

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

January 2025 • Volume XX, Number 11



This remarkable teenager is a champion on the ice! Find out who she is on page 3.



Julie Shapiro, Jim Clifford, and Knight Kiplinger joined together to celebrate the holidays at the John Poole House. More pictures of other seasonal events are on page 9.



Time traveler Jim Poole, a medical captain in the Confederate Army, left his time to be at a special occasion in Beallsville. What and where, page 10.



The Donald came to Poolesville to help honor a grand lady celebrating her 80th birthday! See who and when on page 12.

Town Commissioners Hear Proposals to Reconfigure Water System for PFAS and to Change Water Rates

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners held only one meeting in December (December 2) and held their first meeting of the new year on January 6.

At their lone December meeting, the Commissioners heard about a proposed plan and options from the Town Engineer for reconfiguring the town's water system to help better manage the treatment of PFAS (so-called "forever chemicals") that have been detected at various levels in town wells. PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are manmade chemicals that have been used in many consumer products and industrial applications since the 1950s. Some examples include food packaging, cookware, stain and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, personal care products, and fire-fighting

foams. They are widely used and some four thousand versions of PFAS exist.

While the impacts of these chemicals on human health are still being researched, it is thought that they may significantly affect health due in part to the fact that they break down very slowly and are retained in the human body. The town first identified the existence of these chemicals in some wells many months ago, and it is one of the first if not the first local jurisdictions to undertake a major program to deal with this problem.

Before hearing about PFAS and the water system, the commissioners focused on filling a seat on the Planning Commission. The commission has five members, one of whom is a town commissioner. By a unanimous vote, the commissioners voted to install Martin

Ratigan as a new Planning Commission member. Radigan was a commissioner and was the representative for the commission to the Planning Commission when he was in office.

The commission then turned to consideration of a pair of resolutions to allow the town to participate in a revolving loan program sponsored by the State of Maryland. The program would support the town's ability to offer bonds at attractive rates. By adopting the resolutions, the town can begin to incur costs for programs that would be supported by bonds that would eventually be issued. The state would reimburse the town for these costs. In discussing the resolution, Town Manager Wade Yost said that the bonds that would be issued would

Continued on page 17.

Nancy Hopkinson Looks Back

By Jeff Stuart

"They called me 'Hoppy,'" said Nancy Hopkinson, field hockey coach at PHS from 1980 to 1999, thinking back on her time at Poolesville. Nancy, who lives in South Carolina now, also coached boys' tennis and swimming. She was inducted into the Poolesville Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

"I actually moved to Poolesville in 1970. I worked at Poolesville Elementary School for a year and a half, then I moved over to the high school. Because I played field hockey in high school and college, I helped out every now and then with the team. When Vonnie Walewski retired as coach in 1980, I took over the team. For my first game, I didn't even have eleven players, enough to field a full team. I only had ten. By the time I left in 1999, I had forty kids coming out. We had to cut players. I had varsity and JV teams. Over the years, we kept building it up. We became more and more successful.



*Back row: Ingrid Stamberg, Tara Simmons, Regina Grubb, Hoppy's daughter's, Susie and Sara.
From row: Samantha Ferris Baker, Hoppy, and Robin Magaha Lemarr.*

We started doing well in 1985 or 1986. Both the varsity and JV teams did well.

"My daughter, Sara Hopkinson Kohlbrenner, was named All-County in the Washington Post. We made regionals every year and advanced to the states four or five times. We were

competitive in the county. They were much bigger schools. We were a small school and would end up playing bigger teams from Calvert County again in the playoffs. Pocomoke was the

Continued on page 15.

Family Album



Holidays in Poolesville



Local News

Local Grandparents Proud of Granddaughter's International Championship

By Link Hoewing

I have written for the *Monocle* for almost a decade now, but my articles have almost always been about community events or local government meetings. This piece is personal, and I admit to bias, but I do think this accomplishment in our family is remarkable in any community.

I and my wife Fran remember taking our two grandkids, Link and Dessie Hoewing-Moxley, to ice skate just for fun when they were four years old in Frederick. We had taken the kids we taught in CCD class at the Catholic Church to skate a few times, and we all just thought it would be a fun diversion.

Little did we know that ice skating would become a lifelong passion for both of the grandchildren—Link as an ice hockey defensive player and Dessie as a competitor in ice dancing. Both of them are highly accomplished with Link's team competing successfully in many tournaments. In Dessie's case, it has led to an amazing journey that now includes an international championship.



Dessie Hoewing-Moxley

With the Winter Olympics being staged every four years, many are familiar with—and maybe even fascinated by—figure skating. In figure skating, competitors perform jumps and aerial spins of many kinds and are judged by an expert panel on a range of factors, including how precisely they lift off and land, and how a jump starts and ends.

Twist lifts and jumps are prohibited in ice dancing. The sport is a discipline of figure skating but has historical roots as well in ballroom dancing. It too is a sport where judges evaluate a range of skills for each competitor. Ice dancers need to be strong and agile, with excellent technical skating skills and musicality. They must execute difficult steps and turns with precision and timing, and syncopate their moves precisely with the music they have chosen.

Ice dancers focus on creating footwork and body movements that express dance on ice. They must place their feet precisely, express themselves in ways that make the story in the music come alive, and perform with grace. Ice dancing competitions consist of two segments: a rhythm dance and a free dance. The rhythm dance features required elements, while the free dance allows the skater to choose his or her own music and tempo and express themselves in a true performance.

While figure skating—both pairs and singles—is an Olympic sport, as is couples ice dancing, at this point, solo ice dancing is not. It is, however, recognized internationally as a competitive skating sport by the International Skating Union or ISU.

Continued on page 22.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

My Crystal Ball: How Did I Do?

By Rande Davis

January is the month for renewal and soothsaying.

We have just ended one year, only to start thinking about our immediate future and setting goals for 2025. Predicting is a risky business, nevertheless, in my Rande(m) Thoughts column of January 7, 2014, I reached deep down to connect with the soothsayer within, and I wrote a column describing what Poolesville would be like in ten years, in 2025.

Back then, Poolesville faced many challenges and uncertainties. I got out my crystal ball, looked at many bleak aspects of what was happening in Poolesville, and penned a column as if it had been written in January 2025. I have added comments on some of the predictions in bold about the success of the prediction. How did my reading of the future do? You be the judge:

Does small-town America have a good future? You bet it does, if towns and villages across America learn from a little hamlet in Maryland. The story of Poolesville is the story of a town that faced a dwindling economic future with the loss of its supermarket, excessive open retail spaces, the closing of additional businesses, and serious uncertainty about the future of its high school.

Yet, through a coordinated effort, combining both public and private resources, today, the town has come through the days of concern to its new vibrant future.

*The most dramatic change is that the town grew from about 1,700 homes to 2,100, increasing the population from 5,000 to 6,300 without radically diminishing its rural nature. The new families raised the population of both the elementary and middle schools, staving off concern that the county school system might close one or both. In fact, the population shifts even had immediate impacts on the high school, causing the county to move faster than planned on some needed renovations. **Hey, it's better than that, it's a new school!***

*Through coordinated redesign that included being sensitive to the environment, themed signage, and historical-looking streetlamps, the town emerged with its historical charm not only intact but much improved. **We are still awaiting the new look in town through implementation of our Streetscape Plan.***

*By taking advantage of the town's "reverse commute" appeal, the empty storefronts of 2013 were filled with service companies rather than just redundant retailers. **The explosion in growth of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce attests to the many new businesses that have come to the community, most are non-retail.***

*Then other firms built new facilities focusing on the growing interest both commercially and personally for using local food supplies, thereby raising the local employment opportunities with scores of new jobs that were not only starter jobs for the young but career positions as well. **While an envisioned Food Hub didn't take full fruition, the wine press at Crossvines is a wine hub promoting local sourcing.***

*For decades, the little town had sought ways to provide affordable housing options for older residents so that they were not being forced to move away in their golden years. The town now has a small senior living facility tucked away at the end of what used to be a soy/cornfield, providing easy walking access to the stores and services in the town. **I was off the mark here, but the new FishPool development will offer smaller single-family homes more suitable for seniors looking to downsize at least.***

*It's not just the physical changes but the social ones that have also altered a once-dying community. Poolesville has developed an attractive regional reputation for its festivals, the appeal of its annual Poolesville Day has grown each year, and more recently, for its spectacular Poolesville in the Civil War Weekend, a Williamsburg-like living history adventure that features costumed docents stationed in the historical homes and buildings in the town while recreating the important role of the town during the Civil War. Visitors from throughout the mid-Atlantic attend this special event. **We are emerging as a significant weekend destination town. The envisioned historical home tour of Poolesville in the Civil War may still happen someday.***

From the bleak days of 2012, Poolesville transitioned from a town with an uncertain economic future to surely one of Maryland's gems for living, working, or simply visiting.

Well, I wasn't perfect but mostly on the mark. I am not ready to try to make such bold predictions again, but I must say I am not enthusiastic for the prospects for a grocery co-op succeeding, but it is worth a try. Nor am I optimistic regarding the prospects for the ferry opening. Unfortunately, I see the

Continued on right.

Kolm's Corner



Continued from left.

My Crystal Ball: How Did I Do?

only way forward is for Libby Devlin, the owner of Rockland Farm, to finally drop a per-car proposal and to suggest a one-time payment for the use of the land. If she would at least name a price, real negotiations could finally begin.

One thing I can predict for sure. Living in Poolesville will only get better and better.



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Fun Fact...

The confetti dropped in Times Square is holding secret messages.

The confetti in Times Square has thousands of people's wishes written on them. In 2015 "wishfetti" became a part of the tradition. People write their wishes for the new year and submit them to the Wish Wall in Times Square (or online) and those wishes are turned into the confetti that falls over the crowd at midnight.

goodhousekeeping.com

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Letter to The Editor

Poolesville Is a Food Desert

By Kate Villiger

I can hear in my mom's voice the words, "When is this town going to get a grocery store?" I am not a resident of Poolesville. I live one town over, in Darnestown. My aunt lives on a small farm in Dickerson right next to the Potomac River. When I drive out to Dickerson to see my aunt, I pass through Poolesville—yet I do not pass a single grocery store.

My aunt has to drive half an hour to the nearest grocery store: the Harris Teeter on Route 28. Even so, she often drives even farther when the selection of fresh produce at Harris Teeter is lackluster. On days when she cannot afford to make the trek, she is forced to patronize the only spot for groceries in the Town of Poolesville, the Dollar General. While the store carries milk, eggs, some fresh produce, and other necessities—in an effort to amend the absence of a town grocery store—it does not provide the selection of foods required to support the more than seven thousand people that live in and around the town.

This is not an isolated issue. It is a trend we see in small towns all over the country. For instance, in Iowa, the number of grocery stores has halved in towns of less than 2,500 from 1995 to 2005. Currently, according to a study by the USDA, of the 1,947 counties in the United States, 23 had no food retailers of any type, 44 had no grocery store, and 115 had only one grocery store. All of those counties are classified as non-urban. In the past twenty-five years, this decrease in grocery stores in rural areas has been contrasted by a rise in convenience stores and other food retailers. Dollar stores in particular grew by 150%.

Areas like this which lack easy access to a wide range of food items are called "food deserts," and they pose serious public-health problems. Without close proximity to food retailers that provide a variety of nutritious foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, residents end up purchasing a higher concentration of their food from fast food restaurants, convenience stores, and food retailers. This can contribute to higher rates of morbidities like obesity and heart disease. Typically, food deserts are associated with low-income areas, yet Poolesville suffers from this very condition.

Since Selby's Market closed in 2012, Poolesville has had no grocery store, forcing residents to either rely on insufficient food choices from the Dollar General in town, or drive anywhere from fifteen to forty minutes to the next towns over in order to meet their needs. This disregards the needs of the community and creates a lack of local independence. Losing Selby's also meant that the town lost a meeting place and source of community bonding.

You might be asking, in the past twelve years, how has this not happened? There's a number of reasons. According to the Town of Poolesville, they have tried numerous times to persuade a grocery store to establish in Poolesville, but have failed due to the town's low population. This is a similarly-touted reason for other towns across the U.S., but in Poolesville's case, the population is steadily growing, and the Master Plan continues to pledge new developments and encourage the rising population. With this in mind, there is no excuse to not have such a vital community resource.

If a grocery store truly could not be attracted to Poolesville, there may be a different answer. In April 2023, the Town of Poolesville commissioned a study to determine the market viability of a co-operative grocery store in town. It found that due to the nearly \$500,000 spent on groceries by residents of Poolesville and the surrounding area, of which three fourths is spent at four main grocery stores in Darnestown, Germantown, and Gaithersburg, there is enough market demand to support a co-op. A co-op would be owned and run by members of the community who would be able to stock local produce from farms in the Agricultural Reserve and support local businesses.

Post 60 Market in Nebraska is an example of this. When the only grocery store in Emerson, Nebraska closed, residents banded together, raising \$160,000 to open a co-operative grocery store, where each year, investors elected a board of directors to oversee financial decisions. In partnership with the Town of Poolesville, this same scenario could be possible, especially since the town has already devoted research to the efficacy of opening such an establishment.

I am only eighteen. For the majority of my life, the town that I hold close to my heart has lacked a resource that is vital to the health of my family members and community members. It is time for this to change.



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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

Visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. All events are open to the entire community and free unless otherwise noted.

Most in-person events take place at *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109)*. Registration is required.

In case of bad weather or unusual circumstances, consult poolesvilleseniors.org. If you are already registered for an event, check your email for updates.

January 9

Diamond Art

Join Carolyn Repass for an introduction to Diamond Art, a mix between paint-by-numbers and cross stitch, where you apply thousands of tiny resin "diamonds" to a pre-printed, coded self-adhesive canvas with a diamond art kit tool. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m.*

Hip-Hop Dance Class with Kim Harris

Get the party started! Learn one complete hip-hop dance each monthly session. Profanity-free music has been carefully curated by Kim. *Speer Hall. 6:30 p.m.*

January 14

Laptop Basics w/Jessica Wallach

Join Jessica Wallach as she guides us in the basic essentials of using a laptop, from navigating the desktop to managing files and connecting to Wi-Fi, making everyday tasks easier and more efficient. *Maggie Nightingale Library. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

January 15

Trail Hike: Woodstock Equestrian Park

Join Karen Dansby and Gwen Haney for part two of the Woodstock Equestrian Park hike. Meet at the parking lot for a 5.5-mile hike at the edge of open fields with 360 feet elevation gain. Boots recommended, hiking sticks unnecessary. There is a restroom at the parking lot. Bring water and a snack if you like. *Woodstock Equestrian Parking Lot, Dickerson. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

January 16

Ag Reserve Properties

Join local historian Kenny Sholes for the next Historic Ag Reserve

Properties presentation. *Virtual on Zoom. 7:00 p.m.*

January 17

Movie Night: Ordinary Angels

Enjoy the screening of *Ordinary Angels*, based on a true story. Sharon (Hilary Swank), an ordinary hairdresser in small-town Kentucky, helps Ed (Alan Ritchson), a struggling widower get a liver transplant. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m.*

January 18

Community Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange Social

Cozy up with a book or jigsaw puzzle from this community exchange. Swap books, puzzles, recommendations, and friendly conversation, and enjoy snacks. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

January 21

iPhone Basics

Jessica Wallach will guide us through the basic functions of an iPhone, including settings, apps, and camera features, to confidently navigate and make the most of your device. *Maggie Nightingale Library. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

January 23

HMD: Its History and Important Cultural Role, Past and Present

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Historic Medley District (HMD) with "John Poole, Jr." (as portrayed by Rande Davis). Socialize while enjoying light Colonial fare. *John Poole House. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

January 24

Line Dancing w/Ashley Kelch

Enjoy a free evening of line dancing with basic instruction that builds up to more complicated moves. Join the fun, work out, and meet new people. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. 7:00 p.m.*

January 27

PS Book Club: The Briar Club by Kate Quinn

Join the virtual discussion of Kate Quinn's novel set in Washington, D.C. during the McCarthy Era at Briarwood House, an all-female boardinghouse, where secrets and female friendships intertwine. *Virtual. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

January 28

Book Club for Bridge Players

The book selection is *Bridge Basics 2: Competitive Bidding* by Audrey Grant, Chapter 4. Participants should read the designated chapters before coming to the session. Jane Clark will moderate the discussions of chapters suggested the previous week. *Speer Hall. Noon to 1:00 p.m.*

Android Basics with Jessica Wallach

Master the essential fundamentals of an Android phone, including setup, customization, and essential apps, to get the most out of your smartphone experience. *Maggie Nightingale Library. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

January 30

Digital Doorways: Unlocking Library Resources Online

Join Dennis Conley for an informative, interactive review of the online services available through the Montgomery County Public Library. You'll need to bring your laptop, smartphone, and/or tablet, and your library card number and PIN. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

Weekly Events

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Pickleball Open Play. *Poolesville Baptist Church. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

Mondays

Walking Club. *Whalen Commons Flagpole. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.*

Ping Pong Afternoon. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

Seniors at the Barre. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. *Speer Hall.*

Continued on page 7.




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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

Tuesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. *Speer Hall* and virtual. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bridge. Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Trivia Game Night. If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, email info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

Pickleball Ladder Play. *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Knitting/Crochet Instruction and Support. *Poolesville Presbyterian Manse*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Chair One Fitness with Dierdre. First and third Thursdays. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

Fridays

Walking Club. All levels are welcome. Register online or drop in. Meet at *Whalen Commons Flagpole*. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Seniors at the Barre. All levels welcome. Register online for each session. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org.

In case of bad weather or unusual circumstances, consult [poolesville seniors.org](http://poolesville-seniors.org). If you are already registered for an event, check your email for updates.

Of Poetry and Prose

I'm January

I'm January bringing you
A year of days—all brand, brand new;
I step upon the frosty ground.
When chimes and sleighbells
ring around;
You welcome me and children sing,
And joy comes into everything.
I bring you love and lots of cheer,
And work and friends
for all the year.

—Annette Wynne

discoverpoetry.org

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Business Briefs

American Legion Honors Local Supporters



Linda Lewis, Katie Horan, Commander Julien Singh, and Jim Brown.

Commander Julien Singh presented American Legion awards of appreciation to three local businesses and to the town government for their exemplary support of Poolesville's Daniel-Jeffers Post 247. Those honored were Linda Lewis of Lewis Orchards for its annual Punkin Chunkin fundraiser, Katie Horan of Sweet Lemon gift shop for her annual knife sharpening fundraiser, and to Jim Brown, both in representing the commissioners of Poolesville but also for his personal donation to the group.

Post 247 has grown to over one hundred members and has also supported area nonprofits like WUMCO, the Monocacy Lions, and hosts community invited events on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Fine Earth Awarded Best in Montgomery County by Bethesda Magazine

Congratulations to Bernie Mihm as his company, Fine Earth Landscaping, was awarded Best Landscape Company in the county by *Bethesda Magazine* for 2025. It's always great when local firms gain regional recognition.

PACC Annual Dinner Scheduled

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce will host the PACC 2025 Annual Dinner and Meeting for chamber members and guests on Thursday, February 6 at Crossvines: Networking happy hour (with cash bar) at 5:00 p.m.; a brief PACC business meeting at 6:00 p.m. (free to PACC members and their guests); and annual dinner at 6:45 p.m. in the banquet hall. Tickets are \$70 per person and include choice of four dinner entrees. Purchase tickets at poolesvillechamber.com (deadline is January 27). The 2024 PACC Community Service Award recipient will be honored at the dinner.



Fine Earth Landscape was selected the best landscape company in Montgomery County by Bethesda Magazine.

Do you have an interesting story to share? Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



POOLESVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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16601 W. Willard Rd

PACC ANNUAL DINNER MEETING February 6, 2025

- Sign up at (QR code) or poolesvillechamber.com
- Ticket price: \$70 per ticket (reduced \$10 from last year)
- DEADLINE is January 27, so sign up now!
- Happy Hour: 5-6 pm (cash bar)
- Brief PACC Annual Meeting: 6-6:30 pm (free)
- Presentation of the 2024 PACC Community Service Award
- Guest speaker: Frank Jamison, Charter member of PACC when formed in 1979, speaking about how PACC got started



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Hometown

The American Legion Post 247's holiday party was at its headquarters in Poolesville. The family of Manny Melendez-Diaz sat on the couch in the center. Manny is the recipient of a Home for Our Troops at the corner of Westerly Avenue and West Willard Road.



The Odd Fellows hosted their annual holiday luncheon at Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church.



The Historic Medley District, Inc. held its annual holiday event at, you guessed it, the John Poole House and Trading Post.



The JPMS Leos Club served the meal at the Odd Fellows' holiday gathering. The Leos Club is an offshoot of the Monocacy Lions Club.



Holidays

The Monocacy Lions Club held its party at Crossvines.

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Local News

Monocacy Cemetery
Honors Fallen
Military Heroes

By Rande Davis

On behalf of the board of directors of the Monocacy Cemetery, Glenn Wallace welcomed attendees to its fourth annual National Wreaths across America Day ceremony. They celebrated the mission to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Wallace noted that this year, across the country at more than 4,800 participating locations like the Monocacy Cemetery, there were millions of Americans gathering safely as one nation to Remember, Honor, and Teach. He told the crowd, "We are all proud to be Americans who live in a free society made up of many people, from many walks of life. The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price. Lying here around us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to

believe as we do. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing, and we have the right to succeed at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue.

The United States of America was founded on the ideals of Freedom, Justice, and Equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free, and we shall not forget you. We shall remember."

After a solemn pause, he continued, "Today, more than ever, we reflect on our nation's veterans and our active-duty service members who have had and continue to fight to protect the innocent and oppressed. This nation has always been the first to stand up for the freedom of people from around the world. Many of you here today have answered that call and served your country well. For this, we say, 'Thank you,' and we are honored to know you.

"Quoting our fortieth United States President Ronald Reagan, 'Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States, where everyone was free.'"



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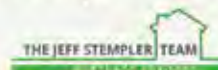
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Tidbits

Local Youths Raise Funds for WUMCO



Lauren McNally (4th grade), Alex Strickland (5th grade), Peyton Finke (4th grade), Ava Strickland (3rd grade), and Sydney Gang (4th grade).

Concerned local girls held their annual hot chocolate sale this past December 21, the evening that Santa Claus rode through town on a firetruck. The sale was to raise money for WUMCO. The girls did all the planning themselves: dates, times, advertising, pricing, setup, execution, and cleanup. Parents of each child donated the supplies. What was especially exciting about this year’s stand was how the community came out to support them.

WUMCO gave the girls a tour of their office and talked through all the ways the money would help people in need in our community. Local businesses hung flyers in their windows: Subway, Sweet Lemon, Mexican Grill, Healthy Hub, Bassett’s, and the Beer & Wine Shop. In addition, they received venmo donations from community members who couldn’t make it to the stand but wanted to

support the event. This is the fifth stand the kids have done in the past three years (three summer lemonade stands and two winter hot chocolate stands), but this was by far their most successful. With the help of friends, family, and this amazing community, they raised \$620 for WUMCO and delivered the check on Christmas Eve. It was great to also show the kids that when you support your community, your community in turn will support you.

Kudos to Town Employees



Back Row: Tara Scholz, Maggie Liebrand, Jason Williams, Wade Yost, Preston King, Ricky Davidson, Cody Liebrand, Charles Smith, Bryce McKenney, Michael Butler, Niles Anderegg, and Ian Ofsthun. Front Row: John Strong, Hope Grey, Jesse Appleton, John Smith, Ryan Tompkins, Micheal Warfield, Tommy Murgia, Cathy Bupp and Jason Williams. Missing: Roy Selby, Matthew Haga, and Anthony Smith.

We wanted to show appreciation for our town employees by putting names to faces, some you know by name, most you don’t. Here is to a great and loyal team of town workers: Thank you for all you do for us!

Friends and Family Celebrate Patsy Dillingham’s 80th Birthday

Patsy Dillingham was surprised by an eightieth birthday party held at Dutch’s Daughter on January 4. Patsy and former town commissioner Tom Dillingham also celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary this year.

Patsy is a past president and long-time leader of the Rural Women’s Republican Club, and her son-in-law, Steve Keeper, surprised her by making an appearance as President Trump. Needless to say, they danced to the song YMCA in Trump style.

Continued on page 13.



Above: Griswold Award—17320 Hughes Road



Home for the Holidays Award—19112 Munger Farm Road



Merry Marketplace Award—Heather Soskin Photography



Right: Misfit Toy Award—19201 Wootton Avenue

Continued from page 12.

Tidbits

Your Input Is Needed: Help Shape the Future of Rural Montgomery

Visit Montgomery is working on a strategy to support tourism in the rural areas of Montgomery County, including the 93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve. We're looking to promote outdoor recreation, craft beverage experiences, and agritourism in a way that strengthens the local economy while preserving the unique character of these communities.

We're conducting a survey to better understand perceptions of these areas and to identify opportunities for growth. Your feedback will help us develop thoughtful tourism strategies that benefit the rural economy while preserving the natural beauty and rural way of life.

Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BrandRuralMoCo-survey>.



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Continued from page 1.

Nancy Hopkinson Looks Back

bane of our existence. They kept ousting us from the playoffs. Finally, in 2002, the year after I left, Gina Grubb took over the team, and we won the states. Gina graduated from PHS in 1992. She spent some time as an assistant field hockey coach at Churchill, but she was back at Poolesville by 2000.

"I had twelve seniors coming back, so I felt we were going to be pretty good. We won our first playoff game and then lost in the states to another team from Southern Maryland—I guess they have nothing else to do down there. We finished 12-2. It was the best record in school history. Our best previous record was 9-3. I sent four girls from that team to college. Rande Davis's daughter, Mieke, was on that team also. She played defense."

"She could hit the ball so hard," said Rande, "that on two occasions, opposing players were injured, requiring an EMT call. It always bothered her. She never would want to hurt anyone. Her teammates, trying to make her feel better, using humor, gave her the nickname 'the Terminator.'"

"We beat Quince Orchard for the first time in the early nineties," said Hopkinson. "The game, at Quince Orchard, was tied with less than thirty seconds to go, and Gina scored the winning goal. That was a big deal at the time."

"In the late 1990s, Krista Kennedy, Tara Abbaticchio, and Barbara Burell were super players for Poolesville. We were in the state semi-finals in 1995, 1997, and 1998. Poolesville won the states the first year Gina took over the team, but I always considered that my team because they were all kids that had played for me."

"I played field hockey in junior and senior high school. I also played basketball. My coach and physical education teacher was a U.S. Team player. Through her, I met Constance Applebee who brought field hockey to the United States from England. She was an old lady by that time. I met her at a camp in the Poconos during high school at Upper Dublin High School in Fort Washington in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. After college, I refereed there before I got married. My husband got transferred to the D.C. area, and we moved out to Poolesville."

"After high school, I thought to myself, 'I don't want to go to an all-girls school,' but when I went to visit the Cedar Crest Campus in Allentown, Pennsylvania, everyone was so friendly. There were all kinds of opportunities there. I became president of the athletic association. I wouldn't have been president of the athletic association at Cornell or Yale or any coed school like Gettysburg. I had all kinds of leadership opportunities there...because it was an all-girls' school. They had a good history program, my desired major. Then I went on and got a lot of special ed certifications. I worked at all kinds of jobs, depending on the year. I played field hockey there. They were not a really strong team like they are now. I played fullback and goalkeeper on varsity all four years. I played basketball in high school, but it wasn't like today's women's basketball. We played East Stroudsburg and other schools on practice fields, but today they have a stadium; they have artificial turf and scholarships. It is a whole different ball of wax. You didn't go to school to play sports in those days. Now girls can do that."

She stays active in sports, teaches water aerobics, and participates in a ladies' golf league.

Nancy was inducted into the Cedar Crest Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

During her time at Cedar Crest, Hopkinson was heavily involved in extracurricular activities. She was manager of and a singer in the concert choir. She was also involved in the Student Government Association as a secretary in her junior year and a representative during her senior year. She was on the President's Advisory Council, and secretary and treasurer of Alpha and Omega. She was also a senior dorm counselor and a dual-sport athlete, playing both softball and field hockey. She also was on the bowling team. She got a master's degree and was certified as a reading specialist and special education teacher.

She was inducted into the Poolesville Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018 for her service as a field hockey, swimming, and boys' tennis coach from 1980 to 1999.

"I was the assistant Athletic Director, and we could not find a coach, so I coached boys' tennis. I played tennis as an adult, but I certainly didn't know the fine points like a more experienced coach would, and I coached JV softball for a while. I took tickets at the basketball games and did other duties as needed as the assistant athletic director."

"I started the swimming team at Poolesville because my kids all swam. It aggravated me that we had a girl who was asked to swim at Towson when she graduated. It bugged me that she couldn't swim or letter in high school because we didn't have a swimming team. We started off practicing at the Frederick YMCA pool a couple times a week. We had to get there by ourselves. The kids had to drive, or their parents had to drive. When the pool at Montgomery College in Germantown opened up, we moved over there. Our first meet was at Walkersville High School."

"I played field hockey for Nancy from, 1988 to 1991," said Samatha Baker. "It was actually even before that because, back in those days, PHS was a junior and senior high school, and our middle school team got to learn from Hoppy even before we were directly her athletes. As the years went by with her, Hoppy became much more than a coach to me and all of us. She opened her home and arms to us in enveloping hugs on many occasions. She saw us as more than athletes, and I loved her for all she did for us, for me especially. When my father died in September of our senior year right in the middle of an extraordinary season we were having, she was an enormous support for me. I was lucky to attend church with Nancy and was able to see her as so much more than a coach, but as a woman of strong faith and how she turned to God for strength. You could always expect honesty from Hoppy and, looking back, I can see how much she influenced who I am today. She is most definitely one of the most impactful women I have been blessed to know in my life. During my brief stint as a PHS JV field hockey coach in the nineties, I tried to channel my inner 'Hoppy,' and it was then I could really see, as an adult down on that field sideline, how much I loved her and still do today."

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Youth Sports

Falcon Cross Country Boys Second in States, Girls Sixth

By Jeff Stuart

On Saturday, November 9 at Hereford High School, the PHS boys finished second in the forty-ninth running of the MPSSAA Cross Country State Championships. The girls finished sixth.

Senior Connor Kohne finished sixth for the boys. Junior Garrett Simons was ninth. Sophomore Ethan Dimmerling was eighteenth. Sophomore Keaton Trouteaud was thirty-sixth, running a season's best on a tough course with an infamous dip. Senior Miles Kreske finished thirty-ninth. Poolesville finished with a score of ninety-six points just behind first place Centennial's seventy. Junior Alex Daniels was forty-second and junior Jack Partain was forty-ninth, also setting a season record for him.



*Rear: Adrian Karapan, Anatol Schwartz, Miles Kreske, Paul Tang, Connor Kohne, Anil Gosh, Jonah Kim, Nathaniel Kim, and Ian Arthur Gray.
Front: Roma Diak, McKenna Trainor, and Jocelyn Gu.*

On the girls' side, senior Roma Diak finished eighteenth. Senior Zia Elam was thirty-eighth. Sophomore Bhavya Chidambaranathan was fortieth. Sophomore Erica J. Millin was fifty-first. Freshman Leela Desai was fifty-eighth.

The girls finished with 178 points. The leader was Centennial, which finished with three finishers in the top ten and thirty-eight points. Junior Anna R. McCrae was sixty-first, and junior Ruby Mercer was seventy-third.

"We are a pretty young team with a couple of experienced upper classmen on both the boys' and the girls' sides," said cross country coach Prasad Gerard, just before the region meet, "but we are progressing and doing well. They did well at the counties. I don't think all of them have run their best races yet, but some of them have run some really good races. Roma has been running really well. I think she is going to have a breakout race, and the same thing with Connor on the boys' side. I expect him to have a breakout race as well. Senior Zia Elam had been working hard this season. On the boys' side, sophomore Ethan Dimmerling has done well. I think the Great American XC Festival at WakeMed Soccer Park in North Carolina on October 5 was a good meet for us as a team. We were in the Blue Invitational Division."

"The girls team won first place in the second division in Montgomery County," said assistant coach Peter Diak.

"My personal highlight of the season has been the race at the Great American XC Festival in North Carolina," said Roma Diak. "It was a really fun course, really good conditions. It was a great experience for the whole team. We enjoyed the trip. I didn't set a personal best there, but I came close to my personal best. Our girls' team is very strong, so is the boys' team. We have a lot of runners that work very well together to bring us up in the points. Our morale is very high. Everyone is having a good time. My shoutouts go to Zia. She has put in the work and is doing a good job, and to Ruby, and sophomores, Erica Millen and Layla Swyndle. They work very well together. They finish close to each other in races. For the boys, Connor, Ethan, and junior Garrett Simons had really good performances at the county meet. They helped the team out."

Continued on page 19.

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Continued from page 1.

Town Commissioners Hear Proposals to Reconfigure Water System for PFAS and to Change Water Rates

support the acquisition of equipment needed to retrofit the town wells so they could eliminate PFAS. The vote for the resolution was unanimous.

The commissioners then heard a presentation offered by Town Engineer John Strong regarding proposals to improve the structure of the town's water system so it can more efficiently and effectively eliminate PFAS. Strong noted that the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has established a limit of four parts per trillion (PPT) for water for PFAS. The town temporarily took Wells 2 and 3 offline when water testing found that the levels in those wells for PFAS was between twenty and thirty PPT. Filtration units were then installed and tested, and it was determined that the units removed one hundred percent of the PFAS.

Since then, further testing has found that several other wells have PFAS levels of between 4.8 to 11 PPT. The EPA has given jurisdictions until 2029 to comply with the new limits.

Currently, only a few wells are connected to each other in the town's water system. For the most part, wells are separately connected to the water system and send their water directly into the system. The wells do not directly connect first to the water towers which then send water, via gravity feed, back out to homes. This means that, in order to install PFAS filtering equipment to take care of all wells, it would be necessary in most cases, to install filters on each well separately. The wells would also need, in many cases, to have their shelters expanded in order to accommodate the new equipment. The twelve town wells are located throughout neighborhoods. This configuration is in part a result of the fact that neighborhoods were not all built at the same time, and as wells were identified in a new area, they were built as the development was finished.

Strong explained that it would be much more efficient to connect two or more wells together to minimize capital costs. This would mean having to bore new water lines to tie wells together at various sites.

Strong said that Wells 11 and 13 have very low PFAS concentration levels. Wells 7 and 9 are already connected and have filters designed to remove uranium ions that were detected years ago. Those filters can also remove PFAS. Wells 2 and 3 have treatment units installed already, and it has been determined that they remove all PFAS. Wells 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12 require treatment. Wells 5, 8, and 12 are located in areas that make it prohibitive to install protective housing.

Strong provided estimates of the costs of all of this work and it totaled just under \$5 million. He said that his presentation is informational and that no immediate action is needed at this time. The town will continue to develop cost options as well as ongoing maintenance costs. It will be important to consider including a line item in the upcoming budget to start accumulating funds to pay for the new program. The state also has grant programs for environmental protection, and it will be important to pursue those grants.

In his Town Manager's Report, Wade Yost said the town had submitted an application to FEMA to conduct a study of the town's cybersecurity systems. If successful, the town could expect a report in April and then a second report about how to fix any problems that have been detected.

Yost noted that an assessment of the town's trail system is being undertaken, and a report is being developed for release in the near future.

Surveys are being carried out currently by the town to help support the development of the cultural arts district policy that the Planning Commission has recommended, Yost said. The survey will examine all roadways in the proposed district to determine who owns what properties along these thoroughfares.

In terms of the new developments in town, Yost said that the Fishpool Development next to town hall will likely begin to move ahead rapidly next year.

At their January 6 meeting, the commissioners first heard a request for a funding grant from the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC).

Tom Kettler, the president of PACC, appeared to request a grant from the town to support a dinner to be held at Crossvines. The dinner is not a fundraiser but a way to promote the Poolesville area and its economy and businesses to key leaders from the state and county. He expects a good turnout that will help boost the area's image and help educate leaders about our area and its needs. He requested nearly \$2,000 to help pay for the costs of the dinner and boost attendance. The commissioners unanimously approved the request at a level of \$2,000.

Yost then discussed a report on water rates in the town. The water and sewer system, unlike most other local programs and services, is intended to be funded based on each individual resident's and company's demand and usage for water. These programs are designed, in most jurisdictions, to be completely supported by revenues generated by fees associated with specific amounts of usage. The

report notes that the town has consistently subsidized water and sewer operations from the general fund and does not cover all costs for the programs as it should. A small town like ours, which has a very small population but a very expensive water and sewer system, has a much harder job than large systems like WSSC which can spread the costs widely and to many large companies.

Water and sewer providers use a range of rate structures to bill customers for services. Considerable variations exist among jurisdictions in how rates are calculated and how different customer classes are charged. Regardless, the price of water and sewer services should roughly equal the cost or value to produce, store, and distribute water and/or treat wastewater if equity among customers is to be maintained, a concept the report refers to as "cost-based" or "cost of service."

Poolesville uses the same rate structure for residential, commercial, and governmental customers. Water and sewer bills are calculated based on metered water consumption quantities. The existing rate structure provides for lower use categories (elderly and lower income) to be subsidized and encourages the high-end users (residential) to conserve.

Yost added that large customers, such as restaurants in town, use considerably more water and sewer services than the average home, but their usage does not vary much between seasons. Homeowners often use more water in the summer due to lawn watering, for example. He also said that the current water and sewer fund does not cover the capital costs of funding these programs and that a few large users, particularly the schools, only contribute to costs via usage fees because they do not pay local income or property taxes.

In order to create a rate structure that provides equivalent cost sharing from all users, Yost recommends a three-user category system. The proposed system would be designed to support low/fixed income users; encourage conservation without penalizing families; support local businesses; and require non-taxpaying users to pay actual costs.

With respect to residential customers, Yost said the current structure can be maintained with the addition of two new categories of usage: 25,001 to 35,000 gallons per quarter and a 35,001 and up per quarter. While data shows that the current "high end" users typically don't exceed the 35,000 gallons except during the summer months, this will encourage conservation without harming large families.

With respect to local businesses, the current rate structure is sufficient, Yost said, because users in this category already pay the "actual" cost of water production and treatment. Data indicates the seasonal fluctuations that occur with residential users do not occur in the local commercial sector, so changes in rates would not affect conservation. He also said it is important to help support the town's economic health by keeping the current structure for our local businesses.

Finally, Yost noted that their report suggests that a new rate structure should be created to account for the true cost of operations and capital expenses for government users such as the school system. While the other two categories also pay property and income taxes and subsidize the water and sewer funds, governmental entities do not.

Yost said that staff is recommending increases in rates, but they will be spread over three years. Actual quarterly rates for the lowest residential use category, for example, would eventually go from about \$80 per quarter to around \$100 per quarter.

Yost said the next step in the process is to consider a resolution at the next commissioner meeting in January, then two weeks later hold a public hearing, and finally move to adopt the new rate structure and incorporate it into the new budget.

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Robert Karn



Alfred "Buddy" King



James Daniel King



Paul "Joe" Edward Knott



Timothy A. Krakat



Estelle Lee



Thomas Grafton Lee

Dustin Victor Aschenbach
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Robert J. Kapsch
Robert Karn
Alfred "Buddy" King
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Estelle Lee
Thomas Grafton Lee

Farewell.

					
George Lewis	Tony Lo Bianco	Camille H. Majchrzak	Michael Patrick Martin	Belinda Fay McElhinney	James Samuel Miller
					
Franklin Eugene Poole	Anita Patricia Pryor	Richard "Gunny" Remp	Majorie Ann Rupp	Daniel Anthony Santucci	Jay Schwartzman
					
Bruce Edward Selby	Charles Shawver	Brenda Kay Souders	Mary Hamilton Stock	Margie Tubbe Stream	Frances Suddarth
			<div>Continued from page 16.</div> <div>Falcon Cross Country Boys Second in States, Girls Sixth</div> <p>Roma finished second in the Brunswick Zumbach Invitational on September 7, thirteenth at the county championship, and fourth at the 2A West Region Championship at Utica District Park in Frederick, Maryland on October 31. She set a personal best in the first tri-meet of the season against Einstein and Clarksburg at Clarksburg on September 17.</p> <p>"I think our team has done really well," said McCrae. "We won the division together which was really exciting. A personal highlight for me was setting a personal best at the county championships. We did really well at the meet in North Carolina as a team. I ran my best time except for the county meet. It seemed like everyone took ten or twenty seconds off their previous PR times. I think that showed how strong we are as a team and that we have a lot of depth. My shoutouts go to freshmen Leela Desai and Charlotte Hofmann. They have done so well this year. Their times have gone down significantly. I am really impressed by them. I am looking forward to seeing how they improve as sophomores."</p> <p>"It has been a good season," said Connor. "We have had some good races. We have had some people step up and run fast. The Great American XC Festival meet in North Carolina was a good meet for the team and for me personally. I ran my best race of the season. I think we are doing great. We are stepping up at the right time. It is good to see the younger people come together. My shoutouts go to Ethan and Garrett and senior Miles Kreske. They have been great to train with and to run in meets with."</p> <p>Connor finished twelfth at the county championships and fifth at the 2A West Region Championship.</p> <p>In the MPSSAA 2A West Region Championship, the boys finished third and the girls finished fourth. Individual times are as follows: boys: Garrett finished sixth, Ethan eighteenth, Trouteaude nineteenth, Miles twenty-eighth, Daniels and Partain finished thirty-first and thirty-second, respectively; girls: Roma was fourth, Ruby was nineteenth, Erica twenty-second, Zia twenty-fourth, Anna twenty-fifth, Bhavya twenty-sixth, and Leela twenty-eighth.</p>		
George Louis Toman	Rebecca Lillard Umstead	Dr. Joan Barth Urban			
					
Esther (Katonak) Wallace	Dewalt Joseph Willard, Jr.	David Ward Wilson			
					
Frances Kay Winings	Steve Wayne Yokum				

Youth Sports

PHS Wrestlers Start the Season Strong

By Jeff Stuart

"So far this year, we have had some kids really step up," said Poolesville High School wrestling coach Chris Tao. "They have put in the off-season work. They are wrestling hard. They are wrestling tough. We have a lot of freshmen that have joined the team this year, so right now, we are relying on our upperclassmen to show them the ropes and teach them how wrestling works and our expectations and how to conduct themselves. We have had some of those freshmen step into the starting varsity lineup and done really well. We have had some upperclassmen that are first-year wrestlers fill in some spots as well. Anthony Juarez is a freshman to watch. He has some junior league experience from Germantown wrestling. At 157 pounds, he is wrestling in a pretty tough weight class for a freshman. Usually, there are upperclassmen in that weight class. He has filled in very nicely at that spot. We had two experienced seniors in that spot last year. We have senior Corey Gatons at 215. He has never wrestled before, but he is learning fast. He is tough, and we expect him to continue growing. We have senior Johnny Smith, another first-year wrestler, filling in at 190 pounds. He was filling in for an injured wrestler who is now back. He is pushing that wrestler for that starting spot.

"Magruder was a big match for us on December 21. They have three or four state placers last year in their lineup and two freshmen that are coming in with pretty high junior wrestling credentials, and then Oakdale is a solid program. They are always tough. We were happy with a split because we lost both matches at that meet last year.

The match versus Magruder started at 120 lbs. Racer Anderson led us off with a pin in the first forty seconds of the match, giving us a lead of 6-0. We got pinned at 126. Our 132 fought hard and got tech falled by Magruder's state-ranked kid, Sava Makarov. Magruder's bread and butter is from 132 to 144, where they have several kids who are vying for a state podium spot, including two-time finalist, Neil Sharma at 144. We knew they were really tough from 132 to 144. We were down 23-6 going into Vinnie Volpe's match at 150. Volpe got us back in the win column with a tech fall and brought us back into the dual meet, 23-11. We went on to win the next six matches, getting pins from Simma Wexler (175), Zoya Wexler (190), Gianluca Radice (215), and Behr Shickler (285). Anthony Juarez earned a major decision at 157, and Carter Rice won by decision as well. Going into 106, we had built a lead of 42-23, and the match ended with a score of 48-29 with Jack Maddox earning the pin at 113.

"The match against Oakdale came down to the final two weight classes, and unfortunately, we couldn't quite pull that one out, with us losing by a score of 40-39. It was definitely a hard-fought match and a fun one to coach."

"We had over fifty kids register this year. We have eight girls on the team. We had our first full girls' dual meet on December 11 at Wootton. We won 42-24. That was the first girls' dual meet win in school history. They had a tournament at Tuscarora, the Clash at the Creek, on the twenty-first as well. You have to have at least seven girls in order to have a dual meet."

The Falcons took fifth place at the Battle of the Boro at Boonesboro on December 7. Sophomore Ethan Dimmerling took first place at 126 pounds, Racer Anderson was second at 120, and senior Shimma Wexler was second at 175. Sophomore Zoya Wexler was second at 165, senior Vinnie Volpe was third at 150, sophomore Asa Wexler was third at 144, freshman Anthony Juarez was fifth at 157, and sophomore Nico Hoehler was seventh at 138.

Damian DeVriendt is the other coach.

"I want to reach the regional finals this year," said senior captain Racer Anderson, a 120 pounder. "So far, the highlight for me this year was finishing second at the Boro on December 7. I wrestled Cody Mimmall from Boonesboro twice. I beat him in pool play and lost to him in the finals. My shoutouts go to Shimma Wexler at 175 pounds. He finished second at Boonesboro. He came up short last year, but I think he has a real chance to win at the states this year—and to Behr Shickler, our heavyweight; it was his first year wrestling last year. He really loves it this year. I think he is going to be great this year. Beating Sherwood on December 19 was big for us. They beat us last year, but this year we beat them big time, 54-18."

Senior captain Simma said, "A season highlight for me was that my brother and I both placed at the Battle of the Boro. I am looking forward to facing Trevor Sowers of Boonesboro again at the states. He beat me in the quarterfinals last



Ava Shelburne, Alina Fang, Racer Anderson, Shimma Wexler, and Vinnie Volpe.

year. He finished in third place. My shoutout goes to my brother Zoya Wexler. I think he is going to the states this year. I think we have a strong team, and we could have several wrestlers place in the states."

"The highlight of the season for me so far was beating Sherwood," said senior captain Vinnie. "They kind of decked us last year, so killing them this year really felt good. Sadly, the guy I wrestled last year graduated, so I was not able to get

Continued on page 21.

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Continued from page 20.

PHS Wrestlers Start the Season Strong

my personal revenge. My personal best match was at the Battle of the Boro. On the first day of that tournament, I beat a guy I lost to last year. I finished third. That was a big moment for me. I want to give a shoutout to senior Johnny Smith. He won four matches at the Battle of the Boro, which is pretty good for a first-year wrestler; he has a lot of heart—and one to Zoya Wexler, a sophomore. I think he is going to make a statement this year. He is one of those guys. He is a natural."

"I had a match with Kylie Delvro from Wootton," said Alina Fang, sophomore captain of the girls' team. "She is really good. She has been wrestling since she was in third grade. I got a pin. I also pinned Bella Gonzales from Sherwood. I tried wrestling in eighth grade and eventually fell in love with it. I am looking forward to the states this year. Last year I finished in sixth place which is not my favorite place to be. I want to move up to the awards podium. My shoutouts go to Ava Shelburne. She is also team captain and a sophomore. She is really hard-working, and I think she will qualify for the states this year—and to freshman Layla Tao. She is also really hard working. She is really good, and I believe she is going to have a really good season."

Alina placed third at the inaugural Clash at the Creek girls' invitational on December 21.

Other seniors are Pablo Luna, Carter Rice, and Sameen Tanveer.

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The New Year

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— Dinah M. Craik

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Nicholas Spano
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Continued from page 3.

Local Grandparents Proud of Granddaughter's International Championship

Dessie began learning to skate when she was five years old. It soon became clear that both she and her brother loved to be on the ice. When asked why she took to it so fast, she says, "Honestly, at first it was because I just love the cold. My coaches and their commitment too also made me more interested in the sport."

Dessie first began skating at Skate Frederick in group classes called Learn to Skate, and then quickly progressed to private coaching where she learned freestyle. Freestyle is the discipline where jumps and spins are incorporated into a routine. She competed in freestyle until she was eleven years old when she was asked to join a partnership and try couples ice dancing. Dessie always loved the intricate footwork and artistry of ice dance. She began training at the Ion International Training Center in Leesburg as a member of the Washington Ice Dance Academy. After a year, the partnership dissolved, so she moved to solo ice dance. She placed second at the novice level at the Solo Ice Dance Nationals when she was thirteen years old.

Becoming excellent at any sport involves hours of practice and a commitment to never quit and overcome adversity. It also involves competing with other skaters, throughout the U.S. and the world. Dessie practices on average twenty-five hours a week. Many of the adults in her life—her parents, Sue and Sara, her aunts, Lori and Kelly, and her grandparents, as well as supporting adults in her skating world—take her almost every day to practice, most often to the Ion Training Center.

Dessie explains why she has put so much time into the sport. "Competitions do kind of drive me, but I love the process of learning routines and even getting better at the ones I already know. I love expressing myself through dancing."

Just a few months ago, Dessie competed in Florida and won the U.S. championship for Junior Solo Ice Dancing. To compete at this level, a skater must be at least thirteen years old and younger than nineteen years old for women. Dessie is fifteen, so this means she is often competing against girls who are older, and sometimes more experienced, than she is, making this an even more amazing accomplishment.

Just a few weeks ago, Dessie traveled to Epinal, France, a town in the southeastern part of the country a few hours by train from Paris. She faced

almost thirty dancers from many parts of Europe, including France, Germany, Great Britain, and Italy. Dessie won the competition, coming in first just ahead of the only other American in the competition, her friend Alison Rho. Dessie describes how she felt about the competition. "Until now, I have never competed overseas in another country. It made the whole experience feel new and added to the excitement I felt. The surroundings of the town and even the hotel were different from most of the places I have been in competing in the U.S."

Fran and I have six grandchildren, and they all have varied skills and characteristics that make them unique and wonderful to watch as they grow. They have all already shown great promise, and we cannot wait to see what they become. I have learned in my own life and in watching my children and grandchildren grow up that success in life is not measured by money or power or position. It comes from doing the best you can in a chosen career or sport with passion and commitment and contributing meaningfully to your community and nation. By these measures, Dessie is more than a champion in our eyes, and we are very proud of her accomplishments.

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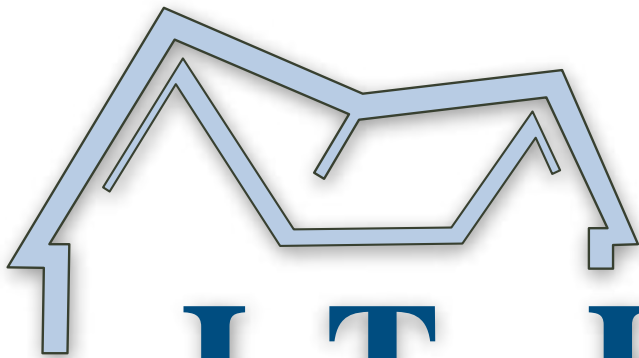
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Remembrance

Rev. Bryan Conrad Baker

Rev. Bryan Conrad Baker, 46, died suddenly on December 23, 2024, at his home in Boyds. The son of the late Maurice Roger Baker and Elizabeth Wingold Baker, he was born April 30, 1978.

After his 1996 graduation from University High School in his hometown of Morgantown, West Virginia, Bryan went on to receive his B.A. from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 2000. In 2007, he received his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School and was ordained as a full elder in the United Methodist Church in 2010.

Rev. Baker was currently serving as a chaplain at Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, Bryan had served as pastor of Claypool and later Roncerverte and Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Churches in West Virginia.

His was a heart for mission. Before his marriage to Jaya Abraham in 2009, Bryan had served as a missionary in places like a Ute Indian Reservation in the States to the distant countries of Uganda and Rwanda in Africa. After his marriage and the subsequent births of his beloved children, Elijah Zachery and Lily Anjali, he then served in West Virginia, and later, D.C.

Besides his ex-wife Jaya, his two children, and his mother, Bryan is survived by one brother, Benjamin Scott Baker (Erika Shaffer) and their three children, Eva Elizabeth, Olivia Marie and Cameron Thomas, all of Morgantown.

The family will hold a memorial service on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Avery United Methodist Church, 1152 Cheat Road, Morgantown, West Virginia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in his memory be made by check to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and mailed to Avery United Methodist Church, 1152 Cheat Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.



Rev. Bryan Conrad Baker



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Remembrance

Sarah Jane Kirksey

Sarah Jane Kirksey passed peacefully on December 22, 2024 surrounded by her family on their small farm in Dickerson. She was born December 29, 1947, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In 1969, she married Will Kirksey, whom she met while both were working at the Oak Ridge nuclear facility. At Otterbein College, she majored in music and, after working with deaf children as a social worker, she was inspired to become an audiologist. As an adult, she moved to Florida, back to Tennessee, and then to Ohio, before settling in Montgomery County in 1990. She was a devoted and kind mother, who interrupted her career to care for two children: Eben (born in 1976) and Kate (born in 1980).

Locally, she is known as a successful small business owner. After founding Hearing Heath Care in 1996, she compassionately cared for a community of patients. She believed the best way to run a business was to treat everyone she encountered with kindness. Her naturally caring personality led her to provide personalized help to her clients—like giving discounts and wrangling free hearing devices from the suppliers for her clients who had difficulty paying. She never needed to advertise; her clients loved her and spread the word. Her clientele included senior government diplomats, a bank president, a Grammy Award-winning music critic, members of a famous rock and roll band, and prisoners from one of the area’s maximum-security prisons (brought in shackled by an armed guard).

Jane Kirksey had a lifelong passion for the outdoors and especially enjoyed hiking, paddling, as well as downtime at the beach. An intrepid leader, she organized and led adventurous family trips, including whitewater paddling down the Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River, canoe camping on Lake Temagami in Canada, and trekking on Mont Blanc’s Sea of Ice in France. Internationally, she travelled to Mexico, Vietnam, England, Kenya, Italy, Greece, among many other countries. After being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2017, she traveled to Australia to go hiking, snorkeling, and boating with her son Eben.

She moved to the farm in Dickerson in 2017 with her husband Will, her daughter Kate, and her first grandchild Luke (born 2016). During the coronavirus pandemic, her son Eben also came back to the farm to join the family. Her second grandson, Henry, was born in April 2020. She was excited about using the farm to create a legacy for her family. Marveling at natural beauty, she enjoyed planting flowers, bulbs, and trees on the farm—knowing that these plants would live on for generations. Jane enjoyed strolls through the farm fields with goats, chickens, and especially her grandchildren, Luke and Henry.

A celebration of her life is being planned for summer. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations in her honor to either Riverworks Art Center (riverworksart.org) or WUMCO Help (wumcohelp.org), our local charity.



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Remembrances

Anne Stuart Baldwin Beers

Anne Stuart Baldwin Beers, 65, of Poolesville, peacefully passed from our world on December 19, 2024 after a life richly lived.

Known for her kind heart, generous good nature, and warm smile, Anne was cherished by her family, friends, and community. Many will remember her strong faith, hearty laugh, cheerful optimism, and eagerness to know and love everyone she met.

Anne was preceded in death by her parents, Elizabeth “Betsy” and Capt. Charles Baldwin USN, Ret.; and her legacy remains through her husband, Allan Beers, Jr.; children, Chelsea Kendall, Allan (Grace) Beers, Elizabeth Beers; siblings, Elizabeth “Betsy” (Wil), Chip (Angela), Jim (Linda), and Amy (Steve); and their families. Anne’s memory will be treasured by all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Anne’s memory to the American Brain Tumor Association online at bit.ly/DonateABTA or via mail:

The American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. #550, Chicago, IL 60631



Anne Stuart Baldwin Beers

Sharon Diane True

Sharon Diane True, 78, recently of Inwood, West Virginia, passed away on December 15, 2024. Diane was born in Maryland on April 30, 1946, to Talmage M. and Pearl L. (Webster) Fink.

She was the wife of the late Daniel E. True, the love of her life and her best friend. They lived most of their lives in the family home on Clarksburg Road in Boyds.

Diane was fiercely loyal to her family, friends, and anyone she loved. She was the caregiver to her mother and younger brother, Joe, until they passed. She was also a champion for animals, especially her beloved dogs, the last of which is Beckham. Diane worked as a secretary for Bechtel Corporation until retirement.

Sharon is survived by her brother, Johnny Klepp; nieces, Debra Spigler, Stacy Hawkins, Vicky Dowling, Paula Drew, and Janet Crusenberry; and nephews, David Wills, Roy Wills, Wayne Fink, Robert Fink, and Gary Fink. She is also survived by multiple grandnieces and grandnephews, and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

She was preceded in death by one sister and seven brothers.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to Berkeley County Humane Society in Martinsburg, West Virginia.



Sharon Diane True

Col. Ben P. Daughtry

Col. Ben P. Daughtry (USAF Retired), 86, of Dickerson, passed away suddenly on December 20, 2024. He was the husband of the late Nancy M. Daughtry, who died on July 17, 2020. Born on September 4, 1938, in Smithfield, North Carolina, he was the son of the late Hubert and Elizabeth (Hill) Daughtry.

Ben grew up on a tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina as the second of seven children, developing a strong work ethic and devotion to family. He later attended the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy at Chapel Hill. He was so proud to be a Tar Heel, paying it back over the years by hosting many pharmacy students during their internships in D.C. He also completed a master’s in business administration from Inter American University.

He married Nancy, the love of his life in 1961, and accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Their journey began in Mountain Home, Idaho. He served in the military for twenty-four years, eventually settling in Maryland in 1974. He worked in the Medical Service Corps in healthcare management and retired in 1985 as a colonel. After retirement, he had a rewarding career in federal government marketing with Glaxo Smithkline Pharmaceuticals. Throughout his life, he worked part-time as a pharmacist in his off hours to support his family, continuing into his late seventies. He proudly maintained his pharmacy license for over sixty-two years!

Ben dedicated his life to serving God, family, and community. He lived a selfless life always searching for what he could do for others. He was the longest-serving member of the session in the history of Darnestown Presbyterian Church, serving over forty years. He was also a founding member of the Mercy Health Clinic, providing essential healthcare to uninsured low-income residents in the community. He supported his children’s interests, including building and managing a horse farm. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed projects and built a lake home with Nancy. Jet skiing and boating were among his favorite activities until his last days. His faithfulness to Nancy during her battle with ovarian cancer was inspiring, and her passing deeply affected him; however, the love of family, friends, and a full social calendar helped sustain him. His favorite response to good news was “wonderful,” a sentiment we will always cherish.

Nancy aptly described Ben as “the best man who ever lived.” While we find comfort in their reunion this Christmas, we will miss his smile, laughter, and caring nature.

Ben is survived by two daughters, Beth Norton (John) and Cathy Kogler (Tim), and son, Bryan Daughtry. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Evelyn (Alex Begej) and Joanna Norton (Joseph Williams), Emily and Katie Kogler, and Brooke and Ben Daughtry, II. He is also survived by a large family, including three younger sisters, a brother, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandsons Nicholas and Christopher Kogler, as well as his parents and two brothers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Darnestown Presbyterian Church.



Col. Ben P. Daughtry

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Tips for Protecting Your Pets during Winter Cold, Ice, and Snow

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

As we reach the peak of our winter months, it is time to again discuss how to best protect your pets when they venture outside.

As a general overview, it is important to be aware of the expected temperatures, wind, and precipitation conditions every day, not only for yourself, but for your pets as well.

My blanket recommendation (get it?) is for your cats to stay inside the entire winter. This protects them from winter dangers and protects the birds and small creatures struggling to survive in the winter conditions from falling prey to your cats. Birds especially have a lot less cover during the winter months and are reliant on limited feeding areas. This exposes them to greater threat of death from your cat.

Your cats also have less access to places to hide, sources of water and regular food, and escape from other creatures that may be hunting them (other cats, dogs, and coyotes). Foxes do not hunt cats.

Dogs can also have limited tolerance for the outside conditions during the winter.

Small short-haired dogs have a higher surface to mass ratio, so they lose heat faster. Your small canine friends will benefit from a jacket or sweater (even the one Aunt Martha made them).

The key danger in the winter months is the combination of colder temperatures, wet conditions, ice, and snow. Dogs that become wet while outside in the winter months can develop hypothermia much more quickly. Frostbite to the ears, nose, tail, and feet is also a possibility and should be avoided by limiting outside time to ten minutes or less.

Bigger dogs may be able to spend more time outside as they can maintain their body temperature better for longer. Do not let

them spend more than twenty to thirty minutes outside unattended. Set a timer on your phone when you let them out so you do not forget they are outside.

Bigger dogs are just as susceptible to hypothermia as little dogs when conditions are poor.

Bigger dogs can also benefit from jackets or sweaters. Here again, these support garments are not a replacement for limiting time outside during the winter months.

Hypothermia can also be a danger for the bigger dogs.

Hypothermia, what to look for:

1. Ears become very red and hot to the touch after being outside.
2. Feet are painful to the touch or your canine pal licks them excessively.
3. Swelling to the nose, with redness around the edges.
4. Pain when they touch their tail to something.

Call your veterinarian or emergency clinic immediately if you are concerned hypothermia may be an issue for your pet. They can give you quick advice on initial home treatment.

One important recommendation is NEVER placing your pet with potential hypothermia into very warm or hot water. This can severely increase the damage to the tissue.

Parting note: If you think going outside is too cold for you, then it is too cold for your furry pal also.



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