

Potomac ALMANAC

Treacherous Lines

NEWS, PAGE 3

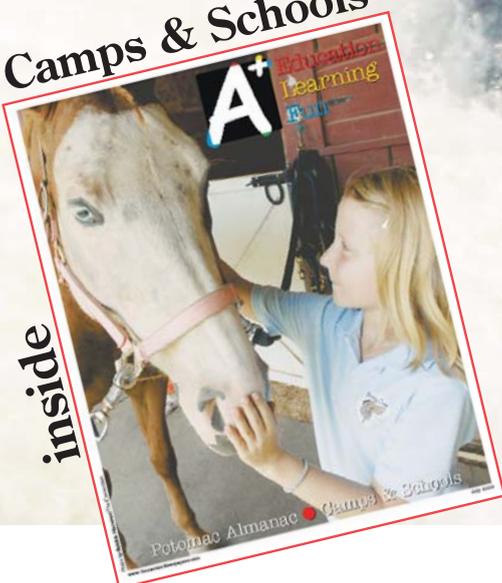
A kayaker makes his way through a series of rapids in the Great Falls Race during last weekend's Potomac Whitewater Festival

From Death, Opportunity

NEWS, PAGE 3



Camps & Schools



Dell Serves Indelible Force

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New Course, No Tournament At Avenel Farm

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CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 11

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THIS WEEK

Crash Kills Potomac Man

Montgomery County Police are investigating the cause of a single vehicle car crash in Bethesda over the weekend that killed Pedro Ivo Sobral Canuto, 22, of the 10300 block of Gainsborough Road in Potomac.

At approximately 6:20 a.m. on Saturday, July 11 Canuto was traveling westbound on Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda in his green 1999 Audi when for unknown reasons the vehicle crossed the double yellow line, left the road and struck a tree, impacting the driver's side of the vehicle. The citizen who called in to report the crash reported hearing the sound of squealing brakes before the crash, said Officer Melanie Brenner, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Police Department.

Canuto, who was wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash, was transported to Suburban Hospital where he was listed in critical condition with life-threatening injuries. He died around noon on Sunday, July 12, said Brenner.

Anyone who may have information about this collision is asked to contact the Montgomery County Police Department's Collision Reconstruction Unit at 301-840-2435 to assist the ongoing investigation.

Arrest Follows Fatal Accident

The State Police are currently investigating a motor vehicle collision July 7 that resulted in two fatalities. The collision occurred on southbound I-495 at Clara Barton Parkway in the Potomac area of Montgomery County.

Investigation revealed that a red Nissan Frontier was struck in the rear by a 2004 silver Jeep Grand Cherokee operated by Kelli Russ Loos. Subsequently, upon impact, the Nissan was forced over the right guard rail, and down a 60-foot embankment coming to rest on its roof.

The striking vehicle continued into Virginia where it was involved in another collision. Virginia State Police investigated that collision and

SEE THIS WEEK, PAGE 4

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PHOTO BY MADDIE MEYER/THE ALMANAC

Hundreds of participants and spectators came to the C&O Canal National Historical Park in Maryland and Great Falls Park in Virginia to watch the race.

Taking Treacherous Lines

Paddlers from up and down the East Coast take part in the Potomac Whitewater Festival at Great Falls.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

The day before he paddled his kayak down Great Falls during the Potomac Whitewater Festival Jeff Paine made sure he drank plenty of water to stay hydrated and that he got a good night's sleep. In the morning he rose early, ate a good breakfast, packed up his boat and his gear, and headed to the competitors' meeting in the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

SEE WHITEWATER, PAGE 8

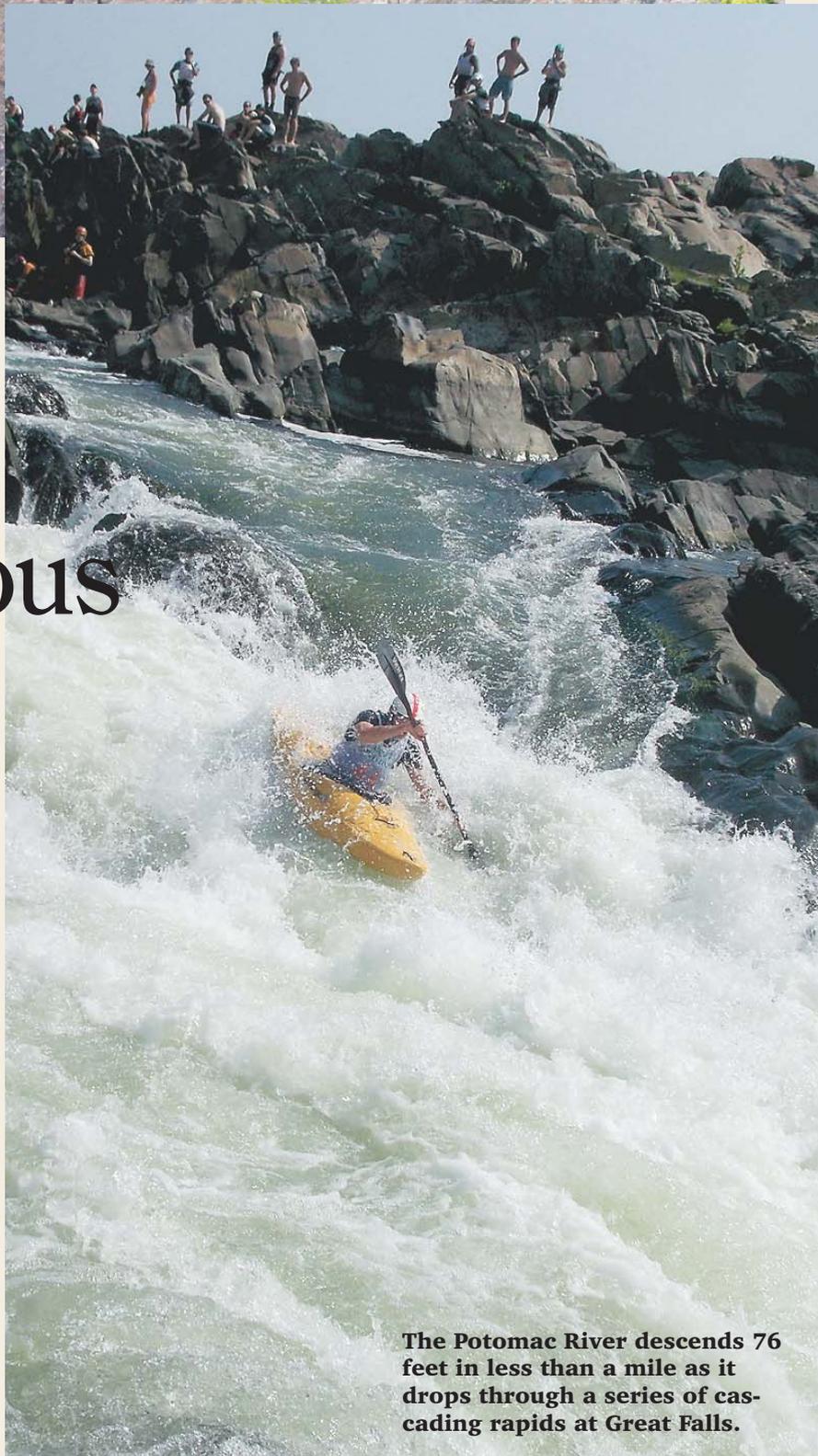


PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

The Potomac River descends 76 feet in less than a mile as it drops through a series of cascading rapids at Great Falls.

Historical Park of the Future

C&O Canal Park is looking for better ways to get visitors to and around the heavily utilized lower 23 miles of the park.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

One hundred years ago wealthy visitors to the C&O Canal plodded up and down the narrow waterway in small, covered launch boats. The boats were smaller than the packet boats that ferried goods along the Canal but disappeared as the Canal itself became outmoded first by trains and then by automobiles.

If a plan being kicked around by officials within the C&O Canal National Historical Park takes hold those launch boats could reappear on the Canal in coming years. They are one of several considerations in an ongoing National Park Service study that is considering how to facilitate transportation of visitors to — and within — the lower 23 miles of the Canal.

SEE HISTORICAL PARK, PAGE 4

Out of Death, Opportunity

Patrick Michael McMurphy Scholarship will send young actor to Stella Adler acting school.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

In the 11 months since his son died in a tragic accident the emotional pain hasn't dulled for Michael McMurphy. Sometimes it lays a little deeper beneath the surface but when it comes back up it is as sharp as ever. Of late it has been coming up a lot, but that hasn't been an entirely bad thing.

SEE OUT OF DEATH, PAGE 5

FROM PAGE 2

arrested Kelli Russ Loos for DUI. Troopers along with witnesses positively identified the silver Jeep Grand Cherokee as the striking vehicle that was involved in the earlier motor vehicle collision in Maryland.

The occupants of the Nissan Frontier, driver, Gradys Mendoza, 39 and passenger, Franklin Manzanares, 37 both from Springfield, Va. were fatally injured.

Personnel from the Crash Team, barrack criminal investigations and the Montgomery County Police Department responded to the scene to assist in the investigation. A warrant has been obtained charging Loos with failing to stop at the scene of an accident involving bodily injury. Loos is being held at Fairfax County Detention Center on local charges pending extradition to Maryland.

Holy Child Conservation Easement Hearing

A hearing at the Montgomery County Planning Board to consider an application by Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac to amend a Forest Conservation Plan on its property is scheduled to be heard by the board on Monday, July 20. The application calls for removing part of a conservation easement in order to construct a new synthetic grass playing field behind the school. To view the meeting agenda or to download a copy of the Planning Board's report regarding the school's application, visit montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda. The matter is the third item in a hearing agenda slated to begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 20 at the Planning Board's location in the headquarters of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

Forum on Lyme Disease

Del. Susan C. Lee (D-District 16) along with her District 16 and 15 General Assembly colleagues and members of the Montgomery County Council will hold a Public Community Forum open to the public on Lyme Disease prevention and control: "Taking proactive steps to educate and protect yourself and families against Lyme disease transmitted by ticks carried by deer and rodents in Residential Communities."

The forum will be on July 23, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. It will feature experts and representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Montgomery County Department of Parks who will provide information and updates, engage in dialogue with residents, and answer questions.

Kiplinger Honored

The Society of Professional Journalists last week named entrepreneur and journalist Austin Kiplinger, a longtime Potomac resident, as a Fellow of the Society.

Kiplinger, along with fellow inductees Nelson Poynter and the late Stanley E. Hubbard. The recipients will be recognized at the President's Installation Banquet Aug. 29 at the 2009 SPJ Convention and National Journalism Conference in Indianapolis.

Austin Kiplinger is an entrepreneur and journalist who, at age 90, serves as chairman of his family's business, Kiplinger Washington Editors. Kiplinger's father, W. M. Kiplinger, founded the company that reports money issues to the public.

Concert at the Potomac Oak

For the second year in a row, the Potomac Oak Center will host a concert by Jeff Baker, founding member of the Alexandria Guitar Trio. He will perform a selection of pieces (classical, jazz, and popular) in an outdoor concert under the Travilah Oak Tree on Friday evening, July 17, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Potomac Oak Center, at the crossroads of Travilah Road and Glen Road. A Friday night concert for August is also planned with different artists, the date to be announced.

Due to the unpredictability of the weather, there might be a cancellation at any time. No rain date is planned.

NEWS

Historical Park of the Future

FROM PAGE 3

Funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Federal Highways Administration to consider alternative forms of transportation both to and within the park, the study began earlier this year and last month took the form of a two-day seminar that included National Park Service officials, private citizens, and members of a private engineering firm hired for the study to consider the various portions of the plan.

Among those considerations is how to more evenly distribute visitors to the lower 23 miles of the Canal, by far the most visited portion of 184-mile long park. Currently visitors mass at the Great Falls Tavern and, more problematically, at the Old Angler's Inn entrance, where cars frequently overflow up and down MacArthur Boulevard.

The possibility of adding Rideon bus routes or creating shuttle buses from nearby dropoff points is under consideration but the easiest way to ease the pressure at those two points would be to through new signage to encourage visitors to utilize other nearby entrance points like the one at Carderock, which rarely approaches capacity, said Brian Carlstrom, the deputy superintendent of the park.

Rewatering the entire lower 23 miles of the Canal is also being explored as a way to enhance the historical nature of the park and thereby attract more visitors, but the hurdles to doing so are substantial.

"From Georgetown to Great Falls there are 20 locks. Who's going to operate 20 locks? Who's going to maintain 20 locks?" said park maintenance supervisor John Umberger. And it's more than just the locks. Eleven pedestrian bridges crossing the canal would have to be removed, the breach at Old Angler's would have to be repaired and the Canal would have to be dredged. At approximately \$1 million per mile, the dredging itself could be cost prohibitive, said Umberger, and Carlstrom said that of the 24 locks between Georgetown and Seneca — the lower 23 miles of the park — at most four are fully operational right now. Restoring them wouldn't be cheap and the total cost of rewatering the lower 23-mile stretch would be several million dollars, though exactly how many is unclear, Carlstrom said.

PARK OFFICIALS at last month's seminar were enthused by the possibilities of the launch boats, which could be used in interpretive contexts as well as to transport visitors short distances along the canal, but others were less than enthusiastic.

Nancy Long, a lifelong resident of Glen Echo, is a member of the C&O Canal Association, a private support group for the park. When the C&O Canal National Historical Park was created in 1971, Long was the first chairman of the C&O Canal Advisory Commission, a body that comprises private representatives from around the state of Maryland.

Maintaining the historical feel of the park is vital, said Long, and adding these launch boats, which park officials said could be powered by some type of quiet electric or battery-powered motor, doesn't match the park's historical mission.

"You don't want recreation to become something more important [than the historical] elements of the park but there seems to be a direction taking us more towards recreation and disturbing the balance of what there is now," said Long. "An engine is an engine, it makes a noise... [that is] part of what it does."

A report on the findings of the alternative transportation study could be ready by the end of the year, said Carlstrom, though when — or if — the conclusions are put into effect is difficult to determine. The park still needs to update its general management plan that was created in 1976 — and called



Small, covered launch boats like the one shown here were popular along the C&O Canal in the early 1900s. Modern replicas are one part of a new study being conducted by officials with the C&O Canal National Historical Park in how to better get visitors to and around the park.

for updates every 10 years — but the perpetually underfunded and understaffed park likely won't get that ball rolling for at least another two years, Carlstrom said. With its staff largely tied up working on six projects funded through \$18 million of federal stimulus funds — the park's annual budget barely tops \$9 million — there are other things to be done first. "That's why we're at the conceptual stage," said Carlstrom.

Matt Logan, president and founder of the C&O Canal Trust, the park's private financial support organization, said that the status quo isn't a viable long-term option and that he is hopeful some of these ideas can be put into play.

"As with most big far-reaching things there's a lot of time for it to unravel, but then again some of these ideas could get implemented," Logan said. "It will be interesting to see how it plays out."

Bridging the Gap

Despite not being one of several projects within the C&O Canal National Historical Park to be granted funds through the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, repairs to the breach in the towpath near Old Angler's Inn are coming closer to reality.

The C&O Canal Trust has raised nearly \$30,000 in the last two months and at \$92,182 is within striking distance of its \$100,000 goal. That price tag would fund the design phase of the project and get it to shovel-ready status, including some pre-engineering work like determining the type of geology beneath that section of the towpath and how much weight can be supported. The spurt in donations was prompted in part by a \$10,000 challenge grant from an anonymous local family, said Matt Logan, the head of the C&O Trust. Logan said he hopes to hit the \$100,000 mark by Sept. 30, which would be just over a year since the towpath gave way during Tropical Storm Hannah last September.

Getting the design and pre-engineering work done will be just the start, however. Once that is completed the repair work itself — estimated to cost between \$2 million and \$3 million — will have to be funded, and for the traditionally under-funded C&O that will be no easy task. "That's our big challenge is working with our [Congressional] delegation and the leadership at the National Park Service to make sure this remains a priority even though it wasn't part of the stimulus package," said Logan.

Out of Death, Opportunity

FROM PAGE 3

In May the McMurphy family granted a scholarship through a foundation set up in the wake of Patrick Michael McMurphy's death through his life savings and donations at the time of his death. The scholarship, administered by the Stella Adler Studio of Acting School in New York City, will benefit someone a lot like Patrick McMurphy, who had, just weeks before his death at age 23, realized that he wanted to be an actor.

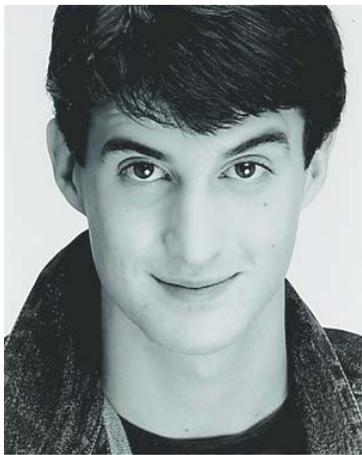
"He had decided... that he was going to go ahead and take a shot at trying to pursue it and actually we encouraged him to do that," said Michael McMurphy. "If you can't take a risk when you're young when are you going to do it?"

There are strong parallels between Patrick McMurphy and the first beneficiary of his scholarship, Philadelphia native Brandon Fox. Like McMurphy, Fox had struggled to find direction before realizing that acting is his personal calling. And, like McMurphy, Fox has an innate talent for acting, a creative spark that can be coaxed but not created, said Stella Adler acting coach Patrick Quagliano, who worked with McMurphy in the weeks leading up to his death.

Patrick McMurphy grew up around theatre, performing in the Potomac Theatre Company with his mother Maureen as well as in other local groups before moving on to the theatre department at Winston Churchill High School and continuing his theatrical work at Dickinson College. But throughout that time, and during college in particular, McMurphy was unsure if acting was a passion or a hobby, said his father. His performances — as well as his exuberant, generous, and inquisitive personality — left an impression on others, said his father, but Patrick McMurphy felt he should do something more practical with his life but upon leaving college he decided to give acting a real shot and was accepted at Stella Adler. Quagliano chose to take McMurphy on in private lessons, a decision that Quagliano said he does not usually make with new students but he did so because he was intrigued by McMurphy's passion and amazing imagination.

"In the short time I knew him I must say I was really affected by him and I'm a guy it usually takes more time," Quagliano said. McMurphy died in the early morning hours of Aug. 30, 2008 when he fell while climbing a ladder to the rooftop of his Brooklyn apartment building where he liked to rehearse monologues. Quagliano said that he thinks McMurphy was going up to rehearse some new monologues he had gotten that afternoon after working with Quagliano that morning.

WERE IT NOT for the McMurphy scholarship, Brandon Fox doesn't know what he would be doing right now. Fox, 20, was perpetually disinterested, tardy, and absent in high school, splitting time between living with his mother in Philadelphia and his father



Patrick Michael McMurphy died last August after falling from his Brooklyn apartment building, weeks after deciding to pursue his longtime passion of acting as a career.



Brandon Fox of Philadelphia is attending the prestigious Stella Adler acting school this summer thanks to a scholarship created as a memorial to Patrick McMurphy, who died last September.

in Seattle. For a few years he had thought that acting might be for him but he had no idea how to go about it, who to talk to about it or even if he could do it at all.

"I thought it was one of those things that was so far away," Fox said.

Encouraged by his family, Fox attended a modeling convention in Philadelphia where he met an agent who liked his look, and soon the agent had introduced Fox to Quagliano. After a few private meetings Quagliano suggested that Fox take a summer acting program at Stella Adler so he could work with other budding actors.

"I was flat broke, I really had no means of going to this school," Fox said.

Quagliano contacted the McMurphy's, who on Quagliano's recommendation selected Fox as the beneficiary of their son's memorial scholarship. Fox was floored to learn he could attend Stella Adler and simultaneously devastated to know how he got there.

"When you hear about tragedy and real tragedy like that, at least me myself I couldn't help but cry," Fox said.

Eight weeks into the acting program, Fox is no longer late to class as he was in high school, afraid now that he might miss something new, something important.

"I wanted it so bad ... it doesn't feel like work," Fox said.

And Fox still can't believe his good fortune, nor the generosity that granted it to him.

"For [the McMurphy family] to have never met me and still, to extend a hand, is remarkable," he said. "It just shows that human kindness and consideration — it's very real. It's alive... and to me the McMurphys are the epitome of that."

For the McMurphys, helping Patrick's memory live on through providing such an opportunity helps them deal with their pain, if only a little bit.

"It at least helps us believe that in some way Patrick is continuing to do what he always did, which is to help what I would call underdogs," said Michael McMurphy.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Alexander A. Halls of Potomac

was one of 509 seniors who graduated from Colby College on May 24, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in government at the outdoor commencement in Waterville, Maine. He

graduated cum laude and on the dean's list. He is also the son of Andrew Halls and Elizabeth Anthony of Frisco, Colo., and graduated from Winston Churchill High School.

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Dell Serves Indelible Force

Potomac's Donald Dell inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Nine-time Grand Slam champion Monica Seles grunted, the grandson of Dr. Robert "Whirlwind" Johnson — who helped integrate tennis — beamed, and 1972 French Open champion Andres Gimeno looked to the heavens. Potomac's Donald L. Dell called himself "a lucky guy."

With his wife Carole Dell and two daughters watching — behind cameras at times — Dell was one of the four new members inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 11 in Newport, R.I.

"[Dell] is a man who spent his life at the very forefront of tennis, both as a player and as an indelible force behind the growth of the game," said Chris Clouser, chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Dell was the first American tennis player to compete in the Soviet Union in 1961, served as the youngest non-playing team captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team in 1968 and 1969, co-founded the Association of Tennis Professionals in 1972, and founded the Legg Mason Classic in 1969, which he donated to the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation in 1972. The local tournament has raised more than \$15 million for local children's tennis programs.

"My whole life has been involved in tennis since I was nine years old," said Dell, a former No. 4 singles player, No. 1 doubles player, and TV commentator during Wimbledon, French and Australian opens as well as countless ATP Tour events.

Dell was undefeated as captain of the U.S. Davis Cup team, which he led to championships against Australia in 1968 and in



Inside the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I., is this display on Donald Dell.

1969 against Romania.

"That Davis Cup experience, traveling and competing with my Davis Cup friends and teammates were the happiest days of my life in tennis," he said Saturday at the induction ceremony.

One of Dell's dreams solidified around that time when he founded ProServ, the first management company to represent tennis players. He wanted tennis players to carve out careers and call themselves professionals, the same way lawyers and doctors could, he said.

DELL'S FIRST two clients were Arthur Ashe and Stan Smith, players he coached on the Davis Cup team.

"They're good people, wonderful people, who happened to be great players, and I

really want to stress that. I was spoiled very early on by Stan and Arthur," said Dell, who has managed other players including Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Jan Kodes, Yannick Noah, Gabriela Sabatini, Tracy Austin, Andy Roddick and Pam Shriver.

Dell also represented 15 No. 1 picks in the NBA, including Michael Jordan, John Lucas, Moses Malone, Phil Ford, Adrian Dantley and Patrick Ewing.

Six days before the ceremony in Rhode Island, Dell and his wife were in England at Wimbledon, where he served as a NBC commentator from 1979-1984.

Dell helped serve tennis to television, orchestrating the telecast of numerous national and international events. He currently oversees and advises many of Blue Entertainment Sports Television's television

On the Line

- 1938** Born, Savannah, Georgia
- 1953** Won U.S. boys championship as 15-year-old in Kalamazoo
- 1954** Selected by Jack Kramer to play on Junior U.S. Davis Cup team
- 1957** Lost to Rod Laver as 18-year-old in finals of boys championship in Kalamazoo ("brought me back to reality," said Dell)
- 1961** First American to play in Soviet Union
- 1961** Ranked No. 4 in singles
- 1961-64** U.S. Davis Cup player
- 1962-63** Ranked No. 1 in doubles
- 1968** Aide to Sargent Shriver and U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
- 1968-69** Undefeated U.S. Davis Cup captain
- 1969** Founded Legg Mason Tennis Classic
- 1970** Founded ProServ, first management company to represent tennis players (first clients were Arthur Ashe and Stan Smith)
- 1972** Co-founded Association of Tennis Professionals with Jack Kramer
- 1972** Gave Legg Mason Tennis Classic to Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (event has raised more than \$15 million for local children's tennis programs)
- 1972-80** Served as general counsel to ATP Tour
- 1979-84** NBC commentator at Wimbledon
- 1987-91** President, International Tennis Hall of Fame
- 1989** Published "Minding Other People's Business"
- 1995-present** Member, U.S. Davis Cup Selection Committee
- 1996-present** Vice-chairman, International Tennis Hall of Fame

properties, including the French Open, U.S. Open, Legg Mason Tennis Classic and 20 ATP tennis telecasts, according to the International Hall of Fame.

"I want each of you here that love tennis to remember the TV picture six days ago at Wimbledon, with four world champions sitting in the first row of the Royal Box," Dell said, referring to Pete Sampras, Manuel Santana, Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg.

"They were watching a tremendous battle between [Andy] Roddick and [Roger] Federer in the finals, all sitting side by side, all extraordinary champions who are even better human beings," said Dell. "That Wimbledon picture of those tennis giants already in the Hall of Fame is what the Hall of Fame stands for and means to me today."

Since being established in 1954, The International Tennis Hall of Fame has inducted 211 people from 18 countries, including 58 women, 149 men, 18-left handers, three sets of brothers, and a mother-daughter-niece trio, according to the International Hall of Fame

"Like I said before, I'm a lucky guy," said Dell.

Giant Reveals New Technology with Store Re-Opening

BY NOAH GOETZEL
THE ALMANAC

Exuberant workers serving free samples at every corner of the store, free reusable bags, demonstrations of the latest customer service technology and a dancing seafood salesman in a fisherman costume were just a few attractions that excited shoppers at the Cabin John Giant Food for the grand re-opening event July 10.

The re-modeling of Giant grocery stores throughout Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia and Delaware started in February introduced many new technological features to enhance customer service, with the goal of making shoppers more independent.

6 ♦ POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ JULY 15-21, 2009

The optional, cashier-free, self-checkout lanes, called "Check It!," allow customers to purchase items quicker.

"We want to offer shoppers great convenience because we know many of our customers are on the go," said Kim Brown, vice president of public affairs and community relations for Giant. "They want to get in and get out as quickly as possible, so we are listening to what they want and designing features such as "Scan It!" to help them have the best possible shopping experience."

"Scan It!," a small computerized device allowing customers to scan and bag their purchases as they shop, helps shoppers save time and money. The system also provides special coupon offers, targeted to the customers' preferences, every time they shop. Shoppers scan

their Giant Bonus Cards, scan the bar codes on the food they want, pay and go.

Customers can avoid long lines at the deli with "Order It!," a system that lets them order their deli items digitally from a kiosk at the doorway when they first enter the store. They can then continue shopping while the meats and cheeses are prepared, and pick up their order after being notified through their "Scan It!" device or over the loud speaker.

Aside from the advances in technology that enhance customer service, the Cabin John Giant also instituted new, energy-efficient light bulbs, refrigeration techniques and seafood display cabinets to help improve the environment.

"The store is great and it's about time

[Giant renovated]," said Wilma Clark, a local Giant customer. "It is bright, well stocked and well laid out." Giant has replaced the harsh fluorescent light bulbs of old, industrial grocery stores with new lighting, ceiling, flooring and décor to create a more inviting, softer feel that complements the new purple and gold color schemes.

Giant's new floor plan effectively creates a healthier, organic appeal by bringing the natural produce to the front of the store. To encourage healthy eating, Giant launched "Healthy Idea" labels to identify nutritious products throughout the store.

"We are committed to listening to our customers and we know they want fresh, flavorful and time-saving options for their families," Brown said.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

OPINION



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

Snapshot Sunday, July 12, near dusk: Fawns cross Horseshoe Lane.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Simple Answer: Slow Down

To the Editor:

As a Potomac resident myself, it would be amusing to read about some folks tripping all over themselves trying to justify speeding in residential neighborhoods and near our schools — if the subject wasn't so deadly serious.

Speed cameras are an important component in Montgomery County's efforts to increase traffic and pedestrian safety by reducing speeding and aggressive driving — and they are working. In a study completed for cameras with a one-year history, they decreased vehicle speed by an average of 22 percent and reduced collisions by 25 percent. So far, in 2009, there are 50 percent fewer vehicular fatalities in Montgomery County compared to the same period last year.

That's results. But it's not surprising. I see the results every day on Gainsborough Drive just down the hill from Churchill High School toward Seven Locks as a result of the mobile SafeSpeed camera often stationed there. People are slowing down, even when the camera isn't there. I'm safer. My kids are safer.

Speed cameras by law can only be located in residential neighborhoods or school zones where speed limits are 35 mph or less. The locations for speed cameras are carefully selected after a survey and analysis of a particular road section's crash history, appropriateness, violation history and complaints from the public. Sites are selected with input from police community advisory boards.

If Adam Dunn wants to spend his own money to post "Speed Camera Ahead!" placards, well, Montgomery County already makes no secret of the location of speed cameras. Not only are signs posted on all roads with cameras, the locations are also listed on the County's Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/safespeed. If people are slowing

down because of Mr. Dunn's signs, I say that's just what Montgomery County wants people to do — slow down.

You have to be driving at least 11 mph over the speed limit to even get a ticket. Nobody gets ticketed for going 31 in a 30 MPH zone — or even going 35 — or even 40. So, it's not so hard to avoid a ticket. Just slow down.

Incidentally, if you are ticketed for speeding by an actual police officer, the minimum penalty is \$95, two points on your license, and it gets reported to your insurance company. That makes \$40 and no points and no insurance report for a SafeSpeed ticket look pretty good. Plus, obviously, speed and red light cameras free up more police time to protect our lives and our property in a host of other ways.

Much has been made by some of camera revenues as a funding source for County government — net revenues of \$12.5 million in a \$4.4 billion budget.

The fine of \$40 is meant to be a deterrent to speeding. Sixteen dollars of that goes to the vendor who operates the program. The remainder is dedicated to traffic safety and pedestrian safety programs — initiatives than would have to be funded annually in taxes if not for this revenue.

But, having said that, Montgomery County would be delighted to never issue another speed camera ticket again — because that would mean that drivers are getting the message about slowing down and saving lives. Drivers who continue to speed in our communities where people live and children go to school are a danger to others and speed cameras are proving to be an effective deterrent.

Patrick Lacefield
Potomac

The writer is director of the Montgomery County Office of Public Information.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate

by
Michael Matese

THE ARTFUL APPLIANCE

Besides being the heart and hearth of the home, the upscale kitchen is now becoming an art form. New kitchen appliances are combining a heightened, high-tech functionality with unusual aesthetic appeal. If you want to upgrade your kitchen, consider some of the latest innovative choices that will dazzle and delight buyers.

When replacing your cooking and cooling appliances, the best investment is still the sleek look of stainless steel. Ovens, ranges, refrigerators, warming drawers and wine coolers are being offered in fine quality stainless with special coatings that reduce the appearance of fingerprints. For more adventurous chefs, appliances and fixtures are also available in copper, pewter, titanium and cast bronze. Many designers are choosing to conceal appliances such as wall ovens behind exotic wood cabinets decorated with artistic custom veneers. Sinks and countertops are being molded from solid-surface materials such as colored concrete or carved stone, which offer creative possibilities for customized shaping. Colored glass is an option for backsplashes and cabinet hardware, and hand-painted ceramic is appearing in floor tile and drawer pulls.

Ask your real estate agent about design trends in your local area.

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Whitewater Festival

FROM PAGE 3

Mike Mathwin of Great Falls, Va. took a less stringent approach, fueling his body the night before with taquitos, tequila, and cigarettes.

"I came down here for the parties," said Mathwin's friend, Graham Seiler of Philadelphia as the two stood by Mathwin's pickup truck after the race.

Paddlers of all mindsets came from up and down the East Coast to Great Falls on Saturday, July 11 to participate in the 19th annual Potomac Whitewater Festival, which kicked off Saturday morning with the festival's signature event, the Great Falls Race.

Described by several paddlers at the event as one of the most difficult places to kayak on the East Coast, the Potomac River drops 76 feet in less than a mile at Great Falls as it descends through a series of cascading rapids. There are three standard approaches — paddlers call them lines — by which the falls are traversed, one on the Maryland side of the river, one in the middle, and one on the Virginia side. This year's race traveled



This year's Great Falls Race ran through the Virginia side because of the relatively low water level at just over three feet.

PHOTOS BY MADDIE MEYER/THE ALMANAC

the Virginia side for the first time in several years because at a shade over three feet at race time the river was lower than in past years.

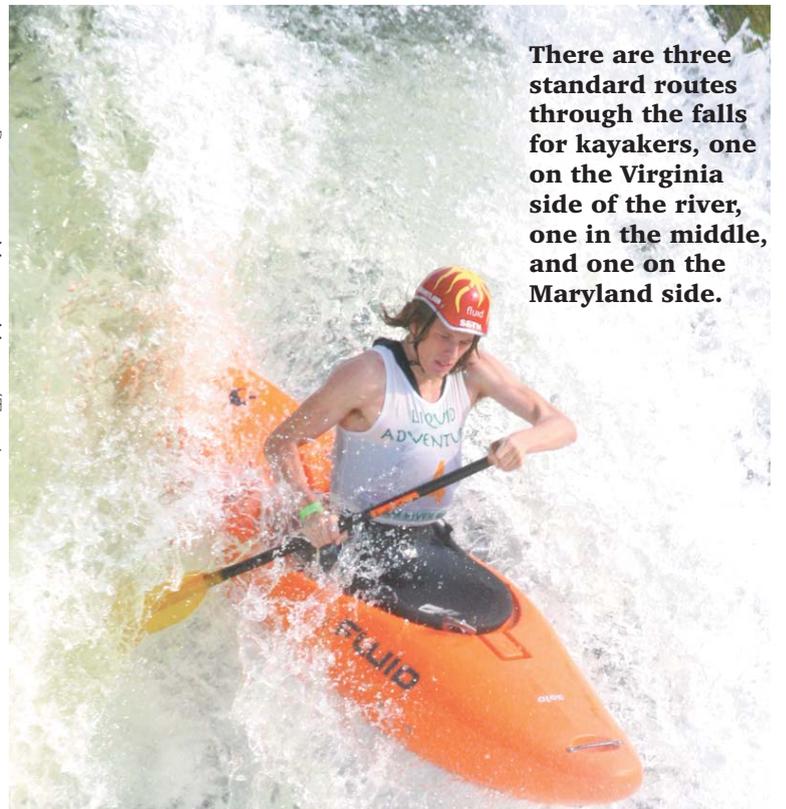
As they traveled the Virginia line the racers paddled through several short drops, made two sharp turns around boulders, then dropped through The Spout, a 20-foot final drop to the river below. The top 10 times in an initial series of races competed in a final round.

"It makes it all challenging, its all just one after another," said paddler Cliff Mailloux, who drove down from northeast Pennsylvania to take part in the race, about the successive drops.

The annual race is the only sanctioned event where paddlers run Great Falls. Doing so is not illegal

but is strongly discouraged by local authorities and should only be done by those with a very high level of experience "because you could die," said race organizer Risa Shimoda.

A leisurely community paddle — called "the moo cruise" by one kayaker — through the Mather Gorge below the falls took place after the Great Falls Race. That and an expo of equipment and technique, as well as the novelty of watching expert kayakers compete in several events, was intended to draw the public and to pique the interest of those with no kayaking experience, said Shimoda, and hundreds of onlookers gathered at overlooks on both sides of the river Saturday morning.



There are three standard routes through the falls for kayakers, one on the Virginia side of the river, one in the middle, and one on the Maryland side.

"Most whitewater festivals don't have as many different events," said Paine, who works as the outreach director for American Whitewater, a non-profit conservation and preservation organization that benefited from the festival, which also featured a party and silent auction at Old Angler's Inn Saturday night.

Paine, 26, started kayaking six

years ago when a friend of a friend, both kayakers, got hurt. Kayakers tend to paddle in tandem or in groups for safety's sake, so Paine filled in for his friend's injured partner.

"He started dragging me along with him and I fell in love," Paine said. It happened "the same way you always find something you love — without intent."

Eric Stewart's Tip of the week

Take a look at some homes yourself:

The most effective way to understand the competition is to go out and take a look at what they are offering. It will give you a good idea of where to set your price, but make sure you look with an objective eye.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in The Potomac Almanac, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. For more information, call 703-917-6407.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Project Mingus. 7 p.m. Free Outdoor Summer Concert at The Music Center at Strathmore. Enjoy the rarely performed, complex, infectious sounds of avant-garde jazz legend Charles Mingus. This seven piece band brings together two saxophonists, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass and drums, led by Chris Kjørness. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100 for weather-related delay or cancellation notices of Summer Outdoor Events.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band. 7 p.m. Friday Nights Out Back at Strathmore's Backyard Theater Stage. \$10 admission (cash only). The Washington Post calls Chopteeth "a sensation - the dozen-plus member outfit cooks up a scintillating stew of Afrofunk, rumba, salsa, ska and funk."

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With instructors Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte, and the band Eli Cook. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231, e-mail to info@CapitalBlues.org, or visit www.CapitalBlues.org. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. At the Spanish ballroom at Glen Echo. Contra dancing with some square dances and waltzes. Lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., followed by the called dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Email: fncontra@yahoo.com. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

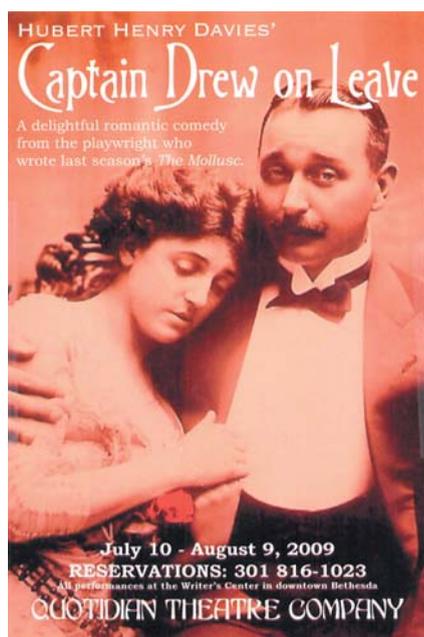
Guitar Concert. 6:30-8:30 p.m. With Jeff Baker, founding member of the Alexandria Guitar Trio. He will be performing classical, jazz and popular guitar music in an outdoor concert. At the Travilah Oak Tree, at the Potomac Oak Center, at the crossroads of Travilah Road and Glen Road in Potomac.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Canoe Cleanup. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. At River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. Help protect our waterway by taking a short canoe trip to Minnie's Island. After an island/river clean-up we'll enjoy a picnic lunch on the island (dessert will be provided). Must RSVP to Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator Bridget Chapin chapin@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, x206, by July 16. Bring your own canoe or, if one is needed, reserve one when you send in your RSVP.

Navigating Over Land. 2-5 p.m. At Old Angler's Inn (parking lot), 10801 MacArthur Blvd. Potomac, MD. Never get lost in the woods again! Clint Cosner, an expert surveyor with 25 years of experience, will lead an orienteering workshop for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts ages 8 and up. Participants will learn basic map reading and orienteering skills as well as the fundamentals of using a personal GPS. Space is limited! Participants must RSVP to chapin@potomac.org by July 16.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight. With the Gordon Webster Band. At Du-Shor Dance Studio, Bethesda. This event is part of the Red Hot Blues n' BBQ Blues Exchange Weekend. Call Donna Barker at 301-



634-2231, e-mail to info@CapitalBlues.org, or visit www.CapitalBlues.org. The Du-Shor Dance Studio is located at 7800 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$14 admission. With the Nighthawks band. Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo. Email: wscvolunteer@hotmail.com. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SUNDAY/JULY 19

Sing-Along Celebration. 8 p.m. Join song leader Elise Kress and guitarist Lawrence Brand for a fun evening singing along to your favorite pop, folk, country, and rock & roll songs from the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-639-7608 or go to www.SingAlongCelebration.com. Tickets: \$20.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Lesson from 7-8:30 p.m. Dancing from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is \$15. With instructors Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte, and the Gina Sicilia Band. At the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to www.DanceDC.com.

Waltz Dance. Lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Dance from 3:30-6 p.m. With the band, Rose by the Door. \$8 admission. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. At the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222. Go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/members admission. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo. Focus on New England-style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All dances are taught, and no partner is necessary.

JULY 17-AUG. 9

"Captain Drew on Leave." Play performed by the Quotidian Theatre Company has not been produced in the D.C. area for a century. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$5 discount for seniors/students. Call 301-816-1023 for reservations. Performances at the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street., Bethesda. Go to www.quotidiantheatre.org.

Newcomers' welcome lesson at 7 p.m., followed by called dances from 7:30-10:30 p.m. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo.

Growing Native Tree ID Walk. 10-11 a.m. At River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. Join forester Bryan Seipp on a walk around the C&O Canal as he helps us identify some common tree species found in the Potomac River watershed. For directions to the River Center, visit www.potomac.org/site/discover-rlh8/#directions. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at chapin@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, x206, or go to www.potomac.org.

Voices of the River: River Stories with Hayden Mathews. 11 a.m.-noon. River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, MD. Eco-historian Hayden Mathews will give an interactive talk which will weave regional history, natural history, and geology to interpret the forces and events that shaped both the Potomac River and the people that have lived on its banks for the past 12,000 years. Visit www.potomac.org/site/discover-rlh8/#directions. Call 301-608-1188, x206, or go to www.potomac.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

Uke Fest 2009. 7 p.m. Free Outdoor Summer Concert at The Music Center at Strathmore. Featuring James Hill, Cathy Fink, Marcy Marxer, Bruce Hutton and Victoria Vox. Bring your own uke for the pre-show jam session at 6 p.m., then enjoy ukulele sensations - ukulele virtuoso James Hill; Grammy Award winners Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer; Bruce Hutton whose ukulele rambles from Renaissance to folk; and the queen of ukulele pop, Victoria Vox. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100 for weather-related delay or cancellation notices of Summer Outdoor Events.

Bethesda Outdoor Movies

Five evenings of great films in a variety of genres will be showcased from July 28 to Aug. 1 at 9 p.m. Admission is free. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and bring their own lawn chairs. At Woodmont Triangle, at the corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenues.

Schedule

- ❖ Tuesday, July 28 - "Grease"
- ❖ Wednesday, July 29 - "Dial M for Murder"
- ❖ Thursday, July 30 - "American Graffiti"
- ❖ Friday, July 31 - "Twilight"
- ❖ Saturday, Aug. 1 - "Mamma Mia"

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New Course, No Tournament at Avenel Farm

Potomac's former PGA stop recently re-opened, but will it ever host a tour event again?

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE ALMANAC

Tiger Woods had already spent close to 40 minutes on the podium following his win at last week's AT&T National at Congressional Country Club, the tournament he hosts, when the fortunes of another area golf course were brought to his attention for the first time all week.

"Avenel just finished their renovations," said a reporter. "Did you happen to get over there?"

"No," was the golfer's response. "I was a little busy this week."

And though the world's No. 1 golfer was trying to joke at the end of a long week as host in the D.C. area, it shined some light on the dilemma facing the TPC at Avenel Farm, which recently re-opened in April after an estimated \$24 million course overhaul.

The course, formally known as the TPC at Avenel, played host to the now-defunct Kemper Open from 1987-2003 after Congressional's membership grew tired of hosting the event on a yearly basis. In 2003, the tournament changed its name to the FBR Capital Open before switching sponsors and name again the next year to the Booz Allen Classic.

But after the PGA Tour announced in 2006 that the D.C. area's lone professional golf stop would switch to the fall, rather than its traditional date in July after the U.S. Open, Booz Allen withdrew its sponsorship.



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

TPC at Avenel Farm general manager Mike Sullivan stands on the new patio overlooking the 18th green on the recently completed golf course at the club.



COURTESY OF TPC AT AVENEL FARM

The par-3 No. 9 hole saw the most drastic changes on the renovated TPC at Avenel Farm golf course. It was relocated to the top of a hillside adjacent to the clubhouse. All 18 holes saw some form of modification during the 20-month project.

A new tournament (the AT&T Invitational), on a new course (Congressional), with a new host (Woods) took its place in 2007.

Now with Woods temporarily moving his tournament to the Aronovink Golf Club outside Philadelphia for the next two years while Congressional undergoes its own renovation in advance of the 2011 U.S. Open, what will become of the TPC at Avenel? It's a tricky question for a course owned and operated by the PGA Tour, but sits just a mile down the road from the area's pre-eminent country club.

"The look and the appearance, just to maintain [the TPC at Avenel] for the membership, it wasn't adequate," said a co-COO of the PGA Tour, Charlie Zink, a Bethesda native and member at Congressional. "So we decided, if we're gonna shut down this golf course for a year and a half, let's make sure we come back with a product that's stronger. ... It's hard to get out of Congressional's shadow, but you improve your position within it. At some point, we'd like to host a golf tournament whether it's the Champions, Nationwide, or PGA [Tour]."

ASK TPC at Avenel Farm general manager Mike Sullivan about the course's future and he will give the same reasoned response he has been emphasizing since Avenel closed for renovations on Aug. 13, 2007.

With a new "championship caliber golf course," Sullivan doesn't believe Avenel Farm needs a PGA Tour stop to stay relevant in an area that has more than its fair share of places to play golf. While a professional tournament would be nice in the future, Sullivan is more worried about learning how to maintain what is essentially a brand new course.

"We're not focused on any tournaments right now," he said last week. "If the tournament happens, it happens, but that's

something that's way down the road. ... Plus, there's that one across the street. We're taking a wait and see attitude and just trying to manage what we can control."

Close to two years of work, though, has made the course and facilities of TPC at Avenel Farm comparable to any of the area's premier sites to hit the links. The purpose of the renovation was to bring the golf course up to today's professional standards, while also bringing the property back to its original state through the restoration of Rock Run Stream Valley, the small body of water that runs through Avenel and is one of the main tributaries into the Potomac River.

The lengthened 7,124 yard par 70 course features completely new irrigation and drainage systems; rebuilt Bentgrass tees, narrow fairways, and smaller greens; additional aesthetics like stone walls, trees, and timber bridges; reshaped bunkers; and a state of the art practice facility.

The clubhouse has also seen some changes such

as a new member's only dining room, a fine-dining room with a wine cellar and member's only wine lockers, a member's and adults only lounge, renovated locker rooms, and a new wraparound patio/grill area overlooking the 18th green.

Membership at the club waned a bit during the 20-month course rehabilitation, but some new members have joined in recent months to keep numbers at about 750, around the same amount at the club before it closed temporarily in 2007.

"It was a big undertaking and we're glad to have it open," said Sullivan.

AND WHILE all the area's golf enthusiasts turned to Congressional and the AT&T Na-

tional in recent weeks, the refigured track of TPC at Avenel Farm underwent its own tryout of sorts when the pros descended on the area. Sullivan said 20 to 30 PGA Tour professionals played practice rounds at the club in advance of the AT&T National over 4th of July weekend.

Troy Matteson, a fourth-year pro whose parents still live in McLean, Va., played in the last Booz Allen Classic in 2006 and made his way over to Avenel Farm to see how the course was playing after the renovations. He called the practice facility "phenomenal," and marveled at how well the course would set up for a tournament. The emphasis on risk-reward golf means plenty of opportunities for both birdies and bogeys on the back nine.

"Personally, I hope [the AT&T National] ends up there," said Matteson. Fifty Tour pros were consulted on the design of the new course. "They did a really nice job with it."

PGA pro Jason Bohn had a similar sentiment, calling the course "six to eight shots harder" than when it hosted the Booz Allen Classic after playing his practice round there two weeks ago.

"The changes that they made were the right changes to make, really good changes," said Bohn. "I think the feedback you get from the tour will be it was really difficult, but you get a good challenge. ... So for sure, I think they could come back and host an event there."

The question, though, is whether that event will feature the PGA. Woods has already announced that the AT&T National will return to Congressional for 2012-2014. Reports indicate Woods is only willing to hold an event on a course that has hosted a major championship, a distinction Avenel Farm is currently without.

There still remains the possibility of Avenel Farm hosting a Champions or Nationwide Tour event, although Sullivan dismissed the idea of the women's tour coming back to town since it is a separate entity from the PGA. Nearby Bethesda Country Club hosted the LPGA Championship from 1990-1993.

Zink says it's unlikely Avenel Farm will see a PGA event in the "next five or six years," but that with the D.C. area "dark" in terms of tour events in 2010, the PGA is currently "evaluating the possibility" of holding a Champions Tour event at Avenel in the near future. As for Woods, whether he makes an appearance on the new and improved TPC at Avenel Farm, remains to be seen.

"We think we have a really strong golf course that will hold up in the long term," said Zink. "So you never know, in the long term, TPC at Avenel could become an option again for the PGA Tour."

The Almanac's Aaron Stern contributed to this article.

"Personally, I hope [the AT&T National] ends up there."

— PGA pro Troy Matteson

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Now That's Heavy



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Do you want to know what "heavy" is? I'll tell you what "heavy" is. "Heavy" is when you ask your oncologist what you perceive to be a rather ordinary question about dental health, as it relates to your ongoing treatment/chemotherapy for stage IV lung cancer and he responds as he knows (and you've told him) how you want him to: honestly and succinctly. He advises you not to bother spending the money on hardware if a band-aid/temporary solution will work. Specifically responding to the question, now that I'm nearly finished with my primary chemotherapy, if it's OK to have my dentist put in two crowns that we've delayed since I was diagnosed (and had treatment begun). My oncologist asks how long will the crowns last. I shrug and say I don't know. He guesses/estimates 10 years. I guess back that I suppose that's right. To which he replies that it might not be necessary for me spend money on something that will last 10 years. Puzzled for a moment by his answer, I process the information, then I nod and say: Oh, I get it. I don't have 10 years so why spend money on something that will outlast me. So much for dental work.

But I'm not thinking that way. Nor would my oncologist want me to be thinking that way. All things are possible. Everybody is different and responds to treatment differently. Medications; prescription or otherwise, chemotherapy; approved or experimental, homeopathic, non-western/alternative medicine; what's not effective for persons 1-99 might be perfectly effective and suitable for person 100. And not that I see my self "the one" (the surviving one against all statistical odds and case histories), but as I've written previously, it ain't over simply because the chemotherapy is completed and the "standard of care" sort of says it is (so far as the treatment protocols for the next 12 months are indicated). Nevertheless, I don't have any reason to believe that I am "the one;" that somehow forces beyond my control (in conjunction with some forces within my control) and somehow unique to me, will physically, spiritually, chemically, anatomically and miraculously combine to track me on an alternative route that will change the course of my recently predicted (abbreviated) life expectancy. However, thinking that all is hopeless and preordained seems foolish and short-sighted.

What will be will be; moreover, what has been diagnosed has been diagnosed and it's my responsibility, my duty, my job, if you will, to see that it becomes prudent and meaningful that I pay the \$700 or so per crown for the more permanent hardware because life is for the living; it's not for the waiting and wondering if. So I'm going to follow Red's (Morgan Freeman) advice from the 1994 Oscar-nominated film, "The Shawshank Redemption," "Get busy living or get busy dying." Given the alternatives, what choice do I have? What choice would I want to have? Granted, I've been dealt a bit of a bad – and quite unexpected – hand, but so what? It's not like it's my fault.

I didn't cause it; I just got diagnosed with it. I can live with it, hopefully long enough to replace these two crowns with a new pair in another 10 years. Hey, stranger things can happen; after all, a lifelong non-smoker like me was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. What's up with that?

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

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