

# Potomac ALMANAC

## Cars vs. Students

NEWS, PAGE 3

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CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SCHOOLS, PAGE 12 ♦ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

**Herbert Hoover Middle School crossing guard Mary Thomas escorts a student across the intersection of Tuckerman Lane and Postoak Road on Monday, Sept. 15. Long-standing concerns for student pedestrian safety at the school were re-ignited when a Hoover student was hit by a car at the intersection of Postoak Road and Bunnell Drive on Friday, Sept. 6. The student was not seriously injured.**

## Years Before Canal Repair

NEWS, PAGE 2

## Goodbye Blackboards

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Driving Dominance

SPORTS, PAGE 15

## Two to Three Years for 'Big Breach' Repairs

**Repair of C&O Canal towpath expected to be timely and costly.**

**T**he massive breach in the C&O Canal towpath and the hillside on top of which it runs near Old Angler's Inn could take two to three years to repair, according to park officials.

"The big breach, as we're calling it. And not so affectionately, I might add," said Kevin Brandt, the superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The breach — an estimated 100 feet wide or more and at least 20 feet deep — was the result of water seepage and subsequent erosion over time, but the massive fallout and landslide into the Potomac River were made more severe by Tropical Storm Hannah, which hit the Potomac area on Saturday, Sept. 6. Cracks in the towpath and water running from the canal, under the towpath, and down the hillside toward the river, were noticed the day before by C&O Canal Bike Patrol volunteer Barbara Brown, some of whose numerous photos of the breach before and after the storm ran in last week's Almanac.

It still will be at least two weeks before engineers will be able to fully examine the breach and determine how to repair it because the land around the breach remains unstable and more is likely to give way, said Brandt. The canal has been drained from Widewater to Lock 5 near Chain Bridge, but



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**The Charles F. Mercer packet boat may be out of water for some time. Tropical Storm Hannah turned a small breach in the towpath near Old Angler's into a gaping crater that drained the Canal of water and could take two to three years to repair, according to C&O Canal National Historical Park officials.**

the canal still has some water in it that comes from little tributaries and storm runoff from the land above the canal. A temporary dike system will have to be built on the slope above the canal near Old Angler's to prevent such runoff so that the canal and the breach can dry out before it will be safe

for engineers to explore it, Brandt said.

Exactly how long it will take to assess the damage, determine the best course of action, find the funding, and make the actual repairs, is unclear, but Brandt said it will take some time.

"I don't think it's unreasonable to think it

could take a couple, three years," he said.

Funding will be an issue as the cash-strapped park relies on volunteers for routine maintenance and support and outside funding for major projects, and this will be no different.

SEE YEARS TO REPAIR, PAGE 14

## Fatality in Home Invasion Shakes Homeowners

**Police investigating incident in connection with a year-long string of like incidents.**

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he apparent latest in a string of home invasions targeting elderly residents in and around Potomac took a deadly turn on Thursday, Sept. 4 when Mary Frances Havenstein of the 8900 block of Seven Locks Road was found dead in her home. Montgomery County Police are investigating her death in conjunction with five similar incidents that have taken place in the last year.

Like previous victims, Havenstein was found bound inside of her home, but unlike the previous five attacks — all of which targeted elderly residents between roughly 70 and 90 years of age and some of which included physical assault of the victims —

Havenstein's case is the first fatality. A preliminary examination of Havenstein's body by the Medical Examiner's Office in Baltimore determined Havenstein to have died from multiple injuries and the manner of her death as homicide, according to police.

Five similar incidents have occurred in Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Northwest Washington, D.C. since last September, and police have are investigating Havenstein's death with the possibility that it is linked to those incidents, though that has not been conclusively determined yet, said police spokesperson Lucille Baur.

Havenstein is believed to have last been seen in Rockville on Tuesday, Sept. 2. A niece tried calling her on Sept. 3 but got no answer, and then found Havenstein's Thursday morning when she went to check on her.

Because Havenstein lived alone police have not clearly determined what, if anything, was stolen from her home. Havenstein's car was missing from her home when police initially responded, though it was later recovered in Takoma Park.

Police have not conclusively determined this incident to be linked to the previous



five, but because of the similarities they believe a connection is possible.

Around 11:40 p.m. on Sept. 17, 2007, a 92-year-old woman was at her home in the 7600 block of Maryknoll Avenue in Bethesda when an unknown man forced entry into her home by breaking a window in her basement. He disabled her circuit

SEE POLICE INVESTIGATE, PAGE 14

**A neighborhood watch sign in the neighborhood where Mary Frances Havenstein was killed Sept. 4 by a home intruder. Her death is being investigated in possible relation to a string of home invasions targeting elderly residents in and around Potomac that has occurred over the last year.**

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/  
THE ALMANAC

## Crossing Matters

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

A study to determine the feasibility of installing a crosswalk near Herbert Hoover Middle School at the intersection of Postoak Road and Bunnell Drive is ongoing after a student was struck by a car there on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 6. The child was not seriously injured in the accident and the student returned to school the following Monday, but the issue touched on long-standing concerns by many Hoover parents about the intersection and also drew attention to other crosswalk-related concerns at other nearby schools.

The incident occurred as the student crossed Postoak at the intersection with Bunnell, yet parents say the intersection is even more dangerous in the morning when Bunnell is used as a cut-through for commuters — including some parents — heading to I-270 or Seven Locks Road to go to work.

Crosswalk accident at Herbert Hoover Middle School raises old concerns about student-pedestrian safety.



Students cross Bunnell Drive at the intersection of Bunnell and Postoak Road, where a student was hit by a car on Friday, Sept. 6. Bunnell drive is used as a cut-through for neighborhood commuters on their way to and from work, making a crosswalk all the more imperative, say residents and parents.

“It’s just a conglomeration of different points that come together at that intersection and children are crossing that intersection at that time,” said Bunnell resident

Patrice Thomas, whose youngest son is a Hoover eighth-grader and her older son is a Churchill sophomore and former Hoover student. “We’ve been saying this for years.”

Hoover parents have lobbied Montgomery County Public Schools and, since the intersection is not on school property, the

SEE CONCERNS, PAGE 12

## Muslim Leaders Share Their Faith with Community

Tufail Ahmad opens his home during Ramadan to promote understanding among different cultures.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

In one corner of the carpeted basement, nearly 50 Muslim men conducted the Maghrib sundown prayer. On the other side of the room sat several people of other religions and ethnicities, watching and whispering quietly with one another. When the prayers were finished the two groups converged, and over plates of bakori, samosas and chick peas they celebrated the breaking of the fast on the fifth night of Ramadan on Friday, Sept. 5.

The idea of the night was to bring together members and leaders of the local Muslim community with other community leaders. The event was the brainchild of Potomac resident Tufail Ahmad who opened up his home for the event. Ahmad is a leader in the local Muslim community and is also active in the Montgomery County Democratic Party and ran for an At-large seat on the County Council in 2006. On hand were many members of the Montgomery County Muslim Council as well as County Executive Ike Leggett,



Visitors to Tufail Ahmad’s home on Friday, Sept. 5 serve themselves to break the daily fast on the fifth night of Ramadan.

County Councilman George Leventhal (D At-large), and Delegates Brian Feldman (D-15) and Craig Rice (D-15).

“Obviously the communities that live here, they don’t know us ... once we mix with them and know us they will be comfortable.”

— Tufail Ahmad

The goal is to introduce Islam and Muslims to the other communities, said Ahmad. Children like Ahmad’s granddaughter, a student at Winston Churchill High School, learn to bridge cultural gaps by going to school together but for adults those differences can seem worlds apart so bringing different communities together promotes understanding and tolerance, said Ahmad.

“Obviously the communities that live here, they don’t know us ... once we mix with them and know us they will be comfortable,” Ahmad said. “We want to show them what we do, what we eat in our home, and how we pray.”

America has long been referred to as a



Musa Salam and Asim Khan (at far right) of Potomac participate in the traditional Maghrib sundown prayer.

melting pot of the multitude of cultures that make up its population, but Fazlul Bari of Potomac said that he wants Americans of all backgrounds to retain their cultures.

“We want to be part of the salad, not part of the soup,” said Bari.

Creating a dialogue between different cultures is “healthy for our community, it’s healthy for our country,” Feldman said. “We need more of it.”

## Have Say in County Zoning Laws

County planners have launched a public input process that includes interviews with a variety of zoning code users and an online survey available to all to gather feedback on the several-decades-old code that many criticize as being complicated, unwieldy and confusing.

Anyone interested in zoning in Montgomery County can have a voice in what's right — and what's wrong — with the county's Zoning Ordinance, which guides development by establishing rules regarding land uses, density, height, open space and public amenities.

The "diagnosis" phase will provide information, analysis and recommendations for the revision, which aims to simplify the code by reducing redundancies and better organizing the format.

When first written in 1928, the original document consisted of 15 pages covering five zones. Despite being comprehensively rewritten just twice since then, today, the code has ballooned to 884 pages covering 119 zones. By comprehensively reviewing all zoning districts and analyzing use and development standards, planners hope to create a powerful new tool featuring fewer, more meaningful zones, more tables and diagrams to graphically illustrate planning concepts, and a better organization of content.

Go to [http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/info/zoning\\_ordinance.shtm](http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/info/zoning_ordinance.shtm) to learn more and participate in a user survey. Planners expect to unveil the zoning code revision in 2010.

## Election Judges Needed

Montgomery County's Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges at polling places on General Election Day, Nov. 4.

In accordance with the Election Code, judges must be registered to vote in the State of Maryland. They must also be able to speak, read, and write the English language, and while acting as a judge must not hold, or be a candidate for, public or party office.

Individuals affiliated with the Republican Party or registered as Independent or Unaffiliated are especially needed. The Board of Elections is also seeking individuals to serve as part-time closer judges to assist with the closing of the polling place on Election Night. In addition, election judges bilingual in Spanish and election judge alternates are needed throughout the county. Training will be provided and all judges will be compensated for Election Day.

To apply, or for more information, call the Board of Elections at 240-777-8533 or e-mail [electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov).

## Absentee Ballot Information

Voters who are unable to vote in their polling place on Nov. 4, should request an application for an absentee ballot now. Those whose offices are outside of Montgomery County, or whose job routinely takes them outside of the County may be eligible for an absentee ballot as well.

Absentee ballot applications are available online at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org). Follow all instructions for transmitting the completed application to the Elections Office by mail or fax. To obtain an absentee ballot application by mail contact the Board of Elections at 240-777-VOTE (8683). Absentee ballots will arrive at the Board of Elections approximately six weeks prior to the election and will begin being mailed out within 24 hours of their delivery.

Applications must be received by the deadline, Tuesday, Oct. 28, by 4:30 p.m. if the application is mailed or by midnight if faxed. After that date, absentee ballot applications may only be obtained in person by the voter at the Board of Elections. Please call 240-777-8550 for details regarding acting as an agent for another voter.

The Absentee Office is open from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday and will be open on Saturday, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Absentee Office at 240-777-8550 or via e-mail at [absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:absentee@montgomerycountymd.gov).

## NEWS

# High Tech 'Fire Starters'

## Goodbye blackboards and whiteboards, hello Promethean boards.

BY AARON STERN  
THE ALMANAC

Forget the time-honored, cringe-inducing tradition of applying chalk to blackboard at the front of a classroom. Blackboards still line most older school room walls, but the movement to dry-erase pen whiteboards began years ago, and the boards were often nailed onto and over the blackboards. Now those are on their way out too. To be truly advanced and cutting edge these days is to have a Promethean board at the front of the room. This is the way of the future.

"This is it," said Josephine Tam, a vice principal at Herbert Hoover Middle School as she watched one of her teachers put the board to use this week.

Fire has been stolen from the gods, and man has made his next great advancement in classroom technology, or at least that's the idea behind the concept and the company which borrows its name from the mythological Greek Titan Prometheus, who stole fire from Zeus and gave it to man.

The implementations themselves are one part whiteboard, one part projection screen, one part software program. Montgomery County Public Schools shelled out \$19.6 million in the last two years for a technology upgrade that included the new boards and other wireless systems, while the boards themselves retail individually between \$2,000 and \$3,000 depending on the exact type and accessories included.

Images are projected via a computerized projector onto an electro-magnetic surface upon which a teacher uses a mouse-like pen, complete with right and left-click functions, to write, draw, drag objects, turn pages, select new screens, new functions, and so on. There are a host of potential tools of accompaniment, from egg-shaped student response device that allow students to give feedback to board programs, to wireless slates that can be written on and used to direct the board programs.

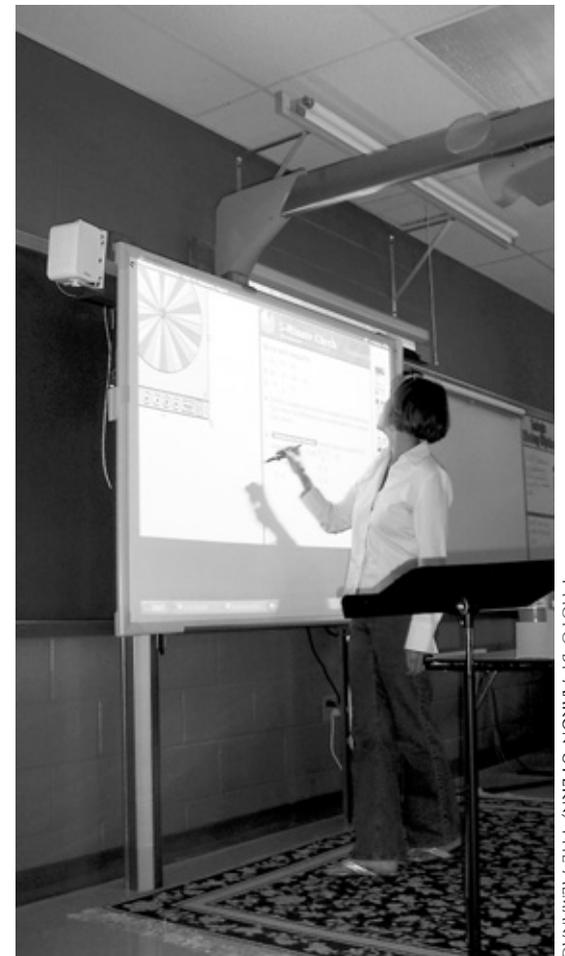


PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

**Herbert Hoover Middle School teacher Dianne Stevens conducts an algebra lesson on a Promethean board.**

As she directed her eighth-grade algebra students through a lesson on Monday, Sept. 15, Hoover teacher Dianne Stevens turned the lights off in the room and stood in front of the board, illuminated in light and images from the ceiling-mounted projector. On the left side of the screen was white space, upon which she scribbled equations with her Promethean pen. To the right of the white space was the subject heading and the outlined lesson plan, not

SEE GOODBYE, PAGE 6

## Woman Dies in House Fire

### Police investigating Deerbrook fire.

A 71-year-old Potomac woman died after suffering extensive second and third-degree burns in a house fire in on Deerbrook Lane last week.

A neighbor on Maplecrest Lane called Montgomery County Fire and Rescue just before 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10 to report smoke coming from the home behind theirs. As fire units were en route two neighbors used fire hoses from their own home and the home of the victim to spray water down a stairwell in back of the home where the smoke appeared to be coming from, and were able to extinguish much of the fire at which time they realized that someone was at the bottom of the stairwell, said Pete Piringer, a spokesperson for Mont-

gomery County Fire and Rescue. That information was relayed to fire crews as they responded, and upon arrival the victim was treated for extensive burns and transported to the MedStar Burn Unit at Washington Hospital Center, where she was treated for second and third degree burns on nearly 100 percent of her body.

Despite the fast action of neighbors and firefighters, the woman died shortly after midnight that night.

"We had good information when we were en route and we were able to give her medical attention immediately," said Piringer. "Her age and her injuries were obviously significant [factors] and she eventually succumbed to her injuries."

After a preliminary investigation by Montgomery County Police detectives the incident is being investigated as a suicide, according to Tenesha Jensen, a spokesperson for Montgomery County Police.

— AARON STERN

# CRIME

Criminal activities reported by the Montgomery County Police Department through Sept. 3.

Two school burglaries occurred at **The Heights School, 10400 Seven Locks Road** in Potomac. The first occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 26 between 11:45 p.m. to 1:01 a.m. Forced entry and property was removed. The second occurred Friday, Aug. 29 between 9 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 30 at 10:15 a.m. Again forced entry and property was removed.

A residential garage burglary occurred overnight between Thursday, Aug. 28 and Friday, Aug. 29 in the unit block of **Gate Post Court** in Potomac. Garage left open and property was removed.

A residential garage burglary occurred overnight between Thursday, Aug. 28 and Friday, Aug. 29 in the 8400 block of

**Bell Ridge Terrace** in Potomac. Garage left open and property was removed.

A residential garage burglary occurred overnight between Thursday, Aug. 28 and Friday, Aug. 29 in the 10300 block of **Windsor View Court** in Potomac. Garage door left open and property was removed.

A school burglary occurred at **Cabin John Middle School at 10701 Gainsborough Road** in Potomac sometime between Friday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 31. The method of entry to the main building is unknown but an interior door was pried and property was taken.

A residential burglary occurred in the **7800 block of Scotland Drive** in Potomac on Friday, Aug. 29. No force used but property was reported missing.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com) or fax the submission to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-917-6451.

[twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org](mailto:twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org) for reservations.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

**Massage and Health.** A certified massage therapist will teach self and caregiver massage techniques that promote health, stress reduction and relaxation at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 10-11:30 a.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail [twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org](mailto:twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org) for reservations.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 22

**Colorectal Cancer Forum.** A free program on the most current colorectal cancer treatments, side effects management strategies and challenges of the diagnosis and survivorship issues at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 6-8:30 p.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

# Pre-Season Sale Now in Progress!

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POTOMAC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PO Box 59160, Potomac, MD 20859

Phone: 301-299-2170 Fax: 301-299-4650

The Potomac Chamber of Commerce needs your help in its search for nominees for the following categories:

Citizen of the Year

Businessperson of the Year

Youth of the Year

I bet YOU know who one of these deserving individuals could be!

THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 3, 2008

These awards are given annually by the Potomac Chamber of commerce and the winners will be featured in the Potomac Day Parade on October 18th. They will also be presented with plaques at the Awards Banquet in November.

This year's Awards Committee consists of Fred Goldman, Attorney at Law; Andrea Alderdice, W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors and Jennifer Matheson, Resturant Zone, Inc.

Rules for nominations are as follows: The Businessperson and his or her company must work or do business in Potomac and be a member of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce; The Citizen of the Year can be a private individual or organization in the 20854 zip code area that has benefited the community; and the Youth of the Year must reside or go to school in the 20854 zip code area.

Please mail or fax your entries to the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, Inc. **THE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 3, 2008.** The committee and the Chamber's Board of Directors will vote on the nominees on or about October 6.

Please visit [www.Potomacchamber.org](http://www.Potomacchamber.org) for further guidelines or call the Chamber directly.

Thank you!

# Getting To Know ...

## Fro Adu

BY DANIEL LINN  
THE ALMANAC

**P**otomac resident Fro Adu is a sophomore at George Mason University, where he plays on the school soccer team. He is the younger brother of former D.C. United and 2008 U.S. Olympic soccer player Freddy Adu. In between school, sport and leisure, Fro finds time to make music, a passion that he hopes to share soon with the world.

### Can you explain the history behind Bless'd?

It's an acronym for Bringing to Life Every Soul Searching Dream. At first I went with Bliss but I learned there was an artist in D.C. already named Bliss and I thought it was easier just to get a brand new name than to have these issues and whatnot. I like the whole "Bliss" sound so I picked the word "Blessed" and took away an "e" so I got "B-L-E-S-S-D." Then I just sat there and tried to figure out something that captures who I am. I'm all about helping people so I sat there for maybe 15, 20 minutes and I came up with Bringing to Life Every Soul Searching Dream. That was deep to me, I was like wow that makes perfect sense.

### What kind of music would you consider yours?

Mine is strictly conscious rap ... Not rap. Conscious music. I don't want to brand myself. Yes, I am a hip-hop artist but I call myself a musician; I do music first. I am a conscious artist. My music is just good, positive music. I know who I am, so there's no need to fake all that gangster, macho crap because that's not who I am. It's funny because when I started rapping, my early stuff, that's what it was. That's what I thought hip-hop was all about. It's ridiculous now, but that's how it started because that's how I was influenced, by that kind of hip-hop. I wasn't aware of the conscious part. You never hear that on the radio or see it on TV. There's no good balance. But that's how it was. I'm happy I was influenced by that because now that I look back, I see why I got influenced by that and I also see why that's not me. That was me taking something I saw on TV, and my perceiving it to be the right course of a hip-hop artist. Now, I see that's not me.

### How did you get into rapping?

I wrote this poem in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the Heights and my teacher was like, "Wow, this is really good!" But I didn't know how far poetry could take me. At the time, as kids, going to all these mixers, you hear music a lot. I thought, if I can sit there and write rhymes — because poetry is rhyming — then why can't I transfer that skill into music. I was listening to Pac and DMX, and I thought, 'Let me take a gander and see how it turns out.' Obviously, my first rhymes weren't good compared to now, but I be-

lieved I could do it. I knew I was good at poetry, but at the time, it wasn't something you could be proud of really. Nobody talked about poetry, and I didn't know about the poetry field. Going out there and performing poetry, I wasn't aware of that, but music was everywhere.

### Have you considered taking classes on music or writing?

I have considered that. I've considered taking an audio engineering class, so I can learn how to mix, hands-on, how to set up a show, how to connect a microphone, I would take an interest in that. As far as poetry, I don't really like taking a class for that, because it's something I do on my own. I don't really like the idea of 'OK class, for this week your assignment is to write a poem on ...'

### Who are some of your influences?

Pac is the one who inspired me to rap. People see "Thug Life," but his conscious side, songs like "Changes" and "Brenda's Got a Baby," those are the ones that really inspired me. I was inspired by Pac to move from poetry to rap. Like me he started with poetry. That's when I started honing my craft, when I started realizing who I was and what my true purpose was. That's how I started searching for the conscious music. It started with Common. Common was really the one who switched me over to the conscious side. My style is a combination of Lupe and Common. Those two are my biggest inspirations. At the same time I'm not the same as them. I don't want to emulate them. On one of my songs I say, "I may study but I walk in my own kicks." In other words I'll study you but I'll for my own niche, my own lane.

### What does your music sound like?

I like beats that make you sit there, make your head nod to it. I make music that makes people want to think, but at the same time there's rhythm to it. My manager, King John, he's now learning to make those beats himself.

### Who is King John?

He's my mentor, the one who took me under his wing. He's been through a rough past, hanging with the wrong crowd, so he knows that life, and he shelters me from it. I'm from humble beginnings and so was he. Our struggles were different, but at the same time we both struggled, and life is good for us now. We sit there and that balance right there helps us create great songs that people can relate to.

### What are your plans?

We're in the beginning stages of forming our own independent record company called Rebel Entertainment, or Rebel Enterprises. The word "rebel" will be in there. The plan for me is not to get signed to a huge record label, but if that were to happen, the contract would not get signed until we both agree that my management and I have full control over the music, what



Fro Adu is looking to launch a career in music.

songs to release, etc. Right now, we're just building from the ground up. We're about to start my own Web site for me as an artist, showcasing some pictures, some poetry, some blogs. I'm also about to release a free mixtape on Myspace, something that's fun, just me flexing my lyrical muscle. I have three more songs left, then the guy will mix it. It's unofficial, but I just want to see people's reaction to me, going to the studio and doing my own thing. I want them to know I'm serious about it. I can rhyme, I have beats and concepts, and once they see that, that's when we come in with the real legit stuff.

### Where can people find your music?

Myspace.com/blessdwithit. I have two current songs on there. One is called "Through Clear Eyes" and the other is "Coming Back." The songs below are songs that have been up there since the page has been up. When you listen to the songs at the bottom and the ones at the very top, you can hear the difference, in my voice, my flow, my concepts and lyrics. I'll be redoing my Myspace page when I get things in motion, but for now that's where people can find me.

### What inspires you to create music?

My target audience is kids our age. I want them to know that not every song is a dance song. Young kids can talk about smart things. I'm not talking down to them. I'm not saying I'm better. I'm saying we can do better. We're smart and we can make good music that other young people can listen to and feel good about.

### What is your biggest challenge as an artist?

It's hard for me to pronounce certain words because I stutter at times. Also my accent comes out on certain words that I'm not aware of, and it takes me a couple takes in the booth to deliver the verse the way I want it to sound. I've gotten better with that, but I want to say things clearly, so people can hear every word.

## Goodbye Blackboards

FROM PAGE 4

dissimilar from a Microsoft Powerpoint slide. The far right side of the screen showed a toolbar that she occasionally tapped with her pen to pull up new tools and images.

As the lesson progressed, the scene became half algebraic tutorial, half game show.

"You want to use the spinner today?" she asked her class, referring to a Wheel Of Fortune-esque dial numbered from one to twentysomething — or any number a teacher might choose, said Tam — that once spun selects a student by their numbered desk. In Stevens' version of this game the student selected, should they correctly answer the question, gets to choose a piece of candy from a basket on her desk.

Such games have long been used by teachers in an effort to engage their students, but the Promethean boards engage students visually in a way that boards — be they black or white — do not.

"It's very visual and very engaging and it captures their attention at all times," said Mary Jayne Bortz, another Hoover math teacher. Tam said that while the majority of her staff are veteran teachers without a wealth of tech savvy, they have taken to the new tools.

"I was petrified," said Bortz, "I'm not a digital native, I'm a digital immigrant." But instructional sessions for teachers over the summer familiarized them with the equipment and the first few weeks of school have shown the transition to be smooth for teachers and students alike.

Hoover eighth-graders Jackie Stanton, Alexa Goodman and Jacob Gussin heartily endorsed them.

"It makes us interact with the teacher and it gives us a chance to be the teacher," said Gussin, and indeed Stevens had students come to the front of the room to demonstrate equations during her algebra lesson. Plus, for now at least, the Promethean boards are just cool.

"Its high tech," said Gussin. "Even [nearby high school Winston] Churchill doesn't have it. We think we're sweet."

An initial installation of Promethean boards this summer brought the devices to many of the County's elementary, middle, and high schools, and another round this fall will aim to put Prometheans into two thirds of County middle school and high school classrooms, said Kate Harrison, a County Schools spokesperson.

# PETS OF THE WEEK



**Tiger Paws**

**Tiger Paws** is a male, one and one-half year old, neutered DSH Brown Tabby cat. Tiger Paws is a somewhat shy fellow at first but is a



**Ginger**

love bug when he gets acquainted. He had a tough start but now pushes his foster mom for pets and kisses. Tiger Paws will make some lucky owner a

great, loving cat in a forever home.

**Ginger** is a male, 3-month-old, to be neutered DSH buff kitten. Ginger is an unusual dilute buff color but is a very nice kitten. He's friendly and likes to play with his siblings. Ginger will bloom into a wonderful adult, thank to the work of his mom cat and PAW fosters.

*Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org), call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.*

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## LETTERS

### Something To Admire

To the Editor:

Well, friends, it's been seven years now. Seven years since this nation had its world turned upside down by a small group of cowardly terrorist pigs. Our lives were all changed forever. And it goes beyond that extra metal detector at the airport, beyond living in a nation engaged in a seemingly perpetual war of good versus evil. September 11th made this nation endlessly aware of the threats surrounding us and our way of life. But, as Rudy Giuliani said in the days following 9/11, the terrorists actually made a terrible mistake seven years ago. Sure, the terrorists took a great deal from America on September 11th. They stole our feeling of self-assured security within our borders. They stole our ability to remain as a nation at peace. They stole lives. Brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and friends were all taken from us on September 11th. But there is one reason why this nation continues to prosper. For amongst all the chaos, sadness, and confusion, a powerful force swept across this nation and kept it together in its darkest hour; even though the terrorists robbed America of its innocence, they could not take its pride.

I'd like to take a moment to describe to you how I spent my day, September 11th, 2008. Over the past four months, I have been working on a program for students at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac to commemorate the tragedy of 9/11. Included in the program were interviews with students and teachers, footage from September 11th, 2001, and an interview with Jesse and Carol Reuben, a couple who had lost their son in the attack on the Pentagon. However, the details of this assembly are not what are impor-

tant. Rather, it is the way students reacted to it. For some students, it was the first time they had seen any media related to the attacks in several years, as they had for too long suppressed the memory of September 11th, trying to treat it like a bad dream, as if now seven years later, the tragedy is not still a reality. But after today's program, Churchill students gained a sense of just how real the tragedy of September 11th is. September 11th is still an ongoing nightmare for the Reuben family, and as they spoke about losing their son, not one student could ignore the gravity of the Reubens story, as they were introduced to the harsh reality of personal loss amongst the chaos of a national tragedy.

Upon the conclusion of the program, the entire school was in a mild daze. Just as 9/11 brought feelings of terror and insecurity into millions of American living rooms, the program brought back a reminder to every student that America is indeed vulnerable to attack, and that the daily routine we are all settled into is indeed so valuable. 2,998 Americans went through their daily routines seven years ago, but somewhere along the way, they were stopped in their tracks by a force of evil greater than any America has ever known. It is important that we continue to live our lives, because it is a victory for America. The brave men and women of our armed services fight wars abroad to protect our nation ... that is something to be proud of. But the resilience and resolve in America to live life in constant awareness, rather than endless fear, is something to be proud of as well. For, if we are a nation living in fear, no military victory can protect us from forces of evil, as they will have already defeated us.

I am proud to be an American. I always have been, and always will be. But September 11th, 2008 brought a new feeling to me. For I

am no longer simply proud of the American spirit; I have an intense admiration for it. At Churchill, today, I admired the student body. Students who were only 10 years old at the time of the attacks were brought to tears when looking back at the 9/11. They were moved to standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in virtual unison. And then, they went about their business. While they were aware of the tragedy of 9/11 and its realness in today's world, they moved on with their lives. That is what makes the American spirit so damn special. The fact that we can live our lives not in fear, but with pride. The fact that we can live our lives not in sadness, but in remembrance. The fact that we do not allow tragedy to pull us away from life as we know it, but that our lives provide us with a recovery from any tragedy. That, my friends, is why America won't simply continue to exist; it will continue to prevail and prosper in the face of any evil, any danger, because the hardworking people of this nation will push it to do so. Every American has a conviction to succeed. In the face of any setback, we feel pushed to move past it. Even in the aftermath of the most tragic setback in American history, the strength of the American spirit held strong. The stock exchange reopened. The Pentagon was rebuilt. Americans got back on to the airlines. And at one school in Potomac, students continue to work on their essays, derivatives, and projects, all the while remaining aware of the dangerous world they live in. They do not work on in spite of this reality; they work within this reality. For they understand that in order for America succeed, they too must work to succeed, no matter how bleak the day, no matter how grave the danger. That is not simply something to be proud of; it is something to admire.

**Max Heller**

Senior, Winston Churchill High School

### 7 Years Later

*U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen released the following statement commemorating the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001:*

"Today we commemorate the seventh anniversary of the most terrible terrorist attack ever on American soil. We remember those who suffered injury and mourn with the families who lost loved ones.

"But we also remember the indomitable spirit of America that lit that dark day and the days that followed. The courage of the first responders and ordinary citizens who risked, and in some cases sacrificed, their lives to save others. The men and women of our armed forces who have worked honor-

ably to defend our nation from future harm. The millions of Americans who volunteered and supported efforts to rebuild New York and Washington and care for those who were injured there."

"These individual acts of bravery and sacrifice remind us that even in times of fear and pain, the flame of liberty does not falter. In the face of grave threats, the world can stand together. And with the power of our ideals and the strength of our resolve, we can build a more peaceful world."

### Write

The Almanac welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters to the Editor  
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By fax: 703-917-0991.

By e-mail:  
almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

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## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by

**Michael Matese**

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Buyers almost never write offers that please the sellers entirely. When considering a buyer's offer, be sure to consider the whole offer and not just the selling price. Is the buyer willing to take the property as is, or will you be nickled and dimed by long lists of repairs? Are you being asked to pay loan fees?

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# CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send mail to 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102, e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com), or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. For more information, call 703-917-6451.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Jazz Workshop.** Join singer Christiana Drapkin for an interactive jazz and singing workshop entitled "Bop Goes the Weasel!" at 3:30 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Register at 240-777-0690.

**Discussion.** Adidam Revelation Bookstore presents on DVD monthly talks by Avatar Adi Da Samraj and presentations by his students about their relationship with him, 7:30-9 p.m. Requested donation \$9.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

**Shake the sillies out.** Sing, dance and get moving with My Gym Potomac at Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

**Contra Dance.** The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to live music. \$9/person. E-mail [fdcontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fdcontra@yahoo.com).

**Zydeco Dance.** Join T-Broussard & the Zydeco Steppers for a night of Zydeco dancing at the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Introductory Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m. followed by dancing until 12 a.m. All ages welcome. \$18/person.

E-mail [Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net](mailto:Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net).  
**Open Mic Poetry.** Carolyn Joyner, D.C. poet, headlines the first open mic of the season at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda, 8-10 p.m., with sign-up at 7:30 p.m. Joyner will read from her work followed by an open mic for both poets and prose writers.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

**Swing Dance.** Flying Feet Enterprises presents a swing dance with the Radio King Orchestra and introductory dance lesson at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Beginning Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. \$13/person. E-mail [dance@flyingfeet.org](mailto:dance@flyingfeet.org).

**Conversation Club.** Join in practicing and improving your spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions from 3-5 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance** at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, from 8:30 to 11 p.m. featuring Melanie Mason Band. 90-minute workshop at 7 p.m. taught by Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte - slow blues basics during the first half-hour, then more challenging concepts for experienced and new dancers. No partner required. Admission for the workshop and dance is \$17 (7-11 p.m.); or \$12 for the dance only (8:30-11 p.m.). For more information, call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, send e-mail to [dbarker@glenechopark.org](mailto:dbarker@glenechopark.org) or visit [www.DanceDC.com](http://www.DanceDC.com).

**Could My Dog Be a Therapy Dog?** Find out if your dog would make a good therapy dog. This workshop covers the routines of therapy dogs; local organizations that work with such dogs; suitable temperaments for therapy dogs; the type of training and tests these dogs need; and the situations faced by these dogs and their owners, from 3-5 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Call 301-983-5913 or visit [www.yourdogfriend.info](http://www.yourdogfriend.info).

**Cajun and Zydeco Dance Party.** Held in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park from 3:30-6 p.m. with an optional introductory lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. The Atlanta Swamp Opera will provide live music. \$10/person, call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or go to [www.DancingbytheBayou.com](http://www.DancingbytheBayou.com).

**Curious George Workshop.** The JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, will host "Animating Curious George in PBS Kids Play!" from 2-4 p.m. Children ages 3-7 are invited to learn how Curious George online games were created. \$10 for JCC members, \$15 for the general public. Contact Julie Grimley at 301-348-3772 or [jgrimley@jccgw.org](mailto:jgrimley@jccgw.org).

**Waltz Dance** in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park begins at 3 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop followed by 2 1/2 hours of social dancing. Admission is \$8 per person. For more information, e-mail [info@waltztimedances.org](mailto:info@waltztimedances.org).

**Blues Dance** in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, from 7-11 p.m. featuring live music. A 1-1/2 hour dance workshop, taught by Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte, begins at 7 p.m. No partner required. Admission for the workshop and dance is \$17 (7-11 p.m.); or \$12



**The Melanie Mason Band performs Sept. 21 at the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, from 8:30 to 11 p.m. For more information, call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, send e-mail to [dbarker@glenechopark.org](mailto:dbarker@glenechopark.org) or visit [www.DanceDC.com](http://www.DanceDC.com).**

for the dance only (8:30 - 11 p.m.). For more information, e-mail [dbarker@glenechopark.org](mailto:dbarker@glenechopark.org).

**Contra and Square Dancing.** The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances at the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen

Echo Park. All dances are taught, no partner is necessary. The newcomers' welcome lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by called dances to live music from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org). \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members.

**Family Arts Day.** Show off your best moves at American Dance Institute's free Family Arts Day at 1570 E. Jefferson St., Rockville: from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The day includes performances, dance classes, crafts, food and beverages, live music and more. Call 301-984-3003 or visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org).

**Political Satire.** The Capitol Steps, D.C.'s number one musical political satire group, will perform at Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac, on Sunday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. in the Gertrude Bish Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by sending a self-stamped envelope with payment to WCHS Educational Foundation, 11401 Palatine Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854. Ticket prices are \$35 for center orchestra and \$25 for side orchestra and balcony.

**Voices of the River.** Learn about Cabin John's history at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Cabin John, 3-4 p.m. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at [chapin@potomac.org](mailto:chapin@potomac.org) or 301-608-1188, x213, or go to [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org).

## MONDAY/SEPT. 22

**Raising Responsible Children:** Teaching Accountability Through Chores and Allowance. Learn how to

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

gain children's cooperation with chores, institute plans for allowances, and set limits that hold children accountable, from 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive., Potomac.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

**Concert.** Peat & Barley (Celtic) will perform at Bethesda Lane from 6-8 p.m. Located where Bethesda Avenue, Woodmont Avenue and Elm Street meet in Bethesda. Visit [www.bethesdarow.com](http://www.bethesdarow.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

**Contra Dance.** The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to live music. \$9/person. E-mail [fndcontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fndcontra@yahoo.com).

**Salsa Dance.** Enjoy a Salsa Dance with a Salsa lesson at the Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo Park from 8-9 p.m., taught by Keith Givens, followed by dancing to live music until midnight. All ages are welcome. \$12/person. Visit [www.oohsalsa.com](http://www.oohsalsa.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

**Swing Dance.** Join the Tom Cunningham Orchestra for a swing dance. Introductory dance lesson at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Beginning Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. \$15/person. Visit [www.tomcunningham.com](http://www.tomcunningham.com).

**Conversation Club.** Join in practicing

and improving your spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions from 3-5 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 28

**DC Dance Challenge.** Enjoy all competitive dances and levels, plus Salsa, and Argentine Tango. This one-day ballroom dance competition, from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park also features a "Jack and Jill" mixer competition and evening "Dancing with the Starz" Showcase. All ages welcome. Admission TBA, e-mail [Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com](mailto:Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com).

**Contra and Square Dancing.** The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances at the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. All dances are taught, no partner is necessary. The newcomers' welcome lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by called dances to live music from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org). \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 3

**Halloween Time.** Decorate your own wood door hanger and assemble a friendly ghost to keep them company for the holiday. Enjoy songs, games and story time with Perfect Parties by Terrye at the Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Conversation Club.** Join in practicing and improving your

spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions from 3-5 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

**Ride to Thrive.** The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program will host the "Ride To Thrive" Polo Classic at the Summerhill Farm, 18411 Beallesville Road, Poolesville, from 1:30-6 p.m. Tickets: \$125/each; set of two/\$200. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ridetothrive.org](http://www.ridetothrive.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Voices of the River.** Acacia Sears will perform at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Cabin John, 2-3 p.m. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at [chapin@potomac.org](mailto:chapin@potomac.org) or 301-608-1188, x213, or go to [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org).

## FOOD & DRINK

A "Healthy Entertaining Cooking Class" will be held at The Oz., a healthy fine-dining restaurant located at the Doubletree Hotel, 8120 Wisconsin Ave., on Saturday, **Sept. 20**, 2-5 p.m. The class will focus on preparing simple, health-conscious cuisine. Participants receive recipe cards, embroidered Oz. restaurant cooking apron, discount certificates to The Oz., and an Oz. restaurant Wine Key. \$50 person, limit of 12 people per session.

## FINE ARTS

**The Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum,** 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda will present "Creative Expressions" through **Sept. 28**. Museum hours are 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sundays and 12-4 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays. Call 301-897-1518.

**Yellow Barn Gallery,** 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, is holding an exhibit on the artwork of Brett Busang, entitled "A Place Not Unlike Your Own Redux." An artist reception will be held for Busang on Saturday, **Sept. 27** from 5-7 p.m. Contact Brett Busang at 202-906-0502.

The exhibit "Good Advice" will survey almost 200 years of American advice books, aimed at helping people to improve their lives from top to bot-

tom. The exhibit will be on display through **Sept. 21**, at the Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Museum hours are 12-4 p.m., Tuesday to Sunday. Included with museum admission (\$3 adults/\$2 seniors & students).

The exhibit "Breakfast" is a vignette-style exhibit, on display throughout the Beall-Dawson House, 103 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, in conjunction with the exhibit "Good Advice." The vignettes include a family breakfast, formal breakfast, breakfast in bed, breakfast preparation, and even George Washington's breakfast and will be on display through **Sept. 21**. Included with museum admission (\$3 adults/\$2 seniors & students). Call 301-762-1492 or [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org).

**The Photoworks** gallery is open every Sunday and Wednesday, 1-8 p.m., and during all scheduled classes and workshops at, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. An exhibition of photographs by Jim Sherwood and Don Fear is in show through **Oct. 19**. Call 301-229-7930 or visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org).

The **Bethesda Art Walk's** guided tours return on **Oct. 10**. The participating galleries and studios are Discovery Galleries, Heineman Myers Contemporary Art, Discovery Too, Lightwave, Framer McGee's Gallery, Fraser Gallery, Gallery Frame Avenue, Orchard Gallery, St. Elmo's Fire Gallery and Washington School of Photography. Call 301-215-6660 or visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).



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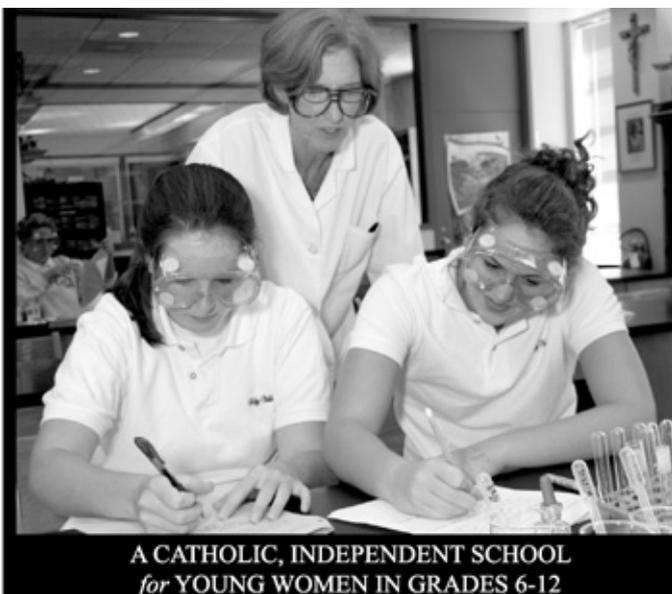


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## SCHOOLS

# Concerns over Intersections

FROM PAGE 3

county's Department of Transportation. Those efforts produced studies, but no crosswalks. That may change now, as the latest incident prompted Potomac's County Councilman Roger Berliner (D-1) to speak directly with County Executive Ike Leggett (D) about the situation, and Berliner said that his office has been in contact with the county's transportation department as well.

"Now the actual nightmare that [parents] had feared is coming about," said Berliner. "All we're asking for is some white paint, we're not asking for a crossing guard," said Thomas.

Department of Transportation visited the site last week and a completed study with recommendations is expected to be ready in coming weeks, said Esther Bowring, a County spokesperson.

**HOOVER ALREADY** has one crossing guard, but that guard is stationed at the intersection of Postoak and Tuckerman Lane, which sees less foot traffic from students than the intersection at Postoak and Bunnell. On Monday, Sept. 15 crossing guard Mary Thomas took to the intersection every couple of minutes to direct a student or two across the busy intersection, but much of her time was spent stopping traffic for departing school buses. Thomas

has been a crossing guard for six years and though this is her first at Hoover she has noticed the rush that many drivers are in before and after school.

"You get a lot of rolling stops," Thomas said. "It's just a busy area."

All elementary schools in the county have a crossing guard, but not all middle schools do, said Laurie Halverson, a Winston Churchill High School cluster co-coordinator and the safety chair for the Montgomery County Coalition of PTA's (MCCPTA). Among the middle schools that don't have a crossing guard is Cabin John Middle School, though Cabin John parents have long been concerned about drivers in a hurry at the intersection of Gainsborough Road and Bells Mill Roads.

"It's a four-way stop and a lot of cars are going to work and to school and they're looking at whose going next, not at kids crossing the road," said Halverson. Not a lot of students cross the intersection, but still it is a concern that at the latest Halverson hopes to be addressed when Cabin John is renovated in 2011 and its enrollment expands. The sooner changes are made to make matters safer for the students at both schools, the better, said Halverson and Patrice Thomas.

"We're just hoping that something's done," said Thomas. "I hope its not going to take a fatality."

10th Annual

# Secondary School Fair

Tuesday, September 23

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From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take exit 39, River Road. Take River Road towards Potomac. The school entrance is on the right approximately 1 mile past the Beltway and just before the intersection with Bradley Boulevard.

# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

## SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Family Pizza Party.** Join other families affected by cancer for a make-your-own pizza party at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 12-2 p.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org for reservations.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 9

**Exercise Class.** Join Kym Sevilla as she leads people affected by cancer in discussion and exercises that will enhance awareness of posture and alignment at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda. 10-11 a.m.; free. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**Breast Cancer Recovery Forum.** A discussion on lymphedema precautions, healthy lifestyle modifications and returning to exercise. Comfortable clothing is

recommended as participants will sample breathing and posture exercises. Held at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 12-2 p.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org for reservations.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 14

**Breast Cancer Forum.** Dr. Sandra Swain of the Washington Cancer Institute at Washington Hospital Center will discuss the newest treatments for advanced breast cancer and a panel will discuss quality of life issues at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org for reservations.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

**Sailing with the MCSA.** Join members of the Montgomery County Stroke Association and the Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating aboard specially designed sailboats at Sandy Point State Park Marina, 1100 E.

College Parkway, Annapolis at 3 p.m. \$25/person, make check payable to Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating. For reservations, call Phoebe Pfahler at 301-330-5391. RSVP by Oct. 1.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 16

**Exercise Class.** Join Kym Sevilla as she leads people affected by cancer in discussion and exercises that will enhance awareness of posture and alignment at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda. 10-11 a.m.; free. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 18

**Cancer Recovery Workshop.** Women can explore their relationship with their bodies after cancer treatment by translating the challenges of an illness into its potential for healing at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org for reservations.

## SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102, e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com), or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper.

The 10th annual **Secondary School Fair** will be held Tuesday, **Sept. 23, 6-8 p.m.** at Norwood School, an independent, coeducational school for students in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade located at 8821 River Road, Bethesda. The fair is free of charge to anyone interested in learning more about independent high schools. Call 301-219-7761 or e-mail [lgill@norwoodschool.org](mailto:lgill@norwoodschool.org).

**Washington Episcopal School** invites parents to an **open house** for a question/answer session and tour Thursday, **Oct. 16 at 9 a.m.** The school is located at 5600 Little Falls Parkway, Bethesda. Contact the Office of Admission at 301-652-7878, [admissions@w-e-s.org](mailto:admissions@w-e-s.org) or visit [www.w-e-s.org](http://www.w-e-s.org).

The **Holton-Arms School** will host its fall open house on Sunday, **Nov. 16**, from 2 - 5 p.m. Registration is at 2 p.m., followed by a welcome from the Head of School Susanna Jones at 2:15 p.m. The Open House is free and open to the public. For more information call 301-365-5300 or go to [www.holton-arms.edu](http://www.holton-arms.edu).

A **scholarship fund** has been estab-

lished at Montgomery College in memory of County Councilmember Marilyn Praisner.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the Marilyn J. Praisner Scholarship fund or to donate, in general, to the Montgomery College Foundation may call the Foundation Office at 240-567-7900, or visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/giving](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/giving) for more information about making a

donation.

Jewish Social Service Agency offers "**Educational Consultation and Support**" for parents of children who have been identified with a learning, attention, or other disability that impacts academic performance. JSSA is located at 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. Call 301-816-2633 or 703-204-9100.

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9800 Tibron Ct.	\$1,649,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-8795
North Potomac					
14227 Floral Park Dr.	\$975,000	Sun 1-4	Alan Bruzee	Long & Foster	301-519-8066
802 Highland Ridge Ave.	\$579,999	Sun 1-4	Lawrence Bunnell	IHS Realty	800-974-6657
1429 Main St.	\$949,900	Sun 1-4	Amy DePreta	Key Realty	240-912-4951
12114 McDonald Chapel Dr.	\$594,900	Sun 1-4	Gary Speicher	Long & Foster	301-975-9500
16110 Nursery Ln.	\$1,049,900	Sun 1-4	Gary Speicher	Long & Foster	301-975-9500
11509 Pleasant Meadow Dr.	\$799,900	Sun 1-4	Susan Quinn	RE/MAX	301-921-4558
15000 Quince Orchard Rd.	\$835,000	Sun 1-4	George Cardany	Keller Williams	301-978-9775
16429 Tomahawk Dr.	\$519,000	Sun 1-4	Susan Quinn	RE/MAX	301-921-4558
Bethesda					
6318 Avalon Dr.	\$768,500	Sun 1-4	Robert Jenets	Stuart & Maury	301-654-3200
4977 Battery Ln. #1-109	\$279,900	Sun 1-4	Bruce Robinson	Nancy Mellon	301-951-0668
8110 Custer Rd.	\$995,000	Sun 1-4	Hans Wydler	Long & Foster	301-986-6405
6305 Landon Ln.	\$2,185,000	Sun 1-4	ilissa Flamm	WC & AN Miller	301-229-4000
7715 Old Chester Rd.	\$1,299,900	Sun 1-4	Greta Nicoletti	Long & Foster	240-497-1700
4952 Sentinel Dr. #8-206	\$650,000	Sun 2-5	Samia Gouda	Weichert	301-509-227
6306 Valley Rd.	\$1,995,000	Sun 2-4	Kara Sheehan	Wash Fine Properties	202-274-4660
8308 Whitman Dr.	\$749,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-8795

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Kenneth Lourie

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All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

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POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2008 ♦ 13

# Police Investigate Series of Home Invasions

FROM PAGE 2

breaker. When she went downstairs to check, he tied her up while he ransacked her house, taking personal property.

On Nov. 27, 2007, a 77-year-old woman was at home when the suspect broke a basement window to gain entry. When her lights suddenly went out, she went to the

basement to check the fuse box. There she was bound by her assailant, while he ransacked the house and took property. She was able to break free and run to a neighbor's house to seek help.

On Jan. 9, 2008, an 84 and 85-year-old couple were at home when they were bound in their Northwest, Washington, D.C. home. The house was not ran-

sacked, but property was taken from the residence.

Then on Feb. 27, 2008, a 78-year-old woman was approached outside her home in Picasso Lane in Potomac, taken inside and bound while the suspect robbed her home and then stole her car. She lay bound in her basement for nearly two days until she was found by a relative.

On May 7, 2008, a couple in their mid-70's was attacked in their home at approximately 2:30 in the morning, bound and robbed by a man matching the description of a suspect described in the four previous incidents. The suspect struck the woman during the robbery, but she did not require medical transport.

A sixth home invasion occurred

Sept. 18 on Marseilles Drive in Potomac, but police are not investigating that as a related incident. In that case the two victims were an older man and his 84-year-old stepmother, both of who were assaulted during the robbery. That incident occurred during the daytime and involved two assailants, and police have investigated that attack as a separate incident from the others.

Montgomery County Police want to remind all community members to consistently follow good safe practices of locking doors and windows, and reporting any suspicious persons, vehicles, or activities to police as soon as possible. Police want all older women living alone, and senior couples to know that these crimes have occurred and to be particularly mindful of their safety.

Detectives with the Major Crimes Division – Homicide/Sex ask that anyone who saw any suspicious activity in the area of the 8900 block of Seven Locks Road within the last month call them at 240-773-5070.

## Years To Repair

FROM PAGE 2

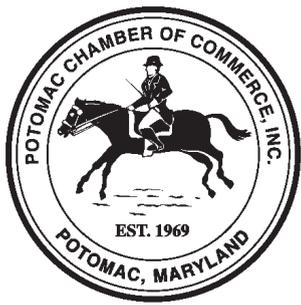
"No good estimate at this point," said Brandt. "Obviously our budget isn't sufficient to make those repairs without sufficient funding from other sources." The park service has been alerted at regional and national levels and will be as supportive as it can be, said Brandt, but private funds will almost certainly be necessary. Matt Logan, president of the C&O Canal Trust, a private fundraising organization for the canal, estimated the repairs could cost as much as \$3 million.

Hopefully the towpath can be made stronger and longer-lasting than it was before, said Brandt. Last week Logan speculated that outdated construction techniques such chicken wire-wrapped stacks of rocks called gabion baskets that were used to support the towpath previously can be improved upon.

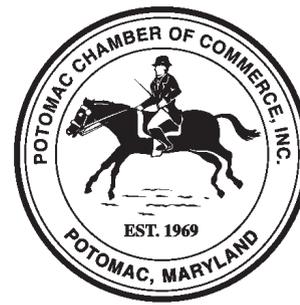
During the repair process the towpath will be detoured around the breach into the bed of the canal, said Brandt, but for now visitors to the area — one of the most heavily visited part of the 184.5-mile-long park — should stay away, since the area remains unstable. Those wanting to travel along the towpath can use the Berma Road detour accessible from the Old Angler's parking entrance.

— AARON STERN

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# SPORTS

## Driving Dominance

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

It doesn't take very long to name the years a Potomac area school hasn't won the Maryland 4A/3A state golf title since 1995.

Considering a school not named Churchill, Wootton, or Whitman has claimed the crown just twice in that time span — in 2000 and 2001 — it's a relatively easy task.

The fact that three schools in one pocket of Montgomery County can make such a claim is a statement as

**“Based on my experience, a lot of the golfers, this is their one, real sport and this is the sport they concentrate on year round.”**

—Churchill senior Gary Raizon

to just how dominant local teams have been lately. In fact, since the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) started giving out a state golf title in 1972, Potomac schools — Churchill, Whitman, Wootton — have won 19 times, significantly more than any other area in the state.

And while in other sports like football and basketball, it's not uncommon

for a school to dominate play for a few years thanks to a talented class or two, there is no other example of a dynasty similar to what has developed within area golf programs.

Many point towards wealth as to why local schools have dominated. The affluence of the area and plethora of golf courses in the area play a role, but the supremacy has been about much more than the rich getting richer.

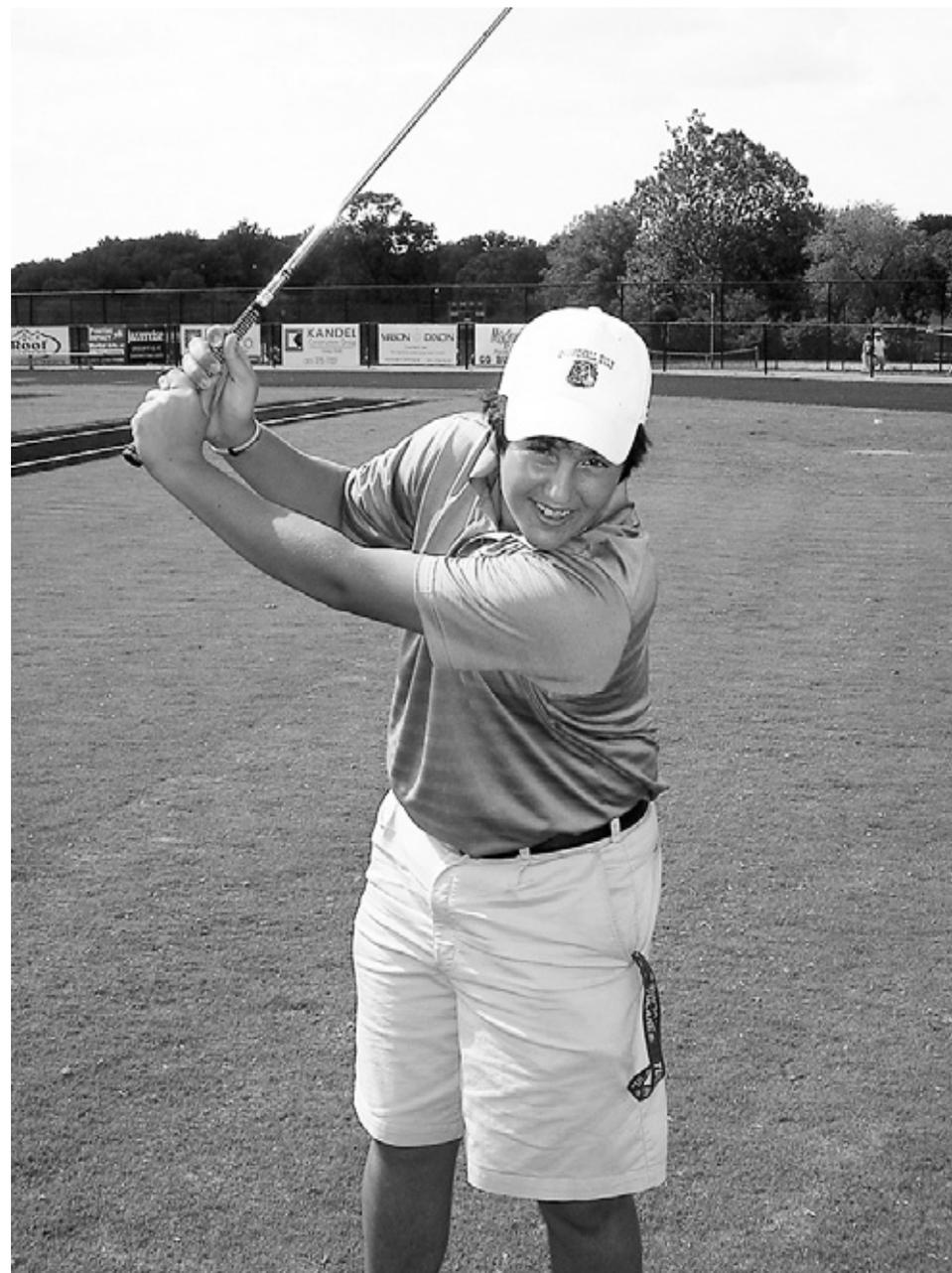
“Based on my experience, a lot of the golfers, this is their one, real sport and this is the sport they concentrate on year round,” said Churchill senior Gary Raizon, whose Bulldogs have won five of the past six state golf titles. “Whereas people in a place like Damascus might play something else like lacrosse or baseball, most golfers here are 100 percent golf and that's why we practice so hard and why we play really well usually.”

**LAST YEAR**, Whitman broke Churchill's five-year stranglehold on the state golf title after netting a record-low team score of 596.

This season, it appears to be Wootton's turn to assume the mantle of best team in the state. Currently, the Patriots have the two lowest scoring golfers in the county in senior Andrew Stein and sophomore Connor Tendall. Also among the individual top 10 so far this year are Churchill's Evan Scott and Marc Youngentob, as well as Whitman junior Alex Rhea.

“I think it has to do with over the years as kids have gotten better, they've started influencing each other and pushing each

State golf scene has been dominated by Potomac area schools for over a decade, but how did it happen and can it continue?



Senior Gary Raizon.

other to get better,” said Youngentob of why the area has been so good at golf.

But the abundance of quality golf courses around the area certainly helps in the development of such dominating trends. Golf is a high school sport where much of the improvement and work is done outside of a team's regular practice. To be a quality golfer, there is an obligation to hit the course on a regular basis, year-round.

For youths whose families belong to country clubs, this is a cheap proposition since their greens fees are already paid for. As an example, Youngentob, a senior for the Bulldogs this year, belongs to Woodmont Country Club in Rockville. He said every day he isn't practicing with Churchill, he's out on the course at Woodmont.

This can be a pricey proposition for many around the state who are relegated to paying for each round at a public course.

“When you're a member of a country club, it's easy for you to go out, it's expensive for the parents,” Whitman coach Karl

O'Donoghue said. “It's cheap for the kids, though. When they don't belong to a country club, they have to pay for every round, and that's where it starts to get expensive. It's easier for the country club kids to do the practicing and get out more frequently. That's what tends to get you better.”

**BUT IT APPEARS** some schools outside the area are starting to catch up. Last year, La Plata High School in Charles County finished in second place behind Whitman and this season Damascus has already beaten Churchill in match play.

If history repeats itself — as it seemingly has every year this decade — Potomac area schools will have a lot to say about who will be named 2008 state golf champion.

“I think the success is going to be right in this area somewhere,” Youngentob said of future state champions.

“I don't know which school it's going to be in the future, but I don't see it moving anywhere else.”



PHOTOS BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC

**Seniors Gary Raizon, Lindsay Gould, and Marc Youngentob have led Churchill golf so far this season.**

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POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2008 ♦ 15

SPORTS

# Churchill Football Off to 1-1 Start

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE ALMANAC

Churchill football coach Greg Neuendorf hasn't paid much attention to the fact that his team's next opponent, Walter Johnson, is in the midst of a 32-game losing streak that spans more than three years.

He refuses to allow his Bulldogs to think about their opponent's more than three years of losing, and instead wants his 1-1 squad to focus on what the Wildcats have done so far this season.

"If you've watched them on film, you can tell it's a totally different Walter Johnson team" this season, Neuendorf said, referencing Walter Johnson's 12-7 loss to Clarksburg to open the 2008 season. "We need to play well to win."

The Bulldogs won their opening game of the year, defeating Richard Montgomery, 34-0, before losing to Quince Orchard, a team many predict to win the 4A state title this year, last Friday.

The loss to the Cougars was expected, but Neuendorf, who is in his second season at the helm of Churchill football, noticed that his team was able to hold its own strength-wise after an off season spent in the weight room.

"We kind of knew we were going to be improved, so we've seen that improvement," Neuendorf said. "I think we've played hard both weeks."



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC

Churchill football coach Greg Neuendorf addresses his team after a recent practice.

# Wootton Football Bursts Out to Fast Start

After nearly pulling off the upset of the year in week one against state title contender Quince Orchard, the Wootton Patriot football team continued to show last year's above .500 record was no fluke.

The Patriots defeated Walter Johnson last Friday night, 35-13, to even their record at 1-1. Leading the way for Wootton was wide receiver Stephane Ngoumou, who finished with five catches for 151 yards and three touchdowns.

Ngoumou was the beneficiary of great passing efficiency from senior quarterback Mike Mooney, who completed 17 of his 25 passes for 234 yards.

Wootton will look to keep the momentum going when it travels to Whitman this Friday for a game at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WEINER/THE ALMANAC

The Wootton Patriots take the field before their season opener against Quince Orchard.

— MICHAEL WEINER

# Barreling Through in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Knowing as little as I do about the future price of a barrel of oil, and by association, the future price of a gallon of gasoline and home heating oil, commodities with which I am financially very familiar — and impacted, I can only guess as to their future level. As such, the present is what matters to me. And to that end, I am now reading financial news updates on the web, specifically as it relates to oil, trying to anticipate its price fluctuations. It's almost as if, not being able to beat them, perhaps I can join them, in some small way, at least as far as this Joe Schmoie is informed.

And so, I now pay attention to international — or national events — that might affect oil production and/or its transportation, gasoline stocks/supplies/inventory, monetary exchange rates, the weather and of course, the actual price at the pump. When the per gallon price is higher than it was previously, I try to buy less; when the price at the pump is lower, I try to buy more. I guess you could say it's my way of dollar cost averaging. And though I certainly realize, that in spite of my best intentions, buying less gas per trip because the price is high is only going to result in my returning sooner to those very same pumps rather than later, still it's mind over matter. If I think I'm spending less, maybe I actually am. (Any port in a storm, I suppose.)

Granted, it's all very delusional because gasoline, and to a lesser degree, home heating oil, is not exactly a voluntary purchase. In fact, it's practically mandatory. For without it, you're going nowhere — literally, and if you're at home, and it's winter, you're freezing too. Talk about adding insult to injury. So you have to buy it, or else; with cash, credit or debit, and let the other chips (bills) fall where they may. And though oil and other fossil fuel-type commodities may not be as crucial as food, water and clean air, try living without it. Not only will the effects not be pretty, they'll be downright painful, and not just at the pump, either.

And so this morning, I had my wife, Dina, call me as she drove by our local gas station to give me a price-per-gallon update. Yesterday (Aug. 30) the per gallon price for the mid-grade my car requires was \$3.43, a recent low. I knew I should have filled up then, what with Hurricane Gustav churning and strengthening in the Gulf, but since I had groceries — frozen food and ice cream, in particular, I couldn't risk the time it would have taken, sitting in line at the gas station with my perishables maybe perishing, so I drove on home, regretting my decision by not really second guessing it. And unfortunately for me and my flowing cash, I paid for it, eventually.

Dina called and told me the price was now \$3.57 per gallon, 14 cents higher. Certainly not Earth-shattering (or even mind-numbing), but 4.1 percent higher than it was the day before. And though I can absorb the increase, I'd rather not. I don't know if it's my advancing age but, the older I get, the more difficult it is to do with less. And with respect to the dollars on the barrel head, the less I have, the more careful I am spending it.

I realize it's only money, but the oil companies have plenty of it already. I'm just trying to find a way to keep more of it for myself, however pointless it sometimes seems.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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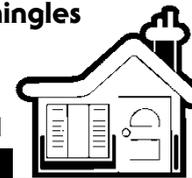
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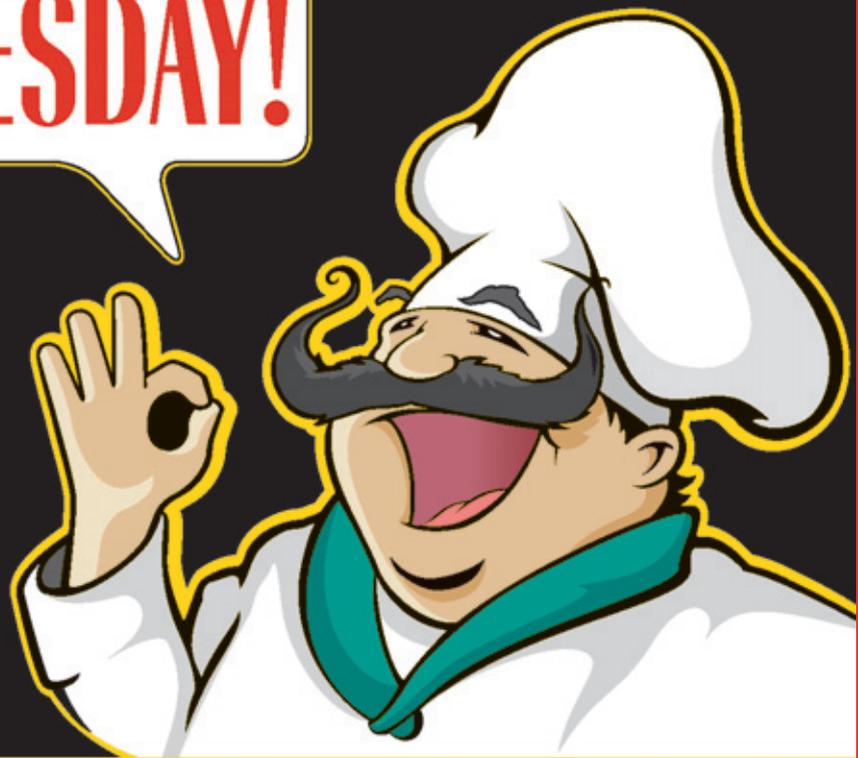
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# SPORTS

## New Coaches at Connelly

This year Connelly School of the Holy Child welcomes two, new coaches to its roster.

Soccer coach Michael Elfman came to Holy Child in July of this year and is already deep into his third week of training and developing the team.

Elfman's been coaching since he was a junior in high school and has worked with teams on every level: from recreational to professional, both here and abroad.

Seasoned with years of international soccer experience, Elfman played as a youth in leagues in England, Italy and Bahrain before relocating to the D.C. area just prior to the start of his high school years. Elfman also spent time in Southern California, where he earned his BA from University of Southern California and played in both the amateur and professional soccer ranks. It was during this time that he established a solid foundation for youth soccer coaching thanks to "all of the wonderful youth players and coaching mentors who ... made lifelong impressions upon me."

Elfman is optimistic about Holy

Child's performance this year and expects the team to grow in confidence and skill as they near the Independent School League Tournament. He notes early strong performances from Holy Child seniors Morgan Kolb, MK Raffaniello and Alé Spicer, and juniors Jessie Frech and Emma Vignali.

Tennis coach Doug Sokol comes to Holy Child after 18 years of coaching at various tennis clubs in the D.C. area. For the past three years, Sokol was head professional at Bethesda Country Club as well as the director of tennis at Avenel Swim and Tennis Club.

Sokol attended Ferris State University, where he received his BS in marketing and professional tennis management.

He believes that this year's tennis team "has lots of potential" and will be "very competitive" in league competitions. Sokol goes on to note that across the board, Holy Child's tennis players are a team of extremely hard workers who exhibit great team spirit.

Sokol inherits a tennis team with only one senior, so he looks forward to "building this team from the ground up."



One of the most dangerous forms of human error is forgetting what one is trying to achieve.

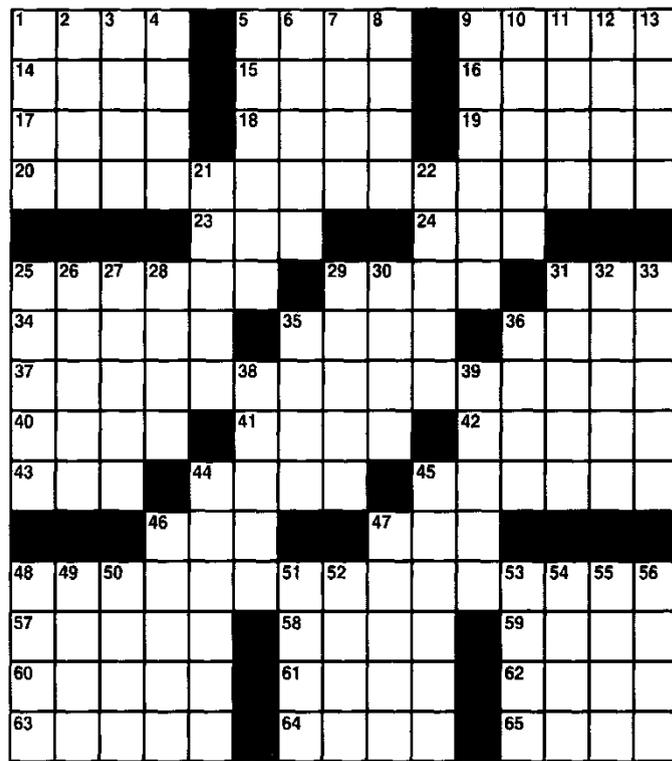
—Paul Nitze



## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0329-5



Puzzle by Bill Ballard

### ACROSS

- 1 Where Picassos hang in N.Y.C.
- 5 Baby buggy
- 9 Popular jeans
- 14 During
- 15 Four-star review
- 16 Defendant's excuse
- 17 Honored lady
- 18 Portent
- 19 St. Kitts and \_\_\_\_\_ (Caribbean nation)
- 20 Fashion slogan in the business world
- 23 Brooch
- 24 What's left after deductions
- 25 Palestinian chief Yasir
- 29 Trot or canter
- 31 Concert music blaster
- 34 Childbirth
- 35 "Schindler's \_\_\_\_\_"
- 36 Asterisk
- 37 Advice for the impulsive consumer
- 40 Pianist Myra
- 41 Bruins' sch.
- 42 "\_\_\_\_\_ ho!"
- 43 Surgery sites, for short
- 44 Son of Seth
- 45 Food wrappers and such on the street
- 46 Slump
- 47 Response to a bad call
- 48 Catch phrase for the avid mallgoer
- 57 Approvals
- 58 Dinghy propellers
- 59 College in New Rochelle
- 60 Leader after Indian independence
- 61 Soothing agent
- 62 Runs (for)
- 63 Carpenter's device
- 64 Educator Horace
- 65 Helper: Abbr.

### DOWN

- 1 Anti-D.W.I. group
- 2 Gen. Bradley
- 3 One who gives the silent treatment?
- 4 Summer quaffs
- 5 Loss's opposite
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Novarro, 1926 Ben Hur
- 7 Allegre
- 8 Kind of room
- 9 Surgical instrument
- 10 Vote into office
- 11 On the qui \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Wading bird
- 13 Snake sound
- 21 The fifth tire
- 22 Togetherness

- 25 Notwithstanding, informally
- 26 Pinker than pink
- 27 Bottomless pit
- 28 Watch chains
- 29 Cyndi Lauper's "\_\_\_\_\_ Just Want to Have Fun"
- 30 On a deck, perhaps
- 31 No longer on deck?
- 32 Purple shade
- 33 Snoop
- 35 Kooky
- 36 It's for the birds
- 38 Mushrooms, e.g.
- 39 State sch. in Athens
- 44 Completely consumes
- 45 Start to untie
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ whale
- 47 "Don Juan" poet
- 48 In \_\_\_\_\_ (together)
- 49 Toe's opposite
- 50 Worker welfare org.
- 51 Rich soil
- 52 Kind of land
- 53 Woman who can carry a tune
- 54 French kings
- 55 Handy bills
- 56 History

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