

Potomac ALMANAC

Playoff Basketball Takes Flight

SPORTS, PAGE 13

Remembering 'Bubba'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Snow-Struck

NEWS, PAGE 3

Churchill senior Chase Hicks goes for a lay-up over Whitman's Ian Ross when the two teams met in the first round of the Montgomery County 4A West playoffs Friday night. Churchill prevailed, 50-44.

Damaged Engine Back in Service

NEWS, PAGE 10

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THIS WEEK

County Executive In Car Crash

On Sunday, March 1 County Executive Isiah Leggett was involved in a car crash in Burtonsville, Md. when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by another vehicle. Injuries to all four individuals including Leggett were minor.

At approximately 10:20 p.m., police officers from Montgomery County's 3rd District and Howard County Fire/Rescue personnel responded to the report of a traffic collision on Sandy Spring Road near the off-ramp at Columbia Pike. The preliminary investigation revealed that a white 1996 Ford pick-up truck driven by Kendall Sterling Smith, 47, of the 12500 block of Barbara Road in Wheaton, was traveling westbound on Sandy Spring Road. Evidence indicates that Smith entered the intersection on a red signal and struck the county vehicle's front-passenger door. The 2008 Chevrolet Suburban was being driven by a member of the Montgomery County Security Services Division, Lt. Samantha Horwitz. Leggett and his wife, Catherine, were sitting in the back seat of the Suburban. All three occupants were transported to Laurel Regional Hospital where they were treated for non-life threatening injuries and released. Smith performed field sobriety tests at the scene and was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and

failing to stop at a red signal. After processing, he was driven home by police.

Fatal Crash in Darnestown

An early morning crash on Darnestown Road on Saturday, Feb. 28 left one Poolesville teenager in grave condition. At approximately 2:37 a.m., police officers and fire and rescue responded to the report of a traffic collision in the 15500 block of Darnestown Road. The preliminary investigation revealed that a black 2000 Volkswagen Jetta was traveling westbound on Darnestown Road approaching Bellingham Drive. For reasons still under investigation, the Jetta left the roadway and struck an electrical utility pole which caused the pole to break in two pieces. The vehicle continued off the roadway, striking a tree before coming to rest.

The passenger of the vehicle has been identified as Dale Michael Carnahan, 18, of the 17300 block of Soper Street in Poolesville. He was flown to Baltimore Shock Trauma and is in grave condition. He was not wearing his seatbelt. The driver of the vehicle has been identified as Christopher Michael Florczyk, 19, of the 17300 block of Dowden Way in Poolesville. He was transported to Shady Grove Hospital, was treated for his injuries and released. He was wearing his seatbelt. Detectives would like

SEE THIS WEEK, PAGE 10



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A Father, Son, Brother and Soldier

Captain Brian “Bubba” Bunting remembered by friends and family after his death in Afghanistan last month.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

For seven months in Afghanistan, the best way for Capt. Brian M. Bunting to feel close to his infant son Connor was to watch tapes that he had made of the two of them reading books together. But for two weeks in February those tapes were put aside as Bunting came home to his family on leave from his duties with the U.S. Army.

Bunting returned to Afghanistan on Feb. 20 and four days later he was

“I think his work ethic, his discipline ... people saw that and they naturally were drawn to that.”

— Tim Simpson, friend

killed, along with three other men, when an improvised exploding device detonated near their vehicle, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.



Capt. Brian M. Bunting with his wife, Nicki Pascal Bunting and their son Connor. Bunting was killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan on Feb. 24 when an improvised exploding device detonated near his vehicle. Three other men were killed as a result of the explosion as well.

A member of the Individual Ready Reserve, assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Syracuse, N.Y., Bunting was 29.

IN THE DAYS since his death, Bunting, who grew up in Potomac, has been remembered as a gregarious yet unassuming man who inspired those who knew him by leading by ex-

ample.

“He was a natural leader but in the way that he wasn’t always intending to be a

leader,” said Tim Simpson, a close friend of the Bunting family. “I think his work ethic, his discipline ... people saw that and they naturally were drawn to that.”

“He was just always smiling, it was funny,” said his wife, Nicki Bunting. That smile — a wide, toothy grin — was something of a trademark for Bunting. “He would always crack that smile, he was just the happiest person ever,” said Nicki Bunting.

Brian Bunting was known by those close to him as “Bubba.” Simpson said the nickname came about when Brian Bunting’s parents brought him home from the hospital after he was born. Brian’s older brother



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICKI BUNTING

Brian “Bubba” Bunting with his son Connor while on leave last month from his duties with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

Bobby apparently thought his newborn brother looked less like a cute baby and more like a “Bubba.”

The name stuck with Bunting as he grew up in Potomac, where he became a three-sport star and class president at the Bullis School. He was one link in a family chain that ran through Bullis — his five other siblings attended Bullis, his late mother Penny Bunting was an upper school administrative assistant and his father, Bob Bunting, was the longtime director of facilities at the school, said Simpson, who is the director of admissions at Bullis.

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 11

Winter Wonderland

First substantial snowfall of season closes schools, sends parents and children to local sledding hills.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Wind whipped the freshly fallen snow into a stinging cloud that gusted across of the top of hill behind Robert Frost Middle School. On the crest, children and parents contemplated the descent and the climb back up, weighing the advantages and drawbacks offered between inner tubes and plastic toboggans, riding solo and riding with a partner.

Such considerations were required after the first substantial snow fall of an unseasonably cold

winter hit the Washington, D.C. on Monday, March 2, closing Montgomery County Public Schools and keeping many home from work, including county employees who were on liberal leave.

“They’ve been asking me [to go sledding] since 7:15,” said Nancy Feldman as she braced herself against the cold and the wind behind Frost just after 10:30 that morning. Feldman brought her son Jake, and his friend James Kuldell, both fifth-graders at Travilah Elementary School.

Watching the scene unfold, but not yet heading downhill herself

SEE SNOWSTORM, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Snow blowers and snow shovels were the order of the day as residents dug out from as many as six inches of snow that fell around the area.

Snowstorm Sends Parents, Children Outside

FROM PAGE 3

was Emily Schaefer, who lives near Wootton but attends the magnet program at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring. Snow days were good for fun, she said, but they were also good for catching up on school work.

"It gives me time to read and work on stuff for school," she said.

The hill beside Cold Spring Elementary is much smaller and is sheltered from the wind by the school on one side and a stand of trees on the other. As she readied for a quick run to the bottom, Cold Spring third-grader Peri Ehudin said that she was excited when she heard that morning that school was closed.

"I can go sledding and I can do stuff I don't have to do on school days," she said, such other activities that she said included shopping and play dates.

"There's no work because there's no school," said Jenna Traub, a fellow Cold Spring third-grader. "I don't want to go back to school tomorrow. I want it to snow more tonight."

The main roads around Potomac were largely cleared of snow by the early afternoon, though many smaller roads remained slushy and snow-covered into the evening.

Pepco reported minimal power outages as a result of the storm, with 50 or fewer outages in the Cabin John and Glen Echo areas and 50 or fewer outages in the North Potomac and Rockville areas shown on the company's online power outage map in the late afternoon Monday. The National Weather Service reported an unofficial snowfall in Potomac of 6.5 inches.

In Potomac Village, front-end loaders piled the snow high in the parking lots of the shopping centers that saw little activity during the day.

Jack Quamme, a student at the Potomac School in McLean said that he was excited to have the day off to go sledding. His father, Steve Quamme, was also happy about the snow.

"Me, I'm enjoying the day off," he said.

Cold Spring Elementary School third-graders Peri Ehudin and Jenna Traub went sledding on the hill next to their school.

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/
THE ALMANAC



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Nancy Feldman looks on as her son, Jake Feldman and his friend James Kuldell — both fifth-graders at Travilah Elementary School — prepare to descend the hill behind Robert Frost Middle School on Monday, March 2. The first substantial snowfall of the season dumped up to six inches of snow around Potomac, closing schools and keeping many home from work.

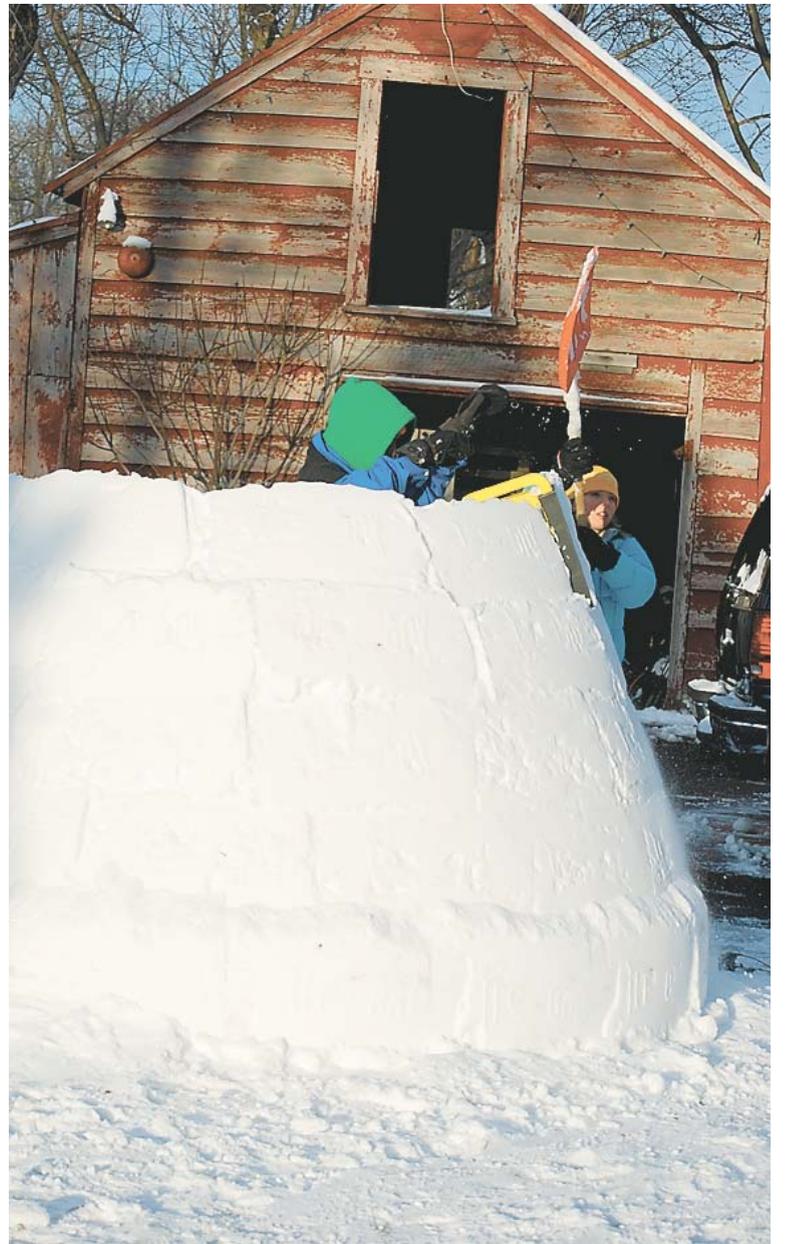


PHOTO BY DIANA CONWAY

Will, Catherine, and Alexandra Conway built an igloo on Monday, March 2 after 6-plus inches of snow fell in Potomac.



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Vacancy.

PHOTO BY MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC
A pine tree laden with Monday's snowfall.

PETS



Sandy

Sandy is a 6-year-old, spayed, 50 pound, female Shepherd mix. She is looking for a new home because her owner died. She's housetrained, very low key, loves leash walks and sleeping in a dog bed near her owner. Sandy will make a wonderful, non-demanding pet for a lucky family.

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.



Sophie

Sophie is a 3-year-old, spayed, female Persian mix who recently found herself homeless due to a child's allergies. She loves attention and brushing regularly and will purr up a storm. Sophie will make a good pet for an adopter, preferably with no dogs.

CRIME REPORT

Criminal activities reported by the Montgomery County Police Department through Feb. 20.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 9700 block of Pleasant Gate Lane in Potomac on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Suspects entered the unlocked vehicle and removed keys, credit cards and food.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 10200 block of Bencross Lane in Potomac overnight between Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Wednesday, Feb. 11. Suspects entered two unlocked vehicles and removed cash.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 10300 block of Falls Road in Potomac overnight between Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Wednesday, Feb. 11. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a GPS unit.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred overnight in the 10000 block of Sorrel Ave. in Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed spare change.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14600 block of Brougham Way in

North Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a briefcase and sunglasses.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14900 block of Damson Terrace in North Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects broke the window and removed a briefcase.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14600 block of Brougham Way in North Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a laptop computer, CD's and a GPS unit.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14900 block of Damson Terrace in North Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects broke the window and removed a wallet and GPS unit. Credit cards were used.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14600 block of Brougham Way in North Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 12. Suspects broke the window and an iPod was taken.

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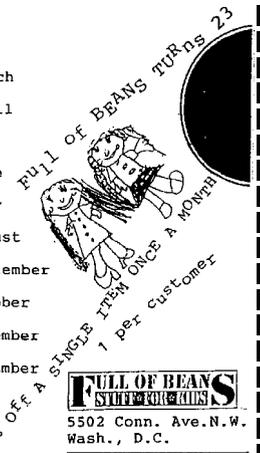
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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

CHECKING THE "COMPARABLES"

To take much of the guesswork out of your consideration about whether a particular property in Potomac is a good investment, you can check on the actual selling price of similar homes in the neighborhood.

Ask your real estate agent to tell you about comparable homes of equivalent square footage, condition and quality as the home you like. Some sales information, such as the selling price, the financing terms, and the transaction dates, is available to the public. Your agent will have record of all recent sales, and can tell you how properties in your local area have been appreciating. Don't rely on figures quoted by friends and neighbors, who often exaggerate, have misinformation, and confuse asking prices with actual sales prices.

Driving by equivalent homes can also give you ideas about how they compare with the property you are considering. Your real estate agent may have seen these homes and can give you additional information to help you make a decision.

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

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OPINION

Watching and Protecting C&O Canal

BY CAROL VAN DAM FALK
WMCCA PRESIDENT

One of my greatest pleasures since moving to Montgomery County more than 20 years ago has been walking, biking, or hiking the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Something magical happens every time I'm there — a family of box turtles sunning themselves on a weather beaten log, a pileated woodpecker jabbing away at a hollow tree trunk, a great blue heron wading in the shallows. We've all witnessed some glory of nature along the C&O Canal, just as we all likely cherish a fond memory of spending a quiet, peaceful day along its beautiful towpath.

Potomac people care deeply about the C&O Canal Historic Park. Four years ago nearly 200 of us turned out for a meeting at Potomac Elementary School that WMCCA helped organize with Congressman Van Hollen's office to address public outcry over 55,000 square feet of trees cut by Mr. Snyder at Swains Lock. The tree planting mitigation for that violation has still not been completed.

Later in 2005, Kevin Brant, C&O Canal Historic Park Superintendent, spoke at WMCCA's December meeting about the park's staff shortages, lack of adequate funding, and the problems of incomplete scenic easements and encroachments and told us about new measures to improve stewardship capability, public input, and Federal/County cooperation.

Since then, the C&O Canal Trust, a nonprofit organization headed by Matthew Logan, has been formed to work in partnership with the National Park Service to protect, restore and promote the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Also since then, Friends of the Great Falls Historic Tavern raised funds and donated the new canal boat, the Charles F. Mercer, to the park in 2006. Alas, Mother Nature struck our own back yard on Sept. 5 and 6, 2008, with stormwater that caused a breach of the towpath at Widewater between Great Falls and Old Angler's Inn and another breach at Great Falls, leaving the new canal boat high and dry.

At WMCCA's March 11th meeting, Superintendent Brant and Mr. Logan have promised to bring us some welcome news about the towpath, the breaches, and the canal boat. They will also speak to specific Potomac-area concerns — the status of the Great Falls area plan of a few years ago, including adding a bike

WMCCA Meeting

The next meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association will be Wednesday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at the Potomac Library. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled. Guest speakers will be Kevin Brandt, superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historic Park and Matthew Logan, president of the C&O Canal Trust. As always, the public is welcome.

path to the entrance road; parking problems near Old Angler's Inn and Swains Lock, vacant lock houses, and invasive stilt grass and deer browse issues. As always, the public is welcome.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

BY GEORGE BARNES

Norwood School: Representatives of Norwood School presented plans to the WMCCA Board to request a modification of their existing Special Exception to allow increased enrollment, hours of operation, and staff as well as approval of their long-range building program. They plan construction of a performing arts center, a new classroom building, a natatorium, and a small building near River Road to house equipment. The proposal will surely be controversial among neighbors and area citizens, and we will ask the representatives to bring their plans to a membership meeting.

PNC Bank, Potomac Village: PNC Bank has filed a site plan modification proposal with Park and Planning to accommodate a drive-through remote teller and ATM facility along the Falls Road edge of the Safeway shopping center parking lot. A number of parking spaces will be lost. Cars using the new facility would enter from the lane behind the gas station and travel next to the sidewalk along Falls Road, with the ATM/teller machine on their left. On the other side of the machine a through-traffic lane would be maintained joining the traffic leaving the ATM and proceeding toward the exit from the center. We have serious questions about the effect on traffic flow at this entrance and exit. The PNC Bank and shopping center planners feel that they can adequately handle the situation with the use of stop signs. This will come before the Planning Board and we will have an opportunity to comment.

Potomac Swim and Tennis Club: WMCCA will testify at a hearing before the

Montgomery County Hearing Examiner on March 9, in opposition to the proposal to erect a tennis bubble over expanded courts along the Oaklyn Drive side of the property. The bubble would be up for six months of each year and has raised a number of significant issues. The Montgomery County Planning Board staff opposed the proposal, and their report has been forwarded to the Hearing Examiner.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

BY GINNY BARNES

Connelly School of the Holy Child (9025 Bradley Boulevard): A proposal to remove a Forest Conservation Easement preliminary to construction of a synthetic turf playing field has brought concerns to our attention from adjoining residential neighbors about the loss of forest that buffers the institution. Requests to the Planning Commission to remove Forest Conservation Easements have increased recently. With climate change and stormwater pollution to the Chesapeake Bay, any further loss of forest and tree cover is serious and costly to our deteriorating environmental health.

Parks and Recreational Programming: The County Council Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED), composed of Councilmembers Knapp, Floreen and Elrich, has required both the Director of Parks (one-half of the Park and Planning Commission) and the Recreation Department (which is part of the County Executive Office) to produce reports on merging all recreational programming into one entity, either under Parks or under Recreation. However, recreation is more than organized sports, and much of what the Parks Department offers in terms of programs includes fostering stewardship toward our parkland. With 34,000 acres and 400 parks in the Montgomery County Parks system (compared to less than a third that much for other jurisdictions in Maryland) it is a bad idea to divorce programming from the very agency that maintains parks, and move it to a department with no investment in protecting parkland. Further, over the years the County Executive Office has proposed numerous questionable uses for our parklands, including bus depots, affordable housing, schools, and roads. WMCCA is working with several environmental and watershed groups on this issue.

COMMENTARY

'HELP' Is On the Way

BY ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 1

On Feb. 24, I introduced legislation, with the support of five of my colleagues, that will create a County Home Energy Loan Program (HELP). I am more excited about the potential of this initiative than any energy and environmental legislation I have worked

on over the past 30-plus years. This revolving fund will simultaneously help homeowners reduce their utility bills and their carbon emissions by 20 to 30 percent, put people to work in the new green economy, and not require any expenditure by the County. Under HELP, a homeowner would voluntarily obtain a home energy audit from a certified auditor, take the results to the County, and the County will provide a zero-interest 15-year loan to make the clean energy improvements, including

solar. The loan is secured by a lien on the property, and the loan itself runs with the property, which means that a homeowner does not have to worry about how long they will be in their home when making such an investment. The County's role in this long-standing effort to break the financial barriers to home energy efficiency is what is so key. It has been my pleasure to work with Congressman Chris Van Hollen on this measure, as he has secured funding for HELP in the American Recovery

and Reinvestment Act and is introducing legislation to create a federal HELP program.

On Friday, March 6, I will be hosting a Senior Forum at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad from 2 - 4 p.m. U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin will be our featured speaker, along with Stan Hinden, former Washington Post financial writer and author of "How to Retire Happy," and Commander Russ Hamill from the Montgomery County Police Department.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Workshop. 7 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Parents can learn how to interact with children. Free. 301-229-1347 to register.

Support Group. 7:30 p.m. at St. Raphael's Church, 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville. Families and friends of people who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar illness. Free. Visit www.dbsanca-family.org or 301-299-4255.

Class. 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

Meeting. 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Leadership Montgomery." Visit www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org or 703-501-5941 to register.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Health Meeting. Pain Connection Chronic Pain Support Group will meet at 1:30-3 p.m., Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, sponsored by Pain Connection for anyone with chronic pain, their family and friends. Participants are welcome to bring pillows, mats, ice or hot packs to be comfortable. Call 301-309-2444 or visit www.painconnection.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Contemporary Praise Service. 5 p.m. at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy singing, skits, stories and more. Free. Pizza supper follows. 301-424-4346.

Diabetes University. 9 a.m.-noon at Theatre Arts Arena at Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Enjoy speakers and samples and more. Free, but registration required. Visit www.diabetesaction.org or 202-333-4520.

MONDAY/MARCH 9

Meeting. 7:45 p.m. at County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Learn about how to balance the utility bill with protecting the environment. Free. Visit www.montgomerycivic.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Class. 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

Meeting. 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Relationship between the Canadian and US Military." Visit www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org or 703-501-5941 to register.

Children, Teen Grief Support

Group. For children through teens who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Parent group meets at the same time. A six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice professional counselors. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Night of Beauty Seminar. 6 p.m. at Dermatology & Clinic Skin Care Center, 6410 Rockledge Drive, #201, Bethesda. RSVP required, 301-968-1200.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Evening Grief Support Group. For anyone grieving the death of a loved one, a six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice professional counselors. 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays. Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose Road, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Afternoon Grief Support Group.

For anyone grieving the death of a loved one, a six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice professional counselors. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Health Symposium. 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. at National 4-H Center, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Learn about eating disorders, how to identify symptoms and more. \$155-\$165. Visit www.jssa.org or 301-816-2682 to register.

Class. 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

Meeting. 12:15 p.m. at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Discuss "Hospice Care." Visit www.rotaryclubofpotomac.org or 703-501-5941 to register.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Lecture. 9:30 a.m. at Beth El Congregation of Montgomery County, 8215 Old Georgetown Road. Enjoy a breakfast and lecture on "Despair, Ecstasy and Religious Experience." Free. 301-652-2606.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Class. 8 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy classes and learning more about the Torah with different scholar each week. Free. 301-279-7010.

ONGOING

Writers from the community are encouraged to participate in downtown Bethesda's annual literary festival. Young adults in grades 9-12 and adults age 18 and over can write a 500-word short story or essay about what is the one thing in their life they would change if they had the opportunity to do it all over again, for the Bethesda Literary Festival's Writing Contest. Additionally, young writers grades K-8 can share their insight in the youth writing contest featuring the topic, "What Would You do to Make the World a Better Place." Entries for both contests must be received by Friday, March 20 by 5 p.m. Completed entry forms must be submitted with each essay. For entry forms, call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region of the **American Red Cross** is seeking **volunteers** to assist its blood collections staff at blood drives and blood donor centers. To register for training, or for more information, please call the American Red Cross Volunteer Office at 1-800-272-0094, ext. 1, or e-mail karloff@usa.redcross.org.

Montgomery County has launched a **new Web site feature** called "My Montgomery," which helps residents locate a variety of County facilities and services. See www.montgomerycounty.md.gov/mymontgomery.

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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. 703-917-6407.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Hear music for the piano. Pay as you can. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org or 301-320-2770.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Enjoy dancing to live music. E-mail fdncontra@yahoo.com for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore. Hear piano by Daryl Davis Band. Visit www.strathmore.org for tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Clay Workshop. Carol Zilliacus will lead a polymer clay workshop from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$75; call 301-581-5100.

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.

Dance Bethesda. 8 p.m. at Round House Theatre, 4545 East West Highway, Bethesda. Enjoy ballet, cultural dances and more. \$20/adult; \$10/child. Visit www.bethesda.org or 301-215-6660.

Children and Dogs. 1-3 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Dog trainer Colleen Pelar helps parents understand how to protect children and dogs from each other's exuberance. Free. Registration required, www.yourdogfriend.info or 301-983-5913.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. \$15/person. Comic plays by Precipice Improv theater. Visit precipiceimprov.com for more.

Paintings. See art by Pam Jennings at Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo from noon-5 p.m. Free. 301-371-5593. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

Climb Wall Weekend. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the old stables building in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for Discovery Creek members and \$5/nonmembers. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627 for more.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$14/person. 301-340-9732.

Children's Talk and Tour. 10:15 a.m. at Mansion at Strathmore. Children ages 5 and up can enjoy the program. Free, but reservations required, 301-581-5109.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. Hear the BSO perform Mozart's "Requiem." Tickets at www.strathmore.org.

Family Film. 12:30 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Adults, teens can watch "Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North." Free. Lunch provided. 240-777-0690.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

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.

Purim Carnival. 1-3:30 p.m. at JCC of Greater Washington. Enjoy arts & crafts, games and more. \$7/child; \$20 max/family. 301-348-3760.

Purim Carnival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Beth Shalom Congregation, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Enjoy rides, games and more. 301-279-7010.

Author Discussion. 2 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Naomi Collins and Ulrich Boser will read from their latest works. Visit www.writer.org or 301-654-8664.

Paintings. See art by Pam Jennings at Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo from noon-5 p.m. Free. 301-371-5593. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

Climb Wall Weekend. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the old stables building in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for Discovery Creek members and \$5/nonmembers. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627 for more.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$12/nonmember; \$9/member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Art Talk. 10 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road. Carol Soderlund will talk about the use of color inspired by the natural world. Free. Visit www.potomaccraftsmentguild.org for more.

Life With Small Dogs. 2-4 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Jill Siegel will give advice on small dogs. Free. Registration required, www.yourdogfriend.info or 301-983-5913.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Some Assembly Required." \$10/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. Hear music by the National Philharmonic Chorale. Tickets start at \$29/adult, children free. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org or 301-581-5100 for tickets.

Theater Performance. 8 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. \$15/person. Comic plays by Precipice Improv theater. Visit precipiceimprov.com for more.

Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. see Yellow Barn Faculty exhibition at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Includes oil, acrylic and watercolor art. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Open House. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Enjoy mini-workshops and more. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. meet the artists of "Transformations: The Artists' Journey" at The Art Glass Center, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Some Assembly

Required." \$10/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Hear music for the piano. Pay as you can. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org or 301-320-2770.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Enjoy dancing to live music. E-mail fdncontra@yahoo.com for more.



Yo-Yo Ma is performing on Wednesday, March 11 at 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. He will be performing with the Silk Road Ensemble. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

Required." \$10/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

Movie Watch. 10 a.m. at Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave. Watch "Innocent Voices." A discussion follows. \$15/person. Visit <http://CinemaArtBethesda.org> or 301-365-3679.

Performance. 6 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Some Assembly Required." \$10/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

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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 at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$15/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Book Sale. 9 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Browse a variety of books for \$1 or \$5.50. Free. 240-777-0960.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Movie Watch. 10 a.m. at Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave. Watch "Innocent Voices." A discussion follows. \$15/person. Visit <http://CinemaArtBethesda.org> or 301-365-3679.

Performance. 6 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Some Assembly Required." \$10/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

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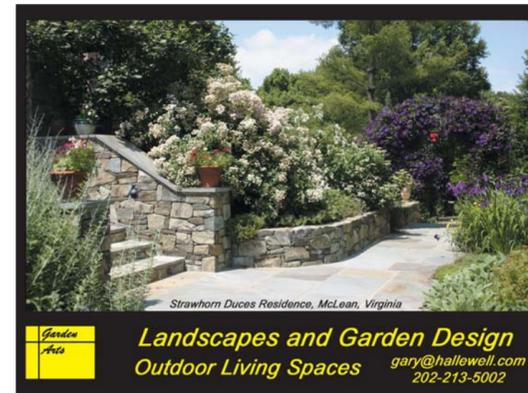
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Ending Power Struggles Without Casualties Two sites!!

Fighting or giving in tends to increase the child's or teen's desire for power. Come and learn new approaches that will change the patterns of interaction and develop cooperation within the family. Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación. Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac Monday, March 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Long Branch Library, 8800 Garland Avenue, Silver Spring

RESPETO: cómo manejar la actitud negativa.

¿Está observando mucha 'actitud' negativa en sus niños? Este taller le ayudará a manejar respuestas contradictorias, la conducta insolente, el lenguaje inadecuado y los comportamientos no cooperativos. Se discutirán las estrategias para construir un ambiente familiar más respetuoso. Se agradecen donaciones. Este taller será en español. Registración/información en español: (301) 252-4154 Miércoles 11 de Marzo, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Gratis. Biblioteca de Silver Spring 8901 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring

Take out the papers and the trash!!! Giving Kids a Purpose through Chores

An essential aspect of raising confident and caring children is to involve children at an early age in activities that contribute to something greater than themselves. Discover how to design a family plan including logical consequences that reduce the need for punishments whenever chores are neglected. Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación. Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring

Step-Parenting: Realistic Expectations

What are the factors that make it more difficult to earn the respect and cooperation of step children? We will explore the importance of creating new rituals in the family while maintaining respect for differences among family members. Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación. Thursday, March 26, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda

Life Lessons Learned Through Sports Dr. Caroline Silby

Sports have the potential to empower or defeat young people. Dr. Caroline Silby, Sport Psychologist, will detail ways that parents can use athletics to encourage the development of a healthy child and maximize the positive benefits for a lifetime. Interpretación en Español disponible si se registran con anticipación. Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Free Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda

To foster the spiritual, mental and physical development of individuals, families, and communities according to the ideals of inclusiveness, equality and mutual respect for all. www.ymcawashdc.org

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TAKE THE KIDS WHILE THEY'RE STILL KIDS.

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OBITUARY



Don Moe with some of his roughly 400 works that he produced over the years. He took up painting after retiring from the CIA.

Donald J. Moe

Formerly of Potomac from 1964-2008, Donald J. Moe died of congestive heart failure on Feb. 26, 2009 at Knollwood Retired Military Officers' Residence, Washington, D.C. in the embrace of his family.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn. in 1922, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943 after which he served aboard the Destroyer USS Maury from August 1943-October 1945. Eight battle stars were earned in Pacific Campaigns in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, The Marianas, Bonin Islands, New Guinea and the Philippines. After the USS Maury was decommissioned, he served aboard the destroyer USS Corry in the Mediterranean.

He later received a master's degree in foreign affairs from the George Washington University and in 1949 he began a 24-year career with the CIA, primarily as a military affairs specialist and analyst. His CIA service included two years with the British Foreign Office in Cheltenham, England. In 1963 he was enrolled in a one-year course at the Army War

College, Carlisle, Penn. and graduated in the Class of 1964. From 1966-1969 he was with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon as the intelligence assistant to the Director of Naval/Systems Analysis (OP-96). During this assignment he was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award by the Secretary of the Navy.

After retirement from the CIA in 1973 he became a recognized painter of Potomac area C&O Canal scenes and still-life subjects. He won numerous prizes in local, regional and national art shows.

Always a devoted family man he is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Hamilton Moe of Knollwood, two offspring: Eric of Sterling, Va. and Carole of Potomac, Md. and their spouses; two grandchildren, Haley and Alex; one great-granddaughter Marin; a brother Douglas A. Moe and family of Minneapolis.

Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Class of 1944 US Naval Academy Foundation or Capital Hospice of Northern Va., 4715 N. 15th Street, Arlington, Va. 22205.

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

FROM PAGE 2

to hear from anyone who witnessed this collision or have knowledge of any events leading

up to the collision. Calls should be made to the Collision Reconstruction Unit at 301-840-2435. Callers may remain anonymous. The investigation is continuing.

Garagiola To Host Meetings

State Sen. Rob Garagiola (D-15) will host a series of town hall-style meetings at Giant food stores over the next few weeks.

March 7, 1-2: Selby Market, 19610 Fisher Ave., Poolesville

March 7, 11-12: Traville - Giant, 9719 Traville Gateway Drive, Rockville.

Canal Pride Days

The C&O Canal Trust, in partnership with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, seeks help to complete revitalization projects throughout the park during the upcoming C&O Canal Pride Days Sign up at <http://www.canaltrust.org/canalpride-app-2009.php>.

Summer Days Camp Fair

Shop for the perfect Summer Camp!
Choose from many exciting local programs.



Saturday, March 7

Sidwell Friends School

5100 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, Md

12:00-3:00 PM

2:30 PM Discussion Group

Stop By Any Time Admission is FREE

Sponsored By

Tips on Trips & Camps and Sidwell Friends School

(202) 337-3451

Family and Friends Remember Brian Bunting

FROM PAGE 3

"He was the kind of kid that would do anything for the team, anything for his teammates," said Mike DelGrande, the Bullis athletic director who coached Bunting in lacrosse through middle school and high school. "He thought about [them] before he ever thought about himself. You followed him because you knew he was always doing the right thing." Those traits that he showed as a student he then took into his adult life, said DelGrande.



Capt. Brian M. "Bubba" Bunting

AFTER GRADUATING from Bullis, Brian Bunting elected to go to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, choosing the Army over the Navy despite the fact that his father and two brothers had both served in the Navy. That decision was made in part because Bunting wanted to play college lacrosse and he did so at West Point, said his wife.

That schism in the family was the subject of lighthearted strife, particularly during football season, said Simpson, who recalled going to an Army-Navy football

game with the Bunting family while Brian Bunting was at West Point. Bob Bunting wore his true colors that day, supporting his son by wearing Army apparel from head to toe, Simpson said.

Brian Bunting's Bullis connection ran even deeper than his parents and his siblings — it was there, too, that he met his future wife. Though the two were good friends while attending Bullis from sixth grade through high school, it wasn't until after college that they began dating.

"We figured out what we wanted and that was each other," said Nicki Bunting.

Brian Bunting was a soldier and a star athlete, but his wife said she would remember him as someone seemingly born to be a father.

"He's truly the most amazing husband and father anyone could ask for, I know everyone says that, but he was just born to have a family," she said. Their son Connor was born a year after they were married.

The son of a Navy man and a soldier for all of his adult life, Brian Bunting knew the risks he took. He had a file that he kept for his wife in a fireproof box full of forms and phone numbers that she would need if he died in the line of duty. That file also included details about what he wanted done for his memorial service, right down to the three songs that will be played this Saturday at Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

The first two were songs that struck personal chords for Bunting, his wife said: Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man," and Johnny Cash's cover of "I Won't Back Down." In memory of his

mother, who died of breast cancer in 2002, he chose "Mama I'm Coming Home," by Ozzie Osbourne.

THE DAYS FOLLOWING Bunting's death have been bitter-sweet, Nicki Bunting said. She has thought a lot about what her husband had told her when he was last home, that should anything happen when he returned to Afghanistan that he was OK with it. He had led a blessed life, he told her, and, with her and their son, he had everything that he had ever wanted.

Visitors to the Bunting home in recent days have invariably ended up laughing through their tears of sorrow as they recall how happy and how much fun Bunting was to be around, she said. Then on Saturday, Feb. 28, the bittersweet got a little sweeter. Nicki Bunting found out that she was pregnant with their second child.

"It is the most wonderful news I could possibly be given at this time. We've finally been able to smile again — we have something to look forward to," Nicki Bunting said.

Perpetually buoyant and upbeat,

Nicki Bunting said her husband would be floating on air with the news. "We all know that he's just so happy right now especially with this news of our newest child," she said.

Brian Bunting is survived by his wife, Nicole Pascal Bunting, their 19-month old son Connor and their expectant child, his father Robert Bunting, and five siblings: Robert Bunting Jr., Christopher Bunting, Stephanie Graver, Michele Bunting, and Kimberly Bunting.

The Buntings have created a college fund for Connor for contributions to be made in lieu of flowers. Donations can be made out to: USAA College Savings Plan and can be mailed to: PO Box 83444, Gaithersburg, MD 20883-3444.

Relatives and friends may call at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, on Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, March 7 at 2 p.m. with shuttle bus service available at Bullis High School. Those using the bus are asked to arrive by 1:30 p.m.

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Learn about **Sefardic Judaism** with Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, who offers a three-part program: Sunday, March 8, 10:30 a.m., "The Crescent and the Star: Jewish Life in Muslim Spain"; Wednesday, March 25 7:30 p.m., "The Cross and the Star: Jewish Life in Christian Spain: Symbiotic Societies?"; Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., "Wine, Women, War, Zion and the Firmament:

The Poetry and the Faith of the Medieval Sefardic Poets" at Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, 7727 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda. E-mail info@adatshalom.net or call 301-767-3333 x106. Free.

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.

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.

SPECTACULAR OPEN HOUSES March 7 & 8



When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in the Almanac. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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9800 Tibron Ct.....\$1,649,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster.....301-455-4506

North Potomac

756 Clifftop Dr.....\$375,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Hans Wylder.....Long & Foster.....301-986-6405
102 Kent Oaks Way.....\$1,049,900.....Sun. 1-4.....Michael Aubrey.....RE/MAX.....301-873-9807

Bethesda

7224 Armat Dr.....\$3,499,000.....By App't.....Zora Dugan.....Long & Foster.....301-233-6550
5401 Bradley Blvd.....\$2,350,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Mark Vige.....WC & AN Miller.....301-299-4000
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5508 Center St.....\$1,395,000.....Sun. 1:30-4:30.....Marjorie Lee.....WC & AN Miller.....202-966-1400
5502 Park St.....\$1,035,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Pamela Mertz.....WC & AN Miller.....301-229-4000

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 p.m.

More Than a Dance

To Ziva Cohen, Flamenco is more than just a style of dance, it's a style of life.

"If you are really very much involved with flamenco dance you become part of the dance — the lifestyle and everything that surrounds flamenco dance life," said Cohen.

Cohen opened Ziva's Institute of Spanish Dance in 1995 and has taught classes out of her home studio in Potomac since then. Originally from Israel and a lifelong dancer, she learned Flamenco nearly 30 years ago and never looked back.

"It's a style of dance which is very challenging and very beautiful. Not everyone can do flamenco or can stay to the level of taking it into the professional world," she said.

Cohen and a group of dancers from her institute will take part in the fifth annual Dance Bethesda concert on Saturday, March 7 at Round House Theatre in Bethesda. It is the second year in a row that Cohen's group has been invited, and this year they will take part along with five other local dance groups. In addition to Cohen's new-classical style of Flamenco, the concert will feature ballet, modern, Indian and Chinese dance.

Flamenco is a traditional Spanish dance that originated in the Andalusia region of Spain and features audible footwork, twirling dancers, and musical accompaniment by Flamenco guitar. It also features beautiful lines and a lot of feeling, Cohen said.

"One dances Flamenco you have to put more than just the technique that you have learned, you have to put your soul into it," she said. The dance has



Ziva Cohen performing Flamenco

grown in popularity in the United States in recent years, and in the Washington, D.C. area in particular, she said. Saturday's exhibition will be an opportunity for local residents to learn about a vast array of dances and their representative cultures.

"What they should come and see is the diversity of dance in the area and the diversity of the groups in the Washington area," Cohen said.

The Dance Bethesda concert will take place at the Round House Theatre located at 4545 East West Highway in Bethesda at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 7. Tickets are now on sale at www.bethesda.org for \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Remaining tickets will also be available at the door. — AARON STERN

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Playoff Basketball Takes Flight

Churchill boys hold off Whitman in first round.

The Bulldogs advanced to the quarterfinals of the 4A West playoffs by holding off a late rally by Whitman to win, 50-44. Churchill was led by senior forward Luke Fishman, who scored 17 points, turning in perhaps his strongest effort this season after missing four games late in the year with an injured ankle.

Miller said the key to the victory wasn't simply that the Bulldogs had the bigger team, but that they fought hard at the critical moments.

"In the end, it's all about scraping for loose balls," said Miller. "I thought we wanted it more than those guys." The win was particularly sweet for Miller, who was an assistant under Whitman coach Chris Lun when the Vikings took home their first Maryland 4A state title in 2006.

Though he acknowledged he has a lot of fond memories of Whitman and of that season in particular, "It's fun to beat your old team," Miller said.

Lun said that his team did what he asked of it, which was to shut down Churchill senior forward Chase Hicks and make someone else step up for them. Both of those things happened — Hicks (eight points) was kept in check while Fishman filled the void to carry the Bulldogs.

"They have nothing to be ashamed of," Lun said of his team. "Our guys did what we asked for them to do ... I thought they played such a hard game."

The Whitman (11-12 overall, 7-6 4A



Churchill senior Elijah Gore rises for a jumper against Whitman's Sam Walsh. Gore had 13 points in the Bulldog's first-round victory over the Vikings.



Whitman senior Michael Fowler tries to get a shot over Churchill senior Danny Holzman. Fowler closed his prolific high school career with 10 points.

West) seniors were around for that 2006 title, and Friday's roaring gym was a testament to the benchmark that squad set for Viking basketball, Lun said.

"Just looking around the environment, seeing the full, packed bleachers, our seniors helped build that," Lun said.

Churchill (14-10, 7-6) was scheduled to

face Quince Orchard in the quarterfinals Tuesday night, after the Almanac's deadline.

— AARON STERN

Tenacious Bulldogs Advance

Churchill girls cruise past Whitman in first round of playoffs to set up showdown with Northwest.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Coaches prod and cajole, plead and pray, hoping that their team will play the fabled complete game, a thorough, precise effort from start to finish.

Churchill's girls did just that on Friday, Feb. 27 as they took down the Whitman Vikings in the first round of the Maryland 4A West regional playoffs, cruising to a 50-18 victory.

"That's the best they've played all year," said Bulldog coach Aubree Lawrence. "They put it all together."

Churchill (16-7 overall, 8-5 4A West) came out firing from the start, and sophomore Ashley Nelson set the tone with an early three-pointer, one of three that she hit on the night to lead all scorers with 13 points.

"I shot extra shots before the game, came out ready to shoot," Nelson said.

Lawrence said the effort was the combination of a strong finish to a regular season during which her team steadily improved, and a matter of coming out focused for a playoff game.

"We just had to put it together from start to finish," said Nelson. "We finally did it ... we came out the second half, played as hard

as we did in the first half."

The crisp victory set up a showdown with Northwest on Tuesday, March 3 after The Almanac's deadline. Northwest won both regular season matchups against the Bulldogs, most recently a 58-51 victory on Jan. 27.

The key to beating Northwest, a team that matches up well with Churchill's size and athleticism, will be to put together the same type of effort that put away Whitman, Lawrence said.

Churchill's thorough effort Friday night was juxtaposed by a Vikings team that averaged over 50 points a game during the regular season, but struggled from the outset on Friday and never found its footing offen

SEE CHURCHILL. PAGE 15



Churchill sophomore Ashley Nelson led all scorers with 13 points, including three 3-pointers, against Whitman last Friday night.

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Opposites Attract What, Exactly



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As an old, comparatively speaking, married man, I am intrigued by the how-couples-met process of today's engaged and/or married couples. The fact that there can be some rhyme or reason for individuals to actually meet seems quite an advantage over those of us who had no real practical alternative other than letting "the chips fall where they may" or allowing "nature to take its course."

Still, not having had that opportunity doesn't necessarily mean that all is lost, it more likely means that potentially all, certainly some, things may not yet be found. And how could it all be found, especially if you're not starting from the same place? It seems like relationships would be so much easier if there were more inherited similarities than there were newly discovered differences, more common interests, shared experiences and familiar "familiarities." And not that there are any guarantees in life ("other than death and taxes"), but knowing more about your partner would seem to be quite an advantage over knowing less. Granted, some of the adventure in pursuit of the inevitable discovery — who, what, where, how and why — might be missing, but so too might some of the disappointment and difficulties be missing when two attempt to become one. As the character Tevye, from Fiddler on the Roof, said, "A bird can love a fish, but where would they live?"

Nowadays, if you're attempting to match, with some professional data entry-type assistance, this problem would never arise (I know, never is a long time), presumably nor would a host of other conflicts arise among people who speak different languages (figuratively speaking but certainly literally, too): religion, age range, smoke or not, like pets, like/want children, among many other considerations too numerous to list. But maybe not. Chemistry, in the classroom, on the job, in social settings, isn't really drawn up in any book. It seems to be somewhere between the luck of the draw and there being no accounting for taste: opposites attract, like-minded persons/personalities clash, individuals from similar backgrounds aren't necessarily similar; in summary, what's good for the goose isn't necessarily good for the gander and vice versa. True in nature might not necessarily be true in nurture.

What brought this curiosity to light was a recent neighborhood function, the post-wedding BBQ to celebrate a neighbor's son's betrothal. The couple were both in their mid-twenties. They met over the internet. The groom (my neighbor) lives in Montgomery County, Md., the bride lived in Richmond, Va. Given the geography involved, it's unlikely they would have met otherwise. How did it all happen? I asked. They matched on line, they said. When I asked their recollections of their profiles and whatever it was that they thought they had in common that led to the match, all they could muster was "family was important." And though I tried to learn more about their how and why and so forth concerning their "togetherness," no further explanation was offered.

As incomplete as I thought their answers were (given the "matching" elements presumably in play), perhaps they really weren't so incomplete. Perhaps starting from one common point is enough. Time will certainly tell, just like for the rest of us old married couples.

Maybe we're not that different after all. Maybe it matters not how — and/or why — you start, maybe it matters more how you finish.

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

SPORTS

Wootton Loses In First Round

Much-improved senior is bright spot for Patriots.

MIKE WEINER
THE ALMANAC

In what was a rebuilding year for the Wootton boy's basketball team, last Friday's 56-51 loss to Northwest in the first round of the 4A West playoffs seemed to be a fitting end for a squad that had trouble winning close games all season. Junior William Lee paced Northwest with 26 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists, and eight free throws to seal the game down the stretch.

The Patriots struggled with the ball, and it wasn't helpful that senior star Nitin Potarazu was held to only six points. It was a back-and-forth affair for a good portion of the game, but Wootton was never able to run their offense with any fluidity.

"We just couldn't rotate the ball fast enough to break their zone," Potarazu said. "We had difficulty penetrating the middle of the zone, which ruined our entire offense."

Down by four entering the fourth quarter, Wootton went on its only legitimate run of the game when senior Brian Hollins (team-high 16 points) hit two three-pointers and Jack Weis added two baskets to draw the Patriots even. It wasn't enough, though, as Northwest countered and with four minutes left in the fourth

quarter the Jaguars were again forcing Wootton into contested jumpers and turnovers.

Almost lost in the midst of a rebuilding season was the emergence of Potarazu. As one of only two holdovers from last season's 4A West division champion, Potarazu was called upon to lead a young Patriots squad. While the team struggled, Potarazu's efforts kept Wootton in a number of games. He averaged 13.5 points per game and was the emotional leader of the team.

"Last season I started for half the season and got significant playing time [as a junior] but that wasn't enough for me," he said. "I knew I wanted to be a leader of the team and be one of the main contributors."

Widely regarded as one of, if not the, most improved players in the county, Potarazu's diverse game created an array of opportunities for his fellow Patriots. At 6'4", he has the size to score in the paint but also brought a smooth 3-point touch to the floor. Potarazu attributes his play to a steady offseason regimen of workouts and skill drills.

"I would work non-stop with coaches and in the weight room to better myself on the basketball court and in the end I guess it paid off," he said.

Despite the results of the season, Wootton has a lot to look forward to next year. The team returns a number of juniors, including starters Rashawn Morris and Freddy Vance, and this year's sixth man, Jack Weis.



Wootton senior Nitin Potarazu burst on the scene this season, leading the Patriots in scoring with more than 13 points per game.



Churchill Girls Advance in Playoffs

FROM PAGE 13

sively.

For Viking coach Pete Kenah, the loss marked the bittersweet end of an era as three of the six Whitman seniors — Elizabeth Owen, Melanie Leas, and Morgan Werner — were the remaining members of the 2006-2007 squad that won the regional championship and advanced to the state semifinals.

"They're such a great group of girls," Kenah said. That class helped lay the foundation for a

Whitman girls team (8-15, 4-9 4A West) that Kenah said has a bright future ahead of it.

Churchill senior point guard Angela Biciocchi drives past Whitman's Morgan Werner as the Bulldogs cruised to a 50-18 victory in the first round of the 4A West playoffs, setting up a quarterfinal match-up with Northwest.

SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper.

Jennifer Kuo, from Thomas Wootton High School, won third place in the "Together We're Better" contest.

Summit Educational Group, is offering **free practice tests** this winter and spring for the SAT and ACT at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac. For a complete listing of dates, please visit www.mytutor.com.

Michal Malachowski, a senior at Walt Whitman High School, is the only student in Maryland to achieve a top score of 36 in the December 2008 administration of the ACT exam.

Miami university dean's list includes the following Potomac residents: **Richard Luchs, Colleen O'Donnell, Caitlin Slowinski and Jennifer Tucker.**

CLASSES

To have an item 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 Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. If you have any questions, call 703-917-6451.

Joy of Dance Class. Fall semester begins new dance classes at Joy of Motion Dance Center, 7315 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 180 E, Bethesda. Call for more information 301-986-0016.

Children's Movement Classes. Creative Movement fall session starts at Kids Moving Company, 7475 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Classes held on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Times vary by ages. 9 months-9 years. \$25/class or \$375/session. 301-656-1543.

Dance Music. There is dancing every week from 3:30-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Blend together swing, waltz, tango, foxtrot and others for \$8/person. Free dance lesson at 3 p.m. 703-425-7926.

PEP Parenting Classes. Parenting classes for parents of children from birth through age 18. Learn vital skills that will bring out the best in children and parents. Classes are offered both during daytime and evening throughout the area. Call 301-929-8824 or visit www.parentencouragement.org.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women Counseling & Career Center, 401 N. Washington St., Suite 100, Rockville, provides personal, career, and couples counseling for women. Counseling sessions are available in 50-minute sessions for \$40. Call 240-777-8300.

City Dance Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, is now enrolling all ages and abilities for classes. Call 301-581-5204 or visit www.citydance.net.

Master Greg Maye, owner, director and head instructor of the Jhoon Rhee Institute in Potomac Village, 11815 Seven Locks Road, is a 6th-degree black belt and certified master instructor by Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee. He is the senior instructor for the Jhoon Rhee Institute of Tae Kwon Do's Washington, D.C.-metropolitan area, with 10 studios locally. He offers private lessons, personal training and seminars. Visit www.jhoonrheeinstitute.com/contact_us.html for more.

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