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Mourning Bells Mill's 'Mama'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Students decorated teacher
Sharon Davis' parking space
after her death on Sept. 8.

Students Salute Firefighters

NEWS, PAGE 5

Ninth Grade Matters

EDUCATION, PAGE 11

Saddling Up For Potomac Barn Tour

NEWS, PAGE 3



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NEWS

Parks' Challenge On Weddings

Planning is now under way for a not-so-typical wedding expo this November, as the Montgomery County Department of Parks challenges area wedding vendors to form teams and plan a "Not-So-Big" wedding at one of the county's four park event centers: Brookside Gardens, Rockwood Manor, Seneca Lodge or Woodlawn Manor.

Each team will create a wedding package for a ceremony and reception of 65 guests. Wedding packages must include catering, floral arrangements, music, photography and a Montgomery Parks event center rental. Wedding vendors have until Sept. 30 to form teams and register for the challenge online at www.ParkPASS.org (Course No. 90549). The team entry fee is \$500.

Then, on Sunday, Nov. 8 at Rockwood Manor in Potomac, the teams will showcase their not-so-big wedding packages for brides and grooms-to-be, their families and other attendees during the Not-So-Big-Wedding Boutique. This first-of-its-kind Montgomery Parks event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at Rockwood Manor, 11001 MacArthur Boulevard, and is free to the public.

Wedding vendors looking for a team or teams looking for a missing member, can email their name, email address, phone number, category need (e.g., photography) and Web site (if available) to Laura Gosse at Laura.Gosse@MontgomeryParks.org or post the information on www.NotSoBigWedding.com and Laura will help match them up.

How To Help Low-Income Seniors

Sandy Kursban, founder and chairman of Family & Nursing Care, Inc. and long-time Potomac resident, announced the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to help improve the overall quality of life for low-income seniors.

The Family & Nursing Care Foundation, a fund of the Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF), is spearheading a major step towards supporting non-profit community organizations that provide low-income seniors with the dedicated home care they need to remain in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

Family & Nursing Care will make award recommendations to MCCF for approval by their board. The RFP is now available at www.familynursingcare.com/foundation, and submissions are due by Oct. 23.

Proposals should be sent via e-mail to foundation@familynursingcare.com or to Family & Nursing Care Foundation, c/o Sandy Kursban, 962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 500, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Nominations Sought for Achievement Awards

Montgomery County is seeking nominations for the 12th annual Neal Potter Path of Achievement Awards, honoring county residents, age 60 and over, whose work and spirit have led to special accomplishments in personal and community endeavors. The awards

SEE THIS WEEK, PAGE 4

HomeLifeStyle

A new special monthly publication that features the lifestyles, homes, neighborhoods, and people of Potomac.

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Directions: From Rt 1, take Gunston Rd(east), go 2.4 miles past the BLM Meadowood entrance onto Harley Rd.1.



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Celebrate National Wild Horse Adoption Day Saturday, September 26



For more information about events near you or to volunteer, go to adoptawildhorse.com or call 817.559.5650

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Bells Mill Mourns Loss of Second Grade Teacher

Sharon Davis considered “Mama” of school.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

In a “thank-you” book dated 2006, children from Sharon Davis’ second grade class expressed their appreciation to their teacher. Their drawings recognize her love for the Redskins, her favorite hoop earrings, and her strict attention to mathematics.

The book sat alongside a wedding album and other mementos in a memorial service for Davis following her death on Tuesday, Sept. 8. The Bells Mill teacher had assembled her classroom for the new school year and met her students during the Open House, but unexpectedly admitted herself to the hospital the following day.

The 66-year-old Davis died 10 days after the start of her hospitalization from what doctors believe is pancreatic cancer, although it has not been confirmed. She is survived by her mother Ethel Heubeck, sisters Linda Vitale and Cindy Watts, her son Steven, daughter-in-law Macey, and granddaughter Campbell. Her family’s fondest memories consistently draw upon Davis’ affinity to teaching.

“She was born to be a teacher,” said 90-year-old Heubeck, who recounts her daughter’s take-charge attitude from the time she was just six. “She really ruled the roost.”

Davis dedicated 32 years of her teaching

career to Bells Mill Elementary, where she taught kindergarten and sixth grade until she remained at the second-grade level. Many of her long-time colleagues such as first-grade teacher Susan Reed acknowledge Davis’ ability to engage her students and keep learning fun.

“They really loved her,” said Reed.

Fellow second-grade teacher Tracy Tabachow acknowledges that while Davis did not have a chance to get acquainted with her class for the 2009-2010 school year, her older and former students have felt the impact of her death. Students decorated Davis’ designated parking spot with a banner, which teachers found upon their arrival at Bells Mill last Thursday morning. The students honored Davis through depictions of her favorite things, including her ever-present Big Gulp cup, expressing how they would always love and miss their “number one teacher.” It is not standard for Bells Mill staff to have assigned parking spots, but fellow teachers say Davis earned hers.

“She was the strength in our school,” said Principal Jerri Oglesby. “And she was like a mom to all.”

In lieu of memorial donations, Oglesby says Davis’ son Steven asked the “Mama



Sharon Davis taught at Bells Mill Elementary School.

Sharon Fund” be established for her service to the school and attention to math education. The fund will assist teachers in gath-

ering math supplies and offer students extended math tutoring. Oglesby says the fund continues to exemplify Davis’ commitment to success in the Bells Mill community.

“Sharon was a family member and looked to us as family too,” said second-grade teacher Lindsay Hart.

Davis’ commitment to her educational family impacts her students’ long after their time at Bells Mill. Joy Nearpass attended Friday’s memorial service in recognition of Davis’ lasting impression on her own children. Now ages 25 and 27, Nearpass says they always desired to keep in touch with their compassionate and dedicated second-grade teacher.

Davis’ continuing influence offers a source of comfort to her family. Her son Steven says his mother was an unbelievable supporter of everything he did, and after his father’s death at age four, Steven says his mother successfully filled both roles as a parent. It was her ability to act as such a parent and guide that Steven says will keep her memory instilled in the lives of the many children she taught.

“Her impact and lasting legacy will live on through generations and generations of students,” said Steven.

Time To Saddle Up for Annual Potomac Barn Tour

Association hosts third annual fund-raiser for equestrian trails.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

The Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trails Association will host its third annual Barn Tour this Sept. 26. The fund-raiser is sponsored by the association to maintain local riding trails for equestrians.

PBHTA has been an active non-profit organization since the 1960s, and is hosting the Barn Tour for its third year. Rex Reed, president of PBHTA, describes the tour as a showcase of various barns in the Potomac area, from small-scale operations to major commercial farms. The barns on the tour are volunteered by their owners and offer specialized features for equestrians, from



Centurion Farm, known for its indoor and outdoor riding rings, is on the annual Barn Tour.

breeding and jumping to indoor riding.

“It’s a wonderful experience and last year all people who came out really loved it,” said Elaine Jones, editor for the association and one of the coordinators for this year’s

tour. “It gives them a chance to see the countryside and the horses.”

The tour costs \$20 per carload and runs from noon to five. Reed says the proceeds will be used for contractors and volunteers

who clean and preserve the extensive area of trails.

This year’s tour extends to Poolesville,

SEE TOUR, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY REX REED

Stoney Creek Saddle Club will offer rides and games to visitors.



Seneca Sport Horses will offer vaulting demonstrations.

Tour To Help Trails

FROM PAGE 3

featuring four barns in what Reed describes as the heart of the agriculture preserve.

The first stop at Stoney Creek Saddle Club is a 20-stall barn with horses, ponies and activities that Reed says are attractive to children. The Saddle Club will be offering rides and games to visitors as a part of its fund-raising carnival.

Continuing on, the second stop of the tour lands visitors at Seneca Sport Horses. Reed describes the barn as a smaller backyard operation, offering a look at a competitive riding barn with training and rehabilitation programs. During the tour, Seneca will offer vaulting demonstrations to its visitors.

The third barn on the tour is Centurion Farm, known for its indoor and outdoor riding rings and attention to hunting and jumping. Reed says this 24-stall barn is an

example of a lavish and upscale commercial facility completely centered on its horses.

Tour-goers will make their final stop at the fourth barn, Wish Upon a Ster. The facility is a breeding center for Friesians, hosting mares and stallions for one of the more popular horse breeds Reed says have a strong and attractive image. The barn offers a dressage demonstration to visitors during the tour.

Tickets will be printed with directions to the four barns as visitors take themselves on the self-guided tour. The fund-raiser is one PBHTA plans to keep on its annual agenda to raise awareness for their organization and its work with the equestrian community.

"The tour gives a good representation of some different types of barns throughout the Potomac area," said Reed. "And offers a little something for everyone."



Wish Upon a Ster will offer a dressage demonstration.

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

FROM PAGE 2

recognize seniors from among five categories:

- ❖ Advocacy — Grassroots and lobbying efforts on behalf of any cause;
- ❖ Arts & Humanities — Achievements in the visual arts, music, literary arts or drama;
- ❖ Community Service — Volunteer work

of all sorts, as well as service on Boards of local groups and agencies;

- ❖ Sports & Fitness — Achievement in group or individual athletic pursuits, as well as health promotion (sports related); and
- ❖ Workplace Contribution — Special contributions to company or profession while employed or retired.

Nominations, which must be received by Friday, Sept. 18, should include an application form and letter of recommendation no more than two pages in length, describing the nature and extent of the nominee's achievements.

Applications can be obtained by calling the Montgomery County Volunteer Cen-

ter at 240-777-2600 or by visiting the Volunteer Center Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer. Submissions should be mailed to the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, or e-mailed to volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC



PHOTOS BY ANSLEY LABARRE/THE ALMANAC

Firefighters from Station 33 on Falls Road sift through the stack of cards given to them by students from Beverly Farms Elementary. "Sometimes we forget how much faith the community puts in us," said Captain Pete Friedman. "But they've gone out of their way just to thank us."



Devin Burton Radzely looks on as firefighters from Station 33 smile at the "thank-you" cards given to them from students at Beverly Farms Elementary. "As a part of the National Day of Service and Remembrance, we wanted to do something that helps others and thought of the firefighters and the risks they take to keep us safe," said Lisa Burton Radzely, co-chair of the school's Community Service Committee. "We selected the firefighters for a reason, and we are always grateful but today has extra meaning."

Students Salute Firefighters

Captain Pete Friedman and firefighters Josh Bellamy, Jose Estrada, Judah Daugherty, and Brian Alleman stand with Devin Burton Radzely, 5, and brother Brendan, 9. The boys represented Beverly Farms Elementary in their school-wide recognition of local firefighters for the National Day of Service and Remembrance on Sept. 11.

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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. Call 703-778-9412.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Blues Dance. 8:15 - 11:30 p.m. \$8 admission. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Beginner class 8:15-9 p.m. Rotating DJs. Email: info@capitalblues.org

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Story/Stereo: An Evening with Words & Music with Suzanne Frischkorn, Neil Smith, and The Roofwalkers. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Poet Suzanne Frischkorn reads her book, *Lit Windowpane*. She is joined by Neil Smith, who reads from *Bang Crunch*. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St, Bethesda. 301-654-8664. www.writer.org

Salsa Dance. 8 p.m. to Midnight. \$12 admission. Salsa lesson from 8-9 p.m., taught by Keith Givens, followed by dancing to recorded music. At the Bumper Car Pavilion of Glen Echo Park. Email: searchernet@comcast.net

Contra Dance. 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. There is a Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. This week Susan Petrick calls to the Opportunists with Erik Hoffman on Guitar, Fiddle, Percussion; Alan Snyder on Fiddle, Piano; and Topher Gayle on Bass, Mandolin, Mandola, Guitar, and Percussion. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Contact Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

La Divina Milonga Party. 8:30 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. In addition to a warm-up time from 8:30 - 9 p.m., the evening will include two lessons from 9 - 9:30 p.m.: 1. Argentine Tango beginner and above - brush up exploring the foundation. 2. Absolute beginner's helper - learn and dance tonight! The lessons are followed by dancing to recorded music from 9:30 p.m. - Midnight with Teacher and DJ Fabio Bonini, playing Traditional Tango, Milongas, Waltz and Tango Nuevo. The \$15 admission includes the warm-up, lessons and dancing. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: Jennifer@foreverdancing.com

SEPT. 18-NOV. 8

Go, Dog, Go! The production brings to life the delightful, colorful world of dogs through juggling, rhythmic music, and dance. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 301-634-2270 or online at <http://www.adventuretheatre.org>. Tickets are \$12 for children 12 and under and \$15 for adults. Children under the age of 1 are free. At Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, in the historic Glen Echo Park.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19

19th Annual PACC 5K Race. 8 a.m. To benefit the Poolesville area community. Starts at the Poolesville Baptist Church, West Willard Road, Poolesville. Pre-register at www.poolesvillechamber.com or in person at the Poolesville Baptist Church on Friday, Sept. 18 from 7-8 p.m. or on Saturday, Sept. 19 until 7:45 a.m. Visit www.poolesvillechamber.com or call 301-509-9232.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. - Midnight. \$14 admission. With Big Joe and the Dynafloes. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: wscvolutunteer@hotmail.com

Minnie's Island Canoe Camping Trip. 4 p.m. through Sunday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. Enjoy the great outdoors with a canoe trip and a night of camping under the stars and wake up on this island in the Potomac. Outfitter Byron Bradley will lead the Saturday afternoon canoe trip that will start at Carderock Picnic Area and end on Minnie's Island (near Lock 8 on the C&O Canal). Bring your own camping gear, food, and water. Must RSVP to tricarico@potomac.org by Sept. 16. Bring your own canoe or if one is needed reserve one in your RSVP. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. At the River Center at Lockhouse 8 at the River Center, 7906 Riverside Ave, Cabin John, MD. Contact Bridget Chapin, chapin@potomac.org, 301-608-1188, x206 or visit www.potomac.org/site/discover-rc1h8/.

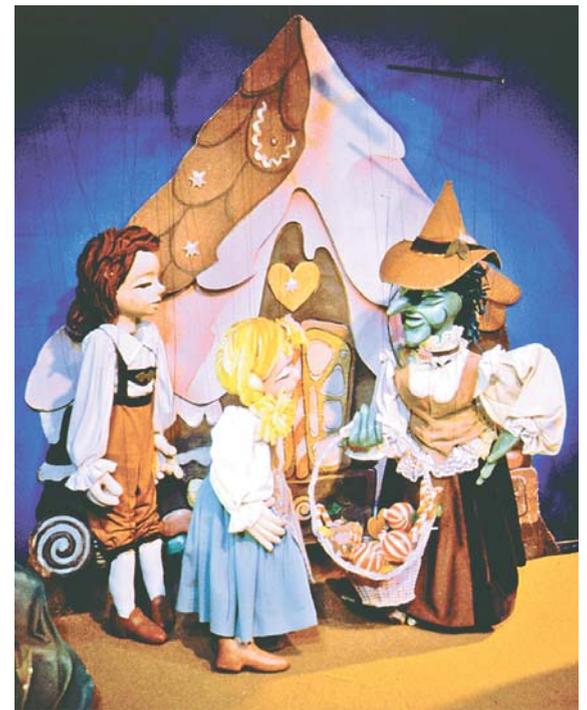
SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

My Diva: 65 Gay Men and the Women Who Inspire Them. 2-4 p.m. Join editor Michael Montlack as he and selected authors published in this anthology read their essays. The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St, Bethesda. 301-654-8664. www.writer.org

Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. \$8 admission. Beginner waltz lesson 3-3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. to the music of Cabaret Sauvignon with Andrea Hoag (fiddle), Paul Oorts (everything from mandolin, bouzouki, or banjo to accordion), composer Dave Wiesler (piano, guitar) and Karen Ashbrook (hammered dulcimer, flute). At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: info@waltztimedances.org

Family Dance. 3-5 p.m. \$5 admission. Spend the afternoon dancing with your children. Each of the family dances features live music and dance calling from 3-5 p.m. in the Bumper Car Pavilion, Glen Echo Park.

Sunday Blues. 7-11 p.m. \$12/dance only, \$17/lesson and dance. Lesson from 7-8:30 p.m. Dance only from 8:15-11 p.m. The Glen Echo Park Partnership presents a Blues Dance with



SEPT. 18-OCT. 11

"Hansel and Gretel". 40 minutes. A marionette adaptation of Humperdink's children's opera, full of magic, music and dazzling special effects. Recommended for grades K-6. Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. At the Puppet Co. Theater. Tickets are \$10. Call 301-634-5380.

the Jamie Lynch Band playing a mix of traditional and contemporary blues music, including classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues music. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

Contra & Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Welcome lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances called by Susan Petrick with The Opportunists from 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$12. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, and including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Swedish Folk Band, Vasen. 7:30 p.m. \$20/advance, \$25/door. Part of the Institute of Musical Traditions. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Norwood School Fair. 6-8 p.m. At Norwood School, grades K-8, located at 8821 River Road, Bethesda.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

Swing Dance. Beginner lesson 8-9 p.m. \$14 admission. Dancing 9 p.m. to midnight. With the Boilermaker Jazz Band. This high-energy band performs authentic hot jazz, ragtime, & swing with an infectious beat & an enthusiasm that thrills dancers and makes an audience swing to classic jazz standards, ballads & blues. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, Md. Contact dbarker@glenechopark.org, call 301-634-2231, or go to www.DanceDC.com. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Zydeco Dance Party. Introductory Zydeco Dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the band, the Junkyard Saints and instructors Michael Hart and Sharon Schilliro. Admission is \$15. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or 301-634-2222, or go to www.DancingbytheBayou.com.

Novelist James Ellroy. 7 p.m. James Ellroy, author of *L.A. Confidential* and *The Black Dahlia*, will read from his most recent novel, *Blood's a Rover*. This event is part of George Mason University's Fall for the Book Festival. Free and Open to the public. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 or visit www.writer.org.

Evening Open House. At Clara Barton National Historic Site. With the lights turned down low for period ambiance, visitors may explore the home's open hallways, hidden closets, and "bandage material" construction. Learn how Miss Barton used this structure as her home, warehouse, and the first permanent headquarters of the American Red Cross. Free. Call 301-320-1410 or visit www.nps.gov/clba

"A Woman's Perspective of Our Courts." 1 p.m. Ann Sundt, retired judge of the Montgomery County Circuit Court, will talk about "A Woman's Perspective of Our Courts." At Kensington Park Library, 4201 Knowles Ave. Call 240-773-9515.

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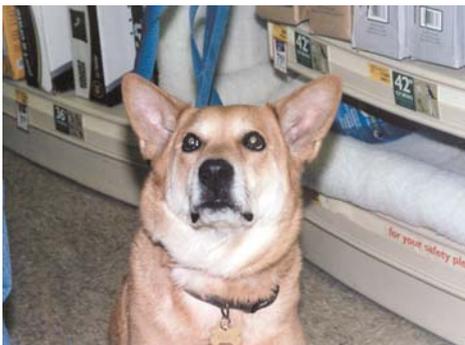
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Sandy



Buttermilk

PETS OF THE WEEK

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

(Above) Sandy is a 6-year-old, spayed Shepherd mix. At 50 pounds, she became homeless when her owner died. She is looking for a loving adopter.

She's very sweet, likes dogs, ignores cats and is content with a walk or time in a fenced yard. Sandy is devoted to her person and would love a bed next to her next kind owner.

Buttermilk is an 11-year-old female spayed cat. She is a curious girl who enjoys petting and brushing. She's not too picky about food and gets along with other cats and will "talk" on occasion. Buttermilk would be a wonderful addition to any home.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Jeffrey Owen Young of Potomac earned a spot on the dean's list for the spring semester at Lynchburg College, which requires a QPA of 3.5 or higher. Young is a 2009 graduate with a B.A. in communication studies.

Kenneth Day of North Potomac graduated from Excelsior College in the Spring of 2009.

Alexandra De Cores of Potomac was named to the dean's list at Frostburg State University in recognition of outstanding academic achievement for the spring 2009 semester.

Elizabeth Gitelman of North Potomac was named to the dean's list at Frostburg State University in recognition of outstanding academic achievement for the spring 2009 semester.

Summit Educational Group, a local leader in test preparation, is offering free practice tests for the regular SAT and ACT on July 26, beginning at 9 a.m., at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda. For a complete listing of dates, visit www.mytutor.com or call a Summit Program Director at 1-800-MYTUTOR (800-698-8867).

The International School of Music in Bethesda will be offering \$6,000 in lesson scholarships for the 2009/2010 school year, and a chance to become eligible for more awards from local businesses. Twelve scholarships for a free Fall semester of private music lessons will be awarded to the residents of Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. Regardless of musical experience, two scholarships will be awarded in each of the following age categories: 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17, and adult. One

scholarship will be awarded for children aged 4-5. To win these scholarships, students must write an essay of 300-500 words stating why they love music and what makes them excited about studying music (students aged 4-5 may submit a picture or painting). The deadline for the scholarship application is Aug. 15 and the award ceremony will be held on Aug. 30. Send essays to International School of Music, 5110 Ridgefield Rd., Suite 104, Bethesda, MD 20816. Call 301-657-0763. For details, visit www.ismw.org.

Stephanie Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Jones of Potomac, was named to the spring term 2009 dean's list at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, CT. Choate Rosemary Hall is an independent secondary school enrolling 850 boarding and day students from 41 states and 33 countries.

St. Mary's College of Maryland graduated its largest class in history. The college awarded 488 students with degrees and four educators with honorary degrees. Local graduates include:

- ❖ **Steven DaeYoung Auh** of Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics.
- ❖ **Michael Arthur Correll** of Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree in computer science and philosophy. He graduated Summa Cum Laude (3.9-4.0 GPA), and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, an organization recognizing individuals for scholarly achievement, broad cultural interests, and good character.
- ❖ **Lauren Carlin Georgevich** of North Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology.
- ❖ **Mayet Matungulu** of Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.
- ❖ **Katharine Leigh Moschella** of North Potomac received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.
- ❖ **Elena Papademetriou** of Potomac received a Bachelor of the Arts degree in English.

enough classrooms and laboratories to handle program growth. The new labs will enable Montgomery College to increase its nursing student enrollment from 296 students to 376, which would mean a target increase of 80 students over five years, and graduate more students starting in 2010.

For more information on the Who Will Care? campaign, visit www.mdhospitals.org or contact Ellen Stanley at estanley@mhaonline.org

Michael Durso, the former principal of Springbrook High School, has been appointed by the Montgomery County Board of Education to fill the District 5 seat vacated by the election of Nancy Navarro to the Montgomery County Council. Durso was elected by the Board on the first ballot, by a unanimous vote of 7-0 and will complete the remainder of the term, through 2010.

Durso was a principal at Yorktown High School in Arlington, and a principal at Woodrow Wilson High School and Lincoln Junior High School in the District.

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BUSINESS NOTES

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

Montgomery College will receive nearly \$235,000 in grant funding from the Who Will Care? campaign, an initiative established by the Maryland Hospital Association, health care and academic leaders to double the number of nursing graduates in Maryland.

Montgomery College will use the grant to create three new nursing laboratories at its Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, where the College's nursing program is located. Funds will be used to purchase equipment for the labs, and train faculty and staff to use simulation scenarios for improved student learning.

Montgomery College's nursing program is currently at its enrollment capacity because there are not



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YMCA Youth & Family Services Y's Parenting Fall 2009

Promote Honesty: Dealing with Lying, Stealing and Sneaky Behavior

Trust is critical in all relationships. How do we develop trust in our children? How do we build it back once it has been damaged? How can parents react to show the seriousness of these behaviors without losing their cool, shutting down communication or being manipulated?

Monday, September 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Traducción al Espanol disponible

FREE. Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac

BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-778-9412.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Education Forum. 7 p.m. Parents, staff, students, and community members are invited to share their views with the Board of Education at forums at Quince Orchard High School and at 7 p.m. Community participants will be asked to address the question, "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the MCPS strategic plan should we focus on to improve achievement for all students?" Register to speak by calling 301-279-3617.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Seminar. 7-9 p.m. Promote Honesty: Dealing with Lying, Stealing and Sneaky Behavior. Free. Trust is critical in all relationships. How do we develop trust in our children? How do we build it back once it has been damaged? How can parents react to show the seriousness of these behaviors without losing their cool, shutting down communication or being manipulated? At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

Volunteers are needed to teach free Bone Builders classes at locations in Potomac. The classes are designed to prevent and slow development of osteoporosis and the daytime classes help regular participants increase bone density naturally, an effective option for those who may not wish to

use anti-osteoporosis medicines. Volunteer leaders receive a full day of free training and ongoing supervision by a master trainer. The next training is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 9:30-4:30 p.m. at the Lawton (formerly Leland) Community Center in Chevy Chase. Contact Shawn Brennan, program manager for Senior Health Promotion, at 240-777-1350 or shawn.brennan@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Town Hall Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. At Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, 6311 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Call 240-777-6507.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

First District Open House. Noon to 3 p.m. Tours, demonstrations, and activities for the whole family. There will be demonstrations by Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), a Maryland National Capital Park Police horse-mounted officer, K-9 officers with canine partners, and motorcycle officers. At the First District Station, 1451 Seven Locks Road, Rockville.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

Police Explorer 1986 Open House. 7 p.m. Membership open to residents of Montgomery County between ages 14-20. At the Public Safety Training Academy, 9710 Great Seneca Highway, Rockville.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Rescue Day Open House. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. Visit www.bccrs.org.

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Tuesday, September 22

6:00pm - 8:00pm

at Norwood School

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Norwood School,
8821 River Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take exit 39, River Road. Take River Road towards Potomac. The school entrance is on the right approximately 1 mile past the Beltway and just before the intersection with Bradley Boulevard.

Churchill Football Knocks Off Seneca Valley

The Churchill football team improved to 2-0 with a 21-7 victory over Seneca Valley on Friday at SVHS.

The Bulldogs led 14-7 at halftime and added an insurance touchdown in the third quarter when quarterback Alex Kantor connected with Matt Risk for a 6-yard scoring pass.

Kantor completed 4 of 6 passes for 14 yards. He led Churchill in rushing yards with 85 on 10 carries.

Bulldogs running back Ryan Quinn carried 16 times for 63 yards and a touchdown. Quinn, Matt Cole and Brandon Swepson each caught a pass for Churchill.

Cole returned an interception 46 yards for a touchdown. Risk led the Bulldogs with 13 tackles, while Kantor and Brett Schweitzer each finished with 10.

The Bulldog defense has held its opponent to seven points in each of the first two games. Churchill defeated Gaithersburg 17-7 on Sept. 4.

The defense has shown a "bend but don't break mentality," Churchill head coach Joe Allen said. "The defense is just a swarming defense. ... There's a lot of room for improvement."

Churchill hosts Walter Johnson (0-2) on Thursday.

"What we really have to caution against now is becoming a little too caught up in the hype and not staying focused," Allen said.

Second-half goal propels Whitman

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

After being shut out by Magruder to open the season, the Wootton field hockey team entered its Sept 9 matchup with the Whitman Vikings searching for its first win — as well as its first goal of the year. The Patriots would get neither on this night.

During the first half, neither team put significant pressure on their opponent, resulting in a 0-0 stalemate going into the half. Whitman's Celeste Pilato scored the game's lone goal in the second half to give the Vikings a 1-0 victory.

"Our coach is still finding out who works best with who and what position people play best in," Wootton senior midfielder Michelle Castagnola said.

With just under 20 minutes remaining in the game, a Whitman player was sent off and given a yellow card for excessive pushing.

This appeared to give momentum as well as a tactical advantage to Wootton. However, it was Whitman that capitalized despite playing an athlete down.

With 17:21 left in the second half, the junior forward Pilato put a rebound past Wootton senior goalie Caitlin Zolet to take a 1-0 lead.



Churchill quarterback Alex Kantor, seen earlier this season, led the Bulldogs with 85 rushing yards Friday against Seneca Valley.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

comeback attempt, Wright carried the ball the length of the field with just 1:36 remaining, but her shot was easily handled by Whitman goalie Emily Koroshetz.

"We need to finish," Zolet said. "We get the ball into the circle, but then we won't get a shot off. Or we'll take a shot and not go for the rebound. We won't win until we start playing some aggressive offense."

Senior forward/midfielder Amy Rubin, who has been sidelined with a sprained ankle, could eventually provide that offensive spark that the Patriots have lacked in their first two contests.

Whitman football beats Walter Johnson

The Whitman football team improved to 2-0 with a 28-0 victory over Walter Johnson on Friday.

Whitman, which opened its season Sept. 4 with a victory over Northwest, hosts Quince Orchard (2-0) on Thursday.

Bullis football opens season with victory

Bullis opened its season with a 3-0 victory over St. Vincent Pallotti (1-2) on Saturday.

Bullis hosts Sidwell Friends (2-0) on Thursday.

Wootton Football Falls to Gaithersburg in Overtime

Patriots fail to hold eight-point fourth-quarter lead.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

An eight-point lead with less than three minutes to play was not enough for the Wootton football team to earn its first victory of the season.

After dropping its season opener to defending state champion Sherwood, 56-14, Wootton suffered a 29-28 overtime loss to Gaithersburg on Friday on a muddy field at WHS.

Neither team could move the ball consistently during the third quarter and much of the fourth, until Wootton quarterback Alex Kelly finally broke past the defensive line and outran the Gaithersburg defense for a 42-yard touchdown, giving the Patriots a 21-13 lead with 2:39 remaining.

"I always know there's a chance that the game could go either way till the buzzer," Kelly said, "but I thought we were in a good position to win the game at that point."

But the muddied and tired Wootton defense kept letting Gaithersburg back in the game.

With 1:50 left, Gaithersburg quarterback Zach Fetters completed a 30-yard pass on fourth-and-10 to preserve the Trojans' comeback hopes.

Then, inexplicably, Gaithersburg wide receiver Silvester Oni was left uncovered with just 46.6 seconds remaining in the fourth, leading to a 10-yard touchdown reception. "We had a miscommunication on the coverage," Wootton senior cornerback Gordie Gold said. "We weren't sure who had who and we got burned because of it."

Given yet another opportunity to end the game, the Wootton defense could not stop Gaithersburg's two-point conversion attempt, so the teams took their 21-all tie into overtime.

The high school overtime format gives each offense the ball at the opposing team's 10-yard line. Teams alternate possessions until one comes out ahead after each has had an equal number of possessions.

Wootton started with the ball and had little trouble finding the end zone, as Kelly threw a screen to leading receiver Rashawn Morris (six catches for 57 yards), who weaved through traffic for the 7-yard touchdown.

"I felt that if we scored first, the game would be over," Morris said.

Now, it was Gaithersburg's turn. On its

second play, running back Khare Cross took the pitch off the left side and trotted unscathed six yards for the score.

Down by one, Gaithersburg sent its offense on the field for a two-point conversion attempt Fetters rolled right for what seemed like an eternity, and found Oni sliding in the back of the end zone, capping the comeback.

"Most visiting teams would go for two in overtime when they have a chance to end it because they would want to get out of there as soon as they could," Gold said. "I'm surprised they got it though, I thought we'd stop them."

The weather conditions would play a major factor in the game, as Wootton's spread, pass-happy offense would be reduced to off-tackle running plays and screen passes as a result of the muddy field.

On Wootton's opening possession, Kelly broke off a 27-yard run on third-and-five to extend the drive, one that culminated in a 2-yard touchdown run by senior Matt Grimm.

Kelly's versatility was on display this Friday night. He was the team's leading rusher (15 rushes for 92 yards) as well as passer (15-for-26 for 163 yards). He long snapped on punts, was often the first Wootton player to the ball in special team's coverage, and played cornerback during crucial plays down the stretch of the fourth quarter.

Words To Live By, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Continuing on where last week's column ended, there are words and phrases that, given my particular life-expectancy-challenged perspective, might have to be permanently excluded and/or expunged from my vocabulary. Words and phrases that typically carry no additional weight other than their dictionary-defined and/or popular usage connotations/context. Connotations/context, however, that for me, have now taken on a whole new meaning/significance. And the difficulty of deleting some of these words and phrases is that they have become such a regular part of the Lourie lexicon that stopping their utterance will be much easier said than undone.

A few examples (other than last week's "Forever stamps" question): I was having an innocent (not about me) conversation with a friend about the ICC (the Inter-County Connector), the long-delayed, but now finally-under-construction, 19 mile, super-cross-County-highway-to-be. The battle to get to this construction/funding point took decades. The construction itself will take years. When completed, the highway will connect I-270 in Montgomery County with I-95 in Prince George's County. The impact of that ongoing construction; lane closures, new traffic patterns, paving, re-paving, new bridges and interchanges, is felt by thousands of commuters and cross-County drivers every day; morning, noon and night. And as I was commiserating and empathizing with this friend about the current state of the Connector, and its potential future impact as well, I casually said, and said so figuratively, as concerns the completion of this multi-billion dollar project, "I should live so long."

Hello, I might not "Live so long" (literally speaking), so anticipating something that used to be relatively normal (I don't say benign anymore either) and likely, given my previous life expectancy, now seems almost short sighted (and long winded, too). Moreover, pretending ain't gonna make it so, either. Nor is denying the time-sensitivity of the underlying facts. In reality, I might not live long enough to actually see the completion of this multi-year, public works-type project, especially considering that this is the kind of project which generally doesn't turn on a dime, finish early and give you any change. It will be finished when it's finished, and so will I.

Another expression that I, and a lot of Jewish people use is, one that has some historical context to it. Before there was a Jewish State (Israel, not New York), Jews all across Europe hoping to be in a "better" place next year (less hardship, less prejudice and discrimination, more freedom) would often say: "Next year in Jerusalem," giving expression to the hope of an improved life, ideally life in Jerusalem in the not too distant future. Over the years and with respect to the post World War II history (the creation of the Jewish state of Israel in 1949), that expression has morphed into meaning - in my mind, anyway - that you're so looking forward to something pleasant/significant and positive happening in your life that it never seems to happen or certainly doesn't happen soon enough. Now, when I want something to happen but figure it won't happen (or it's out of my control to make it happen or it certainly won't happen soon enough), I usually invoke the name of a festive Jewish holiday, Purim, that itself never seems to arrive soon enough (and is always much anticipated), to scoff at the likelihood of the thing ever happening: "Yeah, they'll finish the ICC - by Purim."

My reality is, in word and deed, that I might not live so long to actually experience the next Purim. Oh, it will get here, eventually, but I'll likely be out of town or otherwise occupied when it does finally arrive. Which leads me to a familiar Yiddish expression ideally suited for this conundrum: Oi, vai! ("expression of dismay or hurt").

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

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- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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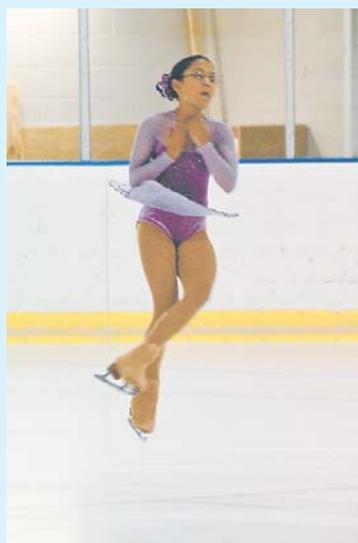
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PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Skaters participated in the annual Cabin John Skating Exhibition on Friday, Sept. 11.

EDUCATION

How To Make the Most of High School

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

The four years of high school go by so quickly that when some seniors look back at their freshman year, they wish they could go back and re-live it. Many are distressed because they did not pay attention to how important ninth grade is to their post-secondary plans.

Why is ninth grade so important? Parents and students used to feel that this year was a “learning” experience to help the child get “used to high school.” No longer is this the case.

Ninth grade students must hit the ground running, taking as rigorous a program as they can effectively handle while becoming involved in high school activities both on the school campus and in the community.

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) weights the first three years of high school equally. The grade point averages (GPA), both weighted and unweighted, are calculated at the end of the junior year, and thus, this is the first data that the college admission officers receive in the fall. A list of first semester senior classes is included, but no grades from the first semester can be sent because they have not been earned yet. The college’s first impression of a student is based on the cumulative grade point average from 9th, 10th and 11th grades. The freshman year grades are important because they constitute one-third of the GPA.

THE CHALLENGE of the 9th grade schedule is equally important. Has the student chosen honors or AP classes? Is the math sequence leading to more difficult math classes? What is the level of competency in foreign language? Another reason a rigorous curriculum is important is the weighted GPA. This WGPA is calculated by adding a quality point to the grade if an A, B or C is earned in an Honors or Advanced class. Admissions officers consider both GPAs in their analysis of a student.

The 9th grade curriculum forms the basis

for the selection of courses in future years. For example, a student who is interested in engineering, science or medicine should select the most challenging math and science class sequence offered. They might choose Algebra 2 in the 9th grade, Pre-calculus in the 10th grade and Calculus in 11th grade to lead to a college level math class as a senior. Planning the sequences of classes is especially important. Students and parents should meet with their school counselors to select courses for each year, using the 4-year Educational and Planning Worksheet located in the MCPS publication Getting Started as their planning guide.

IN ADDITION to a challenging program, ninth grade students have the opportunity to explore extra-curricular activities such as school clubs, music groups, theater, student government, athletics, and community service organizations. Parents often ask how many activities are appropriate. Admission officers do not expect a student to participate in a multitude of activities each semester. The preference is that the student exhibits a commitment and expertise in a few areas for three to four years. A student should also strive to develop leadership skills in their chosen activities.

Some ninth grade students will be taking the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) as a practice test on Oct. 14. (The only time the PSAT “officially counts” is in the junior year, when scores are used to identify students who qualify for merit scholarships.) Both the test and the answers will be returned to students, who should review the questions and answers and use this experience as a tool for improving their scores.

They should analyze the results, look for strengths and weaknesses and then focus throughout the year on improving any deficits. The PSAT is a reliable predictor of SAT scores. If a student does not score well, parents should realize that there could be many factors. Students often feel they do not have enough time and need to learn how to pace themselves correctly. They may not have taken

Geometry or Algebra 2. Their vocabulary may be weak. These are all areas that can be improved with regular practice sessions, consistent reading and mastering math through Algebra 2.

DR. NANCY CARLSON, MCPS counselor specialist for K – 12, identified several college preparatory opportunities for students in grades 8 and 9. These include eighth grade early college awareness events held in middle schools, the evening session of the NACAC/MCPS College Fair in April, as well as the Historically Black College Fair held in MPCS each February for students in grades 8 – 12.

When asked what the biggest difficulty is for ninth grade students, Dr. Carlson replied: “There are so many tasks in high school that ninth grade students face. They often are grappling with identity issues — who they are and who they want to be. They feel the pressure to do well, learn responsibility and fit in with peers. Some face additional challenges, such as having to learn to speak English or coping with learning disabilities. In addition, many families have been hit hard by the current economic pressures. School counselors are committed to helping students and their families face these issues to ensure a successful ninth grade year that helps prepare them for college and career.”

Many MCPS high schools focus on 9th grade students by offering tutoring, mentoring, counseling groups and separate 9th grade academies and signature programs. Parents should encourage their children to take advantage of the help offered in their high schools. Students who learn the value of seeking help for problems will most likely be very successful in high school, college and life. Recognizing there is a problem is the first step, but learning to ask for help and support from the right source is a life skill.

The author, Susan Belford, recently retired from Montgomery County Public Schools as a director of guidance.

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