

Potomac ALMANAC

Mourning Jean Cryor's Death

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Vin Kelly plays "Kris Kringle" and Mary Sorensen plays "Susan Walker" in the Potomac Theatre Company production of "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas."



For Cabin John, A Double Dose Of Maintenance

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PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE / THE ALMANAC CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

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Family, Friends Mourn Cryor's Death

Planning Board commissioner, former state delegate dies of cancer.

More than 500 people, among them nearly all elected officials and other leaders from Potomac and Montgomery County past and present, attended funeral services for Jean Cryor at St. Raphael Catholic Church on Monday, Nov. 9.

An honor guard of mounted Maryland State and National Park police greeted those who came to celebrate Cryor's life. The service was punctuated with tears and laughter.

Her daughter Deirdra Cryor described her mother's "magical touch, ... always going one step further to find the solution," to everything from decorating to high level legislative issues, and the "joy she had in living her life."

"She was a public person. She loved to go to the Potomac Safeway, not so much to shop as to chat. Her grandchildren knew that there were no quick trips Potomac Village with Grandma," Deirdra Cryor said.

Father James Meyers, pastor of St. Raphael's, noted that Jean Cryor started "Stone Soup Sunday" years ago at the church, feeding those in need once a month, which continues on today. She was a "listener, and a problem solver because she was a listener," he said.

CRYOR, 70, a Montgomery County Planning Board commissioner, died last Tuesday, Nov. 3, of cancer. The County Council appointed her to the Planning Board in June



At Jean Cryor's funeral Monday, Nov. 9, stood an honor guard of mounted Maryland State and National Park police.

2007 immediately following her 12-year service in the House of Delegates, where she served on the House Ways and Means Committee and served for four years as its ranking member. She represented District 15, including most of western Montgomery County.

Cryor was elected president of Maryland Women Legislators, the first time a Republican held the post. The Potomac Chamber of Commerce honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award and the Potomac Almanac named her Citizen of Year for her environmental work.

"The entire Park and Planning family is deeply saddened at the untimely death of Commissioner Jean Cryor," said Planning Board Chairman Royce Hanson in a written statement. "We were richer having her as a colleague who brought her years of experience and wisdom as journalist, political leader, legislator, and all-around selfless public servant to the work of the Planning Board."

"Jean brought us insight, compassion, humor, and great good judgment to the decisions we make," Hanson stated. "It was characteristic of her dedication to the pub-

lic weal that she insisted that her funeral could not be held on Thursday" when the Planning Board regularly meets. "She was one of Montgomery's finest citizens, and an enormous loss to all of us who knew and loved her, and to the greater community her work touched."



Jean Cryor

A 35-YEAR RESIDENT of Montgomery County, she was twice named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by a statewide newspaper. Throughout her life, Cryor was an activist interested in the environment, education and women's issues. She had been named The Potomac Almanac's Citizen of the Year, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year, and was elected president of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association.

She held a career in journalism before representing District 15. Cryor spent much of her career in journalism, including as editor and publisher of the local Gazette Newspapers. She launched the Potomac, Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Poolesville Gazettes, newspapers that garnered many reporting awards. The Maryland Society of Professional Journalists recognized her with its top award for investigative journalism.

Cryor was awarded numerous lifetime
SEE RECALLING CRYOR, PAGE 5

For Cabin John, a Double Dose of Maintenance

Parents find Tilden Holding Center unfit.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

Cabin John Middle School students and staff relocated to the Tilden Holding Center at the start of the 2009 school year, adapting to a new building while their former school on Gainsborough Road began its two-year modernization process.

But to the dismay of many Cabin John parents, the Holding Center seems to desperately need of a modernization of its own.

On their first visit to the temporary academic facility, parents found profane graffiti on the walls, absent baseboards leaving gaps above the floor, and leaky pipes dripping through ceiling tiles — an issue that led to the corrosion of electrical outlets and light fixtures. The faulty heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system left some parents wondering if the excess water was causing mold to grow in the build-



Pipes above the ceiling in a Tilden classroom have leaked through the tiles, leaving them wet to the touch.

ing while concerns grew over the possibility of increased student illness.

Parent Majorie Silver has been worried about the health of her child since seeing the condition of the building, and is concerned with the decaying and broken asbestos tiles in the stairwells.

"The idea of asbestos is freaking me out," said Silver. She said that while she is not familiar with the ins-and-outs of building maintenance, it was clear to her and other

parents that something was very wrong.

"My jaw hit the floor at the filth and the blatant disrepair of the building," said Lisa Caplan, parent to a seventh grader.

Remembering her child's illness that arose from the toxic mold in portables at Bells Mill Elementary three years ago, Caplan said she knew they couldn't afford to wait. She and other parents approached Montgomery County Public Schools to demand immediate action.

"I lived through mold and other conditions before," said Caplan. "I'm not going to sit back this time and watch a whole school year pass as kids tolerate these conditions because someone isn't willing to step forward and get the job done."

DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION James Song met with parents on Sept. 2 and heard their concerns about the various maintenance issues at Tilden. The meeting occurred after Cabin John students started their classes and parents had the opportunity to tour the facility for the first time — the timing of which left parents wondering

SEE UNFIT, PAGE 8



PHOTOS DONATED

Gaps and deterioration of door frames are among the maintenance issues parents at Cabin John Middle School raised in concern with MCPS upon their students' arrival at the Tilden Holding Center in Rockville.

Opening Up for Santa

Potomac Theatre Company prepares holiday musical.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Now that the five little pumpkins have rolled out of sight and Tom Turkey is waiting for his Presidential pardon, Santa Claus is on his way to

Potomac. This month the Potomac Theatre Company presents "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" the Broadway musical version of Miracle on 34th Street. Written by Meredith Wilson, the author of "The Music Man" and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," the show tells the classic story of

Kris Kringle, a white-bearded gentleman claiming to be the real Santa Claus as he spreads a wave of love throughout New York City, fostering camaraderie between Macy's and Gimbel's Department Stores and convincing a divorced, cynical single mother, her somber daughter and the entire city that

Santa Claus is no myth.

Ken Kemp portrays ex-Marine Fred Gaily and feels the play "resonates with audiences because the core story of 'Miracle on 34th Street' is the classic Christmas story that everyone loves and Meredith Wilson is a giant of American musical theater. This story will really touch audiences. Everyone should come see the show because of our incredibly talented cast. We also have a wonderful orchestra."

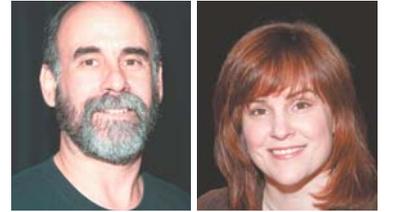
As for the children in the cast, Kemp adds, "it is a wonderful way to introduce children to live theater. Children will come and see kids their own age on stage and see that they can do that too. The kids in this show are enormously talented and they will keep the art form alive. The whole family can enjoy the performance and it is a great way to start the holiday season. You can see live theater for the cost of going to the movies. Community theater produces shows that rival what people can see in professional productions."

Producing Artistic Director Barry Hoffman feels that the Potomac Theatre Company is the best kept secret in town. "It is wonderful that we have a facility where we can bring live entertainment to the community. Most people in the community don't take advantage of getting involved with the shows. They can have the opportunity to be a part of an exciting venture whether it is painting scenery, acting, building sets, promotion, there is a place for everyone to help out and it is an enjoyable experience for everybody."

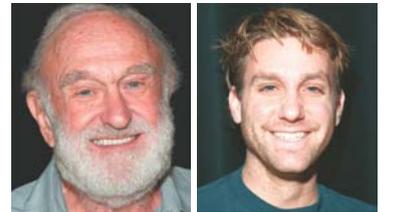
Going from Bah,h umbug! to Ho-Ho-Ho! is no easy task. Vin Kelly's previous role was Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" but in this show he plays Kris Kringle and his role requires him to play a gentleman who is "uniformly and unequivocally kind. He is symbolic of someone who plans the whole year to bring happiness to children." He feels the main theme of the show is "to treat everyone with love the whole year."

Continuing the theme of love, Jessica May (Doris Walker) explores the mother/daughter relationship between Doris and Susan. "They love each other very much, but Doris has a checkered past and tries to shield her daughter from pain. She teaches her not to believe in anything that she cannot see, smell, hear, taste or touch. It is a journey from cynicism to belief. This show encapsulates everything that is wonderful about

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Ken Kemp Jessica May



Vin Kelly Ryan Barone

Details

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" runs at The Blair Family Center for the Arts at The Bullis School weekends Nov. 20-Dec. 6. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. except on Saturday Nov. 21 when the show begins at 7 p.m. with a special Meet-the-Cast wine and cheese party after the performance. For tickets call 301-299-8571 and leave a message. Tickets are \$20; \$18 for seniors and students with a special 20 percent off prepaid groups of 10. The Bullis School is located at 10601 Falls Road in Potomac. For more information visit www.potomactheatreco.org

Christmas. Everyone will enjoy this great, fun family show."

Playing for laughs, Ryan Barone (Shellhammer) makes his stage debut with the PTC. He admits in growing up he was voted class clown in school. His character provides comic relief in the show and Barone concedes the role was not much of a stretch. "I'm kind of a goofball; this character was a natural fit for me. Marvin Shellhammer is devoted to his boss, Doris, and wants to impress her but his ideas never seem to work. He is not a strong compass and is very wishy washy."

Nan Muntzing, pianist for the show feels that people that know "The Music Man" will recognize the flavor of Wilson's music in "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas" "because we have a patter song, brass instruments in the orchestra and a song, 'Here's Love' that is similar to '76 Trombones.' It is a very happy, cheerful show." Cast member Melanie Williams (Miss Crookshank) agrees that the production is "a holiday show for all and will bring the community a lot of joy."

Choreographer Glenda Henderson sees an increase in the amount of people interested in dance partly due to the many

SEE POTOMAC, PAGE 11

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

UPPER-END HOME SALES REMAIN BRISK

Even though the housing market has generally cooled down to a more normal volume of sales and price appreciation, one niche is still selling briskly - the multi-million-dollar homes. For example, in San Francisco 18 homes in that range sold in the first quarter of this year. That's up from 15 in the same period last year, according to DataQuick, a real estate information service.

The same type of increase is experienced in many other markets. One factor in the growth could be that median prices of all homes have risen, pushing more homes into the luxury end. Also, inventory is up across the board. But at a time when the overall number of home sales has declined in many markets, the number in the ultra-high range has continued to grow.

"The segment of high-end buyers won't be immune from the unfolding travails of the rest of the market, but it will weather those difficulties much better than it has historically," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy. The increasing numbers of step-up home buyers are often particularly persistent in finding and purchasing their next dream home.

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Recalling Cryor

FROM PAGE 3

achievement awards for her legislation on education and the environment. She served as president to the West Montgomery County Citizen's Association.

Cryor was elected president of Maryland Women Legislators, the first time a Republican held the post. The Potomac Chamber of Commerce honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award and the Potomac Almanac named her Citizen of Year for her environmental work.

"She had such a broad knowledge, and could apply any situation and facts to the history of politics in the county," said long-time friend Elie Pisarra-Cain, who worked with Cryor on her campaigns. "She was just really good at advising people."

Pisarra-Cain said Cryor was a woman who prided herself on being an independent, never accepting so much as a cup of coffee from a lobbyist. The discretion that trademarked Cryor's humility also shocked friends with the news of her passing, saying they didn't realize the extent of the condition that eventually claimed her life.

"She knew how to make things

go in the right direction," said Pisarra-Cain. "Everything she touched just turned to gold."

CRYOR WAS RAISED in suburban Philadelphia, where she was a reporter for the Philadelphia Bulletin. For 10 years, Cryor headed up the mid-Atlantic area for the News Election Service, the election reporting pool of the networks and wire services.

Recently, Cryor taught local and state government at Montgomery College. Throughout her life, she served on numerous boards, including the Maryland Commission for Women, the Universities of Maryland/Shady Grove, Blackrock Center for the Arts, the Potomac Theater Company and Montgomery Women, among others.

Cryor was the widow of Dan Cryor, a CBS newsman for over 20 years. She is survived by her three grown daughters, Allison Cryor DiNardo of Alexandria, Va.; Jennifer Cryor Baldwin of North Potomac; and Deirdre Cryor of Denver, Color.; three grandchildren, Maitland, Emma and Anna Baldwin; and her sister, Bonnie O'Neill of Guatemala.

— ANSLEY LABARRE
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

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Both hikes begin with a short information session with Fairfax County wildlife Biologist, Victoria Monroe.

For more information and to register for the hikes please go to www.madeira.org/hike

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Photo by Steve Vaccarello

CALENDAR

TUESDAY/NOV. 10

Concert. 8 p.m. 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic will present a special concert to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth hosts a vin d'honneur for audience members immediately following the performance. Tickets \$25 to \$65. At the Strathmore. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Rhythm Angels and K.C. Clifford. 8 p.m. At Branded '72, 387 E. Gude Drive, Rockville. \$18/general, \$15/members or in advance. Contact: David at focusrockville@earthlink.net, 301-275-7459 or log onto www.focusmusic.org.

NOV. 11-14

John Guare's The House of Blue Leaves. 8 p.m. The House of Blue Leaves is a dark comedy about long-suffering zookeeper Artie Shaugnassy who dreams of being a famous songwriter. Tickets are \$10/regular, \$8 seniors and students. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.

THURSDAY, NOV. 12

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Slow Blues Lesson 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests will play a wonderful variety of styles including traditional and contemporary blues music, and classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues music. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

NOV. 12-15

Museum Shop Around at Strathmore. Hand-crafted jewelry, apparel, glassware, toys, books, CDs, stationery. 16 museums bring their gift shops to this four-day shopping festival. Thursday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15-midnight. \$15 admission. Hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. Lesson from 8:15-9 p.m. for Salsa beginners and up. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight with DJ Fabio Bonini playing the best of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha-Cha, Reggaeton and more. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park.
Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Dancing from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Contra dancing as well as some square dances and



FRIDAY/NOV. 13

After Hours Cabaret. 10 p.m. Admission is \$15. Ariel Sings the Divas through the Decades. At Bethesda Theatre. At 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-657-7827, ext. 101, or info@bethesdatheatre.com.



FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company. 8 p.m. tickets are \$40/regular, \$38/seniors and students. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.

waltzes with the Glen Echo Open Band. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

The Holmes Brothers. 8 p.m. \$25-\$55. Appearing with Joan Osborne and Paul Thorn. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or go to www.strathmore.org.

NOV. 13-14

"Chicago, The Musical." 7:30 p.m. Winston Churchill High School stages "Chicago, The Musical." Tickets are \$12/\$10. Chicago will feature Ashley Austin as Velma Kelly, Alexandra Levenson as Roxie Hart, Shelby Sykes as Matron Mama Morton, Steven Rigaux as Billy Flynn, Josh Simon as Amos Hart, Peter Karp as Mary Sunshine, Becca Murphy as Liz, Molly Kiniry as Annie, Genny Austin as June, Bluma Millman as Hunyak, Laura Butvinik as Mona and Tanaquil Marquez as Go-to-Hell Kitty along with an enormously talented ensemble of forty-four students. Nancy Newell is choreographing Lead Dancers Thalia Ertman, Ryan Kanfer, Josh Kaufmann, and Ariana Nasser. Under the direction of Jessica Speck, the musical leadership of Keith Tittermary, and dance choreography by Nancy Newell. At Churchill High School, Gertrude Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. Call 301-469-1246 or go to www.wchs драма.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

WWII Canteen Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. Beginning swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Featuring the Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra playing popular music of the '30s, '40s and '50s. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.
Turkish Bazaar. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$1 admission. Kilims, rugs, handcrafts, gift items, Turkish food. At Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, 6311 Wilson Lane, Bethesda.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Most hardback books and large paperbacks are \$1. Regular sized paperbacks are \$.50. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenholden Drive, Potomac.
Japanese Hand-Knitting Design. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Join Gayle Roehm for a slide show of sweaters and accessories from Japan, and be introduced to some creative and unusual designers. At St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Go to www.potomacfiberartsguild.org.
Czechoslovak Christmas Bazaar. Noon to 4 p.m. Free

admission. On sale will be a wide variety of crafts and holiday items, and the restaurant will serve typical Czechoslovak dishes. Sponsored by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences. At the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda.

St. Jane de Chantal Holiday Bazaar.

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. At St. Jane de Chantal school, 9525 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Variety of independent vendors selling unique, quality merchandise including original art, monogrammed items, jewelry, stationery, children's clothes and more.
Japanese Hand-Knitting Design. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Japanese hand knitting designers show a flair for stitchwork and unique variations on traditional techniques. Join Gayle Roehm for a slide show of sweaters and accessories from Japan, and be introduced to some creative and unusual designers. Sponsored by Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. At Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.potomacfiberartsguild.org.

Bizaare Bazaar.

8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Flea market sales, silent auction, crafts, food and raffle of a hand-made quilt. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, near Montgomery College in Rockville. Call 301-762-7666 or see www.uucr.org.

Talent Search.

2-4 p.m. auditions. For groups interested in performing in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. In the Executive Office Building Lobby Level Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville. Those selected will perform at the County's celebration on Monday, Jan. 18, 2010, at the Music Center at Strathmore, located at 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call Sean Gibson at 240-777-1227 or email sean.gibson@montgomerycountymd.gov.

NOV. 14-15

"Dr. Seuss' Stories." Two shows: Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. At North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. Suggested donations are: \$5/children, \$7/adults, with a \$25 max/family. Visit www.northbethesdaumc.org or call 301-530-4342.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Symphony of the Potomac. 3 p.m. Joel Lazar, music director. At Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist Alon Goldstein, Wagner Overture to The Flying Dutchman, Brahms Symphony No. 4. \$15 at the door, \$10 by phone at 800-494-TIXS or online at symphonypotomac.org. Ages SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

18 and under free. Call 301-984-6390.
Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/nonmembers, \$9/members. Welcome lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances called by Gaye Fifer to Notorious from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couples dances. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Go to <http://www.fsgw.org>.
Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. \$8 admission. Beginning waltz lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Afternoon dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. Music by the Notorious duo (Larry Unger and Eden MacAdam-Somer) with Paul Oorts and Ralph Gordon. At the Spanish Ballroom of

Glen Echo Park. Email: info@waltztimedances.org.
Concert. 3 p.m. Piano Concerto No. 1 with pianist Alon Goldstein, Wagner - Overture to The Flying Dutchman, and Brahms - Symphony No. 4 Sponsored by Symphony of the Potomac, a volunteer orchestra based in Montgomery County. At Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. Tickets are \$15/door and \$10/online at symphonypotomac.org.
Run for Wellness. 9 a.m. Holton-Arms hosts a 5K run and 1-mile fun run/walk. Proceeds benefit the Holton-Arms School and Infinity Wellness Foundation, a D.C. nonprofit that provides innovative health and physical education programming for

D.C. public schools. Registration fees are \$20 and \$10. Visit <http://www.holton-arms.edu/>
RunForWellness to register for the run. Contact Nikki Reynolds at wellness@holton-arms.edu or 301-365-6094.
Holiday Gift Boutique. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some 20 exhibitors offer an array of crafts and jewelry, baskets from Rwanda, handbags, personalized greeting cards, children's clothing and accessories. Hosted by "Many Facets," a coalition of local artisans to benefit SEEC, a nonprofit agency helping people with developmental disabilities live meaningful lives. At Chevy Chase Women's Club, 7931 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase. Call 301-576-9024 or visit www.seeconline.org.



SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Henry and Mudge, a TheatreworksUSA Presentation. 11 a.m. Tickets are \$7/regular, \$6 seniors and students. A musical based on the best-selling children's book, Henry and Mudge. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.



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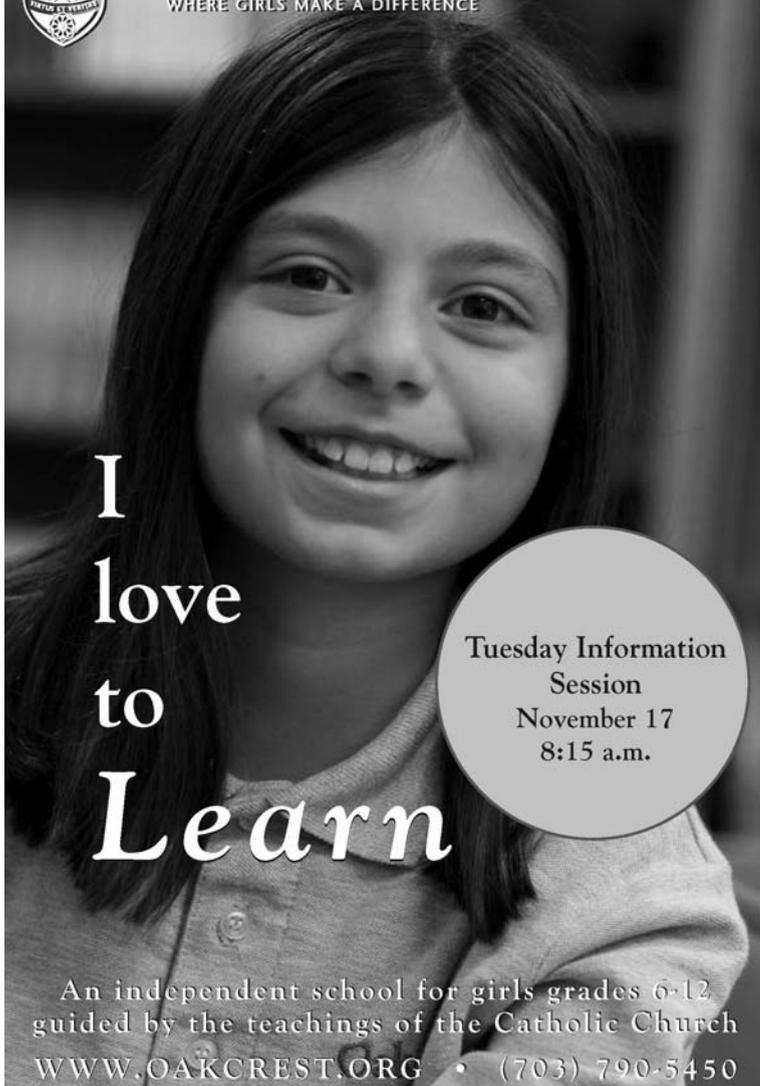
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NEWS

Unfit

FROM PAGE 3

if the maintenance issues would have gone unnoticed had they not raised alarm.

Caplan believes the school administration should have been more active in cleaning its facility prior to the start of the school year, although she recognized the Cabin John administration had 17 days from the time they moved into the Holding Center until the first day of class — limiting the opportunities to evaluate the conditions of the building.

“It’s not unusual for a holding facility to need such replacements after one school moves out and another moves in,” said Song, noting Francis Scott Key Middle School was occupying Tilden through last spring.

Song says every school in the county receives check-ups and maintenance work that run on a systematic schedule constructed from the needs and the age of a facility. The county, he says, allocates money for capacity and safety issues and modernizations. The Holding Center was constructed in the late 1960s and has

SEE DOUBLE DOSE, PAGE 11

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Whitman Beats Churchill, Earns No. 2 Playoff Seed

For the Whitman football team, another win in another close game meant the Vikings were postseason bound. For Churchill, a third consecutive loss meant winning its first seven games wasn't enough.

With their seasons hanging in the balance, Whitman defeated Churchill 28-24 Friday at Churchill High School. The win secured Whitman (8-2) the No. 2 seed in the 4A West playoffs. The loss left Churchill (7-3) on the outside as the fifth-place team in the division standings.

The Vikings will host No. 3 Paint Branch (8-2) a 6:30 p.m. Friday.

"It's great," Whitman head coach Jim Kuhn said of making the playoffs. "It was one of our goals. ... It's a good accomplishment."

Whitman running back Kevin Cecala scored the game-winning touchdown on a 2-yard run with 6:52 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Vikings forced a Churchill punt on the ensuing possession and ran out the clock.

A 25-yard field goal by Bryan Crutchfield put Churchill ahead 17-7 late in the second quarter, but Whitman's Rico Djidotor returned the ensuing kick-off 87 yard for a touchdown to pull the Vikings within three with less than two minutes remaining in the first half. Whitman opened the second half with a drive consuming more than six minutes, and took the lead on a 1-yard Cecala touchdown run.

Churchill grabbed the lead back on a touchdown pass from Alex Kantor to Brandon Swepson, but Cecala's fourth-quarter touchdown was the difference.

Cecala rushed for two touchdowns and more than 100 yards.

"We did a good job of blocking up front," Kuhn said.

Whitman's first touchdown came on an 8-yard pass from quarterback Henry Kuhn to Michael Flack in the opening quarter.

Seven of Whitman's 10 regular season games — including the final five — were decided by six points or less. The Vikings went 5-2 in games decided by a touchdown or less, winning four of the final five.

"It's good experience for our kids," Jim Kuhn said. "We've been in those pressure situations."

Churchill started the season 7-0 before being shut out by eventual top-seed Sherwood on Oct. 23. The Bulldogs were upset by Bethesda-Chevy Chase the following week before closing their season with Friday's loss to Whitman.

Kantor completed 14 of 24 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns against the Vikings. He also rushed eight times for 27 yards a touchdown.

Swepson caught six passes for 120 yards and a touchdown, and Matt Risk caught three passes for 34 yards and a score. Ryan Quinn rushed nine times for 31 yards.

Brett Schweitzer led Churchill with nine tackles.

Whitman Boys Soccer Advances

The No. 12 Whitman boys soccer team defeated top-seed Sherwood 1-0 to advance to the 4A West bracket final. Whitman faced No. 3 Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Tuesday. Results were not available as of press time.

Potomac Native Mason Awaits Opportunity

Marcus Mason is waiting for another chance to play in the NFL.

The Potomac native and former Georgetown Prep running back was released by the Washington Redskins on Oct. 20. He worked out for the New England Patriots on Nov. 2, but was not offered a contract. Mason said he is working out and staying prepared in case a team needs his services.

Mason has been through this before. He has been signed and released by the Redskins, New York Jets and Baltimore Ravens during his three-year NFL career. The experience is helping him stay in the right



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Whitman quarterback Henry Kuhn, right, throws a pass while Churchill's Brett Schweitzer attempts to knock the ball down during Friday's game at Churchill High School. Whitman won 28-24 and advanced to the playoffs.

SEE POTOMAC, PAGE 11

Vranis, Bell Push Churchill into 4A West Soccer Final

Bulldogs overcome pair of second-half Whitman goals to advance.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Churchill senior Pamela Vranis, right and seen earlier this season, helped Churchill defeat Whitman with two assists during the semifinals of the 4A West girls soccer state playoff bracket on Thursday.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

In the semifinals of the 4A West state playoff bracket, the first-seeded Churchill Bulldogs girls soccer team defeated the No. 13 Whitman Vikings, 3-2, on Thursday thanks to the late heroics of senior captain Pamela Vranis and junior forward Julia Bell.

With just 28.8 seconds left in the second half, Vranis received the sideline throw on the left flank and controlled the ball in the corner before sending a cross to the streaking Bell, who headed the ball past Whitman junior goalkeeper Hannah Sasscer for the decisive score.

"We all went crazy," Vranis said. "We couldn't believe that we came back so hard after being scored on twice in such a small period of time."

The Bulldogs held opponents scoreless in 11 out of their 13 contests to date, and relinquished just one goal in the other two victories. However, Churchill allowed two goals in just over two minutes to the comeback-minded Vikings.

Whitman sophomore Kim Anderson along with senior captain Kat Barth and junior Tessa Morrison kept the pressure on the Bulldogs for most of the second half, despite playing from two goals behind until just 5:20 remained in the game.

With Churchill's back against the wall for the first time all season, the team relied on its best playmaker to regain the advantage.

"It shows a lot about our character as a team and individually, how we persevere until the final whistle," Vranis said. "Some of us were worried, but we managed to put our emotions aside and just play our game

until the last few seconds."

Vranis finished with two assists on the night, while sophomore forward Jenna Cantor led Churchill with two goals.

For the underdog Vikings, their scrappy play through the opening rounds of the playoffs came to an end at the hands of the 13-0 Bulldogs. Whitman edged fourth-seeded Gaithersburg 1-0 in overtime of the first round, and then defeated No. 12 Magruder by the same score in the second round.

Churchill advanced to play second seeded Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Tuesday. Results were not available as of press time.

"I expect a lot of emotion to be left on the field from both teams," Vranis said. "Churchill hasn't made it to the regional finals in a long time and we all want to take this to the end."

Insuring Reassurance



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a former insurance broker (Life & Health, not Property & Casualty), I feel somewhat qualified to address the following question: Is there a car insurance company advertising on television, radio, print, Blimp, direct mail, etc., with whom I couldn't save hundreds of dollars (or 15 percent, whichever is relevant) on my car's insurance? If I want to be naive, I imagine my answer would be "No." Apparently, a phone call; morning, noon, evening or late at night; on line, in person, telepathically, is all that's needed to lower my car insurance premium. Yet, I'm hesitating.

Do I doubt, as former Washington, D.C. Mayor and current D.C. Council member, Marion S. Barry once said (on a completely unrelated subject), "the veracity" of the insurance company's claims (the suggestion, not the department)? Probably not. I suppose if it weren't true, the company wouldn't be saying it and/or paying/advertising to say it. (Or is that a Banana Boat I just fell off?)

Do I think the car insurance companies are baiting me/us consumers so we'll switch, presuming we believe there's gold (figuratively speaking) in them that insurance hills? (Well, we certainly wouldn't bother if there's tin in them that hills.) Yes! If we don't believe or are not lead to believe the pursuit is worth our while, it will likely be awhile before we ever call "1-800 CASH-4-ME" (made up number).

Do I believe the faltering economy and the relating cash flow (in and out) adjustments, shall we say, by consumers might be creating an opportunity for corporate America/Big Business to present/bathe themselves in an extremely soft and glowing light into which consumers might be drawn (like moths to a flame) and hopefully find some financial answers/relief? Yeah! Is that a bad thing? Hopefully not for those of us who fall victim (I mean, consider their alternatives).

It's almost unfair, really. How does one resist the temptation to say yes/make that call? Money is no longer growing on trees (if it ever did). It's hardly growing at all. Have you seen the interest rates being paid at your local financial institution? Actually, they should change the description to "lack of interest" paid. And so, in come the car insurance companies (since most of us still have cars, although some of us no longer have homes or jobs) to try and interest us. If we no longer can save money in the bank (and earn interest on that money), perhaps we would be open to the next best option: not spending it. To update Benjamin Franklin's most famous admonition; a penny not spent is like an increase in your unemployment compensation. And a lower premium for your car's insurance is similarly money well not-spent.

So what am I waiting for? Godot? This is ain't no movie. This is real life, as real as it gets when there's not enough money to pay for the too-many things with which many of us have become accustomed or worse, dependent. If saving money on car insurance was as easy as we have been advertised to believe it is, we should all be grateful to live in a country where such timely opportunity exists. I always knew, as my father often rhetorically opined: "Is this a great country or what!" Yes, it is.

Sometimes, though, you have to be careful what you wish for.

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

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The models for the American Girl Fashion Show on Sunday, Nov. 8 take to the runway at the Bolger Center. Ticket proceeds benefited the Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington sight-saving children's programs.



Elly Baker



Zoe Wang



Talia Moss



Rebecca Korn

Double Dose of Maintenance

FROM PAGE 8

since undergone its routine scheduled repairs while hosting various other schools in two-year increments, but in light of the parents' concern, Song said he working to complete the list of items named unsatisfactory at Tilden.

Song said the most extensive renovation at Tilden involved the HVAC system, and some units in the building were replaced in response to air circulation concerns that forced teachers to keep windows closed and parents to buy floor fans for classrooms.

"The MCPS Indoor Air Quality Team has come to check temperature, humidity, CO2 and CO levels, hydrogen sulfide levels, and

combustible gases in a handful of rooms and did not find any abnormal air quality," said Laurie Halverson, acting safety chair at Cabin John. "Although issues like a nonfunctioning HVAC unit and dead animal odor were noted in the air quality report."

FOR THE PAST two months, Halverson has continued to moderate between parents and MCPS to improve conditions at the Holding Center while children are in classes.

"Our Cabin John Safety Committee has seen some progress but we are still not satisfied with some of the repairs," said Halverson. "James Song has promised to resolve

the list of 52 items we noted at the beginning of the school year and we are continuing to work with MCPS on unresolved issues."

Parents agree the Holding Center has improved tenfold since the first day of school, but acknowledge their list of problems to be fixed is nowhere near complete.

"You can put in all the new ceiling tiles you want," said Caplan, who believes there are instances where the County has resolved to temporary solutions. "But if you don't stop the leaks above the ceiling tiles at the source, then all that new money is going to waste."

The conditions at Tilden raise questions about the larger issue of budget allocation for the county's holding centers. Among the sub-

stantial list of modernization plans for school facilities in the Churchill Cluster, Tilden is slated for renovation in 2017.

Caplan says she believes holding facilities are forgotten in the face of ongoing modernizations that are incorporated to each year's budget. Believing an equal focus should be placed on the current facilities housing students, Cabin John parents are continuing to push for maintenance improvements at Tilden to immediately improve the Middle School's academic environment.

"At this point, it's a community effort," said Caplan. "Let's solve this problem together because there are solutions that don't cost much."

Potomac Theatre Company Prepares Musical

FROM PAGE 8

dance competitions on television. For her "it is fun and challenging to create movement that grows out of the action of the script. This show will be a multimedia production with the dancing, a live orchestra and a projection screen behind the actors."

Wendy Katzen (Miss Sims) thinks that the theme of the play is a perfect foil to current times. "There is lots of stuff to feel not so good about these days, but for two hours you can feel good. It is a nice, sweet story that is good for all ages. Grandparents can bring their grandkids; it is a wholesome family show."

Where there is Santa there must be children and the youngest cast members cannot wait to get onstage.

Mary Sorenson (Susan Walker) tried out for a play at school and found she like acting. This production is her second show. She has learned from her character to "keep an open mind even when things seem impossible they are possible."

Lily Tender (Hendrika) liked "to dress up when I was little and sing. I started singing when I was 3." As for stage fright she thinks, "I will be scared the first night then after the first show I am good."



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Working in the show: Wendy Katzen, Tricia Weiler, Joy Gerst, Colleen Healy, and Melanie Williams.

The best part about acting for Brandon Sheridan (Harry) is "that it gives me a chance to have fun. I like seeing my family in the audience supporting me."

Sean Healy (Tommy) finds "it is fun being onstage. Kids will like the show because I help Santa and now he can deliver the presents."

SPORTS

Potomac Native Mason Working Out, Waiting for Chance

FROM PAGE 9

frame of mind while waiting for an opportunity. "At first it was tough and now it's like, 'OK, it's just another week,'" Mason said Sunday. I used to think "Man, I wish I was on a team. I need to hurry up and do something. Now, it's just another week and I keep working out and [think] something's going to happen. ... It's happened to me before. ... You don't want to say you're used to something like this, but I'm kind of immune to

it. ... The NFL's a business."

Mason said he won't start to worry unless week 12 or 13 comes around and he hasn't signed with a team.

"I'll play for anybody," he said.

Mason rushed six times for 19 yards while with the Redskins this season.

Mason grew up in Potomac's Scotland neighborhood of Seven Locks Road. He rushed for a Maryland prep record 5,700 yards while at Georgetown Prep in Bethesda.

Wootton Football Loses

The Wootton football team wrapped up its 2009 season with a 22-9 loss to Clarksburg. The Patriots finished 2-8, with wins over Springbrook and Bethesda-Chevy Chase.

Bullis Football Loses

The Bullis football team lost to Episcopal 34-7 on Friday. The Bulldogs wrap up the regular season at home against St. Mary's Ryken on Friday.



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