjoy most?

Definitely environmental science. I am in the Global Ecology Studies Program at the high school. Having most if not all of my science classes geared toward environmental science has been ideal because I intend to major in that in college.

What have you read recently?

Recently, I have just been reading my textbooks and studying for school. Online school has kind of forced me and other students as well to teach themselves the concepts the teachers cannot teach us because we aren't physically in school.

Where do you plan to go to college?

I plan on going to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to play baseball under coach Liam Bowen. I have met and talked to the coaches at UMBC for quite some time. They are incredible guys who coach a great team, and I am super-excited to be a part of their squad this fall. UMBC also has great academics and a major in Environmental Science which I was looking for.

"Luke is a great kid who can flat out CRUSH the baseball," said PHS baseball coach Steve Orsini.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 20800 block of Big Woods Road.

Theft: 17700 block of White Ground Road, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road.

Past Crime: 1890-1899

About twenty ballplayers from Washington traveled out to Chevy Chase to play a game against a team from Montgomery County. The game was played at a field near the powerhouse for the Chevy Chase trolley line. After the game, the players from Washington stayed around and became intoxicated and noisy. A former Washington police officer named Dorsey tried to quiet the group, but they turned on him and gave him a terrible beating. Deputy Sheriff Mullican arrived on the scene and fired several shots in the air in an attempt to quell the disturbance which was later called a riot. When the group failed to disperse, they turned on Mullican who fired two more shots into the crowd and wounded two persons. Five of the rioters were arrested and locked up overnight in the powerhouse and taken to Rockville the next morning. Dorsey was taken to his house where it was feared that he might die.

Mrs. Simpson was doing chores on the farm where she resided between Darnestown and Potomac. A hired hand named Edward Thompson noticed that her husband had left to go to Rockville, so he asked Mrs. Simpson where a farm item was because he needed to use it. She said it was inside the farmhouse, and Thompson followed her inside. Once in the house, Thompson locked the front door from the inside and began tearing at Mrs. Simpson's clothing. Strong for a woman, Mrs. Simpson fought Thompson until she was able to escape his attack. Thompson took off running and later showed up at the store in Potomac where he told several loafers that he was leaving town and that the \$1.50 that he had would get him "anywhere." He also said that the sheriff would soon be looking for him. At nightfall, a posse formed by the sheriff had not yet located Thompson.

A peculiar incident happened near the Rock Springs Hotel at Cabin John. Corporal Gebike, trombonist in the marine band, had been missing for about three weeks when for some reason the band leader made a journey

to Cabin John to look for him. Having told the hotel proprietor that the man had been despondent, it was suggested that he may have thrown himself into the Potomac River. With the help of some local boys, a terribly decomposed body was found in a sitting position on some rocks in the middle of the river. Had it not been for the marine uniform, he would have never been identified. When the sheriff and the coroner showed up, there was a dispute over whether to hold an inquest. When the coroner announced that it would cost \$35 to hold an inquest, he ruled the death as natural saying, "Louis Gebike died by the visitation of God in a natural way, and not otherwise." Deputy Sheriff Embry became angry and said, "What is the use of having a sheriff if you won't use him?" The body was left sitting on the rocks, and a contingent of men from the marine barracks retrieved it the next day.

A problem with hucksters from Washington traveling to Montgomery County with their wagons to sell liquor was addressed, and the sheriff was ordered to do something about it. Deputy Sheriff Brown investigated a particular character named John Burgess and obtained a warrant for him. Brown learned that Burgess kept an oyster house on 8th Street in Washington and went to the city and enlisted the aide of a Washington police officer. The officer said that since the warrant was for a misdemeanor, he could not help arrest Burgess, so Brown returned to the county. On the next weekend, Brown hid in some bushes near the D.C. boundary until he saw Brown enter Maryland, at which time he arrested him.

Deputy Sheriff Carlisle was notified by Frederick authorities that Richard Thompson was wanted in that county for having carnal knowledge of a thirteen-year-old girl. Carlisle spotted Thompson boarding the train for Frederick at the Gaithersburg station and got on after him. While the train was heading towards Boyds, Carlisle attempted to arrest Thompson, but he resisted, knocking Carlisle down and attempting to take his gun. Thompson started running across the tracks when Carlisle drew his revolver and shot Thompson in the back of the head. Thompson was taken to the Gaithersburg Pharmacy where his wound was dressed by Doctor McCormick who said that the wound was not serious.

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

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Remembrance

Marian Mae Belt

Marian Mae (Luck) Belt (88), of Dickerson, peacefully passed on Wednesday May 13, 2020 in her home, surrounded by her daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Allen K. Belt (2015), and her only son, Benjamin Belt (1976).

Marian was a beloved matriarch and a true caregiver to her family and community. She could be found sewing for her children and grandchildren or cooking and serving anyone who made their way to her table at lunchtime. She rejoiced in the Lord as part of her church choir and basked in His glory in the warmth of the summer sun. If she wasn't bringing sweet tea to the fields, she was mowing them herself. She could find a four-leaf clover looking for a bolt dropped in the grass. Though she was one lucky lady, it was her family who felt the fortune of her love.

She is survived by one brother, Albert Luck, and three daughters, Brenda Belt of Barnesville, Debra (Michael) Benson of Dickerson, and Sandy (Donn) Ward of Sharpsburg, Georgia. She leaves behind grandchildren, Kelly Haga, Rick Kimmel, Joe Kimmel, Jamie Krute, Andrew Benson, Janet O'Meara, and Jenna Buehler, along with ten precious great-grandchildren.



Marian Mae Belt



Continued from page 6.

Garden

is Japanese knotweed." Today, it is found in many of the states in the U.S. It blooms in Maryland in August and September. It covers creek, river, and pond banks all over the state and can be seen more and more frequently along Maryland highways. The Maryland Extension Service is actively seeking methods to control this very invasive non-native plant. Roundup in a controlled setting is suggested as a control, but it can take up to five years of repeated applications to make a dent in an infestation.

This particular "weed from hell" and its eradication are only the tip of the iceberg in the overall battle of the conservation of the environment and our botanical heritage. Public support is essential if Maryland's native plants and their habitat are to be preserved (this applies also to all the other states throughout the country). We must encourage a more robust public understanding of the importance of native plants, as well as the harmful impact of invasive plants, both in the wild and in the trade. A weed has many definitions: a wild plant growing where it is not wanted; a plant in the wrong place—but all plants grow somewhere in the wild. We call plants weeds if they grow in human-controlled settings, such as farm fields, gardens, lawns, and parks. Ralph Waldo Emerson described a weed as "a plant whose virtue has not yet been discovered." A wildflower grows in its natural habitat. Grass is a weed in a flower garden, but not in a lawn.

I have not seen any Japanese knotweed in my gardens; my most invasive weeds are bindweed and Johnson grass.

The photo is not of Mick and Mack. They are my two Labrador sous-gardeners Spencer and Winston. They heard about this article and are thinking about a career change; they would like to enter the Dog Knotweed Detection Program. They said it would probably pay more than their sous-gardener job, so be on the lookout for their upcoming advertisement. Their fee has not yet been determined. It will depend upon their level of nose sensitivity and work ethic.

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Continued from page 4.

Tidbits

overseeing the pyrotechnics, the band, food vendors, staffing volunteers, and more. While cancelling the fireworks is discouraging to all of us, it is necessary to avoid any potential health risks to our community.

UMCVFD wishes to thank the July 4 sponsors for their continued support: Town of Poolesville, Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Jamison Real Estate, and Total Automotive and Diesel.

BOE Candidates' Forum Available on Website

The Montgomery County Federation of Republican Women has launched a virtual Board of Education Forum as a public service to the candidates and voters.

Candidates created their own videos, answering four questions regarding the budget, discipline in schools, school boundaries, vocational trades, and more. These videos are available to view any time before the primary on June 2.

Casey Aiken, the host of MCMedia's "21 This Week" introduces the videos and explains the Board of Education election process.

The videos have been shared with local news sources, and civic and political organizations.

Voting ballots are being mailed by the Board of Elections to active voters. Because of the restrictions due to the coronavirus, all Marylanders are encouraged

to vote by mail. For those with disabilities or other reasons, there will be four locations in Montgomery County to vote on Primary Election Day on June 2. There will not be any Early Voting locations for the primary. The forum can be accessed at MCFRW.org.

Giving Back to Those Who Give

Cugini's Restaurant and Bar had the honor of giving away dozens of pizzas and two packs of True Respite Brewing Company beer this past week to health and first responder workers. They posted on their facebook that "it was a privilege to serve and give back to the people who are giving so much to our community every day. We love Poolesville!"

Town Park Information

As of May 18, the following activities ARE allowed in Town Parks: The parking lots are available for use, and activities such as the tennis courts, baseball fields, dog park, and fishing are permitted.

The following facilities are NOT available for use: play equipment, skate park, swings, soccer fields, and basketball courts. These are tentatively set to open on May 26. No rental of pavilions will be permitted until group activities are permitted by the County Executive. There will be no cleaning of any of the park equipment. Any use of the park amenities is at your own risk. The restrooms will remain closed. There is no timeline on when the restrooms will be opened. Social distancing and groups of no more than ten are still in effect and must be observed.

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Five **MORE** Tips to Help You Give Your Senior Pets More Quality of Life

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

As our friends age, there are often issues that begin to be more common and create some troubling issues for the Pet Parent. Here, in part two of our senior pet tips article, are five more tips to help you and your furry older friend.

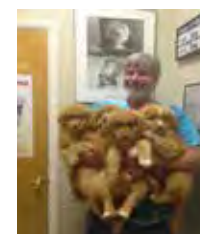
5. **See Your Veterinarian Twice a Year:** Aging dogs and cats typically need to be evaluated on a bi-annual basis to keep track of changing metabolic and physical issues and to adjust treatment.
6. **Watch for Signs of Pain:** Arthritis and degenerative joint disease become more common with age. Over 80% of dogs and 50% of cats have some arthritic changes by 8 years old, so watch for signs of pain such as trembling, not putting weight on a leg, crouching, changes to appetite, restlessness, or changing resting locations.
7. **Get Your Furry Pal a Comfy Spot to Sleep:** Orthopedic pet beds provide better weight displacement over a larger area. It is also important for them to be in a warmer location in the house during the winter months. Do not use human heating pads, as they can be put on settings that can cause burns to your pets' skin.
8. **Care for Your Pets' Teeth:** It is very hard to brush your pets' teeth on a regular basis. If possible, you should do so, but we have to be real about this. Oral disease is much more common as pets get older. Tartar can loosen teeth, and older teeth have softer enamel that can more easily be cracked or break. Check to see if your furry pals are only chewing on one side of their mouth or acting resistant to chew.
9. **Adjust Your Pets' Diet and Consider Supportive Supplements:** Consult with your veterinarian to determine the optimal food for your pets' stage of life. There are wonderful targeted foods to help reduce stress on organs, joints, and to improve cognitive abilities. Supplements recommended by your veterinarian can also provide added support against discomfort, stress, and other issues. Be sure to discuss any new therapies you are considering from Dr. Google before you begin. There can be interactions with medications prescribed for your pet.

Taking a few extra minutes each day to observe your four-legged buddy can give insight into changes in their activity, behavior, and comfort level. In older pets, the sooner you take proactive steps, the longer you can keep your friends' quality of life where you and they want to be.



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