



Coach Fred Swick doing what he does best. See Youth Sports on page 14 for the complete story.



Jonathan Livingstone Seagull? No, but nearly as rare. See Business Briefs on page 11.



Will Gant has been named the new head coach of PHS football. Read all about him in School News on page 16.



Does this man look familiar? Check out the Family Album on page 2 to find out why.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 4, 2011

Volume VII, Number 22

## Clarksburg Town Center Still Seeking a Partner

By Kristen Milton

Finding a retail partner continues to be a challenge for developers of Clarksburg Town Center, but the suggestion that changes might be necessary to the tightly-negotiated plan met with little encouragement from the planning head at a recent hearing.

A retail complex was to form the centerpiece of the 270-acre, 1,200-home development located at Clarksburg Road and Snowden Farm Parkway; however, it has failed to materialize more than five years after work on the development was largely stopped by area residents who noted variations from approved plans.

As part of a January 20 status report to the planning board, Newland Communities' vice president Douglas Delano said while the company continued to seek "a retail developer and grocer," the recent decision to repeal the Clarksburg development district had led

## Mayor Pete Menke Passes Away

By John Clayton

Barnesville Mayor Peter Thomas Menke, sixty-nine, died on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 after a long fight with cancer. Pete was the son of the late Dorothy Gray Menke and the late George V. Menke. He was the beloved husband, best friend and partner of Patricia Hillard Menke and the late Francis Morgan Menke. Pete is survived by his brother George

to the withdrawal of several interested parties.

When Commissioner Norman Dreyfuss, developer of Silver Spring's Leisure World, responded to Delano's contention that retailers had reservations about the approved site plan by asking if Newland would be asking for amendments, Delano said it was "quite likely." The idea concerned some officials.

"It would be a very serious decision on the part of this board to change that plan," noted Chair Françoise Carrier. "I personally would not feel very comfortable in doing so unless I see some hard information about why it is not possible to develop the plan as it was approved. A lot of people have expectations it will be developed as approved."

The Clarksburg special taxing district would have paid for more than \$11 million in infrastructure, such as roads, by imposing special taxes and assessments on properties in developing areas. After many new residents claimed they were not fully informed of the additional financial burden and threatened legal action, the

and wife Julie, and brother John and wife Meg. He is also survived by a daughter Meredith G. Menke and husband Dave Coker, daughter Crystal Gaddis Boyd and husband Cabot, son Craig Gaddis and wife Jacqueline of Barnesville, and daughter Samantha Menke; and four grandchildren, Ethan and Ashton Gaddis, Ava and Chloe Boyd.

Mr. Menke was a longtime resident of Barnesville and a town commissioner for thirty-

district was withdrawn by a 5-4 vote of the county council in October.

January's status hearing before the planners was required by a Plan of Compliance negotiated through mediation between the developer, residents, and the county in 2006. The plan, which followed hearings, court challenges, and policy changes, was intended to address the building violations identified at the Town Center site.

Progress reported at the hearing included continuing work on a pool expansion and completion of some residential construction. Delano said game tables and other recreational equipment had been installed and that the pool expansion, which includes a new slide and "shade structure," was on track for a Memorial Day completion.

Site Plan Supervisor Robert Kronenberg said a new trail proposed for the Greenway would need to be added to the plan by amendment. The board would deal with its "safety, security, and circulation" issues at that time, he said.



Barnesville Mayor Peter Menke

-Continued on Page 13.

Family Album



The Family Album is sponsored by  
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Kathy Bupp, Poolesville Event Coordinator (center), and Jan Schultz from the CEDC present Tom Kettler of Brightwell Crossing with the winning business entry in the town Holiday Lighting Contest. See Tidbits in this issue for a list of all the winners.

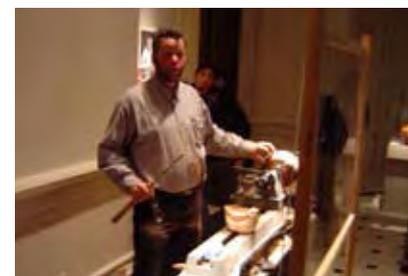


The Memorial United Methodist Church youth group spent a spiritually warm but otherwise frigid weekend in January in Ocean City at a retreat for young people.

Bill and Joan Carroll (second couple from the left) were joined by their family on a Caribbean cruise in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.



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Local wood turner and financial planner, William Price, demonstrated his woodworking skills at the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery as an accompaniment to the exhibition, "A Revolution in Wood: The Bresler Collection."

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## In the Garden

### Shrubs for All Seasons

By Maureen O'Connell

The role of a gardener is twofold. One must be interested in the plants themselves and their culture, and in the garden pictures one creates with them. Unless you do all your gardening in a greenhouse, most of us raise flowers, trees, and shrubs to add beauty to our home's landscape and to fulfill a specific need, such as to soften the lines of a house's foundation or driveway, add a shady nook near a patio or deck, provide a privacy hedge or windbreak, or to provide food and shelter for birds and small animals. In many of my columns, I discuss flowers and their care since they are my first love in the garden. Let's look now at some specific shrubs that are hardy for our climate zone and could add color and interest to your gardens for all four seasons. Many of our leading plants have their origins in wild flowers or wild trees and shrubs. Some have been cultivated for so long that the original species is unknown or uncertain. But, that is not to say that the plant your great, great grandmother grew a hundred-plus years ago is the same plant today. Domestication and extensive horticultural research have greatly changed many species. Today, they are quite different and, most of the time, better than their prototypes. Hybridizers are continually improving plants for size, color, and disease and pest resistance.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*). This hardy and easy-to-grow shrub is a prolific source of massed color and one of the best magnets for butterflies. 'Attraction' is the reddest and most fragrant butterfly bush on the market. Maturing at six to eight feet, it will produce blooms from late summer into fall. If you are looking for a small shrub that would fit into your perennial border, consider Lo & Behold 'Blue Chip.' This miniature is the first in the series of dwarf *Buddleia* being developed at North Carolina State University. It blooms from July to September, ranging in height from two to three feet. It could serve well as a ground cover.

Daphne. This shrub deserves more attention than it gets in the garden. Daphne x transatlantic 'Summer Ice' is new this year and one of the easiest Daphne cultivars to grow. It has slender green foliage edged in creamy white and clusters of white-to-blush blooms that will appear in spring and continue intermittently through summer and fall. It will reach three feet in height and width, and it is both drought-tolerant and deer-resistant. Its neat, compact shape makes it well-suited for smaller gardens or a corner of a larger one.

Spiraea. This hardworking, useful shrub has been growing in gardens for a long time. I remember my grandparents' house in Scranton, Pennsylvania; the left hand side of the tall, white Victorian house was covered every summer with the fragrant, white blooms of the Bridle Wreath spiraea. The dwarf Japanese spiraea 'Anthony Waterer' is compact

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### Whose Snow Is It Anyway?

By Rande Davis

The simple blessing we received through the courtesy of the snowplow driver of my youth came to mind recently. In upstate New York, snowstorms of two or three feet are not unusual and can result in four or five feet being dumped by the plow at the end of the driveway. Our house was the last on a dead end street at the top of a hill. The driver either backed into our driveway in turning around or had to drive in reverse nearly five hundred yards down the hill. (Ours was the only driveway long and wide enough to handle a snow plow.) As a courtesy for the wear and tear on our driveway, the drive would drop the blade early on his way out, clearing the end of our driveway as he left. Man, was I ever grateful. At least until

my neighbor complained about extra snow ending up in front of his driveway, and then the driver was ordered to stop dropping the plow early. If only my neighbor had just asked for some help to clear the end of the driveway, I would have been happy to do so. Nevertheless, we still allowed the driver to use our driveway to turn around.

All of this came to mind because we got a letter to the editor sharing with us the writer's concern about the snow plows leaving a lot of snow in front of his driveway. Beyond the inconvenience to him, the writer voiced concern about those, often elderly, who cannot handle the deeper snow. His suggestion was for the town to plow twice, from each direction or, at least, help those seniors who could not clear the driveway or pay to have it done.

At least he made his opinion known by writing a letter rather

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# Commentary

## Kumbaya To You, Too

By John Clayton

I really try to avoid national events for commentaries, preferring to gripe about the weather or discuss the woodpeckers I watch while I am supposed to be working (why do they climb upside down?), but sometimes it cannot be avoided.

At the recent State of the Union address, Democrats and Republicans, in many cases, sat together so as to demonstrate their commitment to more genteel behavior. This was fine with me, as meaningless stunts go, but several participants and observers derisively called this a “kumbaya” gesture. I loved the use of that word and welcomed its entry into the current discourse. One does not hear this word very often, especially as an epithet. I assume it came primarily from the right. The pejorative use of “kumbaya” doubtless portrays a sappy, overly-trusting, and perhaps naïve faith in the good intentions of one’s adversaries—in short, brie-eating liberal Democrats. I’m not offended by this, I certainly don’t see myself that way, and I am not even sure I have ever sung “Kumbaya.” I probably sang “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore” as a teenager, either at Boy Scout camp or church camp, or perhaps both. These were all-male events, by the way, so I am sure we came up with our own lyrics at key junctures. The less said about that

the better.

I have followed the debate concerning overly-aggressive language and violent imagery with great interest, as many have following the tragic shootings in Arizona. Words do matter (strangely, the *Monocle’s* copy editor thinks that grammar and punctuation matter more), and they can have a great effect, but I do not buy into the movement to scrub references to guns, or killing, or violence from the very language of politics. This simply moves us into a new level of political correctness. Will our next election turn on which candidate accidentally says something like “I guess I’ll just have to keep my powder dry for now,” or some other such Americanism? Please. Even Sarah Palin, with her gun sights on the map and “don’t retreat—reload” slogan was operating within time-tested American political imagery. I don’t think those are prime examples of what is wrong with political discourse in our benighted age. There are much better examples.

Name calling and the labeling of your opponents’ positions for maximum negative effect is nothing new (and of course it can be devastatingly effective), but the practice seemed to achieve a new vigor during the Tea Party protests against the Obama healthcare legislation, and such discourse has significantly infected the general political debate. The president became a tyrant or a fascist, and his policies were said to be anti-liberty, socialist, unconstitutional, and even traitorous. The Obama administration became “them.”

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*Keeping An Eye On Local News*  
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## Letter to the Editor

I wanted to thank everyone who was so helpful and thoughtful as my husband and I dealt with the tragic loss of our son, Mathew Williquette. Upon hearing the news, I was completely lost, distraught, in shock, unable to think. Since we moved from Poolesville to Dayton, Maryland, I was uncertain where to turn. Jeanne Jackson (my dear friend in Poolesville) helped me to find a funeral home. Matt grew up in Poolesville so we wanted his funeral there. Jeanne responded by pointing me to the Hilton Funeral Home in Barnesville. To my surprise, Lisa Hilton answered the phone as if she were waiting for me to call. She was warm, understanding, and compassionate. She asked whether there was anyone with me besides my husband, but at the time there wasn’t. I was able to reach my wonderful sister-in-law Geri and my brother Earl at 6:30 a.m. who immediately left their home in Pennsylvania.

Geri and Earl took over the requirement for interfacing with the outside world since neither Keith nor I was in any condition to do it. There was so much going on—phones ringing, text messages, family coming in from Pennsylvania, Matt’s friends coming to the house—Geri and Jeanne were coordinating it all. Jeanne brought a huge pot of beef vegetable soup on Saturday; it was exactly what was needed to comfort the souls of so many. My cousins Marcia, Cindy, Nancy, Emily, Jamie, Mindy, and Wendy all came and started coordinating the housing arrangements; they cleaned, did laundry, bought food. My cousin Judy Marchegiani brought “the grocery store”—or at least that was what was written down! The Hockenberys – Paul, Shirley, Bryan, Chontelle, and Joel; Ken and Robin Keefers; Major Andy Bliss; Vicki and Denny Wood; and so many others brought all kinds of food, desserts, and drinks.

-Continued on Page 10.

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## Local News

# State of the Town Report

By Rande Davis

The January 24 meeting of the Commissioners of Poolesville was devoted to its third annual State of the Town Report. As part of the preparation for the 2012 budget, town department heads and committee chairpersons provided the commissioners with an overview of their activities for 2010 and insight into any new needs for 2011.

This year almost every speaker had a detailed power point presentation that graphically highlighted the primary achievements of the year for each department. One of the more significant aspects emanating from the evening's presentations was the professionalism shown not only by the paid staff but by the volunteers of boards and committees as well. The high level of

enthusiasm and pride in work ethic was remarkable with Preston King, Director of Parks and Streets, particularly emblematic with a refreshing positive attitude and pride for his department's achievements for 2010.

The following report summarizes and provides the highlights from the presentations.

Sam Miller from the independent auditing company, Rager, Lehman, & Houck, P.C., presented its financial audit (available at the town hall) of the government activities, business-type activities, and each major fund of the town for the year ending June 30, 2010. While concern for the impact of the economic downturn remains, Mr. Miller reported high marks for the town's management of financial and budgetary matters.

John Strong, town engineer from Huron Corporation, summarized his activities which included inspection work for Stoney Springs and Brightwell Crossing, engineering preparation for the new band shell and skateboard park, completion of Fisher Avenue trail sidewalks

from Tom Fox to Wootton, supervision of the installation of sidewalks by Kettler Forlines on Elgin Road, the Water Wastewater Treatment plant Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) upgrades, continued removal of septic systems within town limits, monitoring of wells 7, 9, and 10, and monitoring of pump station data for signs of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) into the sewer system. Huron also worked on standards for forest conservation, roadway design, code recommendations for the town's new alternative energy ordinance, and emergency repair on well house #2.

Cathy Bupp, town events coordinator, reported that summer camp participation has increased this past year with over 220 children in attendance. In addition to sporting activities, the camp featured an introduction of theme weeks such as safety week with demonstrations by Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department and the Montgomery County Police. Whalen Commons events included thirteen performers and one magician, movies in

the park which drew between fifty and over three hundred spectators. The town events coordinator is the town representative for all town festivals and special events throughout the year and works closely with the CEDC on all of its events.

Karen Kalantzis and Tim Whitehouse of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) reported new activities for 2010 including the Business Fair (in conjunction with PACC), which was very well attended at Poolesville Elementary School, and the new monthly Farmers' Market. The latter drew two hundred to five hundred attendees who, based on a survey, had a very positive acceptance of the new program. The CEDC also helped with the new fall festival and walk-a-thon spearheaded by the private sector which raised nearly \$3000 for WUMCO. The annual Holiday Lighting Festival, which drew perhaps its largest crowd of well over five hundred

-Continued on Page 17.



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## Police Blotter

February 4, 2011

### Current Crimes

Burglary: 18400 block of Billek Court.

Vehicle theft: 16100 block of Morrow Road.

Theft from vehicle: 19400 block of Wootton Avenue

Drug use complaint: 17200 block of Spates Hill Road

During December, an administrator at Poolesville High School contacted the Germantown Montgomery County Police station with regard to the use and sale of illegal drugs at the high school.

A special investigative team was assigned to the case and began surveillance of the school. On January 12, at about 2:15 p.m., officers observed an occupant of a car selling drugs to a student in the parking lot of the school. Police followed the vehicle to a location where they stopped the car. They arrested two seventeen-year-old males, one fifteen-year-

old female, and an eighteen-year-old adult male. All four suspects are PHS students.

The seventeen-year-old driver of the car was charged with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The other two juveniles and the adult were charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. The juveniles were released into the custody of their parents, and the eighteen-year-old was released on personal recognizance pending a March 3 court date.

### Past Crimes

**February 4, 1906** William Davis was lodged in the jail at Rockville, charged with stealing the horse and buggy of William White, a well-known farmer who lived in the vicinity of Bucklodge.

**February 5, 1898** Sheriff Thompson returned from Chenango County, New York with Collie and Lee Cole. They had been charged with disturb-

ing a religious ceremony but had eluded authorities for many months. It was charged that they had entered the Baptist Church at Hunting Hill and began making unseemly noises and banging on tambourines. When the Rev. William Beall asked them to quiet down, they cursed at him. After the services, Rev. Beall was assaulted by the Cole brothers.

**February 9, 1908** Mrs. Jane Bowers was found murdered at her estate, Pleasant Walk, Frederick County. It was said that the murderer had chopped her body to pieces and not even a finger was left whole. A ring lying on the floor was used to identify her. A blood-stained ax was lying near the body. Authorities were searching for her brother who, it was said, had been acting strangely in the weeks preceding the murder.

**February 12, 1934** Five people were injured after a head-on collision at Corby's Hill on the Rockville Pike. All of the injured people were removed from the scene and taken to various hospi-

tals. Charles Best was transported by the ambulance of the Warner Pumphrey Funeral Home. Mr. Best was the manager of the Silver Spring office of the firm.

**February 14, 1934** The curiosity of Police Officer Paul Watkins led to the recovery of \$21,000 in bonds belonging to State Senator David Baile. A county roads worker had been cleaning a ditch on the road to Damascus when he found a bag containing what he described as "pretty papers." Because he had never seen a bond and did not realize the significance, the worker buried the bag in the ditch under some leaves. Word got around Damascus until Officer Watkins heard about it. He went to the scene and found the bag. Because the bonds were frozen, the bag was taken to the Rockville station until they thawed.

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## School News

### IWLA/Global Field Trip

By Chantal Agnew

*Editor's Note: This is the second article in a series of four that PHS Global Ecology Studies Program senior, Chantal Agnew, is writing for her senior project. She has chosen to focus her series on the Izaak Walton League of America for its dedication to preserving the environment.*

The Isaac Walton League of America (IWLA), as hospitable as ever, received some of Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Program students for eight different field trips over the course of four days. In rain, shine, cold, or warm, Steven Schwartz, Jim Hubbard, and Butch Mezick, three of the IWLA's most dedicated and prominent members, took time out of their own schedules to host these field trips for the benefit of the students in the program. The field trip entailed a walk through some of the lands owned and maintained by the IWLA in Poolesville. Throughout the walk in the beautiful environment, the members would stop to engage the students in a multitude of learning activities and lectures ranging from the importance of topsoil to turkey facts.

Last December, Butch Mezick led the trip featured in this issue. He told the students that this field trip was all about teaching kids to see by not just looking at things but by noticing new things, garnering an understanding of what exactly they're looking at, and being able to figure out what happened in that system—and see the kids did!

They started off by seeing the Triassic Red Shale outcrops (245 million years old) on the property which is a very unique environment that supports rare vegetation such as the prickly pear cactus. Next, the students climbed the steep slope to learn about soil formation and the vitality of topsoil which is necessary to grow any sort of vegetation. The students learned to identify buck

rub (where deer scrape their antlers on saplings) and deer scrape (means of marking their territory). Afterwards they came upon a lovely assortment of garbage and were informed of the durability of various types of trash, for example, Styrofoam, which takes a million years to decompose, and glass which never decomposes.

The manner in which all the information was presented was extremely engaging as compared to the classroom setting. It was nice to be in the field with men who were really passionate about what they were teaching and who were able to bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to their presentations. Using a combination of excitement, hands-on activity, humor, and mnemonic devices, they were entertaining and very effective at getting the kids to retain the information they were teaching them. "I say 'Chestnut' you say 'lumpy,'" was Mr. Mezick's method of getting the kids to remember how to identify Chestnut oak trees. Next, he told the students that red oak had bark that was like ski slopes and a white oak was white and scaly. As we continued along the hike, we would stop occasionally to see if anyone could find examples of the three tree types we learned, and almost every student was capable of identifying all three types of oak trees. Afterwards the students learned even more as photosynthesis, habitat, and habitat destruction were discussed.

The culmination of the learning experience came in the form of a silent exam. The pupils were sent out into the woods to find anything that had been discussed that day (antlers, leaves, bark, soil, buck scrape, buck rub, snakeskin, decaying matter, etc.). They then had the opportunity to discuss some information about the items they found with their peers. This kind of interaction between the IWLA and the students helps spread knowledge and passion about the environment to future conservationists.

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## Tidbits

*Item removed by request.*

### Pulpit Exchange at Poolesville Churches

On Sunday, January 23, the pastors of two churches exchanged pulpits for one Sunday.

Rev. Ken Fell of Memorial preached before the congregation of Poolesville Presbyterian, and Rev. Ruth Everhart of Poolesville Presbyterian filled the pulpit at Memorial. Girl Scouts Seek Items for Animal Shelter

Girl Scout Troop 5946 is collecting clean, used towels, sheets, and blankets to help rescued dogs and cats cared for by Lizzy's Lodge, a nonprofit animal rescue organization in Maryland, [www.petfinder.com/shelters/lizzys-lodge](http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/lizzys-lodge). The items sought will help the foster families that care for the animals waiting for adoption.

There are collection boxes for Lizzy's Lodge at Selby's Market, Poolesville Veterinary Clinic, Peachtree Veterinary

Clinic, Barnesville School, and Poolesville Healthworks until the end of January. For answers to questions, contact Laurie Hundertmark at [blhundertmark@msn.com](mailto:blhundertmark@msn.com).

### 2010 Holiday Lighting Contest—and the Winners Are

The 2010 winners of the town holiday lighting contest by category are:

Townhouses: Melissa Morrow (19513 Wootton Avenue) and Charlene Bass (19614 Wootton Avenue)

Traditional: Henry and Linda Nessul (20101 Fisher Avenue) and Stephen and Kimberly Ketchum (19994 Spurrier Avenue)

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*Chris Compton: February 4 – 10:00 p.m.  
Kenny Ray Horton: February 26 – 10:00 p.m.*



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*"Commentary" Continued From Page 4.*

Where did that come from?

In the interest of being fair about this (a *Monocle* tenet), there was some virulent and insulting rhetoric thrown at President George Bush during his tenure. Whether one agreed with him or admired him, or not, many things were said that were equally beyond the bounds of fairness and good taste. For example, if you were sympathetic to the Iraqi shoe-thrower's attack on our president, then in my book you're no better than the congressman who yelled, "You lie," during last year's State of the Union address.

While I thought it worth commenting on this, the problem doesn't keep me up at night. I am confident that most Americans see right through the nonsense from the crazies on both sides, and most people will tune out the more mainstream political figures and entertainers who try to channel that form of speech. I continue to have faith in the great center, as it exists from center-right to center-left. There are jackasses on both

*"Letter to the Editor" Continued From Page 4.*

If you believe your contribution may have been insignificant, I can tell you from my heart that it wasn't. Nothing anyone did was insignificant; each of your actions contributed to the warm blanket of love and compassion we continue to feel each day of our grieving. We have been truly blessed in this time of tragedy to be comforted by your thoughts and deeds.

With much love and gratitude,  
Deb and Keith Williquette

sides, there always have been, and there always will be, but when such behavior threatens to become the coin of the realm, I start to worry. The current cooling off of wild rhetoric is a step in the right direction. Maybe it's worth a few verses of kumbaya to move a step or two in that direction. We could even hold hands.



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## Business Briefs

Poolesville residents Jim and Melanie Dimopoulos with their son Andrew along with Mary and Tom Conlon and their dog Duffy reported to the *Monocle* how grateful they were for the recent installation of the new sidewalk on Elgin Road (Route 109). The new sidewalk makes it safer for both people and animals when walking into town. The families wanted to publically thank Kettler Forlines whose impact fees paid for the project and, especially, Tom Kettler for the new sidewalks on Elgin Rd.

### News from PACC

Check out the new Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce website ([www.pacc.cc](http://www.pacc.cc)) designed by PACC president Hilary Schwab and Berry Thompson from A Guy Who Can graphic design company. It's loaded with valuable and user-friendly information from an easy lookup process for member phone numbers, email addresses, and websites to fun things like video clips from last summer's Fox 5 Hometown Fridays television broadcast. You can look up members by name or business category. The PACC is currently in the renewal of membership drive for 2011, so if you haven't renewed or you need to join up, you can get all the information at their website.

### Optometrists Opening a New Office in Downtown Poolesville

Poolesville Vision is opening a new optometry practice to serve

the Town of Poolesville. In early spring, Dr. Robin Mevissen and Dr. Thomas McInnes will open their second downtown office at 20005B Fisher Avenue. The facility will allow patients to have a larger selection of glasses from which to choose in an expanded examination facility. There will be a kids' corner with the latest in frames and safety eyewear. Poolesville Vision has operated out of their home since June of 2006 at 19739 Selby Avenue. With over fifty-five years of collective experience, Dr. McInnes and Dr. Mevissen are able to provide comprehensive family eye care including treatment of eye diseases, contact lens fitting, and pediatrics. Cataract and refractive surgery (LASIK) evaluation is also available.

Their original business plan was to start as a home-based optometry practice and to expand later to a commercial storefront as the practice grew. The Town of Poolesville's recent proposed changes to the zoning ordinances as these laws relate to home business and shared driveways have accelerated the decision to expand to a second office. The new space offers better parking and a more flexible operating schedule with the ability for people to walk in.

### Store Owners' Rare Bird Sighting

When Keith and Beth Hamilton, owners of Wild Bird Unlimited, Inc. in Germantown, went to Cape Henlopen, Delaware this past year, they noticed a sign for a hawk watch and went to check it out. Keith grabbed his cam-

era, scope, and binoculars while Beth reached for her binoculars. They arrived at the hawk watch location just a few seconds after a Swallow-tailed Kite came into view. Excitement grew since this bird is so very rare in the area. Keith snapped some pictures with his 300mm lens and agreed to send copies to all the folks at the hawk watch. One of the fellow watchers sent the pictures to the Delaware Bird Records Committee.

On November 23, 2010, Keith and Beth received the following from the Delaware Bird Records Committee:

"The Delaware Bird Records Committee has accepted your report DBRC #10/04, Swallow-tailed Kite. Your fantastic and diagnostic photographs were passed on by Sue Gruber. The Committee wants to thank you for making them available. They will be archived at the Delaware Museum of Nature History and made available to researchers interested in this species or rare birds in general."

To understand the rarity of

the sighting in the mid-Atlantic, according to [www.rightbird.com](http://www.rightbird.com), the Swallow-tailed Kite is the largest of the North American kites and it "breeds mainly on or near the coasts from Texas east to Florida, and north to South Carolina and winters in the American tropics and inhabits swamps, marshes, river bottoms, and glades in open forests."



Residents on Elgin Road are thrilled with the convenience of the new sidewalk.

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# Catching Up

## Gilfrich Helps Geneva Go Green

By Dominique Agnew

It may be time for Poolesville's Colleen Gilfrich to get a new passport—if only because she's running out of stamping pages. This past summer and fall, she had the opportunity to travel to far-flung locales as a landscape architecture student at Virginia Tech.

In August, she travelled to Geneva, Switzerland with eight other students to design the landscape for the U.S. Mission,

an outreach of the U.S. Embassy in Switzerland. The facility is "big into sustainable practices," she says. The students were requested to improve the grounds by designing landscape that would address storm water runoff, the use of native plants, and attracting small wildlife. In the two weeks that they were there, they designed a space that the public could enjoy, and they created a space for the employees to enjoy.

Colleen and the other students were selected from various universities after they submitted resumes and portfolios.

A few days after returning from Geneva, one of Colleen's professors asked her if she was ready to go overseas again—this

time, to Turkey. She was one of eight Virginia Tech students who travelled to Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul as representatives of the architecture department. In this case, they were part of a four-day conference/design week where their purpose was to reach out to other students and designers to promote study abroad.

Colleen will be graduating from Virginia Tech this spring with a Bachelor's in landscape architecture. Although she enjoyed her travels, she's not sure she'll be up for it this spring since she has to work on a thesis. "If I have to travel anywhere else, things might get really hectic."

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*"Pete Menke" Continued From Page 1.*

five years. He was mayor of the town from 2001 until his death. Patty Menke, his wife, has served as the town clerk for many of those years. He coached high school athletics for many years in the Montgomery County Public School system, and retired last year as athletic director at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, Virginia.

Patty Menke was kind enough to share with the Monocle the story of how she and Pete met. A single mother with two kids, she would periodically drive by Pete's house and see him cutting bushes and otherwise working in the yard. She began actively planning a way to meet him. Pete was a widower with one daughter, who as it happened, was in an elementary school class with Patty's daughter. This, apparently, was the opening she sought.

Patty said that she wasn't one to date for long, "having

been married before," and she broke it off after two months. Pete, however, "was persistent." He was a runner and would run from Barnesville past her home in Dickerson, leaving notes and flowers on her car. Patty reiterated his persistence in her telling of the story, but also said that "it was very romantic," and finally said, "Okay, I'll go out with him again." Displaying that same quality, Pete proposed four times before Patty accepted.

Combining the three children they brought to the marriage with the child they had together, Patty said "they made it work." She gave Pete credit for always "keeping family issues on the top rank" throughout their marriage together.

Patty said Pete had a number of passions, including his silver Cobra automobile, which many have either seen him driving around local roads, or perhaps in the Poolesville Day parade. Patty said that when Pete discovered he had cancer, but before they realized it might be terminal, she

asked him, "Honey, what is it you haven't done?" He wanted that car, and they started shopping around, searching eBay and driving around looking at candidates until they found the one he wanted, and Patty told him, "You just do it." He also enjoyed mowing their Barnesville yard on his riding tractor, and in the fall, driving around the area to admire the fall colors, which he was able to do just a few months ago.

As a coach and athletic director, another one of Pete's passions was fighting for girls' sports, to make sure they got the attention and resources they deserved.

Lifetime Barnesville resident William Price told the Monocle that what stood out for him was Pete's love of his car, and the "great big black mustache" he wore. William also remembered that "the spot between the road and the apple trees was always set up for badminton in the summer. I cannot count the hours spent playing there as a young teenager. Pete was a very kind man."

Barnesville resident and town

commissioner Bonnie Brown told the Monocle, "I was very fortunate to be able to know Pete not only as a commissioner but also as a neighbor for almost thirty years. The contributions and commitment that he made to the community [were] priceless."

Barnesville resident and town commissioner, Luke Fedders, said, "Pete was a man that I am glad to have known and will not forget. His love for the town and commitment to the area and his fellow commissioners just added to his legacy. Pete just didn't live in Barnesville; Pete lived through Barnesville and Barnesville lived through Pete."

Memorial contributions may be made in Pete's name to the Town of Barnesville to benefit the Menke Dogwood Fund. Details are available at [www.barnesvillemd.org](http://www.barnesvillemd.org)

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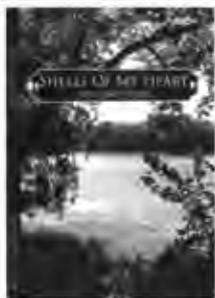
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**Youth Sports**  
**PHS Girls' Basketball: They Have the Buzz**

By Jeff Stuart

Last season, the Poolesville High School girls' basketball team felt like they were competing not only against their opponents but also against the PHS boys' team for local recognition. The boys reached the region final while the girls posted a 9-14 mark. Two years ago, both reached the region finals. This year, it is the girls' squad (11-3) that is generating the buzz, winning their first seven games. Their first loss came at Northwest (11-4) on December 28 in the finals of Poolesville's own Sugarloaf Shootout Tournament. The Falcons quickly rebounded, opening the new year with a win over Damascus at home.

"I don't think anything has totally surprised me," said Head

Coach Fred Swick. "I am happy with the way this season has started. The kids are doing a nice job of trying to execute what we work on in practice." When they lost two games in a row, he called it "a little bump." The second, a loss at home against Seneca Valley, was another battle for first place in the division. "A lot of that had to do with our kids being sick. Some of our key players came down with flu. Looking at the whole season, I am pleased with what we have done. We probably played our best game against Damascus. Defensively we were very aggressive and scrapped. We played very smart and communicated well. We really clicked." The best individual performance has been by Lindsay Poss against Clarksburg when she scored twenty-three points. "Lindsay has been doing a great job all year."

At practice on Wednesday, January 19, senior point guard Katelyn Keese and junior forward Lindsay Poss sat high up on the



Senior Holly Chittenden controls the tip.

folded bleachers, watching, temporarily sidelined by illness and injury, respectively. It was a good time to interview them.

"I think the big difference this year has been experience," said Katelyn. "Last year we had a lot of freshmen who were good but not as experienced."

Her favorite Poolesville moment? "This year it was definitely beating Damascus the first time we played them. It was very exciting, actually, because both teams

*-Continued on Page 19.*



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## School News

### Gant Returns to PHS as Football Head Coach

Will Gant is returning to Poolesville High School as its new head coach for football. Gant, a former PHS varsity head coach for baseball, has been the football defensive coordinator for Clarksburg the past few years. In high school, Gant was an All-Team Metro selection as a center for Churchill High School. He played guard/center for Shepherd University.

One of Gant's biggest assets in coming to Poolesville is his twelve years of coaching, three of those at PHS. Gant told the Monocle, "I know the kids, I know the community, and I have been a part of several staffs there that have been successful."

Gant wants to review some game tapes of varsity and the JV teams before "deciding on what system to use and one that will work best for PHS." He's very pleased to come back to Poolesville saying, "I am extremely excited. Poolesville is a wonderful community...the football and baseball coaching experience I had there were very enjoyable."

### Farewell, Mr. Stevens!

John Poole Middle School seventh grade science teacher Patrick Stevens has left to fulfill an assignment with the Army National Guard.

The JPMS administration reports that Mr. Stevens created a special elective for seventh graders in which students had opportunities to do hands-on work in environmental science. Thanks to all the advance work Mr. Stevens put into organizing and preparing materials for this curriculum, JPMS will be able to continue to offer the class when he is serving our country.

During this tour of duty, Mr. Stevens will be using his teaching skills to train helicopter pilots. His last day was Friday, January 28, and the school welcomes his substitute, Ms. Kuhn, whose first day was January 31. Best wishes to them both.

### PHS Students Receive National Recognition

Poolesville High School senior Grace Zheng has been chosen by the American Academy of Neuroscience as one of four national recipients of the Neuroscience Research Prize. She will present her research in Honolulu, Hawaii at their conference in the spring and will receive \$1000. For her senior project, Grace completed two years of research at the National Institutes of Health studying schizophrenia. She also placed third in the Greater Washington area Junior Humanities and Science Symposium based on her presentation of this work.

Additionally, three other PHS students, Raja Ratna Murthy Ayyagari, Pranav Gokhale, and Parakh Jain, have been selected as semifinalists for the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search. The Intel Science Talent Search is one of the most prestigious pre-collegiate science competitions in the nation. Each semifinalist will receive \$1,000 for his or her original scientific research, and each high school will receive \$1,000 for each semifinalist named. Those awards will be used to further excellence in science, math, and engineering education at the recipient schools.

The three hundred semifinalists nationwide were selected from a pool of 1,744 entrants representing 499 high schools in 42 states. The competition's top winners will be announced on March 15.

## Remembrance

### Leroy C. Archer

Mr. Leroy C. Archer, 71, of Poolesville, died on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. He was the husband of Charlotte Archer. Born on April 5, 1939 in Bethesda, he was the son of the late Leroy and Delores Jones Archer. Surviving besides his wife are three children, Shelia, Diane, and Paul along with three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Fisher House [fisherhouse.org](http://fisherhouse.org)

### "In the Garden" Continued From Page 3

with masses of bright pink flowers with small blue-green foliage that turns rich shades of reddish purple in fall. Double Play Big Bang is a new Proven Winners variety this year. It is compact and would fit perfectly among perennials in a border or a mass planting.

Deutzia. The Maryland Cooperative Extension Service has declared this hardy shrub one of their Plants of the Month. With accolades like that, it deserves to be considered for your garden. The Japanese native 'Nikko' is a good choice for our area. It has graceful sprays of delicate white flowers in mid-spring, and it will grow to three feet in height and width. It is deer, drought, and disease resistant. This is not a picky plant; it will grow in full sun, part shade, and poor soils. It would work well along pathways and at the front of the shrub border.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis*). This is one of my must-haves

for the 2011 garden. My favorite garden merchant, White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Connecticut, has said that the best antidote to winter is a planting of Witch Hazels. This genus of five species of shrubs or small trees flowers in mid-winter, when everyone else is asleep. For six weeks, beginning in mid-February or early March, depending on the variety, they will bloom with sweetly-scented, bright, golden yellow or coppery-red blooms. By fall, its leaves will turn a golden yellow. Two good varieties for our area are 'Boskoop' and 'Harvest Moon.'

Garden catalogs are crowding our mailboxes. Take the time now, with our lull in garden chores, to check for these varieties of shrubs. You could also visit your local garden centers to see if they are going to stock these plants this spring.

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**“State of Town Meeting” Continued  
From Page 5.**

people, was expanded to include a bonfire and children’s train ride around the park.

The CEDC, in conjunction with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, is currently preparing for a Spring Business Fair. Work continues on a new spring festival which will feature a wine and beer tasting, chili contests, music, and other entertainment. The committee also started publishing in 2010 a quarterly business publication for local businesses, a new virtual suggestion box designed to help local businesses identify areas for self-improvement, and they expanded the welcome wagon gift package program given to forty-five newcomers to Poolesville.

Preston King, director of parks for the town, took the commissioners through an extensive seasonal review of the departments activities. King reported on the success in quickly clearing snow from town roads and that they met the department’s goal of making sure residents could get to local shops and medical facilities to meet their immediate needs and other public safety concerns.

Devon Boyd, director of water and sewer reported the town used over 148,624,294 gallons of water. The town continues to monitor Inflow and Infiltration data for possible weaknesses in sewer lines, successfully using the new tunnel cameras effectively, and handled fourteen water

breaks in mainline.

Chris Williams, superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, talked about the improvements made at the treatment plant and reported that the town treated over 226,500,000 gallons of waste water.

Cal Sneed, vice chairman of the Planning Commission, reported on the extensive work the committee did on all building plans and permitting within the town which ranges from requests for storage sheds all the way to the new home developments. Unique work in 2010 centered on review and recommendations for alternative energy use and ordinance suggestions for the town. Also unique in 2010 was the Planning Commission’s participation with the PHS Civil Engineering and Architecture class in a project to bring true-to-life experience in planning a town project.

Doug McKinney of the Parks Board spoke about the board’s especially busy year with the introduction of the new Dillingham Park with its skateboard facility and the new bandshell at Whalen Commons. The Parks Board also continued work on the improvement of town ball fields and is planning on the replacement of the playground equipment at Stevens Park. Mr. McKinney also highlighted other board recommendations for 2011 such as a sun-protection awning for the bandshell, security cameras for the skate park, a possible pavilion at Dillingham Park, and the paving of its parking lot.

## Things to Do

PHS Fundraiser for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society

Here is not only a fun way to spend your Tuesday evenings in February but also a terrific way to help a great cause. The National Honor Society’s Arts with a Heart offers a philanthropic array of artistic activities on three Tuesday nights in February to bring people together for fun artistic endeavors and raise money for a good cause. There will be a visual arts performance night on February 8, a music night on February 15, and a movie night on February 22. Each event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These events will take place at Poolesville High School in the main auditorium. All community members are more than welcome. There is no entrance fee, but donations will be accepted and concessions will be sold. All proceeds will go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to assist cancer patients and to raise money for much-needed cancer research.

Your Number’s Up

Have you checked your personal or business phone and address information in the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Directory? The PACC is preparing the new 2011 to be out this coming spring. You should review your information now and by going to [www.pacc.org](http://www.pacc.org). You should let the PACC phone book committee know of your correct and current information. Remember the accuracy of the book is only as good as the information you provide.

February 4

AARP Tax Assistance  
Poolesville Library

AARP will be providing free income tax preparation (by appointment) to individuals with emphasis on low income and elderly people. Counselors are certified by the IRS.

10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

February 7

Mother’s Day Out – Open House  
Bring your child aged six months to five years old to meet the teachers and experience the fun and friendship of MDO!

St. Peter’s Church  
9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Commissioners’ Meeting  
Poolesville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Basketball Home Game

Versus: Quince Orchard  
Girls: 5:15 p.m. Boys: 7:00 p.m.

February 9

Pre-School Bible Story Time  
St. Peter’s Church – Open to Community  
10:00 a.m.

Parks Board Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

February 11

PHS Varsity Boys’ Basketball Home Game  
Versus: Northwood 7:00 p.m.

February 14

Valentine’s Day  
Shop local for flowers, candy, and dinner reservations.

February 15

PHS Varsity Girls’ Basketball Home Game  
Versus: Richard Montgomery  
7:00 p.m.

February 18

UpCounty Fine Wine & Beer Wine Tasters’ Night at Bassett’s Restaurant  
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**Local News**

**Meeting on Future of Poole General Store Not Fruitful**

By Kristen Milton

With the withdrawal of the Poole family, Upcounty community members eagerly await the next chapter of the century-old Poole General Store, but county officials want to be sure the drawbacks of the site are also an open book. "Just trying to be pragmatic and save everyone money and taxpayer money," John Hench, chief of the parks' stewardship division, said after a meeting at which the numerous facility needs were outlined. "I just want to be sure everyone is aware of what opportunities exist on the site as well as what constraints there are."

More than fifty people attended the January 29 public meeting on the Poole Store, which followed an open house at the three-acre parkland complex at 16315 Old River Road. The Poole family vacated the property, including a house and outbuildings as well as the store, in December after an almost four-decade tenancy with the parks department.

A historic marker outside the store, constructed in 1901 and also known as Seneca Store, labeled it the oldest general store in continuous operation in

Montgomery County. Currently, Southern States provides customers with animal feed from an adjacent warehouse on a six-month trial basis, preserving one of the most-valued elements of the shuttered store for the agricultural and equestrian community.

Attendees at the public meeting said they appreciated the gesture on the part of the county but wanted to see other store services, such as gardening supplies and food, return as well.

"I don't think it can be a stand-alone thing," Alexis Adelson of Potomac said after the meeting. Adelson, of Valley Mill Camp, said that in years past, Poole Store was invaluable to the equine camp, providing everything from feed for the horses to emergency lunches for forgetful campers. "You need to have something there rather than just an abandoned park," she said.

Master Gardener Mary Kay Smith of Darnestown had appreciated the ability to find unusual plants at Poole Store and to buy seeds by weight for pennies and hoped to see that element return. "It was such a lovely way to have an experience close to what my great grandparents may have had," she said.

Restoring the store will be an extensive and likely expensive proposition, according to John Nissel, chief of facilities management. Laying out work that needed to be done to bring the building to current codes in order to qualify for an occupancy permit, Nissel listed items such as structural work, electrical improvements, insulation, possible lead paint abatement,

replacement of the boiler and air conditioning system, and, most crucially, replacement of the store's failing septic system.

Approximately twenty test holes have failed to find soil that will perc, or support a septic system, so a sand mound system will likely be needed. A bathroom will have to be installed to meet current standards for food preparation. "We've got our work ahead of us," said Nissel, who declined to put a price tag on the project.

Parks director Mary Bradford said the department has received numerous contacts from the public proposing various public/private partnership and commercial options, but the department has been down this road before. "Those deep pockets everyone thinks somebody has are hard to find," she said. "We're having a hard time finding those pockets—those wallets."

Speakers at the meeting suggested volunteers be allowed to help with the restoration needs. Creation of a foundation has also been suggested.

Deputy Director of Parks

Gene Giddens said there was no timeline for either seeking proposals for the store site or for completing all the work that needs to be done there. "I'm not sure we have a concrete plan of action," he said. "We really have to go back as a staff and evaluate what's been said today... We have no money for this right now."

Meanwhile, Hench said the department will prepare a report on the needs of the site as well as the various bodies that have review of its uses, such as the county's historic preservation commission, for use by those with ideas. Updates will be available on a website linked to the parks department website.

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**-PHS Girls' Basketball Continued From Page 14.**

went into the game only having one loss. Also, our old coach, Randy Berger, is an assistant coach at Damascus. Last year we got beaten by them both times, so this year we hoped to play well against them and ended up beating them by twenty-one points." Goals for this year? "Definitely to win our division and to do well [at] regionals."

"I think the difference this year is maturation," said Lindsay. "The confidence level is high. We are playing better as a team. Last year, I think a lot of people were nervous. I think this year there is a really good chemistry." Poss earned honorable mention on the 2009 All-Gazette Team as a freshman. She draws a lot more attention now. "It's more of a challenge. I have to figure out a different way to work around the defense...Last year we had a few

plays. This year, we have quite a bit more. So I think that is really helping. We can mix it up more against defenses."

Her favorite Poolesville moment? "All the wins are really good. Last season was really difficult. Damascus was definitely a huge win for us, after beating Walter Johnson and Blake. Both those teams had girls who were, like, six feet tall...and we are not that tall of a team. So it felt really good to put up a good team effort against really tall, good players and still be able to win."

Poss's main goal is to get to states. "Every team wants to do that, but regionals would be a really good goal...to do that we have to get back to fundamentals because everyone needs that."

One of the unique traits about the PHS girls is that many have played together since elementary school. Poss played with sopho-

mores, Kelsey Carnahan and Kelly Hughes, in the Poolesville Basketball Association (PBA). Another group of sophomores has played together for years. Patti Maloney and Bonnie Giovanetti have also played with other players since elementary school, and, Poss says, "Katelyn and Holly (Chittenden) have been playing together since they could walk."

Poss leads the Falcons with a 14.4 point-per-game average. Holly Chittenden averages eight points per game. Kelly Hughes has hit twenty-one three-pointers

on the year, and Kelsey Carnahan, twelve. Jocelyn Bodmer and Keese are also capable scorers. The Falcons have a balanced, unselfish attack. If they make it to states, they will do it the old-fashioned way. They will earn it.

**"Sidewalks" Continued From Page 3.**

than throwing his snow shovel at a town truck as someone did last year.

Personally, I thought this is what good neighbors were for. I help one of my senior citizen neighbors now, and I know many, many people, especially those with snow blowers, also help their elderly neighbors. Do we delegate being a good neighbor to town government? With over twenty miles of roadway to plow, is the potential of doubling our snow plowing labor costs realistic? The priority of our town

personnel, working twenty-four/seven for two or three days, is to clear the roads as quickly as possible for public safety reasons which also allows us get to the markets and pharmacy. They do a great job.

Whose snow is it anyway, yours, the town's, or someone else's? You may read the letter at [www.monocleonline.com](http://www.monocleonline.com) and post a comment. I know the commissioners would love to have your thoughts as they wrestle with this issue in the coming weeks.



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