

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 9, 2005

Volume 2, Number 18

Inside the Monocle



Dana Walker works some fresh-churned butter. See Pulse on page 11.



Major Pat Stevens stopped by Monocacy Elementary. See School News on page 17.



Another newspaper? Read all about it in, where else, Local News, page 5.



Kind of says it all, doesn't it? Center Stage on Page 13.

A Christmas Wish Comes True

By Rande Davis

Poolesville's Jim Spory had just one Christmas wish he really wanted. It wasn't easy and it took a lot of friends to help make the wish come true. First, some background because we don't want to get ahead of ourselves.

Some readers of the *Monocle* may remember our story on Jim Spory. He made our front page last Christmas. We would rather not have had him on the front page again this year (just trying for a little variety), but sometimes life brings us tough times, and Jim is facing one of those times now. Then again, he has been facing tough times for many years.

Our front-page story about Jim last year was headlined: "The Heart of an Angel, The Spirit of

a Fighter." He continues to live up to that headline. You may recall that our story last year told how he won many awards for his outstanding craftsmanship. Winning awards is not unusual, but doing art crafts with severe and painful arthritis is very unusual. Jim does all his work with severely crippled arthritic hands. From the sale

of his work, he is able to help support many charitable groups. Jim's favorite goodwill group is his beloved Oddfellows #97. He joins them for nearly every project they have despite limited mobility and pain. About six years ago, Jim came up with the idea for the Oddfellows sponsoring a luncheon for Widows, Widowers, and Orphans in

the area at Christmas time. He and his wife, Shirley, always help put together about one hundred gift packages to give to the attendees. Each has one of his wood-cut Christmas tree ornaments attached. He looked forward to the luncheon again this year, but then a fateful tragedy got in the way.

This past October 7, Jim, his wife, and



Jim Spory is greeted by Santa Claus

—Continued on Page 12.

Christmas Shopping 1885 Style

By Jack Toomey

Today Christmas shopping lures most upper county residents to malls, specialty stores, and even the outlet malls in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The hustle and bustle that begins in earnest on the day after Thanksgiving is aggravating for some but enjoyable for others. To escape the mad crush at the malls, some people have resorted to sitting at their computers and doing their entire Christmas shopping with the click of a mouse button. Recently, there were news reports of people stampeding and knocking each other down to get into department stores at

5:00 a.m. Some shake their heads and mutter that this kind of thing could only happen in a big city and never in a small town like Poolesville.

In 1885, Christmas shopping in Poolesville was a very different experience. A resident of the town

could browse at Hoskinson Brothers Store, John Hall's place, William Walter's Store, or the shops of Norris, Kohlhoss, and Mr. Hays. There is no doubt that the pace was slow and the shopper could browse among the wares that were stocked in anticipation of Christmas. The stores carried notions, skates, linens, chamber pots, some clothing, perfumes, toys, and other tempting items for people who would come to town to shop.

However in December 1885, something happened that



Early Poolesville before the Town Hall.

—Continued on Page 24.

Family Album



The Handmaiden's Shop in downtown Poolesville.

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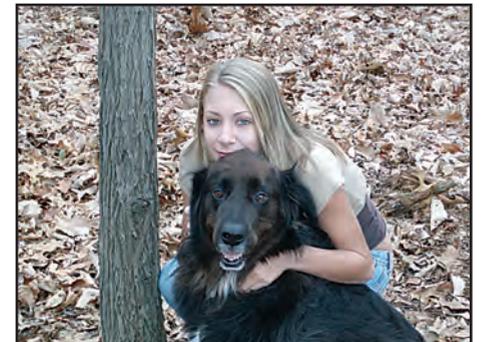
The Town Christmas Tree crew. Or holiday tree crew. Or winter tree crew. At any rate, they're from the town, and that's a tree.



Noble Grand Herb White, Forrest Hough, and William Poole at the Odd Fellows' fruit sale.



Browsers at When Pigs Fly on Edwards Ferry Road. (Read more in the Un-mall on Page 20.)



Ace reporter Dominique Agnew tries out her new digital camera.

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Local News

Ten Days with the Prince A Holiday Story

By Dominique Agnew

It was early on Thanksgiving morning when I checked my email for the day. I didn't expect anything in my "business" email identity, but it never hurt to check—and there it was: Services Required. To paraphrase, the sender, Hassan Omar, wanted to engage my services as a translator for his french (definitely not my capitalization error) wife and their five-year-old son while they shopped on a little vacation. I would be needed six hours a day for ten days. How much would I charge? Signed Hassan al-omar. The signature on the email read: In the light of truth....ABDU RU SHIN, [THE ROYAL COURTS], 44 AL-BARAHA ROAD, DEIRA, DUBAI – UAE. At the very bottom of the email was: Do you Yahoo!?

Well, I still had a turkey to get in the oven, pies to bake, the whole Thanksgiving meal, so I decided to think (thinking being one of my favorite pastimes). So what was I thinking? Well, The Royal Courts? United Arab Emirates? Yahoo!? How much should I charge? How did he get my email address? I tried to google different possibilities for French translators, and I never found myself. Furthermore, that address wasn't yet very well advertised.

Finally, a few days later (I had much to digest), I replied in the affirmative, politely asking a healthy fee to go shopping and sightseeing with his family. I also asked where he found my contact information and for details regarding exact dates and times. The reply was positive and slightly vague. He would be arriving

around the fifteenth of December, his protocols would be handling all the reservation details. He reminded me that this would be strictly a sightseeing and shopping trip, and if I would acknowledge via email that I wished to proceed, he would instruct an advance payment of five thousand dollars to "book down" my services. This email was signed Hassan Ibn al-omar, followed by a phone number: Tel: +23-48-0330-09593.

Okay, so I'm receiving a pretty deposit. Five days after the initial email, I receive a message that Hassan Omar has concluded with his "USA correspondent in texas and payment will be with [me] next week." I should keep in mind that I may have to do a few pre-arrival arrangements, but I will be reimbursed for any extra charges before he leaves the U.S. Oh, his first son in high school really wants to come also, so it will be his family of four (and all their protocols).

So the check is in the mail. Here and there in my life, I have moments of wisdom. Along the lines of "don't count your chickens before they hatch" is "you haven't won the lottery until you've received the check" and "the money's not in the bank until the check clears." Of course, we're thinking about what we'll do with this little windfall, but we don't go out and buy a car or anything. I send an email to Hassan Omar that I look forward to touring Washington with them. He replies that I should come visit Dubai sometime and see what tourism is all about—"enjoy our little royalty, too" At this point, I notice that the return email address of prince_hassan_omar@yahoo.com now shows up next to "From: Hassan Omar" on the emails. So the Royal Courts of Dubai use Yahoo! Maybe Charles and Camilla Yahoo! too!

I tell my mother about the gig, and she adamantly tells me not to do

it. It could be a plot to kidnap me. Yes, Mother, the terrorists want to kidnap me because they've learned about the computer chip embedded in my right pinkie containing the secret launch codes for all U.S. nuclear arsenal.

A week passes, no check. My Principoo calls, and with all the attendant overseas calls sound delays (very annoying), he tells me the check is coming, don't worry we'll have a great time, no, he doesn't speak French himself—only his wife and his son. Soon after, there's trouble in The Royal Kingdom, the Royal E-dict comes down, Prince Omar has had to travel quickly to Kuwait, "I am still in kuwait, my wife's mum took ill and we needed to attend to her needs before we jet out of town." He has a sudden shortfall of funds and I'll have to send money to his agent so the limousine chauffeur and other things can be reserved. My skepticism is at an all-time high by now. How did my Prince end up with a shortfall of funds? Where are his protocols, don't they have any money? At any rate, all my previous business dalliances with foreign princes have shown them to

—Continued on Page 18.

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Letters to the Editor from the Past

By Jack Toomey

From time to time the Monocle runs across interesting items from the past. This is a letter to the editor, written to the Washington Post exactly fifty years ago, from an eleventh grade student at Poolesville High School.

These are the conditions on Bus Number 25, which services the Poolesville High School and Elementary School in Poolesville, Md. The bus was built to carry forty eight students. The seats were built only big

enough for three. The aisle was put in the middle of the bus for its rider's convenience. Now the bus carries ninety one students when a full load is present. The seats have the weight of five and six students and the aisle is used for standing in for those who were too late to get a seat.

Is it healthy for this many children to sit and stand huddled together on a bus with no windows down over two inches and very few are down that far? Is it safe to ride like this? Who would be responsible if there was an accident? The driver can't see what is in back of him. He can only see of the windshield and out the window on

his left.

This is the way epidemics start and continue to spread. Everybody is breathing stale air. When one gets a cold the chances are that almost everybody else will get it also.

What about the law against standing over the white line at the front of the bus? The children are packed and jammed all around the driver. Consequently this keeps the driver from operating the bus freely and successfully.

Will we get another bus for the route? I certainly hope so!

Betty Knill

Student, Poolesville High School

Wouldn't you agree that times had to be simpler then? World War II had just ended, the Cold War had just started, and millions of men were returning to their families and yet the newspaper had time to publish a letter from an earnest young lady about the conditions on her country school bus. Betty Knill Newberry was contacted by the Monocle. She now lives in Crawfordville, Florida and recalled writing the letter to the Post. Mrs. Newberry, whose family lived at Sellman in those days, said that conditions on the bus improved after her letter was printed.

COME HOME — ONE IN CHRIST

...so we, though many, are one body in Christ
and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 5

2005 Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Children's Christmas
Mass with
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6:30 pm Vigil Mass
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12:00 am Midnight Mass

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Local News

Another New Publication Comes to the Monocacy Area

By Rande Davis

November had a media transition of sorts when the *Gazette's* Kristin Milton stepped aside a bit to have more time with young children at home while Claire Shibelski stepped in with a brand new publication covering local news.

That's right, in the media-frenzied Town of Poolesville, a fifth new publication has emerged to keep the residents informed of local news. While the new competitive force is somewhat disconcerting for us at the *Monocle*, we nevertheless thought we should interview the new publisher so as to bring our readers fully up to date.

The interview took place with the new publisher/editor, Claire Shibelski, at the end of another hectic publishing day for the new magnate. Her publication, *The Beall Street News*, is now getting ready for its third issue.

The Monocle: We are quite impressed with the layout and graphic design of your new paper. Who does this work for you?

Ms. Shibelski: I do it myself.

The Monocle: Where did you learn how to do this?

Ms. Shibelski: I learned how to use the computer in Mr. Keegan's third grade technology class at Poolesville Elementary School. I am now in Miss Warner's fifth grade class.

The Monocle: How did you decide on the title: *The Beall Street News*? What things do you report on?

Ms. Shibelski: That's where I live. I want to inform everybody on events and things like school sports, the weather, and things that may happen on Beall Street.

The Monocle: How come sports?

Ms. Shibelski: I love playing on the Poolesville soccer team and now I am on the futsal team down at the Sportsplex center. Futsal is indoor soccer.

The Monocle: I really like your weather reports and predictions.

Ms. Shibelski: Down at White's Ferry, a large amount of Sycamore tree leaves are on the ground. The piles

—Continued on Page 25.



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Local News

County Seeks to Abandon Ancient Right-of-Way

The Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation is seeking abandonment of a portion of the Mouth of Monocacy Road right-of-way in the Barnesville area. The right of way was acquired by the county in 1793.

According to Mike Cassidy, of the Montgomery County office of Property Acquisition, the right-of-way runs through various Barnesville properties, unbeknownst to any of the property owners. The path starts near the old stone CSX bridge in Dickerson near the Little Monocacy River and continues east towards St. Mary's Church. The county has owned the right-of-way across these properties for over 200 years, but there has probably not been a continuous or even usable road over the right-of-way for over one hundred years. Mr. Cassidy said that the right-of-way originally extended all the way east to the Patuxent River. He also explained to *The Monocle* that roads built on such

right-of-ways in the 19th Century generally ran along property lines and were used by farmers to carry goods to local markets.

Property owners have been notified by the county. Mr. Cassidy said that the 200 year old right-of-way has not been showing up in title searches because it is simply too old; most title searches usually only cover sixty years.

The right-of-way is "two porches wide," which is apparently thirty-two feet.

A public hearing will be held on the matter at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 20. For further information or to provide comments, Mike Cassidy can be reached at 240-777-7254 or at michael.cassedy@montgomerycountymd.gov. Signs are being posted in the area.

Maryland Seeks to Close Two Montgomery County MARC Stations

The Maryland Transportation Administration is trying to close and thereby eliminate service to four train stations that serve the MARC rail commuter lines, including two on

the Brunswick line that runs through Frederick and Montgomery counties. These two stations are the Dickerson and Boyds stations.

MTA will hold a public hearing on December 15, FROM 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Barnesville Community Building which is behind St. Mary's Catholic Shrine, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville.

The Boyds Civic Association and the Clarksburg Civic Association have each sprung into action to protest the closings, particularly with regard to the Boyds station which directly serves their communities.

In a response to an e-mail from Steve Howie, President of the Clarksburg CA, county council member Mike Knapp (Democrat, District 2) expressed his opposition to the MTA plan and said that he and council member Nancy Floreen (Democrat, At-Large) would introduce a resolution in the council to state their opposition.

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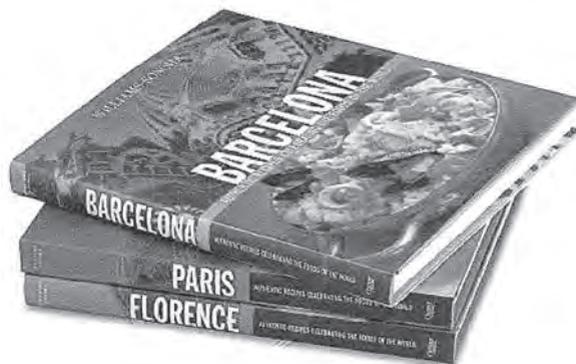
By Maureen O'Connell

The holidays will soon be here, so it is time to start thinking about your gift list. For your friend who loves to cook or a newly-wed who doesn't know how to boil an egg, a cookbook would be an appreciated gift. I was recently in Border's book store. Much to their credit and appeal, they have a very extensive offering of cook books. There are books by famous chefs, books from well-known restaurants and countries of the world, books for entertaining, grilling, baking, slow-cooking, and low-fat, low-carb, low-sodium cooking. For someone just browsing for a gift book, but with no particular one in mind, the experience can be overwhelming. I love cooking and have a large collection of cookbooks. While thinking about gift books, I looked-over my kitchen library and selected several that I think are well-written, instructive, easy to follow and will appeal to a broad range of cooks. Some of them are new, but some have been around long enough to become classics.

If I could have only two cookbooks on my kitchen shelf, they would be *The New Revised Joy of Cooking* (Irma Rombauer and Marion Rombauer Becker) and *The New Basic Cookbook* (Shelia Lukins and Julee Rosso). You could aptly call them a cook's two bibles. My first copy of *Joy*, the 1964 edition, was a bridal shower gift in 1969. The newest edition contains all the wonderful recipes, cooking techniques that were in the 1931 edition, plus new ideas and recipes geared towards

a healthy life style, convenience and new ingredients. It can show you the distinction between terms like printanière, bordelaise, allemande and polonaise, while also giving you a great family recipe for macaroni and cheese. It is simply illustrated and has easy to follow instructions. You can give this book to a beginner in the kitchen who is no Betty Crocker or to your good friend who has been cooking for fifty years. This is a cookbook that you will go back to numerous times. It beats all others hands down. It leaves the tired "what's for dinner" zone and brings you to the real "joy of cooking."

Shelia Lukins and Julee Rosso opened The Silver Palate take-out in the late 1970s in New York. It was the household's answer to the two work-



ing in the family and no time to cook. It was an overnight success. The foods they made every day at the store were translated into several cook books. Like *The Joy of Cooking*, *The New Basic Cookbook* is more than a collection of recipes; it is a complete cooking reference book. What are different cuts of meat suitable for? How to make a cream soup, and how to mince garlic are a fraction of the cooking questions they address.

In 1979 they published *The Silver Palate Cookbook*. This is also a good basic cookbook, but it also contains wonderful, easy-to-follow recipes for fancy finger food to simple soups, stews and

casseroles. My favorite Silver Palate cook book is *The Silver Palate Good Times Cookbook*. This is a contemporary classic of 450 spectacular recipes for cooking and entertaining during every season of the year. For those who are often at a loss at menu planning, "Good Times" saves us with suggested menus for informal and elegant occasions. There are innovative, but simple, recipes for Rainy Days and Sundays, Mother's Day, Porch Brunch, Summer When It Sizzles, and Dinner at Eight. It is crammed with tips on planning and techniques and a special section on wines and cheese.

Shelia and Julee sold the Silver Palate in the late '80s. In 1993, in response to people's concern for healthier food with less fat, sodium and sugar, Julee published *Great Good Food*. There are many cookbooks on the market that offer low-fat cooking, but many of the recipes are low-fat, no taste and boring. This book retains the classics of the earlier Silver Palate cookbooks without the fats and cholesterol. You don't have to be a culinary martyr to eat healthy and enjoy the experience.

The next time you visit Williams - Sonoma, check out their cook book section. It has a varied and interesting gathering of cookbooks. I particularly like their Williams - Sonoma collection, the Kitchen Library. These are well written books on such subjects as pasta, beef and veal, soups and stews, pizza, risotto, cakes and breads. They are short books, about one hundred pages, but each volume includes all the information for home cooks' needs, from equipment and basic techniques to a complete glossary. Each of the easy to make recipes is illustrated with a full page color photo that shows how the finished dish will look.

This year Williams - Sonoma came out with a new set of books, called *Mastering Cookbooks*, covering pasta,

soups, stews, beef, cakes, and many other subjects. The books in this series are instructive as a one-on-one course with a professional chef. It guides you by simple, accessible text and detailed photos. It starts with basic recipes and moves on to more complicated ones to add to your culinary repertoire. It is a cooking class in book form.

Discover the epicurean pleasures of New Orleans, London, Rome, New York, San Francisco, Barcelona, Paris and Florence in W-S's new cook book collection, *Foods of the World*. These large, coffee-table sized, beautifully illustrated books are part cook books and part gastronomic travelogues. They offer an insider's view of each city's vibrant food scene. The recipes are accompanied by little vignettes that provide fascinating backdrops for the recipes. I felt like I was back in Paris. All of the W-S's cookbooks are a visual delight to read, while they provide you with recipes and menus for all occasions from a picnic to Christmas dinner.

Patricia Wells is a celebrated author, cooking teacher, food critic for the *International Herald Tribune*, and an American who lives in Paris and Provence. She's the author of nine books, including the *Paris Cookbook* and *Bistro Cooking*. My favorite of her books is called *The Provence Cookbook*. I had heard of Patricia Wells years ago, but I became more interested in her works in the late '90s, when my daughter lived in Paris. Her apartment was on the Left Bank, across from the Louvre. Wells lived around the corner. She offered cooking classes at her apartment several times a year; I tried to enroll, but they were always sold out quickly. For a while I was a little annoyed with her; she gave a rave review in the *Tribune* about a small wonderful bistro in the Marais district.

—Continued on Page 22.

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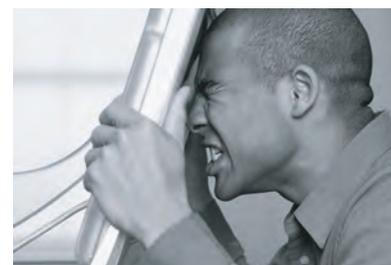
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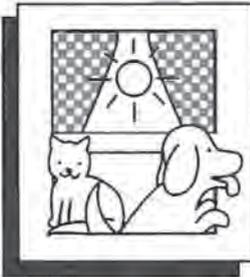


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Police Blotter Past and Present

Present

November 12 at 2:20 a.m. Armed Robbery. Area of Route 118 and Clopper Road. A man was waiting for a bus when he was approached by the suspect who produced a handgun and demanded money. The suspect then fled towards the MARC train station. Police are looking for a black male, 20 years old, 5' -7", 145 lbs, wearing a black short-sleeved shirt, black jacket, and blue jeans.

November 13 at 8:00 p.m. Robbery. Two women were walking in the 13500 block of Clopper Road when they were approached by four black males who knocked them down and grabbed their purses. The suspects ran towards Clopper Road and Great Seneca Highway.

November 16. Residential burglary. 22500 block of Slidell Road, Boyds, forced entry to a home. Property taken.

November 20. Residential burglary. 14400 block of Autumn Gold

Road, Boyds, forced entry to a home. Property taken.

November 23. Armed Robbery attempt. Shoppers Food Warehouse, 10066 Mateny Road. Two men attempted to rob a Dunbar armored car as it made a delivery to the store. The suspects ran off towards Great Seneca Highway.

Fatal Traffic Collision. November 13 about 3:20 p.m. A Frederick County Deputy Sheriff observed a 2002 Toyota being driven erratically near the intersection of Route 85 and Crestwood Boulevard in Frederick. The vehicle was followed south on Route 85, and when the deputy attempted to stop the Toyota, it sped off at a high rate of speed crossing into the northbound lanes of Route 85 several times. Near the intersection of Route 85 and Papioka Court, the operator of the Toyota lost control of the vehicle, traveled into the northbound lane again, and struck a motorcycle, killing its operator. The Toyota continued on three tires until it was stopped at Route 85 and Adamstown Road after it crashed into an embankment. The operator, James Joseph Mervinsky, 40, of Fred-

—Continued on Page 11

Focus on Business

The Quiet Life of Jake

Perkins

By Rande Davis

If Poolesville's Jake Perkins had a slogan to live by it surely would be: Making every minute count. This is a man who doesn't have a moment to spare. In fact, while interviewing him in his office, his laptop was humming, the phone kept ringing, calls were being returned, and he was reviewing his paperwork—all while answering my pestering questions.

Not that he doesn't value some quiet time and allow himself some moments to reflect on things, but in his case, he takes about fifteen hours a week, involuntarily, to lie still and meditate. This lawyer by profession and community servant by choice would much rather not spend those precious hours in the wee hours of the morning, three times a week "meditating"—and,

neither would you.

You see, he had a highly unusual run-in with a bug or insect while playing golf in West Virginia in 2001. At the time, he didn't even know he had been bitten. Thirty-six hours later he was in an emergency room with a temperature of 106 degrees. The infection resulted in kidney failure, and he has been receiving dialysis treatments

three times a week ever since.

For Mr. Perkins, his entrepreneurial spirit and go-getter attitude began very

early. At the age of ten years old, he put together a group of friends to form a company they called Kids, Inc. Their expertise focused on home improvements in things like clearing fence lines. They even painted a house

once. Of course, we can't vouch for what that house looks like.

As a young boy, he joined my wife in a CPR class and it wouldn't surprise anyone who knows Jake that he practically took over the teaching of the class. Not to be too worried, my wife reports that he left the adults in the dust in learning CPR.

In high school (Class of 1987), he was just about everywhere. He played football, basketball, baseball, and ran indoor track. He played French horn in the band when he wasn't practicing on the Academic Team and the Math Team. Just so he didn't get too bored, he was also the Student Government President.

After entering Virginia Tech, he didn't slow down. He was Speaker of the Student House of Representatives, member of the SGA Executive Council, participated in the Council on Athletics, and was a member of the Residents Hall Federation.

After VT, he took some time off after the death of his father, Barry, in 1991. His mother, Virginia Ellen, still lives in Poolesville, and his brother, Michael, resides with his family in D.C. He became an intern with Sen. John Warner (R-VA) for a year and a

half and worked as a special education assistant at MCPS before entering the University of Maryland School of Law where he graduated in 1997. He is a member of the Maryland and Virginia bar.

After graduation, he joined a law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation and participated in a major and successful case litigating against appraisal fraud in Baltimore. Today he runs two firms: Jacob N. Perkins, P.A., and he has partnered with Frank Jamison in Perkins Title, Inc. For him, choosing law was easy. He likes the law, likes helping people, and especially likes being his own boss.

His "git er dun" drive hasn't diminished as he waits kidney transplantation, "I've been on the list just about three years. The expectation going in was from three years to eight." As he awaits the transplant, he makes every moment count. Although he always envisioned that he would leave Poolesville some day, he has now become fully ingrained in the community. His community service list is impressive. He has been Poolesville Committee Co-Chairman with his

—Continued on Page 11.



Jake Perkins

**Police Blotter Continued From
Page 10—**

erick, refused to open the doors of the vehicle, and the deputies had to break into the car. Mervinsky was charged with manslaughter, driving while impaired, and several other charges. The deceased driver of the motorcycle was identified by police as John Wayne Adkins of Middletown.

Past

December 10, 1937. A Washington man was in the custody of the Montgomery County Police at Rockville after allegedly thrusting a pistol against his head while at police headquarters. The mineworker was being questioned in connection with the death of a fellow miner at the bottom of a gold mine shaft in the Great Falls section of Montgomery County.

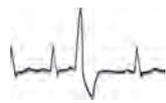
December 11, 1953. A disastrous fire, whipped by swift breezes, caused an estimated seventeen thousand dollars of damage to the All-States Motel on Route 240, one mile south of Gaithersburg. Residents of the motel had to flee into the road to escape the flames, and the quick action of the Gaithersburg and Rockville fire departments prevented an even larger loss.

December 13, 1955. Montgomery County and District police chased a car from Washington, D.C., through Bethesda, Rockville, and Gaithersburg before the car crashed. The occupants were sought after a holdup in Washington, D.C. After the wreck, police arrested two men and seized a gun and over two thousand dollars from the car. Two other men fled the car and were being sought.

December 14, 1955. The drink-crazed son of a tenant on a Darnestown estate was in police custody after blasting his father with a shotgun. After killing his father, the boy terrorized the family of the estate owner, police reported.

December 14, 1981. A twenty-year-old Kensington man died of a gunshot wound suffered while he and friends were shooting at targets on a farm in Dickerson, Maryland. Montgomery County Police were investigating, and no charges had been filed as of last night.

December 16, 1941. The unscheduled appearance of a plane, possibly an army patrol plane, gave a realistic touch to the first blackout test in the Washington area. The plane, which traveled over Montgomery County, caused many citizens to fear that an air attack was underway.



**The
Pulse**

**Girl Scouts Step
Back in Time**

Riley's Lock house echoed with footsteps of the past on Sunday, November 13 when Brownie Girl Scouts from Troop 5946 provided a demonstration of life at the lock house during the canal's peak years of operation from 1870 to 1885.

Girls wore period costumes and gave guided tours of the lock house. In keeping with the Victorian era, they provided demonstrations on churning butter, basic housekeeping (use of period washboards and other tools), and performed some songs and dances typical of children of that period.

The National Park Service and

the Girl Scouts have provided this special interpretive program since the mid-1970s highlighting the history of the C&O Canal at Riley's Lock house. Troops participate on weekends throughout the fall, assisted by a docent and a trained volunteer.

Guiding the girls were troop leaders Holly Larisch and Kathy Nichols, volunteer Joel Tjornehoj (Troop 4856) and docent Ellen McAdams — all in period dress.

Although most of the canal's historic lock houses are still standing, Riley's Lock house is one of the few that remains open to the public.

The members of Girl Scout troop 5946 are: Grace Beal, Anna Cantilena, Anne Hundertmark, Ali Nichols, Maddie Sarro, Clare Smith, Dana Walker, Lauren Weigand, all of whom are Brownie Scouts. Senior Girl Scout assisting was Rachel Tjornehoj of Troop 4856. The Daisy Scouts of Troop

5946 were Ellen Beal, Claire Fahey, Madison Hall, Gretchen Hundertmark, and Sophie McIntyre, accompanied by leaders Laurie Hundertmark and Amie Beal.

**Jake Perkins Continued From
Page 10—**

third year coming up. He is on the Board of Directors of the PHS Booster Club, Secretary of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and assists Coach Swick with the girls' basketball team. Anyone in town on a Friday evening can clearly hear Jake's voice announcing the football game of the week over the P.A. system. He recently joined the Monocacy Lions Club where he hopes to mentor the JPMS and PHS Leos Clubs. Whew! Makes me tired just thinking about all of it.

While we know he spends Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on dialysis from 5:15 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m. every week, there is one thing we doubt. We do not think for one moment that he really just lies there meditating and reflecting. We didn't ask him, but I am willing to bet that his laptop is humming, the phone is ringing, he is returning calls, and thinking about all the things he needs to get done that day.



Scouts and leaders in period dress at Riley's Lock.



Anna Cantilena at the churn.



Anne Hundertmark on the washboard.

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Jim Spory Continued From Page 1.

her mother, Martha Fiebert, were on the road near Breezewood, Pennsylvania when an automobile crossed over the line and hit them head-on. Mrs. Fiebert was killed. Shirley suffered a broken wrist and wounds. Jim took a beating. He had a split liver, broken pelvis, broken ankles, and many other health problems. It didn't help that certain pain medications could not be used since he is on a heart defibrillator.

As Jim slowly came around and made some progress these last seven weeks, he voiced one wish to his friends. He really wished he could be at the Oddfellows Widows and Orphans luncheon. He knew that couldn't be done.

His friends knew differently. Working with WUMCO, his friends arranged for a handicap van to bring him to the luncheon. As an Oddfellow, Jim had never missed a Widows and Orphans lunch, and he wasn't going to miss this one, either.



Jim and Shirley Spory.

There was a whole lot of Christmas spirit and not just a few tears in the room when Jim made his entrance to the event. This man with a heart of an angel and the spirit of a fighter had done it again. As he received a signed Christmas card from his friends (addressed "Sir Jim Spory" for the prince of a man that he is), his short response hit the mark. He stated only two things: First, that the difficulties faced in the past weeks only reformed his love for his wife and their marriage; secondly, he stated, "I am here because of people like you." Jane Poole spoke for all in attendance when she said, "Miracles come in different ways. Sometimes they come in just a moment in time. If you haven't ever seen a miracle,

look at Jim. Today, hia is our miracle."

While his daughter, Rachel, sang a special Christmas carol for her parents, Jim and Shirley held hands. Needless to say, all eyes were more than just a bit moist.

We close with a simple wish from us to Jim. Jim, you have been our headline story for two Christmases in row. Our Christmas wish is to spend many, many more Christmases with you.



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Center Stage

Kiparoo Farm – Living Art

By Dominique Agnew

The first official stop on the Holiday Studio Tour (December 9, 10, 11) of the Countryside Artisans is Kiparoo Farm. Compared to most of the other studios, Kiparoo Farm is a little out of the way, so one might think Annie Kelley doesn't see many visitors. Au contraire, she says she'll have thousands of customers come through her doors. Some of her customers have been with her since the beginning, nearly forty years ago. What keeps people coming back for more? Yarn, yarn, and more yarn – and sheep and whatever theme Annie has decided upon for the tour – "I try to keep it different."



Annie Kelley

Annie has only been in Adamstown for the past five and a half years, before that she was in Poolesville for seventeen years, having come from the Potomac area – she's "the farmer without a farm." Farmers are not usually on the Studio Tour, so if it were necessary to pigeon-hole Annie, it would be as a fiber artist. "My child's in college on fiber," is her Great Quote. Maybe she's just a farming artist – as opposed to a starving artist. Usually, we think of art as the finished product, but with Annie, her art lies in the creation of the materials others can use.

Annie grew up in the Midwest but moved to Maryland at a relatively young age. By the time she was seventeen, she says, "I was serious about what I wanted to do." She wanted to raise sheep and spin yarn. This entails more than simply putting the sheep out to pas-



A sample of yard from Kiparoo Farm.

ture. "The true key to farming," she adds, "is management." It would also seem to be efficiency, resourcefulness, marketing, and creativity – at least in fiber farming.

As Annie explains, "To grow a beautiful wool, you need clean pastures." You also need sheep. Presently, Annie has over one hundred ewes and fifty lambs. Remember Ma from *Babe*?

Babe: What are you?

Ma: I'm a ewe.

Babe: What...are...you? (As if he needed to speak more slowly to Ma, so she would understand).

Ma: A ewe! I'm a Border Leicester ewe!

Yep, Annie has Border Leicester ewes, a whole flock of Mas, because

Continued on Page 24.

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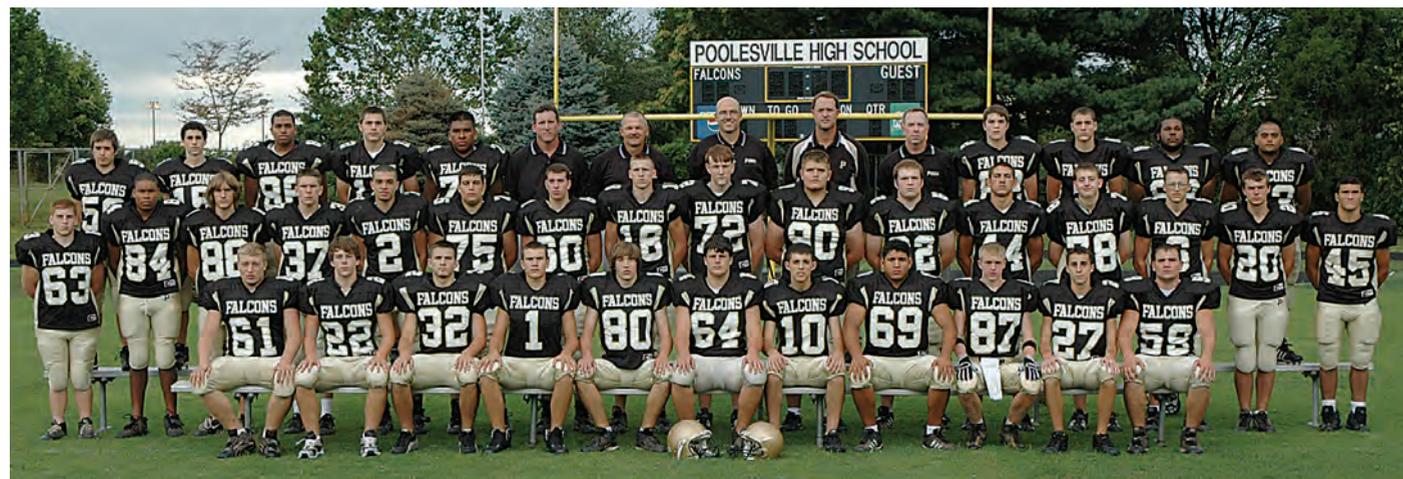
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In the Garden

The Scents of Christmas

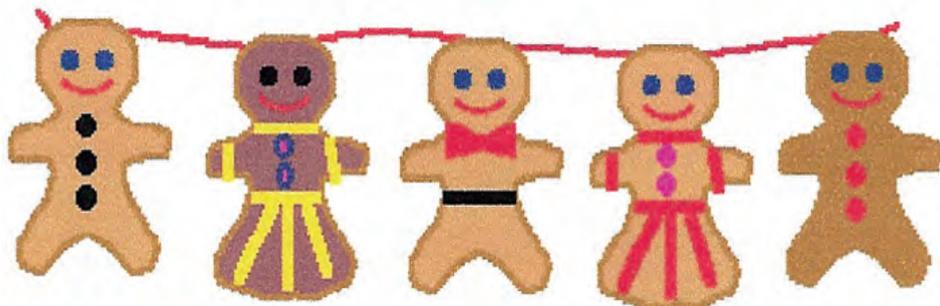
By Maureen O'Connell

For many people, the Christmas season evokes many wonderful, aromatic scents. From the pungent, earthy aroma of evergreen trees, garlands, wreaths, clove-studded oranges, bayberry candles to winter potpourri, our sense of smell is heightened. Let's take a look at the plants behind the traditional flavors of Christmas. If you go all the way back to the first Christmas, the first Christmas presents were gold, frankincense and myrrh, delivered by the Three Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. The last two were tree resins, frankincense (from *Boswellia sacra*) and myrrh (from *Commiphora myrrha*), and have

Japanese and European spice blends. It has come down through folklore, that during the fifteenth century, gingerbread was a gift of love and respect. In the 1800s, ginger was commonly sprinkled on top of beer or ale, then stirred into the drink with a hot poker, thus the invention of ginger ale. The green bottles of Canada Dry came later.

A trio of spices jump out of the cupboard at Christmas time—cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg—begging to be part of our holiday cooking. The story of how these aromatic plant relics make it into the kitchen is curiously intriguing.

For many cooks, cloves are the special scent and flavor of the Christmas season, used in mulled wine, baked ham and cookies. During the rest of the year, cloves are an important ingredient in the spice blends of Sri Lanka and North India. For your



always had connections with religion and healing. The Egyptians and the Jewish people used these two resins in sacred rituals. The smell of frankincense is said to promote a meditative state, and myrrh was used in incense, anointing oil, and for embalming the dead. Gold had a symbolic and healing significance, for both conventional and homeopathic medicine. It is uncertain why these three items were selected as gifts by the Magi. They may have symbolized the fact that Jesus was a spiritual King born to die, or they may have been intended to bring him wealth and health.

On a different level, think of the many scents floating around our home at this time of the year. I remember making gingerbread men as a child. They were easier to make and more successful than a gingerbread house. For days, our house would sweetly smell of this warm and pungent spice. Ginger is the dried, knobby-shaped root of the perennial herb *Zingiber officinale*. The plant grows two to three feet tall, and once the leaves die, the thick roots are dug up. Besides being the main ingredient in gingerbread, it is used in Indian curries, and Chinese,

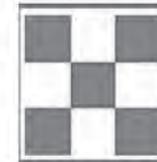
trivia question, what is the key flavor contributor to ketchup and Worcestershire sauce? Answer – cloves. The name cloves comes from the French *clou*, meaning nail. They are the dried, unopened, nail-shaped flower buds of the evergreen *Syzygium aromaticum*, grown mainly in Zanzibar and Madagascar since the eighteenth century. Originally native to the Spice Islands, they are reddish brown in color and have a strong, aromatic flavor and aroma. From the eighth century on, cloves became one of the major spices in European commerce. Similar to tulips in Holland and salt in Europe, cloves were extremely expensive and played an important role in world history. Wars were fought, lost and won over the exclusive rights to the profitable clove. This small, evergreen tree, often found by the sea, may live for one hundred years or more. It flowers twice a year, and it is the closed buds that are harvested. The petals, with the stamens inside, form the nail-like head of the clove. They must be picked by hand at the right moment, when they have developed

—Continued on Page 26.

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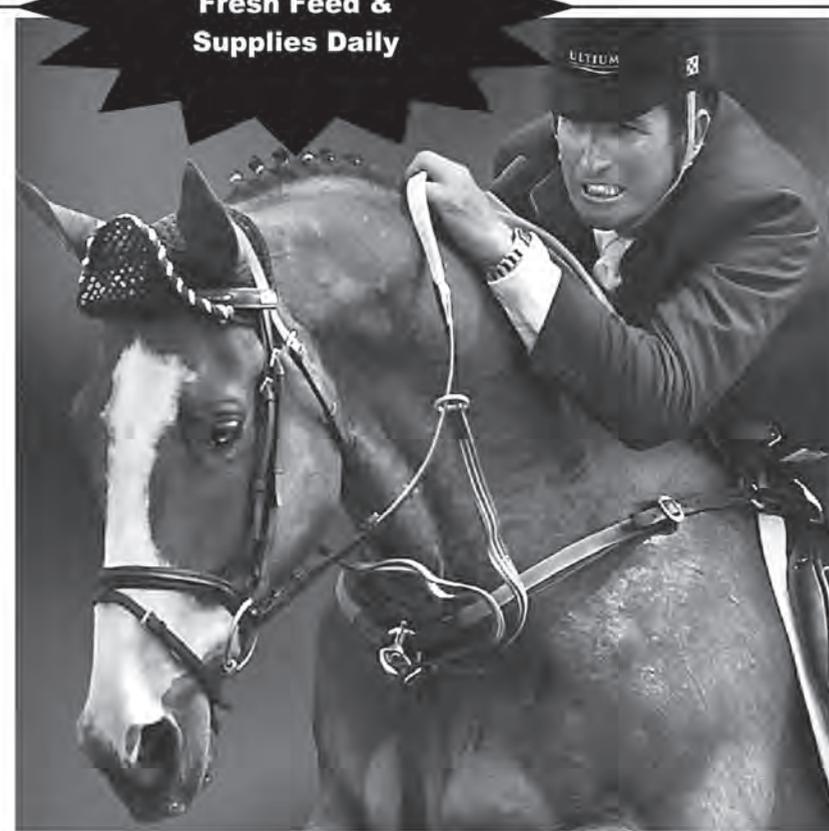


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School News

All FCPS students

December 16 is a teacher work day. Schools close two hours early.

December 23 through January 2, schools closed for all students and teachers for the winter holidays.

All MCPS students

December 26 through January 2, schools closed for all students and teachers for the winter holidays.

Monocacy Elementary

Happy fiftieth birthday to Principal Mr. Poole.

The students of MES continue to worry about the victims of Hurricane Katrina. There will be three different themed weeks for donations. For the week of December 5 to 9, Helping Pets, please donate money or gift cards from PetSmart or Petco. Stocking Stuffers is for the week of December 12 to 16, please send in stocking stuffers for your age group. During the week of December 19 to 23, Help the Homeless, students will be mak-

ing bag lunches for homeless shelters in our area.

Yearbook Pictures Wanted

Pictures are needed for this year's yearbook. Please send copies in an envelope marked "Yearbook." They will be accepted through January 6.

Winter Holiday Shop

The PTA Winter Holiday Shop will be held the week of December 12. Kids, with the help of PTA volunteers, can shop for holiday gifts for family members and friends.

Winter Chorus Concert

December 21 is the date for the winter chorus concert. It will take place at Poolesville High School.

John Poole Middle School

Winter Dance: An Evening in Candyland

The winter dance will take place December 9 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets, \$5.00 each, must be purchased during lunch that week. Pizza and refreshments will be sold.

Boys and Girls Are Different?

Dr. Leonard Sax will speak on December 13 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the media center about the topic of his recent book (covered in an earlier issue of the *Monocle*) *Gender Differences in Learning*. This lecture is open to the public.

Winter Concert and Art Fair

The winter concert and art fair will take place in the main gym on December 20 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Poolesville High School

December 21 is the date for the winter concert.

Alumni Day

On December 23, PHS alumni are encouraged to come and talk about their experiences beyond high school. Between 8:30 and 9:00, breakfast is offered to the arriving alumni. Then current juniors and seniors are invited (if allowed by their teachers) to query their former classmates. All-important questions are answered by alumni in the know: advice, tastiness of the food, issues, etc. Alumni are welcome to stay during lunch and visit with teachers.

The Vets Storm Monocacy Elementary School

By Rande Davis

The contingent of the veterans came humbly but with pride for their service. For the fifth graders from Monocacy Elementary School and Poolesville Elementary School, their appreciation for their service

was expressed not only through their standing ovation at the end of the day, but also, through their rapt attention throughout.

For the third year in a row, the elementary schools sponsored a day of learning and appreciation in conjunction with the annual Veterans Day celebrations.

It was a large group of area veterans spanning a time of service from WWII to include two who serve today. While all of the vets were impressive, it is fair to say two caught the attention of the students the most. First was



WWII vet Joe Jacoby at the MES Veterans Day Program.

Major Stevens who up until the very day of the celebration was a teacher at Poolesville Elementary School. Major Stevens had on his desert BDUs (Battle Dress Uniform) because he was leaving later that very day to go to Iraq with his guard unit. The other was Lt. Col. Annette Howard from Walter Reed Medical Center. She was dressed in her green BDUs, and you can be sure her presence was especially gratifying to the young ladies in the crowd.

Of special interest to these students was also Joe Jacoby, the sole WWII Army Air Corp Vet, who came to meet students even while in a wheelchair. To everyone's delight was William Poole, a Korean War vet and current commander of the local American Legion #247. Mr. Poole's son is also the proud principal of MES.

Other honored guests were former

Marine Jack Clark, a media specialist at MES, Boyds's Dr. Corfman, area scoutmaster and navy veteran, Master Chief Petty Officer, Steve Robillard, and army vet, Mr. Kevin Dorsey.

After opening ceremonies which included everyone singing the national anthem and reciting the pledge of allegiance, the crowd broke up into small groups so as to meet with pairs of veterans in one-on-one presentations.

Major Pat Stevens put the students through some drill and ceremony exercises that had the kids standing at attention, at ease, and turning left and right. It looked like there might be some proud service members for the future in the crowd.

Through a film produced by the American Legion, the students learned that Veterans Day actually began as Armistice Day to honor war veterans from WWI and WWII. They learned that President Eisenhower changed the day of appreciation to Veterans Day so all who serve, even in time of relative peace, are honored. Veterans Day is for all who serve as opposed to Memorial Day which is for those whose dedicated service cost them their lives.

It was a long day. It concluded with an assembly in the all-purpose room where the school and students gave a gift to each veteran participant, they observed a moment of silence for all those who are no longer with us, and concluded with the soulful playing of taps.

The questions from students and the keen attention throughout the long day clearly showed the students' respect and awe for these living heroes. As the day came to an end, there was a rousing standing ovation for the veterans, and each student left with a new appreciation for their service.

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— The Prince Continued
from Page 3.

be nauseatingly eccentric and shockingly careless about money, so maybe I shouldn't be too surprised.

Now, we come to the literary climax. The email arrives: He has instructed that a cashier's check in the amount of \$6,500 be sent to me instead of the \$5,000. As soon as I receive it, I must send \$2,700 to his agent (he gave me an address in London) via Western Union (he gave me the address of the closest one to me — what a nice guy!). He's "counting on me." Of course, I receive the check promptly. There is no return address and the envelope is postmarked from Geneva. I rush to the bank — not to cash the check but to see if it's good. It sure looks authentic. The bank manager says it's drawn on a real bank (in Houston, Texas), but there was no way for her to tell if it was fraudulent or not, and the check is sent to the security department of the bank. Meanwhile, I send a missive

to my Royal Client, saying I couldn't cash the check for another few days, out-of-state cashier's checks are not treated with the same reverence as in-state ones.

Amazingly, I get a return email. Funds won't be available for a few days? They've had to push back the trip until December 22, mum-in-law is critically ill (sniff, sniff). Let him know when I've received the funds, hope I haven't been inconvenienced. Now for the denouement. The call came from security; the beautiful, authentic-looking cashier's check was completely fraudulent. It would have bounced, bounced, bounced. I'm too polite: I send an email to my Royal Yahoo! to tell him that the check was fraudulent. He doesn't reply. The fairy tale was not meant to be: no shopping, no sightseeing, no limo (I get carsick anyways), no hatching eggs. The moral? Don't wire money until the cashier's check clears. Incidentally, the phone number he sent? It's fraudulent, as well. One last thing: Sometimes ten days last twenty. I didn't charge him extra for the double time — it was too much fun. Questions about this article may be directed to Queen_Dominique@yahoo.com.



Day Tripper

Children's Holiday Weekend in Frederick

By Rande Davis

The holidays are for family, and the City of Frederick has a special children's weekend December 10 and 11 that will delight the kids with a variety of festive events. Each is in downtown Frederick and is easily visited on foot. Here's a nice idea for the men: While Dad or Grandpa takes the kids, Mom and Grandma might even get a chance to do some shopping on their own and you can meet up with them later for lunch. The weekend features children's crafts, live performances, ornament making, story telling, and a fantastic model railroad display.

On the way to Frederick, stop first for a family pancake breakfast at the Upper Montgomery County VFD hall in Beallsville. Santa Claus will be there to make sure he gets everyone's list of gifts, and the kids will delight in the model railroad on display.

The Saturday-only events start at 10:30 a.m. at the Burr Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, which has an arts/crafts event for the kids to share. This is the German tradition of mask making. They will have a ball making their own masks, and then they can wear their masks around town as they go to some of the other events. While at the library, some refreshments will be served.

Children love to do their own shopping, and there will be Holiday Market for Kids from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Literacy Council Lobby, 110 E Patrick Street, which is sponsored by Dancing Bear Toys and Gifts. The kids can shop for parents, siblings, teachers, and friends, selecting from a variety of unique, top-quality gifts. This one is perfect for a child's

"budget" since all gifts are priced at \$5.00 or less. Children are encouraged to bring a new or nearly-new book for needy children in the community.

After a morning of mask making and kid shopping, there will be a live children's performance at The Temple — a Paul Mitchell Partner School, 22 W. Church St. — 2nd floor. Enjoy the Mom and Me Holiday Show with upbeat songs and a festive sing-along. This free performance is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will be a children's Holiday Art Show throughout December sponsored by the Frederick Arts Council. Window fronts along North Market Street, between Patrick and Church Streets, will feature the work of children from throughout the county displaying their ideas of "Holiday Fun in Frederick."

If you go to Frederick on Sunday, December 11, instead of mask making, there will be ornament painting at I Made This!, 10 East Street, Everedy Square. This free event allows your children's creativity to shine as they paint their own Christmas ornaments.

In the afternoon starting at 2:30 p.m., the Burr Library will have storytelling by Donna Kuzemchek Ramsburg with a selection of holiday stories. This is a good chance for Pop and Gramps to get off their feet.

All weekend, the Frederick County Society of Model Railroad Engineers will have its model railroads on display from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 423A, East Patrick Street. Model railroads and the holidays go together. This display is fantastic and one the kids will not forget. (We bet the men will love it, too.)

In the early afternoon, why not hook up again with Mom and take the whole family out to lunch. This Holiday Daytripper should take no more than four to six hours, and the best part is it will become one of those things the kids always remember about Christmas.



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Big Board

Here Comes Santa Claus!!

No need to travel to the North Pole (or those busy malls) to get your list to Santa. He is coming to our area just to meet with you on two different days. His first visit will be at the UM-CVFD fire hall on December 10 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Come early because the fire company is having its great pancake breakfast that morning. Eat, drink (hot chocolate), and be merry! The pancake breakfast is just \$5.00 for those over twelve years of age; \$4.00 for those three through eleven; and FREE for under three. Santa wants you to bring an unwrapped toy for the Marine Corp's Toys-for-Tots. There will be a special treat, too. The model railroad will be on display.

Sandy's Four Seasons

Local violin phenomenon Sandra Wolf-Meei Cameron will be performing Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with the National Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra conducted by Piotr Gajewski on January 7, 8:00 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore Hall. Tickets are required, children ages 7 through 17 are free. For tickets and reservations, visit www.strathmore.org or call the ticket office at 301-581-5100.

Holiday Studio Tour

Local artists and artisans open their studios to the public for the annual Holiday Studio Tour. December 9, 10, and 11, keep your eyes peeled for the yellow flags marking the entrances to the studios. Find those unique gifts and exquisite pieces of artwork ranging from wools and yarns to jewelry to paintings, photographs, and prints to handcrafted wooden pieces to ceramics and glass and more. The map and list of studios can be found at www.countrysideartists.com. See the article on Kiparoo Farm and Annie Kelley's yarns, stop number one on the tour.

The Fredericktowne Players Presents ... A Christmas Story

Our season opens with our holiday show in December, "A Christmas Story." This is a hilarious accounting set in the 1940s of young Ralphie's campaign to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. This staging of the popular movie includes episodes with the family's temperamental furnace, Ralphie's encounters, and hysterical fantasy scenarios. Show times are Thursday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. and

Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Tuscarora High School. Visit www.fredericktowneplayers.org for more information.

Nutcracker

The Maryland Regional Ballet presents "The Nutcracker" Friday, December 9, 2005, Saturday, December 10, 2005, and Sunday, December 11, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

A Frederick holiday tradition in its twenty-sixth year at the Weinberg Center. Guest artists from the New York City Ballet join local performers in this enchanted production. \$22.00 for Front Orchestra / Mezzanine, \$20.00 for Mid-Orchestra, and \$10.00 for Rear Orchestra / Rear Balcony. Group rates are available. Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Santa on the Town

Just to make sure Santa doesn't miss you, he will be driving through town on December 18. He will leave the sleigh at home (just in case there is no snow) and travel on a fire engine. You will know he is here when you hear the blaring of the horn and holiday music fills the air. His fireman helpers will hand out candy. Oh, by the way, the helpers and Santa wouldn't mind if a few baked goodies come their way.

Old-Fashioned Community Christmas Caroling at Whalen Commons

Join the community in a great Christmas caroling sing-a-long at the gazebo in Whalen Commons. This festive event is on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. The St. Peter's Parish orchestra and choir will lead the singing, and there will be Christmas cookies, treats, and hot chocolate for all.

White Christmas (1954)

Friday, December 16, 2005 - 8:00 p.m. Crosby, Kaye, and Clooney make this a musical a holiday classic. \$6.00 for Adults, \$4.00 for Seniors (ages 62+), Students (ages 13 - 18 or any college student with ID), and Children (ages 3 - 12). Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Kathy Mattea, Songs and the Season

Saturday, December 17, 2005 - 8:00 p.m. Grammy Award-winning musician performs an evening of extraordinary music, including selections from her latest album, Right Out of Nowhere. \$47.00 (Front Orchestra & Mezzanine), \$44.00 (Mid-Orchestra), \$39.00 (Rear Orchestra & Rear Balcony) Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Special Christmas Performance

The Poolesville Baptist Church is presenting on December 18 at 6:00 p.m. a musical called "Christmas Comes to Lone Star Gulch" subtitled "what a difference a child can make." There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the program. It will be at their community center on Willard Road.

Weinberg Winterfest

Sunday, December 18, 2005 - 3:00 p.m. Celebrate the holidays at this popular event. Sing along with the mighty Wurlitzer, enjoy a special film, and listen to the beautiful music of local schoolchildren. Santa's arrival is, of course, the highlight of the afternoon. Admission is free with canned food or cash donation for the Frederick Community Action Agency. General Admission. Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

The Messiah Sing-Along

Tuesday, December 20, 2005 - 8:00 p.m. A treasured Frederick tradition since 1994! Conductor Judy DuBose leads the Frederick Chamber Singers, orchestra, professional soloists, and all who want to sing along in G.F. Handel's Christmas masterpiece. General Admission. \$12.00 for Adults, \$6.00 for Seniors (ages 62+), Students (ages 13-18 or any college student with ID), and Children (ages 3-12). Visit weinbergcenter.org for more information.

Festival of Lights

There are a couple of beautiful festival of lights presentations in the area. The first event on December 16 at 7:00 p.m. begins at City Hall in Frederick. The crowd of carolers works its way through the downtown streets of Frederick. There will be special speakers, and at the end of the event, all will return to City Hall when the lights outside are dimmed and candles are lit as everyone joins in Silent Night.

At Seneca Regional Park on Clopper Road, those in the holiday spirit can take an automobile ride through the park which is lit up with many holiday lights and a Christmas display. You won't need to leave the car, but visitors are welcome to get out and take a closer look at all the displays.

Holiday Homes Tour

The Woodsboro (Maryland) Historical Society will host a holiday homes tour on December 10 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and December 11 from noon to 5:00 p.m. The tour will be through the various historical residences and buildings on Main Street in Woodsboro. Carriage rides by Frederick Tour & Carriage Co. are available on Main Street and are included in the ticket price. A \$15.00 ticket may be purchased during tour hours at the Historical Society Museum located adjacent to the Woodsboro Bank at 5 North Main Street, Woodsboro.



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Focus on Business

The Un-Mall Experience

By Rande Davis

The humbug feelings about shopping are about ready to come into play. The malls, the crowds, the clamor, poor service, and the rush of the crowd threaten to dampen the Christmas shopping spirit.

Thank goodness we live in small town America. Heavy traffic and slow stoplights are no obstacles for us. We have so many unique shops and retailers right in our back yards that holiday shopping can be a peaceful, gentle experience. As a matter of fact, you don't have to drive in traffic at all in Poolesville, many of the retailers are close enough that it would make for a pleasant walk to stroll from shop to shop. Before you throw in the towel and head to malls or click onto the Internet with its security concerns, why not give our local business owners a fair chance? Not only will your choice of highly personal, unique gifts be in abundance, but just consider the personal service and attention you will get. Your one-on-one experience will give you a sense of just how gratifying small-shop shopping can be.

Let's start with the basics - cards, wrapping paper, supplies, decorations, and a whole host of basic-need items like body and bath products, small appliances, and a great gift selection under thirty dollars - try going to CVS or Selby's Market. Both have many gifts suitable for business associates and casual friends. They may not be specialty candy stores, but both have more than enough candy gift selections to meet your needs. Looking for great gift basket items? Selby's has all the fruits and nuts you need. They offer wines, too. Speaking of wines, don't forget Poolesville Beer & Wine and J.D.'s Beer and Wine for your friends you are visiting this year. If you want to get a bit spicy, Jay's Wall of Fire selection of nearly two hundred different hot spices and sauces will fill the bill.

Planning to entertain at Christmas time or on the New Year? Asia Dynasty, Bassett's, Oriental Gourmet, and Cugini's are ready to serve you. (Selby's is ready to help, too.) For the fun-food party like pizza and subs, Cugini's, L'Nora's, Domino's, Subway, J.D.'s and the Corner Store are the places to be. If you don't mind a little drive, it's worth the trip to drive out and experience the fine dining of the

Comus Inn or the Catoctin Inn.

Shoppers will be pleasantly surprised by the selection to be found at the John Poole General Store Museum. Very special and unique gift items and stocking stuffers are in abundance: local history books, vintage collectibles, Christmas ornaments, toys and games, art, prints, pottery, china, cookbooks, and even more surprises. Continuing in the vein of the unique and unusual, Reva's Craft-A-Plenty is the place to go for your favorite Poolesville Cats Meow (she has a bunch of new ones in you may not have seen before). Along with a great selection of craft supplies, she also orders the coveted White House Christmas ornament. Get to her early though before time runs out. The Flying Pig has great gift items on display, and they just opened a new place out on Edwards Ferry Road. Check them out, too.

Also, Hearthside Antique is another place to consider for gifts. Don't think antiques or collectibles aren't appreciated by the young. There are things too cool for collectors of all ages. Along with great old books, there is an impressive selection of all kinds of gifts and Christmas items at Hearthside. While there, you may want to pick your Christmas tree and greens at their Christmas shop. Of course, you can also get your tree at Amish Direct and Naughty Pines. For more antique stores, we wouldn't recommend walking to these, visit the Boyds Antique Shop and Martin Fields in Buckeystown; and while you are in Buckeystown, stop in at Bodmers across the street. It may a bit late to try to get a personal ceramic plate but they have other pottery items as well.

Maybe you want to beautifully display the masterpiece of a budding artist in the family, don't leave town. At Jo's Frame Shop, with a sample selection greater than three thousand, it would be hard not to find just the right frame there - and she has more than frames, she also has antiques, candles, imports, mirrors, paintings, and original displays of gift items with pictures and objects. Another possibility when it comes to framing is Potomac Framing. Besides framing, he has wonderful Poolesville original paintings and other pictures, including works on commission.

Are there people on your list who embrace the active lifestyle? If someone in your life makes cycling an important part of his life, Bob's Bikes has a humongous selection of bikes, parts, and accessories. He even has most

on sale with other holiday discounts available. The best part of shopping at Bob's is that you get Bob. Inevitably, any bike needs maintenance, and who really wants to be spending Christmas with a pile of nuts and bolts trying to figure everything out? Shop early and Bob will hold your bike till Christmas Eve. Just next door is Poolesville Hardware with a pile of holiday items and special gifts available right now. There isn't a man in town that would not love a new tool or gadget from the hardware store. For the exercise buff in your life, Healthworks has a real fashion store inside. So even if you are not a member now, stop and pick up something for those you know who are health nuts. Healthworks and Curves have gift certificates ready to go.

If you are into high quality, beautiful gifts and haven't visited Caudussian Rug and Gallery, then by all means stop by and visit Mir. Most of the grand homes in our area are perfect for Persian rugs, elegant statuary, and unique oil paintings. Across the street is the Poolesville Tack Shop. You don't have to be just an equestrian fan to shop there, Debbie Lynn has a great supply of small jewelry

and books. A lot of her fashions can be worn by most anyone. Of course, there is no better place to go to get something special for the horse-lover and equestrian in your life.

Finally, for that "male" side of your shopping instincts, don't forget that there is an alternative to those not wanting to "walk the street" or go on the internet - think gift certificates. Everyone in town offers one. From the restaurants to Jon's Video store, from the barbershops and hair stylists to auto repair shops, a gift certificate is perfect. If your kid is into karate or horse riding or your teenage girl would love to get nails done, a gift certificate is a simple way to make someone happy.

Oh, and just one more idea. Do you have a friend or relative away in the military or at college? Do you know a long-time resident that moved away? Then don't forget that for as little \$31.50, they can receive the best possible gift year-round - a full year's subscription to the best paper in town. We will keep them informed and entertained throughout the year.

Happy Shopping and Happy Holidays.



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Youth Making a Difference

Our Correspondent in Africa

Special to the Monocle by Jessica Cates-Bristol

Readers of *The Monocle* might recall that in July a feature article reported on the activities of Jessica Cates-Bristol, graduate of Poolesville High School and resident of Beallsville, and her anticipated trip to Africa to work for Grassroot Soccer, a non-profit organization that is trying to stop the spread of AIDS using a combination of soccer and education. Jessica and her friend, Joe Schoenbauer, arrived in Zambia in late September. She promised to stay in touch with *The Monocle*, and this is her first report.

We arrived in Lusaka, Zambia on September 28 after a twenty-four hour flight, and Joe and I are happy to be here. From the moment that we arrived, we have had nothing but positive experiences. We have discovered that our organization, Grassroot Soccer, is highly regarded here, and our director has a good reputation. We have been going out to the schools to monitor teachers who have been trained in the curriculum. We usually jump into our four wheel drive SUV and then drive out to small concrete schools in the compounds, Africa's version of slums. Every day, we come back sunburned and exhausted after playing games in the scorching sun with the students. I have already found a group of Zambian girls that I can officially call my friends, my basketball team! Every Wednesday through Friday, I walk about twenty-five minutes down the road to a sports complex where I practice with a local team called the Shells. We practice outside on the concrete, and not only is it very hot, but you are in a constant battle with the sun so you are not blinded. We do get to play our games inside on wooden floors that are so slippery that I am still afraid every time I play, but the girls are amazing, and I am having a blast! I also have been given my new African name, Taonga, which means "Thank You."

For breakfast, we have been eating normal foods like corn flakes, eggs, and toast. Lunch is always peanut butter and jelly because it's the quickest and cheapest thing to make and

pack. For dinner, we have chosen to cook sometimes, and in Lusaka we have found the staples like rice and pasta, but often, a local woman will cook for us. If we provide the meat and vegetables, she will cook them along with something called nshima which is made of cornmeal. I've already begun to crave it like the natives!

On November 9, Joe and I returned from a visit to a refugee camp out in the western province of Zambia. We conducted a week-long training camp for thirty-two girls and boys. Our journey began on October 30, and we traveled with two of our Grassroot Soccer Zambian peer educators and one drama teacher. On Sunday morning, we caught a public bus at 3:30 a.m. and it was a pleasant ride except for the early hour. We took a paved road with quite a few potholes for about five hours to a small town called Kaoma. During the bus trip, we traveled through the Kafue National Park which was very nice, and we saw baboons running wild and lots of warthogs. When we arrived at Kaoma, our time was spent buying food and supplies, and then we drove two more hours to the camp. Our drivers were amazing – at times they drove at speeds of nearly sixty miles an hour on dirt roads in horrible condition. Arriving at the camp, we found that our accommodations were quite appealing. Our group of five stayed in a cement house that had two bedrooms, many mattresses, and quite a few mosquito nets. There was a traditional bathroom and a bathing room that consisted of a faucet jutting out of the wall at about thigh height. We had a small refrigerator, but it only worked a few hours a day when the hydro-powered generator came on, but we were quite content.

Our week was very busy and was spent holding sessions with our thirty-two kids. We taught them about the danger of HIV/AIDS, using lessons from the Grassroot curriculum, as well as basic football (soccer) skills. The children were provided with two snacks and a full lunch each day which is huge for these people in the bush who struggle every day for food. Our meals were cooked for us by local women who also swept our floors and made our beds. We ate eggs for breakfast and nshima, and either chicken or fish for lunch and dinner. On Wednesday and Thursday, we played soccer with the locals and I even scored a goal! The games attracted quite a crowd of local people.

While I was playing, I realized that I was playing in a game, surrounded by huts, the only Caucasian girl on the field – just amazing.

The training we did was a huge success. Participation had greatly increased over the week, and for these kids to be talking about AIDS and sex with four strangers is simply unheard of in this area. We made incredible strides. On Friday, we arranged more soccer games and gave out the most valuable player awards. While we were packing, we were told that the kids wanted to sing for us, so we gathered outside and were treated to singing and dancing. I can't believe the impact we made on them. After the songs, I choked up, and all I could say was "thank you." As our car left the camp, tears were falling from my eyes.

Now I am back in Lusaka and ready to continue with other projects. This week I will be busy working out of my office, and I have basketball practice every day. Next Sunday we leave for the Northern Province to do more training at another refugee camp.

Things to Do

December 9, 10, 11

Holiday Studio Tour
Up-Country Artists
For artists and map
Visit www.countrysideartisans.com

December 10

Santa Claus Pancake Breakfast
UMCVFD – 9:00 a.m. to noon
Bring unwrapped toy for tots

Blood Drive (American Red Cross)
Boy Scout Project – Michael Rhodas
Troop #496
Poolesville Baptist Church
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 14

Senior Activities
Owens Park
Cookies with UMCVFD
Monocacy Garden Club will create arrangements
Pip Game Day
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

December 16

Community Christmas Caroling
Whalen Commons Gazebo – All Invited
Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Good Time

Choose-N-Cut Christmas Trees

(6 ft. to 10ft.)



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December 18

Santa Visits Poolesville by Fire Engine
Rides through town - 6:00 p.m.

Seasonal Musical Presentation
"Christmas Comes to Lone Star
Gulch"

Poolesville Baptist Church – 7:00 p.m.

December 20

Messiah Sing Along
Frederick Chamber Singers, Soloists,
Orchestra
Sing Handel's Messiah under baton of
Judy DuBose
Weinberg Center for the Arts
8:00 p.m.

December 20

JPMS Annual Winter Concert
7:00 p.m.

December 21

Senior Activities
Owens Park
Tea and Coffee
Decorating for Christmas
Good friends, good cheer, good food
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 22

PHS Annual Winter Concert
7:00 p.m.

Equestrian

How to Get a Pony For Christmas, Even if Your Yard is Too Small

By Debby Lynn

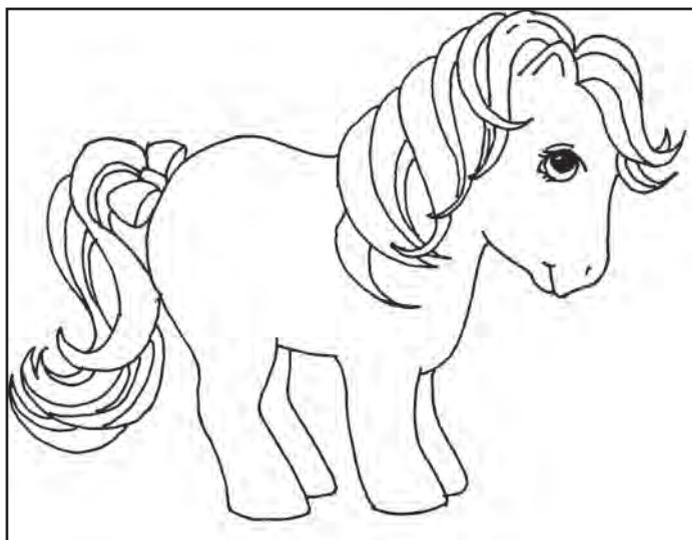
'Tis the season, and horse crazy little girls everywhere will be putting a pony at the top of their list. What's a parent to do? As you gaze out over your modest suburban yard, a pony seems wildly impractical. And so it is. But your child can still have the joy of riding as a holiday gift.

The best way for anyone, child or adult, to begin with horses, is at a local lesson barn. Even if you have a place to keep a horse, lessons are the most practical way to start. Good lesson programs will have safe, well trained ponies and horses, with temperaments suited to the beginner rider. The horse you start with will generally be a quiet, older horse. After you have progressed, you may want a mount with more athletic capabilities. If it's not your horse, it's a lot easier to continually trade up as you learn. This works particularly well for growing youngsters. The pony that is just the right size for an 8 year old will probably be too small at 13.

Riding lessons allow a family to try riding out without an extreme commitment. You can see if your youngster's interest is sustained, and if it's a good fit for the family finances and time commitments. At many barns, you will have an opportunity to ease into horse ownership. Half leases are a good next step. They have

more financial and time commitment than weekly lessons, but still much less than ownership. And usually with an option to continue "trading up" horses as your riding skills progress.

Once you've decided to try some riding lessons, the next step is to pick the right program. We are fortunate to have several good stables in the Poolesville area, so it's a matter of finding the one that suits your need. Here are some of the deciding factors:



Okay kids, here's the deal. Color in this pony, and then leave this page open for Mom or Dad.

Rider's age. Some barns have mostly adult clientele, some cater to youngsters. Having people your own age to ride with adds greatly to the fun.

Type of riding. Western? (Horn.) English? (No horn.) Do you like cowboy riding? Maybe you want to participate in cattle working competitions or barrel racing? Choose a western barn. Aspire to jump fences like an Olympian? Choose an English

barn. Since the different disciplines are fairly specialized, most barns are either primarily English, or primarily Western.

Safety. This should really be your first consideration. Pay a visit to the prospective stable, and observe a few lessons. Do students wear helmets and safe footwear? (Riding in sneakers is dangerous, as your foot can slide through the stirrup and become trapped in a fall.) Are they taught to handle horses safely on the ground? Is the student to instructor ratio low enough for the instructor to maintain good control? There are various ways of becoming a qualified riding instructor. One is by being certified by the American Riding Instructors Association. You can go to their website and look up our area's certified instructors. But many good teachers started long before the certifi-

cation process was in place. Ask how many years they have been teaching, and request a reference or two from people who have been clients for some time.

Facility. Indoor riding arenas are a boon in the winter time. You can get good lessons at places with no indoor, but expect the weather to be more of a factor. Some lessons may have to be cancelled or rescheduled.

Horsemanship. You will want a program that teaches riders to care for and work with horses on the ground. Especially for youngsters, this is a big part of the value of riding. Working with horses will help teach responsibility and respect for animals.

Your first stop should be the local tack shop. There, you can pick up a copy of the free horse magazine, "The Equiery". It contains a complete list of local riding barns as well as an abundance of horsey information. Even if a pony won't fit down your chimney, one may find his way under the tree after all!

The Humble Chef Continued From Page 8—

A friend and I spent the large part of an afternoon traipsing up and down the back streets of Paris in search of this gastronomic jewel. As the sun was setting over the Tuileries, we gave up looking. The street address she gave in the article did not exist; small typo. In spite of that, I still love her cookbooks. Her recipes are simple and fool-proof. Her enthusiasm and love of Provence is evident on every page. You can almost see the violet fields of lavender spreading out for miles, and smell the pungent, earthy rosemary that grows everywhere. She covers all things Provencal: bread, cheese, wine olives, olive oil, truffles and Cavaillon

melons. The recipes include appetizers, salads, soups, fish, poultry, meat, pasta and deserts. To add to your reading interest, each recipe is prefaced with one of her personal stories of a Provence tradition, history of a merchant or restaurant, or the background of a particular wine or herb. Reading the book is a trip back to Peter Mayle's Gordes, Avignon and Apt.

The next time you are in London, stop by a delightful little book shop in Notting Hill called Books for Cooks. It is crammed from floor to ceiling with all kinds of cookbooks. There is also a small kitchen in the rear which offers cooking demonstration classes and lunch made from recipes from a book in the store. Bon Appetit

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**Kiparoo Farm Continued From
Page 13—**

they produce a shiny wool. The sheep are sheared twice a year, once before breeding in September and again in the spring before lambing. Annie claims that sheep have beautiful wool just before lambing—her analogy was to pregnant women having beautiful hair (count me as an exception to that one). A professional shearer, David Todd, helps her, and together, it takes them two days at each shearing to clip all the sheep and sew all the wool into feed sacks. Annie then sends these thousands of pounds of wool to be spun at the Taos Valley Wool Mill in New Mexico. At the mill, the wool is spun into true worsted, long fibers spun together to get the shine, to her specifications.

Once the wool returns to her as yarn, she does everything from dyeing to knitting, weaving and crocheting—if it involves yarn, she creates it. In her studio, her walls are covered floor to ceiling with a variety of colors and textures. She also has on display the tools of the trade. She creates patterns of timeless classics

for her customers to knit or crochet. These include cardigans, sweaters, shawls, and the ubiquitous scarves, hats, and mittens. There are always samples she has already made to be admired, replicated, or purchased. Knitting needles? She sells them. Kits to give as gifts? All the way in the back on the left. She even has an antique button collection. A button isn't an Antique Button unless it's pre-1918. She finds them in various places and sales, she researches them, then she sews them onto little cards of her own design in pleasing collections.



Annie Kelley with sheep.

In her commitment to keep things new and different for her customers, she designs her own labels for the skeins of yarn. Each color or style has "a different, beautiful label [and a] different quote on every label." These

whimsical quotes are just a few of the creative details Annie puts into her displays. For the wool and mohair mix: "An old friend spun with a new twist;" for the soft, light yarn: "Warm as a hen, light as a feather." There a few sparkle yarns tucked between the wool. Annie buys and designs these because some people are allergic to wool, she describes them as "classy but glitzy."

Annie, in her spare time, has also dedicated herself to augmenting the whole wool business. She was instrumental in starting the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival which is held yearly at the Howard County Fairgrounds. She likes to educate the public and comments on how many of her customers are teachers. Educational tours come to the farm. At this point we have to revisit the "farmer without a farm" quote. The farm in Adamstown is a 258-acre cattle operation which she manages for the owner (in some other part of her spare time—milking, etc.). Annie laughs when she mentions the inevitable question, "Where does the wool come from?" This, after the kids have

walked past the sheep. She marvels that in some cases, people don't want to see beyond the grocery store or the shopping mall—the milk came from a real cow, and the sweater was once modeled by a real sheep. She is happy to bring the reality to students.

Among the teachers who number as her customers, Annie mentions a teacher at the Holton Arms school who knits every morning with her class of eight- and nine-year-olds. These children will make up the next generation of knitters who find themselves creating useful fiber art anytime and anyplace. "The spirit of fiber doesn't need a language," she adds.

The drive to Adamstown may be a little out there; to some, Annie's driveway may also be a little out there (one mile long, crossing a bridge—yes!); so don't wear your white go-go boots, but a visit to Kiparoo Farm is worth the trip—the mud, the manure, the sheep, the yarn—and the tea and cookies (they are my favorite interviews).

"I'm lucky to make a living doing what I love to do," Annie says. We're lucky to have Annie doing what she does, and her customers (followers?) of long-standing can attest to that.

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**1885 Continued From
Page 1—**

propelled Poolesville into the news that even reached the Washington newspapers. On December 15, 1885, a man named Bell who lived outside of town entered one of the finer stores in town. After browsing, he approached the clerk, Roslyn Watt (who was a man), and asked why a particular item wasn't in stock. Mr. Bell became upset by Mr. Watt's reply and said, "That's no way to keep a store. What kind of a tune are you trying to sing here?" Mr. Watt then invited Bell to leave the store which prompted Bell to reach over the counter and begin to choke Watt. Mr. Watt then grabbed an ice cutter and struck Bell over the head causing a serious injury. In the ensuing affray, Bell chewed off the end of Watt's finger. Other customers entered the store and separated the two and took Bell to the doctor's house

In the meantime, Watt went to the justice of the peace and tried to have Bell arrested. Instead, the justice of the peace sup-

plied Watt with a pistol and Watt rushed wildly down the street in search of Bell vowing to kill him if he showed his face. For the rest of the day the town was in an uproar with citizens cowering in their houses in fear of gunplay. Bell apparently stayed in hiding all day, and there was no attempt to restrain Watt.

The next day, Bell came out of hiding and made an apology to the proprietor of the store which was accepted. No charges were ever filed in part because the justice of the peace aided Watt and was conflicted in his duties. It was said that both parties were perfectly sober.

Christmas shopping in Poolesville one hundred and twenty years ago!

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**New Publication Continued
From Page 5—**

are about a foot high. This means that soon enough there will be snow. Get out the jackets.

The Monocle: So how is it going with circulation and advertising?

Ms. Shibelski: I print three copies for each of the neighbors including my parents. I don't have any advertisers yet but thought that for a free pizza I could give Domino's an ad. I haven't asked them yet.

The Monocle: I see you had an ad for sweeping front porches for twenty-five cents.

Ms. Shibelski: Yes, that was from me, but it was for between twenty-five cents and a dollar.

The Monocle: Does this mean you want to be a professional journalist when you grow up?

Ms. Shibelski: No, I would rather play professional soccer.

The Monocle: Well, Ms. Shibelski, competition is the American way. I noticed that you asked for five cents a copy to continue my subscription, and I thought I would let you know that we will subscribe. *The Monocle* wants to wish you well.

Ms. Shibelski: Thank you.

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Scents of Christmas Continued
 From Page 16—

a pink flush. After picking, they are dried on palm leaf mats or over heat, and eventually turn brown.

Where would mincemeat pie, apple pie, fruitcakes, mulled wine, stewed fruit and toast be without cinnamon? This warm and aromatic spice is the thinly rolled inner bark of an evergreen tree, *Cinnamomum verum*, native to Sri Lanka and widely grown in Southern India, Madagascar and the West Indies. Cinnamon trees are usually grown as bushes with numerous straight shoots, which are cut when they are about six feet long. The outer bark is stripped off, the inner bark is loosened, and then pried off in sections. The curled strips, called "quills," are cleaned and then formed into tightly packed rolls, which are cut into shorter lengths for sale. Today, cinnamon does not command a high price, but in the ancient world, it was more precious than gold. At that time, the abundance of gold made it a fairly common ornamental metal. It is said that Nero, Emperor of Rome in the

First Century A.D., burned a year's supply of cinnamon on his wife's funeral pyre, as an extravagant gesture of the depth of his loss.

What is the kernel of a peach-like fruit with a sweet, aromatic and nutty bouquet and a nutty, warm, and slightly sweet flavor? Nutmeg. It is the seed of the large, from forty to sixty feet, evergreen tree, *Myristica fragrans*, native to the Moluccas (the Spice Islands), but now grown in the West Indies, particularly Grenada. The tree produces two spices, nutmeg and mace. The nutmeg grows within a lacy covering of mace, coral red when fresh, which is in turn encased within a fleshy, peach-like fruit. Both the nutmeg and the mace are dried in the sun after harvesting. The seed is removed, then the mace from the seed. The mace is flattened between boards and the seeds are dried until they rattle, when they are shelled. Nutmeg is best bought whole and grated fresh as needed, as it loses its flavor when ground.

Like many other spices, nutmeg

was considered exotic and priceless in the ancient world. The Arabs were the exclusive importers of the spice to Europe up until 1512, when Vasco de Gama reached the Moluccas and claimed the islands for Portugal. For the next couple of hundred years, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British fought over this small, little, but precious nut. From the early Middle Ages, spices played an important role in everyday life. They were used for medicinal purposes, embalming of the dead, and flavoring and preserving of meats and foodstuffs. Nutmeg was believed to impart or possess magical powers. Tucking a nutmeg into the left armpit before attending a social event was used to attract admirers. Try it at your next holiday party.

Here is a recipe using several of the above spices. A knight coming in from battle, a gardener in from a long winter walk, or your neighbors in for a bit of holiday cheer, might appreciate a warming mug of wassail. Sharing the wassail bowl dates back to Saxon times and signifies friendship at

this time of the year.

10 lumps of sugar
 1 lemon
 6 small cooking apples
 4 tbsp soft brown sugar
 1 tsp ground ginger
 ½ grated nutmeg
 ½ tsp powdered cinnamon
 ¼ cup refined sugar – or less to taste
 3 pints mild or brown ale
 ¼ bottle medium sherry or sweet white wine.

Rub the sugar lumps over the skin of the lemon. Then slice the lemon and set aside. Core but don't peel the apples. Fill holes with brown sugar. and roast in oven at 325 F for forty five minutes or so, taking care not to let the apples burst. In a pan, mix the ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon and sugar. Add one pint of ale and bring to boil. Add remaining ale, sherry or wine and the sugar lumps. Heat the mixture but don't allow it to boil. Put the roasted apples and juices in a large bowl with the lemon slices. Pour over the liquid and serve. Wassail.

Real Champs!

By Rande Davis

No sport team at Poolesville High School has a grander tradition than the field hockey champs. When Coach Gina Grubb picked up the baton from Nancy "Hopie" Hopkinson, the tradition not only continued, it has grown grander. Coach Grubb, with the assistance of Coach Sharon Repass, has an accumulated record of sixty-one wins, nineteen losses, and three ties.

The 2005 team completed its season by winning the regional championship for the fifth straight year in a row. The goal of winning the Maryland State Tournament was stopped by archrival, Pocomoke, in a close 2 to 0 game. The loss was especially frustrating since Pocomoke went on to win the 1A State Tournament.

While the team had many shots on goal, they just were not able to convert those shots to goals. Coach Grubb credits Pocomoke's freshman goalie for an impressive performance.

No season can be solely defined by one game. The hard work of practices that start in the summer and continue through the season finds its real rewards in overcoming adversity. Losing their first game of the season to Springbrook was the first test of the spirit and strength of these girls. That loss brought out their character, and they responded by winning the next six games in a row. They not only won, they dominated, outscoring their opponents 32 to 3.

This is a team of stars. All fifteen offensive players contributed with at least one goal. Emily Stovicek and Rachel Stream both had eight goals and six assists. This outstanding play was followed very closely by Lisa Catteron's seven goals with three assists, Ketelyn Poss's six goals with four assists, and Kaylee Rattie's six goals and four assists. It's just like the old



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cheer: "If Stovicek can't do it, Stream can. If Stream can't do it, Catteron can. If Catteron can't do it—on and on through fifteen players." This is a team that defines balance.

Strong defensive performances by Nora Torrey and Nellie Stovicek and sophomore goalie, Courtney Bettinger,



The Falcons Field Hockey Team.

bring full balance to this team. Balance doesn't come naturally. It requires hard work during practices and individual focus and effort. It requires concentrating on the fundamentals and each player taking responsibility. There is no leaving it up to someone else on this team. They lead each other by example.

Most of these girls had never even handled a hockey stick before their freshman year. Unlike other school sports that have strong feeder programs frequently beginning in elementary school, field hockey players get started relatively late in the game.

One of the key reasons for the success of the varsity is its strong junior varsity tradition. This year's JV team

exemplifies its supporting role. The 2005 JV girls were 8-2, with one of the losses coming from a 1 to 0 score in overtime. Like the varsity, the JV is a team of balance. Their leading scorer, Allison Gost with six goals, was just ahead of Michelle Abbaticchio and Lisa Trope, each having five goals.

The outstanding play by their goalie, Meghan Foye is even more encouraging since she is only a freshman. She brought experience as a goalie in soccer and made the switch to field hockey.

Junior Varsity coach, Sharon Repass, has dedicated seven years to the program and assists Coach Grubb with the varsity as well. Over the years, her daughter, Michelle Repass, not only was a player of the week at Catholic University, but she was also selected as a

rookie of the year. As testimony to the astounding success and tradition of PHS field hockey strength, just consider that fourteen of Coach Grubb's players went on to play in college. Those players include: Kiri Jimerson (2003), Mary Washington; Holly Stone (2001), St. Mary's College; Holley Marchwicki (2002), Virginia Wesleyan College; K.C. Marchwicki (2004); and Karyn Snyder (2004), Elizabethtown College. Abbey Johnson (2002), St. Mary's College, made first team Capital Athletic Conference, Michelle Repass was selected second team CAC, and Holley Marchwicki was selected second team midfield Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Amy Harmon (Towson University) and Robin Miller (George Washington) play on their respective college club teams.

The tradition will continue with this year's seniors. Emily Stovicek will be playing on Division 1 American University's team next year. As final decisions on college await, we are certain that number will grow.

The unsung heroes for these girls are their parents. Both coaches stress that parental support in many ways through the years is just one more key fundamental for a successful PHS field hockey program.

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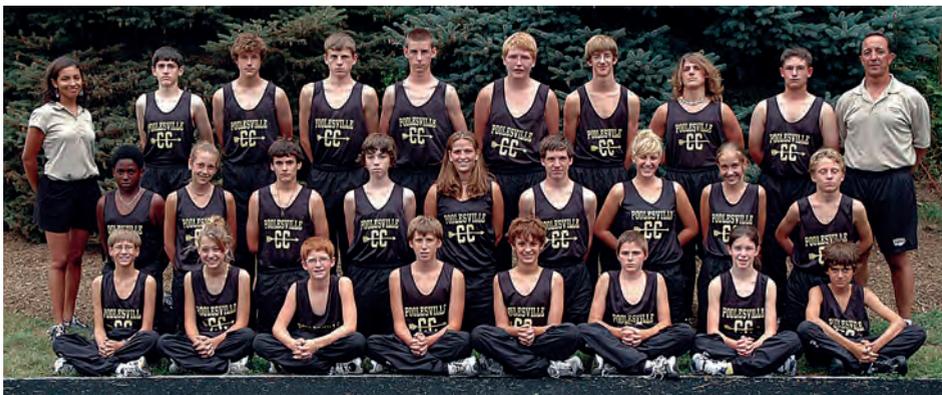
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