

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

August 23, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 11



World War II vet, Ed Brown, took a special tour. Find out where in Family Album on page 2.



Cugini's Daniel Glazier, holding niece Landon. This proves he has more than beer to smile about. Details on page 4.



For the Monocle's photographer, Terri Pitts, the outdoors is her beat. Learn more on page 7.



Taylor Bowen, the new varsity field hockey coach at PHS. Read about her in Tidbits on page 12.

Jane Stearns Has Passed Away

By Rande Davis and Catherine Beliveau

Jane Bast Stearns, 92, the co-founder of WUMCO Help, Inc. (Western Upper Montgomery County Help, Inc.), passed away on August 12, 2019.

She was born May 13, 1927, in Louisiana, Missouri and was the daughter of George Y. and Francis R. Bast. Jane was married for more than fifty-one years to Frederick E. (Fred) Stearns, who passed away in 2006. She and Fred advocated for the socially and economically disadvantaged in Montgomery County.

She was a member of West Montgomery United Methodist Church to which she lent much time and energy over the years. Jane's everlasting legacy, though, will be WUMCO, a nonprofit organization she helped found more than fifty years ago and to which she tirelessly gave most of her time and energy. Through Jane's efforts, WUMCO grew to be the outstanding community-service organization it is

today; it has helped many thousands of people in need over the years.

Her life was well remembered and reflected upon by Catherine Beliveau, WUMCO's executive director. "In thinking about the amazing life of Jane Stearns, one thing stands out the most of all: she was an entirely selfless individual. Her good works extended beyond helping the socially and economically disadvantaged in Montgomery County. She was secretary of the MoCo Chapter of the NAACP for at least twenty years. She volunteered with her church for countless years as well. She worked tirelessly to make life better for so many!

"For Jane there were no strangers or people of different colors or ethnicity. She had a heart for humanity. Jane's philosophy on life, for those persons in need or for all people for that matter, can be summarized as follows: One's past did not define them, and



Jane Stearns served those in need for more than five decades.

their future was always worth her investment of time, energy, and, if needed, financial assistance. She loved feeding people through the pantry housed in her garage. She also enjoyed driving them to appointments and getting to know them better.

"I think we can all learn from the life Jane led which was greatly influenced by her strong faith. We do

Continued on page 4.

Great News from the C&O Canal National Historical Park

By Jon Wolz

On August 8, 2019, we traveled to the C&O Canal Historical Park in Williamsport, Maryland to attend the Conococheague Aqueduct restoration ribbon cutting and the visitor center and headquarters groundbreaking. Williamsport is located along the Potomac River and has the Conococheague Creek running through it. There were several hundred people in attendance, including many canal supporters and fans on a beautiful sunny morning. There were thirteen speakers at the festivities: Governor Hogan, Maryland Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, Superintendent Brandt, and a variety of other officials. After completing their talks, the group of speakers proceeded to perform a groundbreaking ceremony for the

new park headquarters/visitor center. Currently, the C&O Canal Historical Park headquarters is located in Hagerstown. New construction for the park headquarters and visitor center is planned to begin in 2020 and is expected to be completed by late 2021. The planned headquarters move will bring seventy jobs to Williamsport, and the cost of the project will be \$15 million.

After the groundbreaking ceremony, the dignitaries walked over to the boat dock at the Cushwa Basin where they boarded park service boats and boated to the newly-restored and watered Conococheague Aqueduct. The first boat headed towards the aqueduct actually broke the red ribbon that crossed the entrance of the aqueduct.

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Celebration for the restoration of the C&O Canal's Conococheague Aqueduct: Senator Van Hollen, Governor Hogan, Senator Cardin, and park ranger.

Family Album



Nick "Chief" Markoff greeted ninety-nine-year-old Ed Brown, owner of White's Ferry, World War II vet, and most exalted member in Poolesville's American Legion, as he took the wagon tour of Calleva Farm.



The Patrick Ferguson family was part of the forty-plus people attending the legion's picnic.



Beth Singh, Dave Wilson, Michele and Rich Huelieg, Butch Zachrel, and Julien Singh.



In this picture, one could say Army beat Navy, 2-1. Actually, West Pointers Kenny Sholes (left) and Kyle DeWald (right) outnumbered Chief Markoff, alum of Annapolis. Patrick Ferguson kept things civil.



The hay wagon tour of Calleva was a highlight of the American Legion's annual picnic.



Commander Julien Singh (left) was the top chef at the Post 247's picnic barbeque.



Along with a hay wagon tour, Calleva treated the families of local veterans to pony rides. Drew McKone, Mary Markoff, Tess McKone, Nick Markoff, Post Commander Julien Sing, and Lisa DeWald.

Mystery History

Poolesville's French Connection

By Rande Davis

When Marshall and Edna Hersberger left their homesteading farm in Canada in the 1920s to move to Poolesville, their vision about the future did not include their baby boy, Norman, becoming a hero to the French Resistance.

Norman Davis Hersberger was born Canada in 1919, but he and his three brothers, Marshall, Homer, and Wilson, were raised in Poolesville in a bungalow on West Willard Road. His family and friends always called him by his middle name, Davis, and upon graduating from Poolesville High School in 1938, he was still six years

away from the day he would find himself parachuting from his Mustang fighter plane into enemy territory over Brittany, France.

It was the spring of 1944, just five weeks before D-Day, when the American pilot was rescued by the French Underground Resistance and hidden from the Nazis until they could pull off their planned escape to Spain. Davis was put "into hiding, using barns and villages, traveling by bicycle en route to Spain with the goal of reaching the American Embassy." French resistance leader, Jean-Claude Moussat, and his compatriots traveled with him to Paris, holed up in an apartment for two weeks, put him on a train to Spain only for Hersberger to be caught by the Nazis in Bordeaux, where he had planned to stay only one night.



Norman Davis Hersberger was honored by the French Resistance for his help during World War II.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Thinking about Saints

By Rande Davis

Jane Stearns quietly joined her fellow angels in heaven this past week. When she left us, her compassionate spirit, like a wake in a gentle pond, washed over all she had come to know and love and now leaves all of us behind, wistful, but with a sense now of life's real purpose.

For newcomers to our area and a few others still unfamiliar with her and her life's avocation, Jane and her husband, Fred, along with Beulah Harper, founded WUMCO Help, Inc. (Western Upper Montgomery County Help, Inc.) over fifty years ago. Because of her and this benevolent organization, neighbors were fed when hungry, transportation to doctor visits were provided when no other way was possible, heating bills were paid in the dead of winter, and rent was paid in the midst of dire emergencies. Those in need in our region knew her well and loved her dearly. Through her legacy and the care of the organization she and Fred founded, her gift of care will continue.

I was so fortunate to get to know Jane quite well while serving on WUMCO's Board of Directors for a number of years. Her eyes always appeared to be wide open in an expression of hope, her smile perpetual, and each sentence spoken by her seemed to be punctuated at the end

Continued from page 1.

Jane Stearns Has Passed Away

not all have it within us to give over our entire lives to a cause as she did for so many years; however, most of us could find time in our days to do one more kindness, help one more neighbor, listen to one more troubled stranger. If we were all to do this with the same heart of compassion that Jane had, this community, this world, would be a brighter, better place for every one of us. I think that this should be part of Jane's legacy (in addition to this organization): That we all strive to continue to care for one another as she cared for each of us: with love! She is the reason that WUMCO provides 'Emergency Assistance from the Heart!'

She is survived by her brother, Michael Bast of Kissimmee, Florida, foster daughters Margaret Yokley of

with a slight, warm giggle of joy. I never had the sense that she ever came to fully realize what she meant to so many. She defined the word humble. Never confuse humble for weak, though, for her strength in reaching her goals to help others was like steel.

Back then, through the hard work of volunteer attorney Tracey Forfa, the leadership of Ray Hoewing and others on the BOD, a plan was initiated to prepare for her passing, an event that fortunately came much later than anticipated at the time. This fragile woman was stronger than we or anyone realized. Eventually, WUMCO's food bank was moved from the garage, rooms, and closets of her overcrowded home to a much more adequate and convenient location at the Poolesville Baptist Church. Jane was given her rightful emeritus status as another person of great care and purpose, and Catherine Beliveau became executive director. Catherine only recently announced her retirement, and WUMCO Help is currently seeking to hire a new executive director. This person will have quite a challenge to fill Catherine's shoes, but there is no expectation to fill Jane's. We look forward to telling you more about Catherine and the new executive director in the next issue.

As we mourn with love Jane's passing, we celebrate her legacy—a legacy that will continue if and when the need for her work is no longer. We may wonder where she is now, but in our hearts, we know she is with Fred and the only other person we can compare her to, Mother Teresa.

Kearneysville, West Virginia and Judith Shipman of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and her beloved caregiver, Melissa Shumaker-Lemarr.

In lieu of or in addition to flowers, please make food or monetary donations to WUMCO.



WUMCO's founder, Jane Stearns, in her 51st year of volunteer service to our community.

Photo courtesy of WUMCO Help Inc.

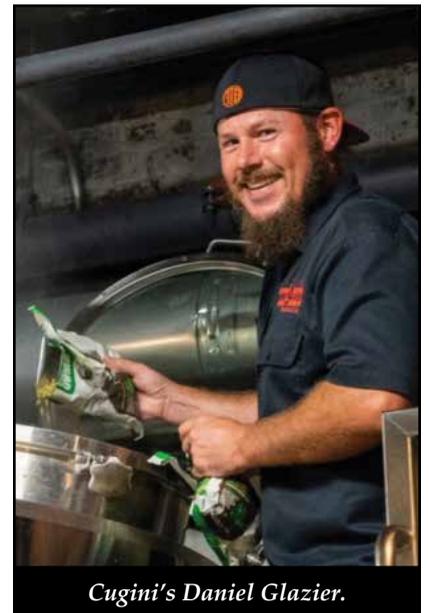
Focus on Business Hoppy Business

By Tor Ofthsun

Have you had anything named after you? A child, a pet, a street, a town? Maybe yes on the child or pet. To have a town named after you, one must reach a certain level of admirable distinction in order to be granted such an honor, whether it be a prominent family that first settled the area, a person with copious wealth, a politician, or local hero. Certainly, the pinnacle of such recognition is to have cities, counties, or states tattooed with your appellation: Jefferson, Washington, Poole.

What if you had a beer named after you? Would it be because you were a master brewer? A prodigious drinker? A "beer head" who had totally immersed himself in everything with barley, malt, and hops?

In 2013, Cugini's new owner Barbie Stull, Poolesville High School alumna, entrusted thirty-two-year-old Daniel Glazier, another PHS alumnus, free reign with the beer program. A quick look at the evolution of the beer industry illuminates why on Earth a restaurant would need a beer program. In days



Cugini's Daniel Glazier.

gone by, there were many lagers but little else besides some import beers available in the U.S. In fact, there were fewer than a hundred breweries in the U.S. in 1978, mostly brewing American lagers. In the eighties, things took a turn with Sam Adams, and some other breweries were born and started to flourish. There was a bit of an ebb and flow in the late nineties, but since the turn of the century, it has been all

Continued on page 20.

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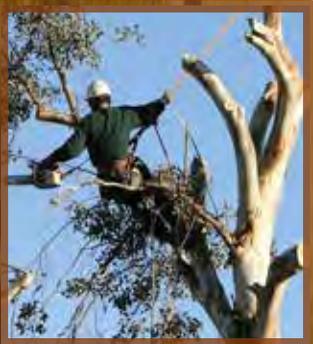
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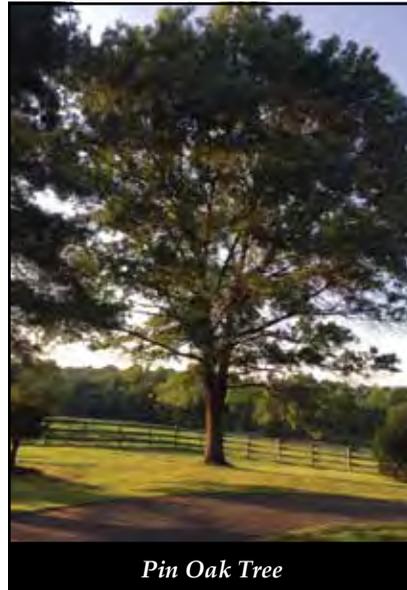
By Maureen O'Connell

The Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any time in the history of modern civilization, with an enormous impact on a wide range of environmental issues worldwide. Scientists have provided endless research confirming this, while the naysayers continue to deny its existence. On July 4, 2019, the Swiss journal Science published a study by ecologists Thomas Crowther and Jean-François Bastin of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. Their "simple" solution for climate change: Plant a tree, not just one or one thousand, but a trillion.

Using Google Earth and an existing data base of nearly eighty thousand forests, the study found that the planet can support nearly three million square miles of more trees without affecting city or agriculture. For many years, people have admitted that trees are good for the environment. Why? They absorb carbon dioxide, thus purifying the air. Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to higher temperatures and climate change. Upon maturity, a trillion trees could store 205 billion metric tons of carbon. As the need for the benefits of trees grows, an ever-increasing human population, continued high fossil fuel consumption, pesticide use, higher temperatures, severe wildfires, pests, diseases, and drought are limiting the ability of trees to provide these benefits.

Scientists, including Thomas Crowther, readily admit that planting trees alone wouldn't work, but Crowther says that "it is by far—by thousands of times—the cheapest climate change solution."

Where do you start? As with any flower, shrub, or tree, the key is the right plant in the right place. A forest in the wrong place can have damaging effects by upsetting the ecological balance. In Crowther's study of eighty thousand forests, he looked at the remaining land masses according to soil conditions and climate characteristics to define what kind of forest could go where. He found that the nations with the most room for reforestation projects are those with an abundance of land mass: China, Russia, United States, Canada, Australia, and Brazil. Concurrently, we must keep open land for human habitation and agricultural land to support our growing population. The nations also



Pin Oak Tree

have to deal with government policies in regard to the environment, which are not always in favor of conservation and reforestation projects. As many of us in the United States know, many politicians are naysayers regarding climate change.

Tropical forests, the green lungs of the Earth, in South America and Africa are disappearing with alarming rates. Forests provide us with shelter, food, fuel, and water. Eighty percent of the world's land-based animals and plant species are found in forests. As the population explodes in the poorer areas of the Earth, people cut down the forests to plant crops and to acquire timber for housing and pastures for their cattle. Large foreign companies move in, with their own laborers, and scar the forest landscape with lucrative mining projects. Little of the resulting profit goes to the native country. I have seen this up close in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Madagascar, and Argentina.

What does a trillion trees mean to you here in Monocacy Country? In speaking to the Thomson Reuters Foundation about his simple solution of trees, Crowther said, "Every other climate change solution requires that we all change our behavior, or we need some top-down decision from a politician who may or may not believe in climate change, or it is a scientific discovery we don't have yet. This one is not only the most powerful solution, it's one that every single one of us can get involved in."

The State of Maryland and Montgomery County, Maryland have many very diverse and effective reforestation programs. The Forest Conservation Law, effective October 2018, states that "anyone with a property of an acre or more in Montgomery County must complete a natural

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Center State

She Owns the Sunrises

By Susan Petro

Who is this person sharing beautiful images of local area landscapes? I wondered as I'd see images posted on our Poolesville area social media page of places I'd also visited and photographed that day. On many occasions, this photographer and I had shared similar images of the same site on the same day at around the same time. One day it might be White's Ferry at sunset or the beautiful red barn along the way; another day might feature goldfinches feasting on the blooming zinnias at a local area farm. On one of the days when we both ended up at the same sight at the same time, I finally met photographer extraordinaire, Terri Pitts.



One of Terri Pitt's beautiful sunsets.

Over the next few years, it wasn't uncommon for me to bump into Terri on our photographic journeys, whether it be the pair of bald eagles sitting in the "Poolesville Tree" or at the pumpkin chunkin' event at a local orchard. We often joked about who was following whom, but the reality was that we were just two of many local area hobby (and even professional) photographers who have developed a great appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us in this place called the Agricultural Reserve. We all enjoy sharing our, often, spur-of-the-moment images with the community.

Lately, Pitts has dazzled the Poolesville area community with stunning, colorful sunrise images. One viewer recently commented that "Terri owns the sunrises." That comment couldn't ring truer as her photographs display our area landscapes, buildings, and neighborhoods under a colorful cast of purple, pink, red, orange, and yellow hues that emerge when many of us are still slumbering.

Terri became interested in photography in 1997 when her husband gifted

her with her first camera. "I was suddenly obsessed with something I didn't know I wanted to learn," said Pitts. "In turn, the camera gave me the opportunity to experience things that I would have never considered otherwise. I have chased hot air balloons, worked as a freelance photographer, and taken pictures for the Montgomery County Fair's Public Relations department."

The Pitts family moved to a farm in Dickerson in 1988. "It wasn't just any farm," said Pitts, "but the farm my grandparents, mom, and her siblings lived on, and where family reunions and Sunday suppers happened when I was a child." By then, her grandparents had not lived there for many years. It was there that Terri discovered another passion: gardening. "We had about an acre of yard fenced in from the rest of the farm, and I found a use for just about every inch of that acre," Pitts

reminisced. "We had dozens of flower borders and a huge vegetable garden." That little slice of paradise with views of Sugarloaf Mountain in the back and a huge pond in the front served as a great classroom for Terri.

Terri and her husband, Gregg, raised their boys on the farm until moving to Poolesville in 2000. The boys followed her grandparents' footsteps through the Poolesville school system which Terri said she wouldn't have wanted any other way. Once the boys were older and more self-sufficient, Terri became a Master Gardener. "As it turns out, Master Gardeners (MG) allowed me to exercise my love of photography. I volunteered in the newsletter staff and photographed many of the MG events," said Pitts. "How many can say they are able to combine and enjoy two of their passions on a daily basis?"

"Living in the Ag Reserve has allowed me the luxury of doing what I enjoy most," said Pitts, "shooting landscapes, nature, and wildlife. The

Continued on page 11.

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Local News

Over Sixty Animals Seized From Dickerson Home

By Jack Toomey

On August 13, the Montgomery County Police-Animal Services Division went to a property in the 20400 block of Beallsville Road and seized over sixty animals that appeared to be either ill or mistreated. Thomas Koenig, the director of the ASD, said that a dog from the property had been taken to a veterinarian who determined that the animal was too ill to survive and had to be euthanized. Complying with Maryland law, the veterinarian called the Police Animal unit and notified them of his findings. Koenig said that the police were familiar with the family that lived at the property and that they had been there before for animal-related calls and had found poor living conditions for the animals.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and went to the house and searched the property as the search warrant allowed. Officers located fifty-nine dogs, three cats, and two turtles. All of the animals were removed and moved to the Animal Services home in Derwood.

Koenig said that an investigation is continuing, and the results will be turned over to the States Attorney's Office. If criminal charges are deemed to be appropriate, then charges may be placed.

Fun Fact...

Montgomery County Animal Services & Adoption Center's doors are open to all animals in need—from dogs and cats to farm animals, wildlife, and exotic animals. For information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/index.html

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In Your Own Backyard

Now and Then along the C&O Canal

By Jon Wolz

This summer, the C&O Canal has been much more enjoyable to visit as compared to the summer of 2018 when there was a lot of rain causing flooding along the Potomac River and the towpath. There were more mosquitoes last year as compared to this summer. In July, there were a few strong storms that knocked down trees in our area of the towpath that required extra work by the park maintenance staff to cut up the trees and clear the towpath. On a stretch between Swain's and Pennyfield Locks, one storm knocked down twenty-seven trees that blocked the towpath. Often Steve Horvath accompanies me on my walks; sometimes I walk alone; and one time I took a walk with Steve that included Willis Van Devanter and my son Thomas. Steve and I have spoken with several travelers as we walk along the towpath. One couple was from the Netherlands and was biking from Georgetown to Pittsburgh and then to Minneapolis to visit relatives. Another young man was camping and was a college student from Georgia attending Georgia Tech. He was doing a bike ride from Georgetown to Cumberland and back down to Georgetown. He had never been to the canal. I was able to answer his questions, telling him about the history and about the C&O Canal Association.



The heavy floods tested the Monocacy Aqueduct. Neither Mother Nature nor the Confederates have brought this down.

On the walk, we drove to Lock 29 which is at mile 50.89. In addition to the lock, the Lander Lockhouse is at this location. On weekends during the summer, the lockhouse is open for tours and includes furnishings dating to the canal operating days. At this location on July 4, 1864, some of Mosby's Raiders crossed the Potomac to scout for a town to raid. They surprised the lockkeeper who fled the scene as a boat carrying some Treasury Department employees approached the lock. Since there was no one to operate the lock gates, upon seeing the soldiers, the employees jumped into the water and ran.

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

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.

Bruster's Ice Cream is open, hours on Facebook. Be sure to use \$1.00 coupon from ad on page 13.

Local Entertainment Guide

Bassett's Restaurant: Every Thursday: Team Feud, group game based on the TV show. Every Friday: Team Bingo. Remember Sunday Champagne brunch every Saturday and Sunday.

House of Poolesville: August 24 Semi Hollow Band, August 30 Sandra Dean Band, and September 7 Bobby Lewis Band.

Cugini's: Celebrating the release of new IPA Funkle beer. August 23 release party, and on August 24, bus trip to Full Tilt Brewery in Baltimore for the official release of Funkle.

Mexican Grill: Has now begun carryout delivery service. See ad this issue for details and special offers.

Watershed Café: Saturday Night "Supper Club" event, with live music from local musicians from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

August 23

Friday on the Commons

Join in the fun on Whalen Commons for the town's last summer park event. Think all things '80s! Roller skating, PacMan, Hackey Sack, etc. Bring your big hair and watch the movie *Goonies* on the big screen at 8:30 p.m.

August 24

Cugini's Special Event

Join Cugini's as they take over Full Tilt Brewing for their Funkle release party. Full lineup of beers will be available, food truck options as well as can sales of their new favorite beer: Funkle! Cost is \$60 per person and includes: transportation to and from the brewery, your first beer at the brewery, a one-of-a-kind T-shirt, as well as all gratuities. Attendees will leave Cugini's parking lot promptly at 11:00 a.m. and will return as close to 4:00 p.m. as possible.

First come, first serve; contact Danny for reservations or come to Cugini's Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. \$60 cash and shirt size confirm your seat.

Calleva Special Event

Family Night on the Farm. Wagon rides, zipline*, fun games, campfire songs, bunnies, goats, chicks—*extra fee. Assemble your own pizza, family-sized salad, drinks, and more. \$40 per family. 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

August 25

Praise in the Park

The Hosanna Worship Center will be hosting an end-of-summer barbeque and fellowship event (rain or shine) on Whalen Commons. This Praise in the Park event is open to everyone. From 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Barnesville Harvest Block Party

Enjoy the end of the summer with your friends and neighbors. Bring your extra produce and favorite recipes to swap with your neighbors. Brief gardening and preserving demonstration. Bruster's will be selling ice cream. *Barnesville Town Hall*, parking at Baptist Church. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 7

3rd Annual Poolesville Post 247 Barn Dance

Square dance professionally-called with simple and fun instructions. Wear your best Western outfit. Many door prizes from area businesses. Light refreshments available for purchase. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, \$30 for families of all sizes. 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

September 12

Bassett's All-Day Fundraiser for Poolesville Area Senior Center

Donation of 10% of all sales. Lunch with PASC Board members with wine half off all day. Paint your own wine-glass in the sunroom from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$20. Sign up at pvilleseiors@comcast.net or 301-875-7701.

PASC Quarterly Special Event

Presenting award-winning actress and Smithsonian Scholar Mary Ann Jung who will present a delightful "history alive" tribute of the one and only Julia Child. Mary Ann has been featured on CNN, the *Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*. 17750 West Willard Road, Poolesville. 1:30 p.m.



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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 8, 9:30, & 11 am
Monday - Friday at 9:00 am (Rosary follows)
Confession - Saturday 4:15 pm

JOIN Us...

School of Religion begins September 11
Register your children now

Outdoor Mass and Pig Roast
September 15 at 11 am

Liturgy of the Word for Children 9:30 Sunday
Ages 3-9

All are Welcome!

Continued on page 19.

Continued from page 7.

She Owns the Sunrises

close proximity of the river, the mountains, and farmland leaves me countless hours of shooting time." Terri also enjoys taking candid pictures of people. "I'm always on the search for interesting faces or a precious moment." Many of these candid shots taken at local area events are featured in the *Monocacy Monocle* where Pitts works as a photographer.

Terri has developed quite the following over the years, and her

images are often in demand. "There is nothing more flattering than someone requesting to buy a print from me or hiring me to document their event," said Pitts.

"I'm not necessarily prepared to take many of my shots," Pitts adds with a grin. "You have to grab the moment when it's there, so if you see someone at sunrise in their robe and slippers, or chasing their car through a soybean field because the car was not in park when they got out to capture the moment, just honk and wave, because it will probably be me."



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Tidbits

NBC News 4 Visits Hope Garden Ballet Academy

On August 13, Washington's NBC News 4 visited the Hope Garden Ballet Academy in Poolesville to report on a fundraiser to benefit the Madison House Foundation. The fundraiser was held at the Kreger Auditorium in Rockville on August 16.

The mission of Madison House Foundation is to support persons with autism who are 21 years or older. While there exists governmental assistance for those under 21, the need to help the adults is acute. Founded in 2007 by JaLynn and Gregory Prince, Madison House (named after their son, Madison) was founded to identify the lifelong needs of adults with autism and, through education, awareness, and advocacy, to fill those needs. Their therapeutic equestrian farm, Madison Fields, is located in Dickerson.



Molette Green of NBC News4 interviewed Hope Garden Academy's Fran Ichijo and Madison Foundation's JaLynn Prince.

In interviewing Hope Garden Academy's founder and artistic director Fran Ichijo, reporter Molette Green inquired about the dancers' interest in participating in the event which had the theme Arts for Autism. Ichijo noted that the girls love dancing and performing, but in performances like this brought "special meaning for dance."

New PHS Field Hockey Coach Named

Taylor Bowen, who played field hockey for Urbana High School, has been appointed head coach of the Falcon varsity field hockey team. After high school, Bowen played for Frostburg State University all four years. In her senior year, she became team captain and was second team All Capital Athletic Conference. This past spring, she coached with the Koa Development and Recreational League.

American Legion Square Dance Fundraiser

The 3rd Annual Barn Dance fundraising event by the American Legion's Poolesville Post 247 will be held at the Calleva Farm in Dickerson on September 7 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will offer light refreshments. Along with professional square dance caller, there will be many door prizes. This very family-friendly event has been remarkable in years past for the level of enthusiasm and enjoyment experienced by the teenagers who attended. They usually break off into their own groups, but based on the smiles and laughter, they clearly have a great time.

Funds raised by the American Legion were spent on numerous assistance programs for and needs of our area's veterans and on a national basis, as well. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, and families only \$30. For those not able to attend but wanting to help the American Legion in its mission to help local veterans, donations may be sent to P.O. Box 22, Poolesville, MD 20837. Mark "Barn Dance" in the memorandum line.

Special thanks for support from Howard Bank, M&T Bank, White's Ferry, Magruder Shopping Center, Poolesville Shopping Center, Tom Kettler, Gail Lee, and Hilton Funeral Home.

Continued on page 13.



3rd Annual Barn Dance To Benefit Poolesville's American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247

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- = Happy Hour! 4 to 7 pm
- = Team Feud to win Bassett's gift cards! 8 to 10 pm

pvlleseniors@comcast.net
301-875-7701



Continued from page 12.

Tidbits

Register for School Now

If you are new to the area, do not delay registering your kids for school as early as possible. Parents of students in kindergarten and all elementary grades, registering early may impact the number of teachers hired. It would be a shame to not get a new teacher just because we are a few students short of class size demands, that if known in time, could get our schools an extra teacher. Get your child registered today.



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Quarterly Social

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Seniors with birthdays in Jul, Aug, and Sept will be honored!
Light refreshments will be served.

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Mary Ann has appeared on CNN, the TODAY SHOW and GOOD MORNING AMERICA

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Continued from page 1.

Great News From the C&O Canal National Historical Park

The waters of the Potomac River and the Conococheague Creek were a perfect spot for Native Americans to inhabit before settlers arrived. The first non-native visitors to the area included fur traders, Indian traders, and surveyor, George Washington. In 1787, Brig. Gen. Otho Holland Williams, a Revolutionary War hero and friend of George Washington, began buying up large tracts of land to lay out a grand city, and the area became known as Williams' Port. He wanted the area to be selected as the capital of the new United States. George Washington favored a site on the Potomac River and visited Williamsport in October 1794 as part of his tour of potential Potomac sites. Williamsport was not selected because the Potomac River could not be relied upon above its tidewaters for consistent navigation. Many years later, the C&O Canal was built to provide a navigable water route in the Potomac River valley. The canal brought a boom to Williamsport, and the town became a canal town.

In 2017, there was an agreement between federal, state, and local officials to commit \$10.2 million to restore the Conococheague Aqueduct to its working condition with its early 1920s appearance. The reason for restoring the aqueduct was to make Williamsport a centerpiece of the park and for creating a premier Maryland visitor attraction in Williamsport. Aqueducts are water bridges that, during canal-operating days, carried canal water and canal boats over rivers and creeks that flow into the Potomac River. This aqueduct was the fifth of eleven aqueducts for the 184.5-mile C&O Canal and was completed in 1835. The aqueduct is second only to the Monocacy Aqueduct in length. It is 196 feet long with three sixty-foot arches. The Monocacy Aqueduct is 516 feet long with seven fifty-four-foot arches.

During the Civil War, Confederates retreating from Gettysburg in July 1863 did significant damage to the aqueduct, but Union soldiers worked to repair it, and the Canal was back in operation by August 8. Again, in 1864, Confederates did destructive damage to the aqueduct, and a month later, the canal was operating again. In 1865, the berm wall (the wall opposite the towpath) collapsed and was rebuilt with wood. In the early 1870s, masonry repairs were done to the aqueduct. In 1920, a canal boat broke through an upstream wall of the aqueduct that

shut down the canal for over four months. The aqueduct was repaired with a timber wall until flooding in 1924 caused the canal to close operations for good. After the closure of the canal, the wooden wall eventually rotted away. The current restoration work involved strengthening the piers and abutments, repairing the masonry, installing pressure-treated towpath ankle boards, a concrete outer wall that has the appearance of wood, an iron railing, and lining the prism so that the aqueduct is safe, watertight, and will last.

The aqueduct was dry from 1924 until July 2019. Williamsport is the only place in North America where visitors can ride (free) boats across an aqueduct. Through August, boat rides are about thirty minutes long crossing the aqueduct. In September, park visitors will be able to take a one-hour interpretive tour across the aqueduct and through a working lock. Lock 44 and the restored lock-house can be seen by walking a short distance from the current visitor center or by riding a park service boat down the canal to the lock. Boat rides are available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m., and they are free. The phone number for the visitor center is 301-582-0813.

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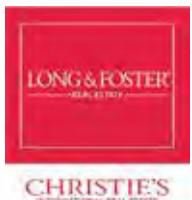


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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

Kingsbury's Orchard

By Susan Petro

Local orchard owner, Gene Kingsbury, isn't one to run a farm from the sidelines. Instead, this fifth-generation farmer from Kingsbury's Orchard, located on Peach Tree Road, is working hands-on at the orchard doing chores every single day. From sun-up to past sun-down, Gene can be found picking peaches and other fresh fruits over the summer months, pruning trees in the winter, fertilizing, managing pest-control, and whatever else needs to be done to keep the 132-acre orchard going.

It was due to Kingsbury's hands-on approach that he was able to develop his very own variety of a large and deliciously-sweet yellow freestone peach, the Kingsbury Pride. In the past few weeks, Kingsbury and his crew have picked over 1,500 crates of their signature peach, one of many varieties grown on the orchard. In addition to both white and yellow peaches, including popular donut varieties, Kingsbury's Orchard grows cherries, plums, nectarines, apples, and pears.

The Kingsbury Pride peach came to be after Gene noticed a mutation of a peach growing on a tree while he was out picking back in the 1990s. "It kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger," said Kingsbury of the peach that ripened about two weeks later than the rest. When he tasted the peach, it was very good. "I marked that limb so I wouldn't prune it out," said Kingsbury. Sure enough, the next season, that same limb grew more of the same great-tasting mutation. Gene decided to use that limb to make grafts in hopes of creating new trees with the mutated peaches.

Creating a new variety of peach is a slow process. Gene worked with a local nursery to graft two trees that took two years to get back. He planted those new trees in the orchard and surrounded them with barbed-wire to protect them from deer. It took three more years before the new trees bore fruit, the same delicious peach Kingsbury remembered from that first mutated peach. If Gene hadn't been a hands-on farmer, the delicious Kingsbury Pride would have remained undiscovered. Today, those two grafted trees have grown to 230 trees.

Kingsbury Farm first began operations in 1907 when Gene's great-great-grandparents, Edwin and Minerva Horine, bought the beautiful parcel of land and began a traditional farming operation. In 1932, the Horines' oldest son, Phil, decided to add peach trees to the farm as a means of weathering the Depression

Continued on page 24.



Gene Kingsbury and his pride and joy.



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Continued from page 10.

Things to Do

Save the Date:

September 14

14th Annual Bluegrass on the Farm

Music featuring Big Howdy, King Street Blue Grass, and the Tumbleweeds. Refreshment for sale or bring your own picnic. \$15 person or \$10 online in advance at www.bluegrassonthefarm.com. Agriculture History Farm Park, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. with music concert from noon to 6:00 p.m.

September 14

An Uncommon Dinner on Whalen Commons

Fundraiser for the Historic Medley District. Adults only. The ticket will include: Hors d'oeuvres, a signature cocktail, buffet dinner, beer and wine, dessert, music from Justin Trawick and the Common Good, dancing under the stars. \$125 per person. Tickets may be purchased on the History Medley Facebook page.

Continued from page 6.

A Trillion Trees

resources inventory, a complete picture of the natural resources of the property to identify streams, slopes, critical habitat, and other features associated with that piece of land." Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Tree Montgomery is a program offering residents shade trees and assistance with long-term care—all for free. All you need to do is apply. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Extension Service provide free advice and guidelines for planting trees and how to properly care and maintain them. There are also many very good landscape design companies in our area that can provide you with expert plant advice.

Fall is the best time to plant a tree. The cool temperatures promote root growth, and trees can focus all their energy on forming healthy roots. When choosing a tree for your home, keep in mind these factors: height, canopy spread, deciduous or evergreen, form and shape, growth rate, soil, sun moisture requirements, and your area's hardiness zone.

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August 24

Family Night on the Farm

6 - 9:30pm

Wagon rides, zip line, fun games, camp fire songs, bunnies, chicks & goats, PLUS assemble your own pizza & make delicious s'mores!

COST: \$40/family (one 16-inch pizza, family sized salad, lemonade & s'mores) Zip line & other activities available for additional fee

Location: Calleva Farm, 19120 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, MD 20842

Ongoing thru September

Beginner Kayak Lessons

Saturdays and Sundays

Calleva Liquid Adventures offers lessons for first-time kayakers ages 14-Adult! Choose your day & time when you register online.

COST: \$60/person

Location: Meet at Calleva Virginia (located on the campus of the Madeira School) 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22102

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Continued from page 4.

Hoppy Business

boom. At present, there are more than seven thousand breweries in the U.S., and now it is unusual for a restaurant not to have some craft brew options.

Stull remembered her conversation with Glazier as she embarked on the exciting yet difficult road of running a restaurant.

"Danny told me about the craft beer scene and how enthusiastic these people are about it," Stull said. "I was impressed with his knowledge and enthusiasm, and so I decided to take our beer program to the next level."

Glazier embarked on creating an everchanging menu of mainly-local craft beer options that could be purchased at reasonable prices. That proved to be easier said than done. He had his doubters. After all, Poolesville is a rural town with a blue-collar backbone.

"A lot of people who told me I was crazy for bringing craft beer in here have come back to me and told me, 'You knew what you were doing. Great job'—and that has been gratifying to me," said Glazier.

The transition from five standard lager beers on tap to twelve craft beers was more arduous journey than simple decision. "I literally started going to the brewery websites where I could to find the distribution map and then break it down to the distributor. It took a year for me to track down the people I needed to talk to in order to get any craft beer in here at all," Glazier explained.

In the process, over the last six years, he has developed many relationships with people in the industry. He collaborated on "Cool Kids" which is a beer that was brewed by True Respite, a Rockville brewery, last year, which propelled him into his current project. This time, he collaborated with Full Tilt Brewing in Baltimore to fashion a sour-style beer called "Funkle." Sours have surged in popularity in recent years but, interestingly, are the oldest style of beer. They range in taste from subtly sour and tart, wincingly sour, sweetly tart, or light and fruity. Funkle is a raspberry-pineapple sour. It is inspired by the concept of the "fun uncle" that can have fun with his nieces and nephews but does not bear the responsibility of having to parent them. The label art depicts a caricature

of Danny falling off a diving board into a pool with Cugini's in the background. Glazier spends much time bonding with his niece at his brother Justin's house and pool. The release party for Funkle is at Cugini's on Friday, August 23 at 5:00 p.m. On Saturday, August 24, there is a bus trip to Full Tilt Brewing in Baltimore. Taking a bus trip for a new release might seem a bit overboard to some, but it is par for the course among craft beer enthusiasts who will travel far and wide—even waiting in line overnight—to sample the beer and buy four packs of new craft beers that are often on a limited release or quantity. Glazier has taken part in such quests with other craft beer enthusiasts. This shared love of everything hops has been a catalyst to networking and good business.

"The reps that I have built relationships with over the years, they've spread a lot of good word for us," Glazier remarked.

"Danny's efforts have helped bring in business from all over Maryland and even some from out of state to sample some of the beers," Stull said. "There is an app called Untapped that informs people of our beer menu."

Cugini's has events called Tap Takeovers, commonplace in the industry, where they will tap several beers of one brewery for the night, which usually attracts a crowd, many from out of town.

Glazier's reputation grew. The committee for Poolesville Springfest contacted Glazier three years ago about joining and getting involved. He, along with Poolesville's Eric Gleason, brewer at Barley and Hops, in Frederick, helped to change it to resemble typical beer festivals, as well as bring in breweries to participate.

"The first year that I was involved they said we could have twenty breweries involved, and we had people begging to participate. We had to turn some down, and every year we have to turn some down because we can't let it get too out of hand. You know we have to keep the small-town feel, and that's one of the reasons they want to come here. They love coming here and most the guys working the taps are volunteers. They love Poolesville's small-town feel."

As for those who are not beer enthusiasts, Glazier contends "that there is a beer for everyone."

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Continued from page 9.

Now and Then along the C&O Canal

Walking up the towpath about a little less than a mile is the beautiful Catoctin Creek Aqueduct constructed of stone. This aqueduct is 130 feet long and has three arches. As with the Monocacy Aqueduct, the Catoctin Creek Aqueduct has been restored as well. A local Lander resident, George Lewis, led fundraising efforts and in October 2011 the restored aqueduct structure reopened for use by walkers and cyclists. During canal operating days, this aqueduct was known as the "crooked aqueduct" because of the sharp turn the canal took on the upstream side leading to the aqueduct. Right below the aqueduct on the downstream side is a circle of stones and a bench overlooking Catoctin Creek. The bench was installed by C&O Canal Association volunteers. Just above the aqueduct is the B&O viaduct which is another stone structure. As we stood on the aqueduct, we watched trains cross over Catoctin Creek. Thomas commented, "I have never been this close to a moving train." Maybe someday, the Seneca Creek Aqueduct will be restored at Riley's Lock. Continuing with our walk, we reached a barrier across the towpath with a sign that read: "AREA CLOSED." This is where culvert #82 washed away in May 2018. This culvert is at mile 52.51. In late June of this year, the park service maintenance staff built a temporary wooden plank footbridge held up with concrete supports across Little Catoctin Creek.

During June and July, Jim Heins of the C&O Canal Association led an effort to clean and wax 215 wayside signs along the 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. By the end of July, eleven volunteers helped Jim with this large task. I took care of eleven signs between Edwards Ferry and the Dickerson Conservation Park parking lot. When I was cleaning a sign by the towpath at Edwards Ferry, many cyclists rode by me on the towpath. Some of them stopped for a break. They thanked me for what I was doing. There were ninety cyclists in all, and they began their trip in Cumberland. They were doing a fundraiser for a children's home. I have never seen so many cyclists at one time on the towpath.

When I reached the White's Ford sign, as I read it, I noticed it identified three significant crossings that occurred there during the Civil War, including Lee's crossing in September 1862 to Maryland, Stuart's crossing to Virginia in October

1862 after his raid on Chambersburg, and Early's crossing to Virginia after his failed attempt to attack Washington, D.C. in July 1864. Regarding the crossing of Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, on the sign it says, "Stuart was guided by Capt. B. S. White of Poolesville, Maryland to White's Ford..." I wondered if this Captain B.S. White could be a brother of Lt. Col. Elijah V. White. From subsequent research I found that his name was Benjamin Stephen White; he was a Poolesville merchant prior to the Civil War. He was born in 1828 and died in 1881 and is buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. He is not Elijah's brother but is a cousin of Elijah. I found Elijah had a brother named Benjamin Viers White who was born in 1825 and died in 1907 and is also buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. Benjamin Viers White did not fight in the Civil War but stayed behind and helped with the family farm at Stoney Castle. Captain Benjamin.S. White was called Stuart's secret weapon after the Confederates' raid on Chambersburg because he was familiar with the Maryland terrain, helping Stuart and the cavalry make a narrow escape back across the Potomac River at White's Ford. After leading Stuart through Maryland, Captain White was made Stuart's aide-de-camp. He was promoted to major in January 1864.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Vandalism: 18200 block of White Ground Road.

Past Crime: 1962

The county council debated whether to pass a law creating an age where juveniles would be eligible to play pinball machines. At that time, there were no laws concerning pinball machines except that no gambling was permitted. A police officer testified that in establishments that had pinball machines, crowds of juveniles would gather and that occasionally profanity was used. On the other hand, Henry Hiser, the former owner of a bowling alley and movie theater, said that he never had any trouble with the machines at his bowling alley.

Police were looking for a house-breaking suspect who escaped from police headquarters. The twenty-year-old defendant was being interviewed in the second floor, and when a detective temporarily left the room,

said defendant squeezed through a ten-inch window, dropped fifteen feet down a ventilation shaft, and then walked out the front door. The suspect was seen at a gas station in Germantown two hours later. He had been charged with breaking into two houses and one telephone booth coin collection box.

A gas station attendant was critically injured when he was crushed between two cars at Bealls Esso in Rockville. Police said that the man was filling the tank of one car when a second car came in way too fast and couldn't stop in time, pinning the attendant between the two cars. Police charged the second driver with reckless driving.

Police responded to a house on Dover Road in Rockville for the report of a loud disturbance. When they arrived, they found a fifty-seven-year-old man with his head crushed and a hysterical woman. An investigation revealed that the sixteen-year-old son and the mother had been arguing, which woke up the father who had been sleeping. He got out of bed and tried to settle the argument when the son picked up a hammer and repeatedly struck his

father over the head, crushing his skull. The boy and a girlfriend fled the scene and went to Emory Grove where the police found him. He was charged with murder and held at the county jail.

A sixteen-year-old boy decided to try his hand at flying and took a Cessna plane from a small airpark near Laytonsville. He invited his girlfriend and brother to go along for the ride. They took off and cruised over the county for about fifteen minutes until the plane crashed into an

open field at Headly's Dairy. The young pilot suffered serious injuries, the girlfriend was killed, and the brother walked away with very minor injuries. The boy initially was charged with larceny of the plane and reckless flying. More serious charges were being considered.

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

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Continued from page 18.

Kingsbury's Orchard

years. At the time, peaches were not common to the area, but the trees flourished and had a distinctively sweet flavor. Gene refers to his great-grandfather, Phil as a "peach guru."

"Most people don't remember their great-grandfather," said Gene about Phil, "but I was really close with mine. He spent a lot of time with me."

Phil's granddaughter (Gene's mother), Peggy, and her husband, Roland Kingsbury, took charge of the farming operations in 1958 and ran both the dairy farm and orchard for over fifty years. Eventually, the dairy operations ceased, and the orchard became the full-time focus.

Today, Gene owns the farm, and his sister, Sue Ketron, helps with the market operations. Keeping up with the farm while maintaining a career with the Federal Aviation Administration was a dedicated endeavor that required a seven-day-per-week commitment and many lost vacations. "All the vacation time I had was spent at the farm for my entire career," said Gene. "I used all of my leave to keep the farm running."

Toward the end of Gene's FAA career, he focused on expanding operations at the orchard. "I had a five-year plan that would take me into retirement, but I moved too fast," said Gene, who decided he needed to retire and put all of his time into the farm which currently has about seven thousand trees.

Although spare time is scarce, Gene enjoys giving talks at area schools. "The students are really interested in making environmental improvements," said Gene, who serves as co-president of Montgomery Countryside Alliance and is committed to farming in an environmentally-friendly manner. Gene is also committed to preserving our area farmland and hopes that Kingsbury's Orchard will be part of the Agricultural Reserve's landscape for many generations to come.

To try out Gene's deliciously-sweet Kingsbury Pride, stop by soon before the inventory runs out as each variety ripens for only about ten days; however, peach season runs into the early weeks of September, and the first apples are already being harvested. There is an ample supply of peaches, apples, pears, and other delicious fruits to keep our palates satisfied for weeks to come.

Continued from page 3.

Poolesville's French Connection

Upon his capture, Hersberger was taken to Gestapo headquarters in Bayonne, France, for interrogation. Through the interrogation and torture, Davis Hersberger gave only his name, rank, and serial number. Hersberger told The Commercial Appeal (newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee) in 1994 that "the guy got so irritated that I wouldn't talk, he came from behind his desk and slapped me across the jaw. The next thing I knew was that I was on the floor." An enforcer was brought in, and Hersberger was beaten by cane until it finally broke. They then turned to a rubber hose and, finally, a nightstick in an effort to get him to talk.

"I don't know how long the beating lasted, but he must have gotten me in the head after all because the next thing I knew is that I woke up in a dark basement that had muddy puddles, a leak dripping from the ceiling, sharing a crowded cell on flea-infested straw pallets on the concrete."

For resistance leader Jean-Claude Moussat and his fellow fighters, it would not be until 1985 that they would finally have the chance to personally thank Davis Hersberger. Moussat met an American named Phillip Schnell who was in France because his daughter was a foreign

exchange student. After hearing about Hersberger from Moussat, Mr. Schnell took it upon himself to research the whereabouts of Davis Hersberger. When he discovered he was from Poolesville, Maryland he contacted town hall, which in turn put him into to contact with Charles Elgin, Sr. Mr. Elgin knew the Hersberger family well, and he informed Mr. Schnell that Norman was always known by his middle name, Davis. From this inquiry, Mr. Schnell was finally able to put Moussat and Hersberger in contact with one another.

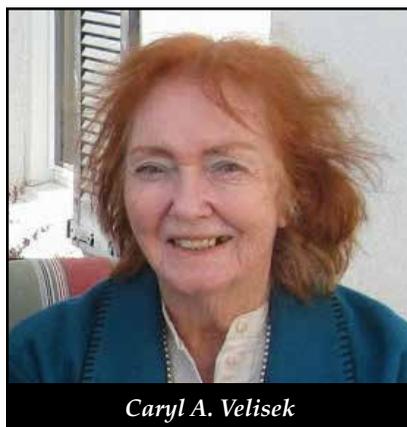
Moussat wrote Hersberger, "It was courageous to bear the torture of the Gestapo. Without your courageous silence, the members of our own group and network would have been captured and killed by the Gestapo." Hersberger wrote back to Moussat, "I am grateful for your aid in helping me attempt to escape to England. It's too bad it didn't work."

After World War II, Davis met and married Mary Eloise Shoaf from Covington, Tennessee where they resided and raised their two children. While Davis Hersberger passed away a few years ago, he remained very humble about his wartime experience, only saying during 50th anniversary ceremonies in 1994 that "the capture and refusal to talk were just part of his duties as a member of the U.S. armed forces."

Remembrance

Caryl A. Velisek

Caryl A. Velisek passed away peacefully on August 11 in Ballenger Creek Center after a long battle with cancer. She was born on April 8, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Rhoads High School. Through a mutual friend she met her life's love, Aldrich Velisek. They were wed February 2, 1950 and were devoted partners until Augie's death in 2001.



Caryl A. Velisek

Caryl was devoted to her church and God. She had been especially active for years in the Lisbon United Methodist Church, then when she moved to New Market, she was a member of the Mt. Prospect Methodist Church. In later years, she attended Buckeystown United Methodist church. She was at her happiest singing in the choirs, praising God with her angelic voice. In later years, she sang and played guitar with the Crestwood Village Folktime Strummers, a group that entertains at nursing homes in neighboring communities. She also was active in the Frederick Acoustic Music Enterprise group.

She was also very much devoted to agriculture and the promotion of its virtues. She wrote for the DelMarVa Farmer for many years both as a reporter and guest columnist. She wrote articles for various other ag publications. She served as secretary of the Pennsylvania and Maryland Angus Associations for many years and was a lifetime member of the American Angus Association. She also served on and was president of the Maryland Beef Council Board and was president of the Maryland Angus Women's Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents Emma (Stone) and Frank Masl. Caryl is survived by five children: Aldrich Velisek III (Susan) of Catonsville; Jamie Razga (Brian Barberie) of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania; Michael Velisek (Christine McWilliams) of New Market, Douglas Velisek (Pam) of Fairplay, Maryland and Peter Velisek of Keymar, Maryland; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Frederick County Hospice or the Maryland Angus Women's Club, c/o Donna Full, Treasurer 6211 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797.

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Dogs' Eyes May Have Evolved so Dogs Could Better Communicate with Humans

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

A newly-published study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by Kaminski and colleagues indicates that over the last 20,000 years, dogs' eyes—and specifically their eyebrows—have evolved to allow their faces to be more easily readable by humans.

It appears to be no accident that centuries of domestication of the dog has radically reshaped a dog's eyebrow anatomy, making their faces and emotions easily readable by their humans. The researchers studied the facial muscles of dogs and compared them to wolves. In every case (except for Huskies, that are a more ancient breed, closer to the wolf), the retractor anguli oculi lateralis muscle was larger and less variable in the domestic dog. This muscle is much smaller and less functional in the wolf. This muscle runs along the dog's eye's outer edge. When contracted, it exposes more of the white of the eye, making the dogs appear to have a sincere questioning or compassionate human-like expression when looking into their human's face.

The new study shows that significant morphological changes evolved as dogs and humans interacted over the past 20,000 to 30,000 years. Dogs that were able to increase the movement of this muscle and associated muscles likely had an advantage in their interactions with humans. Humans then very likely and unconsciously selected dogs that had this facial expression ability.

In past studies, the authors found dogs are uniquely skilled at understanding gestures from humans, interpreting them, and providing responses that humans approve of and enjoy. Many gestures from dogs outperform non-human primates' gestures such as chimps'. The most important impact the authors found was the movement of the dog's eyebrows upward and inward increasing of the whites of the eyes, giving the dog a concerned or empathic appearance. A companion study found that shelter dogs that had the greatest ability to manipulate their eyebrows were adopted the fastest. This supports the evolutionary idea that eyebrow changes gave some groups of dogs a distinct advantage when being considered to support human activity.

The authors are hoping to expand their study to a wider variety of dog breeds, including more ancient breeds and street dogs, to try to understand more precisely how and which aspects of dog's facial movements and muscle changes have evolved the dog and our interaction with them.

The next time you think your dog is training you, you are probably correct.

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