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Winston Churchill High School celebrates 20 years of Blast this year with "Instant Replay," which will feature musical numbers and alumni performers from shows passed.

Instant Replay

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Couple Escapes House Fire

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Hicks Chases His College Dreams

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Two-Pronged Charity Effort

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT SELMAN

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20TH ANNIVERSARY

BLAST 2009



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PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



A two-alarm house fire in the 7200 block of Brookstone Court on Friday, April 10 destroyed roughly a quarter of the home but the home's occupants escaped unharmed.

Brookstone Court House Fire

Occupants escape unharmed, house suffers extensive damage.

A fire severely damaged roughly 25 percent of a residence and a substantial amount of valuable artwork in a home in the 7200 block of Brookstone Court on Friday, April 10. No one was injured in the blaze.

The fire is believed to have started in a wall in the front portion of the home, then spread upwards into the roof. The cause is believed to be accidental and electrical in nature but the exact cause was still undetermined when *The Almanac* went to press.

The home's occupants, a husband and wife, were at home shortly before 11:30 a.m. when the smoke alarm went off, and the husband found smoke pouring out from a utility closet. The smoke alarm was received by the home's security company, which confirmed with the couple that there was smoke in the home and called the Montgomery County Fire and

Rescue Services, said Pete Piring, an MCFRS spokesman.

The two-alarm blaze brought roughly 75 rescue personnel from several local fire departments including Fairfax (Va.) Fire and Rescue, said Piring. The couple escaped unharmed with their dog.

In all three firefighters suffered minor injuries in the blaze — Piring characterized those injuries as bumps, bruises and strains — and were treated and released the same day.

Investigators did not immediately know the cause of the fire, and Piring said the

smoke coming from the utility closet on the ground floor level of the home could have originated in a floor below and emanated upwards to the ground floor of the home, which is built in on a slope in the cul de sac of Brookstone Court in a descending, terraced style.

"Fire and smoke typically follow that path of least resistance," said Piring.

The fire caused at least \$250,000 worth of damage to the structure and an additional \$250,000 worth of damage to the

SEE DAMAGE, PAGE 10



A rescue worker climbs a ladder to the home, which is built in a descending, terraced style on the back of a hill at the end of the cul de sac on Brookstone Court.

Two Goals In Charity Effort

Food drive aims to help hungry and engage local Muslims in their community.

As shoppers made last minute food runs to the Giant supermarket in Potomac Village for Easter dinner on Sunday, April 12, Guled Kassim stood outside the store's entrance trying to conjure up the cold-weather training he went through a decade ago as a U.S. Marine. As one of three volunteers from the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, Kassim had spent nearly three hours in front of the store soliciting donations of non-perishable foods to help the county's depleted food banks, but with no jacket to warm him the chilly morning air had left him feeling a little diminished as well.

"Earlier we had the sun, but it shifted over there," he said with a laugh, motioning to the parking lot.

Kassim wasn't alone in his efforts that morning, as members of the Muslim community collected non-perishable goods at

SEE TWO-PRONGED, PAGE 5

Instant Throwbacks

Twenty years of Blast will feature alumni and musical numbers from shows passed.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Many people dream about reliving high school for one more game, one more show, one more walk through the halls. David Fraga gets to do it.

Six years after his final performance after four years of theater at Winston Churchill High School, Fraga (Churchill '03) will step out on stage at the Gertrude Bish

SEE BLAST, PAGE 6

Prosecution Date for Invasion Suspect Set

The man suspected in last year's deadly series of home invasions is scheduled to begin trial on Monday, May 11. Jose Garcia-Perlera of Hyattsville is accused of perpetrating six home invasions in Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Northwest Washington, D.C. that targeted the elderly. During one of those invasions Mary Frances Havenstein of Seven Locks Road in Bethesda was killed. Garcia-Perlera has been charged by indictment with 17 counts, including murder, home invasion, burglaries, and robberies. This trial will include evidence related to crimes that began in November 2007 and ran through September 2008. These criminal events, which involved four elderly victims, occurred during September and October 2008. Local officials held several community meetings; more than 700 citizens attended one of the community forums to learn about police efforts to solve these cases. These cases garnered attention partly because of the victims' age, and there was widespread coverage of the fact that each victim was hog-tied and bound during the home invasions. The state anticipates that jury selection will be completed on May 11. The state has summonsed nearly 100 witnesses and anticipates a two-week trial. The case is

being prosecuted by Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy.

Canal Pride Starts This Weekend

The second annual C&O Canal Pride Days kick off this weekend. The C&O Canal Trust, in partnership with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, seeks community-minded individuals and organizations to complete over 35 revitalization and stewardship projects throughout the park during the upcoming C&O Canal Pride Days. Locations and dates are as follows: April 18 at Great Falls, April 25 at Brunswick and Lander, and May 2 at Williamsport and Hancock. All interested groups and individuals are asked to pre-register so they can be matched to jobs in advance. Sign up online at <http://www.canaltrust.org/canalpride-app-2009.php> or by calling the C&O Canal Trust at 301-714-2233. For more information about the event go to: <http://www.canaltrust.org/canalpridedays-2009.php>

Canal Benefit at Old Angler's Inn

After the start to C&O Canal Pride Days on Saturday, April 18, Old Angler's Inn will host a fund-raiser for the C&O Canal Trust. Celebrate warming temperatures, budding trees, and a new season on the C&O Canal with complimentary picnic fare (hot dogs, chips, and sodas), a raffle, and door prizes. A donation of \$30/person or \$75 for the whole family will help the Trust support the C&O Canal National Historical Park. All proceeds will be put towards improvements in the park. Children under 8 are free. Muddy boots and wet river gear are strongly encouraged. Volunteers wearing their t-shirt from the C&O Canal Pride Days 2009 kickoff at Great Falls will receive a free raffle ticket.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, online at canaltrust.org or by calling 301-714-2233.

20 Years of Blast

Instant Replay will take place at Winston Churchill High School on April 17-18 and April 24-25 at 7:30 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Visit the Web site: www.churchillhs.org for ticket order forms and box office hours.

Spring House Tour Coming

The inaugural Entertaining You Potomac Spring House Tour sponsored by Potomac's Congregation Har Shalom will take place on Sunday and Monday, May 3 and 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and tickets are on sale now. Tickets are limited and may be reserved in advance, for \$25 each, by calling the congregation at 301-299-7087, or at the House Tour Web site, www.PotomacHouseTour.org, by credit card. Ticket order forms

SEE THE WEEK IN POTOMAC. PAGE 13

NEWS

Update: Sprinkles Stays

Ice cream store owner says new lease will keep locally-owned store in present location for years.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Many is the night that the phone rings in the Sprinkles ice cream store in Potomac Village shortly before closing time at 9:30 p.m. with a caller on the other end wondering if the store can stay open long enough for them to come in and get their sweet tooth fix. Sprinkles owner Tom Orban doesn't turn down those callers and doesn't mind waiting for such customers to show.

"That's the interactivity I like having with the community," Orban said. "It says 9:30 on the door but that's just because every store's supposed to have a closing time."

That interactivity and those flexible store hours will return for a 20th year this year and for several more years to come after Orban reached agreement on a new lease with Zuckerman Gravely Management. The lease, which Orban said he signed and delivered to Zuckerman Gravely officials in the first week of April, ensures his store's presence in its Potomac Village location for the next decade, though Orban declined to discuss the exact terms of the lease. Zuckerman Gravely officials did not return calls from The Almanac seeking confirmation of the new deal.

The apparent agreement is an about face from Zuckerman Gravely after they informed Orban last summer that they would not renew his expiring lease. That set off a backlash from the community which plastered his store with homemade signs of support, wrote letters to the management company, and started up two Facebook support groups with hundreds of members. Zuckerman management officials reversed course in the fall, but the two sides did not reach a formal agreement until this month.

"There's no simple answer," said James Rich, a senior vice president with Zuckerman Gravely, in October. "The owners evaluated a couple of options for the space including other ice cream stores ... and ultimately made a decision."

No Charges for Neighborhood Pranksters

Seven teenagers stopped by police in two separate incidents on April 4 for conducting pranks around Potomac were not charged with crimes. Though several of the teens were stopped near residences of the River Falls neighborhood, police do not believe that they are connected to a series of car break-ins that have taken place in the neighborhood over the last year.

The pranks by the teens gained public attention after police were called to a home on Rock Run Drive last month to investigate reports of masked men hiding in bushes and ringing the home's

doorbell.

The occupants called police and feared they were being targeted for a home invasion.

In an email to The Almanac last week Capt. Darryl McSwain, First District Commander of the Montgomery County Police Department, said that none of the teens involved in the April 4 pranks were charged with crimes and police have not linked them to the string of car break-ins that have taken place in the River Falls neighborhood over the last year.

"Please note that no one should assume matters like this are not taken seriously by the police due

to the fear they can generate in a community," McSwain wrote. "It is for that reason that we have made it a point to ensure all of the affected parents are made aware of the juveniles' actions with the hope that this extra level of accountability will deter similar behavior in the future."

In a letter to the Potomac community last week McSwain urged community members to continue common home safety practices and to contact police regarding any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods.

— AARON STERN



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Sprinkles owner Tom Orban, left, says that a new lease agreement with Zuckerman Gravely Management will keep his store in Potomac Village for the next decade. Potomac resident Angela Zier, right, and Orban have teamed up to sell homemade cupcakes individually and in batches by special order.

IT'S FUTURE now assured, Orban is planning a 20th anniversary celebration for this summer that will likely feature free ice cream and the return of past store employees like Susan Kiplagat and Joseph Cohen, familiar faces to Sprinkles regulars.

Changes for the store that originally opened as an I Can't Believe It's Yogurt franchise are afoot as well. Those will include interior renovations over the next several months like new counters and a new floor as well as the addition of a few new ice cream and soft serve.

The first big change in Sprinkles has already taken place — last week they started selling homemade cupcakes, courtesy of Potomac resident Angela Zier. Cupcakes are all the rage these days, but Zier said she has long made cupcakes for friends and had hoped to one day open a cupcake shop in Potomac.

"Potomac doesn't have a cupcake place," Zier said. "We put our heads together and decided this was the way to go." It's an added local twist to a store that Orban said prides itself on being part of the local community, and in recent days as he has told his customers about the new lease, and Orban said that their reaction and continuing support has been heartwarming.

"People who are coming in here are so delighted with the news," Orban said.

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



Guled Kassim, Tufeil Ahmad, and Sohail Malik of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation collect non-perishable items to donate to Manna Food Center in Rockville on Easter Sunday, April 12.

Two-Pronged Charity Effort

FROM PAGE 3

10 area grocery stores to donate to the Manna Food Center in Rockville, a non-profit organization that distributes food to at-need residents in Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes the interests and involvement of Muslims in Montgomery County, is running the food collection throughout April with collections at grocery stores each weekend.

The economic recession has simultaneously decreased charitable donations to local aid organizations while increasing the number of those who are in need of assis-

tance, said Sohail Malik of Potomac, so the goal of the food drive is to try to bridge that widening gap between distress and relief. In a similar drive two years ago the organization collected 15,000 pounds of goods and hopes to top that figure this year. Standing next to a grocery cart stacked full of donated goods, Kassim said he was very pleased by people's willingness to donate.

"It blows you away, the generosity of people," he said.

Tufail Ahmad, a Potomac resident and former County Council candidate, said that the secondary goal of the food drive and

SEE HELP THE HUNGRY, PAGE 11

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Presenting 20 Years of Blast

FROM PAGE 3

auditorium for an unexpected encore and he won't be alone. This weekend Churchill kicks off its 20th season of Blast, its annual spring music revue, and Fraga is one of several alumni who are scheduled to return and to perform with current students to celebrate the long-running and popular theatrical tradition.

"The faces change but the show and the spirit remains the same," said Fraga.

This year's edition of Blast — "Instant Replay" — will feature not just performers from shows passed, but will also highlight popular musical numbers from old shows — "oldies but goodies," said Churchill senior and performer Emma Sorenson, who is also one of the show's student vocal directors — in addition to new, current songs.

As always, the performances onstage will be backed by weeks of hard work, preparation, and a flurry of activity behind the scenes. In a statement on the Churchill Web site, Blast producer, director and choreographer Carlos Barillo called Blast "a wonderful musical journey" that brings together 130 singers and dancers, 30 stage crew members, and a 20 piece band that "brings together the old song and dance vaudeville acts with the new age technology."

"For me it's less about being onstage most of the time because a lot of it is working with the band, working with the singers and that's the kind of interaction that I really like," said Sorenson.

The preparation behind the scenes includes hard work that goes into the scenery itself, which company manager and senior Erin Wert said will wow the audience.

"The thing I like most about the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTT SELMAN

Shawn Jang is one of roughly 130 current Churchill students will be joined onstage by several returning Churchill alumni for Blast: Instant Replay, the 20th anniversary celebration of the popular musical revue.

show this year is the set because the set is amazing," said Wert, who is performing in four musical numbers in addition to her offstage duties.

All that hard work offstage will

20th Anniversary

Winston Churchill High School celebrates 20 years of its annual spring musical revue Blast, with this year's show "Instant Replay." The show runs Friday April 17, Saturday April 18, and Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25. Friday shows start at 7:30 p.m., with matinee shows on Saturdays starting at 2:30 p.m. to be followed by evening shows at 7:30 p.m. Backstage tours are a new feature of Blast this year, taking place April 18-25 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on show times, ticket prices and backstage tour reservations visit Churchills.org.

set the table for a show that Sorenson said will be one of the best Blast's of all time. Wert said that she hopes to one day find herself in Fraga's shoes.

"I think it's pretty exciting that the alumni get to come back and participate in the show," said senior Erin Wert. "If I was an [alumnus] I would love to come back and do it again."

Fraga himself can't wait. Six years after a series of performances that made his closest friends and created his fondest memories from high school he is excited, if a bit nervous to be back onstage.

"Nervous? Yeah, why not?" he said. "I'm nervous but at the same time I know it's all in the spirit of having fun so I'm more excited than I am nervous."



Churchill's MacKenzie Dolginow and Leah Freilich will take the stage this weekend as the school celebrates 20 years of Blast.



Blast celebrates 20 years of song and dance numbers featuring popular songs both new and old.

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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/APRIL 16

Author Talk. 7:30 p.m. at Campus Center Building, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Alice McDermott will read from "After This." Free.
Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Studio Theater, 12901 Town Commons Drive. Hear Bethany and Rufus perform. \$22/advance; \$27/door. Visit www.blackrockcenter.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.
Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission to be determined. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.
Blast From the Past. 7:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road. Enjoy a rock and roll revue. \$20/adult; \$14/student. Visit www.churchills.org or 301-469-1243 for matinee times.
Bethesda Literary Festival. 7:30 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St. Enjoy a reading and discussion with Kimberly Dozier. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Art Talk. 10 a.m.-noon at St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road. Robin Russo will talk about silk. Free. Visit www.potomaccraftsmen.org for more.
Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Pat Liebowitz. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.
Park Movie. 4 p.m. at Arcade Building at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Watch a movie documenting the park's 115-year history. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.
Carousel Tours. Noon at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See how it was made, how it works and more. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/glec or 301-320-1400.
Nature Programs. Enjoy activities, stories, animals, hikes and more from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free for members and children under 2, \$5/non member. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or 202-488-0627.
Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Puppet Co. in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$5/person. Watch "Clowning Around." Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.
Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Admission to be determined. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.
Blast From the Past. 7:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road. Enjoy a rock and roll revue. \$20/adult; \$14/student. Visit www.churchills.org or 301-469-1243 for matinee times.
StoryTheatre Series. 10:15 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Magpie." \$7/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.
Bethesda Literary Festival. Noon-9 p.m. at The Writer's Center, 4508



Bethany & Rufus, a folk duo, will be performing 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16 as part of the Third Thursday Coffeehouse Series at Black Rock Center for the Arts. Visit www.blackrockcenter.org for more.

Walsh St. Meet editors and publishers, enjoy readings and more. Visit www.bethesda.org for more.
Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Hear Irish pianist John O'Connor. For more information: www.washingtonconservatory.org and 301-320-2770.
Bunnyland. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Butler's Orchard, 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown. Families can enjoy rides, egg hunts, see live chicks and bunnies and more. \$7/child, \$5/adult. Bring own basket. Visit www.butlersorchard.com or 301-428-0444.

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

The Language of Dogs. 3-5 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Learn about what dogs are saying. Free. Registration required, www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913.
Bug Walk. 1 p.m. at River Center at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Discover the animals that people can find along the Potomac River. Visit www.potomac.org.
Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. "Iconic Glen Echo Park" features Daniel Schreiber's photographs of historic Glen Echo Park. 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org.
Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Pat Liebowitz. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.
Critiques and Coffee. 10 a.m. at Photoworks studio in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Bring a photo and get some critique from peers. 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. Enjoy live music to dance. \$12/nonmember; \$9 to member. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

Bug Walk. 1 p.m. at Lockhouse 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Discover the creepy crawlies along the river. Visit www.potomac.org or 301-608-1188 ext. 211.

Holocaust Heroes and Martyrs Day. 2 p.m. at Beth Shalom, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Hear talk by Mark Talisman and more. RSVP for youth program. 301-770-0881.

Bunnyland. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Butler's Orchard, 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown. Families can enjoy rides, egg hunts, see live chicks and bunnies and more. \$7/child, \$5/adult. Bring own basket. Visit www.butlersorchard.com or 301-428-0444.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road. Hear music by Out of the Blue, all male a cappella group. \$10/adult; \$8/student.

MONDAY/APRIL 20

StoryTheatre Series. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Magpie." \$7/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

TUESDAY/APRIL 21

Tiny Tot Tuesdays. 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Puppet Co. in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$5/person. Watch "Teddy Bear's Picnic." Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Holocaust Commemoration. 6:30 p.m. at Theatre Arts Arena, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Enjoy a reading, music and more. Free. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/humanities or 240-567-7417.

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

Literary Luncheon Series. The Friends of the Montgomery County Library's 21st annual Literary Luncheon Series continues with Elizabeth Noble, international best-selling author 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 only.
Blues Dance. 8:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Learn the dances and then enjoy music from a DJ. \$8/person.

FRIDAY/APRIL 24

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy live music to dance. \$9. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.
Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 8 p.m. at Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Price to be determined.
Blast From the Past. 7:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road. Enjoy a rock and roll revue. \$20/adult; \$14/student. Visit www.churchills.org or 301-469-1243 for matinee times.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Living With an Out Of Control Dog. 2-4 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Laurie Luck will show how to teach dogs self-control. Free. Registration required, www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913.



"Metamorphoses" is playing through April 18 at 8 p.m. and April 19 at 2 p.m. at Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC for more.

Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Nina Bang Jensen. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

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

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

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

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Puppet Co. in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$5/person. Watch "World on a String." Visit www.thepuppetco.org or 301-634-5380.

Blast From the Past. 7:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road. Enjoy a rock and roll revue. \$20/adult; \$14/student. Visit www.churchills.org or 301-469-1243 for matinee times.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Benefit HIV/AIDS Program. \$35/person. Visit www.bradleyhillschurch.org for more.

StoryTheatre Series. 10:15 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Magpie." \$7/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

Global Youth Service Day. Noon-3:30 p.m. at Bauer Drive Community Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville. Middle and high school students can make t-shirts, journals, clean up and more. Free. 240-777-6985.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

Angelina Ballerina Open House. Noon-2 p.m. at American Dance Institute, 1570 E. Jefferson St., Rockville. Dance and more. Free. Visit www.americandance.org or 301-984-3003.

Art Exhibit. Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. See paintings by Nina Bang Jensen. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com or 301-371-5593.

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

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

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

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$15/person. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Yogathon. 1-4 p.m. at Thrive Yoga, 1321 Rockville Pike, Rockville. Anyone with chronic pain. \$20/class. Reservations required, 301-309-2444 or www.painconnection.org for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 27

StoryTheatre Series. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Watch "Magpie." \$7/person. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

FINE ARTS

Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda, is showcasing paintings by **Douglas Wolfe April 7 through May 2.** Visit whitakerphotography.com or 301-951-9441.

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

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.

"Iconic Glen Echo Park," **April 4 through April 26** at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibition features Daniel Schreiber's photographs of historic Glen Echo Park. Open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org.

Bright Side Pictures: A Fine Arts Photography Exhibition, **April 18 through May 17** at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Photoworks at Glen Echo Park presents "Bright Side Pictures," a collaborative effort reflecting the creative talents and abilities of a trio of artists, including Rob Grant, Scott Grant, and Gary Jimerfield. Open Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays and Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

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 (May 12 - June 16) or Thursdays (May 14 - June 18). 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. Every Saturday and Sunday 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.ricksherbertglass.com.

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House Suffers \$250,000 Worth of Damage

FROM PAGE 3

contents of the home, including artwork and furniture, said Piringer.

When asked by reporters on the scene if he and his wife would be able to occupy the house anytime soon the husband, who did not give his name, said "I wish. Someday."

— AARON STERN



Rescue workers hydrate as the blaze winds down.



Pete Piringer, a spokesman for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue, details the circumstances of the fire as camera crews look on.

PHOTOS BY
AARON STERN/
THE ALMANAC



Fire and rescue vehicles lined Brookstone Court in the Mazza development as they battled a two-alarm house fire that destroyed roughly 25 percent of the home.

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NEWS

Working To Help the Hungry

FROM PAGE 5

similar activities by the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation is to engage local Muslims both young and old with the community at large.

"It's a growing community ... and they have woken up and they are participating," said Ahmad.

"We need to entice the Muslim community to be actively involved," said Kassim. "They're as American as the next American, as Muslim as the next Muslim." To the extent that members of the local Muslim community tend to be isolated from the outside community, the next step is to break down those barriers through projects like the food collection, Kassim said. So far the response to the current project has been good, particularly among younger Muslims, and the food drive has relied on the efforts of children from elementary school-age to recent college graduates, said Ahmad.

FAITH NOTES

Learn about **Sefardic Judaism** with Rabbi Leila Gal Berner, who offers a three-part program: 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.

"We need to entice the Muslim community to be actively involved. They're as American as the next American, as Muslim as the next Muslim."

— **Guled Kassim, Montgomery County Muslim Foundation**

"Everyone we've asked ... has been quite happy to be part of it," said Malik.

As he dropped off cans with Kassim, Ahmad and Malik on his way out of Giant on Sunday, Dan Arora offered an assessment with significance for the dual goals of the food drive.

"Every little bit helps," he said as he set off to the sunny parking lot.

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.



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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.

POTOMAC

9313 Bells Mill Rd.....	\$1,895,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Long & Foster.....	Alan Sherman.....	301-675-7673
8820 Saunders Lane.....	\$1,800,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Weichert.....	Mahin Ghadiri.....	301-996-2266
11008 South Glen Rd.....	\$1,795,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Long & Foster.....	Caryn Gardiner.....	301-802-4182
8909 Copenhagen Dr.....	\$1,175,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Long & Foster.....	Chana Sky.....	240-497-1700
8301 Hackamore Dr.....	\$1,299,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Long & Foster.....	Patty Prestigiaco.....	301-675-7623
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Bethesda

7527 Westfield Dr.....	\$1,899,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Remax.....	Ellen Lima.....	301-774-5900
6816 Carlynn Ct.....	\$929,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Long & Foster.....	Jayne Ehrens.....	240-401-7025
7009 Richard Dr.....	\$799,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Weichert.....	Michele Weinstein.....	301-718-4100

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.

REAL ESTATE

Focus Lifts Remodeling Firm

Partnerships attract and keep talent.

BY JOHN BYRD
FOR THE ALMANAC

In a year in which housing resales have slowed, credit is tight and investment portfolios are typically smaller, it would be reasonable to suppose that custom home builders and remodelers are just holding steady or even cutting back — anything but expanding.

Supporting this assumption is the fact that new home construction unemployment has been rising for 19 months, even as many remodelers confront lower demand and smaller projects.

Such metrics do not, however, apply to BOWA Builders, a nationally-recognized residential building firm with a large Potomac presence that recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. At BOWA, the scope and number of new projects has increased in the past 12 months, and — more significantly — the 80-employee firm is still adding top managers while expanding its geographic reach.

THE STORY of BOWA's growth stems from an unprecedented decision by the company's founding principals almost a decade back to offer partnerships to top managers, a career option usually associated with law firms, accounting practices and other professional service businesses. The idea is that senior managers — “team leaders” in BOWA-speak — are given unfettered general management control over their own geographic territories, and given incentives to both increase client lists and manage profitably. After seven years, they can participate in the company's stock ownership program, an option no eligible manager has so far failed to exercise.

“What BOWA's doing is attracting talent,” said Michael Morris, who edits Qualified Remodeler Magazine. “It's a smart idea. There are lots of so-so remodelers. But gifted managers who have mastered



Steve Kirstein

central administration,” said Steve Kirstein, who directs BOWA's Maryland division. “My job is to create finely-articulated homes for people who wouldn't be satisfied with anything less.” Kirstein, who holds a degree in construction engineering as well as an MBA, is a second-generation builder well-versed his industry's business traditions.

“I've seen talented builders and architects stretched so thin by the travails of running a small business that their personal performance becomes mediocre. When you're spending half your time on taxes, payroll and insurance, your core skills are just not being exercised,” he said.

In that sense, Kirstein thinks BOWA's approach is an improvement on the service matrix offered by the “boutique” remodeler since it allows more attention to the client's primary interests: “If the project head is spending a lot of time on non-project activities, he may need to compensate by charging everything he does at firm's top hourly rate.

“By contrast, BOWA is like a talent management agency — superb administrators oversee corporate matters ... so team leaders can be dedicated to delivering exceptional work.”

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Humane Society Adoption. Noon-3 p.m. at MCHS Foster Office, 603 S. Stonestreet Ave., Rockville. Visit www.mchumane.org for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 20

Pain Group. 1-2:30 p.m. at Suburban Hospital, 8600 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. For anyone with chronic pain. Free. Visit www.painconnection.org or 301-718-3588.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Scholar. 11 a.m. at Beth Shalom, 11825 Seven Locks Road. Rabbi Ronen Neuwirth will talk. Free. 301-279-7010.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

Autism Resource Fair. 3-7 p.m. at

Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. Free. Learn about recreation, employment, behavior services for individuals with autism and their families. 240-777-1216.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 6

Workshop. 7 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. For those who have lost a parent. Free. Registration required, 301-921-4400.

ONGOING

The **C&O Canal Trust**, in partnership with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, seeks energetic and community-minded individuals and organizations to complete maintenance and conservation projects throughout the park during the upcoming C&O Canal Pride Days. Locations and dates are as follows: April 18 at Great Falls, April 25 at Brunswick and Lander, and May 2 at Williamsport and Hancock. For more information or to get involved, visit www.canaltrust.org, e-mail peggie_gaul@partner.nps.gov or 301-

all the skill-sets needed to produce distinguished work are rare.”

Noting that his magazine selected BOWA “National Remodeler of the Year” two years ago largely on the strength of their high-performance service model, Morris says the firm continues to be a recognized standard-setter.

BOWA'S TEAM LEADERS — there are now five heading up company business in Montgomery County, the District, Fairfax County, Arlington/Alexandria, and Loudoun and Fauquier Counties — particularly like the fact that the non-traditional organizational chart allows them to mainly concentrate on projects, design solutions and clients.

“This is a management system that puts me in business for myself, supported by a very efficient

administration,” said Steve Kirstein, who directs BOWA's Maryland division. “My job is to create finely-articulated homes for people who wouldn't be satisfied with anything less.” Kirstein, who holds a degree in construction engineering as well as an MBA, is a second-generation builder well-versed his industry's business traditions.

“I've seen talented builders and architects stretched so thin by the travails of running a small business that their personal performance becomes mediocre. When you're spending half your time on taxes, payroll and insurance, your core skills are just not being exercised,” he said.

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“By contrast, BOWA is like a talent management agency — superb administrators oversee corporate matters ... so team leaders can be dedicated to delivering exceptional work.”

714-2233.

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

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. “My Montgomery” can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mymontgomery.

Volunteers are needed to assist sexual assault victims and their families. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vasap or 240-777-1355.

NEWS



They must not taste good, because nothing eats daffodils.



Magnolia blossoms



Bleeding Heart, another spring flower not favored as a meal by deer.



A fuzzy yearling deer peers around a sculpture.

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

An Easter Sunday Walk



Cast iron birds sit still long enough for this photographer to get a photo; not so the many other birds visible on this walk. The birds are sitting in pink epimedium, a groundcover perennial.



Star of Bethlehem flowers, along with purple muscari.

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

FROM PAGE 4

may also be downloaded from the Web site and mailed in, along with a check or credit card information. Each ticket purchaser will receive a Tote Bag containing disposable booties, a House Tour Guide Book and a map along with their ticket.

Raffle tickets are also being sold, with prizes including a painting by Potomac artist Laverne Markowitz, and a one-of-a-kind mezuzah by artist Renate Chernoff, also of Potomac. Other raffle prizes include dinner for four at area restaurants, including Morton's Steakhouse.

Pictures of the artwork being raffled may be seen on the Potomac Spring House Tour Web site, www.PotomacHouseTour.org, and raffle tickets may be purchased by credit card on the Web site, or by down-

loading the ticket order form. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. The congregation is also accepting donations to help support its efforts. Those who donate \$150 or more, and a guest, will be invited to attend our gala Homeowners' Cocktail Reception on April 26.

Proceeds from the House Tour will enable the congregation to continue its volunteer efforts to help more than 40 local and international charitable organizations, including Manna Food Center, Children's Inn at NIH, Darfur Anti-Genocide Relief, and many others, all of which are listed on the House Tour Web site, www.PotomacHouseTour.org.

For more information, see the house tour Web site, call Congregation Har Shalom at 301-299-7087 Ext. 336 or email at info@PotomacHouseTour.org.



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SPORTS

Hicks Chases College Dreams

Churchill basketball star still undecided on college, holds his own at all-star game.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

During warm-ups for last Thursday's Suburban vs. District All-Star game, part of the 36th annual Capital Classic at American University's Bender Arena, Churchill senior Chase Hicks went through the complete repertoire of his dunking abilities.

There was a one-handed tomahawk that seemed to bend the rim, another where he spread eagled his legs while throwing it through the hoop, and even an attempt in which the 6-foot-3 forward covered his eyes upon lift-off.

But the question remained, would he be able to show off his skills once he took the floor with some of the area's best players and plenty of college scouts in attendance?

Upon entering the up-and-down contest 10 minutes in, Hicks gave an abrupt and resounding answer. After leaking out on a fastbreak, Hicks received a pass from Paint Branch's Stephen Griffin and threw down a monster jam for his first and only two points of the game.

"A big dunk is always the best way to start things off," said a smiling Hicks after his Suburban team lost 113-104 to their District counterparts. The game was an undercard for a match-up featuring the best players in the nation.



Hicks dunks home his only two points during last Thursday's Suburban vs. District all-star game, which was the opening game of the 36th annual Capital Classic.

THE ALL-STAR GAME circuit is an important time for players like Hicks, who after averaging 21 points and eight rebounds a game this past season for Churchill, is still undecided on what college he'll continue his playing career at.

Not only do college coaches get to see players go up against some of the best competition around, the players themselves can get a glimpse of just what it will be like once they arrive on campus. Everyone taking part in last week's Capital Classic was the best player on their respective high school team, which means sometimes the biggest adjustment is finding a niche



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

Churchill senior Chase Hicks played with and against some of the best high school basketball players in the area as part of last Thursday's Capital Classic at American University.

amongst all the talent.

"You're not No. 1 on the team anymore," said Hicks, who also participated in a public vs. private school all-star game at Richard Montgomery High School two weeks ago. "But the competition is better. They force you to work harder. You get better when you face kids like them, and

you get to see what kind of talent everyone else has. You can show them what you can

do, too. It's fun."

HICKS'S COLLEGE CONUNDRUM was similar to the plight of several players in attendance, and with a week of practices leading up to the showcase, that meant plenty of opportunity to bond.

Senior Edward Jenkins, a 5-foot-9 guard who was the Northern Virginia Player of the Year starring for T.C. Williams, had never met Hicks before, but instantly took a liking to him because "he's a high flyer and I like seeing people dunk. So I was throwing him alley oops a lot, so we clicked like that. It was like I knew him all my life."

"He's a basketball player and basketball players know basketball players," said Hicks "It don't matter where we come from."

The last player with Churchill ties to play Division-I college basketball is current Connecticut standout Jerome Dyson, who spent two years at the

Potomac high school in 2001-2002 before transferring to Proctor Academy in New Hampshire.

Hicks has been a tweener — not a guard, but not a forward — his entire career thanks to a strong post game and a solid medium-range jump shot, but at just 6-foot-3, his style probably won't translate well to the Division-I level. Although he declined to specify what schools have offered him a scholarship, Hicks said he has interest from programs at both the Division-II and Division-III levels.

"His best asset once he gets to college is going to be his athleticism," said Churchill coach Matt Miller, adding that because Hicks has good grades, he has plenty of options school-wise. "The biggest thing is he has to work on his offensive skill set as a guard. He needs to get comfortable doing it consistently."

So while his dunking doesn't need much work, Hicks said his spring and summer is going to consist of "lots of weight lifting and individual workouts", so he can be best prepared to take flight once he decides what school will get his services.

"There's no offseason for me," he said. "I just want to go anywhere where I think I could play. I don't want to sit on the bench for four years."

Potomac Teams to Watch

Spring break has come and gone — and area athletes are returning to the fields for the stretch run of the spring sports season. With only a month and a half remaining, let's take a look at some of the area teams that have shown they could be onto something special in the coming weeks:

❖ **Wootton baseball:** The Patriots have started the season 6-1, including an exciting 14-10 win over Churchill on April 1. Wootton plays three games in four days this week — 4/15 against Magruder, 4/16 against Blair, and 4/18 against Blake) — which should give a good indication of just how good the defending 4A East champs are.

❖ **Whitman baseball:** The Vikings are 5-1 and averaging more than 16 runs per game in their last four wins.

❖ **Wootton softball:** The diamond-dwelling Lady Patriots are also undefeated, having given up just eight runs in six games thus far. Like their baseball counterparts, they have three games in four days this week.

❖ **Churchill girls' lacrosse:** Under new coach Christen Ariet-Pena, Churchill is off to a 5-0 start to the season, averaging more than 16 goals per game.

❖ **Bullis girls' lacrosse:** With several future Division-I prospects, the other Lady Bulldogs of Potomac have been just as impressive, going 5-2 to start the season. Their only losses have come to powerhouses St. Stephen's/St. Agnes and Notre Dame Academy.

❖ **Wootton boys' lacrosse:** The Patriot boys' laxers are making it known that all the preseason hype they got from winning the region last year was no joke, going 6-0 to start their campaign.

❖ **Bullis boys' lacrosse:** The senior-laden boys' team is off to a 10-3 start with its only bad loss coming at the hands of Georgetown Prep. Upcoming conference games against St. Stephen's/St. Agnes (4/17) and Landon (4/24) are pivotal.

❖ **Churchill boys' lacrosse:** Aside from a 10-3 loss to Wootton, the Bulldogs have outscored the opposition 46-12 en route to a 4-1 record.

❖ **Wootton boys' volleyball:** The Wootton spikers are undefeated (6-0) and have lost just one game with matches against Wheaton and rival Churchill looming.

❖ **Whitman boys' tennis:** The preseason favorite Vikings are undefeated (5-0), but a matchup Friday with Churchill could be a county title preview.

— MARK GIANNOTTO

Churchill Basketball Camp

Churchill boys' basketball coach Matt Miller will host the Fast Break Basketball Camp at Churchill High School this summer. There are two sessions — July 6-13 and July 13-17. The camp is for youths entering second through ninth grade. For more information, call 202-213-0436 or go to www.leaguelineup.com/churchillboysbasketball.

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Bye Buy



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sometimes I wonder, as a semi-mature
 married man with no children, if I should be
 buying some of the goods and services that I
 do. And more so the curiosity when the
 incentives to buy said goods and services are
 so obviously directed at either a woman or a
 person (married or not) with children. And not
 that I think I'm a "type," per se, but when the
 offers seem so contrary to my "type," or what
 "type" I think I am, it gives me pause to
 reflect. Am I not the married man I thought I
 was or have I been broken off from some
 mold and cast adrift in a sea of market-driven,
 median-income, demographically-identified
 consumerism?

As an example, I opened up a box of
 Cheerios recently. A reasonably healthy
 choice of whole grain and low sugar that pro-
 motes its cholesterol-lowering potential prod-
 uct presumably aimed in some measure, at
 adults who can no longer neglect to consider
 their caloric intake any more than they can
 ignore the nutritional labels of the products
 they buy. I found the following: a \$1.50 off
 coupon for Pampers, diapers for children, not
 adults.

As an adult, I have to ask, why am I buy-
 ing/eating a product who's marketing/manu-
 facturer's maven think the eater/buyer might
 have an interest in diapers - for children? I
 would be less offended, and less inclined to
 have written this column, if the coupon inside
 had been for Depends (adult diapers) or
 Viagra (erectile dysfunction), products more in
 sync, shall we say, with the potential needs of
 an adult population. But it wasn't. Apparently,
 I'm not the demographic I thought I was, at
 least as far as this breakfast cereal is marketed.

Certainly I'm aware of the concept and
 logic behind cross promoting and realize the
 benefit and advantages of utilizing
 strengths/exposure to overcome weak-
 ness/unfamiliarity. Moreover, acquainting a
 previously untapped demographic to your
 product is probably not the worst
 approach/thing that a manufacturer or market-
 ing campaign can do to generate some addi-
 tional buzz/sales volume. And, though I can
 certainly appreciate the underlying strategy in
 attempting to attract new buyers (for what I
 imagine is a relatively minimal financial com-
 mitment/risk), has anyone given thought to the
 feelings of the demographic who is actually
 receiving the offers/incentives to buy prod-
 ucts/services that are completely outside their
 sphere of interest? What do they feel? That I
 don't know specifically, but I can tell you what
 I feel, sort of. Perplexed? Bewildered?
 Educated? Enlightened? Misunderstood?
 Misinformed? Stupid? What's their marketing
 point? I understand they want new buy-
 ers/more sales for old products/flat sales
 (maybe even old people to buy new prod-
 ucts), but doesn't there have to be some kind
 of connection, some kind of reason for the
 previously-unmarketed-to to get off the couch
 and venture into a supermar-
 ket/drugstore/superstore aisle where they've
 dared not tread other than the need of the
 manufacturer/goal of the marketing team for
 them to do so?

Granted, this is not rocket science; it's
 simply supply and demand, cause and effect,
 seek and ye shall find, but I have to be honest
 (actually, I don't have to be, but I will), I really
 don't need to buy the diapers and the longer
 you advertise/tell me that I do, the shorter the
 time that I will be buying your product.

Apparently, I'm not who I'm supposed to
 be or who "they" thought I was. Apparently,
 I've been buying a product more suited to a
 different type of individual, like a parent. Who
 knew? What else have I been buying/doing
 that I'm not supposed to be buying/doing?
 Yikes!

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
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