

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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A gourmet treat of local foods and drink? If you're thinking something clean, you're way off base. Interest piqued? See Tidbits on page 4 for details.



Backyard birding in the Ag Reserve. Read more on page 7.



MCP honors this officer every year. Find out who and why in Local History on page 8.



Family fun during the PES summer carnival. Many photos on page 14.

House Fire on Sugarland Road

By Rande Davis

Just after noon on June 11, while many members of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department were helping with the 3rd annual Chief Earl Moore memorial golf tournament, units from UMCVFD and surrounding areas were alerted to a reported house on fire at 15121 Sugarland Road outside of Poolesville. Multiple units from UMCVFD responded to the call. As the units were on the way to the fire, fire department dispatchers advised that there were reports of a victim burned, who was transported to Washington Hospital Center. The rapid intervention dispatch and the water supply task force were then requested in anticipation of needed additional resources in this area of the Ag Reserve.

Soon after this call, an off-duty Frederick County fire chief, who was
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House fire on June 11 on Sugarland Road, Dickerson.

Robbie Metz Drafted by the Colorado Rockies

By Jeff Stuart

On Wednesday, June 6, the final day of the 2018 Major League Draft held at the league's network headquarters in Secaucus, New Jersey, Poolesville's Robbie Metz was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the twenty-fifth round. He boarded a plane for Boise, Idaho on June 10 and will play with the Boise Hawks, a short-season A-league affiliate of the Rockies.

In Robbie's senior year, the PHS baseball team was the first baseball team in Poolesville history to win the region and went on to play in the Maryland State semi-finals. In April of that year, the Falcons were ranked number one in the entire Metropolitan area by the *Washington Post*. They were the first and only PHS team in any sport to have that distinction.

"Robbie has the best work ethic on and off the field of any player that I have ever coached," said Poolesville coach Steve Orsini. "Another great

quality about Robbie is that family is very important to him."

Metz went on to play baseball at George Washington University and was a starter for four years and broke the all-time at-bat record. For the past two summers, he played in the Cape Cod League, the most prestigious summer league in college baseball, which helped him gain recognition from pro teams. During those summers, as well as during his college seasons, he had many pro scouts evaluate him and talk with him. After he graduated from George Washington University, he was invited to attend a Chicago Cubs workout at Wrigley Field.

He was the first recruit to visit GW Coach Gregg Ritchie's office upon his hiring in 2012. He played every day after joining the Colonials.

"He is a true ballplayer," said Ritchie. "When you put him between those

Continued on page 24.



Former PHS student, Robbie Metz, signed a contract to play with the Colorado Rockies.

Family Album



Brady Pearre and Ryan Haddaway were selected to play in the 37th Annual 2018 Brooks Robinson All State All Star Baseball game at Orioles Park at Camden Yards on Sunday June 17.



Prior to tee off at the 3rd annual Earl Moore golf tournament, participants all putted in the putting contest.



Golf tournament volunteers Cliff Williams, Lynne Bodmer, and Teresa Meems.



The winning team (18 under par!!) of the UMCVFD golf outing. Fire Chief Mike White, golfer Brian Bupp, and Jim Burton, tournament chairman Ross Meems, golfers Chris Lee and Jim Martin.



As part of the scouting recruitment day at Whalen Commons, these cub scouts came to share their joy for scouting.



The scouting program offers Adventure Scouting, a coed group for high school aged youth.

Town Government

Agriculture Curriculum Could Boost New High School and Multi-Use Facility in Poolesville

By Link Hoewing

Appearing at the June 18 meeting of the Town of Poolesville commissioners, David Miller, a Director with the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation who promotes agricultural programs and curricula for high schools and colleges, made a strong case that instituting an agricultural science curriculum at Poolesville High School could both boost science learning and the effort to secure a commitment from the county for a new high school/multi-use facility in Poolesville.

Miller, appearing with Cahlen Cheatham, the national Vice President of the Future Farmers of America, said that the study of agriculture is not just about learning how to plant or how to raise animals. Modern agriculture is based on science and research and includes extensive work in areas like botany, genetics, and mechanical engineering and design. Despite this, MCPS doesn't have any comprehensive agricultural science programs in any of its high schools. Damascus is the only high school that still has a chapter of the Future Farmers of America. He called Montgomery County an "Ag Desert" when it comes to educational programming.

FFA leader Cahlen Cheatham said that this is especially ironic considering the fact that FFA chapters are not "just in rural areas." In fact, the largest FFA chapters are in major cities in the U. S. such as Philadelphia. Cheatham added that he himself was not raised on a farm, and his parents are not involved with agriculture in any way. He was drawn to agriculture because of its importance to society and its heavy focus on science and engineering. Because Montgomery County does not have programming in its high schools focused on agricultural science, Cheatham had to go to school in Frederick County to pursue his interest in agriculture.

Miller said that instituting an agricultural science curriculum in Montgomery County, and particularly in Poolesville High School, "is not a budget issue." A curricula and training program called the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education or CASE has been designed that can be implemented in high schools. It would not compete with existing science programs or magnets, such as the Global Ecology Studies Program, and, in fact, would complement and enhance GESP and other science studies. He has been promoting this program nationally with great success, but he can only act as a resource and support for such programs. In order to successfully implement these programs, the push must come from the local schools and communities.

In discussing Miller's presentation, it was pointed out that an effort is being mounted to push for a new high school by looking at the needs of Poolesville in a new way. The idea of a multi-use facility, or MUF, is being promoted as a way to both widen support for needed county programs in Poolesville and to ensure that a new high school, to replace the decades-old existing facility, is built. Miller has taken officials on tours of the high school and has shown them the old and unused barn and greenhouse facilities. He said that the institution of an agricultural curriculum would be a good fit with a modern MUF facility because it could integrate attached structures or rooms that focused on science, including agricultural-related sciences.

Miller volunteered to work with the commissioners in any way he could. He has met with the principal of PHS, Deena Levine, to discuss the idea of instituting agricultural science programs at the high school and would be happy to meet with her or other officials to promote the concept. He also knows County Superintendent Jack Smith well and noted that Smith came from a rural, farming community in Washington State and knows the importance of agriculture.

Earlier in the evening, Rose Krasnow, a candidate for county executive, appeared before the commissioners to explain why she is running for office. She has lived in Montgomery County for thirty-eight years and had been an office holder, including mayor of Rockville, for a number of years. She instituted major programs in Rockville, including the revitalization of the old "downtown" area of the city, during her tenure. She believes that Montgomery County is not doing enough, including removing barriers to new businesses, to promote growth, and she criticized the continuing high levels of spending in the county and the five property tax increases the county instituted in the last fifteen years. She "knows numbers," was involved in the investment industry for some years, and has the skills to better manage and streamline the county's finances.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Living on a Hope And a Prayer

By Rande Davis

Our front-page stories reflect the wide-ranging challenges of living for all us, our daily ups and downs. While one family endures the tragedy of a house fire that gutted their beloved home, another rejoices in their son's lifelong dream coming true of becoming a professional baseball player. We can only pray for the first family that their tribulation is softened by a resilient recovery; and we hope for a wonderful career in major league baseball for the other. For the most part, that's all we really have in life: a hope and a prayer, and in the final analysis, that's probably all we need. A little bit of confidence, wouldn't hurt, either. As to the lessons from our front-page stories, joy and pain only have two things in common. Both are experienced by everyone, and for better or worse, neither is permanent. We pray for hope as hope can get us through the pain, and hope can also reward us with joy—but from where do we get hope?

For far too many, lack of hope reaches a point of total despair. Recently, national headlines have been filled with the news of individuals so overwhelmed by a personal sense of hopelessness that suicide, inexplicably, became their chosen recourse. I say inexplicably since many seemed to be people with substantial talent and great success, who, nevertheless, had a spirit so crushed and fallen that despair clouded their existence to the point that they gave up entirely. Somehow, hope for them became unreal,

not reachable. Somehow, they lost all confidence in themselves to overcome. Without confidence, hope becomes elusive. If hope emanates from confidence, then from where do we get confidence? How do we even define it?

I recently read a poem that defines confidence in way that explains it in such a way that proves confidence is attainable to all and, if confidence is available for all, then all may have hope. My hope, then, is that this poem, written by my granddaughter, Alexandra, upon her graduation from high school, opens you up to a whole new understanding of the word, and that with it, you gain a new sense of hope.

Confidence

By Alexandra Davis

*Confidence in't the volume of voice
Or the elaborate gesture of hand
Nor the makeup on one's skin.
It isn't the clothes you wear
Or the way you fix your hair
Nor the statements you say.
Confidence isn't the arrogance
Of flamboyant words
Or how expressive you can be.
Confidence is being yourself
Being true despite the labels
Restricting and keeping
You in a cage barred by insecurity.
Confidence is smiling to those who
hate you,
who want your reputation tarnished.
Confidence is authenticity.
Being proud of your uniqueness
Even if they don't accept the differences,
Even if they want you a certain way.
Confidence is comfortable;
Flows off the tongue
So simple and full of wit.
Like the candle in the window;
how its flame sways,
How it moves back to where it was despite
the movement of breath
or the coldness outside the glass.*

Tidbits

Dirty Dinner?

Dirty Dinners at the Calleva Farm are becoming a great tradition in the Ag Reserve. These special dinners are a series of unique evenings in the countryside, featuring local ingredients, local wines, and live music on Calleva's beautiful farm in Dickerson. The Dirty Dinner series reflects Calleva's mission and values by introducing people to the beauty of the great outdoors in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. Dinner ingredients are mostly grown at Calleva Farm, with additional produce from other area producers, and wines from local vineyards.

A typical Dirty Dinner evening at Calleva Farm begins with a social hour, hay rides, and garden tours from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., which is followed by dinner, music, and dancing from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m.

The goal of the dinners is to showcase Calleva Farm and its produce and to help foodies connect with local growers as well as Calleva's Growing Green farming and education programs. The dinners have been widely applauded as being selected "Best of" in *Bethesda Magazine* and *Things to Do for Washingtonian*. On deck is the June 30 event with two more scheduled in this summer, July 28 and August 25. For details, visit Calleva.org.

PES Summer Carnival

Poolesville Elementary School observed an honored tradition, in conjunction with the Town of Poolesville, by putting on its end-of-the-school-year Summer Carnival on Friday, June 15. The day brought great weather, blue skies, lots of fun inflatables and games from We're Having a Party, DJ Val playing music, an obstacle course from TK Sports, Principal Doug Robbins and other beloved PES staff in the dunk tank, many food trucks, and Preston King's water sprinkler for kids to run through! The event, organized by PTA president Kerri Cook and Town of Poolesville staff Cathy Bupp, sold a record six hundred wristbands for the annual fundraiser. School's officially out for summer!

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Local News

Irish Spring Meets Scottish Rites: The 18th Annual Mid-Atlantic Celtic Festival

By Andie Devynck

Who didn't either spend last Saturday outside or wished they could? What a glorious day it was, and a blessing for all Celtic festivalgoers, from the bagpipers to the guests of honor to the dancers, the animals large and small, and the paying public. With a perfect blue sky, bright sun, light breeze, and comfortable temperatures even at midday, the tartan kilts and clan banners rippled among rows of vendor tents and on the playing fields. Wherever there was music—and there was music everywhere—food was right next door or around the corner, and the beer and scotch flowed from nine in the morning to six in the evening. Even the bairns (kids) and Cairns (Scottish terriers) had their own corners of Gaelic fun and entertainment.



The parade of pipers at the 18th Annual Mid-Atlantic Celtic Festival.

The Saint Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland (SASMM) hosted the event at the Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company Activity Grounds, a sprawling expanse with field parking in the front, paved walkways with open-air pavilions at the top of the hill, becoming rolling green-grass hills and playing fields below where vendors sold all things Irish and Scottish and large men in kilts threw heavy objects for fun. As if that wasn't enough, all were welcome at the British Car Show next to the entrance to the festival proper.

Much of the music, dancing, and athletics of the morning were mirrored in the afternoon hours, but there were some definite standalones and stand-outs. In Woof-Woof Glen, visitors could get up close and personal with various Celtic dog breeds, but the action was where the border collies showed off their agility and obedience, and the terriers raced for the crowds. On the main playing field, male and female pros, amateurs, and very special guests—all in kilts—competed in the Highland games of strength, accuracy, and sheer will. They tossed hay bags with pitchforks over bars thirty feet in the air, threw twenty-plus-pound stones twenty feet and further, and best of all, tossed twenty-one-foot, 150-pound logs (cabers), hoping for an end-over-end win.

However, nothing topped the highlight of the day at high noon when all gathered on the hillside overlooking the playing grounds to watch the bagpipers' brigades convene and parade in unison to their designated places facing the crowd. Their resounding rendition of the traditional "Scotland the Brave" (Alba an Aigh) brought forth both cheers and chills from the onlookers. Lastly, the clans arrived—twenty-eight in all—and marched beneath or behind their banners, sometimes represented by only one member and others with children in tow. The festival honors one clan in particular each year, and this year's honored clan was the Ancient Order of the Hibernians (the Roman name for Ireland).

After the bagpipes and the clans came the honoring of special guests. The 2017 Distinguished Service Award winner, Barbara Collins, gave a handsome Scottish drinking glass to the guest of honor, Mr. Turhan E. Robinson, Esq., Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Maryland. The mayor of Mt. Airy, Patrick

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School News

PHS History Day State Winners!

By Rande Davis

Congratulations to the Humanities teachers who have led students to surpass last year's success in the state National History Day competition! Teacher Daniel McKenna reports that they sent twelve students to the national event; PHS is sending seven of the eighteen entries from the state of Maryland. National History Day projects require students to research deeply and discerningly into a topic of their choice (this year's theme was Conflict & Compromise), then create an argument-based academic presentation. Ms. Stephanie Gomer, Advanced Placement English teacher, advised and mentored the students' projects.

The twelve students (and their categories) who competed at the national finals of National History Day at College Park were:

Group Website: Julia Corfman and Angela Wang

Group Performance: Samantha Stewart, Calley Mullins, Anusha Chintalapale, and Holly Anderson

Group Exhibit: Gwen Boe and Bryce Davis

Individual Paper: Matthew Palatnik

Individual Performance: Isabel Huntley

Individual Website: Leeah Derenoncourt

Individual Exhibit: Macy Palmer

Senior Group Website from PHS by Angela Wang and Julia Corfman won the Immigration History Award. The title of the submission was "Quotas and Quibbles: A Series of Restrictive Immigration Acts of the Early 20th Century." Their project was sponsored by the Lombardo family. Holly, Callie, Anusha, and Samantha won the Maryland Delegation top award.



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Gwen Boe, Isabel Huntley, Matthew Palatnik, Dan McKenna, Angela Wang, and Bryce Davis.

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Backyard Birding

Backyard Birding in Poolesville and the Agricultural Reserve

By Susan Petro

As a child growing up, I have distinct memories of what I thought a birder would resemble: a bespectacled older gentleman wearing a rounded hat, binoculars around his neck, a notepad and pencils in a pocketed khaki shirt with shorts to match. There were no women birders in my imagination. Most certainly, young people did not fit my criteria of what a birder would look like.

Yet, years later, as I walk nearby trails and visit local birding hotspots, I notice fellow birders from all different age groups: from the older, bespectacled men of my youthful imagination, to young, high school students, and, yes, even plenty of women in the mix. Some have the telltale binoculars, long-range camera lenses, or simply a notepad and pen, others just arrive with a set of eyes and a desire to find new or varied birds. To find a “lifer,” a birder’s equivalent to a jackpot win, is when one finds a new species that he or she has never seen or heard before.

I grew up in a typical suburban Montgomery County neighborhood where I could probably name fewer than a dozen species of birds: robins, cardinals, blue jays, mockingbirds, and a few others here and there. Yet, the latest information on Ebird.org, a popular birding website, lists 325 species of bird sightings in Montgomery County alone. Some of the top birding “hotspots” are right in our own backyard. Riley’s Lock with 221 species and McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area with 247 species sightings are two of the top spots, and both are located less than ten miles from Poolesville off of River Road.

Birding doesn’t require a huge investment of time or money to enjoy, just a set of watchful eyes and a place to look and listen, whether it be at one’s backyard (or in my case, front yard) birdfeeder, a nearby pond, field, or woods. Better yet, take a short drive to our local parks that line the C&O Canal and Potomac River to see a wide variety of birds and waterfowl, especially during the spring and fall when large numbers of migrating birds are passing through.

Even bald eagles, which were on the brink of extinction in my youth, are visible along the Potomac River and sometimes even flying overhead



Just one of many exotic birds of prey in our area.

in and around the Poolesville area. With a little luck and an “eagle” eye, one can spot this majestic bird in our backyards

My personal journey into birdwatching was slow and gradual. Shortly after my husband and I moved to a suburban Poolesville home many decades ago, a tall, slender blue/gray bird topping over four feet tall and resembling a creature straight out of Jurassic Park landed in our front yard. My first thought was: Whom do I call? This creature must have escaped from some nearby zoo—but which one?

It wasn’t until a few years later during a walk to a nearby pond that I realized that this creature, a great blue heron, was actually native to our area and can often be found fishing in our local ponds. Today, I’ve seen dozens of these and other herons, yet I never tire of seeing what looks like a prehistoric creature with an over-six-foot wingspan flying overhead or stealthily walking along a shoreline.

Most of my early birdwatching consisted of identifying the various types of birds that showed up at my front yard birdfeeders. I learned that most birds ignored the cheap bags of bird seed that contained mostly millet seed, but a large variety of birds, including cardinals, house and goldfinches liked black-oil sunflower seeds. Blue jays, woodpeckers, and tufted titmice loved peanuts. Cute little Carolina wrens, song sparrows, and catbirds loved dried mealworms. Soon, my birdseed budget began to rival my own grocery list, but the rewards of seeing an ever-growing variety of bird visitors made the expenses worthwhile. I even began to grow flowers and plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

When did I know I was officially a “birder”?

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Local History

The Death of Officer Webb Hersperger

By Jack Toomey

Montgomery County Police Officer Webb Hersperger lived on the Dr. Elijah White farm in Poolesville. At about 7:00 a.m. on the morning of June 18, 1933, he left the farm and headed for work. As he drove his police motorcycle down the Rockville-Darnestown Road he looked forward to a day of policing the still-rural area from Bethesda to Rockville. He might investigate a chicken theft or two or keep a lookout for drivers from Washington exceeding the speed limit, but the day promised to be a slow one since it was Sunday. As was his habit, he planned to stop at the courthouse at Rockville and see the magistrate to pick up any subpoenas or warrants that might have been issued overnight before heading down the Rockville Pike to the Bethesda substation. His only means of communication with headquarters was a system of lights mounted on telephone poles placed around the county. Whenever an officer was needed, a light was lit on one of the poles, and the officer would then find a telephone and call headquarters to see where he was needed.



Present-day site of fateful accident that killed Officer Webb Hersperger, one of the first officers of the newly-created Montgomery County Police.

Hersperger was born in 1902 on the family farm on River Road. He was the son of Elmer and Anna Poole Sellman Hersperger. He attended the Poolesville schools and graduated from Poolesville High School about 1920. He was an accomplished baseball player and may have played for the Poolesville town team. After high school, he worked at a variety of jobs before taking a job with the Peoples Life Insurance Company. Webb developed a knack for talking to people and putting them at ease. His travels around the county put him in touch with his clients, and someone suggested that his easygoing demeanor and intelligence might make him a good candidate for the new Montgomery County Police Department which had been formed in 1922. He also had designs on politics and thought that by becoming a police officer that he would meet many people who would later support his candidacy for county commissioner. Webb married Virginia Gartrell in 1925, and they moved into a house on the Dr. White property.

Webb joined the police department around 1930. He immediately became a respected and aggressive police officer. Some of his exploits included investigating a huge illegal liquor still in a wooded area near Rockville in 1932 and arresting five people. In January of 1933, Webb was on patrol when he noticed a forest fire burning on Grosvenor Lane. He called the fire department from a neighbor's phone, alerted the occupants of three rural homes, and then assisted the fire department in putting out the fire. In April 1933, he spotted a car in Bethesda that had been used by robbers from Washington, D.C. He gave chase, and the car sped towards the District. After a spectacular chase and crash, he captured the robbers, and they were later convicted of several robberies both in Montgomery County and Washington. Perhaps his most memorable case involved the capture

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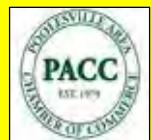
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School News

Global Seniors Wrap Up Four-Year Program With Environmental Project Presentations

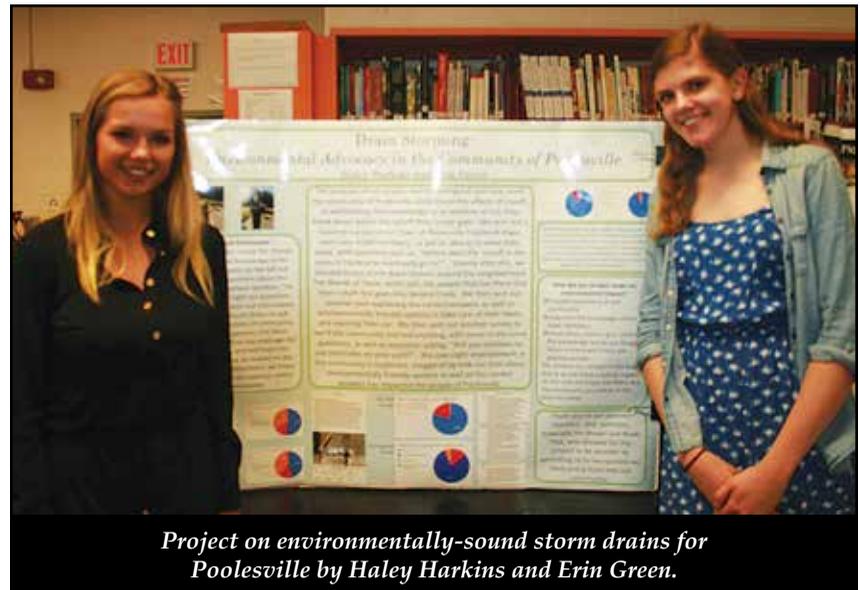
By Melody Zhang

The Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School combines interdisciplinary classes with monthly field studies to teach students environmental citizenship, responsibility, and to give them an appreciation for the natural world. Located in the rural setting of Poolesville, this selective program encourages students to immerse themselves in the community that surrounds them.

Every year, the senior class of Global students create a culminating project. Not only does this project give passionate students a chance to pursue an area of interest that is related to environmental issues, but it also presents the opportunity to receive the Global Ecology Certificate and tassel at the end of the year. Students begin preparing for their project as early as the summer after junior year, work all throughout the year, then offer their findings in their final presentations in late April.

This year's Global Ecology seniors presented their culminating projects to friends, family, and teachers on April 26. A wide variety of topics were displayed, including urban farming, marine trash pollution, environmental engineering, and human development. Many students based their projects on STEM-related internships that they completed over the summer and throughout the school year. Others were inspired by the Town of Poolesville and worked in depth with the community to improve and study environmental standards.

One standout project, presented by partners Erin Green and Haley Harkins, focused on studying the community awareness of environmental standards in the Town of Poolesville. At the beginning of the school year, they published environmental awareness surveys via Facebook to gauge the town's understanding of local runoff. Following this, Green and Harkins placed informational stickers around local neighborhood storm drains in the hopes of improving the knowledge of town members. These stickers shared specific information about



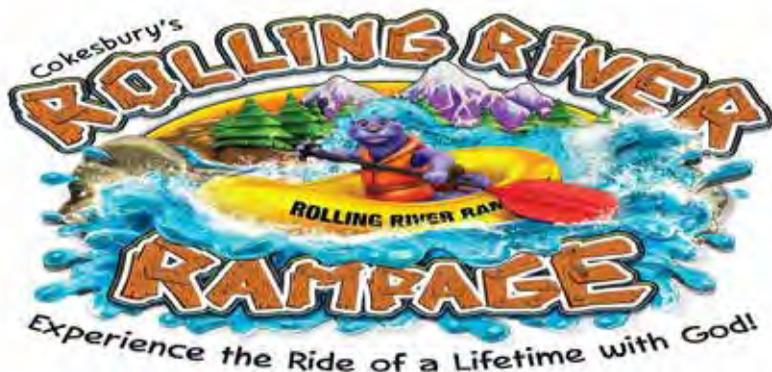
Project on environmentally-sound storm drains for Poolesville by Haley Harkins and Erin Green.

where certain runoff travelled. They then advocated (again via Facebook) environmentally-friendly options to reduce runoff in the community. Green and Harkins were awarded with a monetary award of \$1500 each from the Izaak Walton League for their project's success and environmental impact.

Another featured project that made a direct impact on the town was presented by William Field and Connell Oberman. They studied how human developments impacted water quality in water systems, more specifically how the Brightwell Crossing developments affect the water quality of Dry Seneca Creek. By studying various indicators of water quality at Dry Seneca Creek throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons, Field and Oberman were able to conclude that Dry Seneca Creek suffers from a higher degree of water pollution due to the Brightwell developments, and further is "most likely by contaminated runoff."

Continued on page 19.

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC Events – Poolesville Baptist Church)

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Free Form Movement: Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Rm 129.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

June 22

Friday on the Commons: Bark in the Park

Inflatables, DJ, farmers' market, rescue groups, and food trucks, including: Tasty Grill, Dogs on the Run, and Rosie's Kitchen! Various dog contests. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

June 23

Library Special Event: Reptile Rangers

The scaly creatures will captivate you as we share myths, histories, and benefits of these often-misunderstood animals. Meet a live king snake, corn snake, stinkpot turtle, terrapin, and many more reptiles. Presented by a Maryland Park Ranger from the Department of Natural Resources. For all ages. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 11:00 a.m.

The Big Flea! Huge Annual Town of Poolesville Flea Market

Many individual vendors plus free electronic recycling (8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), free paper shredding (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), and free paint recycling as part of the Sustainable Maryland program. Paint must be in original container, there is a \$2.00 charge per can. *Whalen Commons.* 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Fourth Annual Field and Fiddle Festival

A celebration of the beauty and history the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. Located at *Madison Fields.* Music, food, vendors. Tickets available only online at mocoalliance.org.

June 23 and 24

The 21st Annual Heritage Days Weekend

For specific information about all 40+ free events around the county, visit the Heritage Days website: www.heritagemontgomery.org/events/heritage-days/.

June 24

Exciting Open House

Raegan's Dream: an open house and grand celebration of Old Oaks Estate Venue Tree House. Come join in the fun and tour the fascinating and magnificent Bridal Tree House. Refreshments and live music by the Greg Harrison Jazz Trio. *20100 Beallsville Road.* 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

June 25

Book Discussion

Enjoy and discuss *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* by Dinaw Mengestu. This discussion is part of the NEA Big Read Program. No registration required. Books will be available at the circulation desk. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 7:00 p.m.

June 26

State Primary Elections

June 28

Tweens Eat Books

Join us for this month's selection, *Peter and the Starcatchers*. Copies available at the circulation desk. For grades 5-8. No registration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 7:00 p.m.

June 29

PACC 1st Annual Golf Outing

Scramble play, sponsorships available. All information, sign up, and sponsorship forms available at Poolesvillechamber.com. *Bretton Woods Recreation Center.* Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.; Shotgun start: 10:00 a.m.

Friday on the Commons: Red, White, & Brews!

Fundraiser for Poolesville American Legion Post 247 on behalf of Fisher House Foundation. Red wines, white

wines, and Barley & Hops in the Beer Garden. In the bandshell: Mindy Miller & The Chrome Tears, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; 19th Street Band, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inflatables, farmers' market, and food, including: 3rd Alarm BBQ, El Pollo Submarine, Sweet Farm, and Rosie's Funnel Cakes. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

June 30

Odd Fellows Annual Summer Dinner for Seniors, Widows, Widowers, and Orphans

RSVP by June 28 at 301-349-2057. Memorial *United Methodist Church.* 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

July 1

Farewell Event

Celebrating Father Vincent Rigdon upon his retirement. *Our Lady of the Presentation.* Noon to 3:00 p.m.

July 2

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

July 4

UMCVFD and Town of Poolesville Annual Fireworks Display

Food vendors: Firehouse Subs, Corned Beef King, ice cream, ice cones, and more. Music by Poverty Ridge Band.

Sponsored by Jamison Real Estate, PACC, and Total Automotive. \$5.00 per car donation for parking. *Soccer fields on Hughes Road.* Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks at dusk.

July 6, 7, and 8

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Original and unique home décor items and refurbished furniture. Great gift ideas galore. Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

July 10

Library Special Event: Didgeridoo Down Under

Enjoy a high-energy, Australia-themed show that combines music, science, comedy, character building, and audience participation. Learn about Aussie culture while moving and grooving to the pulsing rhythms of the didge! Ages 3 and up! No registration required. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 7:00 p.m.

Would you like
to announce a meeting,
club, or upcoming event in
Things To Do?

Send it along to
editor@monocacymonocle.com



June 10

The Maryland State flag was lowered in honor of Delegate Theodore J. Sophocleus, who died Friday, June 8, 2018. Delegate Sophocleus represented Legislative District 32.



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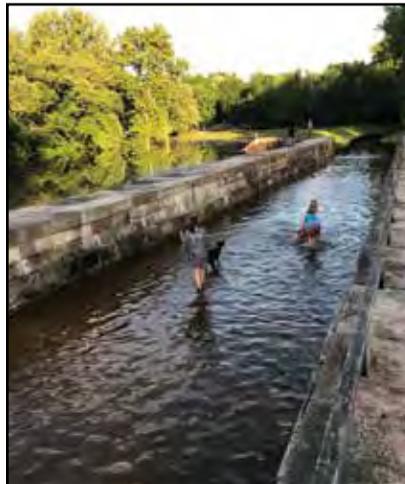
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In Your Own Backyard C&O Canal Floods After Heavy Rains

By Rande Davis

I made it to the C&O Canal a few times in May before departing on a cross country trip with my son Thomas to Colorado and Utah. We returned home at the end of May. Before leaving, I was able to observe the results of heavy rains along the Monocacy River and the Monocacy Aqueduct.

In May, the Monocacy River was out of its banks somewhat at the aqueduct, but the river was way out of its banks in June. The river crested on June 4 at about 7:00 p.m. I visited the park that evening with my son Thomas and Steve Horvath. The river water came through the drains in the aqueduct, filling the aqueduct with water all the way down to the entrance path from the parking lot. A few women were running, their two dogs splashed as they went back and forth in the aqueduct. The river water was within a few feet of breaching the berm side wall of the aqueduct. Tree debris and trash that had been removed by the Park Service the previous September were



Flooding on the Monocacy River resulted in the Monocacy Aqueduct filling with water as it did over a century ago when it carried canal boats across the river.

trapped against the aqueduct and there was more debris than I had ever seen previously.

There were several people sightseeing that evening, looking at the flooded, muddy Monocacy River, some were fishing at the aqueduct. The water flooded across the field towards the parking lot within about five feet of the bench overlooking the aqueduct. The picnic tables were under water. When

I checked on the aqueduct the following Friday after the water receded, I could only see one of the three picnic tables. Maybe the other two were transported down the river. Thomas, Steve, and I walked across the aqueduct that June 4 evening and up the towpath to the Indian Flats Campsite. The river water was flooded against the towpath, and the campground was flooded. We walked back across the aqueduct towards Lock 27. The canal prism was full of water and had flooded up against the granary ruins and the parking lot. The Little Monocacy River was out of its banks, and the water in the canal was up near the towpath.

The canal along this stretch is not normally watered. On the river side of the towpath, the Potomac River had flooded against the towpath. When we got to the canal waste weir, river water was rushing through the opening into the canal. Walking farther along, a bald eagle flew over Lock 27 heading down the canal. After that, a great blue heron startled us and flew down the canal, cawing as it flew. The Potomac River had flooded up against the lockhouse, and as we approached the towpath mule rise, the Potomac River had crested the towpath for as far as we could see making it impossible to walk any farther.

The following morning, Steve and I returned to the aqueduct and we saw carp swimming in the aqueduct. The Monocacy River had receded some and the Potomac River was no longer flowing over the towpath below Lock 27. From the aqueduct, we went to the Dickerson Conservation Park parking lot to visit the canal. The canal water was flowing over the entrance road to the flooded stream on the other side of the road and into the canal prism. The footbridge leading to the Potomac River was under water. A man was attempting to net carp that were flopping around in the water with no success. We told him about the carp swimming in the aqueduct, and he was going to try his luck there.

We then went to Edwards Ferry where the water was flooded up to the Jarboe Store ruins and the restroom was nearly completely under water. River water was flowing into the canal through the waste weir by the lockhouse. The water was several feet from the lockhouse. The river had crested over the towpath below the towpath mule rise and flowed freely into the canal prism. On my visit to the Monocacy Aqueduct on Friday, June 8, the Monocacy River had receded into its banks, and I had the pleasure of watching an egret take off and fly over the aqueduct.

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—Jamie Raskin, 2013

Youth Sports

Lockett, Satsangi Highlighted Falcons State Track Effort

By Jeff Stuart

At the 2A State Track Meet at Morgan State College on May 24 and 25, senior Ryan Lockett repeated as champion in the 1600m in 4:19 and in the 3200m in 9:31, a season record. In his final race of a phenomenal career, Lockett placed second in the 800m with a personal record time of 1:56.1. His signature last lap kick a most caught winner Riley McDermott of Middletown who won by two tenths of a second.

Junior Nandini Satsangi won the 1600m decisively in 5:10, a season record with a bold move in the middle. She took third in the 3200 in 11:17.

The boys 4x100m team of Connell Oberman, Trevor Riggs, Aaron Brown, and Charlie Brill set a new school record in 43:57, finishing in second place; and the girls 4x400m team of Rachel Onderko, Anjali Kalra, Kelliann Lee, and Juanita Jaramillo ran 4:10 for a season best time and a ninth-place finish.



2018 PHS Falcon Outdoor Track team.

In the individual 400m, Jaramillo ran a 58.3 for a PR and a sixth-place finish.

It had been an eventful year in Poolesville athletics. As is usually the case, the track and field events were the last on the school calendar, so it was nice to see some high-profile athletes like football running back Connell Oberman, an All-Montgomery County Running Back in football who rushed for over 1300 yards, and Kelliann Lee, a leader on the state champion girls' basketball team, competing in uniform one last time for PHS. They were named PHS male and female Athletes of the Year. It was also nice to see the continuing success of distance runners Ryan Lockett, a senior, and Nandini Satsangi, a junior.

At the West Region competition at Oakdale High School on May 22 and 23, both Lockett and Satsangi finished first in both the 1600m and the 3200m. Lockett finished third in the 800m, as well. Oberman finished second in the 100-meter dash, setting a PR of 11.51 and seventh in the 200 meters, setting another PR. He was sixth in the discus throw, and, along with teammates, Charlie Brill, a senior, and freshmen, Aaron Brown and Trevor Riggs, he finished first in the 4x100m relay.

Senior Juanita Jaramillo finished fourth in the 100m, setting a PR and, with teammates Kelliann, senior Anjali Kalra and sophomore Rachel Onderko, finished fourth in the 4x400m relay.

"We have done really well," said Coach Prasad Gerard, "especially among the small schools. We had a number of people on both the boys' side and the girls' side who have come in and done very well in the distance runs, and in the sprints, and in the throwing. Connell has done really well. He was county champion the other day. Threw a PR in the discus, eleven feet better than his previous best. Ryan Lockett has been running some great races...I have been very pleased with how they have done. They have put in the hard work."

"In my individual event, the discus, I have been really consistent lately," said Oberman. "Everything kind of came together and fell in place at the county championships. I set a PR by 11 feet. I threw it 139'7" feet and won the event. That would be my highlight."

"I run the 100, 200, and 400 meters," said Jaramillo "The season highlight was definitely the Penn Relays. This was my last run there. I have been three times

Continued on page 18.

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Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Woody Stork rarely seen in Maryland.

Photo by Catherine Beliveau

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of a pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

Continued from page 1.

House Fire on Sugarland Road

working nearby, arrived to find a two-story single-family dwelling with a fire showing from both floors of the attached, finished garage extending into the home. He also confirmed the presence of a severely-burned victim in the home's yard. Fire crews had to take a few moments to darken down the most affected areas before making entry into the home and initiating an aggressive interior attack. While this was taking place, the driver from a medic unit along with a firetruck from Germantown arrived, setting up in the driveway entrance and joining other units.

Simultaneously, while the fire attack and patient care were taking place, multiple other engines and tankers executed a rural water supply shuttle on Sugarland Road, pumping through a dual connection hose to ensure that a continuous water supply was established and never lost. Crews worked together to knock down the fire and to stop its spread. The UMCVFD medic unit along with others worked on the patient care, transporting them to a local burn center. The fire was finally placed under control, and units remained on scene for several hours to assist investigators and to conduct overhaul of the impacted area.

Despite working all day at the golf tournament, UMCVFD canteen volunteers came to the scene and joined canteen volunteers from Gaithersburg to support crews with nourishment as they fought the fire. The status of the burn victim has not been reported. While the cause of the fire was not determined at press time, it is believed the fire originated in the home's garage in which there were multiple potential fire hazards.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about?

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Photos by Terri Pitts

PEP'S SUMMER CARNIVAL IN THE PARK



T. Pitts

T. Pitts

Yeas and Neighs

Staying in TTouch— Linda Tellington-Jones Returns

By Andie Devynck

On Friday, June 8, hosted by Terry Lewis, owner of Great Strides Village (a cooperative boarding facility in Damascus), and to the delight of the fifty or so gathered students, Linda Tellington-Jones imparted more of her decades of wisdom just as she has done there many times before. At eighty-one years of age, Tellington-Jones still travels the world, giving multiple-day workshops to scores of amateurs and professionals, some of whom have continued to learn with and from her for decades themselves. In the spacious indoor arena, horses, their owners, and many an eager attendee sitting in seats lining the walls watched and listened for over two hours as the master worked with pairs and then the group as a whole.

For those of you unfamiliar with Linda Tellington-Jones and her ever-evolving discipline called TTouch, let this serve as a small window into the

history and current activities of this grand dame of the equestrian world. Tellington-Jones has participated in more equine activities over her seventy-plus years of a life as a rider, teacher, trainer, clinician, author, and pioneer than most professionals ever will. She has won top-level competitions in endurance riding, eventing, dressage, Western events, jumping, steeplechasing, and more. She completed her first of five Tevis Cup 100-mile rides in 1960, with her Arabian mare, Bint Gulida.

Undoubtedly, her greatest achievement is her development of TTouch (formerly known as TTEAM, or Tellington Equine Awareness Method) which emphasized building a relationship with the horse rather than striving for dominion over it. TTeam became TTouch in the mid-1970s when Tellington-Jones had what she claims was her greatest epiphany. After studying with Israeli physicist Moshe Feldenkrais, creator of the somatic movement therapy that bears his name, she realized that his concept of reeducating the nervous system without fear or force could be applied to horses and other animals to overcome resistance, stress, and tension, and could improve coordination and learning ability.



Linda Tellington-Jones, originator of Ttouch education, demonstrated her amazing technique on a beautiful mare.

“This was my first big ‘aha’ moment,” Tellington-Jones recalls. “I saw horses with new eyes. Feldenkrais offered the possibility of finding new ways to teach equine learning by using non-habitual movements to activate unused neural pathways to the brain.” It was clear to Tellington-Jones that much of the resistance and poor performance she saw in horses was related to stress (as opposed to mystery, injury, or illness), but there was scant research available at the time and very little awareness of it in the horse world. Her second epiphany came in 1981

after taking “A Course in Miracles” where she learned that most aggression comes from a place of fear in humans and animals alike. Combined with her previous work of calming horses through movements and massage that would put them “into their bodies,” Tellington-Jones began to emphasize listening to each horse as an individual and whispering in an effort to create greater calm.

Tellington-Jones’s stated goal for the evening was “for each participant to leave seeing their horse with new
Continued on page 21



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Continued from page 8.

The Death of Officer Webb Hersperger

of bandits who had been preying on motorists in Rock Creek Park. On July 23, 1932, Webb and his partner had been patrolling on Beach Drive when they came upon the suspects who were in the act of robbing a couple. While his partner drove at high speed in pursuit of the suspects' auto, Webb leaped from the police car onto the running board of the "bandit machine" and forced them to stop at gunpoint. He received a commendation from the county commissioners and police chief for his actions in this case.

On that fateful morning in June, as he passed Quince Orchard, Officer Hersperger came upon a small hill. At the same time, a motorist, going in the opposite direction, passed another slow-moving motorcycle. Officer Hersperger, unaware that the car was in the wrong lane, collided with the automobile at the crest of the hill and died instantly. Sadly, the operator of the car that killed him was a lifelong friend who was traveling the same road. Dr. White was informed of the tragic accident from an unidentified caller. It was Dr. White who had to go to Webb's house and inform his wife Virginia of the event. In addition to Virginia, he was survived by his two-year-old son Webb Hersperger, Jr. who became a physician and practiced in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Hersperger lived until 1997 without remarrying. She was a schoolteacher and the first principal of Poolesville Elementary School.

Officer Hersperger was buried at Monocacy Cemetery, and his impressive funeral was attended by dignitaries, the Judges of the Circuit Court, the County Commissioners, and the entire Montgomery County Police force. He was the second Montgomery County Police officer to die in the line of duty.

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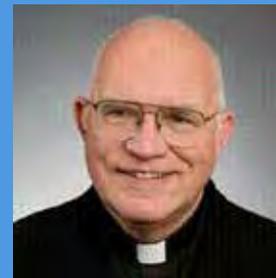
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J.D. Kuhlman

Continued from page 12.

Lockett, Satsangi Highlighted Falcons State Track Effort

and each time has been really fun and exciting, and the team always does really well—and this time it seemed like everyone set a personal best.”

The 4x400 relay team of Kalra, Onderko, Satsangi, and Jaramillo ran their fastest time of the season at the Penn Relays.

“Running in the Penn Relays with Juanita was a lot of fun,” said Satsangi. “It was the first time that I have been there. I ran the 4x4 with her and we set a PR by two seconds. The atmosphere there is just really amazing.”

“This season has been bittersweet. It’s has had its ups and downs,” said Lockett. “I got a little sick which is a little bit of bad timing,” Lockett recovered and won MVP at the county championship. “It was the second time I have won it. I don’t think anyone else has ever done that. It was a really big honor. It felt really great.” Lockett’s career excelled after returning to Poolesville after one year away. “Coach Gerard has been amazing to me. He’s been a fantastic coach and someone I have always looked up to, and the whole team has always been great and really supported me in everything I have done. It’s been a really great experience.”

Assistant track and field coaches are Dave Murray and Ann Satsangi.



PHS girls' 4x400m relay team.



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Continued from page 9.

Global Seniors Wrap Up Four-Year Program with Environmental Project Presentations

Hopefully, following this study, future students or town members will be able to take preventative measures to better protect the stream and local watershed, seeing as the detriment to the stream comes from human impacts.

Kellian Lee, Rachel Macairan, and Zoe Welch took on a more hands-on project, monitoring local bluebird nests at Stella's Dream Farm in Barnesville. They recorded the various development stages of the birds weekly with the intention of promoting the bluebird species and health. Further, they developed and promoted methods that average citizens can practice to help the bluebird species, including putting nest boxes in one's backyard, providing sources of fresh water, and landscaping with fruit-bearing plants.

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Continued from page 15.

Staying in TTouch—Linda Tellington-Jones Returns

eyes...to really see the beauty in them." She began the demonstration-lecture workshop by warmly welcoming each attendee with a handshake, and then proceeding to state her objectives for the evening. "The first 'T' in TTouch stands for trust," she explained. "If you want to change your horse, you must change your own mind first. If you want to change your own mind, since it lives in your entire body, you must change your own posture."

One of Tellington-Jones's trademark features in her demonstrations is her use of a labyrinth through which she and the horse owner will slowly lead the horse. Made of white PVC pipe, the labyrinth provides a framework in which the horse and owner can work on attention, grounding, and calm through slow, careful, balanced movement. Another trademark prop is a long white flexible "stick" which resembles a dressage whip but which Tellington-Jones prefers to call "a wand because it is magic."

The first pair up was a lovely paint mare and her owner who wished to work on a small problem of the former having to do with biting. Tellington-Jones began by working the mare's muzzle and mouth with her fingers, and then proceeded to gently run her hands along the mare's neck, shoulders, belly, and hindquarters, using a very light touch, and incorporating small 450-degree circles every several inches. She illustrated using this technique not only to help relax the mare, but also to discover areas of tension and "goosiness" along the way.

Tellington-Jones then returned to the mare's head and moved her fingers in circles all over the face. She spoke as she worked: "Some of the most important work you can do to relax a horse is by working their ears; start at the base and slowly massage in small circles, then using your full hand all the way to the tips." She then recounted a story in which this work on a horse's ears had saved it, pulling it out of a colic episode. "In acupuncture, the ears have meridians (energy channels) consisting of points that, when properly accessed and pressured, can save a horse's life by keeping them from or bringing them out of shock because this work affects both their digestive and circulatory systems."

The second pair of the evening posed a different set of problems which required a modified approach, but the general theory, honoring the individual, remained. Lastly, after the demonstration horses were put to bed for the evening, Tellington-Jones got everyone on their feet and into pairs in a circle in the center of the arena. There, she taught the group the hands-on basics of TTouch for humans.

If interested in finding out more about this exceptional woman and her prolific work with horses, please visit her website at www.lindatellington-jones.com.

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Remembrances

Edna B. Reffit

Edna B. Reffit, 98, of Boyds, died on June 13, 2018. She was the wife of the late William Harold Reffit.

Born on August 7, 1919, in Sunshine, Maryland, Edna was the daughter of the late Edgar and Ella (Parsley) Burns.

Edna was a Life Member of the Montgomery County Agriculture Center, a member of the Damascus Travel Club, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the American Legion.

Surviving are her two daughters, Jeannie Warfield of Durham, North Carolina, Kay R. Curtis (Larry) of Boyds; and one grandchild, Ryan Curtis, of Los Angeles, California.

Edna was preceded in death by two brothers, Herman and Leonard Burns; and one grandson, Richard B. Warfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Boyds Presbyterian Church or Sycamore Acres Group Home, 19120 Muncaster Rd., Derwood, MD 20855.



Edna B. Reffit

Charles James Martin

Charles James Martin (CJ), 79 of Boyds, Maryland, died June 10, 2018. Born September 18, 1938, he was the son of the late Haywood James Martin and Lucille Elizabeth Dillehay.

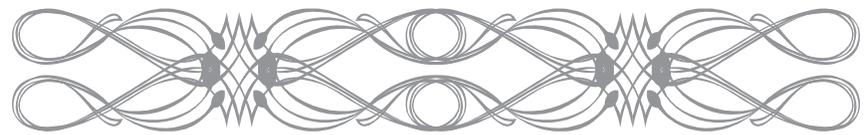
CJ worked as a carpenter for many years before starting his own towing company, CJ's Country Boy Towing, which he enjoyed operating with his family.

Charles is survived by his daughter, Valicity Resha Martin; his devoted companion Pattee Cole; his son-in-law Matthew Wayne Burriss; four grandchildren, Paul D. Brown, Charles J. Martin Burriss, Matthew W. Burriss II, and Brooke A. Ahalt.

He was preceded in death by his wife Neula Eleanor Bartee, a daughter Rhonda Dale Burriss, and his cousin Upton Boxal, Uncle Willie Boxal, and Aunt Nellie Dillehay.

Charles loved to camp with Pattee and his beloved dog Buddy. He also enjoyed spending quality time with his family.

In keeping with CJ's request, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to help with funeral expenses.



Continued from page 5.

Irish Spring Meets Scottish Rites: The 18th Annual Mid-Atlantic Celtic Festival

Rockinberg, also thanked the festival organizers and all the participants for creating such a joyous celebration of Gaelic culture and Maryland history.

Last, but not least, the entire day was devoted to this year's chosen charitable beneficiary, Hero Dogs, Inc., whose mission is to provide service dogs for America's heroes, some of whom participated in the athletic games throughout the day. Hero Dogs, Inc., is a Maryland 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that improves the quality of life for our nation's heroes by raising, training, and placing service dogs and other highly-skilled canines, free of charge, with lifetime support of the partnerships. Those who supported the Guinness Beer Tasting, the Afternoon Tea, the raffle of the Quilts of Valor, and the Clustered Spires British Car Show should know their donations went to this worthy cause.

You can find photos and videos of the day as well as lists of bands, dancers, sponsors (of which the *Monocacy Monocle* is one!), patrons, and vendors on the SASMM.com website.

Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Rape—in vehicle: 20300 Martinsburg Road. Victim and suspect were acquaintances. Case under investigation.

Indecent exposure: Stevens Park, 17300 Seneca Chase Park Road.

Drug arrest: 19100 block of Dowden Circle.

Past Crime: 1932

Montgomery County Police began training in advance of the expected arrival of the Bonus Army (Note: the Bonus Army were the 43,000 marchers—17,000 U.S. World War I veterans, their families, and affiliated groups—who gathered in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 1932 to demand cash-payment redemption of their service certificates.) who were approaching Washington and were expected to travel through the county. Each officer was equipped with tear gas and had been trained to use it. Several of the police cars were equipped with radios so they could monitor the broadcast of the Metropolitan Police Department. It was noted that almost the entire Montgomery Department had seen service in the war and all were "dead shots."

Dr. Gardner of Montgomery County led D.C. officers on a chase that crossed the Maryland/D.C. line at Chevy Chase Circle. He was suspected of being in possession of liquor. Upon entering Montgomery County, Gardner hit a curb and disabled his auto. He was arrested by Officer Poole who charged him with reckless driving.

For the first time in Maryland history, a defendant was convicted in court of a crime based only on fingerprints left at

the scene. The case involved the break-in of the Brinklow store where forty dollars in cash and merchandise were stolen. Detective Volten of the county police was called to the scene and was able to lift fingerprints from the point where the thief entered the store. Volten then went back to headquarters and compared the fingerprint with known burglars in the area and was able to make a match with Samuel Hill. At the same session of court, Daniel Gaither was convicted of stealing chickens and was sentenced to thirty months in the House of Corrections.

Three men were arrested by Sgt. Roy Bodmer with selling gasoline and kerosene from the back of a truck without a license. Bodmer was tipped off to the actions of the men and then he made a tour of the upper part of the county until he found them set up in a vacant lot with a line of automobiles ready to be by gasoline. Bodmer checked, and the men did not have the necessary license. County filling station owners had complained about such activity by men who were cutting them short.

Montgomery County Police set some type of record after raiding a still near Layhill. Chief Moxley, Officer Bodmer, and Officer Jones of the Kensington police raided a still and found a twenty-pound steam boiler and two gallons of mash. Alfred Crum of Kensington was taken to court in Rockville and chose to immediately stand trial. Judge Woodward accepted his guilty plea less than thirty minutes after the raid began. In addition, Morris Boswell of Washington was arrested on the second day in a row for transporting liquor in his car. Judge Woodward sentenced him to four months in prison.

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

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Continued from page 4.

Tidbits

Girl Scouts Start Project to Help Homeless Pets

Amelia Hobart and Zoe Antonishek want you to know that pets are great for all people, even those who are enduring homelessness. The two scouts have joined together in a project that recognizes that animals have been scientifically proven to be strong comforting resources for humans and that even those people who are not living in their own homes find such comfort. To better help the disadvantaged enjoy the benefits of pet ownership, the scouts started their Silver Star Project of collecting and donating pet food and toys to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWLMC) in Gaithersburg. Did you know that AWLMC has distributed 50,500 pounds of food to 2,260 pet owners? They have also been responsible for over 1,500 cat adoptions. Readers may contribute by making donations in a collection bin at Tractor Supply.



These scouts are helping people by helping them have pets.

Barnesville Class of 2018 Graduation: Thank You and Farewell

“As you bid this very special place farewell, be grateful and give thanks, because the best way to say goodbye is to say thank you.”

Those words of advice were shared by Aimee Egwudobi, Class of 2014, in her graduation address to the Barnesville School of Arts & Sciences Class of 2018. On June 13, students, faculty, family, alumni, and friends gathered in the school’s gymnasium to celebrate eighth grade graduation. The idea of thanks echoed throughout the ceremony.

Head of School Susanne Johnson shared reflections from the eighth grade class, “When asked what you will always be thankful for, you listed your teachers,” she said. “When asked what Barnesville gave you, you responded without



2018 Barnesville School graduation class.

hesitation, saying: opportunities, confidence, an amazing school experience, friendships, and a community that feels like family.”

Five of this year’s eighteen graduates attended Barnesville since pre-kindergarten: Grace B., Della C., Sean D., Jessica R., and Serena T. Each so-called “lifer” presented his and her parents with flowers to plant in their gardens at home—a longstanding Barnesville tradition.

Upcounty Prevention Network Seminar on Vaping

Vaping has become very popular in recent years, but not without significant personal costs, especially to health. UPN recently held a seminar on the practice and its negative impacts which include: Abuse and dependence, cancer, cardiac issues, exposure to toxic substances, exposure to nicotine, injuries and poisonings, respiratory effects, reproductive and developmental effects, and can lead to a transition to conventional cigarette use.



Andrew Soljka and Ethan Rolls, student members of the Upcounty Prevention Network, introduced the evening’s speaker on the topic of vaping.

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Editor's Note

Would you like to voice your opinion on an important issue? The *Monocle* welcomes responsible commentary on a wide range of topics, although Upcounty issues are a lot more likely to get printed. Articles for this page are subject to our discretion and may be edited. No anonymous articles will be considered.

Continued from page 1.

Robbie Metz Drafted by the Colorado Rockies

white lines and say, 'Let's go,' he's got a feel, he's got a look, he wants to achieve, he doesn't waver.

"He has been an integral part of bringing GW baseball back to prominence.

"Robbie is a man of character with tremendous attitude and effort. He lent those qualities to this program, impacting those around him in a productive and positive way.

"I was exceedingly fortunate to have had Robbie in the program. The university, coaching staff, teammates, and alumni are excited for Robbie's future as a talented professional baseball player."

While at GW, where he was pursuing a criminal justice degree, Robbie was named to the 2015 Atlantic 10 All-Rookie Team and the 2015 Atlantic 10 All-Championship Team. He batted .315 that year with eight doubles.

In 2017, Robbie batted .337, and in 2018, he batted .299 with twenty-five doubles.

"The night before the draft, Robbie received a call from the Colorado Rockies to discuss the process and the possibility of them drafting him," said Jamie Metz (Robbie's mother). "On the day he was drafted, his dad (Doug), brother (Colin—a member of the Falcons 2017 3A State Championship Team), [and I] were all home waiting anxiously but trying to distract him during that time. We had lunch at Bassett's and then headed home to do some errands around the yard, trying to keep ourselves busy and not checking the status of the draft.

"We were all four sitting in the garage, talking about our upcoming vacation to Ocean City, Maryland when Robbie's phone rang. He said, 'It's from Denver, Colorado,' and stepped out to the front yard to talk. His dad, Doug, looked at the MLB Draft Tracker website, and Robbie's name popped up as the Colorado Rockies' draft pick. Robbie then received information that he would report to Boise, Idaho on June 10."

Robbie will be probably be reunited at some point with former GW teammate Joey Bartosic who was drafted by the Rockies last year and now plays for the rookie league Grand Junction Rockies, another Rockies affiliate. There were two other Colonials drafted in 2018: Middle infielder and pitcher Isaiah Pasteur was

taken in the thirteenth round by the New York Yankees (Pasteur is from Westminster, Maryland and graduated from Winters Mill High School), and pitcher Will Kobos was taken in the nineteenth round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Continued from page 7.

Backyard birding in Poolesville and the Agricultural Reserve

As I was enjoying a walk on the C&O Canal this past winter with my camera gear in tow, another photographer asked me if I saw the barred owl on the trail about a mile up the path. He assumed that anyone carrying that much gear on a walk must have come to see the rare sight. To see and photograph an owl in the wild would be a new "lifer" for me. I was exhausted and tired but couldn't pass up the opportunity to find the owl. The vague description of a dead tree near the path past a sandbar on the canal about a twenty-minute walk away was akin to finding a needle in a haystack.

As I strolled up the path thinking every tree looked alike and how on earth am I ever going to spot the owl, I reached out to other would-be birders. It took three additional people to guide me to the right spot about twenty feet off the towpath: a large tree with a perfect heart-shaped notch, just the right size for a beautiful barred owl. There is no doubt that hundreds of people strolled by, never knowing the owl was sitting and staring at them below; no doubt that I, too, would have walked on by and missed the opportunity without the help of other birders.

Since that fateful day. I've added numerous new "lififers" to my growing list of finds with names like yellow-billed cuckoo, eastern wood-pewee, broad-winged hawks, and numerous different warblers.

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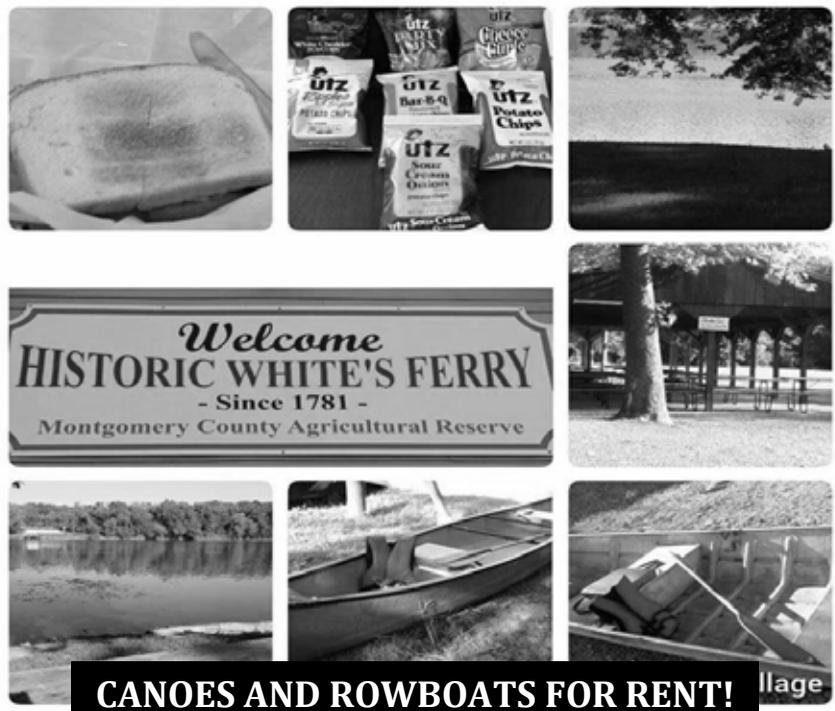
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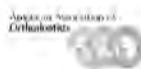
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Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

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