

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 25, 2008

Volume IV, Number 19.



David Barga teaches a class at MUDO USA. Read our Focus on Business on Page 11.



A local youth making a difference in Africa. More on Page 3.



An old farmhouse, still standing, that was the scene of an unsolved murder. See Local History on Page 10.



Obviously, this picture concerns a ballet studio. See Local News, on Page 13.

New Business Owner Has Window Smashed In

By Rande Davis

The new owners of Poolesville Beer, Wine, and Deli experienced disturbing vandalism on and around their property in the early morning hours of January 11 (the alarm was triggered at 12:23 a.m.). Joanie and Nick Jeon, who had just purchased the business from long-time Poolesville businessman, Jay Schwartzman, were shocked and hurt to have part of the right front window smashed. In addition, the rear of the adjoining Poolesville Shopping Center that is positioned right behind the deli had

its surface defaced with graffiti. Furthermore, investigation showed that someone trying to force his or her way in from the back damaged the rear door of the store.



Nick Jeon, the new owner of Poolesville Beer, Wine and Deli points (during our recent snowstorm) to the area where the store window was smashed by vandals.

Mr. Jeon was surprised and disappointed with this turn of events. "I don't understand it, especially since everyone has been so nice in greeting us when coming into the store."

Vandalism, especially graffiti, has been a major public concern in the Poolesville area. The problems of graffiti had apparently abated to some degree after a defacement spree last summer at Selby's Market, the front porch area of Drs. Pike and Valega's located on Fisher Avenue, and the Poolesville High School concession stand.

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Wilson Wims A Witness to History

By Jack Toomey

The elderly gentleman looked out across the busy road to a location, not two hundred yards away, where he had been born in 1915. The farm where he had

grown up is now a modern subdivision with hundreds of homes. As he engaged a visitor in conversation, a continuous flow of traffic rushed up and down the road that nearly a century ago had not seen an automobile. As a late autumn sun warmed the deck where he sat, the elder statesman regaled a visitor with tales of life in Montgomery County eighty years ago, his work

with youth issues, and his career on the baseball field.

Wilson Wims was born on a farm that was located on the east side of present-day Route 355, across

from Clarksburg High School. His first childhood memory was of playing in the woods with his brothers. During the 1920s, his father purchased a farm in Hyattstown and the family moved up the road to a place they could call their own. Route 355, then referred to as simply "the road to Frederick," was a dirt path, and Wims said that he could not recall an automobile traveling on the road until at least the mid-1920s. He attended school in a building that was a former church. The Hyattstown Christian Church had built a new church and donated their old building, but it had to be relocated. Teams of horses were enlisted, and the building was moved to just south of Hyattstown. Wims attended this one-room schoolhouse that was demolished in 1979. Because he was needed on the farm, he did not attend high school. During the 1930s, the road to Frederick was improved, and Wims vividly recalls the massive work project.

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Wilson Wims

Sponsored by: Selby's Market Your IGA Hometown Food Store



Commissioner Jim Brown who chaired the 2007 Poolesville Holiday Lighting contest, presents a certificate to Gary, Cynthia, and Michele Hecker of Hoskinson Road.



Poolesville Town Commissioner Jim Brown presents a Holiday Lighting award to Lindsey, Luke, Lauren, and Steve Lightcap. Other residential winners who were not present to get their certificates were Timothy and Jeannine Cornell, Victor and Linda Lundberg, and Dean and Sandra Wolverton.



Poolesville High students wait for the Ride-On Bus



Reva Hoewing, owner of Crafts-A-Plenty, was recognized as this year's winner in the business category of the Holiday Lighting Contest.



*Students of the PHS Humanities House magnet program presented "Jazz Café," a special musical revue with a 1920s theme.
Photograph by Hilary Schwab*



A pedestrian makes his way to the post office in last week's snow.

Youth Making a Difference

Heeding the Call of God

By Dominique Agnew

As we come to the month of February, it's natural to think of—hope for—spring and summer. Thoughts of summer sometimes turn to making plans for activities, vacation, or a special trip. For Poolesville resident and Poolesville High School student, Brianna Giarratano, her thoughts definitely turn to trips, but not the kind most of us would consider. Brianna feels called by God to go on mission trips, and this summer she will go on her third trip to an impoverished locale. This summer, she will go to Honduras.

Brianna first got an inkling that she wanted to do this type of mission work when she attended Acquire the Fire, a Christian music festival. At this week-end-long event, thousands of teens come together to listen to Christian bands and inspirational speakers, and in 2004, Brianna was inspired to consider going on a mission—and she went—not once, but twice.

Through an organization called Global Expeditions, which helps teens and adults go on mission trips all over the world, Brianna went to Peru in 2006, then to Botswana in Africa in 2007—and these trips are no vacation. First, Brianna had to be sure she was making the right

decision, and that required a lot of prayer on her part. Then, she had to raise the money to make the trips. This involved writing letters to friends and family and making presentations. "I talked about my calling to do a mission trip," she says. Of course, on the trips, themselves, the living is a little rough in comparison to U.S. standards. In Botswana, they slept in tents and had to dig holes to go to the bathroom. Also, the food was like mush. Brianna says, "No one really knew what it was." To overcome all these difficulties, Brianna turns to God, "God is the only one that gets me through it," she says.

In her mission trip to Peru, the group she was with performed dramas and short plays to convey the message of God. Brianna felt to be part of a group helping. Her experience this past summer in Botswana was decidedly different, and she spoke with a lot of enthusiasm about her stay there. "I felt like I personally made a difference," she says. "I think God used me in Africa." She found her mission much more personal to the people whom she described as "so loving and so open." For this year's trip to Honduras where



Brianna Giarratano meeting children while on a mission trip to Africa.

she will be helping in orphanages, Brianna will be traveling with her youth group from the Church of the Nazarene in Gaithersburg led by Angie Dunlevy.

Both of Brianna's parents, Chris and
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Commentary

More Smoke and Mirrors

By John Clayton

I am reduced, by attrition, to spending way too much time focusing on the presidential primary contests. This is because the Redskins are no longer in contention (although watching the weeping Cowboys lose was almost as enjoyable), and it is still weeks before baseball's spring training begins. I love to see the Wizards win, but without the Hibachi, it just isn't the same. I don't follow hockey; one has to draw a line somewhere. I'm reading more books, as there is even less on television than usual, but I still need some occasional mindless entertainment.

What currently fascinates me about the primaries is the utter glee with which various pundits, prognosticators, and talking heads are anticipating a "brokered" convention. For those of you with the personal discipline to ignore this sort of thing, I will explain. As the candidates progress through various electoral contests—primaries and caucuses—they collect delegates for nomination as their party's candidate, and when one candidate has enough delegates, the nomination is, for all intents and purposes, decided. The subsequent convention, for each party, ratifies the selection amidst days of insufferable speechmaking. Such conventions are now derisively referred to as infomercials. They are also a demonstration of how our individual small campaign contributions get put in big piles and incinerated all at once.

In the old days, before the 1970s, it didn't work this way. Party leaders gathered at the convention in "smoke-filled-rooms" and twisted each other's arms and traded state delegations back and forth until a candidate was chosen, or if you prefer, brokered. Some of these machinations occurred out in the open, on the convention floor, where television reporters (who wore these incredible mobile-transmitting Astro-Boy headsets) interviewed political operatives and provided a steady blow-by-blow account of these republic-shaking events. Those whose living depends on the drama of such events surely pine for those days. There is no drama in the current system; the lowly voter (that's us) has

taken over. Hence, there is a great nostalgia for the smoke-filled room. This could be the year of its return.

I have given some thought (Einstein called these "thought experiments") to how this will progress in the twenty-first century. The smoke-filled room is generally associated with cigar smoking which, despite the warnings of the Surgeon General and primary school teachers everywhere, retains a certain cachet in some circles. This election could put cigar smoking back in vogue in a big way. (Editor's Note: The *Monocacy Monocle* does not condone the use of tobacco products in any form, as to the use of thought experiments, we'll get back to you after we check with the Surgeon General.)

The Democrats, I believe, will have some difficulty with this. The immediate problem is the smoking thing, which as you know, is a carbon dioxide-emitting activity, with a regrettable effect on the composition of the atmosphere and (most scientists agree) an adverse effect on climate change. I believe the Democratic Party, pulling together at its policy-making best, can probably put in place an efficient cap-and-trade system of carbon credits in time to offset these emissions in an environmentally-acceptable and politically-sensitive fashion. Al Gore will be called in to mediate.

Issues of unionized convention workers being exposed to second-hand smoke will remain a problem, but since the trial attorneys usually support the Democrats, I think this can be surmounted, at least for the three days needed.

The Republican Party will handle the smoke-filled room in a different manner entirely, without any of the hand-wringing demonstrated by the Democrats. Since Republicans really don't admit to climate change to begin with, save as needed for political expediency, greenhouse emissions will not be an issue. In fact, the Republicans will demonstrate how the entire smoke-filled room and cigar thing is yet another indication of the need to cut taxes. Well-known cigar smoker Arnold Schwarzenegger will be brought in to muscle this point home.

How the candidates handle this individually is another matter entirely. John Edwards, being a native of a tobacco state, should be in his element, but as the champion of the poor, he will be wary of fat cat symbolism. This may be the end of his campaign.

Barrack Obama, the trendy candidate of the truly hip, will convert his

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smoke-filled room to a hookah bar.

Hillary Clinton will force us to confront the overwhelming maleness of the smoke-filled room. Let's face it--the good old days were not particularly inclusive of anyone outside of the white male. This clearly, and gratefully, is no longer the case. While Hillary could certainly send Bill into the game, I suspect she will have some other solution well beyond my ability to foresee. Like her or not, she's no dummy.

By the way, no Democrat will smoke a Cuban cigar in public because it will make them look soft on communism, which is dangerous when a Kennedy is giving away Venezuelan oil from an avowed socialist and bragging about it on network TV. They're fine with smoking them in private, though.

On the Republican side, John McCain will embrace cigar smoking to burnish his straight-talking, bad-boy image.

Rudolph Giuliani will leap for the opportunity for one more manly prop with which to display his toughness against pretty much anyone that we may not like.

Mitt Romney, whose religious beliefs will prevent him from frequent-

ing smoke-filled rooms, will, like Mrs. Clinton, have an opportunity to show his resilience in a tricky situation.

Mike Huckabee, who has been associated with smoking bans, will also try to spin the smoke-filled room to his advantage. One or both of these candidates will claim that cigar smoking somehow supports illegal immigration.

From his many movies and television shows, we know that Fred Thompson looks darned good smoking a cigar. If he can hang in the race that long, this could put him over the top.

No Republican will smoke a Cuban cigar in public, because they really don't like communists. They're fine with smoking them in private, though.

Hopefully, there will be a lot of baseball on television this summer--or maybe I'll just read a book. ♦

School News

Kindergarteners' Choice

Families who live in the Poolesville Elementary School boundaries can choose for their rising kindergarteners to attend Monocacy Elementary School. Parents must enroll their students at PES then request a transfer to MES. The transfer season begins in February and lasts for several months. A variety of opportunities will be planned for prospective students to learn about MES. For more information, contact MES directly at 301-972-7990.

Poolesville High School

Parent Meeting Nights Scheduled for Poolesville High School

February 7 is the annual college night for parents of students (and the

students) planning to attend college. Parents and students will have the opportunity to hear a private college counselor speak on the admissions process. Then on February 20 is the registration meeting for incoming freshmen for the 2008-2009 school year for John Poole Middle School parents. Both meetings are in the evening, but the actual time was not available from the high school, so interested parents may call 301-972-7900 to confirm the time.

Career Day at JPMS

February 27 is the date of John Poole's annual eighth grade Career Day. Parents and community members are invited to share their occupations with eighth graders who really enjoy the presentations. If you or a friend or neighbor is interested in

participating in this year's Career Day, please call 301-972-7980. Volunteers are also needed to help run this event.

Principal Levine Announces Achievements at PHS

In her December letter, Poolesville High School principal, Deena Levine, announced some impressive achievements by the students in the first semester. The sophomore class led the percentage of students making the honor roll with seventy percent. Fifty-six percent of the juniors, sixty-nine percent of the freshman, and sixty-seven percent of the seniors made the honor roll.

The county Challenge Index recently ranked PHS forty-fifth in the entire metropolitan area and number eleven for MCPS schools. The College Board has recognized the PHS Ad-

vanced Placement Environmental Science program, taught by Joyce Bailey, as one of the finest in the entire state.

Dr. Jerry Weast, MCPS superintendent, has asked the Board of Education to fully fund the third year of the PHS whole magnet program along with funds for the new building addition. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony this summer with the opening date scheduled for August 2009.

Principal Levine also extended congratulations to math teacher, Jeff Flowers, for an outstanding math competition with ninth grader, Joseph Pepper, son of Amy Hsu, ranking twenty-sixth in the state. ♦

Humble Chef

Italy Is for Lovers

By Maureen O'Connell

In our area, we often see bumper stickers and T-shirts that boast "Virginia is for Lovers." That might be true for some people, but for me, "Italy is for Lovers." If you have ever been to Italy, you know what I mean. I visited Italy for the first time when I was a junior in college. I had the pleasure of celebrating my twenty-first birthday in Rome. Now, that was a long time ago, but I remember it well. I fondly recall my friends and I in front of the Trevi Fountain (people of my age will recognize it from the romantic movie and song *Three Coins in a Fountain*) at about three or four in the morning (Rome never sleeps) discussing where to find me a birthday cake.

Italians are passionate about everything in life. In the late 1960s, London's night life and restaurants closed down and rolled up the sidewalks about 9:00 p.m. Not in Rome, they savor every minute of the day and night. There is passion in their art, their music, their architecture, their love of football. This same passion is reflected in their food. Food is not just something to nourish our bodies; it is a central part of events and everyday family life. It is not unusual for lunch or dinner to last for two or three hours.

If you ask an Italian where he is from, he never says he's from Italy. Instead, he is from Venice, Sicily, Naples, Tuscany, or Rome. Their regionality is an important part of who they are. Italians love talking about food. I have spent

many an hour or two arguing with some of my Italian friends about where the best pappardelle, olive oil, or cheese is from. When I am in Italy, I feel Italian; their enthusiasm is that contagious.

The best Italian cookbook is probably Marcella Hazan's *The Classic Italian Cookbook*. First published in 1973, it is lauded as having done for Italian food what Julia Child and Simone Beck did for French cuisine. I don't think that Hazan's recipes and directions are as long and complicated as Child's. They are fairly easy to follow, and there are good illustrations. But, I don't think it would appeal to a novice cook. If you are interested in Italian cooking, let me recommend one that I think you might like. For Christmas, a friend gave me Jamie Oliver's 2006 cookbook *jamie's italy*. You might recall that in a December column, I recommended his latest book, *Cook with Jamie*. I hope that some of my readers bought it and are enjoying it. This book is interesting and informative and covers many aspects of cooking. *jamie's italy* is more specific; it speaks about his love affair with all things Italian, especially its food. Here again his recipes are easy to follow and the ingredients are easily found in our markets. What I like most about this book is that it is both an accessible cookbook and a unique travelogue and diary in which he richly describes the flavor of the country and the people who live there. I had a hard time selecting a recipe from his book for this column; I wanted to try them all. Since this is winter and we are looking for warming comfort food, I chose this soup for it is very simple and very delicious. ♦

Pasta e ceci

pasta with chick peas

Serves 4

1 small onion, peeled and finely chopped
 1 stick of celery, trimmed and finely chopped
 1 clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
 extra virgin oil
 a sprig of fresh rosemary, leaves picked and finely chopped
 2 14-oz. cans of chickpeas
 2 1/4 cups chicken stock
 3 1/2 oz. ditalini or other small Italian "soup" pasta (I used elbow macaroni)
 sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

optional: a small handful of fresh basil or parsley; leaves picked and torn

Put the finely chopped onion, celery, and garlic into a saucepan with a little extra virgin olive oil and the rosemary and cook as gently as possible, with the lid on, for about 15-20 minutes, until all the vegetables are soft, without any color.

Drain the chickpeas well and

rinse them in cold water, then add them to the pan and cover with the stock. Cook gently for half an hour, then, using a slotted spoon, remove half the chickpeas and put them to one side in a bowl.

Purée the soup in the pan using a handheld immersion blender. If you don't have one, you can whiz it up in a food processor instead, then pour it back into the pan. Add the reserved whole chickpeas and the pasta, season the soup with salt and pepper, and simmer gently until the chickpeas are tender and the pasta is cooked.

At this point, if the soup is a little thick, pour in some boiling water from the kettle to thin it down, and add more salt and pepper if needed. Serve drizzled with good-quality extra virgin olive oil. Lovely sprinkled with some freshly torn basil or parsley—a real treat.

Remembrance

Celesta Sharlene West



Celesta Sharlene West

Mrs. Celesta Sharlene West, 71, of Poolesville, Maryland died on Thursday December 27, 2007 at the George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. after an extended illness. She was the loving wife of Russell G. West. Mrs. West was born on April 14, 1936 in Indian Valley, Virginia. She was the daughter of the late Early and Gerusha Phillips Hollandsworth. Sharlene was a lifelong and highly active member of the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church where she was a greeter, usher, and hugger extraordinaire. She participated in the adult Sunday school class, United Methodist Women's Group, Crafty Ladies and Gents, Ladies Covenant Discipleship, was a member of the Emmaus Community, lifetime member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, and was also a member of the

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Big Board

Information Hearing on Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville Montgomery County will host an informational meeting regarding the 825-acre Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville on January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Owens Regional Park community building. This meeting will update residents as to the plans for the site including: over fifteen miles of trails, indoor and outdoor facilities, and training areas.

The Lads from Liverpool, John, Paul, George, and Ringo are back!

Don't miss "1964 - The Tribute," an award-winning Beatles recreation, when they hit the Weinberg Center stage for one night only on February 1, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. "1964" has performed throughout the world, including to a sold out crowd at Carnegie Hall. "1964" recreates an early '60s live Beatles concert, with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and on-stage banter. Years of researching the Fab Four has made "1964" masters of their craft. Beatle boots, vintage mannerisms and speaking voices, and the unmistakable harmonies make "1964" the most accurate and fun Beatles tribute to date. Tickets are on sale now at the Center box office, by phone at 301-600-2828, or online at www.weinbergcenter.org. Tickets range from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

Planning Your Family Reunion?

A great deal of planning needs to go into a successful family reunion. Although most reunions occur in the summer, winter is when the planning starts. Sandra Clunies, author of *A Family Affair*:

How to Plan and Direct the Best Family Reunion Ever, will discuss the essential elements to planning a successful family reunion on Sunday, February 3, at 4:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Historical Society's Beall-Dawson House, 103 West Montgomery Avenue in Rockville. Ms. Clunies is a certified genealogist and speaks frequently on genealogical topics. There is a \$3.00 cover charge for MCHS members and a \$6.00 fee for non-members. Registration is required. Copies of Ms. Clunies's book will also be available for sale at a special price of \$15.00. For more information, call 301-762-1492 or visit www.montgomeryhistory.org.

February Relay for Life Captain/Team Meeting

The next opportunity to discover how to participate in Poolesville Relay for Life annual fundraiser to help fight cancer will be on Monday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Poolesville Presbyterian Church. These meetings are for captains and participants or anyone interested in becoming involved. Their Winter Gala is now scheduled for February 23 at the Double Tree Hotel in Bethesda. This will be an elegant, festive evening of dining and danc-

ing. PRFL will be providing further information in time for our February 8 issue, or you can visit their website at www.PoolesvilleRelay.org.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time Again!

Girl Scout Troop 430 is now taking orders for their annual Girl Scout cookie sale. The cookies are \$3.50 per box. (All are trans fat free.) If you want any cookies, and do not have a girl scout in your neighborhood, contact Dawn Albert at 301-916-3029. For those who want to help the scouts but don't really want to add cookies to their diet, the troop will be happy to donate your cookies to the food pantry at WUMCO.

PACC Planning Annual Dinner

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce has its 2008 Annual Dinner scheduled for February 21. The dinner will be at the Izaak Walton League on West Willard Road, as usual. The cost for members is \$45.00 per person. For more information or to register, you can visit their website at poolesvillechamber.com or call 301-349-5753. ♦

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In the Garden

Garden Thoughts For a New Year

By Maureen O'Connell

We are now well into the first month of the new year. It is traditional at this time to look over the events of the past year to see where we might change things to improve our health, our lifestyle, and our relationships. In the spirit of my column, let's not forget our gardens, and in the larger scope, the environment. For starters, let's take a walk around our gardens and lawn areas.

The sparseness of the winter landscape allows us to take a closer look. It is as if the eye becomes keener with the loss of color. I find much inspiration in this landscape, even when it is at its bleakest—all earth tones and gray skies. Do you have plans to add a new garden, or perhaps change or relocate an existing one? Are you realistic as to how much time you have to devote to a garden's maintenance? If your vegetable garden each year grows more weeds than vegetables, it might be time to cut

its size in half, or buy your tomatoes and green beans at the local garden stand. Have flowering thugs taken over your perennial flower patch? Our government in Washington might not be the only thing in need of change.

In planning garden and lawn areas around our homes, we usually consider the aesthetics. While this is important, let's try in 2008 to seek ways to improve our environment through careful gardening and landscaping guidelines. No matter what your beliefs are about the truths or fallacies of global warming, there is much that the homeowner can accomplish in his or her small corner of the planet to correct many proven ecological problems.

In our area, a good barometer of the health of the environment is the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's State of the Bay 2007 Report tells a complex and alarming tale. While improvements have been made in each of the principal bay states—Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania—the bay is still seriously polluted. Rather than improving, the bay's health declined this year as the states' investments have yet to pay notable returns. The biggest threat is

-Continued on Page 16.

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a large country kitchen w/oak cabinets, spacious rooms & 2 wood-burning fire places w/double flues. A comfortable 32' x 20' attached deck compliments the rear of the home and an electric dog fence is already in place. Additional improvements include 30' x 50' detached garage on poured concrete slab (with A/C, heat, and water) and an asphalt parking pad in front. MLS# MC6529296.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present

December 22, 2007 Commercial burglary, Clarksburg Grocery, 23329 Clarksburg Road, forced entry to a business, property taken.

January 8, 2008 Thomas W. Deal, of Dickerson, plead guilty in Frederick County Circuit Court to killing David L. Stull in 2006. Stull was found beaten to death on February 20, 2006 at a construction site in the 6200 block

of Linganore Road.

January 11, 2008 Montgomery County Police have issued warrants charging parental abduction for Ashley Elizabeth Duffy. Police said that Duffy, the mother of Kaia Transeau, age three of Boyds, allegedly fled with her daughter after a parental visit. Duffy is believed to have taken a flight to Los Angeles.

January 11, 2008 Montgomery County Police arrested Troy Lavon Hamton, age eighteen, and charged him with multiple counts of vandalism and race/religious harassment after a series of incidents at Churchill High School, Whitman High, Walter

Johnson High, Cabin John Mall, Washington Hebrew Congregation, and the St. James Episcopal Church.

Past

January 25, 1929 Montgomery County Police started an intensive drive against the operation of places of amusement and entertainment halls that operate on Sunday. Two arrests had been made and more were expected to follow.

January 25, 1901 Mrs. Van Hoy, the wife of William C. Van Hoy, a clerk in one of the government offices in Washington, was struck and killed by an eastbound Baltimore and Ohio train at Kensington. Mrs. Van Hoy was waiting for her husband at the Kensington station when her husband alighted from the train from Washington. She was crossing the tracks when she was struck by the eastbound train.

February 2, 1906 C. D. McLane, a conductor on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, fell through the floorboards of the train which he was operating and was crushed beneath the wheels of the locomotive near Boyds Station.

February 3, 1899 The handsome new dwelling of Mr. M. Eugene Wade, of Bucklodge, one mile west of Boyds, was destroyed by fire.

February 5, 1888 A shock, supposed to be an earthquake, was felt at Rockville around 1:30 in the morning. It shook the houses considerably and aroused a number of persons. Some thought that the shaking had been caused by an explosion while others thought it was a rushing train. One man asked his neighbor, "Hasn't the war ended yet?"

"Celesta Sharlene West" Continued From Page 6.

International Organization of Odd Fellows Rebekkas. Sharlene was a devoted Christian, a dedicated wife, a beloved mother and Grannie. She was a friend to all and leaves a loving extended family. Surviving besides her husband are two daughters, Kathy Cody and husband Ed of Poolesville, and Karen West Williams of Dickerson, Maryland; one sister, Treva Cannaday of Virginia; and two grandsons, Brian and Jason Cody of Poolesville. Sharlene was preceded in death by one grandson, Kelly Orville Williams, III; two sisters, Gaye Buckner Wade and Geneva Bryson; and three brothers, Lucas Monroe, and Melvin and Everett Hollandsworth. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sharlene's name to the Memorial Fund of the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.



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Youth Sports

Wrestling: A Team Sport

By Dominique Agnew

For many years, Poolesville High School's wrestling team has been unable to compete as a true team because there were weight classes that couldn't be filled resulting in forfeits. "I don't remember the last time we had all the weight classes covered," says Assistant Coach Mark Agnew. This year, for perhaps the first time, all the weight classes are covered, but the concept of competing as a true team was borne upon them during an explosive match at the Richard Montgomery Rocket Launch Duals in



Photo Courtesy of Hugh Flick

Matt Bosnick

December, early in the season.

Competing against seven other teams and with only three matches left to go after two days of wrestling, the Falcons were shooting for a third place finish. They were down by thirteen points, and the next wrestler, senior Mallory Green, had to win to

keep the team mathematically alive for third place. In the first period, she dropped behind by five points. "Things didn't look so good," says Coach Agnew. She battled back to take the lead in the third period, finally pinning her opponent with barely twenty seconds left. The spectators went crazy, and the next two wrestlers won by pin (sophomore, Kyle Flick, wrestling at 130) and technical fall (sophomore, Logan Wilson, 135), respectively. Wilson finished 7-0 for the tournament to win the first place trophy in his weight class. The Poolesville Falcons brought the third place trophy home—and they also avenged an early loss to Watkins Mill High School. At the time, the Falcons were still giving up three weight classes.

"That was a turnaround for the team," says Head Coach Kevin Dorse-

ye. That was also when he realized the wrestlers could compete as a team, and that the wrestlers themselves could buy into the team concept, as well. "We were going to lose if she didn't win," he continues. "When she pinned him, it turned the whole team around. That's huge. It made the rest of the matches go our way." Coach Dorsey reiterates that the team concept increases the competitiveness of the wrestlers. They have to work harder. It's still an individual one-on-one sport, but if one wrestler loses, then the others must try harder to win so that the team can win. "Schools start to get on the map by being a team," he explains.

Obviously, the team is performing better than last year's team which had a 4-10 record, they have the potential to end the regular season, 10-4, a "realistic but difficult goal," says Coach Agnew. Even

with this progress, the team is still growing. On a roster of thirty students wrestling, there are five seniors: Captain Matt Bosnick and Dave Johnson both wrestle at 189 but they alternate wrestling the 215 weight class to fill the void, Joe Gilpin wrestles at 160, Tommy Klein at 145, and Mallory

Green at 125. Two thirds of the team are freshmen and sophomores. Many of them are also wrestling in the beltway league (Capital Area Wrestling League) of the Falcon wrestling program under the Poolesville Athletic Association. Both high school coaches have been involved with PAA wrestling for many years, and they also help coach the PAA beltway wrestlers. They know the wrestlers before they arrive at the high school, and the wrestlers know who their coaches will be.

With counties, regions, and states coming up, the coaches hope to send more wrestlers to the state competition than the two that qualified last year, junior Jeff Tallia and 2007 graduate Jason Boulter. "We're hoping to improve on that as well," says Coach Agnew. Dave Johnson, Matt Bosnick, Joe Gilpin, Logan Wilson, Kyle Flick, Henry Field, and Jeff Tallia have all accumulated a lot of qualifying points for the regional tournament, with other hopefuls who may also qualify if they continue to improve and have a strong second half of the season.

This year, says Coach Dorsey, "The kids are really, really commit-

-Continued on Page 19.

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Local History

The Mills Murder Mystery

By Jack Toomey

On the morning of July 7, 1927, Edward Mills arose early as was his habit. By 4:45 a.m., he was out in his pasture tending to his cows when a man emerged from the nearby woods. The man, dressed in a black shirt with white buttons, seemed to engage Mills in conversation. Then, shots were heard, and Mills fell dead. The stranger ran back into the woods and disappeared. A farmhand who had witnessed the incident ran to the farmhouse and aroused his family, and they all carried Mills into the house. Pinned to his shirt was a type-written note of about three hundred words which seemed to accuse Mills of having an illicit affair with a married woman.

Raymond Mills, the nephew of Edward Mills and now in his nineties, was recently interviewed. Mills said that on the morning of his uncle's murder, he was at his house which was located on a neighboring farm. His cousin, Dorothy Mills, came to the house and told him that his uncle had been shot. Raymond then went to the field where the shooting had occurred about a half mile away and found "a field full of police." Neighbors had also started to gather, and one man exclaimed, "Give me a loaded gun and I will go into those woods." Someone then produced a basket and some men carried his uncle into the house and laid him on the couch until an undertaker came. Raymond Mills said, "I will remember that day as long as I live, I'll take that memory to my grave."

Edward Mills owned a prosperous dairy farm near the community of Hunting Hill. He was well thought of in the community and was not known to have any enemies. The farm, which encompassed several hundred acres, was one of the finest in Montgomery County and was located on Dufief Mill Road about a mile from the Darnestown Road. Raymond Mills said that his uncle's farm encompassed at least two hundred acres, contained two tenant houses in addition to the main farmhouse which still stands today. There was no electricity on Dufief Mill Road at that time, so his uncle had generators to produce electricity



Edward Mills's farm in the 1950s. Mills was killed in the field to the left of the barn. (Photograph courtesy of Images of Montgomery County by Michael Dwyer, published 2006.)

for the farm. Mills said that he understood that his uncle had arisen early that day as usual and was preparing to do some threshing with his steam-powered equipment and had gone out to bring the cows in from the field. However, one horse remained in the field and Ed Mills had to go out into the field to corral the horse. That is when he was accosted by his assailant.

A Washington police officer, who lived on a neighboring farm and was related to the Mills family through marriage, came to the scene and proclaimed himself in charge of the investigation. He led a posse of men to a nearby farm where a young married woman lived and her husband was known to own a typewriter. Nothing out of the ordinary was found there and, in fact, the farmer was out of town.

Chief of Police Moxley arrived at the farm and took charge of the investigation—or so he thought. During the next few days, chaos reigned at Hunting Hill. The Montgomery County Police Department was barely five years old and had no detectives, so they sent for a Baltimore detective who arrived to investigate. Stanley Gingell, a Montgomery County deputy sheriff, was hired by the Mills family to investigate the crime, and, incredibly, the pastor of the Travilah Baptist Church announced that he would be conducting his own investigation into the murder of Mills. The bickering factions were not speaking to each other while independent inquiries were conducted.

Over five hundred people attended Mills's funeral. The pastor-turned-investigator delivered a fiery sermon and declared that he would study everyone's face for signs of guilt. The deputy sheriff attended the funeral under the guise of a mourner to look for any suspicious persons in the church. In the meantime,

-Continued on Page 14.



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Focus on Business

MUDO USA

By Jack Toomey

Most people of a certain age remember the television advertisements where a child defends himself from attack by bullies and shouts, "Nobody bothers me!" then another reiterates, "Nobody bothers me, either!" Because of these ads, many people may have a preconceived notion of the martial arts. A recent visitor to a martial arts school in Poolesville was surprised to learn that the martial arts not only develop self-defense abilities but also concentrate on teaching many other



Emily Himmelfarb warms up with her sister Sara.

skills.

MUDO USA opened its doors in Poolesville three years ago. Many people drive by the storefront, located in the Poolesville Plaza next to Cugini's Restaurant, without noticing that it is there, but the forty-some students who attend classes every week find a whole range of activities and disciplines in which they can participate. John Tompkins and David Barga, the owners and teachers at MUDO USA, both have participated in the martial arts for a good part of their lives. They met by chance, became friends, and decided to open their own school in 2005. They chose Poolesville because of its large population of junior students and because there were no other schools of its type closer than Germantown. MUDO takes its name from the Korean word for martial arts.

John Tompkins grew up in Kankakee, Illinois, earned a degree in mechanical design, and moved to Montgomery County in 1999. He is married and has two children who are seven and three years old. John

said that his students enroll with the intention of "weight loss, gaining strength, and gaining focus." He added, "There are a lot of physical and mental benefits to taking martial arts." He explained that in order to teach this kind of discipline, a person has to be certified by the Kukkiwon, which is basically the world headquarters of Tae Kwon Do. Typically, a teacher like himself starts out as a student, earns his black belt, and then goes through many levels of testing before being certified to teach.

David Barga was born in Florida, moved to Montgomery County when he was thirteen, graduated from Wootton High School, and earned a degree in Philosophy at the University of Maryland. He began attending martial arts classes when he was five years old and has achieved the level of a third degree black belt. "Martial arts are for everyone, and we pride ourselves in developing a class for everybody," David said. "We don't reprimand a student because they can't perform a task, instead we encourage them to develop skills at their own pace." David told a visitor that martial arts exercises sometimes involve shouting, but "adults just don't want to shout." He added that the sport is "good physical activity, and it builds strength and confidence."

John and David both remarked that typically people think the martial arts are a sport of violence, when in fact it is a sport of discipline that teaches self-control. David said, "It is not something that you learn to steal someone's lunch money or go out to get into fights." He said that parents bring their children to MUDO USA because "a large focus is for children to (improve) behavior at home and at school." Self-esteem, stress reduction, and flexibility are some of the other benefits of the martial arts. Children are required to take home two report cards, one for their parents to sign, and one for their teachers, who give grades in categories that rate them on homework, respect, and personal care. When their reports are good, they advance in rank. The visitor was surprised to learn that about two thirds of the students were children.

Typically, a new student begins by taking Tae Kwon Do which involves balance and concentration.

It became an Olympic sport in 1988. Children are not allowed to take classes that involve fighting skills such as Gum Do or self-defense class like Hap Ki Do. Tae Kwon Do, a skill that teaches discipline and self control, is taught to both adults and children. Both teachers have anecdotal recollections of former students who successfully defended themselves against assailants on Metro and on one occasion in an altercation with a bully at school.

Emily Himmelfarb, age eleven, and her sister Sara, who is in third grade, are students at MUDO-USA. Emily, who has already obtained the rank of assistant black belt, told a *Monocle* reporter, "It's fun, you will meet friends, and you will learn how to defend yourself." Laura Normoyle, whose daughter Carmen is a student, said, "She was interested in Tae Kwon Do, and it is building her confidence, [she is] getting stronger, and having fun."

Visitors are welcome to come to MUDO USA and sit in the lobby to observe classes which are held from Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. New students can also take classes, free of charge for thirty days, without

any further obligation. Classes are divided into three divisions, four to six years old, seven to twelve years old, and for people thirteen years old to adult. The youngest student at the school is four years old, and there are students in their sixties. The school also offers birthday parties for everyone, whether a student or not, and after-school care while students are awaiting their classes. Children work on homework in a supervised room. John said that he would like to build their membership base, "We would like to increase enrollment to about a hundred students" without sacrificing the small-group feeling they enjoy with the smaller numbers. David added, "We don't want to lose the family atmosphere that we have now."

John Tompkins and David Barga offer a well-run school that is conveniently located, reasonably priced, and will teach both children and adults valuable skills that will be needed in later life. MUDO USA is located at 19616K Fisher Avenue in Poolesville. To find out more information, either gentleman can be reached at 301-349-4001 or information can be found at MUDOUSA.com. ✦



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"Youth Making a Difference"
Continued From Page 3.

support her." They're both pleased with Global Expeditions as an organization. "[Global Expeditions] has been really good," adds Chris.

Brianna's interest in mission work is not just a passing fancy or a summer event. "I feel called to be a missionary for the rest of my life...I think I'm being called to work with kids in Peru," Brianna says. "It's really the most awesome thing I've ever done." She explains that helping people is the best feeling, "I don't see the point in living unless you're helping others out." ♦

"Vandalism" Continued
From Page 1.

If anyone witnessed questionable behavior around the store during the hours given, they are encouraged to contact the Montgomery County Police.

Beyond graffiti and illegal behavior unrelated to this vandalism, there have been other problems in the area of concern. McDonald's reported that vandals destroyed part of the red guardrail at the eastern entrance of the restaurant in late December. On January 14, Montgomery County Police arrested individuals who were trying to sell stolen items from Selby's Market and CVS. The details of this incident were not available at press time. ♦

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Local News

Extreme Ballet Studio Makeover in Poolesville

By Dominique Agnew

Part of the changes to the new and improved Healthworks in Poolesville mentioned in Business Briefs included an expansion of the ballet studio used by Hope Garden Ballet Studio, under the artistic direction of Fran Ichijo.

Hope Garden Ballet has been operating out of Healthworks for ten years, and with the growth of the program, Fran has needed a larger studio for a few years now. She has lamented the loss of talented dancers to other studios simply because she lacked the space to teach them properly. Now, instead of leaving, the dancers will start coming to Hope Garden—the build-it-and-they-will-come theory.

Terry Daniels, owner of Healthworks, has always been very supportive of Fran and the Hope Garden Ballet. “I’m really very, very grateful to her,” says Fran. They both had ideas on how to expand the studio, and when Hunt and Lynn Miller, parents of dancer Sally Miller, said they knew how to do all the work, events were

set in motion. With the help of many volunteers—parents, dancers, former dancers, friends and siblings of dancers—the new studio was expanded to measure fifty feet by twenty-five feet with a wall of mirrors and a sprung floor.

Paul O’Connell, father of dancer Brooke O’Connell and owner of Triad Construction, donated the labor of three employees to erect the new walls. Eric Chasin, father of dancer Amanda Chasin, knew how to build the sprung floors so they would line up perfectly with the existing floor. “It was brilliant,” Fran says. “You can’t feel the difference between the old and the new.” Dancers will not become injured with shin splints, and Fran adds, “I can get professional dancers in now.”

Many relatives and friends put in many hours to get the studio done before Healthworks opened its doors for the New Year including: the Jones Family, Joe Insalaco, Krista Dorsey and her two daughters, Gus Creedon, Mark Agnew, and Yoshi Ichijo. “Without the parents’ help, I don’t know how we could’ve done it,” Fran adds. “It was a labor of love—a beautiful Poolesville heart coming together.”

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*"Mills Murder Mystery" Continued
From Page 10.*

the police department interviewed everyone within five miles of the Mills farm. They took ten people into custody, and as was the custom of the time, took them to the courthouse for questioning. Most of these people were family and friends. Police Officer Claggett found that a relative of Mills owned a pistol. Claggett produced a bag of flour, and in front of a crowd gathered in front of the courthouse, Claggett fired the gun into the sack of flour and announced "to his naked eye" that the gun was not the same as the one used to kill Mills. Even the bailiff of the Rockville court became a suspect. This man, who happened to own a pistol, was also a part time employee of the Toll House road house and dance hall in Silver Spring. When he was brought to the courthouse for questioning, a large crowd gathered to watch the spectacle. While he was being questioned, an unlucky man, wearing a black shirt with white buttons, walked down the street in front of the courthouse. The police rushed out front and arrested him. It turned out that he was in town to distribute handbills and he was released.

During August, Mrs. Bertha Mills, the widow of the slain man, told a friend that her husband had appeared to her in a dream. He had stood by her bedside and said, "I was killed by — — of Washington." Unfortunately, Mrs. Mills could not recall the name. This set off a flurry of excitement, and more suspects were questioned.

Things cooled down for a while until March of 1928. On the night of March 9, Wilson Trout, a farmer living in the Glen section of Potomac, went outside to lock his gates. He was confronted by a man named Samuel Robertson, a house painter and contractor from Bethesda, who was armed with a pistol. Robertson demanded the repayment of a debt and pistol whipped Trout. A shot was fired during the altercation. The next day, the police went to Robertson's house in Bethesda. Robertson turned over a pistol, and it was sent away for testing. The police knew that Robertson's parents owned a farm near the Mills property and that Robertson had lived there in the early 1920s. Experts said the pistol was very similar to the kind that had killed Mills. The police returned to Robertson's house and arrested him. While they were there, they found an Underwood typewriter. Robertson

was whisked away to Baltimore for questioning to avoid the press and crowds that would have formed at Rockville. Robertson, who admitted that he knew Mills, denied guilt. He was married, the father of three, and was a churchgoing man but with a violent temper. Once he had been invited to a small gathering at a home near the Mills farm. When the living room furniture had been cleared for dancing, Robertson had become furious and had hurled a lamp through a window.

Robertson was indicted for the murder of Edward Mills by the grand jury in Rockville, but his trial was moved to Frederick because the publicity surrounding the case could have tainted the jury. The state presented two witnesses who said that Robertson owned a black shirt with white buttons. A police officer testified that he saw Robertson hanging around the Mills farm on the afternoon of the murder. Mrs. Robertson denied that she knew Mills or had an affair with him. Some experts testified that Robertson's gun was very similar to that which killed Mills while others testified otherwise. Other experts said that the typewriter was the same kind that was used to type the mystery note.

Jurors were allowed to use the typewriter and then compare their typing with the note. The prosecution was dealt a severe blow when the owner of a typewriter store in Washington, D.C. testified that he sold a typewriter to Robertson two days *after* the murder. Finally, the jury retired and within two hours returned a verdict of not guilty.

The Mills farm is long gone having been replaced by a sprawling subdivision. The farmhouse where the body of Edward Mills was carried after his death remains on Dufief Mill Road and is nearly hidden by larger houses that threaten to swallow this little piece of Montgomery County history. Ironically, Robertson hired Raymond Mills later in life to build and install cabinets in homes that Robertson built. Mills said that the murder of his uncle was never discussed. Samuel Robertson apparently never again had any serious legal troubles and died in Florida in 1969.

Did Samuel Robertson kill Edward Mills? We will probably never know for sure, and Raymond Mills, when asked for his opinion, said that he would rather not discuss it. ♦

Remembrance Susan Ora Sweet

By Maureen O'Connell

The Maryland equestrian community lost a good friend and an exceptional and caring horsewoman at the end of December. Susan Ora Sweet, 59, died of breast cancer on December 30, 2007 at Casey House Hospice in Rockville, Maryland. Susan was born in Oneida, New York and spent most of her formative years in Prince George's County, Maryland. She was

the daughter of Mary Sue Sweet and the late Harold Sweet.

From an early age, she exhibited a love for animals, especially horses. She competed in many horse shows' Western classes. She was there when the Washington International Horse Show included Western classes. Susan graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970. After college, she spent some years working at restaurants and dog kennels. In the early 1980s, she moved to the Dickerson/Poolesville area of upper Montgomery County. She worked for Dr. Chet

-Continued on Page 19.

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Youth Sports

Coyote Wrestlers Return to the Mats

By Jeff Stuart

The success of the 2007 Clarksburg football team impacted the school's wrestling team.

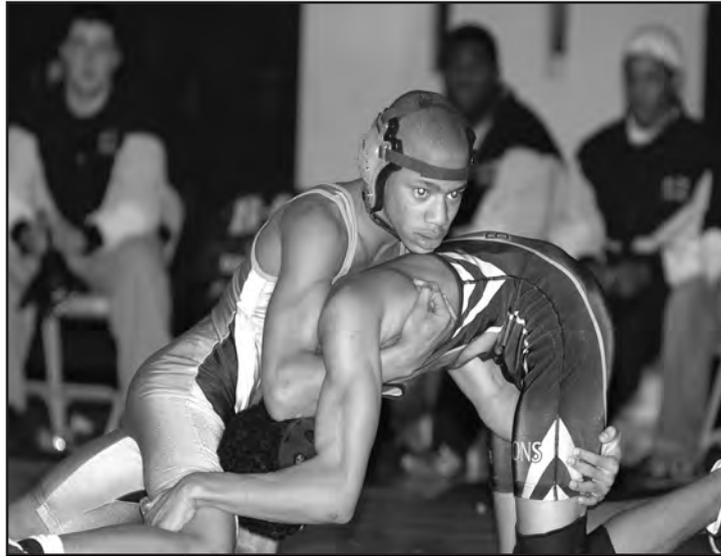
"I have about ten football players on my team. Some of them fell behind because they missed practice due to the playoff run, but they are catching up," said Head Coach Josh Munsey, also an assistant football coach. That is reflected in an early season 2-2 record in dual meets. Attrition also impacted the Coyote mat squad.

"We lost about six guys from last year's team of fourteen, including two of my best wrestlers. Mario Caldwell (152) moved to Baltimore, and Patrick Audain (171) decided to focus on music—and our best wrestler, Tanner Wrublik, sat out the first part of the season due to a personal issue, but he is back now, and that should help our team out tremendously," said Munsey, "so we have a lot of new guys."

But there are positives, he said. "We have a much bigger team than we had last year. We're up to thirty-six guys. The most improved guys from last year are Ben Asadi (103), who only weighed about 95 last year, and Jonathan Ko (160), a JV wrestler last year who lost almost every match. Ben went to camp at Dematha this summer, wrestled freestyle at Northwest, and lifted weights in the off season. He has a weight lifting class. He's worked really hard, and his hard work is paying off. Now he weighs a legitimate 103," said the coach. "He is more comfortable on the mat and is having a breakout year. Ko has improved a million percent since last year. Now he is a varsity wrestler who's winning some and losing some."

"This year I plan on going to the states," said Ben. "This year I have got moves that I can hit one hundred percent. Arm drag and inside trip, I can hit that like crazy."

"Last year was hard," said Jonathan, "but it was motivational for this year. If I quit, then that hard work was for nothing. I didn't expect to be varsity because I knew there were experienced wrestlers like



Freshman Andres Miles (on top) wrestling for the Clarksburg Coyotes.

Pat Audain coming back, but I got my opportunity. I was really surprised."

"Sophomore team captains Roja Stephenson (130) and Paul Acedera (125) have really stepped up," said Coach Munsey. "Both are having very good seasons at the toughest weight classes in the state. Jeff Turner (189), our only returning senior, is also having a breakout year. Freshman Andre Miles at 119 is a first-year wrestler with a lot of potential. Senior Khalil Muslimani (140) didn't wrestle last year, but is a leader for us this year. Freshmen Jerrail Barnes (171/189) and Camillo Amaya (171) have also stood out for us."

Barnes (7-3) never wrestled before, not even in a junior program. After being approached by Coach Munsey last year, he was "determined to make wrestling part of my schedule."

Miles, a football player, was not recruited by the coach, but was urged to come out by his friend Mario Caldwell, last year's 152 pounder. "I'm working on being a state champion," he says. As for his friends who haven't gone out for wrestling and give him some occasional grief about his participation in the sport, "I don't think they have the guts like me," he says.

At the Gator Holiday Classic at Reservoir High School in Howard County over winter break, Kory Wells won first place, Wes Hutto won second place, Paul Acedera, and Jerrail Barnes each earned third place, and Kyle Roenick and Bobby Berry each took home fourth place.

The team had a successful first season year, and both the team members and the coaches have high expectations for the coming season.

"We have a lot more experience this year. There are a lot more guys out," says Tanner Wrublik. After finishing third last year, Tanner's goal is the state title this year. "I lost by two in the semis last year. The guy I lost to won by three in the final." Tanner says he doesn't get nervous. "I go out there and do what I got to do to win," he said. "I know what I am doing."

Captain Paul Acedera appreciates the toughness of the sport and that it is a young team.

"About half of those recruited this year quit, but the ones who stayed are staying for good." In his role as captain, he rallies his young teammates. "I encourage them to have a high intensity level and to put their heart into it even if they

lose. They still got three more years. It's all good. I tell them, 'Good job; keep your head high.' I will work with them on what they need to work on. After that, they might make the same mistakes sometimes but not as often."

On Saturday, Jan 12, the Coyotes hosted a triangular meet against Gaithersburg and Richard Montgomery.

"We had perhaps our most dominating performance ever," said Munsey. "We beat Gaithersburg 42-32 and didn't wrestle up to our potential. Then we wrestled Richard Montgomery, who lost a close one to Gaithersburg, and we dominated them, 71-3, losing only one match. We finally put three strong periods together in a match, and we wrestled with the confidence that we have been lacking. I was very proud of our team. Mostly everyone who wrestled won at least won one match, and several won two including Ben Asadi (103), Denzel Macrae (112), Tanner Wrublik (140), Chris Williamson (135), Calvin Dove (215), and Bobby Berry (285)." ♦

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"No Job Is Too Large or Too Small"

"Garden Thoughts" Continued From Page 7.

nitrogen pollution—from fertilizers, animal waste, and other sources flowing into the bay. This causes algae overgrowth that kills fish and harms the bay's grasses that provide habitat for crabs and small fish. To see what you can do to help this situation, check the website of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. It offers resources and tips to effective lawn and garden care for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Let's look at some of them.

Plant Trees. Trees perform an invaluable service to the environment. They help remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which helps to offset the damages from burning fossil fuels. Trees make our surroundings more beautiful. Street trees improve the overall appearance and quality of life in cities and neighborhoods. They produce fruit that provide food for birds and small wildlife. A large shade tree, properly planted, provides relief from summer's heat and can reduce air conditioning needs. If you are thinking of adding some trees to your property this spring, check the website of the Arbor Day Foundation; it provides good information regarding selection of trees for your area and guidelines for their care. If you have mature trees growing

in your yard, check them now for signs of insect, fungal, and wind damage. Consult a local tree service for advice on your trees' maintenance needs.

We all need to use less toxic pesticides in our gardens and on our lawns. There are safer alternatives. Over the past years, I admit that I used many pesticides, fungicides, and fertilizers to keep the lawn, the roses, and many annuals and perennials looking lush and loaded with blossoms. I felt guilty every time I liberally doused everything with Sevin, malathion, or the like, especially when there were bees or beneficial insects nearby. I also worried about my skin, as wayward droplets of spray covered my arms. In the past couple of years, I have addressed this issue from two directions. I have switched to all natural insect and fungus sprays and fertilizers. Every year, more natural products are being introduced. Gardens Alive catalog and website offers many environmentally-friendly alternatives. I have also reevaluated many of my shrubs, roses, and perennials in an effort to reduce chemical spraying for pests and diseases, and the need for watering during drought conditions. I have removed plants that were too needy and labor intensive, and have chosen ones that are heat- and drought-resistant, have a high resistance to diseases, and

are shunned by most pests.

In preparing this article, I checked the catalogs of Wayside Gardens and White Flower Farm to see what they offered that filled the above requirements. Some small trees and shrubs are: *Magnolia grandiflora* Teddy Bear, *Buddleia alternifolia* – Fountain Buddleia, *Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'First Choice,' and *Pieris japonica* 'Flaming Silver.' Among the perennial selections, I have the following in my garden, and they are wonderful examples of plants tolerant of heat, humidity, drought, deer, poor soil, most insect pests, and downright neglect. They all have varying degrees of resistance, but overall they are low maintenance and friendly to the environment. They include: Echinacea (coneflower), coreopsis, gaillardia (especially the variety 'Oranges and Lemons'), Hosta 'Lakeside Dragonfly,' lavender, salvia, hemerocallis, heuchera, and lilies. I have also become very particular about what gets planted in my rose gardens. I have dug up and discarded several that were extremely needy. I have replaced them with hardier varieties. If you are a regular reader of my column, you know how I love the Knock-Out Roses. They are naturally resistant to black spot, other diseases, and pests.

If you are looking for a superb ground cover for hot, dry locations that is also deer-, drought-, and pest-resistant, *Rosmarinus officinalis* Irene is an ideal choice. Another low maintenance ground cover or edging is Liriope (Turf Lily). It is easy to grow; just cut back old foliage in early spring, before new growth starts. From then until the first frost, there is no maintenance.

Native Plants. Another way to work with and protect the environment is to design native plants in your garden. Native or indigenous plants naturally occur in the region in which they evolved. They have adapted to local soil, rainfall, temperature conditions, and have developed natural defenses to many insects and diseases. Because of these traits, they grow with minimal

use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Living alongside these plants, wildlife species have evolved with the plants. They use these plant communities as their habitat. By using native plants in our home landscapes, we can help preserve the balance and beauty of natural ecosystems. Botanists believe that the greatest threat to our native plants and wildlife species that depend upon them may well come from other plants. Over the past three centuries, thousands of plant species have been brought to North America. Most are well behaved, but many have no natural controls, and are able to out-compete and gradually replace our native plants. Ironically, some of these plants were brought here for their medicinal, ornamental, or food value. Others hid in soil, crop seed, or ballast. Many have become popular, even beloved, landscape plants, but we have now learned that they pose a threat to our environment. Some well known examples of these non-native shrubs and trees are: Norway spruce, Mimosa, Russian olive, edible and ornamental cherry, Bradford Pear, multiflora rose, privet, Burning Bush, Kudzu, and English ivy. You might have one or more of these in your gardens. As difficult as it might be, we should remove them from our gardens and yards. They can eventually damage the local ecosystem that clears our air and water, stabilizes the soil, buffers floods, and provides food and shelter for many species besides our own.

There is more to gardens, woodlands, and meadows than pretty flowers, shrubs, and trees. In the next few months, do some research into what you might like to plant around your house this spring. Check the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, and non-native invasive Maryland plants websites. They provide excellent advice and information about planning, planting, and maintaining environmentally-friendly gardens and lawns. ♦

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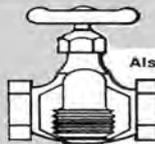
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Remembrance

Joshua A. Bohr



Mr. Joshua A. Bohr, 24, of Poolesville, Maryland died on Tuesday, January 1, 2008. He was the son of Roy and Patricia Bohr of Poolesville. Surviving besides his parents is one sister, Amy Bohr of Martinsburg, West Virginia, one brother, Michael Bohr of Poolesville, his maternal grandparents,

Andrew and Tina Hernandez, one niece, Melissa Bailey, and two nephews, Eric and Sean Bailey.

In memoriam to Joshua, the family requests donations may be made to the Brain Injury Association of Maryland, 2200 Kernan Drive, Baltimore, MD 21207 (www.biamd.org). Josh Bohr had been in a coma since the fall of 2000 after being injured in a car accident on his return home from working at the Food Lion supermarket in Darnestown. ♦

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Things to Do

January 28

Adult Book Discussion Group
 Poolesville Library
 Desert Queen: The Extraordinary Life of Gertrude Bell*
 Advisor to Lawrence of Arabia book by Janet Wallach
 7:30 p.m.

January 29

CES Winter Music Concert
 Clarksburg HS auditorium
 7:00 p.m.
 Family Storytime
 Poolesville Library
 Stories, fingerplays, and music
 7:00 p.m.

January 31

Storytime – Three to six
 Stories, fingerplay, music
 10:30 a.m.

February 1

1964 – The Tribute
 Weinberg Center for the Arts
 Beatles recreators
 8:00 p.m.

February 5

Annual Kinkling Sale
 (Fat Tuesday Large Donut)
 Carroll Manor VFD - Adamstown
 \$7 per doz./ \$4/ half doz.
 Sale begins at 5:30 a.m.

February 7

JPMS Parents Registration Night
 Incoming Sixth Graders for 2008-09
 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
 all purpose room

Local News

Cindy Simpson Ordained as Episcopal Priest

By John Clayton

Cynthia Adelle “Cindy” Simpson of Poolesville was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests at the Washington National Cathedral on January 19, 2008. Reverend Simpson is presently the assistant rector at Christ Episcopal Church in Rockville and chaplain of the Christ Episcopal School.

Reverend Simpson was ordained by the Right Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of the Washington Diocese. Nine other priests were ordained

*snow date: February 11

Cluster Choral and Instrument Concert
 Clarksburg High School auditorium
 7:00 p.m.

February 9

CEDC Family Movie Night
 The Bourne Ultimatum
 PHS – auditorium
 6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
 7:00 p.m. Movie begins
 Baked goods for sale to benefit Poolesville Relay for Life; Bring canned goods for WUMCO

Home Game Varsity Sports

CHS – Girls Basketball:
 Feb. 1 – Watkins Mill – 7:00 p.m.
 Feb. 8- Seneca Valley – 7:00 p.m.
 Boys Basketball:
 Jan. 25 – Northwood – 7:00 p.m.
 Jan. 31 – Watkins Mill – 7:00 p.m.
 Feb. 8 – Seneca Valley – 7:00 p.m.
 Wrestling
 Feb. 2 – Einstein – 1:00 p.m.
 Feb. 5- Northwood - 6:00 p.m.

PHS – Girls Basketball:

Jan. 25 – B-CC – 7:00 p.m.
 Jan. 28 – Athlon – 7:00 p.m.
 Feb. 1 – Rockville- - 7:00 p.m.
 Feb. 4 – CHS – 7:00 p.m.
 Boys Basketball:
 Jan. 31 – Rockville – 7:00 p.m.
 Feb. 4 – CHS – 5:15 p.m.
 Feb. 8 – Damascus 0 5:15 p.m.
 Wrestling:
 Feb. 3 – Blair – 6:00 p.m.
 Feb 5 – Rockville – 6:00 p.m.

along with Ms. Simpson in front of a sizeable crowd that included a contingent from the Poolesville area, where Rev. Simpson was once the assistant rector at St. Peter’s Parish Episcopal Church. Reverend Simpson was presented by St. Peter’s parishioner, Victoria Clayton; St. Peter’s interim rector, the Rev. Charles Hoffacker; Christ Church rector, the Rev. John S. McDuffie; and Christ Episcopal School Headmistress, Jane Pontius. She was vested by her son, Jackson Jordan, and her sister, Julie Simpson.

Ms. Simpson is originally from Alexandria, Virginia. She received her undergraduate education at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and received her Master’s of Divinity degree in 1985 from the Southern Baptist

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The newly ordained Rev. Cynthia A. Simpson, surrounded by her son, Jackson Jordan, Bishop John Chane of the Diocese of Washington, her sister, Julie Simpson,

Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. She was ordained a Baptist minister in 1987 and eventually came to St. Peter’s in 1999. She left St. Peter’s in 2006 to pursue her goal of becoming an Episcopalian priest, and added a year of Anglican Studies at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia to her qualifications. ✦

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Daytripper The Nearby Slopes for Winter Recreation

Frederic J. Rohner

Whenever skiing or snowboarding is mentioned, most people think of areas like Vermont, Colorado, or, even, the Alps in Europe. Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania are very rarely, if ever, included in that list of beautiful locales, but that does not mean that it is impossible to find some great skiing in this area. On the contrary, there are many wonderful options for a winter day trip that are close by and offer challenges for the more experienced winter adventurers as well as easier slopes for beginners new to skiing and snowboarding.

Snowboarding may be a relatively new sport, but skiing has existed for over four thousand years. The early inhabitants of northern Europe first used skis strictly for transportation, essentially serving the same purpose as snowshoes, to keep a person from

sinking into the snow, but skis were much less cumbersome and allowed their users to slide across the terrain rather than stepping into the snow. Norwegians are generally credited with making the leap from transportation to sport on skis, developing the Telemark turns (named for a region in Norway) that are still common to alpine skiing. Norwegians were also fond of racing and jumping on their skis, and the Norwegian military first held skiing competitions in the 1670s. Beginning in the mid-1800s, the sport of skiing spread rather quickly, with alpine clubs being founded from California to Germany and many advances being made in the equipment used, leading to the inclusion of skiing in the 1932 Winter Olympics.

Unlike the more than four thousand years of tradition which skiers claim, snowboarding has had a far shorter history. Some trace the beginning of snowboarding to M.J. Burchett, who constructed a rudimentary snowboard out of plywood, clothes lines, and horse reins in 1929. Others point to the invention of the Snurfer in 1965 by Sherman Poppen who put a rope at the tip of two bound skis to create a toy for his daughter.

-Continued on Page 21.

"Susan Ora Sweet" Continued From
Page 14.

Anderson as a veterinary technician at his Peachtree Veterinary Clinic and for Cliff Neal at his Peachtree Road farm caring for his stable of horses. Many horse owners in the Monocacy area knew Susan from her horse transport service. Her big, gray gooseneck trailer was a familiar sight on the back roads of Poolesville, Dickerson, Barnesville, and Darnestown. Susan never met a horse she could not convince to load into a trailer, especially when he was vehemently against the idea. Just give her the lead line of your stubborn, I-am-not-going-into-that-trailer horse and, without delay or harsh words, the horse would quietly walk into the trailer. She had a very special touch. Susan valued her reputation as a horsewoman and horse hauler. If she said she would be at your barn at 8:00 a.m. to pick up your horse, you were darn sure that she would be there—not a minute early or a minute late. That was Susan. At times, Susan could be a bit moody. Many people used to joke about her saying, "Is Susan talking today or is she scowling?" We all knew the difference and respected it. Susan was a very private individual. Most people knew little of her background. That was all right, because what mattered was that she was one heck of a horsewoman. Your horse was safe in her hands. Besides the horse transport

service, Susan ran Sweet Oak Stable. In addition to regular boarders, her farm was a retirement home for many horses, who lived out their last days in the care of Susan.

Susan is survived by her mother, two brothers, Roland Sweet and Sam Sweet, and four nephews, Ben, Noah, Will, and Finn Sweet. A remembrance gathering was held on Saturday, January 12 at the Ramada Inn in Rockville. Many of her friends, mostly horse people, came and shared a memory, a laugh, and a tear. Internment was at a family plot in Louisiana, home of her family. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to breast cancer awareness programs, animal welfare groups, and Casey House Hospice. ♦

"Wrestling: A Team Sport" Continued
From Page 9.

ted." He continues, "It's a long season, and it's hard to keep the commitment up," but they're still "working hard." He's also really excited about the season, adding, "I'm happy as I can be."

"The future is very bright," says Coach Agnew.

"The future looks huge," Coach Dorsey adds. "We are still young, and we are going to do a whole lot better than we did last year. The program is getting better." ♦

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*"Wilson Wims" Continued From
Page 1.*

Steam-powered equipment, horses, wagons, and teams of men laid a two-lane macadam roadway that opened up travel to the north and became the main route of travel to Washington. The road project brought tourists and travelers from the north and west, and Mr. Wims recalled the traffic jams in the spring when people from Pennsylvania used to travel to Washington to see the cherry blossoms. During the Great Depression, times were hard in the upper county, but because his father owned a farm, the family was able to subsist by eating their home-grown food and by raising hogs and cattle. Mr. Wims recalled, "Many people were out of work and were hungry." Wims mentioned that he would often take corn to the mill in Hyattstown where it would be ground into flour. In 1937, Mr. Wims married Sarah Spencer, and they had two children. During the next seventy years, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild joined the family.

Wims didn't just farm in his youth, he was also one of the best known sandlot baseball players in the history of Montgomery County. He played for town teams, later managed and owned a traveling semi-professional team, and can name many baseball stars as personal friends. Seventy years ago, every town in Montgomery County had a baseball team. Games would often be played on weekends and holidays with doubleheaders scheduled on these days, and the entire town would turn out to watch the game and to catch up on gossip and the latest news. Wims began his career playing for the Hyattstown Bluebirds during the time of segregation. At first, they had to travel to other towns to play their games because they had no home field. Then his father suggested that his meadow would make a fine place for a

baseball field. The town folk and players turned out to mow the grass and to level the field, and the Bluebirds began playing home games. Other teams that competed during that time included Clarksburg, Poolesville, Boyds, Rockville, Stewartown, Emory Grove, Rockville, and Metropolitan Grove. Poolesville's home field was located next to the Elijah United Methodist Church in the large open field on Route 109 near Elgin Road. Wims said that Poolesville was a formidable opponent whose manager, Sherman Plummer, always seemed to get the best players from the community. Some of the teams had uniforms while other teams showed up in street clothes. The beginning of World War II saw the breakup of most of the teams since the eligible players joined military service. Because he was engaged in agriculture, Wims received a farmer's deferment. After the war, many of the players returned to Montgomery County, and most of the teams began playing again. By this time, Wims had become the manager of the Hyattstown team.

In the early 1950s, Wims was approached by the owner of the Maryland Wildcats, a traveling baseball team, and was asked to manage the team since his playing days were over. Wims accepted the position and traveled with the Wildcats up and down the east coast from North Carolina to New York. During this period, they began playing white teams, and Wims said, "Things went real well." In fact, two young white boys showed up to tryout for the Wildcats, but they didn't make the team. One of his most vivid memories was playing at the Clarksburg field and watching one of his players, Clarence Cooper, hit a tremendous home run that cleared Frederick Road and landed on the other side. One season, the Wildcats held their opponents scoreless for fifty-six consecutive innings. During those times, it was common for major league players to

form touring teams of their own after the conclusion of the baseball season. Satchel Paige, Hack Wilson, and Paul and Dizzy Dean were just some of the players that Wims met when their teams played at Frederick. One of his fondest memories was of chatting with Satchel Paige whom he considered a friend. In fact, the St. Louis Cardinals sent a scout to watch one of his players when they played at Ijamsville. The scout was so impressed with the player that he offered him a contract at the conclusion of the game. The player, a young man, was afraid to leave home and declined the offer.

Wims continued managing the Wildcats into the 1960s and became part-owner of the team until the team disbanded in the mid-60s. A skilled builder, he started a contracting company, and with a little help, built many of the houses that line Frederick Road in Clarksburg. Always considered a leader in the community, he was encouraged to join a group that was attempting to get loans for black people. During that time, banks were reluctant to loan money to blacks, so Wims and a small delegation went to Washington where he testified before Congress about the injustice. Eventually, lending institutions became more liberal with their lending practices. In the 1980s

and 1990s, Wims served on an advisory panel that met frequently with the principal of Damascus High School. He commented, "The worst law ever passed was that you can't whip your own child." Recently, he became active with a group that is trying to save the Clarksburg Recreation Center from demolition.

Nowadays, Wilson Wims spends the milder days sitting on his granddaughter's porch near Clarksburg High School. Occasionally, someone will take him next door to the baseball field to watch the Clarksburg team play, but since many games are played in early spring, it's difficult for him to watch a whole game. "I went to a few games, but it [was] too cold so I had to come home." He occasionally watches the game he once played on television but doesn't enjoy it too much. He complained, "It is too commercial now."

Wilson Wims, farmer, baseball player, builder, community spokesperson and advocate, confidant to school officials, and friend of many, has lived a long and productive life. Spry for a man of his age, he let it be known that he is eager to take on the next task that might come his way. ✦



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*"Daytripper" Continued From
Page 19.*

However, Snurfers were seen almost exclusively as children's toys, and it wasn't until a surfer named Dimitrije Milovich combined the ideas of skiing, surfing, and skateboarding in 1969 that the first true snowboard was created. From that moment on, snowboarding has been growing as a winter sport that owes its creation as much to surfing and skateboarding as it does to skiing.

As winter sports have gained popularity over the past few decades, more and more resorts have been built, giving skiers and snowboarders more choices for where to go when they want to hit the slopes. The D.C. metropolitan area is no exception, and there are many resorts within a short drive of the nation's capital.

The closest ski resorts are all located in Pennsylvania along its border with Maryland. Ski Liberty and Whitetail Mountain Resort are both within an hour and a half drive of D.C. while Ski Roundtop requires a two-hour drive. All three resorts are owned by the same company and offer activities other than skiing and snowboarding, including paintball.

Wisp is the only resort in the state of Maryland. Located near Deep Creek in Garrett County, Wisp has thirty-two trails and slopes to offer skiers and snowboarders, as well as many other activities both indoors and out. Virginia and West Virginia both have multiple resorts, Massanutten Mountain is the closest in Virginia and Snowshoe Mountain in West Virginia is one of the largest with more than fifty trails; however, Snowshoe also requires a four-to-five-hour drive, making it one of the less convenient resorts for a day trip. Regardless of whether you want a long adventure or a shorter one, there are many options for getting outdoors before spring.

Winter may be dominated by cold temperatures, bitter winds, and gray skies, but that is no reason to stay cooped up in the house for three months. There are still outdoor activities to take advantage of, so make a day trip into the mountains, take a deep breath of the thin, cold, fresh mountain air, and challenge yourself on a black diamond trail—or simply stay in the lodge, drink some hot cocoa, and enjoy the view. ✦



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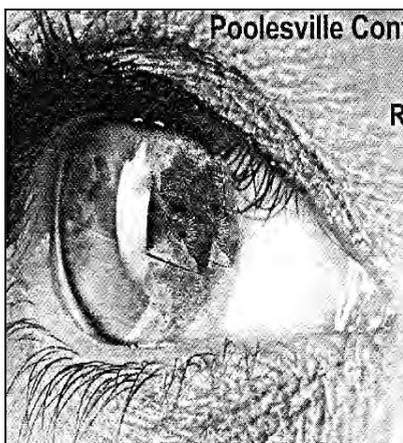
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Business Briefs

Healthworks Begins the Year with Major Changes

While many people make New Year's resolutions to get in better shape, Healthworks, the place where one might go for help with these resolutions, has already acted on its own resolutions to get in better shape. They have remodeled the club to expand their exercise studio space and, additionally, they have removed walls between the studio and the stretch room allowing for

a much larger studio. The wall of one of the small offices was removed to create a new stretch area there.

The health club has hired two new certified trainers to join Tyler Smith, a longtime shift manager who passed his trainer certification exam last fall.

Sugarloaf Vineyard Barrel Tasting in February

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard and Winery will host a Barrel Tasting on Saturday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the winery at 18125 Comus

Road, Dickerson, Maryland. Tour the winery and taste the '07 harvest straight out of the French oak barrels and compare it with the '06 harvest wine which has been aging in the barrels for one year. Food will be available. Cost is \$18 per person; SMV Case Club members are free. Reservations required. Call 301-605-0130. For directions, go to www.smvwinery.com. ♦

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