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Local hockey
players flocked
to the C&O Canal
over the holiday
weekend as
temperatures
plunged and the
Canal froze.



A Frozen Classic

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Freshmen Launch T-Shirt Business

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Churchill Boy's Eke Out Win

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Essay Wins Tickets to Inaugural

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PHOTO BY AARON STERN / THE ALMANAC

Correction

Prize awards will be given Jan. 24 to Churchill High School students as part of the student art exhibition at Behnke's Nurseries. The prizes provided by Behnke's are \$250 for 1st place, \$200 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd. The prizes provided by Potomac Artists IN Touch are \$150 for People's Choice award and \$50 for each of five honorable mentions.

Bush Says Goodbye at Glen Echo

As hundreds of thousands crowded the National Mall last weekend for the initial festivities of President Barack Obama's inauguration, outgoing President George W. Bush bid farewell to hundreds of White House staff members at Glen Echo Park's historic Spanish Ballroom on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The party was hosted by White House chief of staff Joshua Bolten and former chief of staff Andrew Card. As the President took to the stage to thank the audience for their service, he looked out on the crowded ballroom floor and said, "We're no longer sprinting to the finish, we're dancing to the finish."

The Spanish Ballroom, constructed in 1933, underwent a multi-million dollar renovation and re-opened with a grand celebration in 2003. Bolten chose to host the event in the

ballroom after attending several dances there. Glen Echo Park has an active social dance program and hosts three to six dances every weekend of the year.

This is the first known presidential visit to Glen Echo Park, although National Park Service staff recalls that First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy brought her children to the park while her husband was in office.

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization, manages the programs and facilities at Glen

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NEWS

Residents in Budget Crosshairs?

Montgomery County legislative delegation looking to keep local impact to a minimum.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

With the state of Maryland facing a \$1.9 billion budget deficit for the 2010 fiscal year, cuts are coming. That much Brian Feldman knows. The chair of the Montgomery County delegation to Maryland's House of Delegates, Feldman (D-15) also knows that he will have to fight during the 426th session of the Maryland General Assembly that began last week to keep his county from feeling a disproportionate impact of those cuts.

"The budget is going to dominate the session," said Feldman. "We're looking at really an almost unprecedented economic downturn that is affecting state budgets across the country."

Most of Maryland's state revenue comes from sales and income taxes, said Feldman, but there will be "little appetite" to increase taxes, having just done

so during the November 2007 special session of the Assembly.

The downturn in the economy is something "you've seen more and more across the country and now in Montgomery County, too," said Sen. Rob Garagiola (D-15). "It would be a very, very difficult proposition to foist onto our constituents."

Del. Craig Rice said at a recent meeting with constituents in Potomac that increasing sales taxes isn't a preferred option with local businesses already struggling.

EXACTLY HOW state spending will be cut was expected to be made more clear on Wednesday, Jan. 21 when Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) presented his budget to legislators. One possibility would be that the state shift the burden for funding teacher pensions back to the counties, said Feldman. Teacher pensions in Montgomery County are expected to increase in 2010 from the \$650 million they were in 2009, Feldman said. Montgomery County tends to

pay its teachers more and have more teachers than other counties as well, making that a distasteful possibility.

"I don't see that as a [realistic possibility], I don't see anybody voting for that," said Rice.

A geographic cost-of-living calculator that would fund school systems throughout the state expected

"We just have to be very much on top of our game here as a delegation to protect our interests."

— Del. Brian Feldman (D-15)

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7

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PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Local hockey enthusiasts of all ages came to the C&O Canal over the holiday weekend to take advantage of the transitory playing venue.

A Frozen Classic

Cold temperatures bring hockey players of all ages to canal.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Last week's winter cold snap that sent temperatures plunging into the teens and below did more than just chill area residents to the bone. It brought hockey back to the C&O Canal for the first time in two years.

Cars lined the gravel shoulder that doubles as a small parking area at the intersection of Brickyard Road and MacArthur Boulevard on Monday, Jan. 19 in numbers usually seen during spring. On the Canal below, teams of youth hockey players and pickup players of all ages skated back and forth through light snow showers.

"You don't realize how many people are wildly excited every time [the Canal] freezes."

— Eileen Maxwell, Washington, D.C.

"You don't realize how many people are wildly excited every time [the Canal] freezes," said Ellen Maxwell of Washington, D.C.

There are two unspoken rules of community pickup hockey — no hitting and no slapshots. Keep the puck on the ice, keep the play spirited but friendly, maintain no restrictions of age or gender, and go at it. Those rules were on full display Monday morning as at least three games were going on at a time between the informal entrance at the base of Brickyard and the bridge over the Canal from the Old Angler's parking lot, while others skating and walking casually up and down or watching the games from the side of the Canal or seated on a fallen log frozen in the water. With most people off from work for Martin Luther King Day and the U.S. Presidential Inauguration on Tues

day, the Canal was a hub of activity. The ice was uneven and textured, and the background showed bare trees and a cloudy sky.

SEE HOCKEY, PAGE 4



Chevy Chase Hockey Club coach Dave Gray makes teams Monday, Jan. 19 by tossing sticks from a pile to either side of the rink, which was the C&O Canal over the weekend.

Sewer Proposal On Hold

Plans to extend dedicated water and sewer lines for Potomac Oak could head for approval later this year.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

A proposal to extend water and sewer service to the Potomac Oak shopping center at the intersection of Travilah and Glen Roads in North Potomac is not among the batch of water/sewer category change requests scheduled for review by the Montgomery County Council next month. The plan is still in the works, however, and could head to the council for a vote later this year.

Guy Semmes and Michael Denker bought the septic-dependent Potomac Oak shopping center in 2003. The two men hope to expand the center to make it into more of a

SEE POTOMAC OAK, PAGE 6

Essay Wins Tickets to Inaugural

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE ALMANAC

Despite being a native of the Washington D.C. area, James Riviere had never been to a Presidential inauguration. That changed this week when Riviere had a reserved front row seat for the swearing in of President Barack Obama.

The Cabin John resident, who works for an international non-profit group in Arlington, had tickets to the swearing-in, the parade and an inaugural ball. After the ceremonies, he and a friend were scheduled to stay in a hotel in the District. And all of this was for free.

Riviere had won the Presidential Inaugural Committee's "Ticket to History" essay writing contest. His five-paragraph essay on what the inauguration means to him was

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THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

FROM PAGE 2

Echo Park. For information, call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org.

Sustainability Working Group Makes Recommendations

The Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group (SWG), a group of business, government and environmental activists, presented its climate protection report to Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the County Council on Friday, Jan. 16. The list recommends 58 actions that can be implemented effectively to meet the County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

The SWG was charged with developing a comprehensive, coordinated and cost effective strategy to meet the County's climate protection goals. The group had its first meeting in September and has met its deadline of developing a comprehensive action plan of bold initiatives by Jan. 15.

The SWG studied and selected the best parts of programs from around the country and solicited ideas from County departments and agencies to create the climate protection and sustainability plan. To view the complete Montgomery County report, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep. For more information, call 240-777-7700.

Planning Board Backs Light Rail on Purple Line

Montgomery County Planning Board voted last week for the Purple Line public transportation project to take the form of light rail rather than bus rapid transit.

Proposed for years as a new east-west public transit route across Montgomery and Prince George's counties, the 16-mile Purple Line is proposed to run from Bethesda to New Carrollton, and provide connections to Metro at Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton, as well as connect with major bus routes, the MARC train and Amtrak.

The board will send its input to the County Council, which will take up the transit project next week. The council will then forward its recommendation on the Montgomery County section of the Purple Line to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), which is in charge of the project.

The light rail decision was approved in a 4-1 vote over bus rapid transportation. The board agreed with staff recommendations to go with a surface route along Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring and eliminate a proposed station at Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive.

Board members agreed with staff that the Capital Crescent Trail recreational path can parallel a light rail track and share an existing tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue. Planners also recommended — and the board endorsed — that the trail be rebuilt above the train through the tunnel. The board also specified, following staff's recommendation, that large trees be planted as a screen between the trail and the tracks along the route.

The board received a near-record amount of public input on the project, with close to 50 speakers and some 950 pieces of correspondence.

State transportation officials estimate that up to 63,000 passengers will ride the Purple Line daily.

Nominate a Principal

Montgomery County Public Schools is now accepting nominations for its top principal award. The Mark Mann Award is designed to honor the highest qualities and most significant accomplishments of Dr. Mark Mann, former principal of Parkland Middle School, Montgomery County Public Schools. Mann was recognized throughout the system as an excellent school-based educator who dedicated himself to understanding and embracing the diversity of his school and community.

Deadline is Feb. 2. For more information visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/mannaward/>

NEWS



PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Players of all ages competed against one another on the C&O Canal over the weekend adhering to the two unwritten rules of pickup hockey — no hitting and keep the puck on the ice.

Hockey Players Use Frozen Canal

FROM PAGE 3

day, middle-aged men and women tried to make their way through throngs of elementary-aged defensemen and score in makeshift goals, while parents chatted with one another nearby, some of them resting from having just played.

"I like [hockey] because it's an aggressive sport and I'm a really good skater," said Griffin Long, 9, of Potomac. How cool was it being able to play outdoors on the Canal? "Really cool," he said.

"It's so fun, and you get this taste of how it is to be European. You can skate a quarter mile up the Canal," said Dennis Liu of Potomac. "This is one of the best-kept secrets."

"When you're out here it's just like a scene from a Christmas card," said Nathan Liu, 13. "We're actually skating on the Canal."

By skating on the Canal, local hockey players and skating enthusiasts disregard posted warnings along the Canal forbidding such activity.

"The greatest thing about the inauguration is there's no helicopters to chase us away," said Eric Friedenson, who then reinserted his mouth piece and skated after the action on the ice.

The rule of thumb is that two inches of frozen water is safe to skate on, so when Shawn Till drilled down 3.5 inches on Saturday he knew he had good hockey ahead of him.

"It's the greatest thing ever," said Aileen Mannix of Potomac, who had her sons Kaelin, 5, and Trogon, 3 with her on Monday. "Every winter we wait and watch. We've been out here every day since Saturday."



Ethan Till, 6, minds the net.

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 703-917-6407.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Free SAT, ACT Practice Tests. 9:30-11 a.m. at Winston Churchill High School can take practice tests while parents attend free "Navigating College Admissions" presentation.

Visit www.mytutor.com or 1-800-698-8867.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

Afternoon Grief Support Group.

For anyone grieving the death of a loved one, a six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice counselors. 1-2:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 11200 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

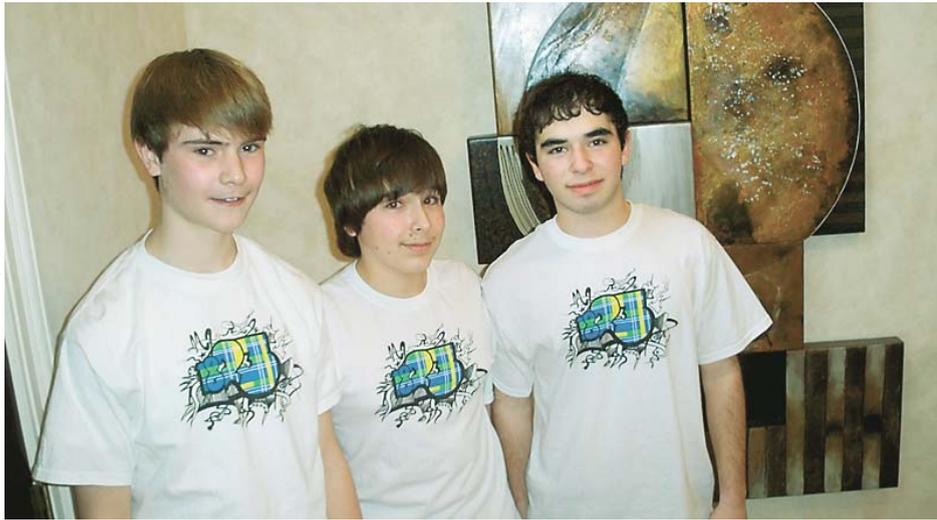
Support Group. 1:30 p.m. at Margaret

Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. "Healthy and Economical Convenience Foods." Free. 301-622-1650.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Open House. Families of upcoming Kindergarten students (2009-10) can attend an open house from 7-8 p.m. at Cabin John Middle School. Free.

PEOPLE



Mark Henry, Ian Reagan, and Daniel Machlis are Winston Churchill High School freshmen who have started their own t-shirt company. They sold out their first batch of shirts last week — seen on them here — in five days.

Rapid Rewards

Three Churchill freshmen are off to a fast start with their own T-shirt business.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

When Ian Reagan, Daniel Machlis, and Mark Henry began talking about starting a T-shirt company last year as eighth-graders at Herbert Hoover Middle School, there weren't a lot of people who thought that they could or would actually do it. As their first batch of 34 shirts sold out last week in five days, several of those original naysayers were among their customers.

"Some of those people have admitted defeat now," said Machlis, beaming as he and his two business partners talked last week about the success of their company,

1823 Designs.

They got the idea to start their business when they thought that they could transfer their love of drawing to the world of t-shirts. "We all like to draw a lot and we're all really creative," said Reagan. The name of 1823 Designs comes from Reagan's favorite number, 23, and Machlis's, 18. Henry joined the venture shortly after its inception, and as the three saw students roaming the halls of Winston Churchill High School last week sporting their product, feelings of pride mixed with the surreal.

"It's been cool to see everybody wearing our designs, and a little weird too," said Reagan. With that first batch now gone, the three are working on a girls' t-shirt design that they hope will be ready by the end of February.

THE THREE DESIGNERS made their shirts by creating an image, then scanning it into a computer and editing it in Adobe Photoshop, tweaking the design and the colors until they had it just right. They then emailed that design to Jak Prints, a Cleveland, Ohio-based printing company that then produced the shirts and mailed them back.

Their first design features the number 1823 in graffiti-like bubble letters filled in with blue, yellow and green plaid, surrounded by an intricate, abstract black-and-white design. Reagan and Machlis created the design for this first batch while Henry chose the colors, and Henry is spearheading the design of their upcoming girls' design. They also have a Web site — 1823designs.com — that they built with the help of some friends.

Running their own business has been a lot more work than they thought it would



The design of 1823 Design's first shirt.

SEE CHURCHILL, PAGE 7

Is Mom Still Being Cared For At Home?

Area families find more *affordable* and *valuable* options.

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Heartfelt Essay Wins Tickets to Inaugural

FROM PAGE 3

one of 10 winners out of more than 250,000 submissions from across the country.

Riviere wrote about his experiences in Kenya as a Peace Corps volunteer in early 2008. Since Kenya is the ancestral homeland of Obama, Riviere said that excitement among Kenyans about his candidacy was unreserved. "Everyone knew Barack Obama," he said, "And everyone was confident that he was The Man."

Only a few days after Obama's historic primary victory in Iowa, violence erupted across Kenya due to a disputed presidential election there. Riviere was forced to evacuate and, although he made it home safely to Montgomery County, he was saddened and disappointed that his Peace Corps tour of duty had been cut short.

Almost a year later, after Obama had been elected president, Riviere decided that he wanted to go to the inauguration. But a call to the office of U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) revealed that no tickets were available. A Cardin staffer recommended that he

submit an essay in the "Ticket to History" contest.

Riviere did just that. He sat down at a computer and, in a fit of inspiration, wrote an essay in five minutes. "It wasn't five minutes of thinking," he recalled. "It was five minutes of pouring."

Two weeks ago, Riviere got a call from a Presidential Inaugural Committee representative informing him that he was a winner. "I didn't believe it," he said. "Not like in shock or awe, but more like 'This has to be a joke.'"

Other winners of the contest include a teacher at an inner-city Baltimore school, an Army officer whose husband is serving in Iraq and a former financial director who joined the New York City Fire Department after the Sept. 11 attacks. Since Riviere lived in area and didn't need transportation, the committee offered to fly one of his friends



James Riviere

PHOTO COURTESY JAMES RIVIERE

Winning Essay

The following are excerpts from James Riviere's winning entry in the Presidential Inaugural Committee's "Ticket to History" contest:

I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya and had the opportunity to brush shoulders with Senator [Barack] Obama, before the announcement [that] he would be running for President. I knew little about him as a person and politician, but with the realization that his father was from the [Luo] tribe that I was living with, ... I went out of my way to read his two books.

The day Obama won the first primary state, Iowa, ... was the day after Kenya went into civil unrest due to the Kenyan presidential election results. ... I was stuck in the [most violent] area ... Nyanza province, and had to evacuate myself from the country through the Tanzanian border. This was not before I was caught in the middle of gunfire [and] witnessed mass looting.

The Peace Corps program completely closed and all volunteers had to either re-post or go home. ... This was an unfortunate end to a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Needless to say, I was not so happy when I returned. Bitterness ... clouded my attitude.

Following Barack Obama and the elections was a point of clarity. I was able to see the hope of a better tomorrow, manifested in dreams of Barack Obama. ... This inauguration means something much greater than myself, or Kenya, or even the United States. What this inauguration means is something far greater: redemption. I am sure many Americans never thought they would see the day [in] which they might place hope back into America's future. Now, these people, including myself, see the redemption of our fine nation. ... Obama's greater message is that, if a nation can be redeemed, then so can a person. This inauguration symbolizes this redemption and hopeful betterment of us a people, a nation and a world.

from her home in Hawaii to Washington for the ceremony.

For Riviere, winning the contest and getting to see the inauguration is a dream come

true. "This inauguration means something much greater than myself, or Kenya, or even the United States," he wrote in his essay. "What this inauguration means is something far greater: redemption."

Potomac Oak Sewer Proposal on Hold

FROM PAGE 3

community hub but in order to do so they say they would need the added water and sewer capacity to support and attract more businesses. Their hope is to have those services extended nearly a mile up Travilah Road. Opponents to the plan fear that if approved, the new lines would set a precedent for similar water/sewer category change requests throughout the county and that the new lines could be tapped into to allow more development in semi-rural North Potomac.

Heywood Fleisig, a Travilah Road resident, said that he and many of his neighbors don't have a need for the sewer to expand, and that they fear the potential for more growth and traffic.

"I don't get up in the morning thinking, 'gee whiz, if I could only get up and go to the Potomac [Oak] shopping center and get a cup of coffee and sit outside,'" Fleisig said. "I don't see a lot of support for it."

Semmes and Denker's proposal is for private, dedicated lines to extend nearly

a mile up Travilah road to their property. The proposal will be written such that the lines could not be tapped into for usage by any other residential or commercial entity, and Semmes said that he is working with his engineers on language to their proposal that would set as little precedence as possible.

"There's no way it won't have some precedence, but it could have such limited precedence that it might affect only two or three other similar commercial properties that are not served by water in the whole county," said Semmes.

THE PLAN FIRST WENT to the County Council in April 2008 but was deferred after residents and council members alike raised concerns about the project. Since then Semmes and Denker have worked with local civic groups and held a series of community meetings to explain their plans and to garner community support for their proposal.

The proposal won't be in the batch of category change requests headed to the council for approval in late February, but could be ready by this fall, when another batch

of requests typically goes to the council for a vote. Though proposals tend to go to the council in batches twice a year, if the proposal were ready in a lull between the two batches it could go back to the council at any time, said Keith Levchenko, a senior legislative analyst for the council.

Either way, it is likely to face at least some opposition from the community and may not have an easy road to approval.

"When you have that kind of long extension ... that certainly raises concerns that we are going beyond what one would consider a logical extension of the infrastructure," Levchenko said. "This is an issue we have to think about carefully because it's not like its right next door to service."

SEMME'S HAS SAID that he envisions a center that could engender a sense of distinct community at the intersection of Travilah and Glen Roads not seen since the town of Travilah died out in the early 20th century. Fleisig said that he isn't interested in such an idea.

"It just sets in motion something ... that I certainly don't value very much and the

people who have corresponded with me have the same view. I did not move to rural Potomac to be close to a 7-11, and that's pretty much true of most of the people in this neighborhood," Fleisig said.

To view the current batch of water/sewer category change requests pending consideration, visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/home.asp>. An administrative hearing on the next batch of water/sewer category change requests is scheduled for on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at the County's Department of Environmental Protection at 2:30 p.m., located at 255 Rockville Pike in Rockville. Written testimony must be received by DEP's Director, 255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120, Rockville, MD 20850, by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 3, at which time the hearing record closes. The council will hold a hearing on those requests on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Seventh Floor Hearing Room in the Council Office Building, located at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.

PEOPLE NOTES

Marine Corps 1st Lt. **Paul B. Pintek**, a 2002 graduate of T. S. Wootton High School, Rockville, Md., recently was promoted to his current rank while serving with Marine Air Support Squadron Two, Marine Air Control Group 18, Okinawa, Japan.

David D. Doh has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis,

Tacoma, Wash.

He is the son of Harrison and Hye Doh of Potomac and a 2005 graduate of Winston Churchill High School.

Potomac resident **Marji Epstein** was recently invited to join more than 75 of her peers at an international summit in Lucerne, Switzerland, hosted by Cultural Care Au Pair.

Epstein, a Cultural Care Au Pair local childcare coordinator (LCC), has been with the organization

for 18 years.

George B. Thomas, Sr., founder and president of The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. (GBTLA), has been named as one of the 2008 Washingtonians of the Year.

Through its tutoring and mentoring services for Montgomery County students, the GBTLA has successfully accelerated student mastery of reading, language arts, and mathematics and boosted student academic confidence.

CRIME REPORT

Criminal activities reported by the Montgomery County Police Department through Jan. 7.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 9100 block of Kendale Road in Potomac between Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1. Forced entry and property was reported missing.

An **attempted residential burglary** occurred in the 11200 block of River View Drive in Potomac on Monday, Jan. 5 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:55 p.m. Officers responded for an alarm call and found the attempt. No entry was gained, nothing was taken.

Churchill Freshmen Launch Own T-Shirt Business

FROM PAGE 5

be, but they are excited by their initial success and thinking big.

"Our goal is to have shirts in stores before we go to college ... or as soon as possible," said Henry. But they aren't just targeting any type of store, it needs to be a younger, hipper store.

"Sort of hip retailers, not like Walmart," said Machlis.

EACH SHIRT sold for \$15, but they aren't doing the business entirely for profit. Once their income starts to grow beyond paying for the next batch of shirts they plan to donate part of their proceeds to a charity, though they haven't yet determined which.

Watching her son and his friends take such initiative has been exciting, said Susan Reagan.

A lot of people have ideas but don't carry them through," she said. "They're the kind of kids that follow through on things. They're very dependable, very bright and exciting, very interested in life."

K.S. Reagan, Ian's father, said that he is

impressed by the boys' dedication to their business, as well as the creativity of the designs and the quality of the shirts themselves.

"They look very professional," K.S. Reagan said.

Machlis corrected him.

"They are professional," Machlis said.

Budget Concerns To Dominate General Assembly

FROM PAGE 2

to kick in this upcoming fiscal year, but that too might now be on hold, said Feldman.

Where the money will come from is unclear, but because the state is obligated by its constitution to balance the budget each year the \$1.9 billion gap must be bridged

somehow.

That means that bills requiring new spending won't get a warm reception in the Assembly this year, said Del. Kathleen Dumais (D-15).

"We've already been told that anything with a fiscal note is dead on arrival," Dumais said.

IN ALL of this, Feldman said that holding the line for Montgomery County, often viewed as the cash cow by legislators from other counties, is essential.

"It's going to be a challenge. There's going to be sacrifice and there's going to be major cuts," Feldman said. "We just have to

be very much on top of our game here as a delegation to protect our interests."

For more information on the Maryland General Assembly visit www.mlis.state.md.us. To track legislation relevant to Montgomery County, visit the Montgomery County delegation's Web site at www.montgomerycountydelegation.com.

HEALTH NOTES

To have an item listed free in 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102, e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com, or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac.

JSSA — High Schoolers Can Relate! This co-ed eight-session group will

address social skills issues for high schoolers with disabilities who have difficulty relating to their peers. Learn skills for making friends, initiating and maintaining conversation, expressing feelings, and understanding nonverbal cues. Group meets on Mondays, March 16-May 4; 4-5 p.m. at JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville. Call 301-816-2633 to register.

JSSA — Sibling Support Group. This co-ed six-session group is for siblings of children with physical or developmental disabilities. Topics include: education on different disabilities, coping strategies (e.g., anxiety, anger and other emotions related to having a sibling with a disability), and how to improve communication between parents and children. Dates and

times TBD. Group meets at JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville. Call 301-816-2633 to register.

JSSA — Family Support Group. In this ongoing monthly group, parents and family members of children with disabilities share their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, coping mechanisms and strategies for living for today and planning for the future. No charge. Two

groups offered: third Tuesday of every month, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16; 7:15-8:45 p.m. at JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. Pre-registration required: 301-610-8371. Second group meets on Tuesdays, beginning Feb. 4; 10:30-11:30 a.m. at JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville. Pre-registration required: 301-610-8357.

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101 Ways to Have Fun

This is the third in a four part series of 101 Ways to Have Fun in Potomac.

See the Annual Landon-Georgetown Lacrosse Game

Landon School
 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, 301-320-3200
 Georgetown Prep
 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, 301-493-5000

One local lacrosse coach has likened it to a "Braveheart" scene — giant, roaring mobs of battle-painted Prep and Landon students charge into the student sections before the game to cheer their schools on in America's greatest high-school lacrosse rivalry. Both schools send an annual crop of graduates to Division I college programs. The crowd is rowdy, the action is fast and hard-hitting and the winner takes home more than just bragging rights as the two teams frequently meet in the Interstate Athletic Conference finals.

Watch High-School Football Games

Stadiums come alive on Friday nights each fall. Rivalries between local football teams at Winston Churchill, Walt Whitman, Thomas Wootton and Walter Johnson are intense. Wootton and Churchill met in the season finale for both teams last season with a playoff berth to the victor on the line. Wootton won, setting the stage for what is sure to

be an emotional battle when the two teams meet next fall. But it's not just the football players putting on a show, either — Churchill, Whitman and Wootton all have pep bands, cheerleaders, and pom squad (dance team) shows at halftime. Local private schools Bullis and Landon compete in the Interstate Athletic Conference, while Georgetown Prep plays in the A Division of the Maryland Interstate Athletic Association.

Watch Real Wrestlers Compete

The excitement of a high-school wrestling match begs the question: Why did somebody bother to create the scripted, gimmicky spectacle of "professional" wrestling? Varsity teams feature 14 different wrestlers, from 103-pounders to 275-pound heavyweights. Potomac's three public high schools have each had plenty of success in the postseason recently, and with the annual tournaments just around the corner wrestling enthusiasts have a lot to look forward to.

See the Next Freddy Adu

There are more elite youth soccer players where Freddy came from. Walt Whitman High School's girls soccer team made it to this year's state championship and won the '04 state title match, and the boys teams at Whitman and Winston Churchill also won state titles in the past six seasons. Each season, local public high schools schedule several double-headers featuring the same two schools' varsity boys and girls teams. Many pri-



Ride and look at this replica canal boat.

ivate schools also have outstanding soccer teams — Freddy's little brother Fro Adu plays for Georgetown Prep. Varsity soccer is a fall sport for both girls and boys in Montgomery County.

See Great Falls

MacArthur Blvd and Falls Rd, Potomac

http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/grfa/

For centuries, visitors from all around the country have come to Great Falls for the breathtaking scenery. In C&O Canal National Historic Park, the closest entrance to Great Falls is located at the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Falls Road, mere minutes from Potomac Village. Visitors to the park can enjoy several hiking trails, including the chal-

lenging Billy Goat Trail, picnic/snack areas and a museum/visitor center at Great Falls Tavern. There is a fee of \$5 per vehicle or \$3 per cyclist/walker at this entrance.

Visit Clara Barton's House

7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo, 301-492-6245
 www.nps.gov/clba

As founder of the American Red Cross, Clara Barton used this house as its headquarters. The house is shown by guided tours on a daily basis from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See an Old Schoolhouse

Seneca School House:
 16800 River Road, Germantown, 301-972-8588

www.poolesville.com (Click "Visitor's Guide," then "Seneca Schoolhouse Museum")

Boys Negro School House:
 19510 White Ground Road, Boyds, 301-461-4646

What was it like to learn a single-room schoolhouse with 25 students grades 1-7, and a teacher living on \$200 a year? The Seneca Schoolhouse Museum, up

River Road near Poolesville, closed in 1910 but has since been restored to its original appearance.

Another one-room schoolhouse, Boyds Negro School, stands as a reminder of the days when Montgomery County schools were segregated — county schools began integrating in the 1956-57 school year and finished in 1961. The Boyds School is open by appointment only, but the school's interior is visible through the windows. The Schoolhouse is usually open on Sundays 12-5 p.m. Groups may schedule educational visits to the schoolhouse, where a teacher in period costume conducts classes using McGuffey's Readers.

See an Abandoned Gold Mine

The forest trails leading down from MacArthur Boulevard to the C&O Canal National Historical Park were once the home to an operating gold mine, discovered around the time of the Civil War. The (fenced-off) mine shaft, a water tower, and a few other vestiges of the historic mine remain, with signs describing the site's history.

Though the entire network of trails linking MacArthur and the park above Old Anglers Inn are known as the gold mine trails, take the entrance closest to the C&O Canal National Historical Park sign to see the former mine. Another advantage: park entry via the gold mine trails is free.

See a Historic Lockhouse

www.nps.gov/choh
 www.candocanal.org
 www.potomac.org/action/ctg/lockhouse (Lockhouse 8 River Center)

During the C&O Canal's operational period in the mid 19th century, lock operators lived in small houses beside the canal locks, manning them day and night, year round. Most of the historic houses still stand, and several are occupied. One — Lockhouse 8 — has been restored in a three-year joint project of the National Park Service and Potomac Conservancy, and now functions as a visitors center, with displays on the ecology and history of the Potomac River and C&O Canal. The lockhouse at Riley's Lock can also be visited on weekends. Other lockhouses between Washington and Cumberland, Md. can only be viewed from the outside.

See a Civil War Site

From Potomac Village, drive north up River Road, pass Pennyfield Lock Road, and turn left into the parking lot a mile

past Pennyfield.
 www.mc-mncppc.org/gis/index.shtml
 Click "Park Maps," then "Blockhouse Point Conversation Park" for map

In 1861, the Nineteenth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was ordered to protect a 13-mile stretch of the Potomac River from Seneca to Great Falls. The regiment completed three blockhouses, four feet thick and 12 feet high, just in time to be reassigned — they sustained 50 percent losses in the battle of Antietam. An astute observer can see the earthen rampart and Greek Cross formation in the remains of one of the blockhouses. A small parking lot is on River Road.

Ride a Replica Canal Boat

Great Falls Tavern
 11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, 301-767-3714

www.nps.gov/choh/Calendar/Canaller.html

www.canaltrust.org

During the peak of the C&O Canal's days as a commercial venture, some 500 mule-drawn boats were making the 184-mile trek between Georgetown and Cumberland, Md. By Great Falls Tavern, visitors can board the "Canal Clipper" boat, modeled after the commercial barges, and interpreters are often aboard to answer questions on weekends. The bad news is that the Canal Clipper may be inoperable this spring — a storm last fall caused a breach in the towpath leaving a long stretch of the Canal unwatered, but efforts are under way to refill that stretch as soon as possible. Facilitating that process is the C&O Canal Trust, which is helping the Park Service raise funds for the repairs to the towpath.

See a Canal Lock In Operation

Great Falls Tavern
 11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac
 301-767-3714 www.nps.gov/choh/Calendar/Canaller.html (Click "Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center")

How did canal boats ascend and descend through the elevation changes in the C&O Canal? They went through 74 lift locks on the 184-mile trip between Georgetown and Cumberland, Md., each one maintained by a lockkeeper who lived in a house beside the canal. Lock 20 by Great Falls Tavern is operational, and park rangers give periodic demonstrations on how the locks functioned. Park rangers at Great Falls Tavern give Lock 20 demonstrations Wednesdays through Fridays, 2-2:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30-2 p.m.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese
TAX-FREE PROFIT

If you are thinking of selling your home and your house has risen in value since you purchased it, or you have accumulated a lot of deferred profit from previous sales, the Taxpayer Relief Act passed in 1997 allows you to use your equity to "trade down" to a cheaper home, lower your fixed expenses, and not pay taxes!

Prior to this law, if you moved to a smaller home, relocated to a less costly area, or decided to rent, you were left with unfavorable tax consequences. The good news is that starting with homes sold after May 6, 1997, homeowners have been able to make as much as \$500,000 tax-free profit on the sale of a principal residence for joint filers or \$250,000 for single filers.

The \$500,000 capital gains exclusion removes taxes as a consideration for most home sellers and gives flexibility to trade up or down. It also allows them to preserve the savings value of a home when they sell, provided they used the property as their principal residence for two of the prior five years. Homeowners may use this tax-free provision every two years.

Consult your tax advisor for your particular circumstance.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. 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 703-917-6407.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

Afternoon Tea. Pianist Alan Krupnick and Bassist Roger Cooke are performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children ages 2 and under enjoy stories, fingerplays and more. Register at the library or 240-777-0690.

Book Club. 1 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Adults can discuss a book, ask for it at circulation desk. Free. 240-777-0690.

Meeting. Noon at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Rotary Club of Potomac meeting about history of the Marines. Visit www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org or 301-251-4942.

THURSDAY/JAN 22

Slavonic Dances. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performs Slavonic dances at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.BSOmusic.org for tickets.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Live Music. Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings perform at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$25-65; call

301-581-5100.
Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Beginners welcome. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Glass Workshop. Eileen Martin of Martin Glass Creations leads a workshop on glass art from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-3 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$50 plus \$25-45 material fee; call 301-581-5100.

Live Music. Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings perform at 8 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$25-65; call 301-581-5100.

Folk Songs. Discover the work of Woody Guthrie from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Recommended for children ages 4-7. Tickets: \$30; call 301-581-5100.

Working with a Deaf or Blind Dog. 3:15 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Free, but register at www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913.

Artwork. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Features artwork by students of Natasha Karpinskaia. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Park Movie. 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Carousel Tours. Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Nature Programs. Enjoy activities,

stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$15/adult; \$8/child 13 and under. Beginners welcome. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Noon-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See "Common Ground: Robert Bilek & Colin Campbell." Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Artist Reception. 6-9 p.m. The Winston Churchill High School Art Department will showcase art through Feb. 7 at The Behnke Nurseries' River Road location. Free. 301-983-9200.

Meow Mix. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at MCHS Rescue, 607 S. Stonestreet Ave., Bethesda. Enjoy wine, drinks and more while mingling with cat owners and adoptable kitties. \$20/individual; \$30/couple. 240-483-2846.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Opera Selections. Placido Domingo performs at 4 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$38-78; call 301-581-5100.

Artwork. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Features artwork by students of Natasha Karpinskaia. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Park Movie. 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Carousel Tours. Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Nature Programs. Enjoy activities,

320-1400.
Nature Programs. Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Blues Dance. 7-11 p.m. at Town Hall in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$15/lesson and dance or \$8/dance only. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Noon-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See "Common Ground: Robert Bilek & Colin Campbell." Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$12/nonmembers; \$9/members. All ages welcome. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Reading. 2 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Reading by James Mathews and Alex MacLennan. Free. Visit www.writer.org or 301-654-8664.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Time for 2s and 3s. 10:25 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs and more. Register at the library or 240-777-0690.

Music Performance. John O'Connor with the Royal Irish Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Pay what one can. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org or 301-320-2770.

Book Discussion. 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Free. Discuss "The Last

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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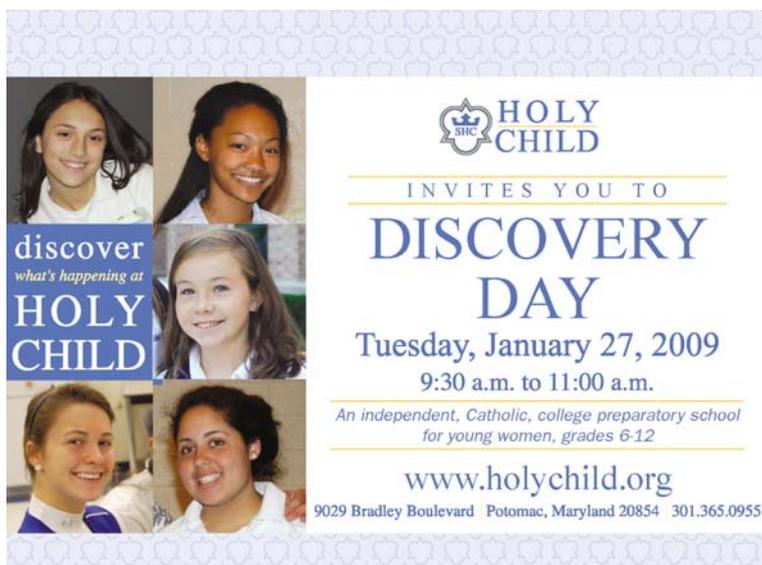
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FROM PAGE 9
Jew" by Noah Gordon and "Jacob's Legacy" by David Goldstein. E-mail alamp9608@yahoo.com for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

Specialty Tea. Area pianist Annalisa Crabtree is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$26 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

Afternoon Tea. Pianist Ellen Tennenbaum is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

Artist in Residence. Tosin Aribisala performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$10; call 301-581-5100.

Music Performance. Artist in Residence Tosin Aribisala and his group the Hallelujazz Project will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. \$10/person. Visit www.strathmore.org or 301-581-5100.

Meeting. Noon at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Rotary Club of Potomac meeting about "Leadership Montgomery." Visit www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org or 301-251-4942.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Music in the Mansion. Pianist John Davis performs selections by Blind Tom Wiggins and Blind John Boone at 7:30 p.m. in the Mansion at

Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$25; call 301-581-5100.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Beginners welcome. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Lecture. Rabbi Yitz Greenberg will speak at the Shabbat dinner at Beth Shalom Congregation on "The Vision and the Way." Fee for the dinner. Call 301-279-7010 for price and time.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Folk Songs. Discover the work of Woody Guthrie from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Recommended for children ages 4-7. Tickets: \$30; call 301-581-5100.

Master Class. Pianist Stephen Hough will coach students from the Levine School at 11 a.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Free. Reservations 202-686-8000, ext. 1599.

Instructors Show. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Park Movie. 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Carousel Tours. Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.

Nature Programs. Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park,

7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$14/person. Beginners welcome. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Hear music by violist Miles Hoffman. Tickets start at \$29 and children are free. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org.

Lectures. 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation, Rabbi Yitz Greenberg will talk on "The Twelve Steps of the Covenant" and "Covenant and the Halachic Method." Free. 301-279-7010.

Celebrating Chinese New Year. 10 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. All ages can enjoy dancing, crafts, painting and more. Free. 240-777-0690.

Art Exhibit. Noon-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See "Common Ground: Robert Bilek & Colin Campbell." Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Author Reading. 7:30 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Philip Lopate will read from his collection of novellas "Two Marriages." \$25/person. Visit www.writer.org or 301-654-8664.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

New Year Celebration. The China Jiangsu Performing Arts Group and others perform at 3 p.m. in the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$25-100; call 301-581-5100.

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11500 GAINSBOROUGH RD	4	2	1	POTOMAC		\$550,000	Detached	0.24		REGENCY ESTATES
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FAITH NOTES

To have an item listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. If you have any questions, call 703-917-6407.

The **Beth Sholom Book Club** will meet Monday, **Jan. 26**, 8 p.m. at Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, to discuss Noah Gordon's "The Last Jew" and David Goldstein's "Jacob's Legacy: A Genetic View of Jewish History". All are welcome. E-mail alamp9608@yahoo.com

Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, will be sponsoring the **Herbert Lieberman Shabbaton** with Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, a world-renowned rabbi, lecturer and scholar Friday, **Jan. 30** and Saturday, **Jan. 31**. All are welcome. Call 301-279-7010 or e-mail office@bethsholom.org for details about times and luncheon on Shabbat.

The **Seven Locks Baptist Church**, 11845 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, holds **weekly prayer meetings**, Wednesday in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. Call 301-279-9388.

"Prayer Book Hebrew," Tuesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087. This is a continuing course for those who have completed a basic Hebrew siddur series of classes using Level I of "Alef Isn't

Enough." This course is designed to open the door to understanding the Hebrew of prayers. The fee is \$30 in addition to registration fee.

First Church of Christ, Scientist holds testimony meetings every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 100 Nelson St. Rockville. Free child care and parking is provided. Call 301-762-8222.

Rockville Presbyterian Church welcomes all Presbyterians for Sunday School, worship service, refreshments

and fellowship after worship. They also provide comfort and solace with spiritual support and organized funeral services. Located at 215 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Call 301-762-3363.

Shalem Institute offers a guided mid-day **Prayer Peace Circle**, on Wednesdays from noon-12:45 p.m. in the Shalem Meditation Room & Library, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 140, Bethesda. For more information, contact 301-897-7334 or visit www.shalem.org.



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Patricia Davis, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac, was recently certified as a Professional Housing Counselor Specializing in Homeownership by the National Association of Housing counselors & Agencies (NAHCA)

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Potomac

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10820 Gainsborough Rd.	\$675,000	Sun. 1-4	Dale Gold	Weichert	301-437-3253
8816 Harness Tr.	\$749,000	Sun. 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
10 Hearstone Ct.	\$720,000	Sun. 1-4	Jane Fairweather	Coldwell Banker	240-223-4663
7859 Heatherton Ln.	\$545,000	Sun. 1-3	Eric Stewart	Llewellyn	301-252-1697
11605 Luvie Ct.	\$2,785,350	Sun. 1-4	Stacy Henderson	Coldwell Banker	301-252-6190
12113 Reach Way	\$949,999	Sun. 1-4	Abraham Birch	Re/Max	301-258-7757
9800 Tibron Ct.	\$1,649,000	Sun. 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506

Bethesda

10769 Gloxina Dr.	\$635,000	Sun. 1-4	Jane Fairweather	Coldwell Banker	240-223-4663
5520 Hoover St.	\$825,000	Sun. 1-4	Jane Fairweather	Coldwell Banker	240-223-4663
9205 Kirkdale Rd.	\$699,000	Sun. 1-4	Jane Fairweather	Coldwell Banker	240-223-4663
5631 Oak Pl.	\$724,900	Sun. 1-4	Ashton Vessali	Weichert	703-760-8880
8400 Westmont Ct.	\$2,495,000	Sun. 12-2	Brian Maury	Re/Max	301-325-4914
9702 Whitley Park Pl. #Th-20	\$699,000	Sun. 1-4	Rachelle Levin	Long & Foster	301-983-0060

Chevy Chase

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The Great Escape

Churchill boy's eke out 53-50 win after late Wootton run falls just short.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

Even before Wootton senior Nitin Potarazu's potential game-tying 3-pointer soared perilously through the air as the final buzzer sounded, last Friday night's match-up between the Patriots and Churchill boys' basketball teams had all the makings of a night to remember.

On top of the natural Potomac rivalry between the two schools that seeps through every time they meet in any sport, there was the absence of Churchill's best player, senior Chase Hicks, held out for precautionary reasons with a minor knee injury.

Add on the presence of former Bulldogs coach Dan O'Connor on the Wootton bench — he's now an assistant for the Patriots — along with two filled-to-the-brim student sections and the stage was set for some dramatics.

And after Potarazu's last ditch effort clanked off the rim giving the home team Churchill a 53-50 nail-biter of a win, everyone involved couldn't help but look forward to when the two teams meet again on Feb. 10 at Wootton.

"It was the biggest win of my life so far."

— Churchill senior captain Luke Fishman

"I was very scared, I was praying," said Bulldog senior captain Luke Fishman (13 points) of the last-second shot attempt. "This rivalry, it's the most intense thing ever. To me, it was the biggest win of my life so far."

Added Churchill coach Matt Miller: "This was like a college atmosphere."

THE VICTORY was especially rewarding for the Bulldogs (9-4 overall, 4-2 4A West), who were on the wrong end of a game-winning 3-pointer in a 62-59 overtime loss to Gaithersburg earlier in the week.

But as the fourth quarter moved along it appeared as if Churchill, which has had trouble holding onto fourth-quarter leads all season long, would suffer from a case of déjà vu. After opening up an eight-point lead heading into the final quarter, a technical foul on Churchill's bench along with some costly turnovers allowed Wootton to go on a 15-8 run and close the gap to just one point, 51-50, with just under two minutes remaining.

That's when the Bulldogs showed their mettle, closing the contest with three-

SEE CHURCHILL BOYS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Churchill senior Luke Fishman and Wootton's Brian Hollins go at it during last Friday night's rivalry match-up that came down to the final shot.

Craig Leaves Churchill Feeling Foul

Despite sitting out much of the second half, Wootton senior leads Patriots past Bulldogs.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

Wootton coach Maggie Dyer could only admit that she "would have liked to have seen more" of star player Chelsea Craig, who sat out much of the third quarter and the last half of the fourth quarter due to foul trouble during last Friday night's game against Churchill.

The Delaware bound senior forward, well, she didn't mince any words.

"It was the worst thing in my life," said a relieved Craig after fouling out with more than four minutes remaining in her team's 63-57 win. "It's great to know [I] can foul out and we have a great team, but to watch the game and not be in it is just awful."

But her longer than expected pit stop on the bench only meant Craig made the most of her limited time on the floor. She finished with a team-high 17 points and helped Wootton engineer second-half runs of 8-0 and 14-4 that proved to be the difference in the end.

The situation didn't look very good once Craig left in the third quarter, though, as Churchill went on its own 14-0 run led by 6-foot-3 senior Alex Vassila (29 points, 15 re-

bounds). Vassila had free rein in the paint with Craig out and her 6-foot-3 tag team partner, sophomore Gabby Flinchum, on the bench with four fouls as well.

But the back-and-forth affair was only fitting for Wootton (11-1 overall, 6-0 4A West), which has shown a flair for the dramatic having gone 6-1 in games decided by seven points or less this year.

Afterwards, Dyer credited the play of some unheralded players like sophomores Iris Chen (12 points) and Jessica Welsh (nine points) for holding the fort down long enough to grind out yet another victory.

"I think it just shows the depth of our team," said Dyer, whose Patriots are trying to capture their second-consecutive division title this season. "I think all the girls understand that we have one goal this season and that's to win basketball games every time we step out on the court. It doesn't matter how we do it."

THE LOSS WAS a bitter pill for Churchill (9-4, 3-3) to swallow after being eliminated from last year's playoffs by Wootton — a particularly galling defeat since the Bulldogs had defeated the Patriots in both of last year's regular season meetings.

SEE PATRIOTS, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Wootton senior Chelsea Craig puts in two of her team-high 17 points in last Friday's 63-57 Patriot win. She missed a large portion of the third quarter with foul trouble and sat out the last four minutes of the game after picking up her fifth and final foul.

SPORTS

Churchill Boy's Eke Out Win

FROM PAGE 13

straight defensive stands, culminating in Potarazu's 3-pointer off the rim.

"We've been good in the first three quarters guarding people and haven't been so hot in the fourth, but we finally overcame and got the stops that we needed," Miller said with a grin after winning his first-ever game as a coach in this rivalry. "Maybe we were a little fortunate, too."

The team's good luck had a lot to do with the play of senior Elijah Gore, who took the mantle as Churchill's go-to scorer with Hicks out of commission. Gore finished with a team-high 15 points, five rebounds, and three assists. Miller said Hicks should be able to return to the court this week.

"When (Hicks) went down, we all knew we had to step up, but we weren't scared," said Gore.

WOOTTON HAS A POOR second quarter to blame

for its losing effort. After a fast start that saw Potarazu (game-high 21 points) connect on consecutive 3-pointers to begin the game, the Patriots defense withered a bit, allowing Churchill to score 18 points in the period and open up an eight-point halftime lead.

Along with Potarazu, senior Brian Hollins was also impressive, scoring nine points and dishing out several impressive assists during Wootton's comeback effort in the fourth quarter. The loss dropped the Patriots to 4-8 overall and 1-5 in 4A West play.

"We seem to be that team that always has one [bad] quarter at one point," said Patriots coach Chris Bohlen. "But it was nice for us to sort of weather the storm and be able to come back in the second half."

It all should lead to one entertaining encore in a few weeks.

"Rivalry games, that's what high school basketball is really all about," said Bohlen. "And it's always nice to get them in your own gym."

Senior Leads Patriots Past Bulldogs

FROM PAGE 13

"I just don't think we were with it from the beginning," said Vassila. "By the time we picked it up, it was too late."

It was the Bulldogs second-straight game falling just short when combined with a one-point loss to Gaithersburg earlier in the week. Now Churchill has until a Jan. 27 game at Northwest — a team that defeated them earlier in the season — to stew over

its recent slide.

There is a silver lining with everything, though.

"I feel like last year when we beat them twice, we got too confident," Vassila said of her team's Potomac rival. "So I feel like a loss was almost good for us so we're not too confident and then we're more prepared next time we play them and in the playoffs."

The two teams meet again at Wootton on Feb. 10.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Due to the debilitating emotional effect of my mother's two-month decline into pain-ending death on Dec. 6, 2008, combined with the official announcement made by my wife, Dina's, long time employer, Tivoli's, in Rosslyn (nearly 25 years employed) that they were closing their restaurant and lounge on Dec. 20 after 27 years (thus unemploying Dina), neither Dina or I were in the mood this past Christmas to do unto others (heck, we were barely able to do unto ourselves). In fact, the first — and only — time we went shopping was Sat. night, Dec. 27th — after Christmas. And that trip was not to bargain hunt, it was to buy a 2009 golden retriever calendar for Bailey (our second golden) and of course for ourselves, so that we could hang it in its usual place of honor in our kitchen (time marches on, however slowly).

And so for us, 2008 was the year that Christmas came and went, and never really was (Thanksgiving wasn't a whole lot better, either). Oh, we saw it on the calendar and heard about it as usual and Dina even decorated the lounge at Tivoli, but in a year in which two extremely significant things were taken from us, we just couldn't muster the spirit to give. Perhaps, had we given, it would have lightened our load somehow and balanced our respective burdens. But finding the energy and the intestinal fortitude to fight the fight was simply too much for us. I just figured that it was a losing battle, emotionally, and in a way, almost disrespectful to my mother's memory and to the importance of Tivoli's in Dina's life that we go on about our regular, albeit seasonally-motivated business.

New Year's Eve (and the actual new year on the calendar) didn't come soon enough for us. 2008 is over, thank God! Whether we will both be able to return to a reasonably normal and familiar routine, I can't know for sure. Dina needs to find a new job and my brother and I need to settle my mother's estate. It's hard to imagine, and even harder to say, but perhaps the change will do us both some good. Stranger things have happened, I suppose.

On the face of it, "losing" your mother and in effect becoming an "orphan," for me, and Dina being out of work for the first time in more than 30 years (although for Dina, the work at Tivoli's was the least of it; the most of it was the friendships and social activities that it spawned), hardly seem like the kind of occurrences to jump-start your life in a new and positive direction, however. Maybe the arrival of a new year will help to spin us both forward a little bit. Who knows? Certainly not me.

Hopefully, 2009 will be a year worth remembering, not one, like 2008, that on two very key levels we'd both like to forget. Eventually I'm sure, we'll get to the point where remembering 2008 will bring smiles and fond memories. At present, it's still a bit early for either one of us to feel those kinds of feelings. We're still not quite adjusted to our new lives and still hurting and still mourning. Perhaps hanging that 2009 golden retriever calendar on our kitchen wall, a tradition going back nearly 30 years (Brandy, our last golden lived to age 15; Bailey, our current golden is 13 1/2) will begin our emotional rescue. Pets are good that way. They help with the healing.

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

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