

# FORT HILL SENTINEL

Vol. 73 No. 2

Fort Hill High School, Cumberland, Maryland

November 18, 2011

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Beloved losses of Fort Hill Faculty and Staff.  
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**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

WEDNESDAY 23RD, HALF DAY  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29TH, RETURN FROM THANKSGIVING BREAK  
SAT DECEMBER 3, 2011  
FINANCIAL AIDE NIGHT AT FORT HILL, JANUARY 4, 2012  
DEADLINE FOR ACT, JANUARY 13, 2012

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## A week of mourning for Fort Hill administration, faculty, staff, and students

By, Grace Bauer



Mrs. Dottie Appel

Silence and devastation swept through the halls of Fort Hill High School as the sudden passings of Mrs. Dorothea Appel and Dr. Charles Thatcher were announced early Friday morning before classes began. Earlier in the week, Mr. Lewis announced the death of custodian James Markley, Sr.

Mrs. Appel was a pillar of the Fort Hill community. She graduated from Fort Hill High School in 1958 and proved to be an extremely active and involved high school student.

She was the treasurer for her senior class. She was selected as the Outstanding Senior Girl by the school faculty. She was a cheerleader all four years of her high school career and was the captain of the squad her senior year. In addition, she also served as a chaplain and president for her Tri- Hi-Y groups during her high school years, was a member of the Fort Hill Players, and served on the school newspaper.

*Continued on page four,*



Dr. Charles Thatcher

By, Sara Dignan

On Thursday, November 10, 2011, Dr. Charles Thatcher, Jr., died at his home in Grantsville, Maryland at the age of 65. Charles Thatcher was born on December 6, 1945, in Pittsburgh, PA, and was the son of Lucy Thatcher and Charles Thatcher, Sr. He is survived by his mother, along with his wife, Cynthia Thatcher; three sons and three daughters; his brother, John Thatcher; and two grandchildren. His son, Daniel Kilcoyne, preceded him in death.

Dr. Thatcher worked for the Allegany County Board of Education as a school psychologist and worked at Fort Hill High School for a number of years.

Dr. Thatcher worked with many young students not only from Fort High School but schools all over Allegany County. He helped students and their families outside of the school setting to become successful in the classroom.

Dr. Thatcher also worked at West Virginia University as an Adjunct Professor. Furthermore, he assisted teachers from Allegany County pursuing their doctorate degrees. He coached the Fort Hill High School golf team from 1995-1998 and was a member of the National Association of Hypnotherapists, the National Association of Certified School Psychologists, and the American College of Forensic Councilors.

Charles Thatcher Jr., Ed.D. is remembered for his service in the U.S. Army. As a veteran of the Vietnam War, he was commemorated by receiving the National Defense Service Medal for Sharpshooter. He was also a member of the American Legion.

Dr. Thatcher's Fort Hill friends and family acknowledge and appreciate his hard work and dedication to the school system and its students.



Mr. James Markley, Sr.

By, Emily Goldsworthy

Mr. James Markley Sr., our school custodian, passed away Monday, Nov. 7, 2011, at his home. Mr. Markley was born Jan. 14, 1942, in Farmington, W.V. He was the son of the late Emma (Bray) Markley and David F. Markley, of Fairmont, W.Va. Jim was the last of his siblings. All others preceded him in death.

Jim retired after many years as a custodian at the Allegany County Board of Education, but he continued to work for the Board of Education even after he retired.

Mr. Markley was well-known through the school halls and *Continued on page four,*



### AP Environmental's Trip to Rocky Gap

By, Taylor Dudek, Olivia McGraw, Sam Davis, and Emily Crane

Mr. Howard's AP

Environmental Science Class went to Rocky Gap State Park to assess the health of the aquatic ecosystem there. The trip was lead by Ranger Sara Milburn from the park and Katy Barger, the environmental educator from the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The group toured the lake by canoe, performed chemical testing of the water,

and captured and counted benthic macroinvertebrates. It was a great day, and all students enjoyed the tranquil lake.

### Canal Stewards Project

Advisers John Howard and Kate Loughrie lead students in The Canal Stewards Project.

A team of Fort Hill students traveled to the C&O Canal at North Branch on September 14th as part of the Canal Stewards Project. Teams from Allegany and Mountain Ridge explored other sections of the park.



### SHOP Takes A Pledge

By, Lilly Duncan

The Students Helping Other People (SHOP) organization is planning for an eventful upcoming year! This year SHOP, plans to help the local community in many ways. During October, they made a step toward making every child drug free. During the month of November, they will be collecting food for the annual food drive. Throughout the remainder of the year, they will be helping with Mrs. Sibley's YES group and collecting items for the less fortunate. They plan to help the community as much as possible.

SHOP meets twice a month.

If you are interested in becoming a member or for more information about SHOP, contact Mrs. Maddy.

The goal of the project is for each team to develop an educational video about their section of the park that will inform and inspire other teenagers to come to the park. The finished videos will be uploaded onto the ACPS website. The Fort Hill team is developing a script for their video and will return to the park on November 10th to gather video clips. The finished videos should be uploaded in April.



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### Homecoming 2011

By, Grace Bauer

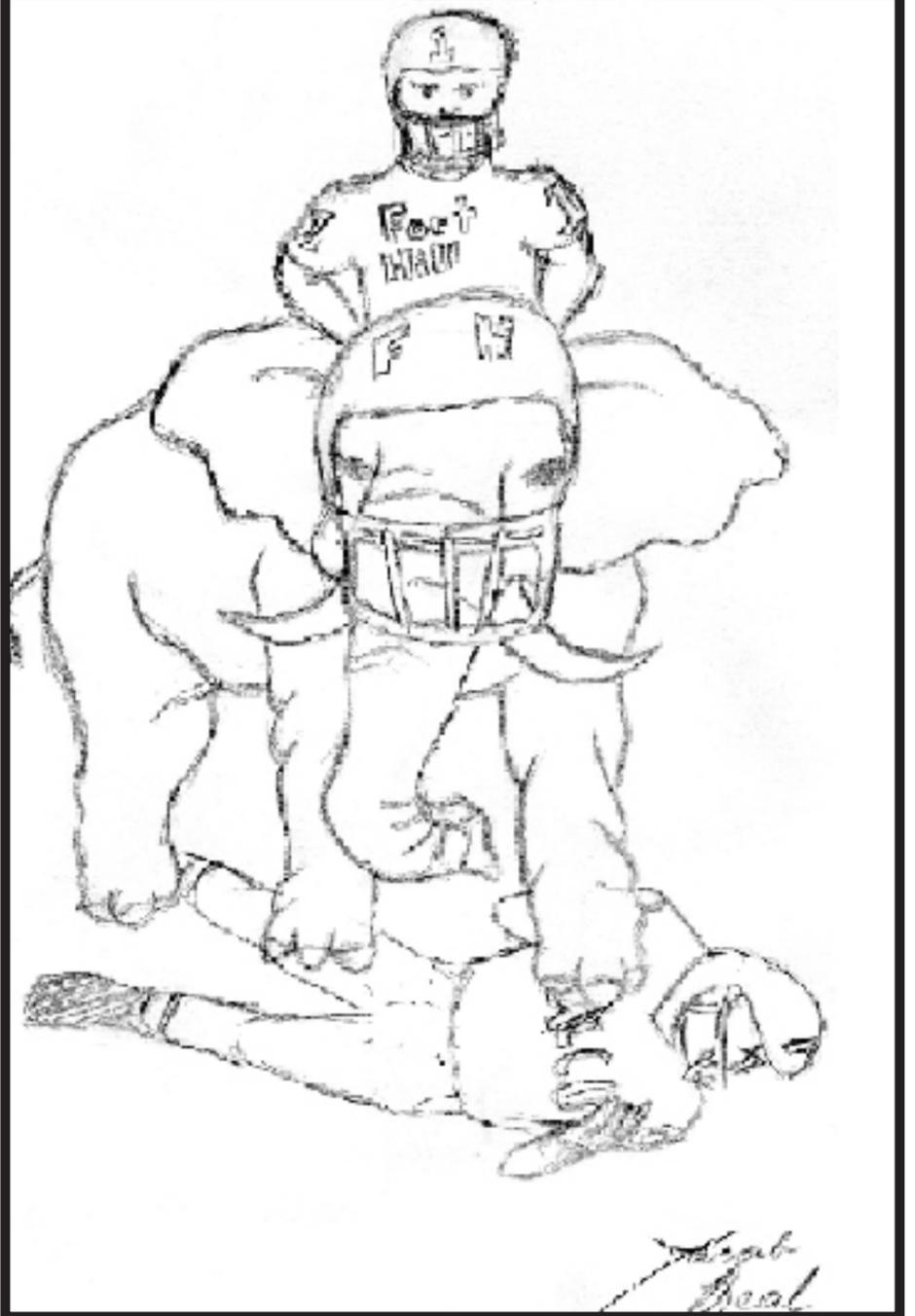
Saturday, November 5, 2011, was yet another glorious day for football at Greenway Avenue Stadium. The yearly homecoming game between the Fort Hill Sentinels and the Allegany Campers had an estimated five thousand people dressed in red and blue patiently waiting for the game to begin on the beautiful Saturday afternoon. With a clear, blue sky and thousands of fans, the homecoming game was a magnificent day to be remembered by all the Sentinel seniors.

Kick off was scheduled to take place at 12:30 on the gorgeous Saturday afternoon. Cullin Brown, Fort Hills starting kicker, kicked off the festivities of the Homecoming game to the receiving Allegany Campers. Shortly after Allegany retrieved the ball, a fumble took place, and the Sentinels took possession of the ball. Within thirty seconds of the game, Ryan Briner scored the Sentinel's first touchdown of the game. Although the Sentinels started off with a quick touchdown, the Allegany Campers did not give up hope. The Campers fought back against the stout Sentinel defense, and scoring a touchdown to tie the

score 7-7.

Brothers, Garrett and Dylan Clay, had a combined average for more than three-hundred yards and five touchdowns throughout the game. Lance Fullword scored one of the seven Fort Hill touchdowns to complete the Sentinel's scoring. With an 86-yard touchdown run, Garrett Clay set the record for the longest touchdown run in Homecoming game history. The offensive line was a major contributor to the success of the Fort Hill backfield and its ability to move the ball.

As the Homecoming game came to an end, the score mounted to a final achievement of 50-7. The Fort Hill Sentinels were able to shut out Allegany during the second, third, and fourth quarters. Austin Lee stated, "Winning my senior Homecoming was satisfying and memorable, but we still have bigger goals we want to accomplish." We wish the best of luck to the Fort Hill football players as the advance into the playoffs and hopefully get the chance to play at M&T Bank Stadium.



### Sentinel Soccer Comes Out On Top

By, Leah Yurko

Fort Hill High School is extremely proud of our Lady Sentinel soccer team. The team's season was a great success as they accomplished the best record ever recorded for Fort Hill girls' soccer, finishing 3rd in the area with a 10-5-1 record. This was no easy feat. The team battled their way past the first round of playoffs and won. This was the first time that the ladies' soccer team has ever won a playoff game. They had amazing teamwork and outstanding chemistry between the entire team.

The Lady Sentinels also fought their way to receiving the city title over Allegany and Bishop Walsh. They traveled to Bishop Walsh to play a muddy and hard fought game that ended in a tie after a double overtime, but it was enough to clench the title. The Sentinels are no strangers to the city title, as they have won the past two city championships, making this year the third year in a row to be crowned city champs. Taylor Hoppert remembers Coach Rowan's comment to the team from the very first practice, "Plan on winning City this year, 'cause that's just what we do." This year's Fort Hill Sentinel girls' soccer team is one to remember.

They have extremely high hopes for next year, and they plan on exceeding the bar that was set this season.

The team would like to thank Coach Rowan and the seniors for making the 2011 season all that it was.

The Sentinel boys also had a memorable season. The Fort Hill boys finished 3rd overall due to their amazing teamwork and exceeded their initial expectations from the beginning of this season.

Playoffs started with a bye and continued against Southern and Brunswick. The second round against Southern resulted in a 1-0 win. Sophomore Austin Parker made the winning goal. Matt Propst was commended for his defensive play along with James Johnson for his 8th shutout.

The boys' last game, the semi-finals against Brunswick, was extremely intense. Ryan Diehl and Noah Candler explained the team's focus on the bus ride to Brunswick by commenting, "Not a word was said. Everyone was getting in their zones, mentally preparing for the game." The score was 0-0 at half time, but ended in a 4-0 loss." Overall, the boys enjoyed a



### Volleyball Comes Out On Top

By, Sarah Reed

A big congratulation to the varsity girls' volleyball team for winning the 2011 Region Championship! The team won its title blowing out Mountain Ridge with a final score of 3-0. Unfortunately, the team succumbed to a loss to

Smithsburg on Friday November

11th. Senior captains Kayla Hutson and Rebecca Pannone both exclaimed, "We love our team and wish the season could have continued onto a state championship!" Congratulations, girls, to a job well done!

### Little Sentinels Preschool

By, Sara Dignan

The little Sentinels preschool has a busy schedule for the upcoming weeks in November and December. Throughout November, the children will celebrate Homecoming, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving, while learning about "America the Beautiful" and Fire Prevention.

During December, the children will spread Christmas cheer by learning about families, friendships, and being community helpers.

The skills that are taught in Little Sentinels Preschool help to prepare them for life. They learn about safety, being thankful, obeying rules, using manners, and making friends.

Mrs O'Toole and the Fort Hill High School students enrolled in child care classes also help the preschoolers to prepare for elementary school by teaching students the alphabet, number recognition, colors and shapes, counting, and their five senses. Enrollment into the Little Sentinels Preschool is available to children ages 2 through 4 on Tuesday, through Thursday, from 7:45 AM to 12:30 PM.

**A special thank you to Mrs. McKenzie for all of her help with the homecoming activities.**

### Continued Appel story,

Mrs. Appel was a devoted substitute, colleague, and friend. She was a mentor not only to the students she taught, but also for the teachers with whom she worked. She had a unique way of making all with whom she came in contact feel special as she had a gift of remembering what each individual was doing in his or her life.

Mrs. Appel's latest endeavors at Fort Hill High School included initiating the Fort Hill Foundation Society, which began in 2009, and becoming a member of the We Are Fort Hill organization. Mrs. Appel was instrumental in contacting members of the Class of 1936 and inviting them for recognition at the opening of the first game played in the remodeled stadium.

Mrs. Appel was well known for her quotes that she wrote on the chalkboard when she substituted. Her quote in her senior year book stated, "True Greatness Consists in Being Great in Little Things." How true this statement was for Mrs. Dottie Appel as she exhibited "True Greatness" in the many lives and activities that she touched.

### Freshmen Trip to CCTE

On November 15 Mr. Henson will be taking Freshmen on an "introductory visit" to the Career Center. Interested freshmen can pick two career areas to visit and will spend half of a day in each area. This trip is for Career Exploration as well as introducing students to the Career Center as an educational option.

### Mrs. Cowan's class busy as usual

By, Rylee Hamilton

Room 204 has had a busy first nine weeks. They had field trips to the Flight 93 Memorial, The Bowler, and the Downtown Fire Station. They also ate lunch at El Canelo. Room 204 has also been active in making homecoming decorations for their room, the second floor hallway, and their lockers. They also invited the entire football team to their classroom as they hosted a homecoming party on November 4.

### Band Wins State Title for the Second Year in a Row

By, Sara Dignan

The Fort Hill Marching Band has defended its state title and took home another first place trophy at the state-wide competition for the second year in a row. The band traveled to Towson University on Saturday, October 15 to perform its competition show, "Gangsta' Jazz," at the USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) Maryland State Championship competition. They won the state champion title over two other bands in the 4A group with a score of 77.5 out of 100. Not only did the band rank first place, but it received the highest awards in the categories of Best Music, Best Percussion, and Best Overall Effect.

The band members are not strangers to the USSBA State Championship competition. They also competed and earned first place in the 2008 and 2010 seasons. For some members of the senior class, Saturday's win marks their third USSBA State Championship victory. As the 2010 state titleholders, the Fort Hill Marching Band was proud to uphold their trophy for the second year in a row.

With two competitions remaining, the future is looking bright for the Fort Hill Band. In the coming weeks, they plan to compete in a chapter's competition and the highly-anticipated national's in Allentown, PA. We wish the band best of luck in their upcoming competitions and performances and congratulate them on being the 2011 USSBA Group 4A State Champions.

### Continued Markley story,

cafeteria. He was a friend to not only the teachers, but always had a kind word for students as well. Mr. Markley was an avid sportsman and discussed his adventures with many of the students at Fort Hill. He was a life member of the Sandy Cross Hunting Club and a social member of the Cumberland Outdoor Club.

Jim loved spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. They were his greatest joy. He looked forward to his many fishing trips with family and friends to Ohio and the annual family reunion at "the barn" in Ohio.

### Fort Hill Students Donate Forty-One Pints of Blood

By, Sara Dignan

On October 13th, thirty-eight students could be found in the gymnasium throughout the school day. But they weren't in the gym for an athletic event- they were supporting a worthy cause. The American Red Cross made its annual visit to Fort Hill so willing students could give blood. A cumulative total of forty-one pints were donated by the students. Each donor gave one pint of blood; with the exception of three students who donated two pints.

The blood drive would not have been possible without the diligent work of the student council members who volunteered their time to provide refreshments throughout the event, encouraged students to donate, and assisted the donors after giving blood.

If you are interested in giving blood, but missed the school-wide blood drive, please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more information about becoming a blood donor.

### Fort Hill students attend Allegany County reality fair

By, Taylor Hoppert

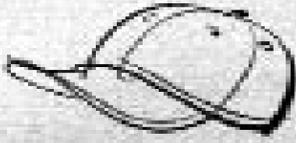
Fort Hill students participated in the first annual reality fair at the Allegany County Fairgrounds on October 13th. The fair was set up so students had the opportunity to choose a career and calculate their expected monthly and yearly income. Students were given a budget that they had to maintain with fixed and variable expenses. Many decisions had to be made throughout the duration of the fair dealing with housing, automobiles, entertainment, credit cards, and clothing.

Each student was provided a different income and had to base his or her spending off of this budget. Even unexpected expenses were taken into account when spinning the "wheel of reality." Students then had the opportunity to meet with a financial counselor after doing all of their spending. The financial counselor figured out the expenses, and if students were over budget they had to review their finances and make better spending choices. Personal Finance teacher Ms. Eshleman commented, "The reality fair was a wonderful opportunity for students to make real life financial decisions based on income."



Mrs Cowan's students; Jacob Zembower, Taylor Schiffour, Chris Lippold, Brandon Snider, and Samantha Davis pictured above.

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