

Potomac ALMANAC That Small-Town Spirit

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Hundreds of area residents spent their Saturday morning enjoying the 28th Annual Potomac Day parade and other activities.

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

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Wootton QB Sets
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Benefits
Club HERO
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Small-Town Spirit on Display

Community comes together to celebrate annual event.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

They may be the vehicles of choice when facing off against the deadliest of fires, but the collection of fire and rescue trucks moving slowly down River Road Saturday morning did nothing to catch the attention of four-year-old Devin Radzely.

The Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department brought out its fleet as part of the annual Potomac Day festivities held last Saturday in Potomac Village. But the firefighters forgot one important — and sweet — thing.

Asked what his favorite part of Potomac Day was and Devin's answer was simple.

"The candy!" he said with excitement as he watched the parade.

Aside from the candy malfunction, Potomac Day went off without a hitch as many in the community came together to celebrate life outside a big city in a small town. The festivities included the annual Potomac Day Parade, a petting zoo, an antique car show, a dog show, martial arts demonstrations, live music, food sampling, and various moonbounces and carnival rides for the children.

"It's one of the unique things about this area, being able to feel like you're in small town America when you live so close to the capital of the whole country," said Potomac resident Tricia Ulanet, who was enjoying the day's activities with daughter Avery and son Caden.

THE TURNOUT was about average, according to the Potomac Chamber of



The Rockville High School Marching Band participates in the annual Potomac Day Parade in Potomac on Saturday morning.



Caroline Schneider, 5, shares some candy with her little brother, Will.



Akiko Lattin and her two-year-old daughter, Mia, watch the annual Potomac Day Parade on Saturday morning.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

Commerce's Elie Cain, who has helped organize Potomac Day since it began 28 years ago.

The day was also a chance for the Potomac Chamber of Commerce to recognize its citizens of the year. Max Heller, a senior at Churchill High School, took home honors as student of the year thanks to the initiative he has shown as president of the student government there.

In addition, Churchill principal Joan Benz was named co-Citizen of the Year for her work making the school a National Blue Ribbon Award winner a year ago.

Andre Alderdice, who has worked with the Chamber of Commerce in the past, was recognized as Business Person of the Year for her work as a Realtor at W.C. & A.N. Miller.

All three got to ride in convertibles as part of the parade. According to Cain, this year's parade included more than 400 people and the Rockville High School marching band. Leading the way and holding the colors was Troop 773 of the Boy Scouts, who was celebrating its 50th year of existence. It is the longest running troop in Potomac.

"It's a great event, I enjoy coming to it every year," said state Sen. Rob Garagiola, who marched in the parade as well. "It's a big community day and everybody comes out for it

"It's a big community day and everybody comes out for it with their families."

— State Sen. Rob Garagiola

SEE CELEBRATE, PAGE 15

Blair Influences Students To Make a Difference

Potomac Day benefits Club HERO.

BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER
THE ALMANAC

Potomac resident Kerry Blair melded her quest to aid the plight of children in South Africa with a concept born by the United Nations Association (UNA). Her global vision set its sights locally on the Bullis School where she spun the UNA's HERO (Help Educate at Risk Orphans) program into the sixth grade World Geography class.

Her inspiration originated from a 2005 family trip to South Africa. Blair asked her guides to take her into a village where she

was struck by the emerging scene of children running everywhere. She said, "It was surreal. I thought, where are the adults? Then I realized, HIV has wiped out an entire generation of adults." She spent two months researching a way to get involved and was drawn to Nongoma, a municipal district in the province of KwaZulu-Natal where the Bazini Primary School needed funding for a new roof and the installation of toilets. Price tag: \$6,000. Blair underwrote the repairs then reflected, "I'm not satisfying my soul-felt need just writing the check."

UNA's HERO program was just getting off

the ground. She approached the headmaster at Bullis, met with middle school World Geography teacher Michael Woodring and the rest was history. Club HERO at Bullis was on the map with an agenda comprised of three platforms: educate, advocate and donate.

SHE EXPANDED the concepts into four themes: give hope, be of service, have gratitude and take action. She launched her program by asking students to write an essay about someone they considered a hero. Sports figures and celebrities were occasionally mentioned, but older siblings and parents took top billing. Former Bullis student Meagan E. B. Maguire turned her missive into a poem entitled, "Heroes." An excerpt

reads, "Some people go looking for a hero, most people find them without looking."

Statistics can be a great motivator. Blair learned that every three seconds in South Africa there is a parent burying a child. She said, "A parent who couldn't help their child. That really grabbed me, burying their child from a preventable disease." She began her presentation with statistics about the HIV crisis in Africa. "While I stand speaking to you for one minute, 20 children have died from AIDS, nearly the entire third grade class. If I go on for 10 minutes, 200 children have died from AIDS, the equivalent of the entire high school and, if I talk for 30 minutes, 600 children have died, the

SEE HERO, PAGE 15

C&O Canal Fundraiser

The C&O Canal Trust will hold a fund-raiser on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Historic Marwood Mansion to help raise money for repairs to the breach in the Canal's towpath near Old Angler's Inn. On Sept. 5 and 6, the worst disaster to strike the C&O Canal since the massive floods of '96 came in the form of Tropical Storm Hanna. The rainfall associated with the storm opened up small cracks in the towpath and tore a 125-foot hole in the historic trail. The breach has closed the towpath between Great Falls and Angler's Inn, an area frequented by 1.5 million visitors every year. A seven-mile stretch of canal, from Widewater to Lock 5, has been drained of water and will remain dry for the foreseeable future. The National Park Service estimates it may take two years and \$2 million to make the needed repairs. The C&O Canal Trust, the official fund-raising partner of the C&O Canal NHP, is working with the community to raise \$100,000 to assist the park in establishing a safe and convenient detour, developing initial designs for the repair, and tackling associated projects. To learn more about the Towpath Repairs near Angler's Inn, please visit the Trust's project Web page at canaltrust.org/project-news.

The Historic Marwood Mansion is located at 11231 River View Drive. The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 and will feature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Guests should wear casual attire. Guest ticket prices are set at different levels, from Friend - \$100, Advocate - \$250, Steward - \$500, and Protector - \$1,000.

RSVP by purchasing tickets at www.canaltrust.org/project-funds.php or calling 301-714-2233. All contributions less \$25 are tax-deductible. Space is limited and those wishing to attend should respond quickly.

Get Ready To Be Scared

The Johnson family will host their 12th annual Haunted Forest on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served and plenty of treats and surprises will be scattered along the trail. Halloween night will serve as a rain date. As in the past there is no admission charge, but donations for charity are accepted. Proceeds this year will be split between the Breast Cancer Coalition and the Brian Song Winston Churchill High School Scholarship Fund. The Haunted Forest is located at 11930 Cragwood Way in Potomac. For directions or more information call Paul Johnson at 301-299-9164.

First Annual Potomac River Jam

Join Potomac Conservancy on Sunday, Oct. 26 for the first annual Potomac River Jam - a daylong celebration of the river and canal.

The fun starts at 8 a.m.; the music is from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. All events are free. For details, go to www.potomac.org.

The Conservancy will offer short canoe trips over to Minnie's Island during the day.

Starting at 11:30 a.m., local musicians will play acoustic sets of Celtic, folk and indie music.

Dances with Dogs Returns

Join the Montgomery County Humane Society in celebrating 50 years of compassion at Dances with Dogs, Montgomery County Humane Society's annual benefit dinner and auction.

Enjoy a lively evening of dining, entertainment and dancing with canine friends at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda on Saturday, Nov. 8. Each dog will be treated like a king—or queen—mingling with other four-legged socialites and feasting on delicacies from Merrick, Living Ruff and Bentley's Barkery at the Doggie Bar.

Support and donations help the Humane Society find loving homes for the animals under its care, and funds life-saving programs and services such as: foster care, pet rescue, humane education, no-cost and low-cost spay/neuter and medical care for victims of cruelty and neglect.

The event is black-tie optional, tickets are \$125 per person and tables start at \$1,250. VIP tables are available. For more information or to RSVP, visit mchumane.org/Danceswithdogs2008.



Home invasion sites as mapped by Montgomery County Police.

Home Invasion Suspect Arrested

Man charged in series of home invasions that targeted elderly women in and around Potomac.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC



Jose Juan Garcia-Perlera

Thirteen months after a series of deadly home invasions began that targeted elderly women living alone, Montgomery County Police believe they have arrested the man responsible.

Jose Juan Garcia-Perlera, age 33, of Hyattsville, Md. was arrested on Wednesday, Oct. 15 and on Friday, Oct. 17 was charged with first-degree murder, four counts of robbery and one count of armed robbery. He is currently being held without bond at the Montgomery County Detention Center. The first of the home invasions occurred Sept. 17, 2007 and the death of Mary Frances Havenstein around Sept. 4 of this year was the most recent incident.

Police from the 2nd District of the Montgomery County Police Department arrested Garcia-Perlera initially in relation to an Aug. 28 residential burglary near the home of Havenstein. Havenstein was killed during a home invasion roughly a week later; that was the lone incident of the six — that Garcia-Perlera is suspected in — to have turned deadly.

Police were led to Garcia-Perlera in the Aug. 28 incident after a search of pawn shop records linked him to a computer stolen in that incident, which previously had not been believed to be related to Havenstein's death or the other home invasions, said Lt. Paul Starks, the media services director of the Montgomery County Police Department.

Upon searching the suspect's home, detectives found numerous items of evidence from the Havenstein homicide and two of the other home invasion robberies, as well as evidence from several thefts from vehicles. Once that evidence was found,

2nd District officers contacted the Major Crimes Division of the 1st District which was in charge of the home invasion investigation, said Starks.

ONCE IN CUSTODY, a search warrant was obtained to take a DNA sample from Garcia-Perlera. DNA analysts in the Montgomery County Police Crime Laboratory Section then worked with DNA recovered at the homicide and

at the Montgomery Street and Picasso Lane home invasions and made a positive match to Garcia-Perlera. Other evidence found in his home has led detectives to believe that as the investigation continues, Garcia-Perlera will be found responsible for other burglaries and thefts from vehicles that have occurred throughout the county.

Police say that it is not yet known why the victims in the linked cases were selected. Garcia-Perlera described himself to detectives as a self-employed electrician. It is believed that Garcia-Perlera, from El Salvador, has been in the Washington Metropolitan area for the past six years. He is not a U.S. citizen and a spokesperson for Montgomery County Police said that his immigration status was unclear.

In a public statement County Councilman (D-1, Potomac, Chevy Chase, Bethesda) praised the police for their hard work.

"On behalf of all District 1 residents, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Department for its work on this case," Berliner said. "I know we will all sleep a little more soundly tonight."

"We did a great job in this case and I'm sure the community is relieved but we still want to emphasize that individuals not become complacent," said police spokesperson Melanie Brenner.

"I AM GREATLY RELIEVED to bring the news of this arrest to our community," said Montgomery

SEE HOME INVASION, PAGE 7

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PEOPLE



Bobby Shriver, a resident and member of the Santa Monica City Council, flew in from California to attend the Best Buddies Ball, visit his parents and support brother Anthony.



A Best Buddies supporter, Kenny G performed with his sax and had the guests entranced by his smooth playing.



Bret Banford meets Olympian Carl Lewis, a long-time supporter of Best Buddies.

PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

HOUSE HUNTING HINTS

You have just spent the entire day looking at homes in Potomac, and now they have all become a giant blur. Which house had the elegant recessed lighting? Was it the same one with the tiny kitchen? You saw so much that you can't remember anything! The notes you take during this process should be more than just "mental notes."

Carry a notebook with you when you are house hunting or make notes on the listing sheet you are given at each property. At the top of the page, note the address and price and MLS number if available. Write down the exterior construction, style and color, as well as the color of the living room carpet and walls and any other major feature that will jog your memory later.

You can nickname the houses-- "the white brick house" or "copper pots house"-- anything to help you retain a mental picture of the property. This will enable you to recap the day and give your Realtor important feedback that can speed up your search for the perfect home!

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For Best Buddies, a Grand Farewell

BY CAROLE DELL
THE CONNECTION

Even the tent had the silhouette of a minaret. Its spires stretched above the berm surrounding the Shriver home, a

glowing beacon to the 860 guests that turned out to celebrate the Grand Finale Best Buddies Ball, honoring Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, consort of the emir of Qatar.

Honored for her work with chil-

dren with disabilities and founding a center for children with special needs in Qatar, Sheikha Mozah, a striking woman with movie star looks and a formidable presence, accepted the leadership award from actor Robert De Nero, saying that these children with intellectual disabilities are the true leaders and that we can learn from them. She also helped facilitate a Best Buddies chapter in Qatar.

Anthony, Eunice and Sargent Shriver's youngest son, founded Best Buddies International while at Georgetown University in 1989. This non-profit provides opportunities for one-to-one relationships with people with intellectual disabilities. For many, having a Best Buddy can be a life-altering experience. The organization has grown from one chapter to more than 1,300 on campuses in the U. S. and 32 countries internationally.

The ball that has become an annual Shriver family affair, rocketed this year, its last, into a dynamic, eye-popping kaleidoscopic happening under a series of fuchsia and sapphire silk-draped tents

where guests sipped cocktails under the watchful eye of three stuffed topaz-colored peacocks, bid on auction favorites and mingled with celebrities and supporters such as event co-chairs, James Lintott and his wife, May Liang, and Ted Leonsis and Lynn.

Olympian, Carl Lewis, always an accessible Best Buddies champion, spoke with guests while mugging with Best Buddy member Bret Banford.

Entertainment lasted throughout the evening with Cirque du Soleil and Kenny G, Eunice Shriver's dinner date. Guests left their tables to follow his mesmerizing sax and he responded. He left the stage and serenaded onlookers in an atmosphere vividly electric yet not without poignant overtones because it was the end of an era. The Shrivens will be selling their house due to health issues and the Best Buddies Ball may morph into something even more energetic than dancing, a cycling challenge.

SEE BEST BUDDIES, PAGE 12



Receiving a steady stream of well-wishers and friends, including Linda Potter Shriver, Timmy Shriver's wife, Margaret Dell was ready for a good laugh all evening.

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Not Same Old Song and Dance

Churchill's production of "Rent: School Edition" breaks mold of typical high school musical.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The long and storied theatrical tradition of Winston Churchill High School is about to add a whole new chapter. With a cast of characters that includes transvestites and drug users and tackles themes of poverty, love, and HIV, "Rent: School Edition" is a far cry from the traditional high school production.

"It's true, there are a lot of things that wouldn't be in a typical high school musical," said junior Josh Simon, who plays Angel, a transvestite street drummer.

"It's definitely been a learning experience," said junior Sara Arizona Bonner, who has had roles in previous, more mainstream Churchill productions like "Kiss Me Kate" and "Singin' in the Rain." Getting into her



Churchill students rehearse "Rent: School Edition" on Monday, Oct. 20. Performances of the hit Broadway musical begin at Churchill this weekend.

character Mimi, a lesbian Harvard graduate, was something new for her. "I felt like I was stepping into someone else's shoes," she said.

Adapting to characters so different from what they were used to playing was something that many in the cast had to do. Sophomore Josh Coyne plays Collins, a gay philosophy professor who pursues a roman-

tic relationship with Angel.

The award-winning Broadway production-turned major-release film tells the story of a group of struggling young artists living in Manhattan's East Village. The high school production keeps to the same themes and characters, but drops certain songs and language that was considered too raw for the

SEE RENT: SCHOOL EDITION, PAGE 10

Wootton Offers Spoof of Teen Horror Movies

"Horror High" opens Oct. 23.

MIKE WEINER
THE ALMANAC

Students left alone with a video camera at an eerily located boarding school. A serial killer on the loose. Sound like the latest Hollywood slasher? Not quite.

On Oct. 23, 24, and 25, Wootton High School will debut the first of this year's plays, "Horror High." The play, directed by Adam Graham, is a spoof of teen horror movies, following high school students at a preparatory school called "The Toombs," situated between two graveyards and an asylum.

Several of the students are stuck at the

school during the Thanksgiving holiday, during which a storm disturbs the power to the school. Two of the students decide they want to film a horror movie, so they convince everyone that there is a madman on the loose in the school, planning to film it. As it turns out, an actual killer who wants revenge on the school is apparently allowed entry into the school, and the students have to escape or trap the killer. As if that prospect was not enough of a task for the main characters, more trouble ensues.

"There's some confusion as to whether there's only one killer," said Graham. "There could be two or several. There are several people that are let in during this time, so there is a lot of mistaken identity."

With a killer or killers on the loose, the group of main characters are forced to come together to solve the issue at hand and save

their own and their friends' lives. There is no single main character in the story, which follows the storylines of three high school boys and three high school girls.

"It's very much an ensemble piece," said Graham. "There's no real star. Everyone is kind of in and out of the show all the time."

The story satirizes teen horror flicks, but the script predates most of the movies that it is similar to.

"It's not quite as over the top as a 'Scary Movie' is, but it is similar," Graham said, referencing the popular movie series.

Jessica Futran, Brittany Byars, and Suzy Bobadilla provide senior experience on a cast that also features a bevy of younger and less experienced actors and actresses. The plot of the play is familiar to the younger actors, making it easier to connect with their char-

SEE HORROR, PAGE 11

Four New Homes Considered for Stoney Creek

The owner of a 17-acre parcel of land on Stoney Creek Road is in the initial phases of considering subdividing the land into lots for four homes.

The property is zoned for one house per two acres, but the steeply rolling hills of the property limit the areas in which septic systems could be installed. The houses as currently planned would sit on properties of 2.1, 2.8, 5.2 and 6.5 acres. The four homes would have two shared driveways. Sewer service does not extend that far from River Road, and owner Donald Dell said he did not plan to apply to the Montgomery County Council to extend sewer service.

At a public meeting at Travilah Baptist Church on Tuesday, Oct. 14 Dell explained the plans to a handful of neighbors. As of now, he said, he is not sure he will ever follow through on either hiring a company to build the homes or selling the subdivided property, but he has begun the subdivision process with the Montgomery County Planning Board to explore his options.

"With the economy the way it is, there couldn't be a worse time," to develop such a property, Dell said.

"This could be as much as four, five years away if we take the maximum amount of time," said Jody Kline, Dell's attorney.

Once the pre-preliminary plans are filed with the Montgomery County Planning Board septic percolation tests that determine the viability of a property for different types of septic systems will be conducted.

The Dells said they intend to file their pre-preliminary plans with the Planning Board in early November. Barring any holdups approval of those plans could come late next spring, Kline said, which would open the door for them to file preliminary plans, and require a public hearing in front of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

— AARON STERN



After more than a half century as an Exxon — and Esso — service station, Mitch & Bill's will soon be a Texaco franchise.

Move Over Tiger

Here comes Texaco.

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

The days are numbered when, while driving through Potomac village, you will see Mitch and Bill's Exxon sign. Since Oct. 15, 1949, (it was Esso back then) when Clyde "Mitch" Mitchell and Bill Schumacher opened their station the familiar red and white sign beckoned motorists to stop in.

No longer. Dec. 15, 2008, Mitch and Bill's Exxon will be Mitch and Bill's Texaco.

Most people will want to know what changes will take place. "The sign," Chad, the third generation Mitchell to be involved in the business, promptly replied. Old timers, who for the most part loathe the change of any kind, will be delighted to hear it will be the same old, friendly, Mitch and Bill's that it's been for 59 years.

"We haven't just jumped into this. We have been planning it for two years," said Mike Mitchell, who has worked at the station since he was a 13-year-old student at Harker prep school.

Why the change now? "Price zoning," Mike Mitchell emphasized, almost like they were dirty words. In the gas business, no doubt it is. "In Maryland there are 50 different Exxon price zones. We are in the highest zone in the state. We are going with Texaco to eliminate this issue," he said.

IT WAS NOT an easy arrangement to switch gas companies. Mike Mitchell first had to gain possession of the lease, which was held by Exxon. He was able to do this by working with the shopping center owners.

He explained, "The same tanker truck load of gas in Potomac costs us more than it does the guy in Rockville. There are 9,000 gallons in one load. The last one cost me \$31,000. Areas such as Gaithersburg, Germantown and Rockville, because of zone pricing, are able to buy fuel at a lower cost."

Mike Mitchell estimated zone pricing has been around for about 12 years. "It's common practice now," he said. "We go to Annapolis once a year and discuss issues in our

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 13



PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

Homeless No More

This PetConnect Rescue reunion group of dogs and new adoptive owners came together for the first time at the Potomac Day event.



This sheepdog/great Pyrenees mix was found abandoned on a lonely road in southern Virginia. He was dirty and his coat was matted so badly that he had to be shaved. His time at a high kill shelter was up when PetConnect stepped in and rescued him. Today, Angus, as he is now called, is enjoying life with his new family, Colleen and Kurt Keenan, of Washington, D.C. "I adore him," said Colleen Keenan.



This little kitty found a pooch to care for her. After her face-painting session at PetConnect's booth, Brooke Buckingham of Potomac sports the cutest puppy face.

Home Invasion Suspect Arrested

FROM PAGE 4

County Police Chief Tom Manger in a public statement. "We know that many of our residents and their loved ones have been living in fear since we first announced our belief that home invasions in Bethesda, Potomac, and Chevy Chase were linked. I want to extend my gratitude to the men and women of our department who made solving this case a priority ... from the patrol officers who stepped up their vigilance, the Special Assignment teams who worked around the clock, the detectives who left no stone unturned, and to the forensic analysts who provided us the critical link to the suspect. Despite the arrest of the individual involved in these cases, community members should not become complacent and stop following good crime prevention practices. Continuing

to lock doors and windows, watching for suspicious activity in your neighborhoods, and calling the police when you know that a crime has occurred will reduce crime and many times even prevent it."

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Police worked with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police Montgomery County Division, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Metropolitan Police Department during the investigation, as well as the Victims' Rights Foundation which established a Home Invasion Homicide reward fund.

Because the case was solved by detective work and not from a tip, the initial \$5,000 reward and additional contributions will be held by the foundation and made available to the department when a future reward is deemed necessary.



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Family Fun at Ridgefield Farm Fridays & Saturdays
6:30 - 10:30 pm • Adults: \$10; Kids 15 & under: \$8

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, or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Friday 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/OCT. 23

Community Pumpkin Patch. The community pumpkin patch is open from Oct. 11-31 at North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Regular hours are Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Call 301-530-4342.

The Derek Trucks Band. 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall. Tickets: \$23-\$48. 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 24

Geology Hike. Join National Park Service Volunteers for a geology hike of the Billy Goat Trail from 10-12 p.m. Visit www.nps.gov/choh/.

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. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members.

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 findcontra@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 25

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.

Fall Frolic. Paint pumpkins, decorate trick-or-treat bags, and trick-or-treat at Glen Echo Park's galleries and theatres from 1-4 p.m. Free admission, \$1/ticket for activities. Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org. Don't forget your costume!

Swing Dance. Enjoy a Halloween swing dance. Introductory dance lesson at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Beginner swing lesson from 8-9 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. \$15/person. E-mail dance@flyingfeet.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 26

River Jam. The Conservancy is holding its first ever "Potomac River Jam" at River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave. Cabin John, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Local musicians will play acoustic sets of Celtic, folk and indie music throughout the afternoon. Free. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at chapin@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, x213, or go to www.potomac.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. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members.

Sunday Blues. Blues dance in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, from 3-6 p.m. featuring live music. No partner required. Dance class from 3-3:30 p.m. \$10/person. For more information, call 703-860-4142.

C&O Open House. Potomac Conservancy docents lead groups through the restored lockhouse and interactive exhibits that show the connection between the Canal, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John. Visit www.potomac.org.

Zydeco Dance. Zydeco Dance Party in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7:30-10:30 p.m., with an introductory class from 7:30-8 p.m.; dancing 8-10:30 p.m. \$18/person. Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.dancingbythebayou.com.

Carnival of Creatures. A scary family concert featuring the post-classical ensemble is playing at the Music Center at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 1 p.m. Tickets range from \$18-\$35; call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Celebration of the Piano. Andrew Willis, a well-known performer on period instruments performs at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



I just love being here. Even though I live at home, I'm on campus all the time. I come for breakfast, stay for dinner. I spend entire weekends with my friends in the dorms, going on day trips, going to dances at other schools, doing community service.



Kate

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 3 p.m. Tickets: \$25/person; call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Haunted House. The Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John, is holding its third annual Haunted House from 4-6 p.m. All ages. Entry free; refreshments provided. To help with set-up, as a costumed host or with refreshments, contact Burr Gray at 703-607-2740 or burrgray@aol.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 28

LaughingRx Laughter Club. 30 minutes of group Laughter Yoga exercises, led by Certified Laughter Yoga teacher Nira Berry, president of LaughingRx Yoga. 7:30 p.m. Normandie Farm Restaurant, Falls Road. Free.



Nira Berry

Haunted Tea Party. The Tea Time Players present at haunting performance at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 1 p.m. Tickets: \$26/person plus tax, pre-registration required;

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

PETS OF THE WEEK



Ariel is a female, 5-year-old, 70 lbs., spayed, Aussie Shepherd mix. Ariel has come through a lot of adversity in her life but has not lost her love of adults and children. She loves a good belly rub and to play with other dogs. Ariel will do her best in a family home without cats or other smaller animals.



Snowy is a female, 6-year-old, spayed, DSH cat. Snowy is a big gorgeous girl with extra toes on her feet. She is affectionate, curious, playful and likes games of chase with her foster's small dog. Green-eyed Snowy gets along well with male cats and would love to be queen of your household.

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, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

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SCHOOLS

'Rent: School Edition' at Churchill

FROM PAGE 6
 intended audience.

THOUGH THE PLAY did not close on Broadway until September 2008 — thereby becoming available to be performed by high schools — Churchill drama director Jessica Speck, successfully began seeking the rights in spring of 2008 making it among the first high schools in the country to put on the show.

"I was so excited, so excited," said junior Becca Murphy of her reaction to learning that Churchill had won the rights to put the show on. Murphy plays the lead protagonist Mimi, a heroin addict and exotic dancer and much like many of her cast mates, she found approaching her atypical role to be challenging, but also liberating.

"I feel like she's a really complete character," different from your average musical protagonist, Murphy said. "It's not just, 'Oh, I'm happy, Oh, I'm sad, Oh I fell in love.'"

Sophomore Josh Coyne found playing his role of Collins, a gay philosophy professor in love with Simon's Angel challenging as well.

"He was kind of awkward about it being all intimate," said Simon. Time, practice, and Jack Nicholson showed him the way, though. Coyne struggled at first with his motivation, particularly when he had to approach a scene where he had to cry. He worked on imagining something deeply, profoundly sad, and with the help of his cast mates found that watching the mercy killing of Nicholson's Randle McMurphy in the movie "One Flew Over the

Cuckoo's Nest" was particularly effective.

"I think the people our director has cast have a great deal of professionalism and can deal with the material," said Simon.

The themes go beyond the struggles of poverty, HIV, and drug addiction and strike broader themes of love, tolerance, and liberty, said Murphy.

"Rent" is kind of like answering to the man, sort of," said Murphy.

Bonner said she hopes her classmates and anyone else who comes to see the show takes to heart the show's themes of tolerance and personal struggle and growth.

"It's a really amazing show," she said.

UNDER THE DIRECTION of Jessica Speck and the musical leadership of Keith Tittermary, "Rent: School Edition" will perform Oct. 24, 25, 31, and Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gertrude Bish Auditorium at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road. Tickets for the show cost \$12 or \$10, depending on seat location, and may be purchased on-line at www.seatyourself.biz/Churchill. The Halloween show will also be a benefit show for the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., as actors will collect money in buckets — a la Broadway Cares: Equity Fights AIDS — to benefit the clinic.

These performances of "Rent: School Edition" will kick off a year of fund-raising events to pay for the drama club's trip to Scotland next August. The next major event planned is five performances of Walt Disney's classic, "Beauty and the Beast," set for Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13.

FALL OPEN HOUSE
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SCHOOLS

Horror

FROM PAGE 6

acters.
 "Whenever you're acting you're really just playing a variation on a theme and you start from yourself," said Graham. "I chose the play to give them some confidence and some comfort by playing something close to them."

"Horror High" promises to entice audiences of all ages, even though the play comes only two months into the school year. Normally, the first play of the year doesn't debut until mid-November.

"We've been rehearsing almost every day since the beginning of September," said Bobadilla, who plays the older sister of one of the boys who want to make the movie. "This is first show before Halloween since I've been in theatre, which makes it a little different because we had to get everything together earlier."

The show begins on each night at 7:30 p.m. at the Wootton Auditorium. Tickets sell for \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Thomas S. Wootton High School is located at 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville.

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When you visit one of these real estate listings, tell the Realtor you saw it in the Almanac's Open Houses.

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

703-917-6475 or E-Mail the info to Klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.
 See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com on Saturday for open houses after deadline.

PEOPLE

Grand Farewell for Best Buddies

FROM PAGE 5

In a farewell gesture to all the old hands of the Best Buddies Ball, especially his parents, supporters were called to the stage by Anthony, and in Olympic style, he placed a medal around each neck according to length of duty. His father, Sargent Shriver, surrounded by a coterie of lovely women including Miss Universe, received a leather jacket for his 20-ball attendance.

Amid the laughter and revelry, the auction, the raison d'être, actually became as much theatre as fundraiser and the goodies racked up a grand total of \$360,000 with the ball proceeds hovering around \$3 million, according to International Development Director Hilary Stephens.

"It was a wonderful evening," said Vickie Crawford, as she gathered up husband, Skip, to head for home. They had a foxhunting date in the morning, very early.

To support Best Buddies or volunteer, visit their Web site: www.bestbuddiesball.org or for more information call 202-824-0349.

Carole Dell is auction co-chair of the ball.



Nicole Sexton and Anthony Shriver enjoy a moment before going in to dinner. Sexton, a first-time author, donated her book "Party Favors" as one of the items to benefit Best Buddies International.



Donald Dell of Potomac chats with former lieutenant governor of Maryland, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

MONUMENTAL MOMENTS

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NEWS

Change

FROM PAGE 6

market. We always bring up zone pricing and high credit card fees, but the only answer we always get is they [the delegates] will look into it," he said.

Will gas prices be lower with Texaco? At least his company will not be caught in the middle between zoning fees and an Exxon lease. In addition, if Mitch and Bill customers subscribe to Texaco credit cards it will lower gas prices at the pump. "With both the zoning and high card fees, it's been a double whammy for us," he admitted.

Everything else will remain the same. This is a full service station, complete with bays. The mini mart is well stocked. Harry Waters and Sean Ridge, 20-year veterans, will be there as usual and so will 15-year veteran Ted Heaton, the head mechanic. Several others will help maintain the status quo. "Chad, is the road runner. He handles all the road calls," Mike Mitchell said.

Recently there have been a drop-off in gas sales all over the area. Mitch and Bill's is no exception. Also, there have been drive-offs, people who fill their tanks and "forget" to pay.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

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www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 29

Halloween Stories. Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Lane, presents storyteller Gary Lloyd, who will tell Halloween stories at 7 p.m. Please register at 240-777-0690 or online.

Haunted Tea Party. The Tea Time Players present at haunting performance at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 1 p.m. Tickets: \$26/person plus tax, pre-registration required; call 301-581-5108 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Trelumina. Trelumina is performing at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15/person; call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 30

Community Pumpkin Patch. The community pumpkin patch is open from Oct. 11-31 at North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Regular hours are Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Call 301-530-4342.

K.D. Lang. The singer/songwriter is performing at the Music Center at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$55 and \$75/person; call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 31

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 1

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/NOV. 2

Shrimp and Oysters. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Alumni Association will hold a shrimp and oyster feast from 1-5 p.m., in the Anastasi Room at the Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. Tickets: \$40 for an all-you-can-eat menu and must be purchased in advance. Call 301-977-6634.

TUESDAY/NOV. 4

Chinese Book Club. Join in a Chinese book discussion in the Chinese language from 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

FRIDAY/NOV. 7

"Marsalis Brasilianos." Performed by Branford Marsalis with members of the Philharmonia Brasileira featuring conductor Gil Jardim, at 8 p.m., at the Performing Arts Center. "Marsalis Brasilianos" commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos.

Fall Crafts. Assemble a head dress, decorate a fall wreath and enjoy story time with Perfect Parties by Terrye the Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

Food Festival and Bazaar. Enjoy

Russian and Eastern European food and shopping from 4-8 p.m. at St. Mark Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda. Call 301-229-6300 or visit www.stmarkoca.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

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.

Jewelry Exhibition. A collection of jewelry and metalwork pieces by 16 area artists will be offered for show and sale 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Bethesda, 5500 Sonoma Road. Free. Call 301-299-3497.

Food Festival and Bazaar. Enjoy Russian and Eastern European food and shopping from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Mark Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda. Call 301-229-6300 or visit www.stmarkoca.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Jewelry Exhibition. A collection of jewelry and metalwork pieces by 16 area artists will be offered for show and sale 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Bethesda, 5500 Sonoma Road. Free. Call 301-299-3497.

Food Festival and Bazaar. Enjoy Russian and Eastern European food and shopping from 12-4 p.m. at St. Mark Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda. Call 301-229-6300 or visit www.stmarkoca.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 14

Holiday Bazaar. Art and craft vendors at the St. Jane de Chantal Holiday Bazaar, St. Jane de Chantal School, 9525 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. 7-10 p.m.

www.yourdogsfriend.info.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 29

So Sexy, So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood. Learn from Dr. Diane Levin, Professor of Education at Wheelock College in Boston and internationally recognized expert, to understand and counteract the harmful effects of violence, media and commercial culture on children. From 7-9 p.m. at Suburban Hospital Auditorium, 8600 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. To register from home call 301-896-3939, option 2 or email soc@suburbanhospital.org. For more information visit www.ymcawashdc.org. Admission: \$20/person, \$30/couple. Fee waivers are available.

THURSDAY/OCT. 30

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. 31

Halloween Celebration. Enjoy tea and treats at The Wellness Community, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda, from 10-11 a.m. with other people who have been affected by cancer. Learn about free programs for people with cancer and their loved ones. Call 301-493-5002 or e-mail twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org for reservations.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail 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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 23

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. 24

Preschool Fair. Learn about local

preschools at the 11th Annual Preschool Fair sponsored by the MOMS Club of Potomac. The Preschool Fair will be held at the Potomac Community Center from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Admission is free and children are welcome. Call Colleen Greer at 301-299-9884 or e-mail (momspotomac@gmail.com).

SATURDAY/OCT. 25

How Dogs Can Help Individuals with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities. Discover how dogs can provide therapy for those with autism or other developmental disabilities, from 2-4 p.m. Wheaton Community Center, 11711 Georgia Ave. Wheaton. Call 301-983-5913 or visit

So Sexy, So Soon:
The New
Sexualized Childhood

Diane Levin is Professor of Education at Wheelock College in Boston where she has been involved in training early childhood professionals for over twenty-five years. An internationally recognized expert, Levin helps professionals and parents understand and counteract the harmful effects of violence, media and commercial culture on children. Dr. Levin has authored eight books and has published extensively in early childhood and education journals as well as in the popular press. Her latest book, *So Sexy, So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood*, is due to be released fall 2008.

\$20/person, \$30/couple
Fee waivers available.
CEUs available (2 hours) \$15 fee: University of Maryland Professional Studies and Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (Category II); Maryland State Office of Child Care: Core of Knowledge areas of Child Development and Community.
All proceeds fund the prevention services of YMCA Youth & Family Services.
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Potomac Day Benefits Club HERO

FROM PAGE 3

equivalent of the entire Bullis student body has been erased from our planet. In Africa, the spread of HIV/AIDS has reversed decades of improvements in life expectancy and left millions of children orphaned. It is draining the supply of teachers and eroding the quality of education."

The UNA program was especially appealing to Blair "because the UN has the infrastructure to get the money into the field. You need a big organization like the UN to keep it on the ground." She explained her initial aim at Bullis was to have students manage a change collecting effort to collect coins totaling \$25 per student, the cost to send a child to school in the region of KwaZulu-Natal. She said she hoped the "Champions for Change" project would instill the sense, "To not feel bad about the luxuries they have, but understand the value of \$1 outside of Potomac, Md." She quotes John F. Kennedy, "To whom much is given, much is expected." She added, "I wanted to give them an avenue to give. If this gives them the seeds of service, then I've been successful." All monies collected go directly to the UN.

SEEDS TRANSFORMED into bulbs when Chapel Valley Landscape Company donated 1,000 daffodil bulbs for Club HERO students and their families to plant at Bullis to raise awareness. The community effort resulted in a "gratitude garden" offering a permanent renewal each spring of lessons learned, positive differences made and a reminder of the students' good fortune. Last year, monies raised sent 88 orphans and vulnerable children to school in South Africa.

Woodring said the Club HERO experience for students was, "Incredible. Amazing. Overwhelming. The students learned about the physical geography, new things about people in general and the obstacles they're faced with. The students were very interested in community service and the plight of orphans in South Africa."



Potomac resident Kerry Blair visiting with children in South Africa during a trip in 2005.

The program features no tests, no quizzes, just UN millennium goals. Woodring added, "Club HERO gave students time to reflect and appreciate what they have and an opportunity to learn what other people don't have." He commended Blair. "The time and energy Mrs. Blair put into this program every Tuesday for three years is really incredible to me. She's very passionate about teaching kids to look outside their surroundings. We're very fortunate here. Her passion about global issues gets them to think of their world outside of Potomac."

Last year, Woodring and Blair took the sixth graders on a field trip to the South African Embassy. Blair said, "I want the students to understand that South Africa, like all countries, has incredible beauty, a variety of amazingly diverse people, world renowned art, cuisine, culture and possibility, without denying the coexistence of areas of extreme need and disillusion. The dichotomy between its magnificence and its misery is astounding."

Bullis' Club HERO students have established penpal relationships with South African children sharing photos, videos and journals about their favorite things, a typical day for their families, themselves and the heroes in their lives. They have also made friendship bracelets for the South African students. Each bracelet is comprised

of beaded letters spelling two words. One word is in English, such as friend, hope or love accompanied by its Zulu translation surrounded by colorful beads.

The program caught the attention of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce (PCC). PCC selected Club HERO as its designated charity for this year's Potomac Day, Oct. 18. PCC's Jennifer Matheson explained the reason for the selection, "Club HERO participated in Potomac Day last year. We asked them to return as our charity for this year. We're impressed with the program. It really touches the kids in the area to show them there's a world beyond Potomac. The kids are our future and it gets them forward thinking."

According to Matheson, approximately \$3,000 is raised each year for the designated charity as a result of proceeds from Potomac Day's key components including a 5K race, car show, children's festival, business fair and parade. The charity receives 50 percent of monies from any sponsor they secure for the event.

What does Blair see in the future for Club HERO? She said, "My main goal is to go around to all the schools, keep the message really clear, but highlight the need." She said the UN has a Global Education division with a focus on, "Light humanitarianism, geography and politics." She hopes to develop

Heroes

BY MEAGAN E.B. MAGUIRE

Heroes
They can do anything

Sometimes your hero saves the world
Just like in a comic book
Sometimes they don't

I have many heroes
Two of them are my parents
My mom and dad

They don't really save the world
But to me
They do

My parents do everything for me
Just to make me happy
To me they are perfect

Some people go looking for a hero
Most people find them without looking

A hero can mean different things to different people
A hero can be someone that does great things for people
A hero can also be someone that makes you feel great when they are around

My parents do both
Heroes

other participatory endeavors. She envisions a coalition of mothers connecting with other mothers. To facilitate the ease of giving, "Mothers for Mothers" would partner with the UN's organizations and encourage, for instance, a mother in the United States whose child is receiving a vaccine to purchase and donate a vaccine for a child in need in another country.

Blair's message has spawned engaged citizens under her own roof. She has empowered her daughters Abi and Alexi who plan to broaden Club HERO's reach by incorporating it into Bullis' upper school curriculum. In Blair's words, "Each voice can lead and inspire, each act of effort and sacrifice can save a life, and each passion that is given purpose can, one day, change the world." When asked if she would continue to be involved, her response was an unequivocal, "Always."

Community Comes Together To Celebrate

FROM PAGE 3

with their families."

Many local businesses also got the opportunity to showcase their product, as numerous vendors offered goods and services at discounted prices. All proceeds from Potomac Day go to Club Hero, which donates to African villages affected by AIDS.

Making this year's event a bit different was the heavy presence of politicians and their campaigns with Election Day looming. Volunteers from both the Obama and McCain camps were out in full force with buttons, stickers, and signs. Many local politicians used the festivities as a chance to

get some last minute campaigning in and meet some of their neighbors.

"I think it's great that both sides of the democratic process are represented," said Barbara Bernstein, who just moved to the area in May and was on hand for her first-ever Potomac Day with son Leo.

Added Gordon Clark, a Green party candidate running against incumbent Chris Van Hollen for the Maryland 8th District House of Representatives seat: "Beautiful day, people are great, and a lot of interesting things to do, where can you go wrong? It's just great to be out here shaking hands and meeting folks."



Alison Epstein, 7, and her brother, Jordan, check out all the candy they got during the annual Potomac Day Parade on Saturday morning.



During a display of Tai-Kwon-Do at Potomac Day festivities, Alex Kuo, 8, of Potomac, shows off his skills.

SPORTS

Wootton QB Sets State Passing Record

Mooney throws for record 451 yards in 36-7 win over Blair.

BY MIKE WEINER
THE ALMANAC

Wootton senior quarterback Mike Mooney couldn't have imagined an offensive start worse than the pointless first quarter of last Thursday's game against Blair.

Mooney's Patriots could not get on the board against the Blazers, and anyone who had seen the first quarter would never have predicted what would come next; Mooney caught fire in the second quarter and continued to pick apart the Blazers throughout the game en route to a single-game state record 451 passing yards in a 36-7 Patriot win.

Mooney, who has begun to receive county-wide recognition as a top-flight

quarterback, completed 26-of-43 passes with three touchdowns, and also chipped in a rushing touchdown. It was a surreal experience for Mooney.

"It was pretty crazy, people coming up to me to congratulate me," Mooney said afterwards. "There's nothing really to say but wow. It's a great feeling."

In what was a must-win game for Wootton's playoff chances, the slow start did not faze Mooney. Early in the second quarter, Mooney found junior wide receiver Matt Grimm on a 52-yard screen pass that resulted in a touchdown. From there, Blair saw an endless torrent of Mooney passes that it could not stop.

"The line played out of their minds and the receivers were unbelievable," Mooney said. "It was a total team effort and I think it's more of a team record rather than anything just regarding me."

Justin Sottilaire of Oakland Mills previously held the passing record after throwing for 448 yards in a loss to Marriots Ridge last season. The game was also an early Senior Night for the



Patriots since their next and final home game is also the school's Homecoming game.

"We didn't really have all the emotions of a typical Senior Night since we have another home game," Mooney said. "But it was good to play in front of all the parents and there was a great crowd."

The Patriots (4-3) take on Magruder next, followed by their homecoming matchup against Richard Montgomery on Halloween night. If Wootton wins those two, there's a Nov. 6 showdown with rival Churchill. This year's Wootton/Churchill game could decide whether one or both of the schools gets in to the playoffs, and the atmosphere is sure to be intense. Mooney, however, isn't looking ahead.

"We know that don't have to worry about anything else except winning," he said. "We're going out there one week at a time and [Magruder] is all we're focusing on now. With that attitude hopefully everything will fall into place."

After a slow first quarter, Wootton quarterback Mike Mooney caught fire in the passing game, eventually setting a Maryland state record for yards in last Thursday's 36-7 win over Blair.

PHOTO BY MIKE WEINER/THE ALMANAC

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wootton, Churchill Tie

In a back-and-forth game last Saturday, the **Wootton** boys' soccer team tied Quince Orchard 1-1. The lone goal of the first half was scored when senior goalie Matt Black had a ball ricochet off of him directly to a lurking QO forward, who buried it in the net.

Wootton turned the game around in the second half, using a goal by junior midfielder Matt Harlow with 20 minutes left in the game to level the score at 1-1. The Patriots had one more chance to end it in regulation, but the Cougars' goalkeeper made an excellent save on a shot by senior Skylar Olson.

In overtime, Wootton dominated the possession but failed to come up with the winning tally. In the extra frame, Olson had the best chance of the day as his pirouette between two defenders turned him loose in the goalie's box. However, a slide-tackle from behind tripped him up and forced him to lose possession, and no penalty shot was awarded.

The Patriots (4-5-3) take on Richard Montgomery in a first-round playoff game this Friday.

Meanwhile, Churchill was unable to avenge last season's devastating loss to Magruder in the 4A West regional final. The Bulldogs and Colonels faced off in a rematch last Thursday and played to a scoreless tie.

Churchill (9-0-2) is one of the favorites to win the state title this year. The Bulldogs have already earned a first round bye, and will face the winner of a Blair/Whitman first-round matchup next week.



Junior Steven Ho leads Wootton into a first-round playoff matchup against Richard Montgomery Friday. Churchill has a first-round bye, and will face the winner of a Blair/Whitman playoff game.

Churchill Solid at XC Championships

The Montgomery County Cross Country Championships were held this past Saturday at Gaithersburg High School and area teams were well represented. Leading the pack was **Churchill**, which as a team finished in fourth place in the boy's competition and fifth-place in the girl's race.

Bulldog senior Sean King was the most impressive, finishing the five-kilometer run in 16:01, good enough for fifth-place in the nearly 170-runner field. Senior Matthew Bernstein was close behind with a time of

16:36, giving him a 17th-place showing. Junior Tarek Elhage was also solid, crossing the line in 16:57.

Juniors Maryam Fikri and Alexandra Gieed teamed up to lead the lady Bulldogs, clocking times of 19:12 and 19:17, respectively. The duo both finished in the top-10 of the 151-girl field.

The **Whitman** girl's cross country team wasn't far behind, finishing in 6th place as a team. Junior Shayna Barbash was fast enough to finish in sixth place with a time of 18:56. Freshmen Anna Ryba and Alexandra Phillips didn't shy away from the county stage either, turning in solid 11th and

12th-place finishes, respectively.

Led by junior Andrew Palmer, the Viking boys finished in seventh in the team competition. Palmer blazed through the Gaithersburg course in a time of 15:27, good enough for second place behind Sherwood senior Solomon Haile. It was Palmer's second-straight year finishing the county championships as runner up. Junior Brandt Sliver-Korn also turned in a top-10 showing for Whitman.

The **Wootton** girl's team finished in eighth place, while its male counterparts finished 14th in the county. Junior Jessie Rubin led the girls with a time of 18:59, good enough for eighth-place individually. Senior Jonathon Loewy led the boys with a time of 17:29.

Sign-up for Historic Race

Registration has begun for the first-ever American Odyssey Relay Race (AOR), a team relay event that will start in historic Gettysburg and run through the Maryland Suburbs (Potomac included) and directly into Washington, D.C.

The format involves five-mile legs for each runner as they pass by numerous historic sites on the more than 200-mile race.

Teams are encouraged to sign up immediately to ensure they secure one of the 150 spots. For more information, contact AOR Race Director Bob Fleshner by email at bob@americanodysseyrelay.com.

BY MIKE WEINER
AND MARK GIANNOTTO

PHOTO BY MIKE WEINER/THE ALMANAC

SPORTS

Playoff Magic

Area field hockey teams gear up for postseason play.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

Considering that no game Mike Parrish coaches begins without his players being serenaded with what he calls “magic hockey dust,” it should come as no surprise his Wootton field hockey team draws its fair share of stares from the opposition.

The fairy dust is all part of an elaborate set of pre-game superstition Parrish has been adhering to for years with all his teams. The ritual also includes the ringing of a tiny bell that has the Chinese symbol standing for synergy on it and a magical “Skor” candy bar.

However quirky the sideline antics look, the Patriots 9-4 record during the regular season proves there must be some good karma from it.

“I only started with the dust,” said Parrish, who is in his 4th season coaching the var-

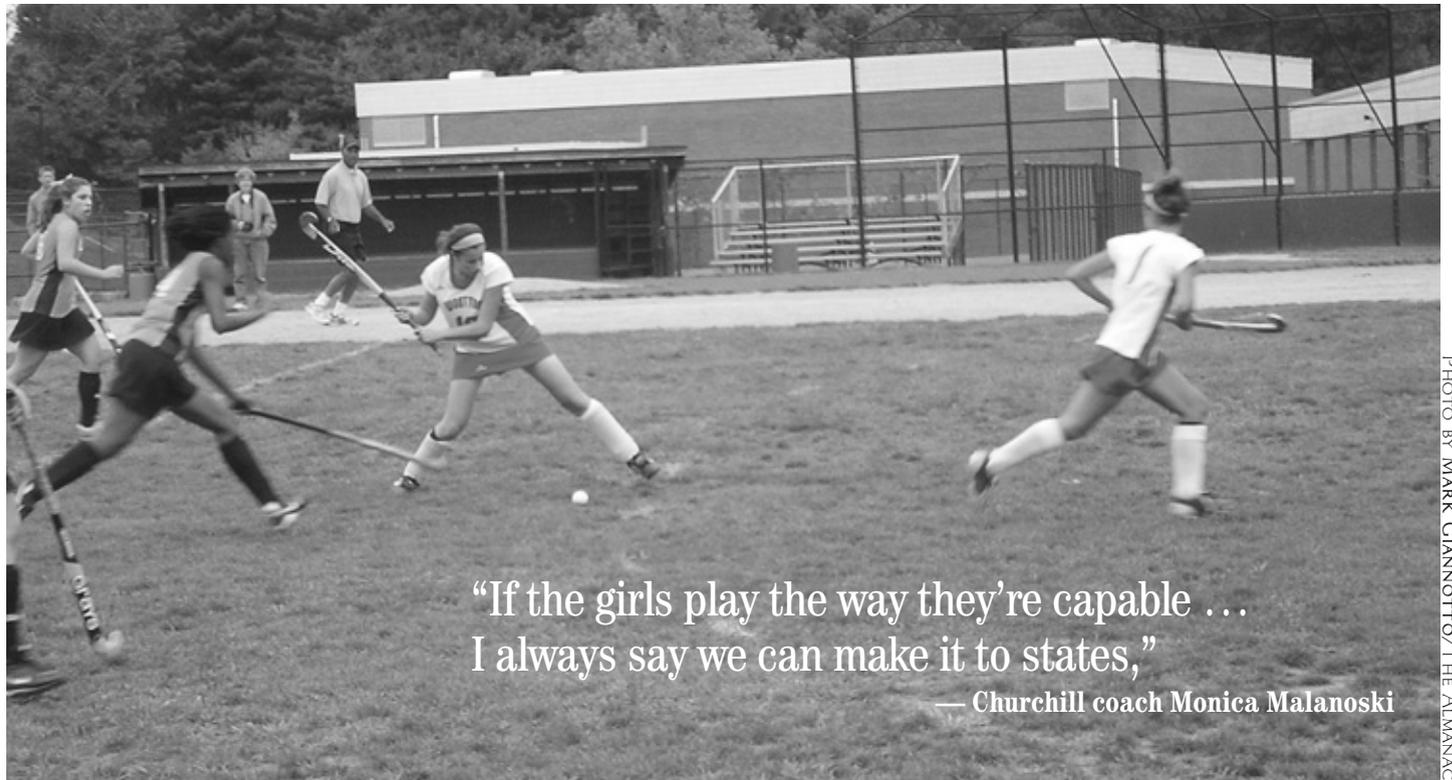


PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC

“If the girls play the way they’re capable ... I always say we can make it to states,”

— Churchill coach Monica Malanoski

Senior Rachel Baron fires a shot during Wootton’s game against Rockville last week.

sity team at Wootton after 14 years as the school’s JV coach. “The rest of it, they’ve just added over the years.”

The Patriots begin postseason play this Wednesday against Whitman in a quarterfinal of the 4A South region playoffs. Wootton defeated the Vikings, 2-1, on Sept. 23. The winner would likely face Blake, who went undefeated and defeated both Whitman and Wootton this season.

Led by seniors Rachel Baron and Amy Eaton, the Patriots have a well-rounded

group this season that doesn’t rely on the production of just one player. It’s a theme that has the team thinking big things once all the dust settles.

“We have a good group of solid players and our theme is always playing well together and that’s what we’ve coached them to do,” Parrish said. “It’s going to be a close game.”

THE CHURCHILL field hockey team has quietly positioned itself for a long playoff

run in the 4A North region, compiling a solid 9-3 record. Coach Monica Malanoski credits the team’s improved skill set and the play of a quartet of seniors — Ellen Suttle, Jenna Hawk, Shannon Disbrow, and Becca Klein.

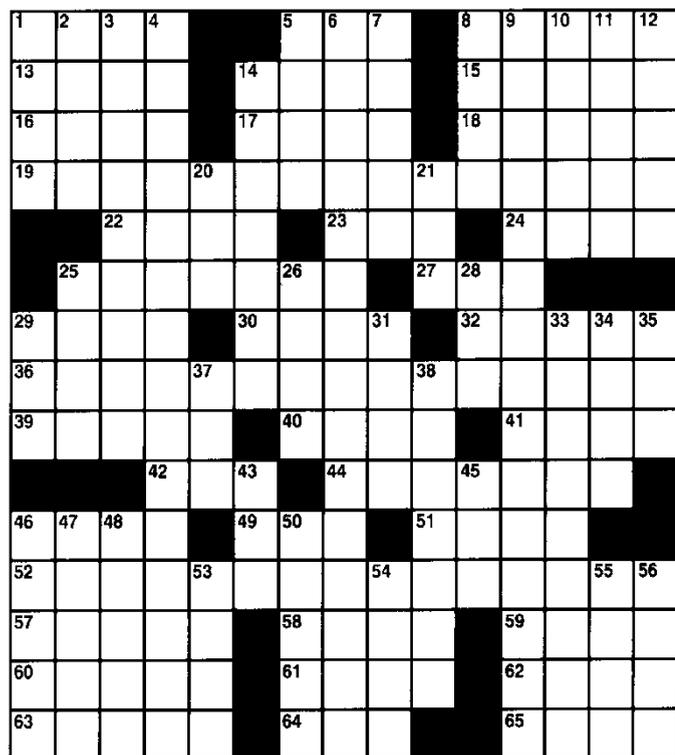
The Bulldogs face Linganore, of Frederick County in a quarterfinal matchup this Thursday at Churchill.

“If the girls play the way they’re capable ... I always say we can make it to states,” Malanoski said.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0403-5



Puzzle by Pat M. Hugel

ACROSS

- 1 Bake sale holders, often
- 5 Season opener
- 8 Agreements
- 13 Au fait
- 14 Av follower
- 15 Celebrity
- 16 It can make a date
- 17 Obey a court order
- 18 "La — di seta" (Rossini opera)
- 19 Oregon Trail sight
- 22 Sheet of matted wool
- 23 Ore suffix
- 24 Atlas abbr. before 1991
- 25 1935 musical with Astaire and Rogers
- 27 Time in history
- 29 Arthur and others
- 30 John Beck's "Sleeper" role
- 32 Cornered
- 36 Phoenix or Sparrow

- 39 One of Mia's exes
- 40 It may be tended
- 41 Trial run
- 42 ——— tangent
- 44 Spills one's guts
- 46 McDonald's founder
- 49 Shadow, so to speak
- 51 Häagen-Dazs alternative
- 52 Some noncoms
- 57 With all one's might
- 58 Where Zeno of Citium lectured
- 59 Kind of hall
- 60 Asperity
- 61 Series finale: Abbr.
- 62 Future J.D.'s hurdle
- 63 Minute
- 64 Hamilton's place
- 65 Girl's name ending

DOWN

- 1 "Hair" producer
- 2 Stowe tow
- 3 Trackside shout

- 4 Highly stylized sculpting style
- 5 Bend at the bar
- 6 This might provide a last shot
- 7 Chosen ones
- 8 Mexican mint product
- 9 Ledger column
- 10 Feud participants
- 11 They're passed around campfires
- 12 First Super Bowl M.V.P.
- 14 Republic since 1993
- 20 Itinerary abbr.
- 21 Bray beginning
- 25 It might run down the neck
- 26 Calc. preceder, perhaps
- 28 Rio Treaty implementer: Abbr.
- 29 Leicester cry
- 31 The toe of the Arabian Peninsula
- 33 Branch office?
- 34 Porters
- 35 "Uh-huh"
- 37 Across, in verse
- 38 Like some aliens
- 43 E.R. administration
- 45 Cowley composition
- 46 It first opened in 1962
- 47 Summer fabric
- 48 Missouri feeder
- 50 Resource
- 53 "Just you wait, ——— 'iggins..."
- 54 Bookbinding leather
- 55 Udder part
- 56 Little miss, in a misión

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	B	E	A	M	D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E
C	R	A	V	E	N	I	V	E	G	O	T	I
C	A	S	I	N	O	S	E	A	T	B	E	L
U	N	E	V	E	N	B	A	R	S	M	V	I
S	D	I	S	E	E	P	Y	C	S	P	A	N
A	N	N	L	P	S	A	L	O	N	G		
L	E	T	O	T	O	E	E	N	E			
S	W	O	R	D	S	W	A	L	L	O	W	E
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H	O	R	A	L		L	I	N		G	S	A
E	N	E	M	Y		E	N	D	A	T		T
D	T	S		L	A	G	S	B	E	H	I	N
D	I	E	T	S	O	D	A		A	N	I	M
A	M	N	I	O	T	I	C		T	A	K	E
S	E	T	P	O	I	N	T		M	E	R	E

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998.

The winner of puzzle #0402-5 is:

Meredith G. Williams

Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

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ADJUNCT FACULTY Spring 2009 Semester

Northern Virginia Community College is actively seeking qualified part-time faculty, to teach a broad range of disciplines, beginning with the 2009 Spring semester. Positions are available throughout NOVA's six campuses: Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Woodbridge, Medical Education Campus (in Springfield), and two new centers: Reston and Arlington.



For more information about Northern Virginia Community College and a complete list of openings by discipline and campus location, visit our website at www.nvcc.edu and choose the link for "Jobs at NOVA."

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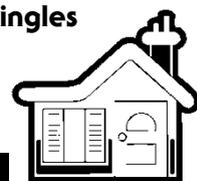
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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What a shame! At a time when the price of a barrel of oil has dropped 53 percent (as of Oct. 16th) from its most recent 2008 peak and gasoline prices have fallen to a 14-month low, so too has my family income declined, unfortunately, thereby preventing me from truly enjoying the advantages and benefits of paying fewer dollars for energy than I have in what seems like a very long time.

I suppose the bright side is, had the oil prices not declined so precipitously, my ability to pay/absorb them into the family budget — given the recessionary state of the present economy — would have been stressed and stretched to its breaking point, mentally and physically. And though I can certainly appreciate the cash flow-relief we're experiencing of paying one dollar less per gallon of gasoline, give or take, than we had throughout most of 2008, making less money has definitely reduced that pleasure not to mention reducing our discretionary dollars as well.

Sure, we're paying less for gasoline (and home heating oil as well, presumably, although we haven't received a delivery in six months), but since we have fewer dollars, the net effect, meaning the percentage of the budget (if we even had a budget) that we do have available for gas and oil, is not appreciably different than when we had more dollars but oil and gas was much closer to its all-time high than it is now.

Granted, things could be worse (wait a day, heck, wait an hour). Nevertheless, they just don't feel as good as such a significant drop in energy costs would lead you to believe they are. Yes, I'm paying less — absolutely, but I'm/we're earning less. At the end of the day (literally, not just the expression), my wallet is still empty. And just as money doesn't grow on trees (figuratively and literally, as it was pointed out to me by an alert reader), nor does it get electronically deposited into my checking account simply because I need it to be.

I don't mind working for my money (although, let's be honest, not having to work for your money wouldn't be much of a hardship, for me, anyway). But I do mind when the money I'm working for is basically gone/accounted for before I ever get it, if you know what I mean. The only thing that's discretionary about my dollars is how much I send to whom; that's my choice. Some choice! It's not exactly pick your poison, but neither is it pick your pleasure.

Unless of course one finds pleasure in spending every nickel they earn paying bills whose end does not appear to be in sight. Unfortunately, there's no magic in these mundane money matters. It's simply supply and demand, ironically, similar to two of the main factors contributing to the fluctuating price of oil and gas in particular and energy in general.

Often, we're told, what goes up must come down. And certainly we are seeing confirmation of that old adage with respect to energy costs. However, I wish it was my income that was going up while those energy costs were going down, not both going down; that's not much of an adage. I can't afford to be "Even Steven," anymore. At the least, I need to be "Steady Eddy." At the most, I need to be "Dollar Bill."

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

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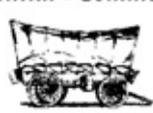
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