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The Cabin John Ice Rink is operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. It could switch hands to the Montgomery County Department of Recreation if either a proposed consolidation of recreation programming operated by the two departments, or an outright merger of both agencies, is approved by the Montgomery County Council in coming weeks.

Park or Recreation?

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Is It Park or Recreation?

County Council weighs merging recreational programs.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Should facilities like the Cabin John Ice Rink or the Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center be run by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation or by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Department of Parks?

That question is being pondered by the Montgomery County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) as the county looks for ways to bridge a projected \$500 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year.

For now the County Council is weighing simply whether or not to merge the recreation programming components of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission with those of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation (MNCPPC). In the coming weeks and months that debate will likely evolve into contemplation of merging the control and operations of the Montgomery County parks operated by MNCPPC with the county's recreation department.

Exactly what types of recreation programs could be consolidated is unclear, as representatives from both the Department of Recreation and Parks agency said that there is currently little overlap in services at a meeting of the PHED committee on Mon-



PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



The Cabin John Ice Rink and the Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center in Cabin John Regional Park are two of several facilities operated by the Park and Planning Commission that could switch control to the Department of Recreation.

day, March 9. That assessment is at odds with a report released earlier this year by the county's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) that noted that both departments provide programming in art, nature, science, and sports. The line between recreational and park-related activities that take

"I don't think you need vast savings in this economy, I think you need savings, period."

— County Councilman Marc Elrich (D-at large)

place in the county's parks is also murky, as officials parse through such activities as those offered at Locust Grove Nature Center, and the ice skating and tennis facilities in Cabin John Regional Park, all of which are run by the parks commission.

BOTH AGENCIES estimate that consolidation of programs could save over \$1 million in annual operating costs and while that isn't a grand sum, Elrich said that any amount saved as the county faces down a projected \$500 million budget deficit is significant.

"I don't think you need vast savings in this economy, I think you need savings, period," said County Councilman

SEE PARK, PAGE 15

Recalling a Survivor and 'a Born Educator'

Holocaust survivor, teacher and author Flora Singer remembered after her death at age 78.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

As a child, there were times that Sandra Landsman couldn't believe her mother's patience.

"Why do you put up with this?" she would ask when her mother would react calmly to rude behavior. Her mother, Flora Singer, would shrug her shoulders and tell her daughter that the person was likely having a hard time in one way or another. That patience and ability to forgive was forged in Singer's childhood when she spent two years in hiding in Nazi-occupied Belgium, where she saw the worst — and the best — of human behavior.

Three years ago, just weeks after she com-

pleted work on the memoir that detailed those days from her youth, Singer suffered a stroke that robbed her of virtually all ability to speak. Singer died on Feb. 25, but that book and her life's work as a Holocaust educator and foreign language teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools has carried her voice to countless students already and will continue to do so for years to come.

"She was a teacher in the formal sense but more important, she was a born educator," said Sara Bloomfield, the director of the U.S. Holocaust Museum, where Singer served as a volunteer and advisor. "She understood people and she un-



Flora Singer with her book, published in 2007.

SEE RECALLING, PAGE 10

Recreation, Parks Consolidation Information

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board will meet on Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. This meeting will be held at the Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., Glen Echo.

Fritz Hirst, Downcounty Recreation Advisory Board, is scheduled to speak about the board's priorities and the proposed consolidation of the recreation programs in the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Department under the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

This meeting will focus on the needs and expectations of the residents of Glen Echo, Cabin John and the surrounding communities. All board meetings are open to the public.

The agenda with directions to the Glen Echo Town Hall are on the Web at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bcctmpl.asp?url=/content/rsc/bcc/Agendas/031609.asp>

Help with Potomac Cleanup

Site leaders and volunteers are needed to help with the 21st Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup, which will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m. to noon at more than 400 sites in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

People who are willing to organize a site in their neighborhood are urged to visit the Web site at www.PotomacCleanup.org or contact the cleanup coordinator, Ginny Harris, with the Alice Ferguson Foundation at 301-292-5665 for site locations in need of help. The Alice Ferguson Foundation provides free gloves and trash bags for the cleanup sites and coaches site leaders on how to organize their site.

Last year's cleanup by more than 12,000 volunteers removed over 285 tons of trash. Since 1989, the Alice Ferguson Foundation has spearheaded the Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup. Now the largest regional event of its kind, the cleanup has engaged over 35,000 volunteers and 300 partners since 1989, and removed more than 3 million pounds of trash from the Potomac Watershed.

In 2005 the Alice Ferguson Foundation crafted the Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty that commits signers to achieving a Trash Free Potomac by 2013. The Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup will continue to play an integral role in improving the quality of the Potomac and as a vital component the Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative.

For more information visit potomacCleanup.org

Planning Board Needs Applicants

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on the Montgomery County Planning Board. The term of John Robinson (Democrat) will expire on June 14. Robinson has served two terms and is not eligible for reappointment.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., on Wednesday, April 22.

No more than three members of the Planning Board may be from the same political party, and all members must be residents and registered voters of Montgomery County when appointed. Members serve four-year terms and are limited to two full terms. The position can be filled by a Democrat; a Republican; a voter who declines to affiliate with a party; or by a member of another party officially recognized by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

The Planning Board serves as the council's principal adviser on land use planning and community planning. Planning Board members also serve as commissioners of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Letters expressing interest, including a resume listing professional and civic experience, should be addressed to: Council President Phil Andrews, County Council Office, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 22. It is the council's policy not to consider applications received after the deadline.

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/
THE ALMANAC
Twins Jeremiah and Isiah Lindsay took home second place in a youth competition at the Apollo Theater in New York City last December and last month auditioned for the television show "America's Got Talent."

The Showtime Twins

Isiah and Jeremiah Lyndsay.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

As they made their way onto a stage made hallow by a parade of iconic performers nearly a century long, 12-year-old twins Isiah and Jeremiah Lindsay had every reason to be nervous. Yet they weren't.

"We don't even know what nervous is, nervous is gone. It's not even our category," said Isiah Lindsay.

On Dec. 30, 2008 the two brothers wowed the crowd at the legendary Apollo Theater in New York City with their singing abilities, making it to the final round of the Stars of Tomorrow Super Top Dog competition and finishing second out of around 25 performers. Carrying them that day was more than just uncommon vocal talent, but also a stage presence and confidence that comes from having been performing before they knew enough to ever be nervous about doing so, said their mother Alva Lindsay.

A YouTube video of the performance shows the boys as they stride out confidently onto stage with wide, easy grins on their face, confidently shaking the MC's hand before belting out Whitney Houston's classic "The Greatest Love of All," the crowd cheering as they demonstrate their wide vocal range.

And when they lost in the final round those grins didn't disappear either — the two boys heartily congratulated the winner.

"It was all about having fun, an experience," said Jeremiah Lindsay. "I was happy to be there. I had fun, that's all I did."

THE TWINS STARTED singing at the earliest of ages.

"Isiah, he's been singing since he started talking," said the twins' mother, Alva Lindsay.

Jeremiah started a year or two later, and the two have been singing together ever since — virtually non-stop, and sometimes to the chagrin of their older siblings.

They sing "[a]ll day long in the shower at the breakfast table at the dinner table," said their mother.

When they first began the two sang in church and

at family gatherings, and in recent years their performances have become staples of social gatherings at the Scotland Community Center, but lately they have been taking their show on the road. After auditioning for the Top Dog competition at the Warner Theater in Washington, D.C. last summer they were flown out to Los Angeles to perform live during the Chabad Telethon in Los Angeles, where they rubbed elbows with movie stars and famous athletes. Then they performed at the Children's Inaugural Ball during the presidential inaugural weekend in January, and with any luck the twins could soon be on television screens around the country after auditioning for the Fox television show "America's Got Talent" last month.

Their favorite songs to perform are gospel, rhythm & blues, and oldie's classics and though they have never had formal training and they don't read music,

they both have an ear that allows them to pick up a new song very quickly.

"We hear it and we can do it," they said simultaneously during an interview with The Almanac last week. The tandem response speaks to the close connection that they have as twins. Isiah is

"In my experience in this age, very few kids have this kind of voice."

— Valia Vasila, music teacher, Beverly Farms Elementary School

the older of the two, and a dark line on his left cheek — the result of pressing an iron to his face out of curiosity as a toddler — is the best way for those who don't know them to tell the two apart. He was the first of the two to talk and for a while after he served as his brother's spokesman, they said. And whether it is the result of a sixth sense unique to twins or simply the result of spending so much time together as they have grown up, the two said they share an uncommon bond.

"It's a twin thing," they said, again simultaneously.

LIKE MANY adolescent boys, the twins dream of making it big.

"We want to go far. We want to be famous," said Jeremiah.

Valia Vasila, the music teacher at Beverly Farms Elementary School where Isiah goes to school, said that the twins' talent is of the unique caliber where such dreams are conceivable.

"In my experience in this age, very few kids have this kind of voice," Vasila said. That said, among all the other inevitable hurdles to fame the twins must first must tackle puberty and the vocal changes that come along with it. Vasila expects that the strong,

SEE TWINS, PAGE 5

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY JACOBS

This year's Mr. Churchill contestants from left: Liam Regan, Brian Sun, Griffin Farha, Max Heller, Steven Rigaux, Sean McDonald, James Jalandoni, Stephen Ahn, Evan Vogel, Eric Taft.

Into the Limelight

Mr. Churchill event also benefits Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Brian Sun never thought he would be crowned Mr. Churchill, but then again he never thought doing biology homework would be a good way to practice meeting girls.

On Thursday, Feb. 26, 10 junior and senior boys from Winston Churchill High School competed in four categories — dance, casual wear with pick-up line, talent, and formal wear with a question about school or life — to earn the title of Mr. Churchill. Sun, a junior, won the title, becoming the first non-senior in the three-year history of the competition to do so, and he had his biology homework to thank.

In the weeks leading up to the competition, Sun was studying one night when, knowing he needed to come up with a humorous pickup line to wow the crowd at the competition, academia and amorous pursuits converged in his head, and “You’re more curved than my biology exam,” was born.

“It was a nerdy pickup line that I thought the teachers in the crowd might like,” Sun said.

The crowd loved it, as did a panel of faculty judges said Josh Oppenheimer, the Churchill Student Government Association president. The event was judged by randomly selected students in the crowd as well as the judge panel, Oppenheimer said. But Sun’s

humor didn’t stop with the pick-up line, as he tackled standup comedy for his talent portion, and Oppenheimer credited Sun’s victory to a sense of humor that caught the student body off its guard.

And he was a man of the people, too. When asked what he would do if he had a master key to the school, Sun said that he would unlock the men’s bathroom on the second floor.

“It’s always locked, it’s a pain,” Sun said. “He was really the underdog,” Oppenheimer said. “No one really knew who Brian was before the event.”

The annual event raised roughly \$1,000 for future Student Government events and an additional \$100 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society that brought the tally for a month-long series of fund-raising events to around \$1,200 for the organization, Oppenheimer said. The behind-the-scenes work to produce Mr. Churchill began in October, and Oppenheimer credited the Leadership Class of 35 sophomores, juniors and seniors, as well as SGA vice president Alya Bandak, and Churchill faculty Justin Ostry and Scott Selman for helping to bring it all together.

Winning Mr. Churchill is mostly an achievement of pride and notoriety and Sun said that he will use his new title to represent the school in any capacity needed. And he’ll bask in the glow of the newfound notoriety, as well.

“I don’t know if it’s sunken in quite yet,” Sun said. “I’ve definitely gotten more attention. Right now I’m just making the effort to meet new people.”

— AARON STERN

Twins Follow Their Dreams

FROM PAGE 4

warm voices that have range wide enough to hit the high and the low notes now will give way to baritone or bass in the coming years. But she expects, too, that they will continue to be extraordinary voices.

“It’s very rare that voices like this change and to-

tally get lost as they change,” Vasila said.

That’s good news for the twins, because fame or no fame, they plan to be singing for a long time to come.

“Singing is my life, I wouldn’t know what to do without singing,” said Jeremiah. “It makes me feel good.”



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OUT & ABOUT



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC



Harbingers Of Spring

Potomac woodlands were dotted with early spring flowers including hellebore, or Lenten rose in the warm weather this weekend. A deer still wearing a winter coat pauses in the woods.



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CRIME

Criminal activities reported by the Montgomery County Police Department through March 1.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 11400 block of Patriot Lane in Potomac between Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Monday, Feb. 23. Forced entry and property was removed.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 7600 block of Coddle Harbor Lane in Potomac overnight between Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20. No force used but property was reported missing.

A **residential burglary** occurred in

the 9100 block of Willow Gate Lane in North Potomac on Thursday, Feb. 19 between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. No signs of forced entry however property was reported missing.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14000 block of Stonecutter Drive in North Potomac overnight between Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20. Suspects pried the door and removed the stereo and jewelry.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred on Pleasant Meadow Drive and Dufief Mill Road in North Potomac overnight between Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20. Suspects entered an unlocked

vehicle and removed a tool box.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred on in the 10900 block of Silent Wood Place in North Potomac overnight between Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20. Suspects entered two unlocked vehicles and removed cash, credit cards, clothing and shoes.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 11500 block of Paramus Drive in North Potomac overnight between Thursday, Feb. 19 and Friday, Feb. 20. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a laptop computer, GPS unit, ski boots, sunglasses and an emergency kit.



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LET'S TALK
Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

REFINANCING YOUR MORTGAGE

Interest rates fluctuate as changes occur in the general economy. If you purchased your home when interest rates were higher, you may want to consider refinancing. It can potentially lower your monthly payments and allow you to consolidate credit card debt.

You will have to apply for the new mortgage and have your current income eligibility assessed. A current home appraisal will likely be required. There are closing costs that accompany a refinance, including title fees, recording and notary fees, and appraisal charges.

The biggest factor in your decision whether or not to refinance should be the length of time you plan to remain in your home. If you will be there for only a year or two, it may not pay to refinance. If you will be in your home longer, refinancing could provide you with lower mortgage payments. When choosing a lender, your real estate agent will have some information about various lenders.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewsletters.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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore. Patti Austin showcases Ella Fitzgerald. Visit www.strathmore.org for tickets.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

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 Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$9/person. Enjoy dancing to live music. E-mail fncontra@yahoo.com for more.

Benefit Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Hear Marcus Johnson perform. \$25/person and \$10/student. 240-567-5301 for tickets.

Play. 7:30 p.m. at Connelly School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd. Watch "Alice/Through the Looking Glass." \$9/adult; \$6/child, senior, student. Visit www.holychild.org or 301-365-0955.

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.potomaccraftsmen.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.yourdogsfriend.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" from March 14 through March 29 at The Art Glass Center, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

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 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 \$.50. Free. 240-777-0960.

Play. 2:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. at Connelly School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd. Watch "Alice/Through the Looking Glass." \$9/adult; \$6/child, senior, student. Visit www.holychild.org or 301-365-0955.

Benefit. 6 p.m. at Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda. Benefits Holy Cross School. Visit hcross.org; gala or 240-515-6757.

Open House. 3 p.m. at Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Free. Enjoy workshops, prizes and more. Visit www.writer.org for more.

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.

Critiques and Coffee. 10 a.m.-noon at Photoworks Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Bring a photo, enjoy coffee and bagels. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org or 301-229-7930.

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.

Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$8/person. Live music. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.

Photography Along the Canal. 8-9:30 a.m. at River Center at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Bring a camera and get pointers from photographer Joanne Miller. Visit www.potomac.org for more.

Beginner Bird Survey. 9:30 a.m. at River Center at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Learn about beginner bird survey and counting techniques. Visit www.potomac.org for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Strathmore. Hear music by Chamber Strings, harp ensemble and more. Visit strathmore.org for tickets.

Performance. 7 p.m. at Strathmore. Hear Chris Gekker and Philharmonic perform Beethoven and more. 301-581-5100 or Strathmore.org for tickets.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Photo Workshop. 7 p.m. at VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Learn how to use Adobe Photoshop. \$125/member; \$150/nonmember. 301-315-8200.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Babies. 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children under 3 enjoy stories, rhymes, songs and more. Free. Register at 240-777-0690.

Book Club. 1 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Discuss "Ciao, America." Free. 240-777-0690.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Literary Luncheon Series. The Friends of the Montgomery County Library's 21st annual Literary Luncheon Series continues with Frank Joseph, former Washington Post editor, at 11:30 a.m. at Strathmore Hall Arts Center in the Mansion, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Luncheon to follow. \$25/lecture and lunch, \$20 lecture only. FOLMC members: \$22/lunch, \$18 lecture



"Alice/Through the Looking Glass" will be performed at Connelly School of the Holy Child on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14.

only. **Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., Glen Echo. Hear Bob Zentz, Kendall Morse and Ken Hicks. \$15/member; \$18/nonmember; \$10/student, child. Visit www.fsgw.org or 202-386-8252.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

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

Celebration of Hope Gala. 7-11 p.m. at Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive. Support the Wellness Community with a reception, auction, dinner, dancing and more. \$250/person. 301-493-5002.

Theater Performance. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, presents "Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. 301-279-8581 for tickets.

Reading. Local poets Rose Solari and Adele Steiner will read with a visiting group of writers from Wales, including Tom Anderson, Catrin Dafydd, Fflur Dafydd, Eurig Salisburry, and Owen Sheers, 7:30 p.m. at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Free. 301-654-8664 or www.writer.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

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 Judy Levey at Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo from noon-5 p.m. Free. 301-371-5593. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

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 at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Visit www.glenechopark.org for cost.

Family Language. 10 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Free. 703-777-0690.

Family Film. 12:30 p.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Adults and teens can watch "The Education of Shelby Knox." Free. Register at 240-777-0690.

From the Garden to the Bay. Noon at Bethesda Library, 6400 Arlington Road. All ages can learn about watershed gardening, recycling and

more. 240-777-0970. **Theater Performance.** Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, presents "Beauty and the Beast" at 7:30 p.m. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. 301-279-8581 for tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

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

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.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.

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$12/person. Dance to live music. Visit www.glenechopark.org 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/member; \$9/member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Theater Performance. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, presents "Beauty and the Beast" at 2 p.m. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. 301-279-8581 for tickets.

Author Discussion. 2 p.m., poets George Witte and Sue Ellen Thompson will read from their work at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Free. Contact 301-654-8664 or www.writer.org.

Vian Borchert, a Potomac artist, is holding art classes at Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. For a list of classes visit www.vianborchert.com or 301-258-6394.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Time for 2's and 3's. 10:30 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Children under 3 enjoy stories, songs and more. Free. Registration required, 240-777-0690.

Book Club. 8 p.m. at Congregation Beth Sholem and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Discuss "A Woman in Jerusalem" by A.B. Yehoshua. Free. E-mail Tanya Lampert at alamp9608@yahoo.com for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

Tiny Tot Tuesdays. 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at the Puppet Co. in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Tots can watch a shorter theater performance with the lights on. \$5/adult and child. Reservations recommended. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-320-6668.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

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

FINE ARTS

The **Third Annual High School Student Art Exhibit** is on display at John Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus 9605 Medical Center Drive, Building 3, Rockville. The exhibit will be on display through **March 27**.

"Come See What I Saw" by Halcy Bohen is on display through **March 20** at Bethesda Public Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda. Contains 82 little travel drawings from a Peru expedition. For more about her works visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

See **Yellow Barn Faculty** exhibition from **March 7 through March 29** at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Includes oil, acrylic and watercolor art. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

The 18th annual **Strathmore Membership Juried Exhibition** runs at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, from **Feb. 28-April 4**.

See "Mirror to the World: Documentary Photography 2009" from **March 7 through April 12** at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Features up and coming documentary photographers. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

See "Transformations: The Artists' Journey" from **March 14 through March 29** at The Art Glass Center, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

The Landow Gallery, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda, is showcasing the paintings of Landon senior, **Brett Van Egmond**, in a solo exhibition through **March 29**.

Audrey Salkind presents "Visual Perspectives: Abstract and Interpretive" paintings and prints, a one-artist show at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RRUUC), 6301 River Road, Bethesda, from **April 3 through April 30**. Visit www.audreysabstractart.com

A basic introduction to the potter's wheel. These classes allow students to throw at their own skill level. Classes meet for six weeks from 4 - 6 p.m. on Tuesdays (March 31 - May 5) or Thursdays (April 2 - May 7). Tuition (\$108) includes tools and supplies. For students attending middle and high

school (age range: 11 - 16). At Glen Echo Pottery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call 301-229-5585 or visit www.glenechopottery.com.

Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Free exhibits of emerging artist work and art sales. Each weekend features the work of a different artist from 12 - 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

The **Bethesda Art Walk** allows art lovers to visit downtown Bethesda's gallery community from **6-9 p.m. on the second Friday of every month**. Many galleries change exhibits monthly and hold receptions showcasing the featured artist in conjunction with the Bethesda Art Walk.

Glen Echo Pottery. Glen Echo Pottery maintains ongoing exhibits in the Glen Echo Pottery Gallery in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. These feature a special selection of work by resident artists, instructors and students. Every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Call 301-229-5585 or visit www.glenechopottery.com.

Glassworks is the D.C. area's first glass school located in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. When classes are not in session, the studio is open for visitors to observe glassblowing and view the work of resident artist Rick Sherbert. Call 301-229-4184 or visit www.rickscherbertglass.com.

The **Art Glass Center** at Glen Echo exhibits continually in the Art Glass Center Gallery. These exhibits feature the work of resident artists Diane Cab, Christine Hekimian, Bev and Zayde Sleph, and Bobbi Vischi. Sculpture, vessels, functional art, and jewelry are also for sale. All exhibited work is made at the Art Glass Center Studio. The Art Glass Center also produces other exhibits. TContact Bobbi Vischi at BBVischi@comcast.net.

Glen Echo Pottery in Glen Echo Park presents **ongoing exhibitions** in the Glen Echo Pottery gallery. These feature a special selection of work by resident artists, instructors, and students. Open every Saturday and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Call 301-229-5585 or visit www.glenechopottery.com.

Photoworks is a unique resource for both student and professional photographers to develop their talents through classes, workshops, and exhibitions. The Photoworks gallery is open every Sunday and Wednesday, 1-8 p.m. and during all classes and workshops. 301-229-7930 or visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

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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 registra 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 registra con anticipación.*
Tuesday, March 31,

Recalling a Survivor and 'a Born Educator'

FROM PAGE 3

derstood how to communicate with people.”

More than 500 people attended her funeral at Congregation Beth El on Sunday, March 1, a testament to how many people she reached in her life, said Jack Singer, her husband of 59 years.

“I didn’t realize how many people she really touched ... it was pretty mind boggling,” said Sandra Landsman, Singer’s daughter.

SINGER’S BOOK, completed in 2006 and published in 2007, recounts her youth in Nazi-occupied Belgium. Her father left for Canada just before World War II, but Flora, her sisters and her mother were unable to join him. When Belgium fell under Nazi control, the Singer women were hidden by a Benedictine monk for two years in Catholic convents. When the war ended her family came to the United States and settled in New York City where they reunited with Flora’s father.

When Flora Singer came to America in 1946 she was 16 years old. She worked initially as a seamstress, then she studied stenography and became a secretary.

It was in New York City that she met Jack Singer, and the couple moved first to Long

Island, then to Pennsylvania before they settled in Potomac.

Flora went back to school and earned her B.A. and M.A., both in French, from the University of Maryland. She began teaching both at the University of Maryland and Montgomery County Public schools.

From 1978 to 1993 Singer taught French at Walt Whitman and Albert Einstein High Schools and Cabin John Middle School. In addition to teaching French, she helped to prepare an instructional curriculum for teachers teaching the Holocaust, but it wasn’t until several years ago that she ever considered putting her story to paper. Then she saw literature from an organization that denied the Holocaust and she felt compelled to share all that she had experienced and witnessed. Her mother had spoken of the Holocaust as she grew up, but some parts of what she had experienced she had shielded from her children, said Landsman.

That included an anecdote from the book where Flora could do nothing more than cower in a hallway as a Nazi soldier forced her mother into a room. The book implies that a sexual assault took place, but it is not specific, perhaps in part because Flora Singer always focused on the good that she saw in people during those years. That good

included another Nazi soldier who notified the girls of impending roundups and would sneak them food. Those were the lessons that Singer tried to impart in her Holocaust teachings, said Landsman — the good of people that shown through in the worst of times.

Years later, when she was a teacher in Montgomery County, she overheard a student make an anti-Semitic remark. Instead of getting angry, she calmly pulled the student aside and explained to her why such a remark was inappropriate, said Landsman. The two grew to be close friends, staying in contact for years.

“She always found some silver lining to explain why somebody’s behavior was the way it was,” said Landsman. “She was just so incredibly forgiving, and I guess that’s what’s stuck with me is that tolerance. We’re always so short to judge people.”

“She didn’t believe in the evil of people, she believed in the good of people,” Jack Singer said.

AS THE NUMBERS of Holocaust survivors dwindle, contributions like Singer’s are that much more important, said Bloomfield, and the challenge to educate future generations by retelling the stories of survivors becomes more imperative.

“There’s no substitute for the human au-

thenticity,” said Bloomfield. “We know there’s nothing that can match the authentic voice.”

Singer’s book will be part of the history that will help educate future generations, said Shirley Brandman, president of the Board of Education for the county schools.

“She didn’t believe in the evil of people, she believed in the good of people.”

— Jack Singer

“I think it’s an invaluable contribution because when you think of the passing of history and you have somebody who herself was a survivor and could bring her experience I think it had a very powerful impact and continues to do so,” said Brandman, who attended Singer’s funeral to honor her contribution to the county schools, she said.

“With the passing of many of the survivors, as we lose their voices, the torch passes to the next generation to learn and to tell their stories,” said Brandman.

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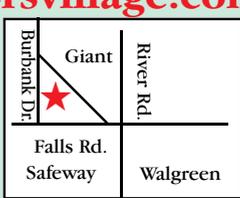
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PEOPLE

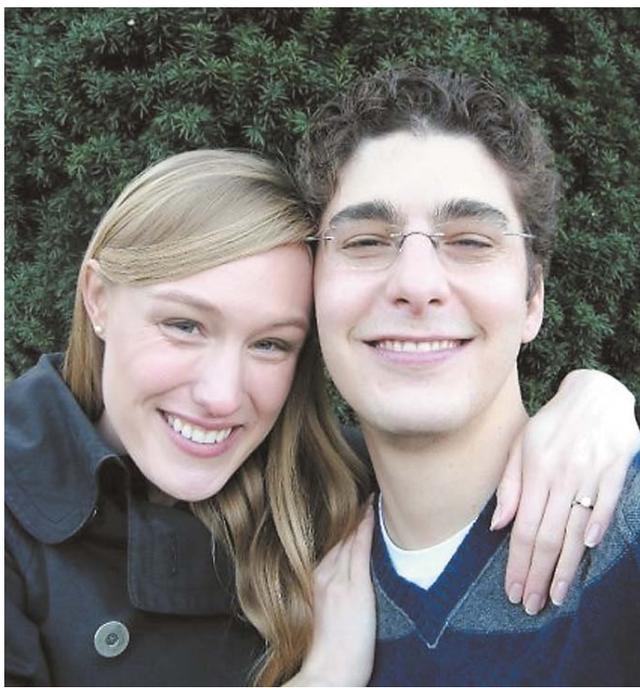
Wescott, Woodside Engaged

Karen Wise and Robert Wescott of Potomac announce the engagement of their daughter Emily A. Wescott to Christopher B. Woodside, son of Annette Levitine-Woodside and Blair Woodside III of Bethesda.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Winston Churchill High School and earned her BA in political science from Wake Forest University. She is currently employed as a research assistant with Keybridge Research, an economic consulting firm.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Walt Whitman High School and earned his BA in political science from Miami University. He is employed by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues as policy coordinator.

A December wedding is planned.



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.

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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Alexander Dowd of Potomac, was named to the University at Albany's fall 2008 dean's list for outstanding academic achievement.

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.

Religion Class. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Jewish Rockville Outreach Center, 11304 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Learn about Kabbalah. \$75/person. Register, 301-468-3881.

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.

Support Group. DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, National Capital Area) Family Support Group, will meet at 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall of St. Raphael's Church at 1513 Dunster Road in Rockville. The meeting is for the families and friends of people who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar illness. Free. 301-299-4255 or 301-570-9065, or visit www.dbsanca-family.org

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

on the C & O Canal, send an e-mail to Norman Liebow at Liebow@comcast.net or 301-714-2218.

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 karlofft@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. "My Montgomery" can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mymontgomery and visitors to the site need only type in their address and zip code.

Volunteers are needed to assist sexual assault victims and their families through the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. To schedule an interview visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap or 240-777-1355.

JSSA (Jewish Social Service Agency), a non-sectarian community agency, is seeking volunteers over the age of 18 to help enhance the quality of life of individuals and families facing life-threatening or terminal illness. The next training course is scheduled for Mondays, Feb. 23, March 2, March 9, March 23, and March 30, from 5:30-9 p.m. at JSSA's Montrose Road office, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. For more information, contact Amy Kaufman Goott, Volunteer Coordinator for JSSA Hospice and Transitions at 301-816-2650, agoott@jssa.org or visit JSSA on the web at www.jssa.org.

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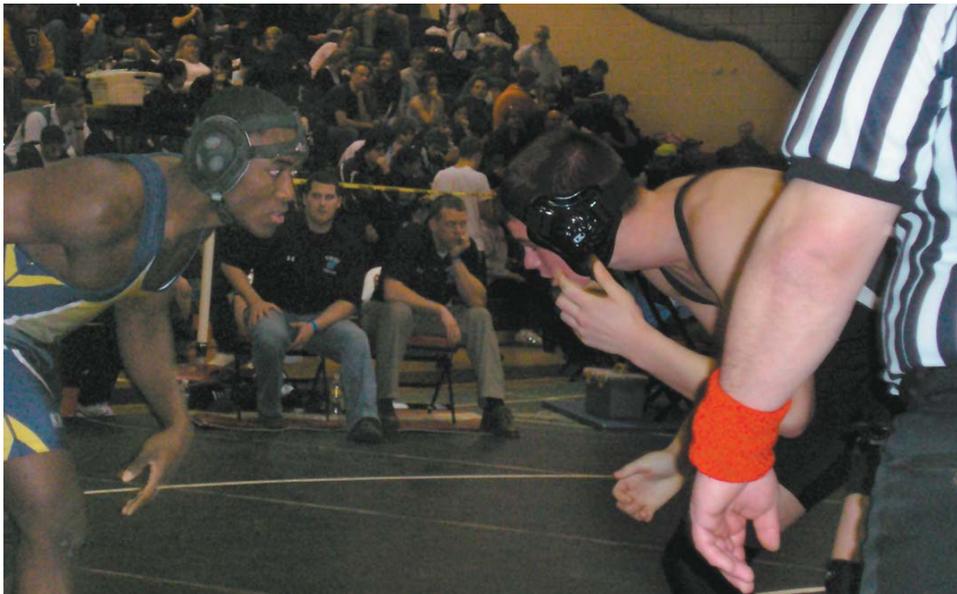
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Whitman's Taylor Leighton (right) rebounded from a third-place finish at the county tournament a couple weeks ago to take second in the 171-pound weight class at this past weekend's state tournament.



Churchill senior Mike Chen (right) locks up with Magruder's Max Schneidermann in the 119-pound county finals, a match Chen lost. He rebounded to win the regional tournament over Schneidermann a week later and used the momentum to make a run to the finals at last weekend's state tournament.

PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC

Wrestlers Make 'Unlikely' Runs at States

Churchill's Chen, Whitman's Leighton and Lee all make it to the state finals.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

As he warmed up for the 4A/3A 119-pound state finals match last Saturday evening, it finally occurred to Churchill's Mike Chen just how remarkable the past two days had been.

A regional champion the week before, the senior had pinned his way to every wrestler's dream match — the finals of the 4A/3A MPSSAA Wrestling Tournament in College Park, Md. — an accomplishment

that even he didn't know how to fully comprehend.

"Right before my match it was like, 'Whoa, what am I doing here? This is insane,'" said Chen.

But up against Urbana's Adam Krop, the defending 112-pound state champion, Chen wrestled like he knew he belonged the whole time. Although he was pinned with 28 seconds remaining in the third period, Chen was tied, 2-2, heading into the second period and came within inches of completing a near-cradle reversal that would have put Krop on his back.

It capped off a weekend for the Churchill captain that not many people thought could happen as little as two weeks ago when Chen lost handily to Magruder's Max Schneidermann in the county finals.

But last week at the 4A/3A regional finals Chen avenged that loss, defeating Schneidermann and in the process securing a No. 1 seed and a healthy dose of confidence heading into states.

"He's without question the most unlikely finalist I've ever coached," said Churchill's Mike Endler, who has been a part of nine individual state finals. "But it was no fluke,

it's no easy task to make it to a state final."

Perhaps Chen's toughest match came in the quarterfinals against Northern's Quentin Leadbeter, a Maryland National Team member with just one loss heading into the state tournament. After a back-and-forth match, Chen pinned his supposedly more talented foe in the overtime period.

The "unorthodox" wrestler, according to Endler, followed that up in the semifinals by pinning Broadneck's Houston Zemanski with that same near cradle just moments after popping his own head out of a

SEE WRESTLERS, PAGE 15

Wootton Girls Hit Semifinal 'Wall'

After strong regular season, Wootton loses in regional semis for third-straight year.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

Following last Thursday's 4A West regional semifinal game against Northwest, it was hard to blame Wootton girl's basketball coach Maggie Dyer for trying to ignore some bittersweet facts about her team.

The Patriots had just endured a subpar performance in a 67-53 loss to Northwest, thanks in large part to the play of Jaguar senior Deven Green (32 points, 10 rebounds). It had Dyer searching for answers afterward, especially since her team had played so well in a 65-45 quarterfinal win over Quince Orchard just two days prior.

"We played a great game against Quince Orchard and then to come out and to have a down against [Northwest], you almost wish you could play your mediocre game the first time. That's the interesting thing, you never know what's going to happen in

the playoffs."

Forgive Dyer if that last statement is a bit off — she's only now beginning to realize it. The loss to the Jaguars last week marks the third-consecutive season that Wootton (19-5) has won more than 18 games and taken home a regular-season division crown, only to watch it fall apart in the regional semifinals.

"I'll keep banging my head up against this wall," joked Dyer. "I guess it's just what I do."

Leading the way for No. 2 seed Wootton were sophomores Gabby Flinchum (14 points, 11 rebounds) and Jessica Welch (16 points, including 11-of-12 shooting from the free throw line), but it wasn't enough to overcome the talented Green, who scored 14 of her team's 22 first-half points.

BUT IT WAS the second half that did in Wootton. Trailing by just two at halftime, the Patriots allowed Northwest to go on a 7-2 run to start the half. By the time the third quarter was finished, the Jaguars had outscored Wootton, 21-10, and had a commanding 13-point lead.

During the regular season, No. 3 seed Northwest (20-6) and Wootton split two match-ups. But in the

SEE WOOTTON GIRLS, PAGE 15



Wootton sophomore Gaby Flinchum had 14 points and 11 rebounds against Northwest last Thursday, but it wasn't enough as the Patriots fell in the region semifinals for the third-straight season. Here Flinchum is pictured attempting a free throw against Churchill earlier in the season.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

A Scale of Two Weights



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," there were euphoric highs, there were abysmal lows, there were numbers I thought I'd never see, there were other numbers I was tired of seeing. Overall, I've had a dickens of a time finding the proper balance between diet and exercise, risk and reward, pain and pleasure, finding clothes that fit and throwing a fit when clothes couldn't be found.

As a former shopper in the "Husky Department" in some of Boston's finest department stores (at least when I was younger): Jordon Marsh, Filene's and Kennedy's, I know all too well the frustration and disappointment the effect one's over-weight can have on their appearance and disposition. Every year that I went clothes-shopping with my mother, from childhood through adolescence, it was the same story; only the specific sizes, colors, styles, etc. changed. And though I never had great expectations that one day, one of these visits to downtown Boston wouldn't consume an entire day and/or that I wouldn't experience excruciating anxiety during the entire ordeal, still, I had hope that something would fit on the first try, anything, even if it were just the shoes.

Occasionally, something did fit, but more often than not, it was socks or underwear. Most everything else — pants, shirts, sweaters, sport coats, jackets — had to be tried on, then taken off, then another size selected, then that other size tried on, then taken off, and on and on. My dressing room would always be littered with the clothes that didn't make the fit. Pants were hanging on a hook, shirts and sweaters were piled on the bench, pins and needles and cardboard and plastic wrapping from the items I opened were scattered about like Halloween candy the morning after, except that there would be no inspection of this haul.

This haul was going nowhere, at least, nowhere with me. It had not made the cut, or more specifically, couldn't make it over my hips or around my stomach or over my shoulders. Either it was to be seen and approved by my mother and thus considered for a ride home and a place in my closet — ultimately to be worn and seen at school where occasionally a discouraging word was heard — or it would never be seen or heard from again. The reality was, when you're young and not exactly "a perfect 36," clothes don't exactly make the man, they embarrass and humiliate the man.

If I were to characterize my clothes-shopping in the past, my clothes-shopping in the present and my likely clothes-shopping in the future, my emotions would run the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous with a few stops in between for apathy and indigestion. I don't really see how it could have been (continues to be) any different though. It's my body, it's my eating habits, it's my choice. I have no one to blame but myself but also I have nothing to fear. So far I'm healthy (relatively speaking), but unfortunately not wealthy.

A little extra weight never hurt anyone. The question is, how much is a little? Don't ask my wife, Dina, we don't exactly agree; so what else is new?

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

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SPORTS

Wootton Girls Hit Semifinal 'Wall' Again

FROM PAGE 13

Jaguars' 62-52 win on Feb. 4, some hot 3-point shooting did the Patriots in. This time around, Wootton's perimeter defense was more effective, holding Northwest to 2-of-14 shooting from beyond the arc.

"On the flip side, there's Devin and she was exceptional," said Dyer. "The last two times we played them, Devin hasn't been their leading scorer. We were kind of looking at film and we know she's a tremendous player, but we know when she steps on the court she's probably going to get 15 points. We didn't expect that 15 to be 32."

Northwest ended up losing in the 4A West regional finals to Blake, 55-51, last Saturday. Blake now moves onto this weekend's state final four.

THE LOSS WON'T dampen the careers of Wootton's five-member senior class, though. Guards Sarah Bolmer and Kara Vetrano and forward Chelsea Craig (committed to Delaware for basketball) played pivotal roles in the revitalization of the Patriot girl's basketball program during Dyer's six-year tenure, and everyone provided "tremendous" leadership skills, according to the coach.

Although the Patriots lose their best player next season — Craig (six points, 14 rebounds against Northwest) — Wootton appears on stable footing with talented sophomores like Flinchum and Welch. That and three-consecutive division titles are hard to overlook, playoff struggles or not.

"The nice thing is we have kids in our program and kids on our team that don't know how to quit," said Dyer. "It would have been nice if we hit some more shots and things had gone our way a little bit more, but Northwest played great."

Wootton's Jessica Welch drives to the basket during an earlier game against Churchill this season. Welch, a sophomore, had 16 points in the Patriots playoff loss to Northwest last Thursday.



Wrestlers Make 'Unlikely' Runs at States

FROM PAGE 13

Zemanski pinning combination.

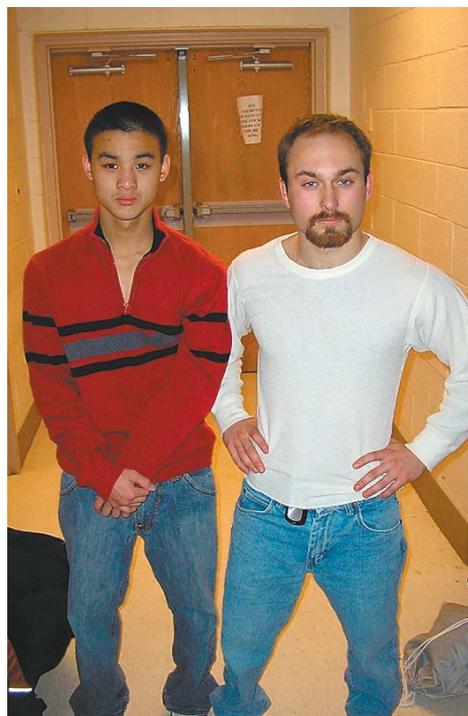
What makes Chen's run to the finals even more impressive is that he didn't begin wrestling until ninth grade. Most light-weight grapplers begin at a young age, and therefore are technically advanced by the time they get to high school.

It didn't hurt that Churchill's first-year assistant coach, Brandon Shapiro, happens to be a two-time Maryland state champion in the same 119-pound weight class that Chen competes in now. The two wrestled together in practice throughout the season, and it gave Chen all the confidence he needed.

"Some people thought I wouldn't even make it past the regional," said Chen, who finished the year with a 35-6 record. "That gave me extra motivation. It motivated me to work harder and get better."

MEANWHILE, WHITMAN used the state tournament as more proof that it belongs in any conversation revolving around the state's elite wrestling schools. The Vikings finished second in the team competition, just four points behind first-place Old Mill.

Whitman was led by its two junior finalists, 171-pounder Taylor Leighton (31-6 record) and 215-pounder Danny Lee (32-3 record), who both lost in the state finals to



Churchill's Mike Chen (left) had a three-match run to the 119-pound state finals this weekend. He credits the work he put in with former two-time 119-pound state champion and current Churchill assistant coach Brandon Shapiro (right) for helping him get there.

finish in second place in their respective weight classes. Lee followed up his county and regional championships by winning close decisions in both the state quarterfinals and semifinals before succumbing to Mwanza Walamulumba of Meade in the finals, 7-5. Leighton, like Chen, wasn't expected to make it to the finals after finishing third at the county tournament and second at the region tournament. Leighton lost to Springbrook's Nadjutade Badke in both the regional and state finals.

Following county and regional titles the two weeks prior, Viking seniors Eric Beverly (145 pounds, 4th place), Steven Fisher (160 pounds, 3rd), and Aaron Norris (189 pounds, 5th place) fell just short of their state title dreams, but were instrumental in the team scoring aspect of the two-day event. Afterwards coach Derek Manon couldn't help but feel a little disappointed in just how close his team came to proving it was the best program in the state.

"Both us and [Old Mill] had two finalists and we felt that we had a real good chance there," said Manon, whose team has six state qualifiers returning next year. "A couple things go our way — one match, really — it could be a different story. But ... it feels real good to be right up there with all the elite teams in this area."

Park or Recreation?

FROM PAGE 3

and PHED committee member Marc Elrich (D-at large), who requested the initial OLO report. In addition to saving the county money, such program consolidation could potentially streamline the processes by with county residents and organizations schedule and reserve parks, said Elrich.

Representatives from both the recreation and parks agencies said at Monday's hearing that the needs of residents would be better served, in the event of a departmental merger, if theirs was the department to do the assuming.

Mary Bradford, director of the park's commission, said that because her agency is significantly larger it could more readily assume the operations of the county's recreation department and could be operational in that capacity by July 15.

Gabe Alborno, the director of the recreation department, said that his agency would be more appropriately in position to execute the mission of the county, as it is overseen by the County Executive's office, whereas the Park and Planning Commission is a bi-county agency that serves both Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties.

OPPONENTS ARE LESS concerned with the territorial dispute between the departments than with the fear that the potential assumption of responsibility for the county's parks by the Department of Recreation would threaten the integrity and preservation of parkland.

A joint letter signed by representatives of the Audubon Naturalist Society, the West Montgomery County Citizens Association and the Neighbors of Northwest Branch and distributed to media outlets on Friday, March 6 warned that "[r]ecreation [department] contractors are not obliged to include a conservation or stewardship message. The Department itself does not have any track record for environmental stewardship." The letter urged that no action be taken by the Council or the PHED committee before a public hearing on the matter could be scheduled to obtain input from county residents.

Similar efforts to streamline the programs offered by both departments failed in the 1990s, and subsequent efforts to operate in a more collaborative, coordinated manner have failed as leadership in the county and in both agencies has turned over, said Alborno.

The PHED committee ultimately took no action at the end of Monday's hearing, instead directing their staff to analyze the matter further before rescheduling it for further discussion.

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