

## Inside the Monocle



Taking your holiday shopping elsewhere?



Whoa, Nelly! There's plenty of shopping closer to home. See the Hidden Mall of Monocacy on Page 7.



Holiday activities abound! Page 6 and Page 23.



Don't miss our Year End Sports Collage

— See page 12

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 10, 2004

Volume 1, Number 17

## The Heart of an Angel, The Spirit of a Fighter

By Rande Davis

Our tale about Jim Spory could be told at anytime; we think it is a Christmas story.

Mr. Spory's story is about beating the odds, it's about taking on difficult challenges that you are not supposed to win, and it's about believing in miracles.

Poolesville's Jim Spory is sixty-nine years old, a retired phone company employee, and someone who has already lived almost six months beyond the time he was supposed to. He would say that at his age, beating the odds is something he knows a lot about.

Then again, he started learning this lesson early in life. As a young teen he pursued a passion for wrestling and was coached by his father in high school. Back then, Jim only weighed 127 pounds, but he wrestled at 154 pounds. Everyone thought he was too light—Jim wrestled anyway. While his dad, never one to play favorites, didn't make him a starter, Jim still learned a great deal from him and eventually went on to wrestle in college and won some championships at the intramural level. Jim brought his passion for wrestling to Poolesville High when he helped coach its team in the late eighties and early nineties.

Jim Spory was a cable trouble-shooter for C&P Telephone working strange hours in even stranger places fixing phone cables with hands that were progressively affected by the onset of arthritis. His hands began to shrivel up and fixing cable wasn't something he was supposed to do, but that didn't stop Jim. He continued to climb poles and fix cables. Or, we should say, he did so until he met a tragic challenge that forced him to go to a desk job for the rest of his career. In 1974, just two months before the birth of his second child and first daughter, he was held up at gunpoint by two individuals while working for the phone company. He wasn't

supposed to take on two guys with a gun—but Jim did. He survived, although this time he almost didn't make it. He was shot in the leg and became twenty-five percent disabled.

In 2000, he retired and was able to devote more time to another one of his passions from his youth—wood craftsmanship. Even with the pain and crippling impact of arthritis, Jim creates award-winning crafts using a

ribbon in the miniature category, in 2004 he was also the overall grand prizewinner as the best craftsman for all categories. Not bad for a man who had most of his knuckles removed by surgery.

Jim's favorite woodworking theme is Christmas ornaments, holiday candelabras, and most anything having to do with the holidays. Jim only works about two hours at a time



scroll saw and jigsaw. With severe and painful arthritis you are not supposed to be able to do this kind of thing—but he does.

Using almost any kind of wood, Jim produces holiday candle- and plantholders, as well as tree ornaments worthy of any artist. The arthritis slows his work down since the effect is a bit like working while wearing boxing gloves. Under these conditions, he is not supposed to be able to produce such delicate art, but don't tell Jim that. This past summer he took first place at the Montgomery County Fair in the craftsmanship category of "miniatures." He cuts wooden reindeer no more than a half inch high. In addition to the blue

because, on top of everything else, he recently suffered from congestive heart failure. With a pacemaker and fibulator in place, he cannot put in the kind of time he otherwise would love to put in.

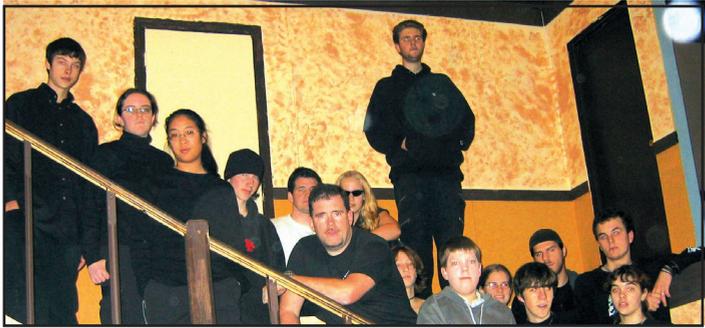
We wanted to know which of his wooden creations was his favorite. That was easy – the tree ornament that is an angel with wings high and a heart in the middle. When you have a pacemaker in your chest, an angel with a heart has special meaning. (On the left in the picture on page 19.)

His work is a labor of love. While individuals can purchase some of his work by calling him at 301-972-8424,

See Jim Spory on page 19

**Family Album**

*Sponsored by:  
Selby's Market Film Developing Service*



The Tech Crew: The behind the scenes stars of the PHS Midnight Players.



Following a community Thanksgiving service, with proceeds to WUMCO: Ken Fell, United Methodist Church; Jorge Valles, Poolesville Presbyterian, Fr. Paul Herbert, Our Lady of the Presentation; Steve Hayward, St. Peter's; Ken Fitzwater, Poolesville Baptist. Front: Jane Stearns, WUMCO.



Riders at the annual Sugarloaf Ride hosted by Jim and Maureen O'Connell



Rick Davidson and John Smith kick off the Holidays in Whalen Park.



Executive Chef Patrick J. Shrader at the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce Reception at the Comus Inn at Sugarloaf Mountain.



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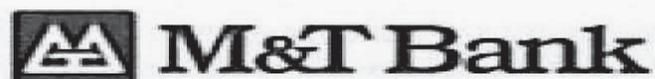
*We are so thankful for your  
business and support throughout  
the year and want to take this  
time to wish all our clients and  
friends a very Happy Holiday and  
Happy New Year!*

*Mir Mozaffari*

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**Tributes**

**Our Fallen and Wounded Heroes**

By Rande Davis

The American Legion has placed a new banner saluting our military heroes who serve in the armed forces. Monocacy residents are proud of these young people and share the concern of their families and friends for their well being.

The Monocacy region was shaken and saddened by the tragic news that Corporal Kirk Bosslemann (USMC) of Dickerson, Maryland was killed in action in Iraq on Saturday, November 27, 2004. The twenty-one-year-old Cpl. Bosselmann was the son of Beverly and Rainer Bosselmann of Thurston Road, Dickerson. He was a member of the Poolesville High School Class of 2001. Many of his friends in the area recall his devotion to lacrosse and soccer. Cpl. Bosselmann was a sniper in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps and was based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. The marines spear-headed a successful military campaign to root out foreign insurgents and Ba'athist loyalists from Fallujah. Cpl. Bosselmann was not an individual who shied away from highly dangerous careers. He chose the marines as a path to his ultimate goal

of being a forest firefighter "smoke-jumper."

In the same action in Fallujah, Lance Corporal Chris Hussong, also a Poolesville High School graduate in the class of 2001, was wounded by shrapnel from a grenade which caused him to suffer wounds from his lower body to his left foot. While he is expected to make a full recovery, he will most likely continue to carry parts of the shrapnel for a very long time. Cpl. Hussong was also in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps and had been in Iraq since last June. After



Lance Corporal Chris Hussong

being evacuated to Germany for medical care, he returned to the area on November 28. Chris will be undergoing therapy and recuperation at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

After his recuperation, he will rejoin his unit in Camp Lejeune, N.C. to continue his training. We share with his parents, Amy and David Hussong of Cattail Road, our relief that he will be able to make a full recovery. We salute Cpl. Hussong for his dedication and courageous service to the nation and wish him a speedy recovery.

**School News**

**PHS Alumni Day Set**

PHS Alumni will be welcomed back on Thursday, December 23, 2004 between 8:30 and 9:00. Returning students will be asked to discuss life after PHS with current juniors and Seniors. At the conclusion of the panel discussion, the returning students will be able to visit informally with staff and students.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Adams in the career center at 301-972-7911.

**PHS To Hold Financial Aid Seminar for Parents of College Bound Students**

On Tuesday evening, December 14, Poolesville High School will have a financial aid seminar for parents of college-bound students. The meeting will be held in the media center beginning at 7:00 p.m. For additional information call Mrs. Cathy Adams, in the Career Center at 301-972-7911. Ms. Susan Erb and Ms. Carol Schroyer from Hood College will be the presenters.

**John Poole Middle School Fundraiser**

JPMS PTA is now selling the Cat's Meow wooden collectible of the John Poole Middle School just in time for holiday gift giving—they'll be on sale in the lobby of the school December 15 during the Winter concert, or contact Stephanie Egly to purchase one (301-253-8921). They are \$20.00 each.

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## Come Home – One In Christ

... so we, though many, are one body in Christ  
and individually parts of one another.  
Romans: 12:5

### 2004 Christmas Schedule

**Friday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Children's Christmas  
Mass with Gospel  
Pageant

6:30 pm Vigil Mass of  
Christmas

12:00 am Midnight Mass

**Saturday, December 25**

**Christmas Day**

10:00 am Solemn  
Mass of Christmas  
with Brass &  
Timpani

**Sunday, December 26**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

8:00 am Mass  
10:45 am Mass

#### Our Lady of the Presentation

17230 Tom Fox Ave.. (located at the intersection of Rte 107 and Tom Fox Ave.)  
Poolesville, MD 20837 301 349 2045 301 972 7504  
Rev. G. Paul Herbert, Administrator

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*Keeping An Eye On Local News*

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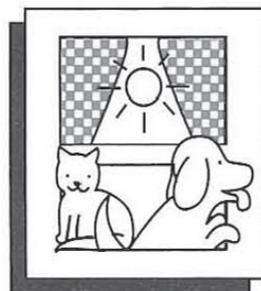
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Poolesville, MD

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## Things To Do

### December 1 – December 17

Toys for Tots collected at Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Station – new unwrapped toys.

### December 10, 11, 12

Studio Arts Tour – Follow the yellow flags and be mesmerized by the beautiful arts and crafts of local artisans.

[www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com)

### December 10, 11, 12

Weinberg Center for the Arts – The Nutcracker performed by the Maryland Regional Ballet.

[www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or 301-228-2828.

### December 11

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa at Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department.

All you can eat buffet. Santa will be there to hear the children's Christmas wishes.

### December 11

Strathmore Hall - Children's Tea with Mrs. Claus 12:00 p.m.

Reservations required: 301-581-5108

### December 11, 12

City of Frederick Children's Weekend – Wide variety of activities for children of all ages—many of which are free.

[www.cityoffrederick.com](http://www.cityoffrederick.com)

### December 16

Poolesville Cluster Concert at Poolesville High School. 7:30 p.m.

### December 17, 18, 19

Weinberg Center for the Arts – A Christmas Carol.

[www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org)

or 301-228-2828

### December 18 – 7:30 p.m.

Frederick Children's Chorus – *Here's to the Holidays* Concert

Governor Thomas Johnson High School.

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### December 19 – 6:00 p.m.

Barnesville town Christmas caroling.

Meet at town tree if fair weather and Pavilion if weather is bad.

### December 19 – 6:00 p.m.

Santa will be riding atop the fire engine of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Dept starting at 6:00 p.m. Santa has asked the Volunteer Firefighters to help him distribute candy canes to the children of Poolesville.

### December 22 – 8:00 p.m.

Weinberg Center for the Arts – Messiah Sing-Along with the Frederick Chamber Singers.

Judy DuBose will conduct chorus, soloists, orchestra, and audience. Proceeds to benefit Frederick Children's Chorus.

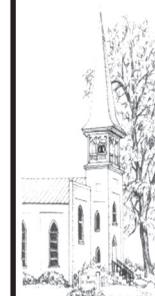
[www.fredcc.org](http://www.fredcc.org) or 301-845-2451

[www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org) or 301-228-2828

### December 23 – 7:00 p.m.

Weinberg Winterfest – Holiday film, sing-along, and Santa. Free admission with canned food for Frederick Community Action Agency.

[www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org)



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10:30 Church School

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Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 PM Christmas Pageant

10:30 PM Feast of the Nativity

Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25

10:30 AM Holy Communion

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**Focus on Business**

**The Hidden Mall of the Monocacy**

By Rande Davis

We know of a secret, hidden shopping mall in the Monocacy region that you haven't heard about before. Sure, you are skeptical and cannot imagine how such a mall could escape your shopper's radar, but the Hidden Mall of the Monocacy is real and it has

many surprises.

Do you hate big parking lots and fruitless efforts to find a parking spot within a hundred yards of the entrance? (You know better than to sneak into one of the handicapped spots.) Our hidden mall features upfront parking, near the main entrance for all.

Have you never liked the idea of getting up early just to beat the crowds? How about those crowded aisles filled with shoppers in a human bumper car contest? You hate that too, don't you?

I'll bet I know your pet peeve of all

pet peeves about shopping at malls. Just when you have found what you want or have a simple question that begs an answer and are looking for a clerk, the only physical evidence of a human turns out to be a mannequin. At the Hidden Mall, you will not only find people ready and willing to help, but willing to give personal service, practically one-on-one.

This special mall has another powerful advantage over most other malls — its stores brim with a wide selection of one-of-a-kind, personalized, and even unusual gifts. Just can't make up your mind what would

make the perfect gift? Each store offers gift certificates so your recipient can decide for himself or herself at a less rushed time.

So where is this hard-to-believe-it-exists mall?

For many of you it is just minutes from your front door because our hidden mall is none other than many of the stores all around you, stores that until now you may have not given high priority on your list of gift retailers.

See The Mall of Monocacy on page 22.

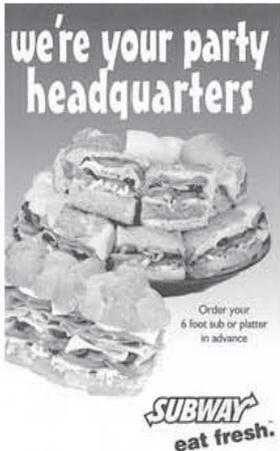
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### PERSONAL TESTIMONY

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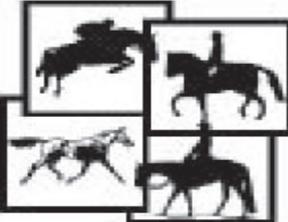
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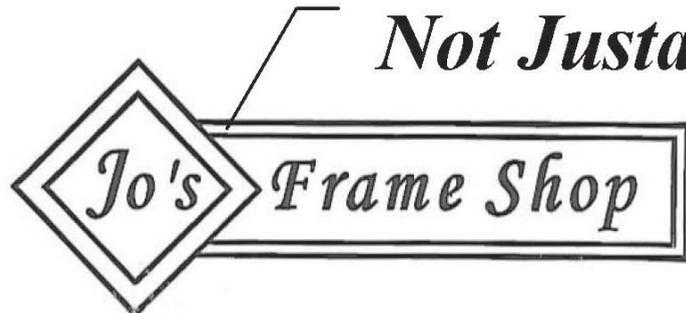
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## Center Stage

### Black Rock – "It's All Here For You"

By Maureen O'Connell

Sitting across the street from the Safeway and Ritz Camera Shop in Germantown Center is a jewel – the Black Rock Center for the Arts. December 7 marked the second anniversary of their Grand Opening. What a cultural find it has become for the residents of Upper Montgomery County and other county areas. You don't have to travel to D. C. to see top-quality performing arts.

The seed for an arts facility was sown in the late 1980s. Working within the guidelines of the Montgomery County Master Plan, the developers of the Milestone shopping center worked out agreements to



make a contribution to community amenities. Brian Long, the first Chairman of the nascent Black Rock, and a group of Germantown citizen groups and activists held a series of meetings to discuss what would be a good addition to the life of the community. Through the dedicated work of these individuals, Black Rock grew out of that resource and vision. An Executive Director was hired and architectural plans were developed. Before construction was completed, 9/11 occurred, affecting the stock market, the mood of the nation and the economy in general. Fundraising is never an easy job, but now it became even more difficult. Fortunately, the State, County, Sandy Spring Bank, and many individual and company donors stepped up to the plate to make substantial gifts to support the program and facility operations.

In 2003 the Black Rock Foundation sold the building to the County Government. They also agreed to the responsibility for building maintenance and repairs. The Foundation was now able to focus all of their

fundraising on programs, classes and performances. As Tom Hoffmann, outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees, commented, "Arts donors want to support programs, not pay off a loan." The costs of staff, educational projects and performing events would be covered by ticket sales, corporate sponsor funding, Foundation grants, capital fundraising and individual donations. The Center's Mission was to provide top quality performing visual arts and an arts education program, while addressing the needs of an ethnically diverse population. Their audience would be all members of the community, children, teens, adults and seniors.

The Center also wanted to provide a venue for area and regional artists to showcase their multiple talents.

Looking back over the past two growing years, Executive Director Nancy Petrisko said that she, the staff and Board feel that they accomplished what

they set out to do in 2002. Their objectives were financial stability, program growth and a continuing outreach to the community to achieve a sense of involvement.

From the record of the last two years, hopes are high. Even with the fluctuation of the economy, ticket sales and subscription sales are steadily increasing. It has been said that the arts are the glue of society. Black Rock strives to provide that glue through a broad spectrum of arts programs with particular emphasis on participatory education. The facility has an outdoor seating area that is used in the summer months for free concerts. Indoors there are two performing arts theatres: one has 145 seats and another seats 209 people. There is also an exhibition gallery, children's arts and activity studio and five arts education classrooms. The structure is a 34,000 square foot building which is a mélange of wood, glass and light. There is a definite sense of light and flow that comes alive when people are there creating art and an audience is there to view and appreciate it.

Unusual for many suburban shopping centers, Germantown Town Center, where Black Rock is located, is a charming square of shops that beckon people to linger and stroll through the colonial style architecture. Even the Safeway has a warmth to it. Betsy Platt, one of the earlier Executive Directors, said, "For Germantown, the Black Rock Center will be something beyond a collection of theatres, galleries and classrooms. It will be a part of a sorely needed heart in the midst of booming Germantown's collection of villages and neighborhoods."

There are two performing events for your pleasure in December. On Sunday, December 12, 3 p. m. there will be a classical music concert with holiday overtones, "Violins of Lafayette". Maggie Sansone's Celtic and Folk Music and Dance will be featured on December 18 at 3 p. m. and 7 p. m.

Tom Hoffmann, the outgoing Chairman of the Board of Trustees, when asked what were the high points of his four year tenure commented, "I guess two moments stand

out. First was the Grand Opening in December several years ago. The burst of pride and optimism from four hundred people was contagious. Second was signing the sale agreement to transfer the building to the County and pay off our mortgage. I knew that we had crossed an invisible boundary at that moment – it was the "end of the beginning" and we would go ahead and really prosper. The new Chairman is David Langstaff.

Beethoven once said, "Art demands of us that we do not stand still." With that thought in mind, Black Rock looks to the future. Their objective for the years to come is to build up a strong partnership with the community – all of its residents. Student art exhibits and programs with the area schools are high on their list. Black Rock has performed a miracle for the residents of Montgomery County. Explore its programs; introduce your children to the wonderful world of art. As their playbill says, "It's All Here For You."

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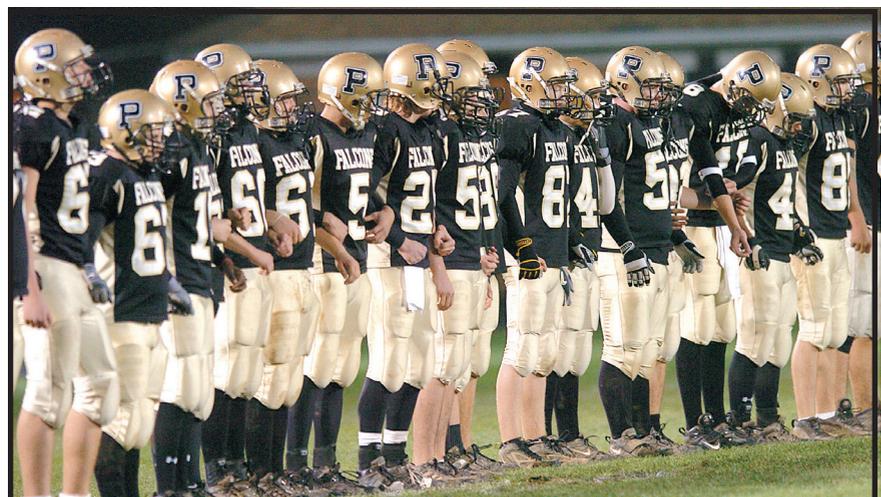


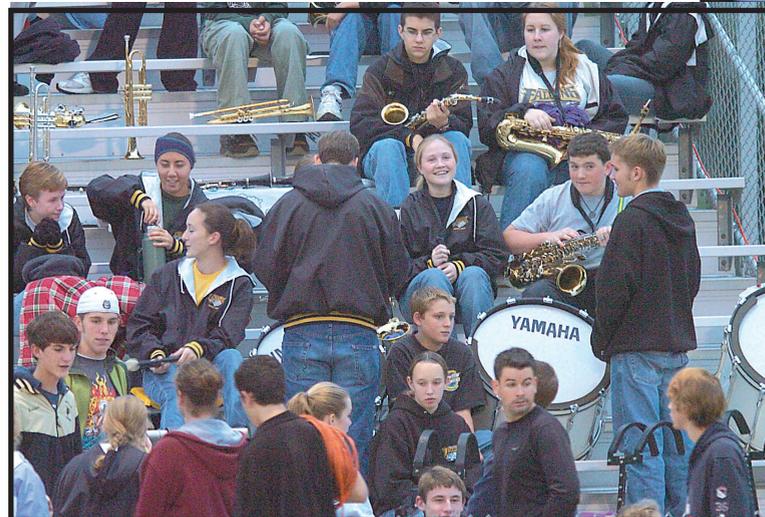
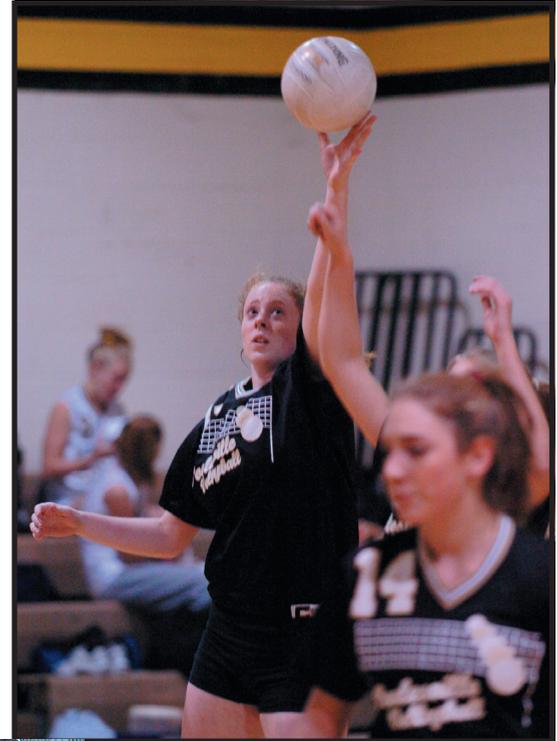
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## Center Stage

### A Lens Through History and Life

By Dominique Agnew

For Susan Percy, art has been a journey through her life and a journey through history. Unlike her mother who became a watercolorist and discovered it in midlife, Susan has art intertwined with her earliest memories. Fortunately, she was always encouraged by her artistic mother. She recalls, even in grade school, pushing the limits of school assignments by enhancing them artistically.

Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Susan benefited from classes for children sponsored by the St. Louis Art Museum. In high school, she also took special art classes. Three years of college at Southeast Missouri State University continued her education in the fine arts with the initial intention of teaching, but life—love and circumstances—intervened (doesn't it always?).

Susan married Glen Percy, and they moved first to Massachusetts for the summer, then to New York. Susan attended NYU and studied printmaking under famed Robert Blackburn. The following year, they moved to Georgia to take part in the Southwest Georgia Project to help contribute to the Civil Rights' Movement. After a year, the Percys moved back north to New York.

Susan again attended NYU and completed her degree in Fine Arts, having switched away from the education slant. She had had her first one-person show in New York and it was the first time she had seen Fine Arts as a possibility. The show helped build her confidence, and she saw art was taken seriously. During that time, she was also involved in creating art with children as therapy.

At the end of that year in New York, the Percys again went to Georgia, twelve days after the birth of their first child, this time for two years. They were again involved in the Southwest Georgia Project, living as the poor did, in their community. Susan remembers this as an important part of her life. "So much had to be done, and there was no one else to do it. We rose to the occasion."

The next step in the Percy travels through life and history was

in California at LaPaz where they lived at Cesar Chavez's headquarters. They would spend the next two and a half years working with the United Farm Workers. While Glen was filming a documentary about the Grape Boycott entitled *Fighting for Our Lives*, Susan was working for the newsletter doing the graphics, preparing linoleum blocks and drawings, and designing bumper stickers and buttons. To her amusement, she recently saw one of her political buttons from that era in a button shop in Kensington—the asking price? Thirty dollars. The Percys' second child was born at LaPaz.

It then became necessary for the Percys to move to San Francisco so that Glen could learn the ins and outs of editing for his Academy Award-nominated documentary (more details to come in a future issue of *The Monocle*). During their five years in San Francisco, the Percys again lived as they had in LaPaz and Georgia in the lower-class communities. Susan's involvement again revolved around art. She taught at the community center, received California state art grants, taught senior citizens, and did murals with kids. She also continued her own education, continuing to study printmaking, etching, and woodcutting.

Finally, in 1979, the Percys found their way to the Washington, D.C. area. They lived and raised their children in Silver Spring before Barnesville beckoned nine years ago. At first, Susan said of the departure from San Francisco, "I didn't think it would be good for my art, but it turned out to be a great place." The richness of the arts community in the whole area gave her many opportunities and experiences.

In the mid-1980s, Susan was one of the founding members of the Washington Printmakers' Gallery. The gallery held many shows which garnered international recognition. Susan has shown—and continues to show—in many galleries throughout the Baltimore-Washington area: the Newman Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Women's Museum, to name a few.

In the early 1990s, another side of Susan began to come out in her work. She began oil painting in the studio of Leo Saal once a week, she would do this for six years. Susan says, "I enjoy the figurative nature of the work...the immediacy and the color." Those

years were "a very rich time" for her and her artwork which hasn't since been matched.

In the late 1990s, with the children grown, she found herself more free to travel and began to explore watercolors. For her, watercolors can be practical and comforting. When traveling, they are very portable, the paint dries quickly, and she can make immediate color suggestions. As it was, some of her prints were already hand-colored with watercolors, and she had inherited her mother's materials.

The move out to Barnesville in 1995 brought many bonuses to her life, including an art studio on the property. For the first time, she has a large space which has encouraged her to create larger pieces of work. "I started thinking big," she says. She also became involved with the Countryside Artisans group, putting her on the map of the Arts Studio Tour. Also, "it gets me to clean up the studio," she adds. In addition, she has become involved in the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project where she paints every Saturday morning.

While Susan continues to have shows, she is still involved with art

as therapy as she has been for years. She volunteers at NIH in its children's hospital, and she teaches art at an Alzheimer's facility in Rockville. "What a privilege it is to do what you love to do and to be able to share it," Susan says, adding that she felt lucky.

To see and share in the beauty of her work, the final weekend of the Arts Studio Tour of December is on the weekend of December 10, 11, and 12. Check their website [www.countrysideartisans.com](http://www.countrysideartisans.com) for details.



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## Mystery History

By Rande Davis

As we search our region for those special stories in history that don't quite make the history books or the roadside historical markers, we uncover some information that is just too short to put into an entire article. Yet these tidbits of history are fun to learn about, and we want to share some of them with you. So, occasionally, *The Monocle* will bunch a few of these stories together in the form of tales and tidbits and present them to you under that heading. We start with a couple of stories as a follow-up to our Mystery History about Peter's Forest, a private residence behind Domino's Pizza in Poolesville.

### Wooden Nickel or New Jersey Coin – Which Do You Trust?

There is a residence in Poolesville that is called Peter's Forest, which is only slightly visible when looking through the gazebo on Whalen's Common in Poolesville. A large fence behind Domino's Pizza obscures the home. For Mystery History fans, we know that this home was a tavern called Riney's Tavern in colonial times. After printing the article about Peter's Forest, we got a call from a person (who chooses not to be named for now) who had spent a lot of time using a metal detector on the property in front of the tavern in 1990. His search predates the building of the shopping mall that now houses the Poolesville Public Library and the BB&T bank.

The gentleman who tells the story has many tales from his search throughout our area for artifacts from bygone times. In fact, in previous explorations, he actually found a Massachusetts coat button in the same area of the library, and consequently, he was hopeful he might find something of historical note during his more recent investigations. At the time of his exploration, it was summer and very hot, so he was out in the early evening slowly running the metal detector along the ground when suddenly he got a very strong signal between seventy and one hundred feet from the front door of the old tavern. For metal detector explorers, objects are usually found within four or five inches from the surface, but it wasn't until he had dug down into eight inches of earth that he discovered what had set the detector off.

## Tales and Tidbits – Wooden Nickels and People Who Fly

There, lying vertically in the ground and covered with dirt, was a coin about the size of a quarter. In its vertical position, he could have easily missed it.

As he brushed off this dark and very difficult-to-read coin, he pocketed the piece and returned home not knowing what he had found. Once he got it home, he reviewed his books on old coins, and he discovered that the coin, dated from 1786, was as unusual as it was old. Most surprisingly of all, the old coin was minted and issued by the state of New Jersey. This coin, which was about the size of today's quarter, was simply a penny back then. Most of us today do not realize that back then individual states often minted their own coinage.

So, how did this coin find its way into the ground? Did it just fall out of the pocket of a traveler using the tavern? Or did a guest of the tavern have one too many drinks and find that sleeping it off on the ground was his best option for the night? Or did the person get into a brawl, losing the coin in a scuffle? Our imagination can only guess how the coin fell to the ground. It's a bit of history that will just have to stay a mystery, but at least our question can be answered. If choosing between a wooden nickel or a New Jersey coin, go with the Garden State.

### The Wright Brother of Poolesville

In that same article in *The Monocle* about Peter's Forest, we talked about one of the owners of Peter's Forest who lived in the residence in the mid-1800s. We were amused that when recording the details of her marriage to a Mr. Pleasants, she was adamant in pointing out that her betrothed was not the "flying Pleasants." Of course, this intrigued us at the time as to just who was this "flying Pleasants" and what his story was. We mused that this would make a good Mystery History—and we were right.

The story behind this "flying Pleasants" came to us by accident. To our "pleasant" surprise, in our ongoing research for the unusual, we ran across some key information in a copy of the 1942 Poolesville High School newspaper, which had been lent to us by Poolesville's Jack Stringer. The booklet was called *The Echo*. In this pamphlet, published by high school students at the beginning of World War II, we discovered the

story of the "flying Pleasants." So, without further ado, we quote directly from page 14 of the 1942 *Echo*.

*The Echo* – 1942

"When you start out of Poolesville going west towards Martinsburg, at the crossroads, is the Wasche Farm. A family named Pleasants lived there in 1838. Basil Pleasants used to sit on the fence and watch the buzzards flying overhead and he thought there should be some way for men to fly. So, he worked and experimented until he decided he had a pair of wings at last that would do the job. He invited all of his friends and neighbors in, and with wings strapped to him, he climbed up on the barn roof and prepared to fly. Alas, after a wave or two in the air, the wings wouldn't work! Mr. Will Audd's grandfather shouted to him, 'Flop!' and poor Basil hit the ground, breaking his leg."

The *Echo* credited Mrs. George Willard for giving them the information contained in this article. So, there you have it. The story of the flying Pleasants. Just imagine if Basil

Pleasants had succeeded and those wings had worked. Today Poolesville would be known as the birthplace of human flight. Instead, we have one ambitious aviator crumpled on the ground with a broken leg, and the world still waiting for the Wright brothers to do their thing.

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**Poolesville – The Hoskinson House –** This commercially-zoned property, located in the heart of the Town of Poolesville, is improved with a 2-story colonial w/Federal detail. The original section of the home was constructed circa 1826, making it one of oldest properties in Montgomery Co. Originally a primary residence, the property has in recent years housed a dental office on the main lvl & an apt. on the upper lvl. Most recently, it has been modified to house 2 separate apts, one on each lvl. The upper lvl can be accessed from the main lvl or through a separate exterior stairway. Each lvl contains a table space kitchen & full bath in addition to 3 large rms on each lvl. Amenities include: replacement windows throughout, new vinyl siding, 2-year old gas furnace. MLS # MC 4881960. Offered at \$595,000.00

**Hyattstown, MD:** Two-story farmhouse with 2/3 BRs, 1 full BA conveniently located near I-270 corridor. Entry foyer, living rm, dining rm, kitchen, BR and BA on main lvl. Upper lvl included 2 BRs (or one BR and sitting rm). Amenities include front porch, hardwood flrs, plaster walls, 1/2+ lot, storage bldg. MLS#MC5051706. Offered at \$245,000.00.

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## In the Garden

### A Gardener Looks at Winter

By Maureen O'Connell

*We bring in the holly, the ivy, the pine,*

*The spruce and the hemlock together we twine*

*With evergreen branches our walls we array*

*For the keeping of Christmas, our high holiday  
English carol*

I love winter. Now you are probably thinking that mad dogs, Englishmen and Maureen have stayed out in the noonday sun too long. It is all too easy to view winter as a barren season. The daylight hours are short and the often-continuous gray sky seems at times to be hovering out of reach. From the warmth of the inside, the garden can appear to have died. With the garden's new incarnation, it becomes clear that this is just another period of flux. It is in a state of slumber, not a deep sleep.

As Max, Sam and I still take our afternoon garden strolls in the winter, I do not cut back all the foliage. I don't like the look of bare soil. With some exceptions, I leave the foliage where it falls on the ground. This gives pattern and color to the garden and it also returns to the soil the goodness as the

worms pull it into their burrows and bacteria set to work on returning into the garden cycle. Winter slowly relinquishes our daily ties with the garden. We can't touch and feel it in the same way we did in July. She has shed her summer clothing and is now down to bare bones. She has gone underground to prepare for her re-birth at spring.

The month of December gives us a little extra time to hang onto Miss Garden. This year bring Christmas in from the garden. There is so much magic in the air during this time of the year. Share the magic of December and the holiday season with our children. One cold, bright day bundle them up in their winter suits and gloves and go for a walk in the woodlands. If you look closely, you will be amazed at the wealth of Nature's beauty. There are so many holiday decorations for the taking. Don't go to the garden center for your greens, head to the woods. Monocacy country is blessed with abundant wooded areas that are filled with many varieties of evergreens that can be fashioned into wreaths, garlands and ornaments. I am not suggesting that you trespass, but there are many public areas where you can snip a few

greens. This outing will give you an opportunity to open your children's eyes to the beauty of the natural wooded landscape. Our holiday season has become too plastic, too mall-orientated and too greedy. Look at what Mother Nature offers you, and you just might get closer to the real meaning of the Christmas season. Oh, bring your dog on the outing too.

What should you look for on your walk through the woods? As they say, we can't see the forest for the trees. Stop. Look closer. There are variegated colored vines, holly, ivy, many varieties of evergreens, acorns, pinecones, moss, and old bird nests. If you are lucky you might find some beautifully colored pheasant and wild turkey feathers. I have a pewter vase on my mantle filled with such feathers that I gathered last year during a walk on my farm.

A fun winter day project for your children is to make pine needle tassels. Nature has already artfully arranged little tufts of scotch pine needles into tassels. All you need to do is wind each bundle tightly near the top into a larger bundle with some string or raffia. You can decorate the tassels with ribbon bows or clusters

of small pine cones. To use as a hanging decoration, tie on a loop of ribbon.

The garden and countryside this time of the year are filled with fallen pine cones. Fill a basket with a variety of sizes. Add a little greenery and a rustic gingham bow for a woodland touch in the powder room.

Give yourself a fragrant treat with a bowl of fresh smelling pine needles. I have tied bunches of pine needles together with garden twine and displayed them in a wire work basket with some small pinecones. It can add a small seasonal touch to a guest room.

Normally I am not the household wizard who makes my own everything from wrapping paper to dog biscuits. But at this time of the year, I love playing the Christmas Elf. Recently while on a walk through the woods, I spotted along the tree line a brilliant lavender colored vine scooting along the bases of the trees. I cut several sections (I just happened to have my Felco #2 in my pocket), brought them home and soaked them for a few hours in a bucket of water to make them more malleable. I then

— See Garden on page 18.

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**Garden continued —**

wound the vines into concentric circles to make a substantial wreath, attached some holly berries and a red silk ribbon. Voila.

If you are fortunate to have a magnolia tree in your yard, their bright shiny leaves can be used in many decorations I have a large silver bowl that I fill with a variety of small-leaved evergreens, ilex berries and fresh pomegranates. It looks smashing.

Now if you have dried your hydrangeas this fall, you can now use them in many ways. The bluish-greenheads look very chic nestled among variegated evergreens on a mantle. Intersperse green lady apples and tie it all up with a chartreuse silk bow. You now have a new look; out with the traditional red and green tones.

**Hodge-Podge**

Any bulbs hanging around unplanted? Get them in fast. Tulips should be still OK going in now, though bulbs such as daffodils, which come from moister climates, would have been better planted sooner.

Bring into a sheltered area your patio pots. If they are made of a porous material, they will crack when

there is a freeze. I also bring in most of the garden ornamentals. There is no reason to expose them to the winter elements. If you want a poinsettia to look good over a long winter, keep it on the cool side. For no particular horticultural reason, I have found that pink poinsettias keep their bracts longer than the red or white ones. But I must admit that by March or April, plant euthanasia enters my mind.

Have any mistletoe balls? If you have really good eyes, you might be able to spot this evergreen shrub on your woodland walks. It is a plant which grows as a parasite on the trunks and branches of various trees. It is seen more often on apple trees, but it may grow on others such as hawthorn, sycamore, poplar, locust, fir and occasionally on oak. I must admit that I have never seen any around our area, but I know that it can grow here. It grows quite commonly in England. If you spot some, let me know. Mistletoe has a very colorful history. It is associated with many traditions and holidays, especially Christmas. Historians say that the Druids, the ancient priests of the Celts, cut the mistletoe which grew on the sacred oak and gave it to people as charms. Early Europeans

used it as a ceremonial plant. In many countries a person caught standing beneath mistletoe must forfeit a kiss. So be careful where you stand. As a word of caution, mistletoe is poisonous to small animals and people. Several years ago, I lost two Siamese kittens after they ingested mistletoe berries.

Cut your own Christmas tree this year. There are many "cut your own tree" farms in our area. Besides the fun of traipsing down row after row looking for the perfect tree, they are much less a fire hazard than a store-bought tree. Those trees are cut in August and September; they then sit around for months drying out. Make this an annual family outing. My daughter, who lives in England, always asks that we wait for her to come home before we cut a tree. Max and Sam come too.

So have you had a good year in the garden? As the year comes to an

end, take some time to reflect upon what you have achieved in the garden and what improvements can be made next season. The best laid plans...

The Humble Gardener wishes you the best for the holiday season and the New Year. Onward and upward in the garden.

See you back here in 2005.



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**Jim Spory continued —**

most of the time his work is used as a raffle prize for such groups as his beloved Odd Fellows.

Where did his positive attitude and "can-do" spirit originate? Two persons have inspired him. First he credits "the ambulance driver," his joking reference to his wife of forty-one years, Shirley. Throughout everything—the gunshot wounds, treatments for arthritis, and convalescence from heart failure—Shirley has been there for him. In our interview, he leaned over and whispered "Please remember to make sure everyone knows I couldn't do anything without her."

The other person who inspired him was his father. It was from his father that Jim learned you could beat the odds, and to believe in miracles. His lesson in miracles came after he got a despondent call concerning his dad who had been seriously ill with a brain tumor and was paralyzed on

his right side from shoulder to toe.

Jim's brother, Dave, called from western Pennsylvania with the news that their dad was extremely close to death and was not expected to live out the morning. Too late to do

anything, Jim sat out the morning waiting for the dreadful final call. When the call came a few hours later, Jim was shocked to hear that his dad was still alive and hungry for breakfast.

Jim immediately headed home for the three-hour trip to talk to the man he thought he would never be able to talk with again. When he got there, he sat down in his dad's bedroom and heard something that underscores Jim's can-do philosophy and faith—it also gave him his miracle.

"As I sat there, my Dad whispered that he wanted to tell me something very important. He told he wasn't sure if the others quite believed him. He told me that the night before, he had seen Jesus, and that Jesus had assured him everything would be all right. Dad told me how he received this special grace from Christ as He raised his right arm to bless him."

Amazingly, as his dad told this part of the story, he raised his paralyzed right arm. Jim's dad was not supposed to be able to do such a thing—but he raised his arm anyway.

We might not all believe that 2005 will be a happy and wondrous year—but Jim Sporey does. Happy New Year!



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## Day Tripper Variety Pack

by Dominique Agnew

'Tis the season to be shopping. Shopping when you have to, with a deadline, can be exasperating and stressful. Why not lighten up your outings and recharge your batteries with some activities interspersed throughout your frantic forays.

In Frederick, the Weinberg Center for the Arts stands out as a beacon with a variety of genres of entertainment possibilities. Built in the 1920s as a luxury movie palace, the Tivoli, as it was originally called, began to fall into disrepair in the 1950s as that awful villain, television, began to spread its tentacles. As the multiplex theatres began to dominate the landscape the disrepair continued until the 1970s, a flood caused enormous damage to the structure and its interior. The community pulled together to restore the Tivoli, and the name was changed to the Weinberg Center for the Arts after the Weinberg family donated it to the city of Frederick. The weekend of December 10, 11, and 12, the Nutcracker will be staged by the Maryland Regional Ballet. The following weekend, *A Christmas Carol* will be performed. Wednesday, December 22, don't miss the Messiah Sing-Along presented by the Frederick Chamber Singers of the Frederick Children's Chorus. (Featured in the last *Monocle*, the Frederick Children's Chorus ([www.fredcc.org](http://www.fredcc.org) or 301-845-2451) will have its concert December 18 at Thomas Johnson High School.) Finally, December 23 is the night of the Weinberg Winterfest: a holiday film, sing-along, and Santa, all for a canned good donation to benefit the Frederick Community Action Agency. For the Weinberg Center for the Arts, call 301-228-2828 or go to [www.weinbergcenter.org](http://www.weinbergcenter.org).

In Rockville, you'll find Strathmore Hall. While the Music Center at Strathmore is preparing for its debut in 2005 with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, there is still the lovely and stately mansion—I would certainly have loved to have called it my summer home. Begun in 1899, the initial structure, a mansion, was the summer home of the prominent Washington-area Oyster family. In 1908, the Corby family purchased the mansion and its ninety-nine acre farm. In 1912, the Corbys began construction to the home, and in 1914, the family began its permanent residence there. The Corbys continued to purchase surrounding tracts of land so that at its greatest size, the farm included over 2,500 acres, numerous barns, outbuildings, stables (it was a fully operational dairy farm), the largest greenhouse in the area, and a golf course. Mrs. Corby stayed on the farm after the death of her husband in 1926 until her own death in 1941. At this point in the farm's history, details are a little murky. However, it is known that in 1943, the mansion and two parcels of the Corby farm were purchased by St. Mary's Academy. The sisters converted the mansion to a convent and school. In 1977, the mansion and thirty acres were purchased by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association who then sold the house and the remaining ten acres to Montgomery County in 1979 (hmm, where did the other 2,490+ acres go?).

Throughout December, there will be numerous art exhibits in the galleries, afternoon teas, and in the evenings, a wide selection of intimate concerts. While the gallery exhibits are free to the public, the afternoon teas, of which there will be a special Children's Tea with Mrs. Claus on December 11, require reservations, and the concerts require tickets. (301-581-5100 or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)).

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## Focus on Business

— Mall of Monocacy Continued

In Poolesville, you have places like the John Poole Museum and Gift shop that has so much more than just "museum souvenirs." It has books, cards, toys, collectibles, and holiday knick-knacks and tree ornaments. Talking about tree ornaments, I'll bet you never thought that you could get specialized tree ornaments at Jo's Frame Shop. Jo's Frame Shop offers more than framing; the store also offers the popular miniatures trademarked as Department 56. The shop also has unusual photo albums, Lang scented candles and gift packs, walls of pictures and imported wall decorations.

The Corner Store serves up great gourmet coffee, but did you know that they have gift travel mugs and assorted packaged gourmet coffee perfect for the coffee-lovers on your list?

Do your friends have shirts and sweaters on their list? How about those ready-to-wear items that proudly promote Poolesville? Selby's has a good selection. So does Reva Hoewing's Craft-A-Plenty. And, don't forget Reva also has the popular Cat's Meow collection of the Town of Poolesville. Right next door to her is Healthworks. Sure, you could buy a gift certificate for exercise or for Austin's Café, but did you know they have a wonderful selection of sportswear and exercise accessories?

Practically across the street is Poolesville Hardware with its preponderance of toys, pedaled-cars, remote-control helicopters, and enough tools to make anyone happy. Behind the hardware store is Bob's Bike shop. Bob has your Christmas bike ready to go and all the accessories any cycling enthusiast could ever want. Nearby at the Poolesville Tack & Supply Shop you will be shocked to see the wide selection of clothing and toys, and not just for your equestrian friend. Debby Lynn even has toys for the dog lover on your list — this is one tack shop that has something for nearly everyone. While you are there, be sure to check out Potomac Framing for a selection of original oils. Just a stone's throw away, you can find a wide selection of Persian rugs at Caudussians Rug Gallery.

You may have gone to Poolesville Beer & Wine for something to eat or drink, but this is a terrific place to

gather up items for a wine gift basket. Jay Schwartzman has a wide selection of wines, hot sauces, scented candles, and nuts to fill up a basket for your friend, neighbor, or business client. Wait 'til you taste his Cheesecake in a Jar as a spread. Believe it or not he also has a selection of religious plate collectibles, modeled collectible cars, and outdoorsman and sporting clocks.

If gift baskets are what you are looking for remember that Selby's Market also offers a wide selection of items perfect for personalized gift baskets. They have everything from wine to cheese and from fruit to nuts, and the flowers and cards to go with them. If plants and flowers will make someone you know happy, you cannot beat the quality coming from Gene's Florist in Hyattstown. With Gene's you can get the gift-wrapping and delivery too.

Hearthside Antiques and Martin's Field in Buckeystown may have the most unique gift ideas, with personalized gifts from jewelry to dinnerware and furniture. Is your friend a reader? How about a collectible book? Remember while in the Buckeystown area, Bodmer's has more than wood stoves, they have a precious selection of pottery hand-made by Nancy Bodmer.

Poolesville Garden and Pool not only has your Christmas tree ready but they also have a selection of gifts in their shop. Stop in—you will be surprised by some wonderful Holiday items. They also have a great selection of Poinsettias. Want to cut your own tree? Naughty Pines on Elmer School Road has a wide variety of ready-to-cut trees.

For small appliances and variety of gifts, CVS has a large selection. Do you need to stuff some stockings? CVS can fill the biggest stockings you have, and they too have gift cards. (Everything needs to be wrapped and CVS and Selby's also have everything you need in this category.) Everyone likes getting gift candies at holiday time. Some of the best are available at CVS and Selby's. Does your special lady like to have her nails manicured? How about a gift certificate from Long Nails?

Of course, we could go on and on, but we will end with two final gift suggestions from our special mall. Or as they like to say in the movies, just two words—GIFT CERTIFICATES. Everybody in town from Poolesville Veterinary Clinic to Jon's Video to the

auto repair shop offers a gift certificate. Everyone on your list loves to eat and loves to go out, so, don't forget about the restaurants throughout the area. Even the fast food places offer certificates. Gift certificates for dining out may just be the most popular thing you could give.

So, what is our final gift suggestion from the Hidden Mall? Gift subscriptions to *The Monocacy Monocle*, of course. Do you know former area residents who'd love to get *The Monocle*. How about someone far, far away in the military or at college? Don't you think news from home would be appreciated?

*We think our point has been well made. The Monocle is so appreciative of those businesses that make our existence possible that we could not resist the temptation to remind you of how they are here for you. From neighbor to neighbor and business to business, we share so much. May all of us have a great 2005!*

## Discovering Dawn

By Marcie Gross

You may know that she was the co-chairperson of this year's Poolesville Day, and that she is the vice president on the Board for the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce. What you may not know is that she is the premier toy store in our town. Discover Dawn Albert of Discovery Toys!

For eight years Dawn Albert and her husband, Doug Gross (no relation to the writer), have made their home in Poolesville. Dawn is the daughter of two civilian military school teachers and was born in Germany. She grew up in England and has traveled all over the world. When it was time for college, Dawn chose Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, followed by law school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Dawn took a position downtown practicing family law where she met Doug.

After having their first child, Mackenzie, now age six, Dawn decided to become a stay-at-home mom in Poolesville. "It was an easy decision to stay home and raise a family in our town," Dawn says. "Poolesville is a great place for kids." When Mackenzie turned one, Dawn thought it would be beneficial to find an additional outlet for her to grow as a person and be with other adults in the community. She felt she could contribute further to the household and set a good example for her

daughter. When Dawn looked into home businesses, she came upon the mission statement of a company named Discovery Toys. Of course, as a mom with a small child, this was intriguing. Dawn says, "I liked the idea of the educational, non-violent products." She continues, "The toys enhance playing with your kids; you'll find more time to play with and enjoy your kids. With Discovery Toys, children learn lots of life's little lessons like taking turns, following directions, and being a good sport."

Discovery Toys have products for newborns through middle schoolers. There are even games for adults. You can host a Discovery Toys party in your home. Right now is a good time to host a show and stock up on holiday and upcoming birthday gifts. If you book a party before the end of the year, Dawn will offer an extra ten percent off! She also does school and church fundraisers and donates shows to charities.

Dawn celebrates five years in her home business this year. She also has welcomed another addition to their family, their son, Colin, age two. She's very proud of the fact that she is the "toy store in town." Dawn keeps inventory in her home so if you're looking for a birthday, baby, or holiday gift, or just a last-minute gift when visiting a friend with children, you can call Dawn and stop by her home for a fun shopping adventure.

Dawn is always interested in helping other women grow their businesses. So if you're looking to start your own business or just want to talk with an energetic entrepreneur discover Dawn Albert of Discovery Toys. Visit her website at [www.discoverytoyslink.com/toysfromdawn](http://www.discoverytoyslink.com/toysfromdawn) or call Dawn at 301-916-3039 or e-mail her at [toysfromdawn@aol.com](mailto:toysfromdawn@aol.com).



## Big Board

### Frederick Orchestra "Holiday Pops: A Classical Christmas"

The Frederick Orchestra concert featuring works by Mozart, Strauss, Anderson and an audience sing-a-long. The event is scheduled for December 18 at 3:00 p.m. at Frederick Community College in the J.B. Kussmaul Theater at 79332 Opossumtown Pike in Frederick. For more details call 301-663-8476

### Old Fashioned Christmas Caroling

Poolesville and Barnesville will have community Christmas caroling events nearly back-to-back. Poolesville will start on Friday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Whalen Commons. St. Peter's Parish is organizing the event and they intend to have hot chocolate and other goodies. For those who miss that one or just can't get enough caroling, Barnesville will have their event on December 19, starting at 6:00 p.m. If the weather is good it will be at the town Christmas tree, if it is inclement, they will move to St. Mary's Pavilion.

### Candlelight Delight and Holiday Fête

The early darkness sets up the mood for candlelight holiday events and we have some in our area that sound fun. The Montgomery County Historical Society hosts a candlelight holiday fête on December 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Dawson-Beall

House in Rockville. (For more information and directions call 301-340-2825. Enjoy festive holiday fare and champagne at this annual gathering. There will be a silent auction, where you can bid on such items such as a dinner for six at one of the county's oldest homes, one night at an historical Bed & Breakfast, and more. View the 1944 decorations, listen to music, and enjoy good company. The event is just \$10.00 per person.

### Frederick Festival of Lights

On December 17, is the annual Frederick "Festival of Lights" Starting at 7:00 p.m. this event begins as carolers throughout downtown Frederick. The passing and lighting of candles, person to person, will take place near city hall.

### Performance of Amahl and the Night Visitors

The Frederick Camerata will present a staged production of Gian Carlo Menoff's opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A favorite story for the Christmas season, the production is under the direction of Philip A. Day, Jr. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The production is scheduled for December 9, 10 & 11, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the Cultural Arts Center, 15 W. Patrick St., Frederick.

### Model Trains and the Holidays

The Frederick County Society of Model Railroad will have an open house on December 11 and 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 423 East

Patrick Street in Frederick. Take your kids to see HO and narrow gauge model trains in a Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad car. The outdoor G-gauge train will run, weather permitting. For more information call 301-695-9760.

### Just as a general reminder,

We encourage you to check the websites of any of these facilities for their special events.

## On the Screen

*Editor's note: The 'Home and Away' column, where our reviewer covers DVD and theater offerings, respectively, is going to stay home for a while, probably because we refuse to pay movie theater snack prices. Here is this Edition's DVD review.*

By Ray Clark

*The Terminal.* New on DVD. Stars Tom Hanks, Stanley Tucci, and Catherine Zeta Jones. Directed by Steven Spielberg with music by John Williams.

Viktor Navorski (Hanks) lands in New York, only to discover that the government of his native Krakozhia, has been overthrown during his flight. The head of the airport's Office of Homeland Security (Tucci) tells Viktor that he cannot enter New York. His passport is no longer valid, making him a security risk. Viktor

can't go home, either, since his country no longer exists. So, where do we house homeless security risks? In international airport terminals, of course. All brain cells dealing with logic and common sense are put on Orange Alert for the remainder of the film.

The elaborately constructed terminal set is but one indication that this slight comedy aspires to be much grander. It wants to be a serious comedy. But, how seriously can we take a film that continuously hands us preposterous situations? Viktor learns English in one evening by comparing English and Russian guide books. How seriously are we to consider a film that attempts to manipulate our heartstrings at inappropriate times, and that contains cutesy catch phrases, poorly timed gags, and predictable key moments?

The "romance" involves a stewardess (Jones) who only occasionally streaks across the terminal, rushing between her flights and her married boyfriend. Viktor spends much more quality time with the airport's *one and only* janitor.

As contrived and lame as this story is, it in no way rivals "Goonies" as Spielberg's worst film. It is a feel-good movie. While I didn't feel as good as the filmmakers would have wanted, I did have a few good laughs, and a bit of mindless fun.

Morality Check: Some bad language, and talk of adultery.

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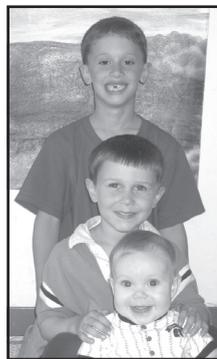
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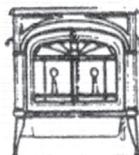
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## Youth Sports

### A Season of Triumph

By Rande Davis

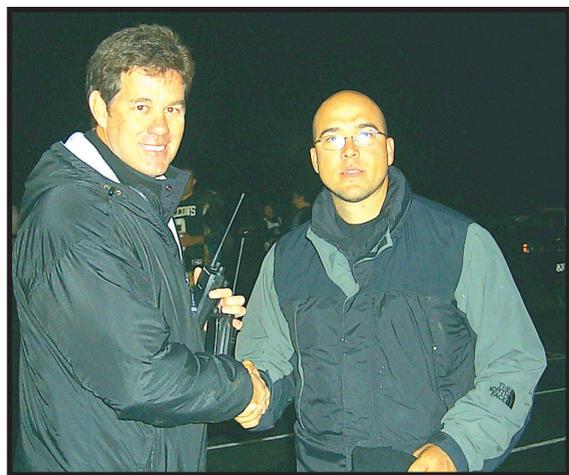
Coach Larry Hurd of Poolesville High School barely has time to breathe between the end of the football season and the start of basketball. The football season just completed its second regular season in a row without a loss, and while the regional competition frustrated the team again this year, they end the season in triumph and pride.

The highlights tell much of the story. PHS set a school record with twenty-two consecutive regular season wins.

Highlights for Coach Hurd are not measured in wins and losses but in moments of achievement by the team. He remembers the intense goal line stand against Perryville to keep their streak alive, beating B-CC in the final game of the season, and the mud bowl versus Dubois.

Coach Hurd also sees the big picture in terms of individuals optimizing their talents and desire—like Matt Ray's first touchdown run of fifty-five yards in their first win against Brunswick. He fondly recalls Greg Brooks's ninety-yard touchdown run at homecoming, Brandon Moore's first interception coming back after an injury, and how Tommy Dorrycott and Chris Dimpoplous tackled Matt Miller of Perryville, keeping him out of the end zone to preserve the victory.

Coach Hurd is proud of the players' discipline, how hard they work, and their team spirit and enthusiasm. He is proud of who they are on and off the field.



PHS Athletic Director Mike Riley congratulates Coach Hurd on his record winning streak. (Photo by Matt Kramek, Sr.)

Going into the final regional game against Dunbar, his pre-game message was simple but profound. He reminded them how hard they worked to get there, that the whole town has been amazed at their success, and this game was to be considered a great celebration, no matter what the outcome. Most of all he wanted them to just believe in themselves.

After the game, his message was a message of pride. "They are a group of great kids, and I will always remember them for their heart and desire to be the best they can be."

The team is a team of leaders starting with captains Chris Kramek, Greg Brooks, Steven Eader, Tommy Dorrycott, Ryan Lawrence, and Cory Christman. Matt Ray was superb at quarterback with 55 receptions from 116 passes, 1200 yards passing, 12 TDs, and only 4 interceptions. He even ran for over 600 yards in 87 carries. Greg Brooks led the running game with 950 yards with Jared Christman having a breakout year running 650 yards. Steven Eader was simply inspirational at quarterback.

The team of the future is promising with Matt Ray only a sophomore, and Brandon Moore, who had eighteen interceptions, a junior. Coming back strong will be team players Kyle Wood, Andrew Witt, Tyler Bierly, Jesse Burton, Kevin Campbell, and Mike Onsley, just to name a few.

Teams are also about the coaches, and the group at PHS is experienced, dedicated, and first-rate. Coach Fred Swick coached the strong defense, Will Gant and John Nash handled the offensive line, and Woody Bierly handled the wide receivers. Coach Larry Hurd was also the team's offensive coordinator, but perhaps the coach who Larry considers most important is Larry Hurd, Sr., his father. Larry Sr. has always been by Larry's side, coaching him as an athlete and mentoring him as a coach.

After all is said and done, though, the coaches and players would tell you that it all really goes back to Coach Larry Hurd himself. Larry Hurd is a teacher (United

States History), a coach, a mentor, and a friend. His nine years of coaching are a lot for a man just past thirty-years-old. At other schools and at various levels, he has been working with young people.

Coach Hurd was highly influenced by his Quince Orchard football coach, former Poolesvillian, Ernie Ceccato. Hurd was a terrific quarterback there and was voted the county's Most Valuable Player.

He knew early in life he wanted to coach. Let Coach Hurd tell you directly. "I love the competition of getting a team ready to play against one another. I love the fact that a group of men get the opportunity to work together as coaches to get the players ready. I love the practices and the hard work that goes into them. I love the game and all the excitement. I simply love coaching."

Coach Hurd has a special message to the parents and the community, too. He wants everyone to know how appreciative he is of the support of parents and community. "I have been privileged to coach outstanding student-athletes at Poolesville High School. Many have gone on to receive athletic scholarships. Many had the talent but chose not to play in college. I am proud of every aspect of Poolesville High School. We are second to none. The school is a testament to an outstanding administration, teaching staff, students, and community."

Coach Hurd may know of a new book that just came out called *The Games Do Count*. It's the story of many different people and the importance that sports played in their lives. I am sure someone will get him a copy. We have a great idea for another book, however. We can call it *Coaches Do Count*. Coach Hurd has coached, inspired, and mentored many boys and girls over the years. He and the other coaches at PHS could take up a big part of such a book.

### Fall Sports

At the end-of-season banquet for the soccer teams, boys' soccer coach Mark Agnew had this to say to his seniors, "I wanted to give you the best season possible for your senior year. With a change of coaches, it could have been a not-so-great season, but I wanted to make sure you

would have a season worth remembering for your last year on the soccer team."

Without a doubt, the varsity boys had their best season in nearly a decade. Their season record was 7-9-0, and they beat Oakland Mills for the first time in seven years to win the Regional Championship. The last Regional Championship won by the boys' soccer team was in 1995. This year, Poolesville lost to Beall High School in the state semi-finals, 2-1 (Beall went on to win the State Championship).

The boys have set their stamp on the final four of the state and have shown themselves to no longer be the underdog. Although the team is graduating eight seniors this year, co-captains Eric Agnew and Ben Hept, Greg Connor, James Mitchell, Sean Peters, Chris Rackens, Brian Reid, and Kevin White, the core of the varsity team consisted of some talented juniors and sophomores. The junior varsity team also had a very successful season and will be able to contribute talent and a great work ethic to next year's state championship contenders.

Speaking of underdogs, how about those field hockey girls? After graduating twelve seniors last year, coach Regina Grubb didn't know what to expect of the team. "The varsity experience wasn't there," she said. She knew the junior varsity players moving up had a lot of experience, and the "key as a coach, would be to develop the team so that the players would mesh well." They spent a lot of time doing team building activities.

The girls worked very hard, and at the beginning of the season, Coach Grubb notes, "They stepped up more than what I thought they would, so that by the end of the season, they came on strong and took us back to the state final game." The game was played on the University of Maryland turf field against Pocomoke, last year's state champion. Says Coach Grubb, "They had a very good team, they were a little bit faster, and we just couldn't capitalize on our chances to score."

Overall, Coach Grubb adds, "We had a great season." Led by three captains, seniors KC Marchwicki, Jamie Morningstar, and Laurel Caywood (also the keeper), the girls worked really hard in the preseason playing against bigger teams, and no one thought they would get back to the state finals—and there they were.



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