

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

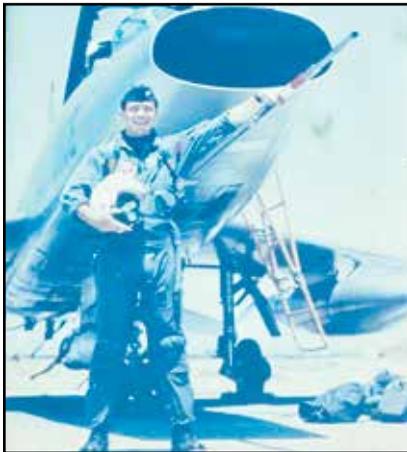
June 3, 2022 • Volume XVIII, Number 7



Cugini's Danny Glassier with a fellow brewski fan at the first SpringFest in two years. Pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Maggie Nightingale's granddaughter thanked everyone at the grand opening of the rejuvenated public library. Event pictures on page 3.



The surprising and inspirational story of why this pilot signed up for the air force in Meet Your Vet on page 5.



These girl scouts read the names of local military lost in combat. See more about this special Memorial Day event on page 12.

County Executive Candidates in Robust Forum At Town Hall

By Rande Davis

On May 22, the candidates for Montgomery County Council attended a public forum at Poolesville Town Hall sponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) and the Fair Access Committee (FAC). The public attendance filled the town hall with viewership available on Facebook. Most questions submitted came from the audience.

Link Hoewing moderated the event with questions offered for response about White's Ferry, the Agricultural Reserve, position on a bridge over the Potomac, ideas for economic growth for Poolesville, educational priorities, the role of Montgomery County Police (especially in schools), and more general concerns about the future of the county.

Each candidate was given time for an opening and closing statement, and each provided a response to each question on a rotational basis. If any candidate's name was mentioned in



Montgomery County executive candidates: Hans Riemer, David Blair, Peter James, Reardon Sullivan, and Marc Elrich.

another candidate's response, the named candidate was entitled to a response. This resulted in a robust, informative, and even entertaining forum with County Executive Marc Elrich the one who was named the most but also given more time to respond.

The highlights and key responses for each candidate follow in the order they sat at the forum.

Hans Riemer – Democrat, Current at-large county councilmember

His opening remarks promoted his experience as a current at-large county councilmember and as the Democratic Party's Rock the Vote initiative, President Obama's Youth Director, and considers himself to be a progressive

Continued on page 16.

First Ever State Tennis Title Caps PHS Postseason Efforts

By Jeff Stuart

On May 28 at the Class 2A State Championships at Wilde Lake Tennis Center in Columbia, the Poolesville High School tennis team captured three individual state titles en route to winning the first team state title in PHS history! Poolesville finished with fifty-eight points to C. Milton Wright's forty-eight. It capped off extraordinary seasons for both the boys' and girls' tennis teams.

In the girls' singles championship match, freshman Ruhika Bhat knocked off last year's state 3A runner-up, and in the boys' singles championship match, her brother Rohan Bhat, a senior, dominated the 2A defending state champion, 6-1, 6-0.

After splitting the first two games of the girls' doubles match Angie Zhao and Suzy Xu won eleven of the last



2022 State Champions!

twelve games to complete a 6-2, 6-0 victory. They completed an undefeated season. Each won Montgomery County singles titles, and together they won region and state doubles

titles, and in mixed doubles, Kyra McGlinchey and Varun Varun Das lost to the defending champions, 3-6, 1-6.

Continued on page 19.

Family Album



SpringFest 2022



Local News

Rural Women's Republican Club

Their \$3,500 scholarship for a vocational, trade school, or certification program, including a certification from a community college during the 2022-2023 academic year is intended for students attending Poolesville High School, Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Quince Orchard High School, Seneca High School, and Northwest High School. Students from these schools who are about to complete their senior year of high school, students already enrolled in a trade school, and non-traditional students under the age of 21 are eligible to apply. This year, Kylee Hockenbery was the recipient of the scholarship.



Scholarship recipient
Kylee Hockenbery.

The Friendly Thrift Shop

The Friendly Thrift Shop was pleased to present a \$2,000 college scholarship to three PHS graduating seniors: Dylan LeMarr, Abigail Antonishek, and Mitchell Woelfer.

2022 Poolesville Green

Poolesville Green awarded two \$500 Scholarships to Poolesville High School students. Their 2022 scholarships were

awarded to the best proposals for a community project or activity to increase environmental stewardship of students and town residents.

The recipients are Abigail Antonishek for her essay on Community Wide Composting and Mitchell Woelfer for his essay on Restoration of the High School Courtyards into Food Producing Spaces.

Continued on page 21.

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The Grand Reopening of the Maggie Nightingale Library



Nuray Anahtar, architect of the new library design, Commissioner Ed Reed, and Delegate Lily Qi.



Library branch manager Elizabeth Bowen (in purple) with library staff.



Commissioner Ed Reed, Commission President Jim Brown, County Executive Marc Elrich, Adam Sroka, Senator Brian Feldman, Commissioner Martin Radigan, Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo, Fair Access Committee chair Link Hoewing, Delegate Linda Foley, Commissioner Kerri Cook, and Delegate Lily Qi



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich with residents at the opening of the newly-renovated library.



The ribbon was cut for the grand reopening of the Maggie Nightingale Library in Poolesville.

Rande(m) Thoughts The Amazing Heroes Among Us

By Rande Davis

It has been two weeks of nearly nonstop community fellowship! Spring-fest was back, perhaps better than ever, then the celebration of the long-awaited reopening of our library, a good old-fashioned public forum of candidates, and a Memorial Day remembrance at Whalen Commons that motivated about fifty locals to honor those who perished in defense of our nation.

As a member of Poolesville's American Legion Post 247, I know I speak for all our local veterans as to how much we appreciate those who took the fifteen minutes to come out and join us in our solemn tribute to our lost brothers and sisters. It was a great day! For those too busy or unaware, you missed a profoundly interesting and thoughtful day. Our commander, Julien Singh, did a great job of planning the event. Maybe next year, just before you rush out to buy the hot dogs, hamburgers, and beer for your day-off-of-work party, you can join us.

We had our first female marine join us, in full dress uniform. Corporal Julia Raikova has served three years now, and the only thing missing was the amphibious tank she drives. If only we could get her to drive it in the Poolesville Day parade! Two young ladies, Eleanor Buckley and Cora Ivusic, read the list of local residents who did not return from their duty call. We were pleased to have two young men, Sam Schenck and Andrew Parsley, assist in the laying of the memorial wreath.

Navy vet, Jerry Klobukowski, told the story of how the poem "In Flanders Fields" originated and then read the moving tribute to the fallen. Commander Singh explained how Decoration Day became Memorial Day.

What made the day very special was the placement of four tribute banners to veterans from our Post 247. Two, Daniels and Jeffers, were namesakes of the post, another World War II vet was Charles Jamison. We also placed a banner for one of our contemporaries, Steve Gibson, who recently passed away, but one who served our post for many years. There will be more such tributes for our members, past and present, in the future.

This Memorial Day motivated us to initiate a brand-new column for the Monocle. We call it "Meet Your Vet." I am humbled and honored to serve as a fellow member in Poolesville's



Daniels-Jeffers Post 247 American Legion. While I had an honorable military experience, one which makes me extremely proud to be part of the only one percent of the general population who have worn the uniform of the U.S. Army, I want you to know we have quite a few real heroes among us. I will be telling the military story of many of them going forward. These are people you should know, about things they did for all of us, and you will be proud that they are part of our community.

Continued on page 7.

Local News

Friendly Thrift Shop Volunteers Honored at Luncheon

By Rande Davis

The volunteers that operate the Friendly Thrift Shop in Poolesville were treated to a luncheon on Sunday, May 1. The luncheon was held at Memorial United Methodist Church in Poolesville and about thirty of the forty-two volunteers were in attendance. Local business sponsors for this year's Volunteer Luncheon include Calleva, McDonald's, Jamison Real Estate, Gail Lee Homes, Poolesville Physical Therapy, Colony Supply Center, Poolesville Liberty, Deere Valley Farm, Don Hoffacker, Jim Brown, Village Beer and Wine, Poolesville Vet Clinic, Tom Kettler, Rebecca Munster Designs, Total Automotive and Diesel, Poolesville Nails,

Continued on page 17.



Volunteers Anne Beers, Joyce Hartman, Kathy Hanna, Judy McIntyre, and Sue Ennis.

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Meet Your Vet

Dr. Csaba Magassy— A Most Remarkable Veteran Living a Most Remarkable Life

By Rande Davis

At a recent Poolesville American Legion dinner, Dr. Csaba Magassy was asked to tell the group why he chose to join the U.S. Air Force. His answer literally stunned this group of veterans who well understand the call of patriotism but had heard nothing like his story before. It takes a lot to awe this group, but his answer did exactly that.



Dr. Csaba Magassy

As you will soon learn, there are certain things, in his words, “so deeply engraved in one’s memory that are never forgotten.”

While most make their decision to enlist in the military in their late teens, Dr. Magassy’s call came at a very early age. At six years old, this young Hungarian Catholic boy, along with his family, had been incarcerated in a Nazi concentration camp. His father, a medical doctor, had seemingly disappeared, but his mother learned he was on a train stalled near the Hungarian-Austrian border and managed to get her family to join him there.

The train ride of two hundred miles took two and half weeks to make since railroad lines during World War II, as military targets, were often disrupted. It was during one of those disruptions that young Csaba caught his first glimpse into his bold and harrowing future. It was in mid-December, in the middle of nowhere, only farmland, with heavy snows of winter all around, when an air raid alert sounded, the train stopped, and passengers were quickly removed. As the boy looked to the sky, what happened next is best told by him:

“A fighter plane came low overhead and strafed the cars, with splinters flying everywhere, and I distinctly remember the three white stripes on the left and right wing as the fighter plane pulled up and away, and as I looked on it, I thought to myself, ‘God, someday I really want to do that.’”

Eventually, the train made it to a railroad station about a mile and half from their final destination, the Osterode am Hartz concentration camp, made up of a mixture of ill workers, “undesirables, POWs, some Jews, etc. As they marched in the snow,” he recalled, “in the bitter cold, deep snow, the German guards kept butting people with their rifles along the way to keep them moving. The walk was uphill for about a mile and half. When we got there, the mattresses were nothing but straw and burlap.” He told of having survived the camp since the family was quite well off in Hungary and his mother had brought some jewelry and money which she used for bribing the guards just for staples of life like food and butter. “It was just like in Stalag 17.” At this point the German guards knew the war was lost, and the fact that his father was a medical doctor helped them as well.

The most impactful experience he would have that caused his decision to join the American military later in life was in early- to mid-April 1945. It was then that Patton’s Third Army came out of nowhere to arrive at the concentration camp in a long convoy of military vehicles. With such a beautiful sight, the camp prisoners watched as the convoy literally busted through the gates to the wild cheers and excitement expressed as only a newly-freed people could do. The joy was all around. “I will never forget the kindness of the soldiers of the Third Army. They got us so much food, hams and turkeys. It was my first experience eating spam, and I loved it, even though I cut my finger twisting the attached key to open the can.”

Since the family was quite prominent in Hungary, the father was inclined to return there; however, his mother, recalling the terrible stories of the Russian occupation, adamantly wanted to go to America. “We had heard all sorts of horror stories about what the Russians were doing during the occupation, so my mother said under no circumstance should we go back. She felt we must go to America.”

The family applied for a visa in 1946, and the family got their DP (displaced persons) number, the key to track their progress for coming to America. They

Continued on page 22.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Would you like to join activities that refresh your interest in exercising, socializing, and learn-ing new information? Visit the Poolesville Seniors website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to see their schedule of virtual programs, via Zoom, which are open to the entire community.

June 7

Mary Ann Jung Sally Ride

Blast off for adventure in person with award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar Mary Ann Jung performing as Dr. Sally Ride, America's first female astronaut. Learn about her 1983 journey and its challenges. In the game show portion, guess odd, surprising facts about life in zero gravity aboard the space shuttle. It's out-of-this-world fun. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church, Speer Hall.* 2:00 p.m.

June 9

Off the Beaten Path: Virginia Beach

Join Barbara Paulson for a virtual tour of coastal Virginia's Virginia Beach. Whether you are beach bums, art lovers, foodies, or military history buffs, Barbara will have the inside scoop on where to go and what to see. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

June 16

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Join Kenny and the Poolesville Seniors as we continue our exploration of the historic homes and properties in the Agricultural Reserve. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

June 20

PS Book Club

This month's selection is *Piransei* by Susanne Clark. A New York Times Best Seller, *Piransei* introduces an astonishing new world, an infinite labyrinth, and is full of startling images and surreal beauty, haunted by the tides and clouds. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

June 21

The Lost History of Potomac Marble

Join Paul Kreingold for a fascinating presentation on how local marble

quarries provided the materials that built our capital buildings and monuments after the destruction of Washington by the British in 1814. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary.* 7:00 p.m.

June 23

County Council, At-Large Candidate Forum

No evening Poolesville Seniors event due to forum. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Outdoor Pickle Ball. *Stevens Park.* 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virtual.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. Virtual. Class through June 30.

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Virtual.

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. For more information, email info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. Please register for each Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Virtual.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on YouTube. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

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Continued from page 4.

The Amazing Heroes among Us

We start in this issue with Dr. Csaba Magassy, a man who is known by most in the area as a renowned plastic surgeon or as a member of the Potomac Hunt Club. His remarkable story is the most profound story I have written in the eighteen years we have published the *Monocle*. Do not miss reading about his military experience. You will be glad you did, and I say to you, you are welcome in advance for the thanks you will have for following my suggestion. When you find out why he signed up for military service and how he came to choose the air force, it will make you proud to be an American.

As the banners and American flags wave from our telephone poles from now until the Fourth of July, try to remember in these most trying days that we are a united people, one nation, under God, while not perfect, still a nation whose purpose and goal is ensure liberty and justice for all.

Tidbits Extra

A New Baby for the Bays Family

Henri Bays was born to Matt and Alicia Bays (PHS class of 2006) in early May in Panama City, Florida.

He has two older brothers, Félix and Léon, who are thrilled to have another brother. Henri is the grandson of Mark and Dominique Agnew of Boyds and Roy and Gloria Bays of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.



Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things to Do?**

Then let us know!

Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Tidbits

Poolesville Piranhas: Over Four Decades' Contributing to the Well-Being of Our Kids

For over four decades, the Poolesville Piranhas Swim Team has competed as part of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL), and over that time, they have brought the enjoyment of swimming, the benefits of a team experience, promoted good sportsmanship, and inspired school-aged kids to get fit to thousands of our local children. Today, over 150 local swimmers participate, and your valued sponsorship as a business or individual can help in many ways.

Your financial support helps through a variety of social activities, including pep rallies, an ice cream party, team breakfasts, and it also helps feed the nearly-fifty volunteers it takes to make each meet happen.

Expand your business outreach and become a Poolesville Piranhas Swim Team sponsor:

Bronze Sponsor \$100: Your logo poolside, on the team website, in weekly team communications and swim meet mentions.

Silver Sponsors \$225: All the same benefits as Bronze plus team app and social media exposure, your website linked to the team's page, plus a thirty-second billboard announcement at home meets.

Gold Sponsors \$300: All the same benefits as Silver plus your logo will also appear in team communications, on all swim meet programs, and an additional thirty-second billboard announcement at all home meets.

The team's website includes all of that plus news, notes, results, and records. Check it all out www.poolesvilleswimteam.us. Contact Jeffrey McCloskey at 202-528-0057 or fundraising@poolesvilleswimteam.us.

American Legion Post 247 Honored by DAR

American Legion Post 247 Commander Julien Singh and Adjutant Annette Howard were honored at the Maryland Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference on May 12, an event sponsored by DAR Hungerford's Tavern Chapter.



Deputy Commander Annette Howard (second from left in red) and Commander Julien Singh (third from left) represented Post 247 at a luncheon where the Hungerford's Tavern Chapter of the DAR honored the local American Legion.

The Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890, is a nonprofit, non-political women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Membership is open to all women eighteen years and older who can prove lineal descent from an individual who supported the American Revolution.

Hungerford's Tavern Chapter, named for the site where Maryland patriots resolved to join the cause for independence in 1774, currently has a membership of forty-five women, primarily from the Upcounty communities of Poolesville, Barnesville, and Darnestown. The chapter supports veterans' organizations and active military personnel, historic preservation efforts, local family shelters, and food banks. Membership inquiries welcome: HTRegent@gmail.com.

Presenting Dr. Thomas Wolz!

Dr. Thomas Wolz recently graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and his residency will be in psychiatry at the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Thomas is the son of Pattie and Jon Wolz, and he

Continued on page 20.



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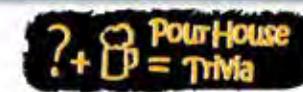


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Focus on Business

Poolesville: Mecca for Dreamers— American Dreamers, That Is

By Rande Davis

The foundation of Poolesville’s economy has always been its small businesses, and the heart of the small businesses has always been the entrepreneurial passion of the owners, what in the vernacular we most often call the American Dream.

Nichole and Ashar Abassi, the owners of the K2 Café, an American café with a Himalayan flair, opened their cafe just a little over a year ago on West Willard Road in the commercial center next to St. Peter’s Church. The Abassis’ joyous spirit of pursuing their heart’s passion distinguishes them right away.



Owners of K2 Café: Nichole and Ashar Abassi.

Nichole is from Jamestown, New York and teaches at Bayard Rustin Elementary School, while Ashar hails from Pakistan, and from there comes the inspiration for the name of the cafe. The K2 Mountain, part of the Karakorum Range in northern Pakistan near the country’s border with China, is the second highest mountain in the world but the hardest to climb. Just under four hundred people have successfully ascended to its summit; nearly one hundred perished while attempting the climb.

In choosing the name, they show they are individuals up to a challenge. When I suggested they just might be categorized as fearless, Nichole smilingly pointed out that it is not fearless but fearsome. As owners of a small business, they know about fear, it comes with the territory, but fear does not dissuade them from seeking their goals.

As a Montgomery County Public School teacher, it was Nichole who first suggested the family move to Poolesville from Reston, Virginia. Ashar’s only regret is that she didn’t make the suggestion before 2019. Like so many before them, they fell in love with the town from the beginning. Their two children, Zachi and Tobi, attend John Poole Middle School.

Ashar came to America for the economic opportunity in 1994, bringing with him his family values of a commitment to hard work that he gained from his father who, among other things, was a professional wrestler. “Working a job from nine to five, as I did as a medical technician with Kaiser Permanente, did not provide the creativity I desire and was too limited to reach my goals. You don’t really reach your goals working just within forty hours a week.” In the early days in America, he worked at many different food establishments in New Jersey and New York.

They chose Poolesville even before choosing the business. When the opportunity to own the café came along with the adjoining Poolesville Athletic Club, an exercise gym, it seemed like destiny to Ashar. He has been a member of athletic clubs throughout his adult life, so to have a chance to actually own one was like a dream come true within a dream come true.

This first year in Poolesville, the couple has chosen to focus on breakfast and lunch, featuring wraps, sandwiches, and salads. They also offer a soup du jour like tomato basil or New England clam chowder.

A special treat is K2 Curry Thursday, offered twice a month, and they hope to have it more often in the future. An example recently was their butter chicken

Continued on page 20.



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Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market February 2022

Zip Codes: 20837, 20838, 20834, 20941, 20942 and 20911	Units Sold	Active Inventory	Median Sale Price	Days On Market
	41	22	\$666,000	35



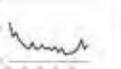
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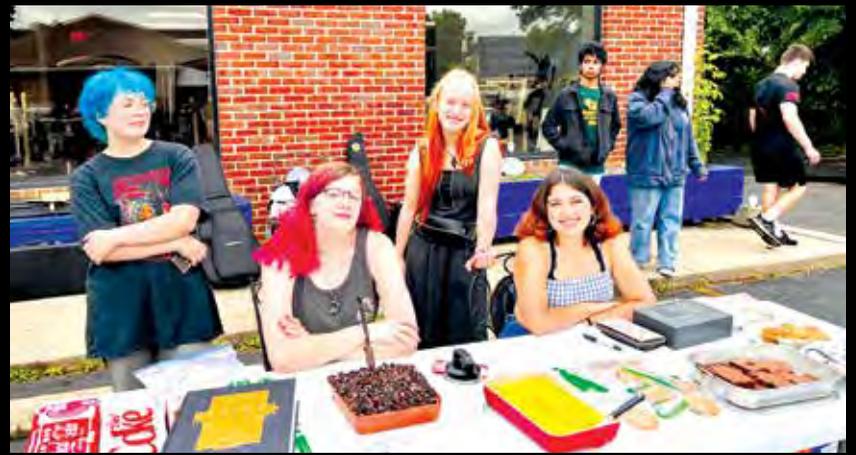


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PHS Students and Midnight Players Held an End-of-Year Performance

Students at Poolesville High School have formed a group of talented musical performers under the moniker: Poolesville Performance Café. They share their interest with each other and recently held a two-hour concert in the parking lot of K2 Café. John Butler, assistant administrator who, after thirty-five years of teaching is retiring this year, sponsors the group with teachers Dan McKenna and John Morrell. They also perform with the students in their band called: The Falconeers.



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Commander Julien Singh, Sam Schenck, and Poolesville's Parsley family assisted in the Memorial Day celebration.



Post 247 Commander Julien Singh with Jerry Klobukowski who read the poem "In Flanders Fields."



Frank Jamison with his grandsons, the great-grandsons of WWII veteran Charles Jamison.



Marine Corporal Julia Raikova, the first female marine from Poolesville, with her support group, her family.



Commander Julien Singh with Sam Schenck and Andrew Parsley. The students helped place the memorial wreath.



Honoring those who gave their all in war.

Corrections

In the *Remembrance for Jeanette Taylor* in our last issue, her picture was inadvertently not included. We wanted to correct that by printing her picture here as so many people knew this wonderful person by sight and not necessarily by name.

Also, in the *Remembrance for Frank Austin*, there appeared lines following his article that were erroneously printed. Mr. Austin's remembrance should have ended with the request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, PO Box 67, Barnesville, MD 20838.



Jeanette Nichelle Taylor

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Cross Country Win State, Daisy Dastrup First in Girls' Race

By Jeff Stuart

[Editor's note: This article did not run in the fall as it should have for which we apologize. We print it in this issue with our heartfelt congratulations!]

They ran in the cold and the heat; they ran on trails and on the streets, and on November 13 at Hereford High School, the Poolesville High School boys' cross country team conquered their opponents and the infamous dip on the Hereford High School Course to claim the 2021 State Championship. Sophomore Daisy Dastrup finished first in the girls' race. She also finished first in the region at Liberty High School the week before. The girls finished third as a team.

Seven boys and seven girls ran for Poolesville in the state event.

The boys scored a low total of thirty-nine points to Liberty's second place 102 after winning the region at Liberty the week before.



Anna Spiliotopoulos, Natalia Palacios Vazquez, Angelina Kolomiets, Ava Wagner, Abigail King, Caroline Simons, Sam Forcey, Daisy Dastrup, Sean Groeninger, Jeremy Epstein, Danny Ponciano, Dylan Derewonko, Ian Boehm, Kevin Hsu, Caleb Dastrup, Billy Beane, Aaron Longbrake, and Flynn Barger.

Junior William Beane's third place was the highest finish on the boys' side. Junior Caleb Dastrup finished fifth. Sophomore Dylan Derewonko finished seventh. Junior Aaron Longbrake placed tenth, senior Daniel Ponciano nineteenth, junior Ian Boehm twenty-fifth, and junior Kevin Hsu was twenty-eighth.

The girls finished behind host Hereford and Liberty. In addition to Dastrup's first place, junior Anna Bodmer finished eleventh.

"We had a really good season," said coach Prasad Gerard, at a practice before the state championship. He had felt the boys would be strong contenders for the region and state titles. "The kids really came along strong. They looked good from the beginning, actually. Some of the girls really moved ahead during the season, helping to put us among the top teams in 2A.

"The girls won the division. We lost to Einstein on the boys' side and finished second. On the boys' side, Danny Ponciano came back. He has been a real asset to the team. He had an injury last year, but he has healed up. Daisy Dastrup is

Continued on page 21

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19th Street Band 8 - 10 pm

JUNE 17 – BARK IN THE PARK
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Cutest Dog Contest - 7 pm
Dog Musical Chairs - 8 pm

JULY 15 – WET, WACKY & WILD
Waterslides * DJ * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors
Foam Dance Party
Movie: Luca - 8:30 pm

JULY 29 – WINE DOWN IN THE PARK
Inflatables * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors * Wine Garden
Music: Hi Moon Band 6-8
Patrick Budd & the Starwood Flyers 8 - 10 pm

AUGUST 5 – GAME NIGHT ON THE COMMONS
Inflatables * DJ * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors
Games Galore
Movie: Jumanji - Welcome to the Jungle - 8:30 pm

AUGUST 26 – FIESTA IN THE PARK
Inflatables * DJ * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors
Movie: Encanto - 8:30 pm

Continued from page 1.

County Executive Candidates in Robust Forum at Town Hall

policy work on issues ranging from free afterschool programs to reforming policing in the county.

He states he will work to make our county a national leader in job growth, climate policy, police reform, transportation infrastructure, and more. Key quote: "With our economy slowing amid an unprecedented crisis, Montgomery County deserves the best," and he believes he understands "how to make government work for all of us for more jobs and to blunt the terrible trajectory of the county."

David Blair

He is a Montgomery County native, went to school here, and started and grew a business here. He has been active in the county's business, civic, and nonprofit communities for decades—devoted to making the county a better place. He hopes to establish a strong collaborative leadership style empowering local community leaders and to foster financial discipline and transparency when spending taxpayer dollars. His plan for a vibrant economy is to invest in local businesses and to promote our community's potential for growth within the private sector.

Peter James

James said he is running for county executive because Montgomery County is not using technology well enough in areas such as traffic congestion, and we need better planning for housing.

James said he has proposed a personal rapid transit system, akin to the system seen in Morgantown, West Virginia, that connects West Virginia University to downtown Morgantown.

A personal rapid transit system consists of pod-like driverless cars that drive themselves, usually on an elevated track or similar apparatus, to take commuters from one point to another. They run on their own tracks and have been built in Morgantown and at Heathrow Airport in London.

He believes that residents should decide how much development, if any, should be allowed in the Agricultural Reserve, but he said it's good to "put it on the table."

There are negative environmental effects from farming in the reserve, and he believes that current levels of water use by some industrial farming operations in the reserve are excessive, and "we to might be better off with housing."

Marc Elrich, Current County Executive

He pointed to his thirty-four years of experience working with the people and leadership of Poolesville going back to his days in the Maryland Municipal League. He highlighted his consistent and proven support for the protection of the Agricultural Reserve, and his innovative leadership in establishing the winery and wine crush at the Poolesville Golf Course, especially the benefit to Poolesville in job creation and support of local businesses through its role in strengthening agri-tourism. He also reiterated his extensive support of Montgomery County farmers. He wants to find ways for local farm produce and livestock to be purchased more locally, cutting down on transportation costs and helping farmers to reach local markets, like public schools, more effectively.

He is running for re-election to "move our county toward being more equitable, more environmentally minded, more responsive to residents, more conscious about promoting economic development, and more focused on maintaining and enhancing our quality of life." Mr. Elrich noted his support by listening to the community leaders for a new school and supports the building of new gym, including a community center with the facility.

Reardon "Sully" Sullivan

He told of his accomplishment as senior executive, founder, and CEO of a Rockville based consulting firm for twenty-five years. He is a lifelong county resident, a Montgomery County school graduate with an engineering degree from the University of Maryland. He is a professional engineer, LEED accredited professional, and musician.

He is running to improve the county's public safety and to blunt increasing crime rates, and he adamantly beats back a drum to defund the police, pointing out a worrisome drop in police morale with early retirements and resignations on the rise. He is the only candidate stating that he supports the return of School Resource Officers (SRO) in school.

In praising the county's educational accomplishments, especially in Poolesville, he said that there remains many serious shortcomings, with one school in the county having a graduating class with only three percent proficiency in math, as

an example of needed areas of improvement. He spoke against the teaching of critical race theory as being narrow history and unnecessarily divisive to race relations. He opened his remarks with support of the opening of White's Ferry, adding a willingness to include financial support from the county to assist them in finding a solution.

Special Note: Candidate responses to White's Ferry concern:

Elrich: Said that the Virginia-side owners as being "pretty close to impossible to deal with," concern over Loudoun County Board of Supervisors fear of eminent domain. "We are willing to contribute monetarily to help open the ferry. The Maryland side owner has made reasonable offers, and we may have to seek more Federal money to help solve the problem."

James: Proposed his rapid transit system instead as the solution to the problem with the ferry and promoted his system as a replacement and better solution to the ferry and a bridge over the Potomac.

Blair: Plans to fight for the ferry, and believes the key is to get everyone together to seek a true win-win with a creative solution.

Riemer: Believes we must get it open, and as county executive he will put more pressure on Loudoun County.

Sullivan: He opened his remarks with support of the opening of White's Ferry, showing a willingness to include financial support from the county to assist in finding a solution.

The complete forum is available at the Town of Poolesville website by clicking on Public Meetings.



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Things to Do

Riverworks Art Center Gallery exhibition featuring the work of Sydney Therriault. Located at gallery in Beallsville and at Locals Restaurant. Exhibit runs from May 1 to September.

June 4

Huge Annual Yard Sale

Furniture, kids' toys, housewares, clothing, and lots more. *Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 11900 Darnestown Road.* 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lions Shredding Event

Bring your paper shredding problems to the parking lot of *St. Peter's Church.* 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Grand Opening of Poolesville Farmers' Market

Vendors of produce, meats, crafts, gifts, jewelry, etc. *Whalen Commons.* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

June 6

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Poolesville High School

There will be a number of elected representatives, members of the MCPS Board of Education, and the superintendent, Dr. McKnight, in attendance. 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

June 10 and 11

St Peter's Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Household items, clothing, and many other items. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Continued from page 4.

Friendly Thrift Shop Volunteers Honored at Luncheon

Poolesville Tire and Auto, Kristopher's, Anytime Fitness, Poolesville Hardware, Tractor Supply, K-2 Café, Shear Elegance, Dollar General, and Subway.

Board President Jackie Adema thanked all the volunteers, which included cashiers, sorters, and floor workers, that staff the store, as well as those that help behind the scenes with finances, marketing, repairs, cleaning, and more. Treasurer Anne Beers reported how much sales had improved since moving to the new store at 17710 Elgin Road in April of 2021. The volunteers expressed their appreciation to the board of directors for their hard work and leadership.

A 501(c)3 entity, the Friendly Thrift Shop accepts and sells to the public donations of gently-used clothing, baby and household items, and books. Proceeds fund three \$2,000 college scholarships for area high school seniors and go to support WUMCO (Western Upper Montgomery County Help). Other charities supported include the Frederick Rescue Mission, the Gabriel Project, and Truth and Hope. The Friendly Thrift Shop also gives back to the eleven area churches that provide our all-volunteer staff.

You can find the hours of operation of the Friendly Thrift Shop on Facebook and Google, as well as the list of items that can and cannot be accepted. If you have additional questions, you can reach the store during operating hours at 240-220-0629.

June 11

Friday on the Commons: Red, White, and Brews

Inflatables, food trucks, artisan vendors. Beer tent featuring Manor Hill, Land-made, and True Respite Brewery, with assorted wines. Music by Michael Heister (under the tent) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the 19th Street Band from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

UMCVFD Pulled Pork and Beef BBQ

Sandwiches, platters, cole slaw, and baked beans. *Fire Hall, Beallsville.* 11:00 a.m. until sold out.

June 15

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

June 16

PACC Happy Hour and Network Event

To include ribbon-cutting ceremony at Bassett's restaurant at 6:00 p.m. Networking continues to 8:00 p.m.

June 17

Friday on the Commons: Bark in the Park

Inflatables, DJ, food trucks, artisan vendors. Featuring dog and cat rescue groups. Cutest Dog Contest at 7:00 p.m.; Dog Musical Chairs at 8:00 p.m.

June 23

County Council At-Large Candidate Forum

Cosponsored by PACC and the Fair Access Committee. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



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Youth Sports

4x1600 Relay Record Highlights Falcon Outdoor Track Season

By Jeff Stuart

It is no surprise that a successful cross country season in the fall translates to a successful performance by distance runners during the outdoor track season in the spring. This year, one race in particular stood out.

"The highlight of the season for me," said senior Daniel Ponciano, at practice the day before the county championships, "was the 4x1600 at the Woodward Relays at Georgetown Prep on April 9. We came in second, but we set the school record in that event at 18:59.32. My teammates William Beane, Aaron Longbrake, and Caleb Dastrup were by my side that day. I also want to give a shout out to another senior Sean Groeninger who encouraged me to try new events like the 400 and 800. That helped my speed and helped me improve in other events."

Daniel set a personal record (PR) in the 800 on May 11 at the county championships

"I want to give a shout out to all my 4x1600 relay teammates," said Longbrake. "Winning the state championship in cross country last fall was so much fun. It was the happiest I have felt ever. All my teammates were around me. Everyone was celebrating—boys and girls—but setting the record this race was also a great feeling."

Aaron set new PRs in the 1600 and 3200 at the county championships, finishing twelfth and tenth respectively. He finished first in the 3200 at the Katie Jenkins Invitational on May 7 at Sherwood High School

Beane, a junior, finished second in that event. Longbrake and Beane and Caleb Dastrup all came close to finishing under ten minutes. Caleb finished under ten minutes with a time of 9:56.21, finishing tenth at the county championship.

"We also have three guys getting close to breaking 4:40 in the 1600," said coach Prasad Gerard. "Sean, Aaron, and Billy, and we have some high jumpers trying to get over 5'6". Declan B. O'Brien is a junior, but this is his first year doing the high jump. He is doing really well, and Gabby Orns is doing really well in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles. Sophomore Marco F. Torres is coming along in the hurdles. Harrison Peek is doing really great, amazing, in the 300 hurdles and the 110 high hurdles. The girls' 4x1600 relay team also finished second at the Woodward Relays: Anna Bodmer, senior Caroline A. Simons, sophomore Natalia Palacios Vazquez, and Daisy Dastrup. That was a really big achievement for both teams."

"I was out for the majority of meets," said O'Brien, "because I had a fractured finger and wasn't able to jump, but as soon as I got out there, I was pleasantly surprised I was able to beat the competition. I took first place in the Katie Jenkins Invitational on May 7 at Sherwood. I want to say thank you to Brady Cournoyer and Devin M. Galentine, both sophomores, for helping get back into the rhythm of high jumping after not having done it for a year."

Declan jumped 5'6" on April 21, finishing first in a dual meet with Damascus and Clarksburg.

"I set a PR time of 16.60 seconds in the 110 hurdles at the Katie Jenkins," said Peek, "which is really good considering this is my first full season competing in track...The Katie Jenkins was one of our best meets. It was really cold and wet. It was the day after the prom, but everyone was still able to do well and win their events."

Harrison bettered his PR at the county meet, finishing seventh with a time of 16.31. He also set a PR in the 300 hurdles at that meet, placing tenth. Torres also set a PR, finishing twelfth in the 300 hurdles.

"Definitely my highlight was the Seneca Valley Screaming Eagles Invitational on March 26," said sophomore Gabby Orns. "I took first in my heat in the 100-meter hurdles. I think our best team meets were the dual meets. Our long-distance teams do really well against those other teams. I want to give a shout out to Coach Tom Hoeger. He taught me a lot of tips and tricks to help me running hurdles. He helped me improve a lot. Gabby set PRs in both the 100 and 300 hurdles at the county championships." Gabby set a PR in both the 100 and 300 hurdles at the county championship, finishing fourth in the 100 and sixth in the 300.

"My best performance was in the 1500 at the Talley Zimmerman Meet in Walkersville," said Daisy Dastrup. "First time I had ever run that distance. Usually, it is 1600 meters. It was one of my best times, even adjusted to 1600."

"I run a lot of miles and 3200 races," said Anna Bodmer. "I set a personal best in the mile; it was in a dual meet at Clarksburg and in the 3200 in a dual meet at



Sean Groeninger, Jace Welsh, Danny Ponciano, Jolie Quiroa, Charity Knudson, and Caroline Simons.

Northwest. My favorite meet was the Screaming Eagles Invitational at Seneca Valley where I finished first in the 3200. That was fun. I like the invitational meets where we run against a lot of different people."

Daisy finished seventh in the 1600 at the county championship and Anna set a PR, finishing eighth. Dastrup finished fifth in the 3200, and Simons finished seventh. Both set new PRs. At the region championship, Bodmer finished second in the 3200, and Dastrup finished third. Simons was fifth at Oakdale on May 17.

The boys' 4x800 relay (Beane, sophomore Dylan Derewonko, Groeninger, and junior Ian Boehm) finished ninth at the county championship. The girls' 4x800 also finished ninth (Bodmer, sophomore Ava Wagner, Dastrup, and junior Peri Nelson).

Senior Charity Knudson set PRs in the 800, 1600, and 3200 at dual meets, finishing third against Watkins Mill. Senior Jolie Quiroa set PRs in the 400, 800, and 1600, finishing fourth against Watkins Mill. Senior Jace Welsh finished second in the long jump at Watkins Mill with a season record.



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Continued from page 1.

First Ever State Tennis Title Caps PHS Postseason Efforts

Earlier, on May 20, both the boys' and the girls' teams claimed region titles led by the Bhat brother and sister team, who claimed singles titles.

The PHS boys' tennis team previously finished up their regular season competition against division opponents at Northwest on May 2, completing a match that was interrupted by rain on March 29. They beat the Jaguars, 7-0, finishing the season with an 8-3 record.



PHS 2022 State Champions Tennis Team!

"Our second match of the season was against B-CC, a Division I school," said senior first singles player Rohan Bhat at warmup before finishing the Northwest match, "so they are very good. It was a huge win for us. We did it on their court too. It was in really tough conditions. It was really windy and cold, but we battled through in all of our matches and got the W. I was able to win my match, 6-2, 7-5. It was a very competitive match. I knew their number one, Jax Khademi. He is a pretty cool dude. I was happy to get the win... Against Quince Orchard, unfortunately, we were really shorthanded. We lost, but everyone played really well. It was really one of the best matches of the season. Senior Ziiyan Ahmed, one of our captains along with senior Robert Xu, has done a great job of organizing everything for the team and holding our team together. He brings energy every day. As a senior, winning our division in my freshman year for the first time in our school's history was a highlight for me. I think our prospects going into the playoffs are really good. We have a very deep team. Our singles are very competitive. Our doubles teams are led by our captains. Our alternates play very well."

"We have only lost one game in our division," said Xu, a first doubles player, "and that was last Saturday against QO. We did not have a full team for that game... The season highlight for me is probably the team dinners we have after our games, the team bonding experience. I think our best match was against B-CC because we were very competitive. It was sort of like a rivalry. All the new freshmen on the team have been opening up as the season went on. They are talking a lot more. The highlight for me personally me in the four years I have been here? It would have to be winning the states. Last year, my first doubles partner, Jeeva Padmanabhan (sophomore) and I won the states—and we are back."

"There have been a lot of close matches," said Padmanabhan. "We won most of them. My best match was against Northwest. It was close. It went three sets. Lost the first set but came back and won it."

"It's been good because all of us have been improving," said Ziiyan, second doubles player. "I think the Quince Orchard match was our best. Even though we lost at the last minute, all the guys gave it a hundred percent. We made a really close fight. Everyone fought to the last point. That was good to see. Some of us got bumped up because several players couldn't make it. The B-CC match was the second one of the season. We ended up winning 5-2. We beat a Division I school. It was windy and it was really cold, but our guys fought through that and gave it their best. Having Rohan back this year is great...and some of our alternates like sophomores Amoson Shu and Michael Figliozzi have made immense progress since the start of the season. They have shown good sportsmanship. They have shown great character, and when some of our players weren't here, they filled in and gave it their best. To be able to have that kind of strength on the bench has been great. My second doubles partner senior Akash Raghu and I were undefeated except for the match against QO."

Junior Jae Yi is second singles. Senior Varun Das is third singles, and senior Nikhil Narayan is at fourth singles.

Other alternates are junior Michael Esser and senior Phillip Huang.



Celebrate —the— Weekend



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Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

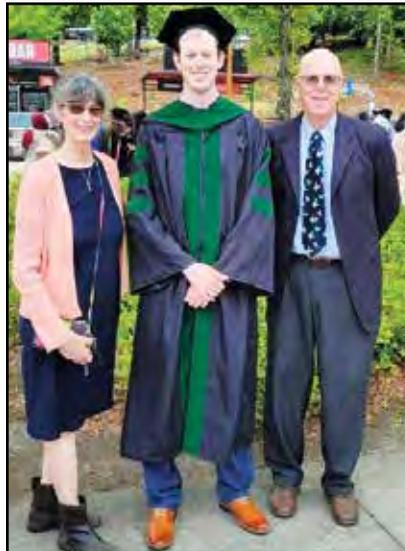
was a 2013 graduate of Poolesville High School where he was in the Science, Math, and Computer Science magnet program. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017 with a degree in neuroscience. Thomas's tenth great-grandfather was Dr. Thomas Wynne, the personal physician of William Penn in the Province of Pennsylvania. Wynne was one of the original settlers of Philadelphia and accompanied Penn on their trip across the Atlantic Ocean in 1682 from England.

Plow and Stars Farm Awarded Special Grant

Poolesville's Plow and Stars Farm has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from Food Animal Concern Trust (FACT). They will use the award to purchase seed, fencing, and other infrastructure to convert twenty acres of row cropland into rotationally-grazed pasture. The project will expand and improve pasture for sheep and poultry production, while also providing natural habitat for grassland birds and insects.

A grant from FACT is designed to expand humane farming and increase pasture-based livestock production. "We are pleased to team up with Plow and Stars Farm to improve animal welfare this year," said Larissa McKenna, FACT's Humane Farming Program Director. "We believe that partnering with—and investing in—humane farmers is one of the best ways to make a difference in the lives of food-producing animals."

The grant to Poolesville's Plow and Stars Farm, residents of upper Montgomery County and Southern Frederick County, will provide the surrounding community with access to healthy, humanely-raised food options for their families.



Congratulations to Thomas Wolz upon his graduation from medical school. Dr. Wolz is flanked by his parents, Patricia and Jon Wolz.

Continued from page 9.

Poolesville: Mecca for Dreamers—American Dreamers, That Is

with rice along with a vegan selection of potatoes and pea curry with naan. Nichole learned to cook with a Himalayan flair from her mother-in-law. "She would come over, and we would cook together, following their family's favorite recipes and selections." If you haven't tried their fresh, crisp K2 Salad, be sure to do so. This salad features their special K2 tandoori marinated chicken and signature yogurt mint chutney dressing. Their locally-roasted coffee, The Rustic Route Coffee, Co. from Barnesville, distinguishes their coffee and lattes from anything else in the area.

While they bake many of their selections, like baklava, they also like to select from the signature offerings of local and region bakers. It's your chance to get a taste of some of the finest offerings from independent bakers from throughout the area all in one location.

Their Poolesville Athletic Club offers an intimate venue for healthy exercise which also has a large exercise room next door to handle various health and exercise classes for variety groups like seniors and others. The club does not require lengthy enrollment contracts; one may join on a month-to-month basis. They also offer personal trainers.

The café has also found a niche as a refreshment stop for weekend bikers and has been active in supporting Poolesville High School students in various ways, including as a hosting venue for the school's drama club, The Midnight Players. (See School News this issue.)

They plan to expand their Himalayan offerings, like their popular Jelabi, a swirl of sweetness, in the future, but the key to their success goes beyond their food. It is the warm, friendly, and welcoming ambience as a place to simply relax with a coffee, pastry, or meal.

Like in the Seinfeld Pakistani restaurant episodes, to meet Asher (and Nichole) is to like and root for them instantly. Be sure to stop in soon.

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Remembrances

Gottras A. Wise

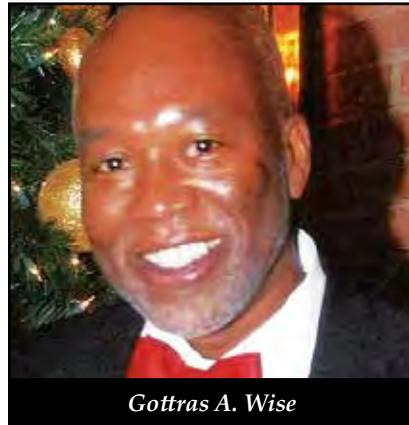
Gottras A. Wise, 70, of Poolesville, passed away on May 21, 2022.

Gottras was the loving husband of Carrie Eskridge-Wise.

Born on July 4, 1951 in Arkansas, he was the son of Gottras Lee and Beulah Lee (Hill) Wise.

Besides his wife Carrie, Gottras was survived by his children, Tonja Orso, Dexter Wise, and Shanay Wise; brothers, Jyrl Wise, Garland Wise, and Joseph Thorne; sisters, Lenora Wise and Mary Thorne; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville.



Gottras A. Wise

Leonard "Stu" Dale Stuart

Leonard "Stu" Dale Stuart, 86, of Boyds, passed away peacefully at his home on May 9, 2022.

Stu was the loving husband of Helga E. Solomon for thirty years.

Born on March 7, 1936 in Iowa, he was the son of the late Raymond J. and Gladys (Hutt) Stuart.

Besides his wife, Stu was survived by two beloved stepsons, Steven Solomon (Robin) and Mark Solomon (Janet); two children from his first wife, his daughter Suzanne Stevens (Pat) and his son Charles Stuart (Kathy); eight grandchildren, Hannah, Emma, Delaney, Riley, Jessica, Stephanie, Charlotte, and Olivia; and numerous nephews and nieces in Iowa.

Stu was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Stuart.

In his younger days, Stu served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and he worked for thirty years at the National Institutes of Health Animal Center research facility in Poolesville before retiring. In his retirement, Stu loved spending time with his grandchildren and being outdoors.



Continued from page 3.

Local News

Monocacy Lions Club

The Monocacy Lions Club awarded the Lions Club Earl Shreve Award to Aidan Dacanay and the Monocacy Lions Club Award to Dylan Lemarr.

Aidan is going to study Engineering at California Polytechnical State University, and Dylan will be closer to home at Montgomery College.

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Continued from page 15.

PHS Boys' Cross Country Win State, Daisy Dastrup First in Girls' Race

our fastest individual runner. She is the fastest girl on the team. She is the fastest ranked in the 3A states."

"Probably a highlight for me was the Oatlands Invitational on September 11 at the Oatlands Plantation in Virginia," said Daisy. "I did a lot better at that particular meet than I expected. I got thirteenth place. That's a pretty big meet. I also got my personal best time at that meet. Our girls won the division. That was really fun. We have a pretty strong team. Actually, we are pretty strong on the boys' and girls' side. The biggest meet for us was the Damascus team. They had a strong team as well, but we did well in that meet at Damascus. We took five of the first seven places and seven of the first eleven. Caroline Simons was fourth. She was very welcoming to me when I was a freshman. We have become pretty good friends."

The boys took six of the first seven places at Damascus on September 28.

"At the regional, we all started out pretty fast," said Caleb. "We had four guys finish in the top fifteen. Obviously, we ran a very strong race. I took third in that race and set a personal best. It was one of my best races. We won a lot of invitational races like the Bull Run at Hereford on September 11 and the Frank Keyser at Boonsboro on October 9. It has really been a team effort. We have several strong runners."

"A personal highlight for me was last Thursday at the regional meet," said Beane. "I started out really strong. I don't usually. I sort of catch up slowly, but I was at the front. I ran really well, a personal best, and we won regionals by a lot. That felt really good. It was probably the best weather we have had. We had not run a 5K in over a month. It was actually cool for once. There were some clouds. It wasn't sunny. That helped. It felt good just to run in cooler weather."

"I had a pretty good season," said Derewonko. "I just enjoyed practicing with the team. Seems like we had great success in every race we had. I can't really say I was attracted to racing as a kid. I didn't love the sport, but I am really good at it, so the motivation to me was seeing the results. I am good at it, so maybe I should stick with it and see where it takes me. We did great at the regionals. I personally did well at the Georgetown Prep Invitational on September 25. I finished second. We won that meet as a team."



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Continued from page 5.

Dr. Csaba Magassy—A Most Remarkable Veteran Living a Most Remarkable Life

knew it would take years. "In order to get approved to come to the USA back then, we needed a health certificate for each member of the family, x-rays, TB test, guarantee that dad would have a job to prove we would not be a burden on society. My dad was a doctor, so he did receive acceptance as an intern in a hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Travel through Europe right after World War II was nearly impossible, but a Dutch colonel in 1947 helped them get boat passage to the Canary Islands, off the coast of Africa, where his maternal uncle, a world-renowned dermatologist, specializing in leprosy, lived.

After three years of waiting and checking on their visa status with no luck, the family decided to move to Argentina. While there, Csaba attended a Jesuit prep school, where classes went from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

The head of his prep school was good friends with the president at Creighton University, a private Jesuit college in Omaha, Nebraska. The young student was accepted. When discovered that his scheduled curriculum left many extra hours during the day, unlike his experience in prep school, he requested permission to take even more classes. Skeptical at first, they granted his wish, and he eventually went on to graduate in two and half years with majors in biology, chemistry, and a minor in philosophy, totaling 134 credits.

He then went on to Creighton Medical School.

It was near the end of his studies in medical school in 1962 that he went to Offutt Air Force Base where he was to finally make the decision so dear to his heart. While there, he told them of his desire to join the air force. By happenstance, General Curtis LeMay, with a big chomping cigar, came by and, when told of this young medical student's, desire to join, Csaba recalled, "LeMay put his arm around me and said, 'You do?' 'Yes, sir, I want to learn to fly.' He replied, 'Lieutenant, take him up to a trainer today.'"

He spent eight years in the air force, stationed at various locations like Randall AFB in San Antonio, Luke AFB in Phoenix, Arizona, and with the 3rd First Fighter wing in Homestead, Florida. It was during the Cold War, and he had overseas

posts in Japan (concern with North Korea and China) and in Turkey (concern with Russia). Dr. Magassy logged six thousand hours of flying time in F100 fighters, serving in Japan and Turkey. "My final two years, I was with the Thunderbirds, the famous precision demonstration flying group as a spare pilot and flight physician/surgeon."

He went on to surgical training at George Washington and University Southern California for plastic surgery, setting up a renowned practice in McLean, Virginia before settling on his equestrian farm near Poolesville. A longtime member of the Potomac Hunt Club, Dr. Magassy has three adult children and one grandchild. As remarkable as all of this is, this is not the end of his story.

He had one last harrowing experience to survive. It was a few years ago, at age 79, as he was flying his Cessna from Montgomery Air Park to reach a patient in West Virginia when the engines completely stalled in flight. As air traffic control tried desperately to guide him to the closest airport, he made some critical decisions based on many years of flying and from the basic instinct to survive, first learned as a prisoner in a concentration camp.

While being unable to restart the engines, he made a vertical drop through the snow clouds from eight thousand feet to about three hundred feet to get a visible lay of the land. He spotted a seemingly suitable field, guided the plane between two trees to shear off both wings simultaneously, causing a rapid decrease in speed. It served him like landing on an aircraft carrier being stopped by the tailhook. He dropped his landing gear and opened the pilot's door to make sure he would not get trapped inside upon crash landing. When the plane came to a halt, in a split second, he jumped from the plane, and in only a very few minutes, the state troopers were on site, having already been notified to expect a fatal crash landing.

What he did not see or plan for was an electrical wire that caused the plane to burst into flames once on the ground, leaving only a small section of the tail wings and nose intact. All else became cinders.

This remarkable veteran lives a most remarkable life to this day, and we hope he will be able to share even more stories as we encourage him to write the book he is planning to write. He is a proud father, grandfather, and he loves America, he loves the air force, loves being a member of Poolesville's American Legion, and still loves spam.

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Hurricanes Are Once Again on the Agenda— How to Keep Your Pets Safe

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Hurricane season is here once again, as the climate shifts due to multiple human and cyclical reasons. Hurricane forecasters are increasingly concerned that bigger and longer-duration hurricanes are likely. This year, estimates are for 23 named storms, with several being Category 3 or greater, so let's be prepared to evacuate our furry friends if a hurricane comes this way.

While we cannot predict the weather, we can make sure to be prepared for all scenarios should a storm threaten. Pet's owners should make sure they have all the supplies they need to shelter in place at home or to evacuate, with all pets in tow, if needed. Before Hurricane Katrina, FEMA had developed no formal evacuation plan for residents with pets, and as many as 104,000 pets were left behind. Many people also chose not to evacuate because they refused to leave without their pets.

People and their pets can now get to safety together, as policies have been put into place so that pet owners have assistance, and everyone can leave the area, including the pets.

Two quick things to do so you are ready for the worst:

1. Have a supply of your pet's food (especially prescription diets) and plenty of bottled drinking water. Don't forget the food dishes. Keep food in an airtight, waterproof container.
2. If sheltering in place, know that veterinary clinics, stores, and roads may be closed for an extended period of time after the storm, so have medications for you and your pets as well as support supplies (trash bags, extra cat litter, harnesses, sturdy leashes, and carriers) that will allow you to stay safe in your home.

Here is a general checklist to consider when preparing to evacuate:

1. Have your pets up-to-date on vaccines, and keep copies of their medical records available in a waterproof container. Emergency boarding will require proof of immunization before accepting pets.
2. Once a storm cone is within 24 hours of your home, it may be too late, so make an appointment with your veterinarian to get those vaccinations and copies of any needed records.
3. Place copies of the pet's picture, microchip information, registration, adoption papers, vaccination documents, medical records, and any other relevant records in a clear plastic bag or waterproof container.
4. Microchipping your furry pals is a permanent form of identification that can be vital in reuniting with your pet if it gets lost or separated from you.
5. An ID tag with up-to-date contact information is the quickest way to identify the owner of a lost dog. Be sure the collar and the tags are secure and not damaged.
6. Identify a few pet-friendly accommodation options that are 50 to 100 miles outside the hurricane's path.
7. Even if your pet isn't currently taking all the medications you have on hand, bring them all anyway. If you end up being gone for an extended period, it is much easier to have these items with you than trying to find a vet who will fill a prescription or sell a medication to someone who isn't their patient, without an exam. Keep an extra supply of pet medicines in a waterproof container. Just bring it all, everything you have—trust me on this.
8. Carriers should be large enough for pets to stand up, completely turn around, and lie down. Put your name, address, phone number, and an alternate contact on the carrier.

For more information about planning for an evacuation with pets, visit www.spca.org/evacuation.



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