

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 22, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 17



Who?! Answers on page 4.



The Scouts' annual food drive gathered tons of food. The total, on page 16, may surprise you.



These two women have taken the reins—and they are loving it! Get the details on page 18.



PHS varsity cheerleaders are flying high. See more in Youth Sports on page 20.

UPN Holds Event to Educate Public about Vaping

By Andrew Sojka

On Thursday, November 14, the Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) held an event in the Poolesville High School auditorium to educate locals on vaping and the dangers associated with the activity. Entitled “Vaping: The Inside Scoop,” the event brought in multiple experts in the fields of medicine and government to discuss the effects of vaping on local, state, and national levels.

The event began with a presentation by Dr. Travis Gayles, the County Health Officer and Chief of Public Health Services in Montgomery County. As Health Officer, Dr. Gayles oversees all federal-, state-, and locally-funded public health services within Montgomery County. Gayles and his team have been tracking the progression of vaping-related injuries since 2018, and after two students from Churchill High School lost consciousness and were hospitalized after vaping earlier this year, he released a public health alert to inform county

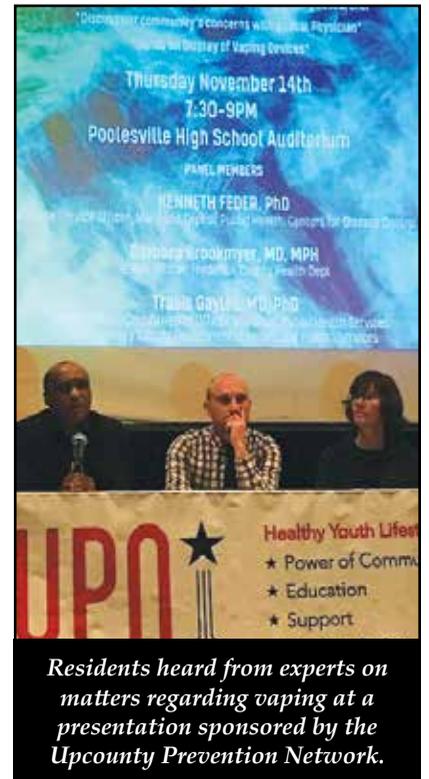
residents about the risks vaping could pose.

“We have seen an increase in acute respiratory and pulmonary injuries secondary to vaping,” Gayles said to the audience. “In addition to the neurological and developmental effects, nicotine can seriously affect your lungs.”

He explained how in Maryland, one man was hospitalized for vaping-related damage to his lungs, and how a Michigan teen had to receive a double-lung transplant as a result of vaping-related damage to his lungs.

Gayles’s remarks were followed by a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Feder, Epidemic Intelligence Officer for the Maryland Department of Health. As one of the state’s leading researchers on vaping, Feder has studied the rise in vaping use among teens, the risks associated with it, and the distribution of vaping-related injuries across the country. According to Feder, while teen cigarette and marijuana use are down and vaping contains less harmful

Continued on page 5.



Residents heard from experts on matters regarding vaping at a presentation sponsored by the Upcounty Prevention Network.

The Grand Women of the Monocacy The Flower of the Village: Winsome Brown

By Rande Davis

Dickerson’s Edwin Brown has always been someone who looks toward the future, and at ninety-nine years old, that still hasn’t changed. To prove a point, when he was eighty-five years old, he built a new law office on his farm on Peach Tree Road so he would be able to cut down on his then-daily commute to Rockville. Brown has honed the role of successful country lawyer to the level of perfection and, along the way, as owner of White’s Ferry, has also become one of the area’s most renowned businessmen. With many successful decisions over the decades, none was greater—nor more significant—than the day he fell in love with Winsome Drage.

Ed can still recall the day with precision. It was at a church dance

near a place called Red Gables in England during World War II. He had befriended her cousin, a local auto garage owner, who introduced Winsome Drage to him (he affectionately calls her Wis). She was beautiful, warm, and wonderfully well-mannered (dating times had to be whenever the local pub was closed). When Winsome caught his attention, he fell right then and there for, in his own words, “the flower of the village.”

Ed had entered the army on Armistice Day (now Veterans Day, November 11) in 1941 and was discharged exactly three years later. In 1942, he found himself in England as a sergeant in charge of base facilities operations for the famed Mighty

Continued on page 14.



Ed and Winsome Brown married in 1946.

Family Album



American Legion Post 247 members and family dined at the Old West Saloon at Markoff's Haunted Forest.



Some retired leathernecks celebrated the 244th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps at Cugini's.

CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY 2019



Veteran and coach, Kevin Dorsey, and his daughter Sammi Jo joined in the festivities to honor vets, here and everywhere.



Veterans Day: On the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 2019, at exactly 11:11 a.m.: Post 247 Commander Julien Singh, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Capt. Alaina Shields, Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Helen Mengistu, Cadet Capt. Brooke Mengistu, and Post 247 Adjutant David Wilson.



A navy recruiting team brought a virtual reality trailer to better explain life in the navy at PHS.



Post Commander Julien Singh with Nick Markoff at the Saloon Night honoring Veterans Day.



Area vets with family share in fellowship around a campfire at Calleva's Old Western Town.

Town Government

Canal Town Partnership Participation and Appointment of Temporary Town Manager

By Rande Davis

The November 19 Town of Poolesville commissioners' meeting opened with the local Boy Scout Troop 496 leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting began with a discussion of Poolesville's potential participation with the Canal Town Partnership (CTP), a program by the C&O Canal Trust which facilitates the marketing amalgamation of communities surrounding the C&O Canal National Historical Park. By banding together, the localities seek to generate mutually beneficial economic activity by providing amenities and services to park visitors, primarily hikers and bikers.

The annual cost to join the group is minimal at \$200.00 compared to the benefits of joining with nine other communities in promoting recreational use of the trails in the park. It is the goal of the joint effort to raise awareness of the economic, entertainment, and shopping attraction of the townships included. As a participant, Poolesville's commercial and social attractions would be included within their marketing brochures and miscellaneous advertising efforts.

There was concern about the seven-mile distance that park and trail users would have to trek to come to Poolesville and the impact on the economics of having to do so. Commissioner Klobukowski raised the notion of providing an on-call bus-like service that could improve those prospects. It was obvious that, if nothing else, the participation in the partnership would raise awareness of the town's attractions to those passing through Poolesville to get to the trails and White's Ferry. A prospect of sponsoring a campsite received positive comments, and a couple of Boy Scouts in attendance came forward with their willingness to assist in that project.

A final vote to join the Canal Town Partnership was not made.

A discussion ensued to appoint town clerk Bobbi Evans to the position of temporary interim town manager, allowing her to execute some responsibilities of that position (e.g., making payments) while the commissioners pursue an appointment of a new town manager. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski proposed that he be appointed to the role, but Commissioner Cook felt that doing so does not adhere to a desired objective of maintaining a system of checks and balances. Commissioners Dickerson and Radigan reported contrarian statements by some town employees relating to the topic. The commission voted 3-1 to appoint Evans, with Klobukowski dissenting.

The commissioners have decided to resurrect the previous Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC). In recent years, the committee transitioned into an event-oriented committee. Commissioner Kerri Cook was voted to head an exploratory effort to communicate with town business interests, including the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce to determine ways a formalized and renewed CEDC might help their business goals.

With the transfer of ownership of the section of Fisher Avenue from Wootton Avenue to Elgin Road to the town, the town engineer reported that the anticipated cost of pedestrian-controlled flashing signal lights at the crossing between McDonald's and BB&T, and between the Mexican Grill and town hall is estimated to be \$20,000 per set. It was reported that progress toward additional road transfers of parts of Hughes and Westerly Roads is moving forward.

The issue of county tax duplication payments to Poolesville was brought up with concern that such payments are radically below what the town deserves. Tax duplication payments are derived by determining the savings to the county by the town providing services that normally the county would have to make, assessing that amount, and refunding money to the town. Both governmental entities tax residents for those services (e.g., plowing roads) but only the town actually does the work. Town estimates of due payments in 2018 was about \$540,000, while the actual payment was \$230,000. The concern is regarding future payments, with any funds from past accounting not considered something that could be obtained.

Meeting short-takes:

Interior plumbing for the future Dunkin' Donuts has begun with an opening date not expected before the first of the year at best. A proposed county liquor store was only recently given a permit by the town. The retail establishment will now seek one from the county, so any anticipated opening will extend well into 2020. The Parks Board is considering improving the pitchers' mound at Stevens Park.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

Reflection on the Loss Of One of God's Gifts

By Rande Davis

Earlier this month, our family dog, Daisy Mae, a fourteen-year-old beagle, passed away. A number of years ago, Robert Fulghum wrote a wildly popular book called, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Talk about learning lessons. After so many years living with our dear pet, I think I could write a book called *All I Ever Needed to Learn Living Life I Learned from My Dog*.

With that in mind, here is my short list of some of the many things I learned from Daisy Mae:

How to play:

She taught us that enjoyment of play is not meant to be complicated. Rules should be few, keep the game simple, like chasing a ball, returning the ball (not the same as releasing the ball from her mouth), and doggie tag. No clocks nor time restrictions, just play until exhaustion. Doggie tag was especially fun for her. She would stare me down, her rear-end high in the air and both front paws flat on the ground as I posed similarly, eye to eye with her. We would face off until one or the other blinked, where upon she would swirl, spinning around and around in circles.

How to show gratitude:

Keeping it simple is the key again. A simple doggie treat or a soft pat on the head always resulted in a full, snappy, high-speed, wild wagging of her tail. Oh, how she could be grateful for nothing at all.

How to explore:

Exploring like a beagle is essentially out of our wheelhouse, way beyond human ability. She was able to smell every little creature that ever walked the space immediately in front of her nose. She didn't let life get ahead of her. She didn't look up or backwards; she looked down with nose to the ground, finding things we would never know had been there.

How to exercise:

To Daisy, every aspect of exercise was one of life's joys, not burdens. Each walk we took was like her very first ever. To her, there was no such thing as a mundane walk. Such joy! She hardly could contain her desire to take the next step or the next sniff, pulling her leash in all directions. On what was to become her last night



Daisy Mae, reflecting.

alive, she woke me at 3:30 a.m., asking for one more walk. This walk was unlike any she had ever taken before. Uncharacteristically, no pulling of the leash, very slow and careful, walking only on the path with a few simple sniffs here and there. She seemed to absorb every second of this, her greatest love of her little life: Walking Whalen Commons.

How to compete fairly:

Sometimes, we walked without a leash, and at the end, she would race to the back door of the house as fast as she could in an attempt to beat me, always winning. Sometimes if I was too slow, she would turn back, come looking for me, as if to say, "Come on, old man, you can do better than that."

How to eat:

She could always meet her caloric need within a minute or two. Every bit of human food was as if it was Thanksgiving Day. Any amount of licking of crumbs or juices off a dish seemed to satisfy her.

How to sleep, how to wake up:

While I always envied her ability to sleep soundly, lost to the world, for many hours straight, it was more her ability to wake instantly from a deep sleep, jumping up to go without any hesitation, that I admired the most. I need at least two cups of coffee and a few minutes in my favorite chair before even thinking of taking a morning walk.

How to follow instructions:

She could obey commands well until she finally lost her hearing, and even then, I swear, she thought, How sad it was, not that she couldn't hear, but that we had lost our ability to speak.

How to trust:

She loved everybody and every dog she met without hesitation. Release her leash and she would stay in the

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Local News

Rapturous Crowds at 6th Annual Owl Moon Raptor Center Festival

By Andie Devynck

Owl Moon Raptor Center and Adventures with Raptors held an outdoor, all-are-welcome fundraising event Sunday, November 10, at Black Hill Regional Park. They lucked out on weather—overcast and windless—making their raptor exhibit and programs, flight demonstrations, and other educational and family-friendly activities a pleasure for all who attended. There were plenty of up-close-and-personal photo ops and petting sessions with a variety of owls, hawks, and falcons as the Owl Moon volunteers walked slowly around the perimeter of their cordoned-off pen, answering questions while monitoring the moods of their winged charges. Apparently, even birds of prey used to crowds have their limits when entertaining and educating humans.

In front of the nearby visitor center, kids were having their faces painted, learning about owl pellets, and playing guess-the-raptor games, while



Here's lookin' at you, kid!

their parents browsed rows of tables with gifts for sale—all in support of the fundraiser—including their newest T-shirt, designed by Aidan Strother, who designed the 2018 shirt and the 2020 Owl Moon calendars. Inside the visitor center, in addition to the perennial nature exhibits and interactive play area for kids, a line formed to sneak a peek at the tiny fuzzy white baby barn owl snuggled up to a stuffed animal looking like his

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UPN Holds Event to Educate Public about Vaping

chemicals than cigarettes, researchers don't fully know all the chemicals associated with vaping.

"The problem with vaping is we," emphasis on we, "are the experiment. The product test is going on right now among its users, and we don't know what the long-term effects of vaping are." Feder went on to explain a possible link between vaping-related injuries and vitamin E acetate, a compound found in some liquids used for vaping. "Vitamin E is found in all sorts of things, including foods, dietary supplements, and certain skin lotions. Just like you wouldn't heat your dinner to a hundred degrees and inhale it, things that are safe to eat aren't always safe to inhale."

In a study by the CDC examining the effects of vitamin E in vaping-related injuries, out of twenty-nine patients who'd received treatment for vaping-related injuries, all twenty-nine tested positive for vitamin E acetate in their lung fluid.

The final presentation was given by Dr. Barbra Brookmyer, a local physician, health officer for the Frederick County Health Department, and board member of UPN. Brookmyer detailed how vaping has affected the rest of the country, noting how there have been over forty confirmed deaths associated with vaping-related injuries. She also went on to explain common misconceptions people have about vaping.

"When you heat the glycerol in the vaping device, some people think it's just vapor or water mist. In reality, it becomes an aerosol that can contain cancer-causing chemicals like acid aldehyde and formaldehyde."

While vaping-related deaths have declined since 2018, Feder stated that it doesn't confirm or deny that vitamin E may be a culprit behind vaping-related injuries and deaths.

"While we think vitamin E acetate could be linked to these vaping-associated lung injuries, we don't know for sure. One thing that could explain the decrease in injuries is that people are seeing coverage of this in the media and aren't vaping as much. A second possibility is that the illicit suppliers and some legal suppliers who were putting vitamin E in their products have just taken it out without telling anybody because it's making their customers sick."

The panelists ended by emphasizing that Montgomery County is actively working to address the issues vaping may cause teens and the greater community as a whole.

"There has been legislation created that will be voted on in the near future that aims to significantly impair that access teens will have to these products," said Gayles. "When we know that something is disproportionately affecting a segment of the population, it's our job to do what we can to make sure they are safe and to decrease their access to these products."

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OpEd

A Holiday Wish: Keeping Our Civility And Community Spirit

By Link Hoewing

I have lived on and off in Poolesville for decades (except for a few years when we lived overseas). I have been involved in town government and in a wide variety of volunteer organizations for almost all of my time in our town.

I volunteered in part because I have found so many wonderful people here and so much support. During most of my time here, I have been pleased with the level of community spirit, community involvement, and supportive neighborly interactions. We have always found ways to get things done, amicably and in good spirits. We have not always agreed, but we have always pulled together. That is what has made our town so unique and so wonderful.

Lately, though, I am beginning to get concerned that our sense of community, fairmindedness, and willingness to try and come together have frayed around the edges. I see posts on the Community Facebook page that are harsh, nasty, and sometimes downright mean. I see emails that have been shared with me that attack others or lambast them, at least in part because of their backgrounds or their line of work. I have heard comments denigrating others in the harshest of terms mostly due to their views on a given policy or topic. Character assassination is not too harsh a term for some of the comments I have heard.

Of course, social media makes this sort of thing more common and easier than it was years ago. It adds a sort of veil behind which it is easier to castigate someone else just because of his background or what he does—but that is no excuse. Our town has been so good and so caring that it is inexcusable for us to allow the coarsening of our dialog or the fraying of our goodwill towards each other to grow.

Part of what is happening is likely due to the way our politics work today. As Michael Gerson, an editorial writer, has said, “If our public life is reduced to the binary choice between one side that we think will save our country and the other that will surely, we believe, destroy it, then leaders who agree with us are always preferable, no matter how badly our national dialog and our institutions are affected

or harmed.” If some truly believe this, then there is no room for compromise, and those who don’t agree with us are not just wrong but evil. I don’t believe that.

I served on Capitol Hill as a chief aide to a Senate Committee in the 1970s and ’80s. It was not that way back then. We argued very loudly and actively about policy, and I truly believed my arguments and my side were right, but I also respected my opponents, and, at the end of the day, I have many friends who were in the opposite party who are still my friends. They were wrong on policy in my view but still right to argue against me.

I have faith in our community, and I believe that honest dialog and compromise are what not only preserve democracy but what make our community stronger and more caring. No one should suffer slanders because of who they are or their line of work. We should all be able to argue as hard as possible for our views, but we should not suffer attacks on our backgrounds or what we do for a living or suspicions about our motivations.

Most importantly, we should have the humility to admit when we are wrong or when we have hurt others. Words matter, and they can hurt, despite the old saw that says otherwise. We may feel justified—or even feel good—when we belittle others, but it comes at their expense and creates tension and distrust. Ultimately, that is bad for the community.

I have always believed everyone deserves respect and to be listened to unless they make it clear through their actions that they do not deserve respect or are taking actions based on bad intent. In my experience in this town, most people are acting or speaking based on their love of our community or their assessment of what is best for the town. Assuming we know someone’s intent simply based on who they are or their line of work is wrong and unfair. Jumping to conclusions before as many facts as possible are out is damaging to good debate and makes us have to spend time trying to correct bad information. All of this coarsens our dialog. It undermines trust which makes it harder to get things done.

Thank you, Poolesville community, for being such a wonderful place in which to live. Let’s all do our part in all we say and do to keep it as wonderful and supportive as it is. Let’s continue to debate and discuss, vigorously and often, but let’s do so with care and fairness.

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Local News

Dickerson Man Dead after Collision

By Jack Toomey

Police, fire, and detectives all responded to Comus Road on November 17 at about 9:50 p.m. in response to a one-vehicle collision. They found that a truck had run off of the roadway and had struck a stand of trees.

Police later said that Jerry Lee Thompson, age 46, of Mouth of Monocacy Road had been traveling south on Comus Road at Barley Field Lane when, for reasons that are still under investigation, his 2007 Dodge truck hit the trees. Thompson was pronounced dead on the scene.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit of the county police continues to investigate.



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Tidbits

Nestors Celebrating 60th Wedding Anniversary

Beallsville residents E. Dale Nestor, a former vocational agriculture teacher at PHS, and wife, Myrtle Lou, former Poolesville Baptist Church secretary, were wed sixty years ago this coming Thanksgiving.

Both natives of Barbour County, West Virginia, they met while Dale was a student at West Virginia University and she worked in the registrar's office. The Nestors moved to Poolesville in 1963. The couple are the parents of twin daughters, Adel Eckenrode and Agnes Nestor, both residing in Frederick County.

The Nestors state that the tie that binds is their relationship with the Holy Trinity. In acknowledging their marriage as divinely given, they share their love for the Bible scriptures, Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:47, Revelations 22:7, 12, and 20.

JPMS Collecting Gifts for the Troops

This year, John Poole Middle School will be sending holiday donations to a unit serving in the navy on an aircraft carrier. The donation drive will run up until November 26. Suggested donations include non-perishable snacks/cookies, holiday decorations, magazines, personal hygiene items, or monetary donations. Monetary donations will be applied towards the cost of postage (last year the cost of postage was more than \$1,000). Donations can be dropped off at or mailed to John Poole Middle School, 17014 Tom Fox Avenue, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Congratulations to Sammy!



Family and friends congratulate Sam Hardwick on another great Special Olympics medal in bowling.

Sam Hardwick competed in the Special Olympics Frederick County bowling November 10. The tournament was held at the Terrace Lanes, and we are not surprised to learn that he took home the gold.

A Christmas Carol Returns for 2019

The joy of the Christmas season will be celebrated in Hope Garden Children's



The Nestors are celebrating sixty years of wedded bliss.



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Continued on page 11.

Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

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

Mahjong: Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

Chair/Slow Flow Yoga: Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.

Buy your Christmas tree locally at Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church.

November 22

Barnesville Special Event: An Evening of Meditation

Sitting and walking meditation, bring mat/cushion, comfortable clothes. Sponsored by Barnesville Green and Sugarloaf Sanga Community. Free. *Barnesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

November 22 and 23

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic and Holiday Sale

Thousands of Christmas items, both new and old, including ornaments, decorations (inside and out), linens, jewelry, toys, dishes, artificial trees, cards, and more. Bake sale and baking pecans for sale. Friday: noon to 6:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

November 24

Boys Presbyterian Church Presents a Ceoltoiri Concert

Enjoy an afternoon of lively music and dance tunes, featuring renowned artists Karen Ashbrook (hammered dulcimer and Irish flute), Paul Oorts (harp guitar and button accordion), and Connie McKenna (Celtic vocalist). Free will offering. 3:00 p.m.

November 25

Adult Library Book Discussion Group

Nightingale Library. 7:00 p.m.

November 26

Tween Book Discussion Group

Nightingale Library. 7:00 p.m.

December 2

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

December 4

PMUMC's Free Community Dinner

Serving honey-baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and lots of homemade desserts. Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available upon request. *Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church.* 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

December 6

Annual Poolesville Holiday Lighting Festival and PACC First Friday Event

Holiday refreshments, ice skating, games, and food. Hop on the Calleva Winter Express (wagon) to start your holiday shopping at local businesses. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m., tree lighting at 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' basketball. Brunswick. 7:00 p.m.

December 7

UMCVFD's Annual Santa Breakfast

All you can eat: eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, juice, cereal, fruit, and coffee. View Christmas model trains layout and watch Santa Is Coming to Town. Bring new toy for WUMCO Help. 12 years and up - \$9.00, 3 years to 11 - \$6.00, and under 3 years free. *19801 Beallsville Road.* 8:00 a.m. to noon.

December 13

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball. Wheaton. 7:15 p.m.

A Monocacy Moment



Safe travels, Bei Bei!
The Panda Express flew Bei Bei, the giant panda, back to China, passing over Poolesville on its way.

Photo by Adam Singh

Fun Facts...

... about Thanksgiving! The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three-day harvest festival. It included fifty Pilgrims and ninety Wampanoag Indians. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.

Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Joseph Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for seventeen years.

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Continued from page 9.

Tidbits

Ballet Theatre's (HGCBT) *A Christmas Carol* at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville on Saturday, November 30. There will be two shows (at 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.) featuring many adorable and talented Poolesville kids of all ages dancing their hearts out. It is their tenth annual performance of Charles Dickens's classic choreographed by HGCBT's artistic director, Fran Ichijo. Every year she makes it new, with younger children coming up in the ranks to fill new roles



These cute dancers (and so many more) will perform at Hope Garden's annual Christmas ballet: A Christmas Carol.

more dazzling than before. Get out of the house and be moved and inspired by Scrooge's transformation from curmudgeon to kindly soul! Call the box office at 240-314-8690 or contact the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at theatre@rockvillemd.gov.

Monocacy Cemetery Volunteers Place Veterans Day American Flags

In their fifth annual Veterans Day event, eighteen students, ranging from elementary school through high school, volunteered to place thirty-eight memorial American flags at the gravesites of deceased veterans. In answering the cemetery's call for assistance to coordinate this event in the future, which also includes Memorial Day, Poolesville's Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 has come forward to agree to work with them and with Anne Gallnut from PHS, the SSL contact person.



Local student volunteers placed many flags at Monocacy Cemetery.



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December 6
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December 20
Annual Cugini's Ugliest Sweater Party and Tap Takeover Featuring Port City Brewing



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School News

MES Celebrates Veterans Day and the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day

By Angela Smith

The Monocacy Elementary School (MES) Veterans Day Celebration was a huge success kicked off by our Masters of Ceremonies, fifth graders, Connor Jacobs, Elise Preis, and Bryan Smith. The patrol officers marched through the crowd-filled auditorium proudly carrying the United States and Maryland flags. Miss Alban and Mrs. Romagnoli delivered a captivating and age-appropriate lesson about what it means to be brave, courageous, and patriotic, then tied that into how our military is comprised of Americans with these traits. The children learned about the five branches of the military and a few facts about each branch. They learned how the army is the largest group of armed forces and is best known for fighting on the ground and includes aviators, air defense, and medical support staff. The marines carry out missions by land, sea, and air, known for their quick responses to emergencies at home and around the world with their "First to Fight" slogan. The navy is known for operations at sea with sailors serving on submarines, aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers. Their divers go deep underwater to repair ships. The air force carries out operations in the air such as spy missions, air support, and air combat. The coast guard protects America's three hundred ports, coastlines, and waterways, and is mainly concerned with national security and is used in maritime search and rescue operations.

Geared with their newfound knowledge about our military, the children learned that Veterans Day is a special holiday to honor the men and women who were brave, courageous, patriotic, and who fought in the branches of our military. Veterans are people who served in the military in times of war or peace. It was awesome to see the overwhelming show of hands when asked if the children personally knew a veteran, whether it be a father, mother, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, grandfather, grandmother, cousin, or friend.



MES students celebrated area vets on Veterans Day.

It was still left to teach why we actually celebrate Veterans Day: Veterans put their lives on the line to guarantee the freedoms we enjoy today. They did not run from battle, yield to fear, or abandon their cause. Because of their service to our country, we owe them our full support and thanks. To celebrate Veterans Day and to honor our veterans, the children recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," "This Is My Country," and "This Land Is Your Land" led by Mrs. Kmiecik on the piano. Isabella Gallardo read a beautiful poem. We learned about the history and meaning of "Taps" followed by a heartfelt rendition as our veterans stood and proudly faced the American Flag.

"How did we get from here..."



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Monocacy Wildlife

The Winter Birds Have Arrived

By Susan Petro

Winter temps blew in like a lion this week, and with those winds came a variety of hungry birds. Now is the time to fill our feeders and to provide a fresh supply of clean water to help our feathered visitors survive the winter. In return, our view from our windows will be graced with a variety of colorful birds guaranteed to cure the winter doldrums

Now that a few hard freezes have passed over the area, many natural sources of foods for our local birds have disappeared. Many birds rely on feeders to provide or supplement their daily food intake needs.

This season's first dark-eyed juncos arrived right on time just a few days after Halloween. These hardy, compact, black and gray birds migrate north in the spring and return to our area like clockwork every fall. Along with the juncos, other seasonal travelers like the white-throated sparrows begin to show up soon after other local birds head south to warmer climates. For us birders, the arrival of our over-wintering birds is a sure sign that winter is close behind.

The Poolesville area is home to a wide variety of both seasonal and year-round birds. While some regulars like the ruby-throated hummingbird take off for warmer climates when the food sources start to diminish and the temperatures drop, others stay year-round. Many birds, like cardinals, house and purple finches, goldfinches, blue jays, colorful woodpeckers, and others stay through the winter. Some birds travel deeper into the woods to look for sources of food and water, but well-stocked feeders almost guarantee a variety of colorful birds will remain near their most reliable food sources.

Black-oiled sunflower seeds are a nutritious source of feed for a variety of birds. The seeds are high in fat, and the shells are easier to crack than striped sunflower seeds. Peanuts, both shelled and unshelled, are popular for blue jays, woodpeckers, and many seasonal birds like the tufted titmouse. Suet cakes are a high-energy, high-fat source of nutrition that can be homemade or bought pre-packaged.

A good mixed seed will provide popular food choices for many birds, but beware of cheap mixed seed bags that are full of fillers that many local



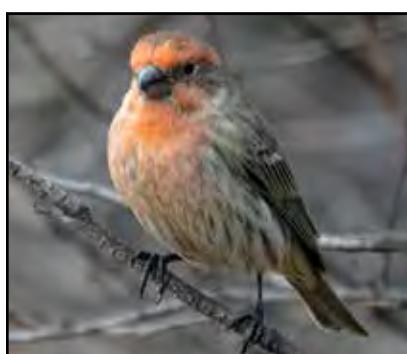
American Goldfinch



Cardinal



House Finch



Orange Finch



American Goldfinch

Continued from page 4.

Reflection on the Loss Of One of God's Gifts

park. Only once, as a puppy, when given the chance to bolt freely, did she do so in a rapturous grab for freedom, almost as if she could not wait to get away from me.

How to love:

This was her most profound and powerful gift. Upon the first sighting of us in the morning, the tail was wagging, and she immediately desired to come and lick our faces. If we seemed to be leaving to go somewhere without her, her puppy ears would droop sadly, her eyes wistfully letting us know how much we would be missed. I believe the only time we as humans can love as unselfishly as a dog is when we finally reach the gates of heaven.

The other day, as I was getting ready to go out the back door, I heard what I thought was her nails clicking on the floor right behind me. Without thinking at all, I turned to make sure I didn't accidentally close the door on her. Then reality hit me. It had been my imagination. This led me to conclude that the answer to the oft-asked question of whether pets go to heaven or not is no. They stay right with us in our thoughts and imaginations, as always, until we die—and then they go with us.

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Fun Fact...

The D.C.-Metro area is a 'fly-over' for many species of migratory birds, including some that stay year-round. The Audubon Society has a guide to identifying wild birds, www.audubon.org/bird-guide. They also have a list of native plants you can add to your garden that offer them food through the winter.

Continued on page 15.

Continued from page 1.

The Flower of the Village: Winsome Brown

Eighth Air Force whose mission was to bomb Germany on nearly a daily basis.

Ed was temporarily assigned to a post in New York City for thirty days to help train raw troops in what to expect before going to England for the first time. That was when he bought an engagement ring.

Upon his return to England, he proposed, but Winsome, while in love, nevertheless was cautious because there were many horror stories surrounding the over-sixty thousand war brides who made their way to America. Many of them came to America to meet their beaux only to find no one there to greet them. Winsome needed for Ed to be absolutely sure before agreeing to the engagement, so as the war came to an end, she insisted that Ed return to America first, telling him, "You've got to think about this." He left in November of 1945 but returned in June of 1946 to marry her. The wedding became "the greatest feast in the village since the beginning of the war." All the church bells in the village rang simultaneously when the vows were exchanged.

Winsome Brown grew up on a dairy farm in the picturesque, quaint village of Bozeat and was expecting big things from America, so naturally she was amazed to discover that her little hometown in England was bigger than Poolesville. When she took the Poolesville Taxi (yes, there really was a Poolesville Taxi back then) from Union Station through Chevy Chase and Rockville, her expectations of Poolesville only got bigger and bigger. It was not until the taxi owner/driver, Mrs. Ward, whose husband ran a local garage about where the Liberty station stands today, drove through the town and announced that they had just gone through Poolesville that Winsome realized how small Poolesville really was.

After a few years and a few kids, they began looking for the home that would not only be their first home but the last one as well. "We looked at what seemed like three hundred homes," before deciding on the fifty-two-acre farm on Peach Tree Road. It must have been the right decision since they have lived there their entire lives together there.

Leaving her parents and five siblings across the sea left her lonely at first. "What saved me was St. Peter's Church. If it hadn't been for Dots Elgin and Florence Van Emon, I don't know what I would have done." She immersed herself in church-related activities to serve the town, teaching Sunday school for many years, volunteering with the Women of St. Peter's, and participating in festivals and rummage sales. In this way, Winsome made herself a new home and a new American family. With Ed working seventy hours a week, the couple looked for things they could do in the precious time they had together. They chose the very thing that had brought them together in the first place. They danced. The area was a hotbed of adult dances back then, and the Browns joined their many friends at the dances. Winsome wistfully and almost philosophically always thought it a shame that "People don't dance like they used to."

Through the first ten years together, Ed never took a vacation. Even Sundays were very busy. A typical Sunday for them was with pro bono clients knocking at the back door looking for "lawyer Brown's help" on cases in Rockville scheduled for the next day, while his paying clients were knocking at the front door hoping he would see them because they didn't want to drive "all the way to Rockville" just to meet with him.

At just about their tenth year anniversary, Winsome packed up the kids and went to England for a month's vacation. Ed got so lonely he decided to visit them, and on their return, they took a slow boat home across the ocean. When he discovered that he'd had his best year yet, he decided that taking time off wasn't a bad idea. In 1956, the couple started a lifelong passion of boating.

Boating was something Ed had learned while working his way through law school and that experience led them to buy an antique boat. He and Winsome restored it, showed it in boating parades, and even won many awards at boating events on the East Coast. They eventually purchased a fifty-foot cruiser and traveled the East Coast in style.

As the years went by, Winsome expanded her volunteer work in the community and joined with Mary Ann Kephart as a founding member of the Historic Medley District in 1974. Through the vision of these determined women, HMD not only restored the John Poole home to its log cabin origins but went on to restore the single-room schoolhouse on River Road. Commonly referred to as the Seneca Schoolhouse, today it is a living history museum that hosts many elementary school students for a day of learning in a single-room environment. When the schoolhouse had its formal dedication, it was a big event in town, and Winsome was the chairperson running the event. As Ed watched her lead, he was so impressed that he "thought she should have gone into politics. She would have been great at it."

As with so many of the grand women of the past, though, it was her devotion to family, the community, and her church that caused the ninety-six-year-old Winsome Brown to leave her indelible and profound mark on Poolesville.

Fun Fact...

Ed Brown's Mighty Eighth Air Force has a museum located in Pooler, Georgia. It educates visitors through the use of exhibits, artifacts, archival materials, and stories, most of which are dedicated to the history of the Eighth Air Force of the United States Army Air Corps that served in the European Theatre during World War II. Visit www.mightyeighth.org.



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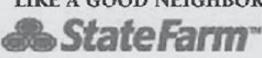
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Continued from page 13.

The Winter Birds Have Arrived

birds won't eat. Local wild bird shops can recommend the best choices for our local birds.

Mealworms, either live or dried, attract additional bird varieties and will supplement the diet of the regular birds. Bluebirds and Carolina chickadees love mealworms.

Of course, along with the birds, there will almost always be a handful of determined squirrels hoping to feast on bird seed. Feeding the squirrels can become an expensive endeavor as they can rapidly drain the feeders and cause damage. The best way to discourage their presence is to invest in good-quality squirrel-resistant feeders. If larger animals are laying waste to your feeders, it may become necessary to bring the food sources in at night to discourage the midnight raiders.

Recent studies show that wild birds have disappeared at an alarming rate over the past few decades. Habitat loss, window strikes, and tall buildings in migrating paths are some reasons birds have disappeared. Feral and pet cats can also be a problem for the wild bird population, but keeping feeders and seed off the ground can go a long way towards protecting birds from predators. Keeping pet cats indoors helps.

In addition to a healthy diet of seeds, suet, and fresh water, enthusiasts can help protect the birds from the elements by planting bird-friendly trees, shrubs, and vegetation for birds to find shelter from the wind, rain, and cold temperatures. Vegetation that produces seeds and berries provides much-needed nutrition.

Some non-native plants like the popular Nandina shrubs produce beautiful red berries that are actually quite deadly to birds. They have been linked to cases of mass bird deaths. At the very least, these bushes should be removed or the berries cut off to prevent poisonings. The State of Maryland considers the Nandina shrub a Tier II invasive plant, but state officials have not banned the sale or taken steps to remove it from public lands or private properties. Nurseries and retailers must place signage warning buyers of the dangers, but many homeowners and businesses remain unaware of the plant's toxicity.

Of course, providing for our feathered population can stretch the wallets of even the most dedicated birding enthusiasts, but one mustn't commit to going broke to reap the rewards of attracting native birds. One can start small by providing a simple source of fresh water or a small feeder with seed.

Beware, the rewards of watching a window full of colorful birds can start to add up. Soon, you may find yourself with a cart full of bird seed, sunflower seeds, peanuts, mealworms, suet, the latest squirrel-proof feeder, a heated birdbath, some hooks for hanging your latest finds, and on and on.

The good news is the holidays are on the way, so one can also add birding supplies to one's wish list because nothing is prettier than seeing a tree full of bright red cardinals and other colorful birds on a cold and snowy winter day.

Continued from page 4.

Rapturous Crows at 6th Annual Owl Moon Raptor Center Festival

twin. He and a one-year-old "big brother" barn owl, also born at Owl Moon, were one of the highlights of event.

After exhibiting the birds who are current residents at Owl Moon and informing the crowd about the rescue's mission and rehabilitative services, it was time for the special event. Many of the raptors that can be healed to the point of being able to take care of themselves in the wild will eventually be released. Owl Moon saved two such releases for festival day, an adult Cooper's hawk and a juvenile Barred owl—an exhilarating event for everyone.

Owl Moon Raptor Center's mission is to rescue and rehabilitate injured, sick, and orphaned birds of prey and return them to the wild in sound, athletic condition; and to educate the public about raptors in the process. Owl Moon is a home-based nonprofit operated by Suzanne Shoemaker, a Maryland- and federally-licensed Master Wildlife Rehabilitator, located in Boyds and serving Montgomery and neighboring counties. For more information about, to arrange a visit, or to make a donation to Owl Moon or Adventures with Owls, contact them at 301-353-8947 or visit at www.owlmoon.org and Facebook at Owl Moon Raptor Center.



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Local News

Scouts in Action

By Rande Davis

Over ninety-three scout and adult volunteers picked up, weighed, sorted, and shelved 6,666 pounds or 3.33 tons of food to support WUMCO's mission of helping families in need in the Poolesville area. This exceeded the all-time record by 185 pounds. WUMCO's shelves are completely stocked and then some.

The scouts are so grateful to all of Poolesville for supporting this worthwhile cause, and WUMCO gives a big shout out of thanks to the scouts, including Boy Scouts, cub scouts, Girl Scouts, and parents and siblings for their tremendous efforts.

Also, a special thank you goes to CVS for lending over 120 crates, Tinker the taxidermist for the weighing scale, and McDonald's for donating cups for the hot chocolate at a moment's notice.

In addition to the food drive, another scout service group, the Flying Eagles Patrol, part of Troop 496, picked up trash along the retention pond at John Poole Middle School and collected six bags of trash and debris as well as a rusty bike, trashcan lids, a bucket, and plastic car parts. Their favorite find was a giant plastic Coca Cola bottle.



The Boy Scout Troop 496 Eagle Patrol on a community cleanup project.

The Flying Eagles is a patrol within Troop 496, and they chose two service projects to fulfill their Honor patrol requirements. The first was picking up trash around the retention pond. After the town drained the pond to fix a plumbing issue, it became increasingly evident that there were considerable amounts of trash in and around the pond that needed to be removed, so the scouts decided to address that need. Despite deep mud around the pond (some of the boys' shoes actually got stuck down in the mud and slid right off their feet), the scouts were able to remove a rusty bike, trashcan lid, buckets, bottles, cans, Ziploc bags, Styrofoam, sports balls and equipment, and their favorite find, the gigantic plastic Coca Cola bottle. Their next service project will be removing a large fallen tree from the Seneca Schoolhouse on River Road.

Fun Fact...

Scouting promises you the great outdoors. As a Scout, you can learn how to camp and hike without leaving a trace and how to take care of the land. You'll study wildlife up close and learn about nature all around you. There are plenty of skills for you to master, and you can teach others what you have learned. Want to know more? Contact Poolesville Troop 496 Scout Master Jon Kasner at 301-349-2134.



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Youth Sports

Seniors Lead the Way, But Youth Is the Key for 2019 PHS Cross Country Team

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School cross country team did well at the Montgomery County meet, according to coach Prasad Gerard, "Freshmen Kevin Hsu, Billy Beane, and Landon Fiery all made a dramatic improvement of almost four minutes from the beginning of the season. Freshmen Amogh Hari Krishna (improved eight minutes) and Umar Thangalvadi improved on their times from the beginning of the year. Freshmen Vidhya Iyer and Abigail King both improved more than five minutes. The boys' team tightened up the top five to a gap of fifty-nine seconds from Sam Bodmer, Chris Stallard, Mac Gallagher, Luka Brizhik, Andrew Victory, and Aaron Longbrake. On the girls' side, there is a gap of 2:02 between Logan Rohde, Anna Bodmer, Mikayla Durr, Emily Li, Lillian Hsu, and sophomore

Kaviya Kandaswamy...Both teams have worked hard to make big improvements."

"We lost some good runners from last season," said senior Sam Bodmer, "but we had some newcomers who helped us cope with that. We had a strong season. The Bull Run Meet was a good meet for us. It was at the state course. It was hot, so it was pretty hard. Aaron Longbrake, a freshman, came on strong, and Mac Gallagher improved drastically." Sam set a season record at the Brunswick Invitational on September 7.

"The best meet of the season was probably the county meet," said junior Christopher Stallard. "It is a really nice flat course...The county was my best run so far in terms of actual time, but in terms of placement, I did pretty well at Brunswick which was our first meet. I finished seventh and set a PR in the three-mile, 17:08. Like Sam said, Mac has improved a lot this year, and Jason Liu, junior, dropped his time by nearly two minutes in setting a PR at the county. That's a big drop."

"Our season has been pretty good so far," said junior Mikayla Durr. "I have seen consistent improvement. I am proud of all my teammates as well as myself. Earlier this, year I made it

back to where I was at my peak in my sophomore year, so I should be able to keep going and improve even more." Durr's best time was at the county meet, a personal record (PR) of 21:21.

"This is my first year on varsity," said junior Lillian Hsu. "My best performance, time wise, was at the county meet. I improved by two and a half minutes from the year before. I set a PR (23:03), but my favorite race from my perspective was probably the Oatlands Invitational on September 14 at the Oatlands Plantation in Virginia. It was a really good course, and the weather was really good. I know Julia Lyons has improved a lot from the past two years she has been on the team, and sophomore Caroline Simons has improved a lot, and two freshmen, Anna Bodmer and Abigail King, have both made a lot of progress, especially Abigail." Abigail set a PR at the county meet.

"I think we have done really well," said senior Logan Rhode. "Our varsity team has improved a lot from the beginning of the year. I think all of us have brought our times down together. We have lighter workouts at the beginning, and then it gets harder towards the middle of the season, and then we taper off a bit so we are refreshed and fast and strong at the

end." Rhode ran his best time at the county meet. "I dropped, like, a minute off the time that I had been running. I ran a season record. We won a good amount of our dual meets. We didn't do badly, but they didn't stand out. For us, the focus is on individuals more than team scores. We look to the invitational and building for post-season meets. Anna Bodmer is really fast. For most of the season, she has actually been beating me and she is just a freshman."

At the county meet, five of the seven boys that scored ran a PR, including juniors McCleary Gallagher and Luka Brizhik, seniors Andrew Victory and Olisaneme Okonkwo, and junior Jason Liu. Junior Finnley Ryan ran a season record time.

On the girls' side, four of the seven that figured in the scoring ran PRs, including Li, Simmons, and Lyons. Junior Carina Derewonko ran a season record time as did senior Shirley Chen.

For the boys, other seniors include Jeffrey Guan, Tejas Guha, Garrett Gularson, Elias Izmirlian, Jacob Kiviat, Alexander Leff, Declan McHugh, Avi Trost, William Xu, and Andrew Zhong.

For the girls, other seniors include Saloni Maskey, Lydia Ruan, Ashlynn Stearns, and Tejasa Yaddula.

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Youth Sports

Pompons Transformed to Ghouls

By Tor Ofsthsun

Imagine a weary traveler whose car has broken down on an old gravel road. Lost, he wanders along as the darkness envelopes the bleak, rural landscape of trees, shifting in the wind like dark spirits, their branches reaching to scratch and grasp him. Fortuitous night! What light beckons on yonder hill! His spirits rise—only to be dashed. Instead of warm sanctuary, a scene out of Dante's *Inferno* unfolds. The fire illuminates a cluster of buildings resembling a small village in the country, but 'twixt traveler and safety, twenty ghastly ghouls stand still in front of a huge bonfire. Suddenly, music blares out, eerie but with a phrenetic beat, and the ghouls dance as one. Upon closer inspection, they look like spirits of women in the flesh. Had they perhaps perished in the prime of their youth? They were comely despite their undead aspect, and they danced dexterously in unison. What madness is this?

Fortunately, for our intrepid wanderer, they were not ghouls but the Poolesville High School poms performing at Markoff's Haunted Forest for the third consecutive year. Mayra Hayes and Adrienne Embrey, the new pompons coaches for PHS, watched with pride and excitement.

"They [Markoff's] did all the makeup for the girls and us two as well. We all looked pretty frightening," Embrey said.

"I love watching them in the Halloween performance," Hayes reflected, "because they take on a new identity and a new character within their dance, and that is a big part of what dance is about. It's about embracing that character or that song or that emotion so that you can produce that in your dance."



The 2019 Falcon poms performed at Markoff's Haunted Forest in Halloween costumes.

Both logical choices for the coaching vacancy, Embrey and Hayes danced together for the Poolesville pom squad during the 1999-2000 season. Embrey and Hayes started their pom careers at ages eight and twelve, respectively, both continuing through all four years of high school. On citing inspirations for coaching, both included this quote in their explanations:

"Once a pom, always a pom."

"That's our go-to saying," Embrey elaborated. "You never lose it. We have the alumnae game every year where we encourage all the old poms to come in and perform with the new poms—and it's fun! It is a whole routine, so that all the feelings of nervousness and excitement you had back in high school come back out ten years later."

"I was one hundred percent inspired by my previous experience as a pom," Hayes added. "I really started to get my love for dance as a pom, and then I went to college to get a degree in dance and arts, so I wanted to be a part of it again. I feel honored and proud to coach."

Coaching also involves pressure to do well, and Poolesville holds the title of Montgomery County Division I champions two years running, so expectations are high. Invitationals take place at Northwest High School, January 11 and at

Continued on page 22.



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Youth Sports

Colin Hemingway On and Off the Field

By Jeff Stuart

Poolesville senior Colin Hemingway plays football and lacrosse. This past football season, he caught an Aaron Brown pass for a touchdown in the opening game against Blake. He scored three fourth-quarter rushing touchdowns in the next to last game, a win against Centennial. One was a seventy-yard run. He also scored the final touchdown of the year for the Falcons late in the fourth quarter against Watkins Mill. He did a lot in between, also playing defensive back. Colin was recently interviewed by the *Monocle*.

What subject do you enjoy most?

History. I enjoy learning about things that happened in our past.

What have you read recently?

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah.

How do you handle stress and pressure?

I don't let it affect the way I think and act. I move past it. There's no use in stressing about it, it just makes things worse.

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

Art, specifically drawing and ceramics; snowboarding; making/building things. I started skiing when I was three and started snowboarding when I was seven. I started competing for snowboarding when I was ten and stopped when I was fifteen because it was too much of a time commitment.

I competed regionally at Liberty, Wisp, Snowshoe, Wintegreen, Seven Springs, and Blue Mountain, and in all disciplines for all five years. I competed nationally in 2014 in boardercross and slalom at Copper Mountain in Colorado. I was a USASA Regional and National competitor. I have been out west to Colorado and Utah many times for recreational snowboarding.

Are you involved in any other extracurricular activities at Poolesville?

Besides football and lacrosse, I take part in a mentoring program for elementary school kids

How competitive are you on a scale from one to ten, ten being the highest?

Ten.

When did you get your starts in football and lacrosse?

I started playing football at age six and lacrosse at age eight.

What are your main motivations for doing athletics?

I enjoy the physicality, being in game situations and the adrenaline rush, and keeping in shape.

Do you have any pregame rituals or special pregame meals, etc.?

I always wear the same shirt and underwear for each game.

What have been your major highlights/achievements in athletics?

In lacrosse, I was named 2019 U.S. Lacrosse All American, Maryland/Montgomery County,

2019 Montgomery County MD First Team All-County, 2018 Under Armour All America Lacrosse Top 44 Callback Participant for Washington, D.C. Team, 2017 Under Armour All America Lacrosse Washington, D.C. Top 22 Command Team, 2018 Montgomery County MD First Team All-Division and Second Team All-County, 2017 Montgomery County MD First Team All-Division and First Team All-County Pick.

In football, I was a starting running back and defensive back as a sophomore in 2017. In 2018, I finished as the county's ninth leading rusher with 1,064 yards. I had eleven rushing touchdowns and one as a receiver.

In 2019, I was named as one of Montgomery County's top fifty players.



Colin Hemingway

What are your most memorable games or in-game moments?

Playing varsity freshman year with my brother (who was a senior) and scoring five touchdowns in one game last year. Senior night wasn't very emotional for me at the time, but, looking back on it now and all of the other memories I had with football, I know I'm going to really miss it for a long time.

My favorite game was in 2018 against Winters Mill. I scored five touchdowns in that game.

Where do you think you would like to go to college?

Georgia Tech. I like Georgia Tech because it's in the middle of the city, but when you're on campus it doesn't feel like you are. It's also one of the best engineering schools in the country which makes it a very attractive choice because I want to major in Mechanical Engineering. My brother Keegan is currently a junior there, and he plays football.

Continued on page 25.

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Youth Sports

The Challenge of Cheerleading

By Jeff Stuart

"We got fifth place out of nine teams with no deductions at the county cheerleading competition at Montgomery Blair on October 26," said senior captain of the Poolesville varsity cheerleading squad, Remy Anderson. "With a large portion of the team having never cheered or competed before at this level, that is extremely good. We hit every stunt and are beyond proud of our performance."

"From the moment we walked in the door of tryouts, preparation started. Basics had to be built before anything else. We started the season perfecting a lengthy cheer list of over fifty cheers from the past as well as new ones. Through these cheers, we practiced the motions and sharpness required for competition. While learning these cheers, we developed stunts, incorporating a front flip dismount which we have not done in competition since 2016; 2016 was also the last year we had spring tryouts, 2017 started the trend of fall tryouts along with all the other fall sports since we were now officially a fall sport."

"Competitions also became earlier and earlier. In 2016, it was November 12; this year it was October 26. With less time to prep than we had in prior years, we worked extremely hard six days a week. Our coaches, Chrissy Dabondanza and Sophia Stubbings (both Poolesville cheer alumnae), were instrumental in the choreography of our routine."

Remy began cheering when she was eight and has been on varsity since her freshman year. "My season highlight comes in competition where we all tackled each other in hugs after hitting our competition routine at counties. The overwhelming emotion and pride I felt in my team at that moment was incomparable to anything I have felt before."

Remy also has warm words for her teammates. "Bailee Benna, a sophomore in her first year at Poolesville, stepped up when one of our flyers was injured and could not perform. She stepped into that spot, and we would not have done as well as we did without her. Freshman flyer Hannah Lucas-Dreiss also stepped



The 2019 PHS Falcon cheerleading squad.

up. A lot was asked of her stunt-wise, and she hit every stunt on that mat...Kyla Haga, another sophomore new to Poolesville, is one of the strongest bases (they hold the flyers up) I have ever encountered. She is always working hard and ready to try new things. Her leadership going into competition was superb. Feh Gana, a freshman, always has a smile on her face. She worked extremely hard to improve her skills and she has become a strong element of this team."

What is the toughest thing about cheerleading?

"Not getting discouraged. Cheer is an intensely physically demanding sport. Not only do we have to cheer on the track, but we also tumble, dance, and stunt (stunt as in lifting people above our heads)."

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In Your Own Backyard

The Story of Rock Hall Manor: Part One

By Jon Wolz

Jon Mullen is the curator of Rock Hall Manor and lives in the house that was built by Roger Johnson in 1812 for his son Joseph. The house is now owned by the State of Maryland and is within the boundaries of the Monocacy River Natural Resources Management Area. Jon has painstakingly restored the house with his family as much as possible to its original early-nineteenth-century grandeur. Jon showed me around and told me the history of the property. Families who have lived in the house over the years include the Johnsons, Belts, HARRISES, Chadwicks, and now the Mullens.



Rock Hall Manor's stepping stones.

Rock Hall Manor consists of the main house, the foundation of an 1870s bank barn, a 1920s stone silo, and a 1930s dairy barn that hasn't seen cows for many years. Also, there is a stone chimney of what remains of the slave quarters near the main house. Slaves may have been buried in unmarked graves in a nearby field. There is a foundation out back of a small building that may have been for the property's blacksmith at one time. A distillery once stood near the house. On a different visit to the property, Jon gave Steve Horvath and me a tour of the outside structures as well as inside the house.

In front of the house is a four-step stone stile with very large stones that were quarried on the property and used to step up to mount horses or to get into horse-drawn carriages or wagons. The steps would have been useful for a person of any size. There is a walkway that has boxwoods on both sides leading up to the front door. At one time, in the center of the front yard, were two immense boxwoods that were described as being "remarkable in size and beauty."

The house has three sections. The tallest and deepest is on the west end and the smallest on the east end. The west end and middle sections are two stories tall and constructed of stone that was quarried on the property. The east end of the building is one-and-a-half stories, and the exterior is constructed of wood. The center section has a full-length balcony that is covered by the roof that extends over it. The original windows are believed to have come from a glassworks owned by Thomas Johnson. In 1784, a German immigrant, John Frederick

Amelung, built a glass factory and community along Bennett Creek northwest of Sugarloaf Mountain. By 1795, Amelung had declared bankruptcy. Thomas Johnson, who was one of Roger's brothers and was the first governor of Maryland, purchased some of Amelung's machinery and opened the Aetna Glassworks on Tuscarora Creek and Johnson Glassworks on Bush Creek in Frederick County.

The interior walls are all plaster, and I asked Jon how thick the walls were. He pulled out a tape measure and measured twenty-two inches from the interior edge of the wall and out a back door to the edge of the exterior stone of the house.

There are five exterior doors to the house. On the main entrance door, there is the original lock and key that were installed in the door in 1812. I had carefully turned the immense iron heavy key on a previous visit to manipulate the lock which is six by twelve inches. On this visit, when I asked to take a photo of the key and lock, Jon said, "How would you like to have carried that key in your pocket?" I just smiled at Jon.

The rooms in the house are large with private entrances to each room. The woodwork throughout the house is all well preserved and in excellent condition. Jon refinished all of the pine flooring throughout the house.

There are winding stairs down to what was once a cellar, and Jon pointed out the smooth finish to the floor joists above my head. He said when they were being cut to be used for the floor joists, the carpenter used an adze. An adze is a cutting tool similar to an axe but with the cutting edge perpendicular to the handle rather than parallel. Adzes are used for smoothing or carving wood in hand woodworking. Obviously, there were no power tools in 1812 when these boards were cut and finished.

There are five fireplaces in the house. Four of the fireplaces have beautiful hand-carved mantels surrounding them. There are cupboards that extend from the ceiling to the floor on both sides of the fireplaces. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers often stopped by when raiding the Maryland countryside to take things, including livestock and produce. On one visit, they searched the home for weapons. A Confederate officer asked that a locked cupboard door be opened by one of the Belt family members. The person did not move quickly enough, and the officer ordered a subordinate to use his sabre to pry the cabinet door open. There were no arms found inside, but the pry marks left by the sabre are still visible to this day on the cupboard door.

Continued on page 23.

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Continued from page 18.

Pompons Transformed to Ghouls

Damascus High on January 25. County competition occurs at Blair on February 2. The poms are judged on a six-minute performance, on the four elements of hip hop, kicks, poms, and jazz. Besides the competitions, they perform at halftime during football and basketball games, pep rallies, Poolesville Day, the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, and Markoff's Haunted Forest.

"It's crazy how far the talent and skill level have come since we were poms. When we were performing, it was more like the classic style, mainly ripples and kicks, aesthetics and crowd pleasers. For example, there are hundreds of kinds of ripples."

Ripples, for those of us not in the know, involve the girls standing in line or formation and waving the poms together or slightly after one another in order to create a ripple effect.

"These girls bring so much talent to the squad, most being self-taught. They incorporate fouetté turns, jumps, and difficult technique that we did not perform when I was on poms. They still do traditional pom dance, but different styles are incorporated now," Hayes explained.

According to Merriam-Webster, a fouetté is "a quick whipping movement of the raised leg in ballet usually accompanying a pirouette." Ballet, hip hop, modern dance? Poms have changed indeed.

"Poolesville is known for their hip hop now," Embrey stated, "so that is hard core dancing. The level of talent on this squad is unbelievable."

They also encourage some of the younger girls to get a chance to get involved.

"For over ten years, they've been doing Junior Falcon, where they encourage young girls from the community, from kindergarten through to sign up. For a week, they get to come to practices, learn some cheers and a routine that they get to perform on a Friday night football game with the poms," Embrey explained.

Both women expressed disappointment that, unlike when they were young, there is no longer PAA-run poms before high school.

"It would be great if we could get the girls started earlier in the poms through PAA," Hayes said. "There is definitely an interest. We heard that from the girls when we did Junior Falcon."

In March, they plan to teach senior citizens line dancing at the Poolesville Area Senior Center, which should be a learning experience for both the seniors and the poms.

Regina Grubb, PHS athletic director, is on board with Hayes and Embrey. "I am very excited with the hiring of two PHS graduates to coach our pom team. Both Mayra and Adrienne bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to continue the success of our program. I look forward to working with both of them for years to come," Grubb said.

So far, both coaches are grateful for the opportunity.

"These ladies are such talented individuals!" Hayes stated emphatically. "They work hard, pushing themselves to improve every day. Adrienne and I learn just as much from them as they do from us. I love watching them dance. I just hope that I can encourage and inspire them always to reach to their full potential and to never give up!"

"Yes, we really enjoy the relationships and friendships we have made," Embrey reflected, "and it's so rewarding for us to be on the other side of it—not as performers, but as mentors. Nostalgia is a funny thing: We practice in the same gyms, huddle at the same senior bench, and dance under the same Friday night lights. It's a glimpse back in time for us—we love it."

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Yeas and Neighs

Round and Round, Up and Down— The History of Carousel Horses

By Andie Devynck

Not everyone has the good fortune to own or even just ride a horse. Some folks have no desire to sit upon a living, breathing, moving horse anyway. Perhaps that's why carousel horses have long been a fancy (and safe) stand-in for the real thing. With the forward movement of the carousel wheel, sounds of wind, music, and human voices rush past; the rise and fall of the wooden horses come the closest most will know of what it's like to canter in a circle on a horse.

The history of the carousel and carousel horse stretches back more than two centuries. Carousel is a French word originating in the seventeenth century, meaning "a tilting match." In England, a carousel would be called a roundabout, galloper, or tilt, while in France, a carousel was also called a "riding ring of wooden horses." The seventeenth century Italian word "carosello" meant "little war" and was an event in which riders on horseback had to catch clay balls filled with perfume. This last definition seems a more tenuous connection to carousels as we know them today.

The American version, merry-go-round, and carousel mean the same thing, but to many Americans, a merry-go-round is simply that spinning playground fixture for kids. Interestingly, in England and much of Europe, carousels usually go clockwise so that the horses can be mounted from the left while in the U.S., they move counterclockwise. To bring non-riders up to speed: traditionally, horses are mounted from the left side because most warriors were right-handed and kept their swords on their left side for fast access. Perhaps ours move in the opposite direction as a continuing reminder of the American Revolution?

The Flying Horses Carousel, constructed in 1876, is the oldest operating platform carousel in America. Located in the historic resort community of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts on Martha's Vineyard, the carousel was first located in New York City before being moved to the island in the 1880s. The Over-the-Jumps Carousel was constructed as a traveling carousel by the Spillman Engineering Company of North Tonawanda, New York during the heyday of carousels in the United States (1887 to 1935). It first appeared at the 1924 Arkansas State Fair. The largest carousel in the world is located at the House on the Rock in Iowa County near Dodgeville and Spring Green, Wisconsin. It has 269 different carousel animals, 182 chandeliers, and is lit with over 20,000 lights.

According to carousel legend, the lead horse of any carousel is always the biggest, most decorative horse. In many instances, this horse is a military or war horse. If a chariot is included in the carousel, the first horse right behind the chariot on the outside is the lead horse. Carousel horses were typically carved from basswood, while the platform, sweeps, rounding boards, panels, and mirror frames were made from oak. Today they may be made of these same materials or may be cast in plastic or fiberglass. Full-sized new wooden horses can weigh 300 to 400 lbs. Comparable original jumper figures in wood weigh about 150 to 300 lbs. Based on their low supply, antique carved carousel horses are worth a great deal to collectors and carousel enthusiasts. Values on the market range from \$15,000 to \$150,000 for specific carved sculptures that once graced a working carousel.

How do the carousels themselves work? They rotate on a stationary center pole and are powered by electric motors. The electric motor spins a small pulley powering a drive belt and a larger pulley. They have cranks which are connected to horse hangers which move horses up and down as the carousel rotates. The velocity of a carousel's rotation is about five rounds a minute. An average ride length is two to three minutes. The speed of the ride is low in order to keep centrifugal force low. The instrument that creates the music accompanying each ride is called a calliope. It produces sound by sending a gas, originally steam or more recently, compressed air, through large whistles, originally locomotive whistles. A calliope is typically very loud. The steam calliope was also known as a steam organ or steam piano.

Over the years, carousels have even moved into our sleep, in dreams, inspiring a host of interpretations. One states that a dream of a carousel represents enjoyable thoughts or situations that keep repeating, emotionally going in circles while feeling good, or reliving something you enjoyed in the past over and over. On the darker side, a carousel may reflect your difficulty getting your mind off a pleasurable distraction. Another interpretation says that when you dream that you are on a merry-go-round, it's often because you have a fear of reliving



The historic carousel horse.

something from your childhood. More positively, a merry-go-round could be a symbol of childish joy; it's possible you need a little more happiness in your waking hours and to be silly when it's appropriate.

When was the last time you admired a carousel or sat upon one of its horses? As autumn winds whirl falling leaves, the brisk air and bright colors of nature create a memorable atmosphere for going back in time and returning to a simple pleasure like riding a carousel. Luckily, we don't have to travel out of state to find one; head down to the Glen Echo Amusement Park, long a part of the National Park system, to see and ride an elegant original. You can discover its history from one of the rangers if you care to know more about that unique, enduring beauty in our midst.

Continued from page 21.

The Story of Rock Hall Manor: Part One

The original kitchen has an immense stone fireplace with the original swinging iron crane that was used to hang cooking pots over the fire. The stones of this fireplace are rough to the touch. Jon pointed out one stone on the left side and asked that I run my fingers across it. This stone was smooth! He said that is where cooks would have placed their hands as they had leaned over to stir the pots over the fire. At one time, there was an open doorway in the kitchen. All of the other rooms had heavy two-inch-thick doors with iron hinges. One day, after a fire had damaged the abandoned roadside drinking establishment by the Monocacy River called Edie's, Jon went there to view the damage. He went into the basement and saw a door leaning against a wall that looked like the other interior doors in his house. Today, that door hangs in what was once an open doorway in his kitchen and is identical to all of the other interior doors in the house.

Stay tuned for Part Two.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crimes

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Swindle/Confidence Game: 18000 block of Bliss Avenue.

Vandalism: 17000 block of Hersperger Lane.

Past Crime: 1968

A four-year-old boy was killed when he tried to run across the street on Bel Pre Road. Police said that the child was trying to keep up with older kids and was struck by a car. The motorist said that he did not see the boy until the last second.

Police were ordered to close down their firing range after receiving complaints from nearby residents about noise and fired bullets being found on their property. For twenty years, the police had used the range, located on county property north of East-West Highway and near Freyman Drive and the old WWDC building. A newly-built apartment complex spelled the end for the range. A resident came forward and showed reporters a handful of bullets that he had found on the apartment property. Chief McAuliffe came to the scene and realized that suburbia had crept too close to the county property and ordered the range closed.

Four county residents were arrested and charged with arson after the fire bombing of the Board of Education building. Two of the suspects were

also charged with burglary in another event. The fire bombing came two days after someone had thrown a Molotov cocktail through the front doors of the county office building.

Police responded to Tobytown to assist the fire department which was trying to extinguish a fire in a stolen auto. When police arrived, they were attacked by two residents of Tobytown and a woman who was wielding a meat cleaver. At one point, the woman came towards the officers with the meat cleaver, but it was taken away by bystanders. She then grabbed a piece of automobile exhaust and tried to use that as a weapon. In the end, all three were arrested and taken to the Rockville station.

The Montgomery County Council passed a law that prohibited youths under eighteen years old from loitering in groups at night. Police had been deluged with complaints about large crowds of teenagers gathering at drive-in food places and refusing to move when asked. In some cases, police had to use force to remove them from the premises.

Police were looking for a con man who approached an eighty-one-year-old woman on the street in Rockville and claimed that he was a secret agent. He told her that he suspected that the cash in her purse was counterfeit. He inspected her money and claimed that one of the serial numbers matched one on a list he carried. The "secret agent" said that she would have to turn over her money for inspection and gave her a receipt written on a piece of notebook paper.

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

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Remembrances

Juana E. Campos

It is with great sadness that the family of Juana E. Campos announces the passing of a great woman. Born in Mulchen, Chile in 1937, she migrated to the United States where she met Carlos Campos, her husband of fifty-six years. In her passing, she leaves behind besides her husband, her daughter Patricia Moore (Roland) and son Patricio Campos (Monica). She thoroughly enjoyed creating mischief with her grandchildren, David Campos (Jessica), Katherine Moore, Rachel Allen, and Danielle Campos. She also leaves behind a precious great-grandchild, Barrett Campos. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Alzheimer's Association in her memory.



Juana E. Campos

Mary White Hays Lok

Mary White Hays Lok, 85, passed away on November 15 with her daughters and sons-in-law by her side.

Born December 31, 1933, she was the daughter of Frederick Sprigg Hays, Sr. and Eleanor Merryman Ray Hays. She was part of the sixth generation of her family to live in Barnesville; her family had settled there in the 1740s. She moved to Frederick in 2017 for assisted living care and frequently and proudly introduced herself as a "Hays from Barnesville." Mary White was introduced to her future husband, Godefridus "Fred" Lok, by mutual friends while on a trip to the Netherlands. They courted through letters for eighteen months. Fred's mother warned him that if he came to visit her, they would get married. She was right; they married on November 9, 1957, and they celebrated fifty-eight years of marriage before his death in 2016.



Mary White Hays Lok

Shortly after graduating from Poolesville High School in 1952, Mary White started working as a bank teller in Washington, D.C., traveling by train from the Barnesville stop. She enjoyed her career and stuck with it for thirty years. Mary White was fully involved her entire life with helping others. She often provided transportation, meals, and visits to aging or house-bound neighbors, cared for her bank customers as if they were friends, and ran an efficient taxi service for her daughters and grandchildren.

She was an active member and officer of the Monocacy PTA, St. John's at Prospect Hall's Athletic Board, Monocacy Garden Club, Comus Homemakers, and the Upper Montgomery County Soroptimist International Club. Hosting gatherings was a particular joy for her, from small get-togethers to feeding large groups such as the Montgomery County Farmers' Club. She was introduced to the game of bridge late in life and loved it as much for the socializing as for the game itself. She also enjoyed friendships with her wonderful caregivers at Tranquility Assisted Living and more recently at Spring Arbor Assisted Living.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Martha and Bob Ward, Shirley and Sam Prasada-Rao; grandchildren, Mary Kate, Emily, Abby, Benton, Curtis, Adam, Mietzy, Freddy, and Mina; and numerous nieces and nephews, both in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her daughter Mary "Ineke" Lok; her grandson Daniel Ward; her great-grandson Beau Ross; and her siblings, Lt. Frederick Sprigg Hays, Jr. and Elizabeth "Lib" Tolbert.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Hospice of Frederick County or to St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Continued from page 19.

Colin Hemingway On and Off the Field

Tell me about your favorite teammates.

There are a few close friends that enjoy the sport as much as I do and make it more fun to play, Jalen Inman, Sam Allgood, and Zach Onderko. All of them play lacrosse, too.

"Colin is an outstanding young man and an excellent football player," said current Poolesville coach Anthony Nazzaro. "He is extremely hardworking and reliable. It was a pleasure to coach him this season."

"I coached Colin when he was younger," said PHS assistant coach Michael "Smitty" Smith. "When he first started, he wanted to be a quarterback. I told him, 'No, you are not a quarterback, you are a running back. You are going to be a running back when you get to high school.' He got better and better every game he played. He really excelled when he was around thirteen years old. You really knew he was special. He just really took off, and now he works very hard and is so productive for the high school team."

"I have been lucky to have coached Colin the past three years and am looking forward to this, his senior lacrosse season," said PHS lacrosse coach Stuart Orns. "He is the quintessential scholar-athlete, excelling in his studies and continually reaching the highest levels athletically. As a coach, it's important to identify leaders who will set a great example for others both on and off the field. Colin represents that leadership through hard work, bonding with teammates, and respecting the game all while keeping academics a priority."

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Continued from page 20.

The Challenge of Cheerleading

“We worked tirelessly in preparation for the competition at Blair,” said senior captain Ashley Pacheco, “and we are proud that our stunts hit with no errors and we had no deductions.

We worked incredibly hard for our competition, practicing six days a week and perfecting our stunts and dance. Our coaches constructed our routine and choreography, and the team pieced the different parts together. We worked on the dance, our jumps, and stunts separately then put all the aspects together. While we started putting our full attention to our competition routine about a month before the competition, we began working towards it many months prior. There were many new cheerleaders who needed to learn new stunts and roles for the first time. We needed the practice time to properly execute our routine.”

Judges score routines on difficulty and execution, but they also consider team energy. “This year, we had the opportunity to have a three-stunt group pyramid

and a front flip incorporated into our stunts. This was new from last year. I was extremely proud of my team for hitting the pyramid at competition, something we had worked on for a long time and spent many practices perfecting. For me, the season highlight was getting all our stunts to fall into place and have the confidence that we’d hit them. This year, our cheer also included a jump, also new from last year, which added a little spice and movement to the cheer while making sure we all look uniform.”

The team has thirteen members. This year, there were two new flyers that competed, freshman Hannah Lucas-Dreiss and sophomore Bailee Benna. Other members include Seniors Geraldine Guzman, Esha Manoj, Clare Ntumsi, and William Batres.

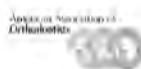
“I’d like to single William out,” said Ashley, “because I’m amazed by his improvement from the start of the season—a new member to the cheer family—to the time of competition. He has been a solid backspot with incredible jumps.”

Returning from last year were: sophomores Taneshia Jackson and Jessica Williamson, and junior Takeya Jackson. Senior Adja Connell is the squad manager.

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Protecting Your Pet During the Winter Months

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

We can never be sure that Mother Nature will not give us a big blast of frightful winter weather. The Polar Vortex season has arrived. By taking steps to protect your pet, you can enjoy the wintry weather and keep them safe and sound.

It is well known that cold weather is harder on our older, feline and canine friends; and those with arthritis, chronic metabolic diseases like diabetes, thyroid disease, kidney disease, and liver disease are more at risk. The simplest step you can take is to get a senior pet exam. If it has been a year or more since you have had your pet examined, go to your veterinarian and go over current conditions your furry friend is living with and what danger signs to look for from your dog if the weather becomes inhospitable.

Consider the simple reality: If you are cold outside, your pet is also. Even dogs with thick natural winter-type coats can develop frostbite to the tips of the ears, feet, and nose. Left without shelter, pets develop hypothermia in extended cold, wet, and windy conditions (don't forget your barn cats, a simple pet-approved warming pad can make all the difference on cold days). If you would not be outside in the weather conditions present, your fur baby should not be either. Dogs with lighter- or shorter-hair coats will benefit from sweaters and coats (so let's be fashionable). The fact is that, in severe weather conditions, your pet would be better off inside watching dog or cat TV.

Dogs' feet are the most exposed to the elements. Snow, ice, ice melt, mud, and hidden debris in the snow can all play havoc with their toes and pads. Snowballs can develop in the hair between their feet and be cold and painful, causing your dog not to be able to walk. Dog boots can be very effective in keeping your canine pal's feet clean, dry, and safe.

Snow-blowing equipment, snow shovels, tractors, truck plows, and other snow-moving equipment all have sharp edges and can be dangerous. Cuts and broken bones are possible if your dog is around you when you are clearing snow. Heavy snow also makes it less possible for you to keep track of your dog and for your dog to get out of the way and avoid objects.

Don't throw snowballs at your dog or cat. It can hit them in the eye and damage the cornea, or a piece of ice in the snowball could break a tooth.

Try to prevent your dogs from eating snow and drinking out of puddles. It seems like fun, but there can be compounds in the snow or water that are dangerous or deadly to your dog. Bring fresh, room-temperature water on a walk. It can be used to drink or wash an area where an injury has occurred.

Inside, let your pets pick the places in which they would like to lie down. Do not place heaters directly on your dog, and do not place a cage or crate directly next to a fireplace or woodstove. Dogs know when they are too warm or cool and should be allowed to regulate their body temperatures themselves.

Enjoy the winter but be ever aware of you and your pets' surroundings and distance from a safe, warm environment.

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