

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Hannah Bush and Josh Hosey at an elite training camp. Details in Tidbits on page 7.



The PHS cheerleading team at the division competition. See more in Youth Sports on page 8.



Falcon Allie Nevis begins a successful layup drive. The girls' basketball team's strong start is documented on page 10.



Bacon-wrapped pretzels? Oh, my! Check it out in Musings from Mama Boe on page 16.

Mel's Rink

By Susan Petro

As the new year dawned, Montgomery County officials shut down a popular, recently-opened ice skating rink citing a lack of proper permitting. The owner of the privately-owned rink, Marc Kohn, has vowed to work with the county officials to keep Mel's Rink, named after his daughter, Melanie, who died this past July, up and running; however, a recent meeting held on January 4 between Kohn and county permitting officials turned sour quickly. Kohn was advised that he was violating numerous health and safety codes and that he was lucky he was not issued an immediate cease and desist order as soon the county learned that the rink was open to the public. Currently, Kohn is limited to inviting no more than five people a day to skate.

Several local and national news media outlets have been covering the story of Mel's Rink and the fight to



Children enjoying the private ice rink on Sugarland Road.

keep it open to the public. The story that quickly went viral has taken on a David versus Goliath theme involving the efforts of one man to build an ice-skating rink and invite the public to use it, and Big Government's effort to shut the rink down. Although some people have privately submitted concerns and

complaints about the operations, the vast majority of the people responding to the numerous articles published on the Town of Poolesville Facebook page and beyond have expressed unwavering support for the rink, which has

Continued on page 9.

Peyton Walton Returns to PES and Life as a 5th Grader

By Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz

"Oh, heck, yeah, I'm excited to be back!" said fifth grader Peyton Walton, when asked about her return to Poolesville Elementary School (PES) on December 20. For Peyton, returning to class put her exactly where she loves being—with her friends learning science and math, among other subjects.

Peyton is navigating her classroom and class work solo without the support of the robot her friends and teachers at PES affectionately nicknamed PAVS (Peyton's Awesome Virtual Self).

Peyton and PAVS garnered national media attention as an innovative pair which successfully kept Peyton connected to school during treatment for a rare form of liver cancer. First, at Children's National Medical Center during chemotherapy, and then at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York City for daily radiation therapy, PAVS helped Peyton not only to stay on top of her school work, but also to interact and to connect with her

classmates and teachers in real time.

Known as a "telepresence," PAVS is videoconferencing on wheels. Peyton manipulated PAVS remotely from her hospital room for a full classroom experience. She even worked side-by-side virtually with her friends on group projects.

The learning experience was exactly what Peyton's mom, Lynn Schaeber, had hoped for. Her priority was to make Peyton's life as normal as possible during her long absences. "I wanted to replicate the physicality of the classroom experience for Peyton because we know how important school is to her," she said.

Lynn worked intensely with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), PES Principal Doug Robbins, and the fifth grade team to secure and implement the technology as quickly as possible.

"We had incredible support from PES and from MCPS to make the



Peyton and her mom with Peyton's group project, "Penguin Olympics."

Continued on page 6.

Photograph by Susan Petro

Family Album



Revelers at the PACC annual holiday party at Four Streams Golf Course.



Poolesville's American Legion Post 247 enjoyed its holiday party at Cugini's.



Memorial United Methodist Church offered its live nativity as a special event for the Christmas season.

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Local News

An Interview about Poolesville Water Quality Issues

By Link Hoewing

In an interview with the *Monocle*, town manager Wade Yost and commission president Jim Brown provided more insights into the situation regarding the presence of radioisotopes in wells 8 and 13.

Mr. Yost explained that the town's well water system is based on wells drilled into fractured rock. Water runs over and through—via fractures and pores—a huge section of rock that lies beneath the entire town and in fact stretches far north as well. Water gathers at points where numerous fractures come together to form areas of water that can be tapped by wells.

The town's wells—there are a dozen—are drilled into these fractures and usually go many hundreds of feet into the earth. The water traveling along the aquifer moves slowly and is deep underground so it is filtered through many layers of rock and earth and fairly resistant to damage from flash flooding, chemical spills, and the like. Any surface activity would take a long time to percolate to the aquifer and would be extensively filtered by layers of rock and soil.

Mr. Yost explained that the town heavily monitors and tests its wells both due to state and federal regulations and as a part of the maintenance and management that town residents expect from the town. All wells are visited daily to check on chlorine levels (injected into the water) and pH levels (which can be early indicators of problems with a well's water quality). Quarterly tests are done on all wells for such things as radionuclides, chemicals, and biological contamination. These test results go to state (Maryland Department of the Environment) and federal (U. S. Environmental Protection Agency) authorities who compile the data and check for violations of applicable regulations. In reports reviewed by the *Monocle*, everything from mercury to alpha emitters (like radium) to biological agents are measured (many dozens of agents are tested and reported to the agencies).

The current concerns about wells 8 and 13, as noted in another article in this paper, appear to have more to do with possible testing protocol problems than they do with actual violations of alpha emitter standards as set by the EPA. Brown said that in

the mid-2000s, the town experienced possible problems with wells 7 and 9 regarding alpha emitter levels that were considered high compared to the EPA standards. He said that the standards were not violated, but the town decided to err on the side of caution and connected the wells together with another well that had lower numbers of alpha emitters to dilute the presence of the radiation particles. It also installed filters that clean the water of alpha emitters at a cost of over \$1 million. Those wells today are well below EPA standards for alpha emitters.

The town has also taken a number of steps in recent years to protect and strengthen its wells from possible damage or pollution. These actions include a strong well head protection ordinance, which requires new construction or, in some cases, existing facilities with new proposed uses to follow many steps to protect wells from possible contamination. The new Liberty gas station, for example, has four test wells drilled around it that are used as monitors to ensure that there is no leakage of fuel from the facility.

The town also reviewed its salary structure and raised salaries in an effort to keep staff from being tempted by larger, often higher-paying municipalities nearby. It also created a deputy supervisor position to help support the supervisor of the water system. As Mr. Yost explained, the supervisor is on twenty-four-hour call because the well system must be operational and in good shape at all times. This is a very taxing responsibility, and the new deputy has the training and skills to sub for the supervisor, which eases pressure on him or her, making him/her less tempted to want to leave.

From time to time, some have advocated looking at the idea of connecting the town to the WSSC water system, which taps into the Potomac River. Mr. Yost remarked that this is problematic from a cost standpoint (it might cost a million dollars a mile to take a pipe to the nearest WSSC connection point in Darnestown) and there are many disadvantages to surface water. It is very dirty because of runoff from the land (which can have fertilizers, animal waste, and other chemicals like oil on it). Animals of all kinds—from fish to otters—live in it, depositing their waste and dirt. There are also a number of chemicals in the water that are not removed and not tested for at this juncture, particularly pharmaceuticals which are often dumped down toilets by consumers. Well water has virtually none of these problems.

Continued on page 7.



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Commentary

The Great Circle of Life

By John Clayton

There has been much discussion about vultures in Poolesville, but out here in Barnesville and even parts of the lower Upcounty, I am becoming increasingly concerned about an infestation of bald eagles, as I recently saw two of them (three, technically) within a few days of each other, right in our area. Perhaps it is too few to suggest an infestation, even as a lame attempt at opening-line humor, but I was nevertheless impressed.

The first was over a pond outside of Barnesville that I drive by often. As I approached, I saw a vulture flying around in big circles over the pond, not terribly high in the air. Then, *No, wait, that's no vulture, that's a hawk.* Hawks are seen pretty regularly around here, although I never get tired of admiring them as they fly by or observe me from trees. Then I realized, *Wait, that's a pretty big hawk,* and then as I got closer, flashes of white became evident. Sure enough, through the open window of my car I got to enjoy from up close a bald eagle circling a pond. The eagle made his way around the pond a few more times, then decided the show was over and retired to a tree on the far side of the pond. I got out of the car and admired him from afar, deduced I could not get a decent cellphone photograph, and moved on, noting that the eagle's mate was in the tree with him.

I drove away, but subsequently moved out of the common roadway and called Barnesville friends and bird watchers Cherry Barr and William Price, who later confirmed their own sighting of the pair, which politely waited for them to arrive.

I haven't seen enough eagles to become blasé about the experience. My first known sighting was in Maine, from a tour boat which took us to an island known to harbor eagles, so there may be an asterisk on that experience, as the eagle was clearly a professional model. Two summers ago, while waiting for White's Ferry on the Virginia side, an eagle flew by over the water, not too high up and clearly visible. I was in a line of cars and I don't think anyone else noticed, which I thought was a shame.

So to my amazement, just a day or two after the Barnesville eagle, I was on Great Seneca Highway where it runs through Seneca Park and, once again, I looked up to eyeball a hawk (yes, I know, distracted driving) and lo and behold it was another eagle: another day, another eagle. I'm actually about sixty percent sure I saw an eagle at an intersection on the same road a few years ago. He was working on some road kill and flew off as traffic approached, and I'm pretty sure of what I saw, but it's only a qualified entry on my life list.

Of course, while I was basking in the reverie of my eagle encounters while driving down the same road as the pond a day later, I suddenly saw a hawk—and a big hawk at that—lying across the road in front of me. This again is not a rare occurrence, but this hawk was carrying a squirrel in his talons. The predator had the unfortunate by the shoulders or withers or whatever squirrels have, and it was dangling and kicking its feet and did not appear to be enjoying the experience at all, which I assume did not improve with time.

I found this somewhat disturbing, I suppose because of some empathy for the squirrel and its plight, but I do understand that baby hawks have to eat too. It's a jungle out there. I've seen hawks carrying snakes before, but somehow that didn't seem nearly as upsetting, probably because they didn't have any little feet to kick.

What does it all mean? It's just another day in the Ag Reserve, and it took my mind off the upcoming election between Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, among other things. It is certainly something I shouldn't take for granted. It's part of what makes life out here different. We're a bit of a mystery to the downcounty world. Where are you from? I'm from Barnesville. Oh, where is that? It's near Poolesville: Have you heard of Poolesville? Yeah, sure, Poolesville, it's out there somewhere; I think I took my kid to a soccer tournament out there once. I then like to say, It's in the Ag Reserve, just to really mess with them, but I wouldn't get that far these days because Poolesville is the town with the ice rink, and everybody knows about that. I don't have anything to add to the content and sentiments of Susan Petro's front page article and Rande Davis's commentary, but I join them and everyone else in hoping for a happy ending to the story. Happy New Year.

Rande(m) Thoughts

The Hole That Makes Us Whole

By Rande Davis

I have been thinking how ironic it is that just as our late fall and early winter have gifted us with pleasant and balmy temperatures, the hottest issue of the day in our world turns out to be about an ice rink. Have you been following it? It's a *Field of Dreams* right-out-of-Iowa kind of story with its own tantalizing quixotic journey. Quick, call Andrew Lloyd Webber! We have the makings for another of his great musicals.

The rink was Marc Kohn's vision, a way to honor his daughter Melanie, to help fill a huge hole in his heart upon her death, and to provide something the kids in mid-Atlantic Maryland do not get to experience and cherish often: ice skating.

I was a lucky kid growing up in upstate New York. Just seventy-five yards down a short hill from my house was a quaint ice skating pond. Located right in the middle of a residential area, the pond's owner put up a telephone pole with a huge light and speakers, built a deep fire pit, and with neighbors offering hot chocolate,

those cold winter nights were filled with the delightful screaming of kids, skating till their toes and fingers ached with a sting that could only be relieved by putting them palm and heel up as close as you dared to the bonfire. The fun of it all was well worth the fiery sting. While most people think of the Lion King when they hear *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, I will forever recall cold, winter nights of ice skating as that song burst from the loudspeakers, igniting the skaters in a spontaneous sing-along eruption of energy like no other song of the day: Wimoweh, wimoweh, wimoweh, wimoweh! Talk of having a blessed youth! But this isn't 1961, and Montgomery County is not upstate New York (and it sure ain't Iowa!). The specter of a costly lawsuit hangs over us like a black cloud.

On the other hand, without Montgomery County government ordinances, there would be no Ag Reserve. Without government oversight, public safety could be threatened. The line between guardian and oppressor, though, is sometimes unclear.

We may not all agree on what the outcome of the ice rink saga should be, but all of us understand the heartwarming love of skating, bonfires, music, hot chocolate, even stinging fingers, and most assuredly, every one

Continued on page 14.

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Please send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Town Government Report

Well Issues Dominate Town Discussion

By Link Hoewing

The first town commissioners' meeting of 2016 focused heavily on issues related to the presence of radioisotopes in new wells being tested for future use. The January 4 meeting also featured certificates awarded to residents and businesses for the holiday lights that were judged to be stand-outs. Awards were given to the owners of townhouses, traditional single-family homes, contemporary homes, and a business in town.

At the open forum segment of the meeting, attention was focused on a letter the town recently sent to all residents discussing the possible presence of radioisotopes in the water coming from new wells 8 and 13. The new wells were taken off line as a precaution since the town had received notice that they had exceeded levels for alpha emitters, or naturally occurring radioactive elements, set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kathy Mihm, a town consultant who helps the town with its testing and monitoring procedures for its well system, explained that in well-based systems like Poolesville's where the water in aquifers flows over extensive formations of rock, the decay and aging of the rock produces radiation in the form of energy called alpha emitters. These include radioactive elements like uranium, radium, radon, and polonium. Based on research and experience, the Environmental Protection Agency sets limits on the amounts of alpha emitters (and other chemicals and substances) that is considered acceptable in public water systems.

Mihm explained that the calculations and testing done to establish the levels of alpha emitters in town water is

very complex. It is not simply a case of drawing a water sample, testing it for specific alpha emitters such as radium, and then comparing those levels with established EPA alpha emitters. Lots of radioactive elements can be present in water and some—such as uranium—emit radiation that is not considered harmful in naturally-occurring quantities (although uranium itself as a chemical can be poisonous if present in high quantities). Alpha emitters like radium, however, are dangerous, and other forms of radiation like uranium in the water are subtracted from the amounts of radium that is present to establish whether EPA alpha emitter standards are being violated.

Poolesville has been extensively testing the water from wells 8 and 13 and there seemed to be some indications that the levels of alpha emitters from these wells might be in violation of EPA standards; however, Mihm added that testing evidence was confusing since the levels in one test sample seemed to be far different from those in subsequent tests. Eventually, Mihm said she suspected that the testing lab the town had been using had not been conducting the tests in the proper manner and this might be skewing the results. For example, the levels in one sample went from 43 pCi/L (a measure of radioactive particles) to 0 pCi/L in separate tests done on the same water. The town, therefore, decided to send new samples to a lab it identified based in New Jersey that has a strong reputation and much experience in dealing with tests for alpha emitters. It also decided to keep the wells offline until the results of the new tests are analyzed. That has not yet occurred.

In the discussion surrounding the wells, town manager Wade Yost said that some of the sampling issues may have resulted from high turnover in the town staff managing the water system. The town has lost six senior staff

Continued on page 13.

POOLESVILLE RESIDENTS NEW TRASH CONTAINER LAW

As part of an overall effort to reduce the presence of migratory vultures due to food sources contained in household garbage, the Commissioners have adopted legislation that requires household trash to be placed in appropriate containers. The refuse containers shall be strong, durable, and rodent/bird proof.

Within 12 hours after these containers have been emptied, they shall be removed by the owner away from the street line until the next scheduled collection.

The penalty for violation shall be \$50.00 for each initial offense and \$100.00 for each subsequent offense.

The new ordinance can be viewed at www.poolesvillemd.gov.

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Things To Do

January 15 and 16

Dorsey Duals

The PHS wrestling team will host the Dorsey Duals, a tournament envisioned by Coach Kevin Dorsey. Volunteers are sought. Held at PHS from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

January 16

PHS Varsity Sports

Swim and Dive Team versus Wootton. *Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center*. 9:00 a.m.

House of Poolesville Entertainment

Girls on Top Band. 8:00 p.m.

January 19

Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

January 20

Poolesville Area

Senior Center (PASC) Event

Tai chi. 17750 W. Willard Road in gym. 10:30 a.m.

January 21

Cuddle-ups

Delight and stimulate your baby with stories, songs, and activities. Engage with other families and help your baby develop listening and language skills. 0-24 months. *Poolesville Library*. 10:30 a.m.

PASC Event

White Elephant Bingo (participants bring a gift) and free lunch (participants must sign up by calling 301-875-7701). *St. Peter's Church*. 12:30 p.m.

January 22

PHS Varsity Home Game

Basketball versus Seneca Valley. Boys at 5:15 p.m.; girls at 7:15 p.m.

January 23

PHS Varsity Sports

Swim and Dive Team versus Springbrook. *Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center*. 11:15 a.m.

Read to a Dog

School-aged children, especially beginners learning to read and those who want to improve their confidence in reading skills, are invited to practice reading aloud to Triton, a Portuguese water dog, who is also a patient, certified therapy animal. First come, first served. No registration required. *Poolesville Library*. 2:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Match

Wrestling versus Clarksburg. 2:30 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing Lessons

Fundraiser to benefit Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, at the *Hope Garden Children's Ballet Academy*, 19710 E Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. Refreshments

of wine and cheese provided. Gathering time at 7:00 p.m. with lessons beginning at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$60 per couple payable to HGCBT. Casual dancing shoes, no heels.

January 25

Book Discussion Group

Enjoy and discuss *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride. Copies will be available at the circulation desk. *Poolesville Library*. 7:00 p.m.

January 26

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball versus Northwest. 7:15 p.m.

January 27

PASC Event

Tai chi. 17750 W. Willard Road in gym. 10:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold. Same location at 1:00 p.m.

January 28

PASC Event

Matinée Day: Carol Burnett Lost Episodes. 17750 W. Willard Rd. 1:00 p.m.

Poolesville Green Living Network

Solar Co-ops and Community Solar: Free seminar on *How to Use Collective Buying Power to Go Solar*. Held at *Bassett's Restaurant*. 7:00 p.m.

January 29

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball versus Clarksburg. 7:15 p.m.

Continued from page 1.

Peyton Walton Returns to PES and Life as a 5th Grader

technology a reality for Peyton. Ms. Zgoda, Peyton's teacher, was amazing at keeping Peyton present in the classroom," says Lynn.

The Town of Poolesville supported the family by fundraising to cover some of the costs of the equipment and also to provide meals for Peyton's dad, brother Cutler, a ninth grader at PHS, and sisters Mackenzie, a seventh grader at JPMS, and Ainsley, a second grader also at PES with Peyton.

"I feel grateful to my teachers and everyone who helped me," says Peyton.

Everyone benefitted from Peyton's learning experience, explained Ms. Zgoda. "Our students went above and beyond their years making Peyton feel welcome in our community," she said. Peyton and her family had moved to Poolesville only two weeks before they learned of Peyton's diagnosis in July.

"We have lived in a lot of places, all with special attributes, but Poolesville is a very special community," says Lynn.

PAVS is taking a rest while Peyton goes full speed ahead. Peyton is no longer in treatment, according to her mom. She will check in with her medical team at the end of January for her first scan and every three months thereafter.

Lynn is working now to make technology like PAVS an option for other families facing situations similar to Peyton's. She hopes to introduce legislation for consideration by Governor Hogan that will guarantee home-bound students the right to have access to technology to aid in their remote education.

"My hope is that school systems throughout Maryland will invest in this type of technology so it can be ready for immediate use when a student needs it. Once the investment of \$3,000 to \$5,000 is made, this technology is very cost effective to maintain, and it can be used by multiple students with various needs."

If you meet Peyton around town, ask her about her favorite animal (penguins) or anything besides being a celebrity with PAVS. She is thrilled to move forward with her fifth-grade life.

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Tidbits

Barnesville School Supports Dwelling Place

The Barnesville School of Arts & Sciences Student Council helped sort and load gifts to spread joy to children and families in need. Students and families donated gifts for twelve families as part of the school's long-standing support of the Dwelling Place in Gaithersburg. Every year, Barnesville classes "adopt" families and donate items from their holiday wish lists.

The Dwelling Place supports homeless families in Montgomery County in their pursuit of self-sufficiency by



Barnesville School students with packages of gifts for the Dwelling House in Gaithersburg, a transitional residence for the homeless.

providing housing, education, financial and life skills, and career enhancement.

Barnesville's students develop social responsibility and values from involvement in community service programs and through a curriculum where adults model and reinforce those values in school, the broader community, and the world. Barnesville students and faculty participate in both grade-specific and school-wide community service efforts each year.

Bush Selected for Premier Lacrosse Recruiting Combine

Hannah Bush, a sophomore at Poolesville High School, was selected to participate in the Under Armour 150 Girls' Lacrosse Combine that was held January 2 to 3, 2016 at the Spooky Nook Sports Facility located just outside Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The athletes, who came from as far away as Washington, California, Texas, and Florida, were divided into fourteen teams and played six 7-on-7 games over the two days. Hannah's team finished with four wins and two losses in pool play and moved on to the playoffs where they lost in the semifinal, 15-14.

In addition to the tournament play, each player was timed and measured in a 20-yard dash, pro agility 5/10/5, 200-yard shuttle, vertical jump, kneeling med ball throw, and shot speed. For the combined events, Hannah finished in the top ten, ranking ninth overall out of 127 athletes from around the country that participated in the Combine Event.

Hannah has been working with Josh Hosey at Sarge Athletics in Ijamsville for several months, and he joined her at the Under Armour Combine to provide his support and encouragement.

Continued from page 3.

An Interview about Poolesville Water Quality Issues

One point that has been made in town meetings is whether the new wells 8 and 13 are needed since, as town officials have said, they are for "redundancy purposes." Mr. Yost explained that in our well system, the cracks in the water substructure must remain open to allow the free flow of water. If too much demand is put on any one well (such as during drought conditions), it could dramatically lower water levels in that well allowing calcium carbonate to build up and clogging the cracks and pores that sustain the well. This is the same white substance that people often see in their water heaters or on pipe connections and is a feature of hard water. Once these pores and cracks are filled, Mr. Yost noted, the well may become unusable. This is why having a number of redundant wells is vital for a town that relies on well water for its future.

Mr. Brown noted in a closing comment that he feels the town tries to be as open as possible with its citizens and encourages input. The town staff is dedicated and does a good job of responding to citizen needs. He believes the town is being responsible and careful in its current actions and welcomes citizens to contact him, Mr. Yost, or the other commissioners as situations like this one emerge.



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Youth Sports

Falcon Cheerleaders Finish 2nd in County Competition

By Jeff Stuart

On Saturday November 14, 2015, the Poolesville varsity cheerleading squad took second place at the MCPS Division III Cheerleading Competition at Blair High School. The Falcon cheerleaders are: Captain Destiny Fisher, Captain Georgia Micheals, Jordan Allentuck, Stefanie Beltran, Cassie Campbell, Alyssa Dinh, Helen Emmerich, Taylor Falls, Gabrielle Marsh, Anna Morrison, Lillianna Pedersen, Briana Phillips, Nathaly Portillo, Kira Wathen, and Breanna Young.

"Counties are the only competition we enter," said coach Christine Dabbondanza. "There is one or two other competitions offered that other high schools in the county host, but they are usually in the winter. Every year we develop a new routine. After having one full season under my belt, I had a much better idea what the judges were looking for and what kind of difficulty we would need in order to be competitive. The girls worked out over the summer and put in a ton of work to develop their skills.

"Preparing for competition is extremely difficult," continued Dabbondanza. "The girls usually cheer at one to two games per week and then try to practice at least two other days. We also have two pep rallies that we have to prepare for which require different routines as well as Poolesville Day, sign-making for the games, and everything in between. During the month of October, we added in Saturday practices on top of all of that. They spend countless hours.

This is the first year that I have had captains, and I really tried to have them help me with music and get their opinions on the routine.

Choreography is a difficult thing to do and something that takes time to learn. As I continue to build the program, I will get more and more input from the girls, and hopefully soon they are the ones creating a lot of their routines.

"We have not had a big celebration yet," Dabbondanza added. "After competition, we jumped right into basketball season, but we will be having a banquet in the near future. I think the day of, we were all in a little bit of shock. I know I was. At the beginning of the season, we set goals for what we wanted to achieve this season, and what everyone's goal came down to was creating a family within our team and placing at competition. The girls worked every day to achieve just that. Once the girls hit the routine and I saw some of them crying tears of joy in the dance and especially once they got off the floor, they had already won. Regardless of what place the judges gave them, they had won because they had achieved everything they wanted to. They were beyond satisfied and they hit an extremely hard routine which I think surprised many of them. I tried to tell them all season how good they were, how much potential they had, and that they just had to believe in themselves—which is exactly what they did. It is an indescribable feeling knowing that you have hit every element in your routine and it is a feeling I have wanted them to feel for the last three years. I could not be prouder of these girls. I mean they did something Poolesville cheer has not done since 2007 and that is place in the county competition. I cannot wait to see where this program leads!

"Right now the girls will be cheering at every home basketball game and then a few of the wrestling matches," Dabbondanza concluded. "We have added ten new girls to the team for the winter which is huge. We will spend this time working with the new girls and helping perfect their technique and work on gaining new skills for next season."



The 2015-2016 PHS cheerleading team.

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Continued from page 1.

Mel's Rink

become an extremely popular destination for local youth and their parents. The argument centers on whether this rink is any different from a backyard pool or tennis court.

For those who haven't carefully followed the story, here is a brief history of the rink and the county's reaction once they learned of its use:

Local resident, Marc Kohn, dreamed of building his own ice skating rink for many years. He grew up playing hockey on frozen ponds in his hometown near Boston, Massachusetts. Zoning permits and special exceptions weren't needed, just frozen ice and whatever skaters showed up to play.

As an adult, Kohn and his family, including daughter Melanie, spent many an evening ordering pizza and watching professional ice hockey games on television; yet, over the years, Kohn became overweight and unhealthy after spending long days sitting behind a desk in a television production office. Kohn's doctor warned him that he needed to exercise and get back into shape or the consequences could be dire.

Kohn followed the doctor's advice and started to walk—a little bit more every day. One day, after losing some weight, Kohn decided it was time to get back onto the hockey rinks, but when he tried to pull up his hockey pants in a crowded locker room, he couldn't get them on. Embarrassed and frustrated as much younger players looked on, Kohn put the pants down and walked away, but he didn't give up. He ate healthier and kept on walking. Soon, the pants fit, and his doctor was shocked. All those tests predicting a dire future were back to normal. Kohn dreamt of becoming a future senior Olympian.

Tragically, in July of last year, Melanie passed away. As Kohn mourned her loss, he decided the best way to honor her memory was to move forward with his dreams of building a rink and to name it Mel's Rink in her memory. Kohn had been looking for a space to build a rink for some time, and everything seemed to fall in place when the owner of his current home that he leases welcomed Kohn's desire to build a rink on the property. In a move that Kohn described as cathartic, he built the entire rink by himself, putting in more than 400 hours of labor and over \$40,000 of his own money.

One day, Kohn was making his third trip to Poolesville Hardware to pick up supplies for the rink, when

owner John Speelman's curiosity was piqued and he asked Kohn what he was doing. When Kohn told Speelman about the rink and his desire to invite community members over to skate, Speelman opened his computer and introduced Kohn to the Town of Poolesville Facebook page as a place to post information about the rink and to invite the community members. Kohn, a newcomer to the area, had no idea of the overwhelming response his post would garnish.

When Kohn posted a picture of his rink along with an open invitation to come and skate, he envisioned maybe a handful of neighbors and local community members would show up. Instead, Mel's rink became an instant sensation, and dozens of families showed up with children in tow. Experienced skaters and novices who all shared a common love of the sport came to the rink. Even parents were eager to don skates and help with the efforts. Mel's Rink quickly became Poolesville's own Field of Dreams.

Local businesses showed their support by providing free donuts and coffee, other organizations dropped off skates and ice hockey supplies. A rink where the Washington Capitals practiced donated used goals for the rink. Marc relied largely on donations of supplies or recycled goods to build the rink.

Montgomery County's Director of Permitting Services, Dianne Schwartz Jones, first became aware of Kohn's ice skating rink, located in the Agricultural Reserve near the intersection of Partnership and Sugarland Roads, on December 9, 2015 when a citizen brought the matter to her attention. At the time, she was under the impression that the rink was built for personal use, citing Kohn's statement of his desire to train to become a senior Olympian. The rink was inspected, suggestions were made, but no citations were issued. She indicated that she was not aware that Kohn was planning on opening the rink to the public.

On December 30, a member of Montgomery County's Parks & Planning Department sent Jones a link to the Mel's Rink Facebook page. Allegedly, that was then she learned that Kohn was opening his rink for public use. She saw images of what looked like dozens of children skating on the ice. Her first and foremost concern was for health and safety issues like the lighting strung above the rink. Since no electrical permit was obtained, she worried that a child or adult could be electrocuted by improper wiring (Kohn removed the lights immediately after being advised of the concern).

Additionally, Jones was concerned about the capacity of the septic system which was probably approved for a three- or four-bedroom house. If dozens of people were to use the bathroom on a regular basis, the system may be quickly overwhelmed. Additional concerns included increased traffic, parking, and liability if an accident were to occur.

Jones stated that once a property is open to the public, different standards of care are required over the rules applied to a private get-together held by the homeowner. Outdoor recreation and entertainment use regulations apply. Jones said that even local wineries located in the Agricultural Reserve are subject to certain zoning rules and regulations when they open their property to the public. Unless Kohn can get an exception to local Agricultural Reserve zoning ordinances and requirements, Jones said that permitting officials have no choice but to enforce the laws as they currently are written. The County Council would be responsible for granting zoning variance requests.

Jones said she was very sympathetic for the loss of Kohn's daughter and was eager to meet with Kohn, to discuss his specific objectives in regards to use of the rink, and to work with him to find a way to meet those goals. She agreed that the overwhelming citizen response has shown that the community clearly supports having a rink, even if it may need to be moved to a more appropriate and legal location; however, when Kohn met with Jones and about nine other officials, he said he did not get the welcoming response he had hoped for. With Jones sitting directly across from him ("to get a look into his eyes," Kohn said Jones told him), he felt like he was under a personal attack from approximately ten people who showed up for the meeting. Kohn said he was told he was lucky that an immediate "cease and desist" order was not issued, that he was in violation of not having enough bathrooms on site, and in violation of not securing food permits for his recent Hockey Day event that had food donated by attendees.

Going forward, Kohn is not allowed to invite more than five guests a day to his rink and is not allowed to invite wounded soldiers to the rink. Part of Kohn's original goals was to provide a free place for these soldiers to skate. When Melanie had worked as a nurse, she had developed a special affection for the soldiers that came in for care. To provide a place for these soldiers to share in her passion would make Melanie proud, said Kohn.

The dream that came to Kohn years ago as he was fighting to save



Ice rink visionary Marc Kohn.

Photograph by Susan Petro

his own life as an overweight and underactive business executive—a dream further inspired when he needed an outlet to channel his grief and memorialize his beloved daughter who died too young—has been temporarily derailed by government officials citing their obligation to follow the laws.

The story of Mel's Rink is not over. The community has banded together to support a cause just as dear to their hearts as it is to Kohn's. Executive Isaiah Leggett expressed his interest in exploring the possibility of partnering with Kohn to relocate the rink to a more suitable location that would ensure parking, lighting, and the health of the public, in addition to implementing Kohn's vision for the rink's use.

Poolesville Commissioner Jim Brown said the town commissioners and town Parks Board are always looking for opportunities to enhance the residents' recreational experiences. He loves the idea of the town working together with Kohn and county officials to possibly build a synthetic rink within the town limits of Poolesville.

Although Kohn was initially frustrated with the county's response to his backyard rink, he now looks forward to working with county officials to relocate Mel's Rink to a more suitable location. Perhaps a happy ending is possible where everyone wins, especially the residents and children who clearly love Mel's Rink and want to see skating opportunities continue in the community.

An ice-skating rink in the Poolesville area is a dream come true for children and parents alike, especially one offered with so little strings attached: a memory to a beloved daughter and a true labor of love. The nation is watching to see how this story ends.

Youth Sports

A Big Team and Big Expectations

By Jeff Stuart

Not every team bonds, but this year's Poolesville girls' basketball team seems to have a genuine rapport. They enjoy playing with each other. They have confidence that in the end they will be playing deep into the playoffs.

"I think we have a lot of potential," said senior forward Izzy Durkin. "We just have to put it out there, and we are going to get there. A lot of us have grown as players in the off season and that's what gives us a bright future. I am definitely looking forward to the Damascus game and, for me personally, the Northwest game because I played there for two years. As a newcomer, sophomore forward Julia Hobbs has been very aggressive in the post. She could be a big contributor." Durkin scored a season high eleven points against Wootton and nine against Musselman.

"I think we are a very well-balanced team this year," said senior guard Casey Harkins. "We have a good mix of seniors and juniors and

some good underclassmen as well. I think we mesh really well because a lot of our girls have played together outside of school. The Damascus game is big because they are a strong team, and because we are rivals with them in any sport." Harkins scored a season-high fifteen points against Walter Johnson.

"I think the major difference this year is that our two starting sophomores, Erin Green and Kelliann Lee, are doing a really good job together," said senior forward Erin Sparrow. "They have come off playing together this summer. I think they are going to put up big numbers for us. I think we can go pretty far. I think our big thing is teamwork. Anyone can score on this team."

"I expect a lot of wins," said senior forward Karyn Comfort, "because all of the seniors have been playing together for many years even through middle school. I think we are going to mesh really well, so I am excited. We did really well in the off season." Comfort scored a season-high ten points against Blair.

"We are doing a new defense this year that we are all kind of getting used to," said senior guard Allie Nevius. "There are some things we have to work on, but I expect us to do really well this season. We have six seniors



Falcon hoopsters Erin Sparrow, Allie Nevius, Casey Harkins, Izzy Durkin, and Karyn Comfort.

and some young players who are really talented as well."

"Paint Branch was our toughest opponent, but our best game was against Blair," said coach Jamie Jamison. "We did a nice job defending their best scorer, Camille Estrin, and our team defense was very strong. We executed on offense and in transition. Wootton was our best offensive game. I liked the effectiveness of our full court press against Walter Johnson.

"I am very proud of my team and am very happy with their progress so far. I like how the girls are playing

together and gaining personal confidence and confidence in each other. When we take our time and execute, we are something special.

"I am very happy when we crash the boards and are able to get put backs and mix it up on the inside. I like when we are aggressive and taking the ball to the basket. I am really impressed by how my team moves the ball and creates open shots.

"Sophomore center Erin Green has been playing very well. She had

Continued on page 12.



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Focus on Business Poolesville Physical Therapy

By Susan Petro

On November 16, physical therapist, Patricia "Pat" Hess, celebrated her twenty-third year in business as the owner of Poolesville Physical Therapy. She and her former business partner, Gwen Stamper, opened Poolesville Physical Therapy in 1992 in an office located next to the McDonald's in downtown Poolesville. Today, Hess is the sole owner and works with the help of five employees.

Hess is originally from Buffalo, New York. It was there, during her high school years, that she first became inspired to become a physical therapist. Pat's mother was a volunteer and gave tours at a local hospital. When a new wing at the hospital opened, Hess took a tour of the facility which included a new physical and occupational therapy department. Hess volunteered for the department and, after she graduated from high school, decided to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Hess attended the University of Buffalo where she met her future husband, Larry, who was pursuing his doctorate degree. He was a teaching assistant for one of Pat's classes. After graduation, the couple got married and moved to Maryland where Larry had a job offer. The Hesses originally rented an apartment in Montgomery Village where they befriended another newlywed couple, Gene and Julie Kingsbury of nearby Kingsbury's Orchard. It was the Kingsburys who introduced Pat to the Poolesville area.

Hess worked as a physical therapist at Shady Grove Hospital, where she got to know many area doctors who treat many of her current patients. After having children, Hess joined Stamper's private practice in order to work part time. Stamper and Hess decided to open a practice in Poolesville with Hess working as the therapist and Stamper providing a supportive role as a financial backer and helping to get insurance contracts set up. Since Stamper already had her own practice, she was familiar with the ins and outs of the business.

Soon after opening Poolesville Physical Therapy, the Hess family moved to Poolesville. Pat loves the close-knit family atmosphere that envelops the Poolesville community. Hess finds that the most rewarding aspect of living and working in Poolesville is the support she has received. "I am very grateful for how busy I am and the support I receive



*Poolesville Physical
Therapy's Pat Hess.*

from the community," said Hess. Often, Hess treats multiple members of the same family when patients' spouses or children also come in for treatment.

Over the years, Hess has developed close relationships with many area families, especially some of her long-time patients whom she has treated from childhood into their adult years. Every November, Hess and her staff celebrate the birthday of one patient she has treated for many years in a combination birthday, anniversary, and Thanksgiving party.

Hess currently devotes about sixty hours per week working with her patients. Her biggest challenge now is trying to juggle family time and her work schedule. Occasionally, when both new and returning clients are seeking treatment at the same time, it might take two to three weeks to get scheduled. Now that Poolesville is adding more and more new neighborhoods, Hess is considering the idea of bringing in a part-time therapist if the demand continues to increase.

Today, all three of the Hess children, Jessica, Daniel, and Alex, are grown up. The youngest, Alex, recently began studying at Hess's alma mater, the University of Buffalo. The Hesses have two grandchildren, Lyam and Jace.

When Hess isn't treating patients or spending time with her family, she enjoys tending to her flower and vegetable gardens. "I get up an hour early every morning just to get out and water," said Hess who adds that she finds the cool and quiet early morning hours calming and settling. "That's my therapy," said Hess.

Poolesville Physical Therapy is open five days a week. They are open all day and in the evenings on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and offer daytime hours on Friday and Saturday. The office is closed on Wednesday and Sunday. Most insurances are accepted. Hess and her support staff work carefully with each patient to make sure they meet their treatment goals and get back to their maximum potential.

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 16600 block of White's Ferry Road.

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Theft from vehicle: 17500 block of W. Willard Road.

Past Crime

January 15, 1908 The driver and handyman for former Congressman John McDonald was arrested and charged with stealing the proceeds of a delivery he had made to a market in Washington. George Washington Cooper confessed to stealing the sixty dollars.

January 19, 1907 Just before Christmas, sixteen-year-old Prescott Abe received by express mail a package of poisoned dates. States Attorney Peter began an immediate investigation and promised a solution within days. Peter then came down with the grippe and was bedridden through the Christmas holiday and nothing was done on the case. The Abe family then hired Detective McDevitt who determined that the shipment had come from New York City and that the handwriting on the box matched that of some strange correspondence that Abe had received a few weeks before. McDevitt then announced that he would set out for New York and bring the culprit back to Rockville. A week later when the Abe family had heard nothing, they inquired of McDevitt's son and learned that he had never gone to New York because he also had come down with the grippe and was bedridden. As of January 26, both the states attorney and the detective were still ill and nothing had been done on the case. Several prominent citizens of Rockville volunteered to enter the case.

January 19, 1909 The murder trial of Nicholos Offutt came to an abrupt end when his attorneys announced that Offutt was prepared to plead guilty to second degree murder. The case arose out of an event on Halloween night when Offutt's female cousin had gone to the store of Frank Kretzemer at Rockville. In a playful gesture, Kretzemer pulled up her mask to reveal who she was. The girl then went home and told Offutt what had happened. Offutt went to the store with his gun and shot Kretzemer and killed him. Judge Henderson expressed regret when he pronounced a sentence of fifteen years. The judge said that he knew the Offutt family but had no choice but to send him to prison. The judge also lamented the use of alcohol among young people and intimated that alcohol was the cause of this death.

January 21, 1910 In the Circuit Court at Rockville, Judge Henderson sentenced Herbert Thomas, a young man from Sandy Spring, to life in the penitentiary for the murder of his wife. Judge Henderson announced that he was exercising clemency allowed under the law since Thomas had a fine reputation in the community and since there was the possibility "that troubles had affected his mind." As a result, young Thomas escaped the gallows.

January 26, 1905 William Voigt, a longtime motorman on the Washington to Rockville line, was feared fatally injured when he accidentally fell off of his trolley car and was dragged quite some distance. Officials determined that Voigt had stopped his car in front of General Whiteside's place in Bethesda to sweep the snow off of the steps. He then slipped, and the car gained motion, dragging the unfortunate man some distance. A returning car took him to the hospital at Georgetown where he was treated for serious injuries.

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

Continued from page 10.

A Big Team and Big Expectations

twenty-one points against both Wootton and James Wood. She has consistently scored in double figures for us every game.

"Casey Harkins has also been playing well for us. She has shown a lot of growth and has been a great leader for our team this year. Senior forward Kristen Darragh has also been a vocal leader for us. She is a very strong-willed player. Sophomore guard Kelliann Lee is showing more confidence in her abilities. Guard Madeline Thompson and forward Julia Hobbs are tenth graders; both have shown a lot of improvement and passion in their game."

What would the coach like to see her team work on?

"I would like to see our rebounding improve on both the offensive and defensive end, and also our scoring in transition and running the floor. I would like us to become much better at controlling the tempo of the game and also with our execution and reading the defense. I would like us to do a bit better job of not forcing things, and taking that extra split second to read the defense and take what the defense gives us."

The Falcons started the season with a 52-31 win at Springbrook. Green led the team with eleven points. Lee chipped in six. Poolesville held the Blue Devils to just four points in the first period while scoring fifteen of their own. They held a 27-9 lead at halftime. Three comfortable home wins followed over Walter Johnson, Wootton, and Blair. Green, Sparrow, and Comfort all scored in double figures in a 65-39 win against Blair. Poolesville outscored the Blazers, 26-2, in the first period. "The height of Poolesville made running our offensive sets difficult," said Blair coach Carlos Smith.

In a 53-37 loss at Paint Branch on December 21, the Falcons led, 12-11, after one period, but the Panthers pulled away late with a twenty-one-point fourth period. Paint Branch made it to the 4A state final last season.

At the Boonsboro Holiday Tournament on December 29 and 30, the Falcons lost to James Wood, 62-50, and dominated Musselman, 61-27. Lee had sixteen points. On January 5, the Falcons beat visiting Blake, 55-23.

Other remaining home games are versus Seneca Valley on January 22, Clarksburg on January 29, Watkins Mill on February 3, and Quince Orchard on February 9.

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Continued from page 5.

Well Issues Dominate Town Discussion

operating the well system in just the past eight years, and this may have led to some of the problems with the quality of the tests.

The relatively-large audience at the open forum asked many questions and expressed some concerns. Barbara Brookmeyer, a town resident as well as a public health official in Frederick County, said she had been doing research on the town's water system related to alpha emitters. She said she had been drinking town water but now had been questioning that decision since the town letter came out and the test results were published.

Some residents asked about the taste of the water and whether

that was related to its quality. Yost explained that the water is very hard and contains lots of calcium which does affect its taste, but the quality of the water is high and the town has perhaps the most tested and measured water system in the entire state of Maryland.

Residents also asked what was being done about the staff turnover situation. Yost replied that staff salaries had been raised after a review, and a deputy was appointed to aid the senior staffer for the water system to ease the workload.

While many concerns were expressed about the wells and possible radiation problems, residents also said they were impressed with the level of candor and openness the town had exhibited in sending out the letter, despite evidence that the test results may have been inaccurate.

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Continued from page 4.

The Hole That Makes Us Whole

of us understands the hole in Marc's heart—yet sometimes I think the government misdiagnoses the solution as a need to fill the hole, rather than to let it be. Sometimes, it's better to simply get out of the way. Sometimes, it's understanding that the hole really isn't the problem. In fact, it's the opposite. It's remembering that sometimes it's the hole that makes us whole.

Many years ago, when I was the national marketing director for a publishing division of Time Warner, the publisher of *The Old Farmer's Almanac* came to our NYC offices to promote the magazine, as if the oldest continual publication in North America (since 1792) really needed promotion. After his talk, inquiring minds wanted to know, "How is it that this publication had remained so robust for a couple of hundred years, with a circulation (even today) of greater than four million? For him, the answer was clear, and could be discovered by looking at the cover. He pointed out that the mission statement, emblazoned at the top of the cover, made a fundamental promise to the reader. It proclaimed: "Useful, with a pleasant degree of humor." The other clue to its success, he told us, was an innocuous hole in the left top corner of the magazine. Why the hole? It is tradition. It was there originally so the almanac could be placed on a nail pounded into an outhouse wall. Today, it is a perpetual emblematic reminder of the magazine's origin, a touchstone to its roots. While the hole costs over \$60,000 to create and has long since lost its purpose, it remains because it is tradition, and tradition is what keeps the publication whole. For the *Old Farmer's Almanac* publishers, filling that hole would depart from tradition and result in losing it all.

The moral to government officials? Don't worry so much about the hole, worry more about what keeps us whole as a community—and if young folks ice skating in the winter isn't one of those things, I don't know what is. Find a way.



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School News

Random Acts of Kindness Challenge

By Anne Hundertmark

"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

– Rachel Scott

From January 11 to 22, the HERO Club at Poolesville High School is sponsoring a Kindness Challenge: PHS students are encouraged to perform random acts of kindness in the school community and share them with the school community. "I think the Poolesville community is definitely going to step up to the plate and spread the word about the challenge," Angeline King, a senior in the Science, Math, and Computer Science Magnet at PHS, reported.

King is a member of PHS's media station, Falcon Media. She has worked closely with the HERO Club, which is sponsoring the challenge, to get the word out to the PHS and Poolesville communities. The HERO Club's mission is to "to develop mentors, role models, and advocates for others."

The challenge is meant to inspire and motivate students to perform

random acts of kindness for each other. Whether it be something small, like holding the door open for someone, or something big, like buying someone lunch, any random act of kindness will do someone some good. To share these acts with the students, Falcon Media presents a segment of the morning announcements about students who have performed random acts of kindness.

PHS isn't the only school that is participating in the Kindness Challenge. All four schools in the community are participating. It was the HERO Club's idea to take the PHS Kindness Challenge onto social media. Students are encouraged to take pictures of their random acts of kindness and to post them on Twitter with the hashtag: #PHSkindnesschallenge.

According to those involved in the planning, the challenge comes at a very good time of the year. The first semester is nearing its end and students are stressed regarding final grades and upcoming exams. The seniors are also busy with final college and scholarship applications. The Kindness Challenge is anticipated to help reduce this stress by creating a happier and kinder environment.

"We were hoping to create a little bit of motivation for everyone to be kind to each other and to start a chain reaction." King continued, "We believe that small acts of kindness will lead to even more acts of kindness, and we want this challenge to really get the ball rolling."



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Musings from Mama Boe

Bacon-Wrapped Pretzels

By Pamela Boe

We were playing cards during the holidays, my family and I, and wanted to munch while we played. Not content with chips and salsa, I decided to whip up a little something to make it more festive... it WAS the holidays, after all.

I took strips of bacon and wrapped them around pretzel rods, placed them on a rack, baked them at 350 until they were crispy, and served those puppies with a bowl of Hickory BBQ sauce.

It was outrageously delicious. It was tangy. It was salty. It was smoky. You know, all the same adjectives My Captain would use to describe his wife. We snarfed them down.

But in the process of said snarfing, the cards got a little STICKY. They got greasy. They got a wee bit smelly. It didn't stop us, of course; and given the chance, we'd do it all over again.

Why? Wouldn't it be easy enough to eat something simpler, cleaner, or just plain healthier during a game of cards? Couldn't we just WAIT for the game to be over before getting down and dirty with the bacon and BBQ??

Well of course we could have, but that is not the point of life to us. Our lives are not clean, orderly, wait-until-you're-ready phenomenon. I submit that Life, if lived full-throttle, is all about getting sticky and dirty and smelly while laughing and loving and playing! You need that to offset the sad and hard parts of it, you see. I guess you *could* choose a neat and orderly and calm sort of existence, but when you're creating an epic tale of a life, you just can't avoid the mess.

And sometimes, that means getting bacon grease and barbeque sauce on the playing cards.

And don't forget to lick your fingers.

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Remembrances

Aletha Burress

Aletha "Lucy" Burress, 93, of Poolesville died on January 7 at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville. She was the wife of the late Robert H. Burress. Born on June 19, 1922 in Bluefield, West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late James Benjamin and Mary Alice (Looney) Carter. Surviving are her children, Robert Burress, Jr., Jeanne Casamento and husband Frank, Michael Burress; one sister, Fran Hugueley; five grandchildren, Lara Fisher and husband David, Jami Casamento and wife Heather, Dana Casamento, Allison Burress, and Kimberly Burress; and five great grandchildren, Nic, Colin, and Justin Fisher, and Peyton and Bria Casamento.



Aletha Burress

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Memorial United Methodist Church.

Marguerite Anne Campbell "Peg" Showers

Peg Showers, 85, formerly of Poolesville, died peacefully in her home in Rockville on January 8, 2016.

Peg, the wife of the late Frank B. Showers, was born on February 19, 1930, in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of the late John and Marguerite Campbell.

Peg was retired from the Federal Government. She was a leader in several organizations including Women's Club of Upper Montgomery County, St. Mary's Church Choir and Sodality, a member of Falls Road Early Birdies, Mary of Nazareth Catholic School Board, Our Lady of the Presentation Choir, Beta Sigma Phi, local Board of Elections, and several bridge groups. She was an active volunteer in many civic and school organizations throughout her life.



Peg Showers

Surviving are her children, Mike (Wendy) Showers, David (Michelle) Showers, Lou Ann Showers, Maggie (Dave) Newcomer, Kellie (Larry) Gallahan; grandchildren, Michael, Kadie (Aaron), Heather (Sean), Jamie (Joyce), Brandon, Erin (Don), Melanie (Kevin), Patrick, Kailee, Tessa, LJ; great-grandchildren, AJ, Kyra, Ava, Harlee, Emmie, and Grace; sister-in-law, Rose Campbell; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Peg was preceded in death by her brother, Jack Campbell, and sister-in-law, Ann Chambers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Crohns & Colitis Foundation, ccfa.org.

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