

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 30, 2014 • Volume XI, Number 5



Commander of MCP District 1 Captain James Fenner addressed the commissioners' meeting, in Town of Poolesville on page 3.



Conner Pike bagged an award at the Izaak Walton League, in School News on page 11.



C'mon, is that all you got? More Springfest pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Co-ed volleyball at PHS is in Youth Sports on page 10.

Suspect in Local Abduction Arrested in Florida

By Jack Toomey

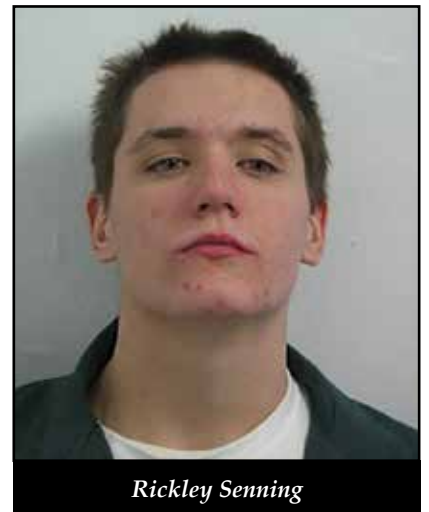
Montgomery County police are investigating an incident where a twenty-four-year-old man allegedly kidnapped a woman from her Poolesville area home. The suspect, Rickley Senning, was arrested in Miami, Florida on May 27 and presumably will be returned to Montgomery County to face the charges. Police have obtained warrants charging Senning with Kidnapping, False Imprisonment, Assault, and Auto Theft.

Police said that on May 19, the woman, identified by media outlets and court documents as Circuit Court Judge Audrey Creighton, and Senning were home together when the man demanded that she drive him to Gaithersburg. He forced her into the car, assaulted her, and then held her foot to the accelerator to make the car go faster. The *Monocle* is not identifying the location of the residence out of concern for the safety of the victim.

When the car reached Darnestown, Creighton jumped out and ran towards the Harris Teeter store where she called 911.

Senning, then drove the car about a mile before becoming involved in a three-car collision. He was taken to Suburban Hospital but left before he could be interviewed by police.

It was learned that Creighton had allowed Senning to live in her home for several weeks in May and for a time in 2013. Senning is a convicted felon with past arrests for robbery, possession of a firearm, possession of drugs, assault, and convictions for second degree assault and burglary. The day after the incident, Creighton appeared before another judge and sought a protection order which was granted. At that time, she admitted that she was in a relationship with Senning. Creighton, when she was a public defender, represented Senning in a trespassing case in 2008. She had been a District Court judge until a month ago when Gov. Martin O'Malley appointed her to the Circuit Court. According to her online profile, Creighton is a graduate of Thomas Wootton High School, the University of Maryland, and



Rickley Senning

earned her law degree at the University of Baltimore Law School. She was an attorney in the Montgomery County Public Defenders Office for twenty years until being appointed to the bench in 2010.

Senning is believed to have suffered injuries in the wreck which could have disabled him. His social media accounts have not been used since the day of the incident.

Creighton did not return phone calls or emails seeking comment.

Indonesian TV Comes to PHS

On May 22 a television broadcast production team from Voice of America - Indonesian Service visited Poolesville High School. Maria Iman Santoso, the TV team leader, described the network as a CNN-type television production. Indonesian interviewer Yurgen Alifia told the *Monocle* the story from PHS would be on a program called "Dunia Kita" or "Our World," which covers stories of all aspects of life in Indonesian, often comparing life there with other parts of the world. Education is just one of many topics. The



VOA-Indonesian TV interviewer Yurgen Alifia, PHS student Sindhu Chidambarams, and production leader Maria Iman Santoso.

episode in Poolesville was their 674th show.

The network's three-hour visit included filming and interviewing students and administrators to determine why PHS is ranked so high academically in America and to make comparisons with education in Indonesia with the goal of giving their fellow countryman ideas for improving Indonesian high schools.

One of the students interviewed for the TV show was

Continued on page 6.

Family Album

Author Dr. Robert Kapsch led a tour of the Monocacy Aqueduct. Park Supervisor ranger Kevin Brandt, Dr. Kapsch, Tom Kettler, Mr. and Mrs. Moran, Jean Findlay, and Mike Oberdorfer.



Kylee Hockenbery and Madison Nessul collected for Relay for Life.



Only the brave of heart attempted to ride the bull at Springfest.



Poolesville's Military Support Group promoted their upcoming Wounded Warrior outing. Ella Edwards and Victor Lundberg visited their booth.



Kicks Karate was one of many vendors at Springfest.



Springfest drew a huge crowd, second only to Poolesville Day.



The competition at the BBQ contest sponsored by Jamison Real Estate was tough. The winner (third from right) was Covanta Energy.

Town of Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

Commissioners Approve Change in Impact Fees for Townhouses

At the May 19 town meeting, the commissioners approved a reduction in the impact fee to builders for attached housing. Impact fees are used to cover the extra costs to the town for construction of new buildings within the township. Those additional costs are categorized as park/recreation (17%), public facilities (5%), water supply (48%), and sewer (30%). Prior to the vote, the rate of impact fees was the same for attached (townhomes) and detached (single family) homes.

Frank Jamison of Charles Jamison Real Estate has water tap permits for seventeen townhomes at the northwest corner of West-erly and Wootton Avenues. In his request last April for a change in the impact fee rate on a basis that townhome values were much lower than for single family housing, he noted that Montgomery County, in an effort to expand more affordable housing, had already led

the way in making such a reduction. At that time, the town denied his request by stating that unless a reduction for one of the services could be proven to be less for a townhouse, his request would not be granted.

In a letter on May 12, 2014, Mr. Jamison provided an analysis using town records for water and sewer usage, showing that townhomes use 43.25% less water and sewer than detached housing. Town Manager Wade Yost verified the accuracy of the analysis provided by Mr. Jamison that compared the average gallons used per day per household. Additionally, Yost noted that the town consultant on the issue of impact fees, William Moore, a former planning commission chairman and a professional consultant on such matters, confirmed that using such a differential in usage in the setting of rates is appropriate.

Jerry Klobukowski asserted that while he respected Mr. Moore and his opinion, he was against making any changes "mid-stream." Jim Brown opined that since the facts of the usage (as submitted by Mr. Jamison) are considered indisputable by Mr. Yost, "The facts are the facts, and the decision on rates needs to be made

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Tribute

Boucher to Retire from JPMS

By Pamela Boe

When Boucher first came to John Poole Middle School as principal in the fall of 2009, readers of the *Monocle* learned that not only did she have generations of ancestors from the area, but that she was also born into a family of educators. What readers did not know was that Boucher emphatically did not want to go into education when she went to college.

Her family's local history began with her ancestors owning the historic Inverness Farm in Dickerson. Her parents, Albert and Charlotte Chakan, were both



Retiring principal Charlotte Boucher

educators. Her father's first job, after serving as navigator in a spy plane in every arena of WWII, was teaching at Poolesville High School. Her mother was teaching in Silver Spring at the time. Later,

Continued on page 19.




HOT SUMMER MENU ITEMS

Beer & Pretzel Cheese Bites
We've taken the best of bar foods - beer and pretzels - and combined them. These bites are made with real cheddar cheese curds from Wisconsin. They're coated in a batter made from crushed pretzels, panko bread crumbs and genuine American Pilsner beer. Then they're deep fried for several minutes, turning into bar food bliss. Served with an ale mustard dipping sauce.



Fire Fries
Fresh cut French fries topped with melted ghost pepper cheese, a hot pepper medley and kamikaze hot sauce.

Island Style Mahi Mahi Strips
Hand-cut Mahi strips fried crisp and light. Served with a chipotle mayo sauce.

Turkey Burger
Our savory turkey burgers are lightly seasoned for outstanding flavor and then seared to perfection and topped with caramelized balsamic jam, lettuce, tomato, and onion on an everything bun. Served with fries.

Power Salad
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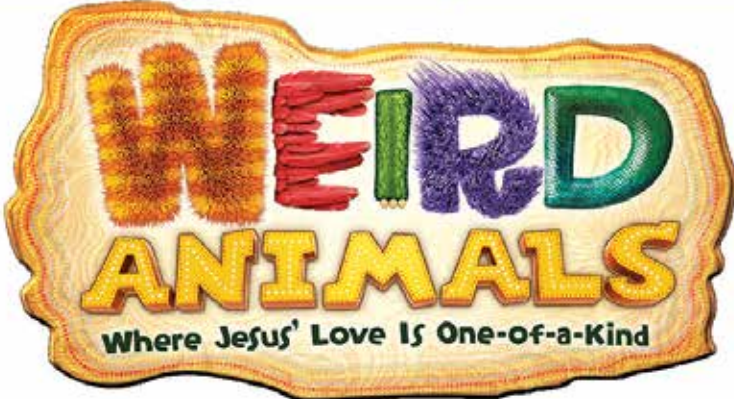
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Commentary

Almost Time to Vote

By John Clayton

Is June 24 circled on your calendar? Are you already beginning to worry about what you will do? I am sure you are not alone, but you may at least be lonely. That is the date of the Maryland Gubernatorial primary, and on that day, we will be voting for various governors, including governors, in primary mode; however, in all fairness to the many worthy and dedicated candidates out there, the races are not generating a lot of excitement. I'm not sure if this says more about them (the candidates) or us, the unexcited, disinterested people who probably won't vote anyway.

Yes, this is another one of those nagging you-really-oughta-vote columns.

Turnout in primaries is, of course, woeful. According to unofficial results from the 2012 Maryland primaries, courtesy of the Maryland State Board of Elections, about twenty-one percent of registered voters participated, counting both early voting and Election Day turnout. If you voted, four other people didn't. That is why it is a fact that when groups of like people concentrate their votes in a primary, results are more easily skewed their way.

The Republican candidates for governor should be familiar to *Monocle* readers and other local residents as there was a large turnout for a symposium sponsored by the local Rural Women's Republican Club and the Potomac

Women's Republican Club. The Democratic candidates have been in all the other papers, so I'm going to move on, but there should be enough information out there to make a decision and actually vote.

We have some pretty decent, qualified people running for office who deserve more attention than they get. For county executive alone, on the Democratic side, we have the incumbent Ike Leggett, former county executive Doug Duncan, and county councilman Phil Andrews. I don't have any hesitation in saying that this is a very tough choice among three highly-qualified candidates. The Republicans have one candidate registered for the primary, Jim Halleck, an attorney with a distinguished resume, but it's a tough climb in a one-party state, and he isn't going to face a flawed candidate.

For District 15 State House races, challengers to the incumbents haven't raised a lot of dust that I've noticed, except for our own local Boyds candidates, Robin and Flynn Ficker, who are running for Republican nominations for State Senator and State Delegate, respectively. They have a catchy slogan, "Fickers for 15" and a pretty good Upcounty sign presence, so who knows? We love dynasties, right? Aren't the Bush and Clinton clans going to face off for president in 2016? Clever folks, those Fickers.

Speaking of local, if you've noticed the signs, the Upcounty has a candidate for Montgomery County Council at-large, Beth Daly of Dickerson, a well-known and respected local activist. She is running a strong campaign across the

Continued on page 5.

Rande(m) Thoughts On Batons And Barbeques

By Rande Davis

As a member of Poolesville's Daniels-Jeffers American Legion Post 247, I have the honor to be the guardian of our armed forces flags, one for each branch of the military services plus one black one for POWs and MIAs (prisoners of war and missing in action). In that role, I also have the duty to place the flags at Whalen Commons on national days of commemoration: Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and sometimes on more local celebratory times like Poolesville Day.

On Memorial Day, while I am out early placing the flags and the memorial wreath of honor in the park, other Legionnaires are diligently placing American flags on gravesites in the area. These momentary acts, though very brief and ostensibly simple, are really quite profound and complex.

As Americans, we are all part of a magnificent relay race of history in passing a baton of remembrance from one generation to the next. When we pause to honor those who came before, it is like that instant of time when both hands are on the baton. Failure to pass the baton disrupts something far greater than us as individuals.

There is more than one way to drop a baton, though. Forgetting to give honor completely is not something we are likely to do. We are good at marking the calendar and holding a celebration. No one can ever accuse us as a people of not knowing how to party, and when it comes to Memorial Day, we are very good at it. After all, it's not only the unofficial start of summer, it's also a three-day weekend to boot. It wasn't always that way.

If Veterans Day has become the lost holiday (our public schools dropped it as an important day long ago), Memorial Day is the confused holiday. Part of the confusion is due to its genesis as a state-by-state kind of event.

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Local News

PHS Curriculum to Change By Jack Toomey

What began as a grassroots movement by parents to gain a voice in the curriculum choices at Poolesville High School has apparently resulted in a policy change at the school.

Readers will recall that in April, Poolesville businessman Robert Cissel raised questions about why Poolesville High was the only high school in the county that did not offer on-level classes in English and U.S. History. Incoming ninth graders were required to take honors classes, and Cissel, as well as other parents, said that some students might not be able to handle such challenging class work. PHS Principal Deena Levine countered with the belief that students coming from John Poole Middle School were prepared to manage honors classes because they had all taken advanced classes in middle school. Levine also said that her English department was outstanding and that support was offered to students who were struggling.

A meeting between parents and Principal Levine was held on May 14, and, according to participants, productive ideas were exchanged.

A few days later, Cissel said, "We are pleased to announce that the principal of PHS has decided to add grade-level classes as an offering to the Fall 2014 curriculum. This is great news for the community."

Principal Levine, in an emailed statement to the *Monocle*, said "In the next few weeks, we will be contacting the incoming students and parents of JPMS to inform them that they will have the opportunity to consider both honors and on-level options for English and Social Studies for grade nine. Our counseling services staff and JPMS counseling staff will be meeting to plan the best way to reach all families." She added, "Our goal is always to best meet the needs of all of our students. We rely on parents [and] grandparents to provide us valuable feedback in this process."

Cissel added, "After working with Principal Levine over the past few weeks, we are pleased that Poolesville High will now offer on-grade-level classes in English and History. Our goal throughout this process was to make sure students and parents of Poolesville had the same choices in curriculum that other high schools offered in the county. These on-grade-level courses are just as important to an on-grade-level student as the honors courses are to an honors student. At the end of the day, it's the teachers that make a difference. We are blessed with the best in the county."

Continued from page 4.

Almost Time to Vote

county, as I am sure she has to, and one aspect of her uphill climb is that she faces four solid incumbents: Nancy Floreen, Marc Elrich, George Leventhal, and Hans Reimer, a one-term councilman. It has been noted that three At-Large candidates are from Takoma Park and one, Floreen, is from Garrett Park. I'm not sure what's so at-large about having four At-Large councilmen from down county. If you don't get out much, Takoma Park is on the Prince George's County-D.C. line, and Garrett Park is nestled between North Bethesda and Kensington. Although I have never met Reimer, I have heard the other three discuss Upcounty issues and they seem reasonable, but I think it would be nice to have someone representing us who is actually from here. Daly's qualifications aren't just geographical; she is an accomplished and viable candidate.

The *Washington Post* did not endorse Daly, and giggered her for her views on "growth." While the *Post*, for better or worse, slings a lot of weight with its endorsements, I am very dubious about its views on growth. To wit, I don't think they have ever heard of a planned bridge, road, or development that they didn't favor. This includes that bridge across the Potomac into the Agricultural Reserve that we all like to think disappeared forever. I think Daly understands our issues better than the *Post* does. Maybe if we all voted like a bloc of like-minded voters, we could make a difference.



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Indonesian TV Comes to PHS

Sindhu Chidambarams who visited Indonesia last year as part of Legacy International's Indonesia-US Leadership Program, a ten-year-old program that has engaged high school students in a practical, hands-on experience in environmental action and leadership development. The process is a two-way exchange that addresses local and regional environmental issues in the U.S. and Indonesia. Through this program, Legacy encourages youth leaders to be a force for community improvement. Sindhu spent three weeks in Indonesia intermingling and exchanging ideas and life experiences with contemporaries in Indonesia.

The interviewer was most interested in gaining Sindhu's perspective and knowledge about her experience in the

Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) at PHS and, in particular, why she chose to enter the program and what she liked best about it.

She answered that when she learned about the GESP, she thought it would be a wonderful way to learn, to explore nature and the world. "My favorite part of the program is going on field studies to compare what we learn in class by comparing them to lessons we learn in real life. For example, when we study history, we get to go to Gettysburg to learn about the Civil War, or when we study government we get to go to Capitol Hill where we met senators. Another example is [when] we were learning about ecological diversity, we went to wetlands to do our own studies."

Mr. Alifia promised to notify the *Monocle* and the school when the program would be available for viewing.

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Things To Do

HMD Photo 2014 Contest

"Architecture in the Agricultural Reserve." The subject can include buildings or a small detail of a structure; gardens; bridges; sculpture or anything else emphasizing architecture. Contest is open to all. Entry forms are on the back porch at the John Poole House or from Maureen O'Connell at 301-972-8307 or MAFOConnell@msn.com. Deadline: June 30.

May 31

Local Museums Open

1793 John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Civil War Museum. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

The Little Mermaid

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre presents a ballet based on the story by Hans Christian Anderson. Artistic director Fran Ichijo. Adults: \$14.00, Youth and Seniors: \$11.00. PHS auditorium. 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

June 1

Local Museums Open

1793 John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Civil War Museum. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

June 2

Poolesville

Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. Featuring celebration of the Solar Array with visit by Maryland State Delegation, Poolesville Green, Standard Solar, UGI Corporation.

June 3

Bassett's Benefit for Relay for Life

Lunch and dinner, dine in or carry out. Percentage of food sales to benefit RFL

June 4

Free Community Dinner

Menu features tacos. Poolesville United Methodist Church. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PASC Activity

Senior Center Buddy Bingo with Bar-T children plus surprise performer. 1:00 p.m. Summer Safety with Leni Barry of Suburban Hospital. 7:00 p.m. 17550 West Willard Road.

June 5

PASC Activity

Senior Center: Play bocce. Whalen Commons. 1:00 p.m.

June 6, 7, and 8

Blue Hearth Marketplace

Great selection of revitalized decorations for indoors or outdoors. Food available on Friday and Saturday. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

June 6

PRFL Survivors' Dinner

Survivors and guests are invited to join Poolesville Relay for Life for a dinner in their honor sponsored by Steve Geyers Towing and Don Hoffackers Air Conditioning & Heating. Cancer survivors wishing to attend need to RSVP to c.hockenbery@verizon.net with head count and t-shirt size. Upper Montgomery County Fire Hall, Beallsville. Registration: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

June 7 and 8

Local Museums Open

1793 John Poole House and Old Town Hall Bank Civil War Museum. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Asian House of Poolesville Entertainment

Live Music on the Patio: Boomerang Band. 4:30 p.m.

June 7

Annual Poolesville Relay for Life

Whalen Commons Park, Poolesville, MD 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Bari Leigh from Potomac, up and coming country artist.

All day: Music by DJ Valaree Dickerson

Survivor and Caregiver Lap: 2:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Broken Rocker Band

9:30 p.m.: Luminaria Ceremony

Paws for the Cause Walk-A-Thon

Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding (CHTR) will hold its seventh Annual Paws for the Cause Walk-A-Thon at Cabin John Park, 7400 Tuckerman Lane Rockville, MD 20852. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with the walk starting at 11:00 a.m. A \$25 donation will cover registration, lunch, and entrainment. Biscuits

for your K-9 friend and a bandana for you and your K-9 will be provided. All proceeds for the event will benefit CHTR. For more information and to register, visit www.crowdrise.com/circleofhopewalkathon.

June 8

Poolesville Relay for Life Closing Ceremony

6:30 a.m.

June 11

PASC Activity Zumba Gold

Senior Center. 17550 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

June 12

PASC Activity

Senior Center. Tai Chi. 17550 West Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

Seminar on MC Library Website

How to use the Montgomery County Library website. 7:00 p.m.

June 14

Special Event at

Asian House of Poolesville

Public Retirement Party for PES Employees: Bill Harris (39 years),

Aileen Dunkleberger, Michael Tibbs, and David Weisberg. Cake and snacks. 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wounded Warrior

Outing at White's Ferry

Join in for a day of fishing, food, and fun with music and games to show appreciation for wounded warriors and their families. This social event is also a fundraiser to benefit Fisher House Foundation and Yellow Ribbon Fund. Bring your fishing rod, chairs, and a side dish to share. White's Ferry pavilion. 11:00 a.m.

UMCVFD Pit Barbeque

Fire Hall in Beallsville. 11:00 a.m. until sold out

PASC Activity

Special performance: *Julia Child—Queen of Cuisine* by award winning actress Mary Ann Jung, a Smithsonian scholar whose appearances include CNN, *The Today Show*, and *Good Morning America*. 17550 West Willard Road. 7:00 p.m.



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Youth Sports

20-Win Season Ends in State Semis

By Jeff Stuart

Parkside of Salisbury defeated the Falcons' baseball team, 5-4, in nine innings at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring.

Late game comebacks have been a hallmark of PHS sports teams this year, so we could have expected no less from their heralded baseball team. Parkside took a 3-0 lead in the top of the third. Poolesville answered with a run in the bottom half of the inning. Parkside added another run in the top of the fourth. Parkside starter Kyle Skilling cruised through the first five innings.

The Falcons trailed 4-1 headed for the bottom of the sixth. Steve Morningstar, the father of leftfielder Steve Morningstar, standing, watched from behind the screen to the left of home plate. "We've dug out of deeper holes than this," he said. As if on cue, the home team rallied for two to come within a run.

Chris Convers, in relief to Thayer Seely, held Parkside scoreless in the top of the seventh, and with two out in the bottom half of the inning, Robbie Metz singled and stole second and third and came home on a single by Hunter Pearre. "That took a lot of wind out of our sails," said Parkside coach Brian Hollamon. The Rams threatened in the top of the eighth. They had the bases loaded and one out. A suicide bunt attempt failed when Falcons catcher Justin Souder caught the bunt attempt in the air. With no one covering third, Justin, in full catching gear, chased the runner back to third, almost making the tag. A fly out to left ended the half inning.

Parkside then turned to their ace, Hunter Parsons, who had thrown a no-hitter in the region final against Fallston. He shut the door on Poolesville. Parkside catcher Jack Goertzen had three hits and three RBIs including the game-winning hit in the top of the ninth, and when Robbie Metz flied out to deep center in the bottom of the ninth, Poolesville's season was done.

"We made several mental mistakes that cost us," said PHS Head Coach Steve Orsini. "Believe me, they were a very good team. It was a great baseball game—more exciting than the region final game against Middletown."

"Poolesville was one heck of a team," said Coach Hollamon. They had scouted the Falcons prior to the matchup. "We came up with a game plan from batter to batter and where to pitch each hitter," said Skilling.

"I'll never accept losing," tweeted Hunter Pearre after the game. "Not sure if I'll ever get over that one, but I'll forever miss playing for my hometown beside my brothers." Nonetheless, Hunter will move on to do great things at Barton College.

Poolesville defeated Winters Mill, 4-1, Liberty, 11-1 and Middletown, 4-0, en route to the state semifinal. Metz and Convers combined on a no-hitter against Middletown. It was the third no-hitter of the year for the Falcons.

Baseball happens every spring, but twenty-win seasons do not. This was a very special spring. The fans took it all in. Late season crowds filled the bleachers. Lawn chairs, blankets, and umbrellas populated the foul lines. For some, it was standing room only. It was great fun. It all just ended a bit early.

Boys' Lacrosse Comes Out of Its Funk

By Dominique Agnew

For the first time since 2004, the Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse team has won ten games in a season, finishing 10-4 overall. Coincidentally, 2004 was the senior season of first-year coach, Josh Funk, who returned to his alma mater to coach after playing lacrosse at Ohio State and professionally for a few years. Funk was assisted by Matt Fields, another PHS lacrosse alumnus, who coached the JV team. Fields, PHS Class of 2005, played lacrosse at Limestone College, a Division II school located in Gaffney, South Carolina.

Although the practice season opened with copious amounts of

Continued on page 17.



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Tidbits Of the Past

By Jack Toomey

May 8, 1950 It was announced that Montgomery County volunteer firemen responded to 486 calls during the month of April. Among those fires, there were forty-four dwellings, four barns, five chimneys, 190 field and woods, seventeen autos, and three refrigerators.

May 12, 1950 The Montgomery County School Board asked for \$24 million to be used for new school construction. Six elementary schools were to be built in 1950, including the Poolesville Negro School at a cost of \$200,000.

May 12, 1951 The Maryland National Guard conducted drills to demonstrate how it felt to be bombed. The 115th Heavy Mortar Company set up a bivouac outside of Gaithersburg. In the meantime, members of the Civil Air Patrol flew missions over the camp and dropped one-pound sacks of flour onto the positions of the guard.

May 15, 1950 A seventeen-year-old county boy filed for divorce in Montgomery County. When he was fourteen, he and his sixteen-year-old girlfriend eloped to Greenville, South Carolina in 1947 where they were married. In his petition, the boy said that he and the girl only lived together for one week, they had never established a home, and the girl had deserted him.

May 20, 1950 A fried chicken and ham dinner was served by the Women's Society of Christian Service at the Poolesville Methodist Church. The dinner lasted from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

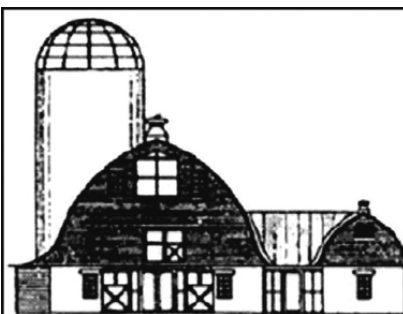
May 23, 1951 A busload of camera enthusiasts from Pittsburgh made an unexpected stop in Poolesville. They were on a tour of the Shenandoah Valley when they made a detour to take photographs of the historical sites in the town.

May 29, 1950 E. Wilson Jordan of Barnesville was elected president of the Electrical Contractors of America.

May 29, 1951 A school teacher from Poolesville Elementary School made the news when she found a baby possum that had been abandoned by its mother. Marilyn Cole was using an eye dropper to feed the baby animal and declared that she wanted to make it a pet until it was strong enough to live at the zoo. She named the possum Phoebe.

May 31, 1951 An emergency meeting of the Poolesville Parent Teachers Association was called. They were demanding that funds be allocated for the construction of a new school in Poolesville. Apparently, the county school budget had been reduced by four million dollars which eliminated funds for the new school in Poolesville.

Material for this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2014

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Montgomery County Zoning Code Rewrite: First, Do No Harm

The several-year process of overhauling the County's Zoning Code has yielded a simplified and modernized document – in many ways an improvement over the previously cumbersome and perplexing Code. But a funny (and troubling) thing happened on the way to this streamlined document – **entirely new uses have been inserted in the Ag Reserve without full stakeholder discussion and with potential loopholes that open the door for conflict with the Ag Reserve's Master Plan and with existing historic rural communities.**

A broad new use category called AgTourism and Education **has been added despite repeated and fact-based calls by stakeholders such as Sugarloaf, MCA and the MC Food Council to convene a working group to evaluate how best to ensure that the new uses support agriculture** and are in harmony with the Ag Reserve's rural communities. In addition, imported food waste composting on individual properties has also been inserted into the revised Code.

Could this AgTourism and Education category provide for non-agricultural institutional uses and a rise of per acre cost of farmland thus making it harder for small farming businesses to locate in the Ag Reserve? Are open air concerts considered AgTourism?

While the goals of both new uses may be laudable, many questions and concerns arise. So far the County Council has only set up an informal discussion group to address Sugarloaf's concerns. Some kind of "legislative guidance" will be crafted. However, the County Council has not been willing to convene a working group for appropriate and inclusive discussions.

Sugarloaf maintains that the regulations governing these additional uses need to be re-visited and tightened before the Code goes into effect on October 30, 2014. There is still an opportunity for the County Council to get this right. The Ag Reserve and its residents and businesses deserve better. Sugarloaf is working closely with the other stakeholders mentioned above to get the County Council to address these issues.

Last but not least: On Saturday, May 10, SCA was delighted to host "A Celebration of Rural Montgomery" at the Linden Farm. **the first ever combined SCA Plant Swap and Monocacy Garden Club's bi-annual Flower Show.** The gothic dairy barn proved an especially appropriate venue for the beautiful horticultural specimens and arrangements in the Flower Show, and the bank barn hosted over ten area vendors who shared their wares with an estimated 200-300 attendees. Hopefully, there will be more collaboration between the two groups, who share many members. Our enduring thanks to Linda Pepe from SCA and Kerri Morningstar and Lisa Hilton of the Monocacy Garden Club, who together recruited, managed, and led a delightful horde of volunteers, way too many to mention here. *Paid Advertisement*



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Youth Sports

Seniors Say Goodbye as County Coed Volleyball Champions

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School coed volleyball team claimed the school's first County Coed Volleyball Championship at Magruder High School on May 13. With her team trailing Northwest two sets to one, Head Coach Tara Smith huddled up her team. "I told them to stop thinking and just play volleyball," said Smith, whose younger sister Stephanie Blake, coached the Jaguars. The Falcons responded with a convincing 25-15 win in game four, and when junior Eric Lee's serve was not returned at around 9:00 p.m., his team had a 15-9 win in the tie breaker. An early service run by Julia Potts helped key the win in that final game.

"We were not expecting the Jaguars to start off like they did. After they won the first game, 19-25, I think it really woke us up and even frightened us a little bit. One thing about my team is that

Northwest team, the sixth seed, winning 25-23. Northwest beat Wootton, Churchill, and defending champion Sherwood (12-2), the second seed, en route to the finals. Poolesville, finishing at 15-0, defeated Northwood, Gaithersburg, and rival Damascus, winner of two of the previous three coed titles.

"I'm very proud of how my team played," said the coach. "We made a few more errors than we're used to in the beginning of the match, but no one got down on themselves. There were great plays on both sides of the net. Both teams were digging everything up, blocking, and issuing big hits as well with some smart placement. It was really fun playing against my sister's team. Both of us have a competitive nature, but we are also best friends, so, yes, we're still talking. She's a great coach. I knew this wouldn't be an easy win!" Tara is a 2002 Quince Orchard graduate. Stephanie graduated from QO in 2004.

Emily Agate came in the fourth game and did some great work on the net in that and the fifth game. Julia Potts, Jesse Maloney, Fangfei Yin, and Danny Martinez were



2014 Coed Volleyball County Champs

the kids are not only all incredible athletes, but they also share an amazing chemistry, so we changed a few things in the lineup, the team picked each other up and pushed each other on as they always have. All five games were very close. The crowd certainly couldn't have asked for more exciting finals!" Game three was the closest game of the night with a determined, scrappy

essential on defense. Trevor Stottlemeyer and Justin Lee dominated the net. Justin Lee and his younger brother Eric showed their versatility throughout the season. Rounding out the team were Rosie Barry, Joseph Cho, Ilya Semenov, Mitchell Poe, Shirley Woltz, and Alex Dahlen—all contributed to the team's success.

Continued on page 20.

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School News

PHS Seniors Honored By Izaak Walton League

On May 19, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (BCC-IWLA) recognized fifteen projects completed by Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) seniors. Joining the Izaak Walton League in celebrating the students and their studies were Poolesville High School, PHS GESP, Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, Montgomery County Forestry Board, Monocacy Garden Club, Maryland Bluebird Society, and the American Chestnut Foundation.

Six projects received cash awards of \$1,000 each from the BCC-IWLA: "The American Chestnut—Fox Haven Farm" (film), Ashley Chang, Halley Nathwani; "Effect of Temperature on Efficiency of Photovoltaic Cells" (research project), Chase Weaverling, Perry Ya; "Environmental Awareness through Education" (educational project), Caroline Steingard; "Improving and Maintaining Infrastructure and Sustainable Farming" (stewardship project), Courtney Holston, Charlie Miller; "Monitoring an *Eptesicus fuscus* (bat) Colony for Population and Auditory Data" (research project), Bruce Martin, Eleanore Ritter; "Water Quality Analysis of Dry Seneca Creek" (research project), Conner Pike.



Award winning students: (back row) Courtney Holston, Charlie Miller, Chase Weaverling, Perry Ya, Conner Pike, Bruce Martin, Eleanore Ritter. (Front row) Ashley Chang, Halley Nathwani, Caroline Steingard.

The projects and award recipients were: "Blue Birds at Stella's Dream Farm, Phase 1," Lura Auel, Victoria Barry, Sarah Onderko; "Blue Birds at Stella's Dream Farm, Phase 2," Whitney Carmack, Michelle Huffert, Cailin Van Nevel; "Chestnut Orchards in Science Education," Jordan Bloem, Deepti Konduru; "From the Field to the Plate," Christina Christou, Rachel Harris; "Jumping for Joy Goat Enrichment," Jaime Eeg, Lindsay Huffert; "Pond Courtyard Beautification," Kaitlin Aaby, Katelyn Thomas; "Surveying and Recording Invasive Species," Brian Habib, Zach Khalil, Saheel Kakkad; "Whole School Composting System," Mitchell Poe, Matt Schramm; "Wood Duck Nesting Boxes," Thayer Seely.

Local News

Injured Man Rescued on Sugarloaf

By Jack Toomey

A site known to area residents as a place for family outings, picnicking, and hiking became the scene of a dramatic aerial rescue on May 20.

Montgomery County Fire Department spokesperson Pete Perring said that at about 7:00 p.m., his agency was called to Sugarloaf Mountain to assist the Frederick County Fire Department in locating and rescuing a man who had fallen off of a rock outcropping and was lying seriously injured in the rocky underbrush.



Frederick County Fire Department spokesperson Capt. Kevin Fox said that since the scene of the rescue was in rough terrain, the Advanced Technical Rescue Team was called to the scene. Typically, this team responds to difficult rescue assignments such as people trapped in confined spaces, building collapses, and swift water rescues. He said that the man had fallen about thirty feet into a crevice, and rescuers had to maneuver down into the rocky area and carry him up out of the gap. He was then carried to the top of the mountain where a Maryland State Police helicopter hovered overhead. The man was placed in a basket and hoisted into the helicopter which then flew to the Adams Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore where he was listed in critical condition. Efforts to learn the man's name were futile. It was determined that he was a twenty-one-year-old male from Damascus.

David Webster, the executive secretary of the Stronghold Foundation, did not return repeated requests for comment.

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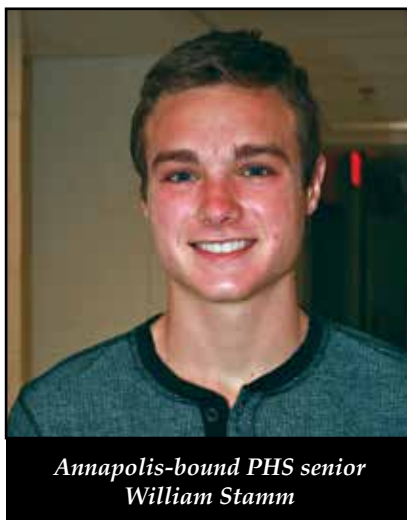
Work to Begin on White's Ferry Road Bridges

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MC-DOT) Division of Transportation Engineering (DTE) will soon begin construction of two replacement bridges and accompanying approach roadway work to carry White's Ferry Road over Broad Branch Tributaries in Poolesville. The work is to be performed consecutively and the properties between the two bridge sites will be accessible to property owners at all times.

Construction will take place Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. with road closures from June 16 to August 25. Occasional Saturday work may be necessary to make up for weather delays. There will be detour signs posted on White's Ferry Road and neighboring streets to provide for vehicular traffic to detour around the work site.

Stamm to Report

PHS 2014 graduate William Stamm will be reporting to the U. S. Naval Academy this July to start his plebe year. It was just a few years ago that his father had mentioned the academy, so he began to research it and he decided that going to college there was the best way to start a life goal of wanting to living an above average life and to serve his country.



Annapolis-bound PHS senior
William Stamm

He has always had interest in science, technology, engineering,

and math and now hopes to focus primarily on mechanical engineering. The day the appointment came, he was both elated and relieved that his goal of attending such an outstanding school had been realized.

Asked about his concern of the challenging life as a plebe, he said, "It's going to be one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced, but with my background in running, I'm reasonably confident in my physical abilities. The hardest part of being a plebe is the mental fatigue. They try to break you down, and it's going to be difficult to keep a level head. That being said, I am still looking forward to the personal growth gained by every plebe in his or her first year at the academy."

Colleen Marie Willard graduates from Charleston School of Law

Colleen Marie Willard of Poolesville received a law degree May 11 during the eighth commencement ceremony of the Charleston School of Law. After three years of study, Willard was one of 157 students to receive the juris doctor degree. Willard is the daughter of William and Ann Willard of Poolesville.

Members of the Class of 2014 distinguished themselves as students by giving 27,873 hours of pro bono, or free, public service to local and state organizations. Since the school was started in 2004, students have contributed more than 275,924 hours of public service through pro bono and externships projects. The Charleston School of Law requires students to donate at least thirty hours to public service projects as a requirement of graduation. The average number of pro bono hours donated by the Class of 2014 was 138.67 hours.

During the Mother's Day ceremony, President and Dean Andy Abrams challenged the members of the Class of 2014 to use their legal education to the fullest. Recalling the words of German philosopher George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Abrams said: "Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion."

Continued on page 15.



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WHEN: Saturday, June 14, starting at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: White's Ferry Pavilion

COST: Donations accepted

Please join us as we gather for a day of fishing, food, and fun with music and games to offer our thanks to our wounded soldiers and their families.

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Bring your fishing rods, lawn chairs, and a side dish to share. For more information regarding picnic contact Elena Victoria 301-987-4531 or Carl Hobbs at 301-802-6058. This event is sponsored by the Poolesville Military Support Group, 501(c)3 Tax ID #: 26-2386141. Donations accepted at PMSG, PO Box 262, Poolesville, MD 20837

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

According to the Montgomery County Police Department, there were no reportable crimes during the past two weeks.

Past Crime

May 31, 1964 A retired Montgomery County Police sergeant was shot to death while in Florida. Sergeant James Higdon had gone to Florida to attend a traffic seminar when he accepted an invitation to go on a ride-along with a friend who was an officer with the Jacksonville Beach Department. The officer received a call for a man with a shotgun. When they arrived, the man fired into the police car killing Higdon.

June 2, 1965 Montgomery County Police Chief James McAullife testified before the county council about problems with the three massage parlors that existed in the county. He said that he was having problems finding a "decent police officer" to go undercover to patronize one of the massage parlors to obtain evidence. He said that some of the treatments given at the establishments were immoral and cited "Russian, Turkish, and medicated baths."

June 2, 1966 A nine-year-old Silver Spring boy was in Juvenile Court, charged with setting a fire at the Oak View Elementary School which caused \$200,000 in damages. The boy said that he had been told to stay after school because of behavior issues. He wandered out onto the playground where he found a lighted cigarette and threw it in a window onto a couch in the teachers' lounge. He then watched it smolder and watched the fire engines arrive.

June 4, 1964 Two Rockville brothers, ages three and five, were run down and killed on their own front lawn by a teenaged driver who had received his license just six weeks before. Police said that the sixteen-year-old driver had miscalculated his turn from Edmonston Drive and lost control, sending his car onto the front lawn of a house on Woodburn Road. The car struck both boys who were playing. The driver was charged with manslaughter.

June 12, 1964 Another county youth drowned at the area of the C&O Canal known as Widewater. Some teenagers from Bethesda had gone there to swim when one tried to swim across the width of the 250-foot stretch of the canal when he called for help and went under the water.

PHS Coach James Vollmer Passes Away

Cross country coach James Vollmer died of a heart attack on May 24. There will be a viewing at Stauffer Funeral Home, 1621 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, on June 2, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be a viewing on June 3 at 10:00 a.m. followed by a funeral at 11:00 a.m. at Wildwood Baptist Church, 10200 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. The *Monocle* will have a more detailed article in our next issue.

Continued from page 13.

Colleen Marie Willard graduates

You should find your passion and pursue it to live a life that, both personally and professionally, truly matters."

Incoming American Bar Association president William C. Hubbard of Columbia, in his commencement remarks, urged graduates to stand up for the law and use it to help people. "It will be your duty to stand up for the law, for the independence of the judiciary, and for the access to justice for all persons," said Hubbard, who was awarded an honorary degree. "By choosing this school, by committing the pro bono efforts, you have already taken a stand for justice."

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Birth of a New Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

Several weeks ago, some friends visited my home, and they wanted to see my gardens. I was a bit reluctant since I had lost many shrubs and plants over the winter, and there were obvious gaps in the borders. I was surprised when they said that my gardens looked better than ever. What had I done, they asked. I did nothing; Mother Nature took its course and delivered extremely harsh winter weather conditions. As I mentioned in an earlier article, I lost most of my sixty-five rose bushes, most of my lavender, and many established perennials. My hydrangeas, especially 'Endless Summer' which sets blooms on old growth, either died back to the ground or displayed tall, brittle, dead beige stalks. The trio of butterfly bushes, 'Blue Chip,' was killed to the ground. Both of these shrubs are now setting out

new growth, but their bloom times will be shortened. So how could my gardens look good in mid-May after all this damage? I will answer that with a not-completely similar analogy of forest fires and the environment. Controlled or prescribed forest fires are a natural part of the environment and are good for the ecosystem. Ponderosa pines in the Pacific Northwest need fire to germinate their seeds and stimulate growth. Without fires, forested regions and grasslands would become overly choked with trees and underbrush; invasive species would take over and prevent indigenous plants from growing. A too-thick tree canopy blocks too much sunlight from its underlying plants and shrubs. A prescribed fire is not a wildfire which burns with a greater ferocity and can cover thousands of acres of woodlands causing disastrous loss of property and human lives. Forest fires are normal and a natural getting-along-with-nature, helping to clean up forests and keep them healthy. In that respect, the

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Continued from page 3.

Impact Fees for Townhouses

solely on those facts and should not be made on a case-by-case basis." The commissioners voted, 4-1, to approve the change with Mr. Klobukowski dissenting.

FY2015 Budget Approved

After many weeks of work, including a Saturday morning work session and a public hearing on a draft budget, the commissioners approved the FY 2015 budget. While there is no change from last year in the property tax rate of \$0.1672 per \$100.00, the new budget will allow an increase in real property tax revenue of .19 percent, resulting in an additional \$2,678 in revenue to the town in the \$2,621,000 balanced budget.

Two areas of the budget that have resulted in some controversy are: marketing/economic development and support of a senior citizen program that provides initial interim funds for the group.

The town operates through two budgets. The General Fund, which covers the operating costs of running the government, and the Water and Wastewater Operations Fund, which involves the costs for the town water and sewer.

The General Fund includes salaries; professional support (legal and engineering); maintenance of all infrastructure, including streets, parks, and facilities, trash collection; and support for community economic development activities, such as the Holiday Lighting Festival, movies and concerts, as well as marketing and economic development consultants. It also includes community outreach programs such as Poolesville Day, July Fourth fireworks, post-prom party, and, new this year, \$29,000 to support senior citizen educational and entertainment programs.

The town also has expenditures of debt service to handle the loans to upgrade and expand the wastewater treatment plant (FY 2004), Wesmond sewer relining program (FY2007), and the FY2014 sewer relining effort for Westerly. The commissioners made no change in water usage rates in the new budget.

The commissioners voted, 4-1, to approve the budget with Commissioner Klobukowski dissenting as a reflection of his objection to the support budgeted for senior citizen projects through the Poolesville Area Seniors Committee.

MCP Commander Gives Strong Grades to Poolesville

Commander of the Montgomery County Police District 1, Capt. James Fenner, attended the commissioners' meeting to provide an overview of policing issues in the town. Beat officers Chris Hendricks and John Gloss joined him.

The primary crime issues in Poolesville, as reported by Commander Fenner, are drug use and theft from automobiles. While there continue to be reports regarding assaults, the vast majority of such assaults are from people known to each other and/or living together. Captain Fenner was somewhat uncertain as to the impact of the loosening up of state laws concerning use of marijuana in small quantities, and will not be able to make an assessment of those changes until enough time allows for proper analysis. He expects he will know more sometime in October.

Commissioner Klobukowski asked for more scrutiny on Hughes Road, and concern over vehicular traffic not stopping for pedestrians at town crosswalks was also brought to the attention of the visiting police. Commander Fenner also noted that, in addition to having one dedicated police officer in the town (and subsequent backup support from Quince Orchard), the renewal of daily police presence in Poolesville High School with a newly-recruited Educational Facilities Officer (EFO) will begin this coming July.

Miscellaneous Matters

The commissioners voted to make two appointments to the CEDC. Paul Loftus was appointed as a resident member while Momodou Bojang of Axiom Values LLC filled the business member vacancy.

The town voted to have a charge for tournament use of ballparks of \$300.00 per day.

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Boys' Lacrosse

rain, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise as the team was forced to practice on the tennis courts and indoors. This forced focus on small-sided drills paid off as the season progressed. The Falcons finished second in their division behind Damascus, but they had a number of quality wins. They beat B-CC, 15-7, which gave them their first victory over the Barons since 2006. They beat a very tough Rockville team, 12-6, after having lost the previous two years to them by a combined score of 19-7. They also had a quality win over a tough Springbrook team that also had ten wins on the season. "The Damascus games were both very exciting," says Funk, "even though we didn't come out on top."

The coaches emphasized the basics from day one and reinforced fundamentals throughout the season. They were pleasantly surprised about how quickly they were able to layer in high-concept ideas. "We were able to coach them things that we did not anticipate being able to coach," adds Funk. "Between me and Fields, we just wanted to make sure the kids had a really, really good year and a really, really good experience with lacrosse." On the season, Funk says, "We had glimpses of being a very good team. We made young mistakes that a veteran team doesn't make." The boys were learning to play as a team instead of as individuals. "This is a...young group." Poolesville will return eight starters to next year's squad. The team only graduated four seniors, Lyles, Zinnser, along with Johnny Fetchko, and Keon Ghozati. "I think they'll have a good future. Next year will be very exciting."

The team had a number of players who were recognized for their outstanding seasons. Four players were voted All-Division First Team: senior Charles Lyles, junior Joel Hessels, and sophomores Jake Armstrong and Adam Branscome. Joel Hessels also was selected for the All-County Second Team. The All-Division second team players were: senior Cody Zinnser, junior Sean Parker, and sophomores Jonathon Hetrick and Reid Patton. The team will also return junior captain Justin Tabatabai as well as sophomore Trey Willis, whom Funk praised highly, "He may not have gotten the honors, but he was influential for the team."

Banquet team awards went to: Tim McIntyre, Sportsmanship at the JV level; Justin Tabatabai, Sportsmanship at the varsity level; Sean Parker, Falcon Award; and Cody Zinnser: Team MVP.

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Birth of a New Garden

tree, shrub, and plant losses in my gardens have forced me to remove many plants and redesign all the gardens. This is good in the long run as many of these were getting tired looking; they were putting out fewer and smaller blooms. The very tall, forty-year-old white pine trees, while beautiful and stately, were gathering up all of the sunlight for themselves, while the roses and perennials at their feet were struggling for more light to grow. When the winter winds broke off their huge limbs like twigs, there was suddenly more light below; when the whole tree died, the area was now in full sun.

I have said many times that gardens live in a state of change, and this year saw big changes, for the better. I have introduced many new (and some old) annuals and perennials to my garden for an entirely new look. For this, I can thank Mr. Winter.

Many people do not grow roses because they think that they are high-maintenance plants. They are. For years, I sprayed them with fungicides and pesticides, fed them, deadheaded them, and pruned them. They were beautiful and I loved them—but times have changed. I no longer spray them with any chemicals which are harmful to the environment. I shall be honest with you: In our area, they suffer without the chemical sprays. They are Japanese beetles' favorite food. The horticulturists think that they have the Perfect Rose, the Knockout rose. Well, I just cannot love it; it is no hybrid tea. The only roses I now grow are *Rosa rugosas*. They are hardy, drought, pest, and heat resistant—and beautiful. I planted eight new ones last week where the hybrid teas use to grow.

Lavender used to grow in front of all my rose bushes. They all died this year, but I must admit that most of them were fairly ancient. Their thick, woody stems were as gnarled as an old lady's hand.

I have replaced them all, placing some in front of new perennials and some all alone in a lavender patch. I still have my favorites: *Lavandula* (L.) *angustifolia* (a.) *L. intermedia* 'Grosso,' *L. x intermedia* (i.) 'Provence,' *L. a.* 'Hidcote,' *L. a.* 'Munstead,' and a new one, *L. x i.* 'Phenomenal.'

Gaura, a North American wildflower, is a bushy, clump-forming, vase-shaped perennial that is delicate and airy, blooms all summer, and is deer resistant and drought tolerant. It can grow in part sun or shade and can reach one to eight feet tall.

If you grow *Agastache* for anything, grow it for the butterflies. They love it. 'Blue Fortune,' my favorite, is a mass of soft powder-blue flower spikes which blooms from July to the first frost.

Russian Sage comes from a genus, *Perovskia*, in the mint family with silvery, aromatic foliage. It is hardy, ignoring heat, drought, mad pests. Plant it and forget it. Pair it with *Rudbeckia*, *Sedum*, white phlox 'David,' and *Echinacea* 'Cheyenne Spirit' for a striking look. There are many varieties of *Echinacea* (coneflower) and they all bloom nonstop from June until October. My favorites are: 'Sundown' (part of the Big Sky Collection) 'PowWow Wild Berry,' 'Aloha,' and 'Indian Summer.' It thrives in average soils, and hot and dry conditions.

Every garden should have a couple or more *Coreopsis* plants. They are not fussy about anything our summers can throw at them. The best one, I think, is 'Moonbeam.'

One of the most glamorous foliage plants for our Monocacy gardens is the American genus *Heuchera*, coral bells. They are attractive to hummingbirds but not to deer. They used to only come in rather dull colors, but in the past few years, they have begun to appear in a rainbow of colors. Look for 'Georgia Peach.'

I am very pleased with my new garden. It is fresh, colorful, and young. Sometimes we must be forced to make changes.

The Gardener

Continued from page 4.

On Batons and Barbeques

Started by southerners to honor their fallen from the Civil War, the north soon picked it up as well. There are at least a half dozen places that claim to be the place where Memorial Day began. Originally called Decoration Day, it was not meant to be a three-day weekend but to be celebrated only on May 30. Graves were decorated, speeches were made, and, believe it or not, picnics were held in the cemeteries in the afternoon.

That many people talk of Memorial Day as if it is the Fourth of July or Veterans Day adds to the confusion. How confusing? Well, to start with, we should skip the Happy Memorial Day greeting. Before you accuse me of wanting to darken the skies and fly only black flags of mourning, that is not where I am headed. After all, while we stand in awe of those who died serving the nation, we can also celebrate that they first walked and lived among us.

In giving them honor, how about "Have a meaningful Memorial Day" as a salutation. It is a day of pride, gratitude, and honor. While Veterans Day celebrates all who served, Memorial Day honors those who gave all in serving. The military standard of flying the flag on Memorial Day sets the stage as to how we should honor them. In the morning of Memorial Day, the flag is first raised briskly to the top, then slowly, mournfully, and respectfully, it is lowered to half-staff. Then at noon it is raised to the top again.

From now on, be sure to have a meaningful Memorial Day. Pause in the morning to reflect on giving one's life for someone else as the greatest act of love, and pause to remember those doing so in our military. Then, at noon, go out and celebrate the blessing that they once walked among us by barbecuing hot dogs, hamburgers, and as more than one fallen hero would like to add, "Have a cold one on us."

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Charlotte Boucher

Charlotte's father went on to teach social studies for twenty-three years at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring. Her mother eventually went on to finish her career as principal at Wheaton Woods Elementary School.

Charlotte, however, was determined to not follow in their footsteps. She purposefully chose Vanderbilt University for her undergraduate studies because they did not offer a degree in education. She would show them... that she was quite wrong, years later, when she graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut with a Master's in Education and began teaching French and English at Broome Junior High School.

Charlotte married a boy she met in fifth grade. Doug Boucher, a biologist with impressive credentials in his own right, and Charlotte recently celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary. It was because of Doug's work teaching Biology at McGill University in Canada that Charlotte took a brief break from teaching to open her own sweater design shop in Montreal. They stayed there for six years, until her frustration with the Québécois school system sent them back to Maryland. Having seen the exact opposite of how she would educate children, she was happy to jump back into her beloved MCPS and began at Wood Junior High School, teaching English and French, ultimately leading the department as encouraged by her mentor, Jerry Lynch. It was then and there that she fell in love with the middle school ethos.

She joined the leadership team that opened Briggs Chaney Middle School, and then took the English Resource Teacher position at Baker Middle School when Dr. Lynch became principal. Later, when Lynch opened Rocky Hill Middle School, she went with him, this time as the Instructional Coordinator. In 1998, she earned her Administrative Certificate from American University and became the vice principal at Rocky Hill. Not long after that, she won a position at the MCPS central office as Curriculum

Coordinator for Secondary English. When MCPS asked her to take the lead position at Richard Montgomery to coordinate the International Baccalaureate, she jumped at the chance.

She was thoroughly ready to serve in the capacity of principal, and it was at Eastern Middle School where she would test her wings. Although a great experience—she served well there many years—the commute was miserable, she was raising children, and they were in the process of building a home on their grandparents' farmland in Dickerson. When the principal position at JPMS became available, it all fit together for her. All roads pointed back to Poolesville.

During her tenure as principal at JPMS, the school has won blue ribbons, accolades, and pats on the backs in various forms. This year, to crown her career, not only did one of her teachers (Jane Lindsay) win the County Teacher of the Year Award, but the school won the title of National School of Character by the Character Education Partnership (Character.org) at the National Press Club. JPMS, under Charlotte's leadership, is the only school in Maryland that won that award this year. On this crowning achievement, she has decided to retire.

What was the best part of your career? The best part of the job is being able to say yes. A great idea? You can make it happen. Kid needs something? You can fill the need. School needs a resource? You can get it. You can establish the priorities, so that what happens, is what ought to happen.

And the worst aspect of a lifetime in education? The worst part of the job is when we are powerless to save a child from life's vicissitudes: A kid who is being raised by an abusive family, or a child who was victimized and doesn't seem to be able to get around it, or a kid who is suffering from a kind of instability that we just can't fix. That's the worst part because you love these kids so much you want to fix it. You want to take them home. You want to make things better, you want to make them right, and sometimes you just can't. It's impossible to not have an intense sense of sorrow when you just can't fix it. Life is not kind

to everybody, and children have so little control over what happens to them. No matter what you do, it's not enough. Teachers feel that, too.

What are you most proud of? I don't think of achievement in terms of what I do, in terms of what I win or getting honors. I love that. I love to win awards, but I don't see that as a personal achievement. What I'm most proud of is the capacity to give back to the community. I really love living and working in the same community. It doubles the meaning.

What is your biggest regret? As a person I don't linger long on regrets. How could you live? You mess up something every single day. Every day there is something I didn't do well enough...

but in terms of great big mess ups? I don't dwell on it.

What was it about middle school that attracted you? "Kids that age throw their whole heart into everything. They fling themselves into what they care about." Charlotte enjoys watching middle schoolers become comfortable in their own skin over those three years. She loves watching them learn to define themselves. She believes middle school is one of the most vulnerable times in childhood, when children haven't learned the defenses they are going to need in life.

What would you say to the community as you leave? Simply, thank you.

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Remembrances

James Coleman

James S. Coleman, of Pleasant Springs Farm in Boyds, died at home May 16 after a long illness. He was 86.

Jim was born in Cle Elum, Washington. Until his retirement, he served as Director of Engineering and Mathematics for the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. Before moving to Maryland, he was a research chemist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

In addition to his wife of fifty years, Peg, survivors include his daughter Susan Ewing of Takoma Park, daughter Terry Hatch of Los Alamos, New Mexico, son David Coleman of California; step-children Robert Bivins and Ann Stevenson of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Sarah Bivins of Asheville, North Carolina; fourteen grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Jim was a member of the Washington State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology alumni associations, the Boyds Presbyterian Church (former elder), Boyds Civic Association (former president), Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, the Montgomery County Forestry Board, the Montgomery County Master Gardeners, and the American Chestnut Foundation. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

Edna Stowers

Edna May Stowers, 103, died on May 15 at Glade Valley Nursing Center. She was the wife of the late Charles Wade Stowers who predeceased her in August 1979. Born in Park Mills, Maryland on August 27, 1910, she was the daughter of the late William G. and Bettie (Harding) Warfield. She is survived by two sons, Charles W. Stowers, Jr. and wife Sandra of Austin, Kentucky, Thomas W. Stowers and wife Joan of Adamstown; one brother, Warren Warfield of Dickerson; two sisters, Doris Hough and husband Jack of Comus, Betty Dunlap of Martinsburg, West Virginia; two grandsons, Thomas W. Stowers, Jr. and wife Kathy of Jefferson, step-grandson Jason Goldsbrough and fiancée Ashley of Clarksburg; one great grandson, Wade Stowers of Jefferson; and one step-great granddaughter Amy Buchanan and husband Caleb of Essex. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Glade Valley Nursing Center or Hospice of Frederick County.

Continued from page 10.

Seniors Say Goodbye

Just before spring break, the senior captains reflected on the season.

"It's must more structured around the girls than it was last year," said outside hitter Justin Lee, one of the best male players in the county. "Last year, it was about a whole bunch of us guys who had been playing a long time, and this year, it is the girls who have that."

"We have a lot more seniors this year," said Rosie Barry. "Only three are not seniors. It's definitely more fun being with all my friends—and relaxed. It's fun to be competitive with people in your own grade." Her favorite moment

at PHS? "Definitely going to the state finals with the girls' team. That was a really big event."

"We've got a little more experience than we had last year," said senior Trevor Stottlemeyer. "Last year, we had a lot of people that came from other sports to play coed. This year, pretty much everybody has played before. The chemistry is pretty good."

"I honestly love coed. It's a blast. It is always a fun time for me," said senior Sarah Kenneweg. "Something about playing with guys, it just creates a different aroma. The Sherwood match was a good start to the season. Both teams put up a good fight and those matches are always the most fun."

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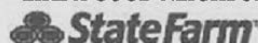
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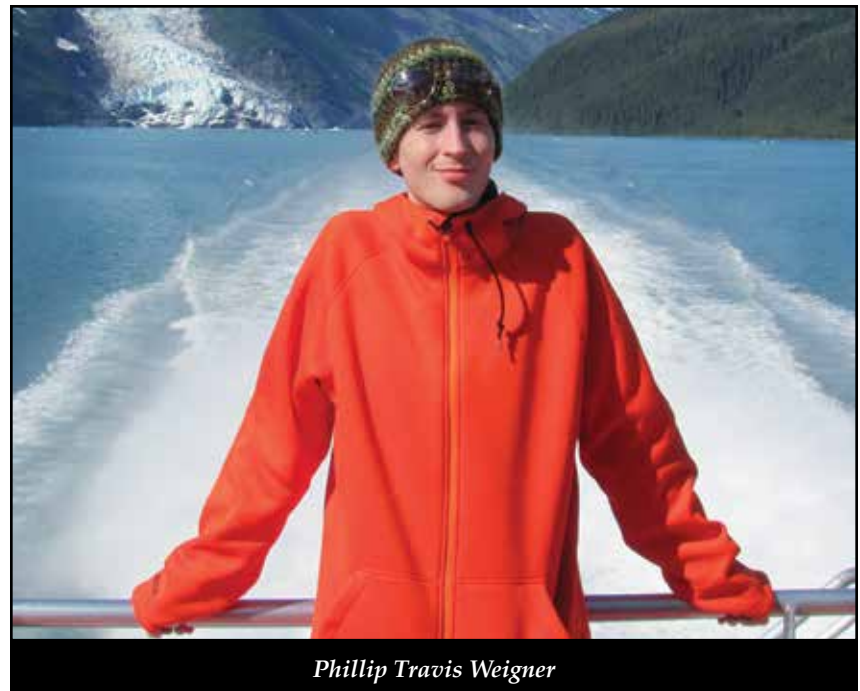
Remembrance

Phillip Travis Weigner

Phillip Weigner peacefully passed away in his home surrounded by family members on May 12, 2014, following a three-year battle with Neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer. He was born at Fort Belvoir, Virginia on April 29, 1990 to Timothy and Kimberly Weigner.

Born into a military family, Phillip was blessed with the opportunity to travel and live in many places, but it was Poolesville that the family ended up calling home. Growing up, Phillip enjoyed life outside, including snowboarding, hiking, camping, outdoor photography, and driving his Jeep around the surrounding counties. Phillip was active in Boy Scouts and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Phillip served in many leadership positions (including Senior Patrol Leader) within Troop 496 of Poolesville, served as a camp counselor at Heritage Scout Reservation in Pennsylvania, and participated in many high adventure treks, including two crew treks at Philmont Scout Reservations and one to the Adirondacks with many of his friends. His Eagle project to the community was painting all the blue blaze markers on the Blue Trail at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Phillip is a graduate of the Poolesville High School Class of 2008. During Phillip's battle with cancer, he was commonly seen wearing a Superman t-shirt, sweatshirt, or knit cap. The image of the red S represented the superpowers of the love and support from within and his family, friends, and care staff of Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital. Through his kind heart and endless compassion to others, Phillip gave back to other kids being treated at Johns Hopkins Pediatric Oncology by donating Superman t-shirts and sweaters to other patients. He loved taking his favorite sour candies to the oncology clinic for other kids to combat the foul taste of chemotherapy.



Phillip Travis Weigner

Phillip is survived by his father, Timothy; mother, Kimberly; brother, Nicholas; grandmother, Anne Weigner; many cousins, uncles, and aunts; and his beloved pets. Phillip was preceded in death by his grandfather Leon (Pops) Weigner, Uncle Jim Weigner, Aunt Kimberly (Weigner) Dove, and Grandma Hyson Sherer. A Celebration of Life will be planned in his honor. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations may be made either to the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation (CNCF), 360 W. Schick Rd., Suite 23, # 211, Bloomingdale, IL 60108; or through blood donation to support the many children battling cancer who require blood as part of their treatments.

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Dealing with Thunderstorm Phobias

Peter H. Eeg, DVM
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This is the main thunderstorm season. As the temperature rises and the storms worsen, animals with noise phobias have a very stressful time. If you have a puppy or a kitten, it is very important not to show stress or fear yourself during a storm. Animals pick up your stresses and manifest them back to you in the form of shaking, trembling, or excessive attention seeking. Be sure to be positive and continue about your regular activities as if nothing is going on. Keep play and feeding plans unchanged. Do not cover, cradle, stroke, or repeatedly say, "It's okay, it's okay." These all cause your young pet to ramp up their alert and fear response sensing that you are feeling stress over the storm. Making thunder sounds into a reward game can be helpful. Consider Googling or watching a YouTube segment on how hunting dogs are trained to accept gun noise, it can be very helpful for thunderstorm noise avoidance techniques for your own house friend. Lightning can also create a fear response. Here, again, your response often initiates their response. Positive behavior: lightning flash, get a treat, or play with a favorite toy.

Older dogs and some cats that have already been conditioned to fear thunder and/or lightning need extra help. A simple and powerful aid is to place them in an interior room with no windows. Then play a single instrument music piece loud, but not too loud. The very popular "thunder shirts" available online and at local pet stores have been shown to be helpful. The key is to use them only during an event, not all the time. Discussing medical options such as Prozac, Xanax, or Acepromazine with your veterinarian can be used to complement what is called "Extinction event retraining." This is used by many trainers and Board Certified Veterinary Behaviorists to help a pet overcome the fear and forget the storm event is stressful. Your veterinarian can help you pick a good, respected trainer or behaviorist for more severe phobia cases. Most importantly, never use force or violence on a fearful pet. It will only increase the stress and can potentially lead to fear aggression and accidental bites. "The gentle soul reaps the most peaceful rewards."



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