

Potomac ALMANAC

Fifth-grader Jonas Hosmer, a Potomac resident and member of the Scholastic Kids Press Corps, interviews Army Capt. Iannuccilli at a Veterans Day event at George Washington University. Recently, Jonas and other Scholastic reporters have been covering local reactions to the crisis in Haiti.

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Norwood Looks To Add Four Buildings

Private school will file formal request this week.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

Signs will sprout this week along the perimeter of the Norwood School as the private institution looks to educate the Potomac community on its efforts to add four additional structures to their campus.

Norwood sits on roughly 38 acres at the intersection of Bradley Boulevard and River Road, offering educational programs from kindergarten through the eighth grade. Dick Ewing, Head of School, says the proposed renovations are an opportunity for Norwood to expand its operations for both students and the surrounding community.

The four new buildings vary in size and function, including a connector at the lower school with additional classroom space, an indoor pool, three-story performing arts center over a parking garage, and a maintenance shed. The renovations would add more than 135,000 square feet to Norwood's campus.

The student body at Norwood currently includes 520 students, but Ewing says the hope is to increase to more than 600 after the renovations. The expansion also creates the opportunity to add a preschool program to the school. Additionally, Ewing says the indoor pool and performing arts center would be available for community use outside typical school hours.

"This is the direction we want to go, and now we're presenting the plan to the public," said Ewing.

THE CONSTRUCTION is included in Norwood's new master plan, and Ewing stresses it is a process that will continue over the next decade. The designs required permission for modification by the Montgomery County National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Norwood's next step is to file a formal request before the board



The Norwood School's new master plan includes four additional buildings to the campus, pictured in red. The private institution plans to file for formal approval of its expansion within the upcoming week, but Head of School Dick Ewing says the project's completion may take nearly a decade.

of appeals. Ewing says he is hoping to do so within the upcoming week.

"We're in the conceptual stage," said Ewing. As the process is still early into its design, Ewing says only rough estimates have been calculated for its cost and Norwood will look to fundraising pending the construction's approval.

An integral part of the planning includes public input and Ewing says he has been working with parents, faculty and neighbors of the campus to hear any concerns arising with the proposed construction. The majority of apprehension comes from the prospects of increased traffic volume and environmental impact.

In an effort to address these concerns, Norwood has conducted traffic studies at peak hours and is examining outlets including bus routes and carpool arrangements. Ewing says two bus routes were implemented this year and the staff has observed a positive impact. A transportation development plan was submitted as a part of their new master plan.

THE PLANS ALSO proposes three of the four potential buildings are constructed over pre-existing black top surfaces, as to prevent a dramatic increase in the amount of impervious surfaces with the design. Ewing says the plans strive for a minimum impact on the campus' green surfaces. The school is also looking to create a sustainability garden, put green roofs on two of its new buildings and redesign the landscape that runs along River Road.

"We're trying to be as environmentally friendly and responsible as we can be," said Ewing. The school has already discussed incorporating the sustainability garden into science curriculums and donating by-products to local food pantries.

Ewing says he believes the community response has been generally enthusiastic as the campus looks to renovate. The approval process may take as long as a year, but Ewing hopes to continue public collaboration as plans develop.

"I think it's the right vision for school," he said.

Schools Still Pursuing Churchill Student Hackers

Extent of grade changing under investigation.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

The investigation continues over last week's discovery of student hackers who changed grades in the computer system at Winston Churchill High School. Officials say it is still too early to determine if criminal charges will be pressed against those involved.

Students were discovered manipulating their grades after a teacher noticed changes

to records. Parents and community members were notified of the incident on Wednesday, Jan. 27. According to Dana Tofig, spokesman for Montgomery County Public Schools, students used a USB device to record keystrokes, gaining access to the user identification and password information of at least three different teachers at Churchill.

Tofig says at this time, MCPS has confirmed six different students who were aware of the hacking, although their level

of involvement has yet to be determined. Other students continue to be questioned.

Students who were found stealing the pass codes and changing grades will face serious consequences, Tofig says. He added MCPS takes the misconduct very seriously and the involved students have put a tremendous amount at risk.

Tofig says the computer system itself allows officials to determine if a grade was changed from its original value, when, and by whom, as to not permanently affect academic records.

"If grades were changed, we should be

able to find those grades and make any necessary changes fairly quickly," said Tofig.

Although the school system already uses multiple forms of security to prevent access of student data, last week's hacking discovery has spurred further restrictions for computer use at the schools.

"Because of this incident, we will have to restrict what users can do with USBs. This will restrict people from running programs off of USBs, but would most likely still allow people to save documents to thumb drives," said Tofig.

Small Reporters, Big Stories

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE ALMANAC

Like many other reporters around the world, after Jan. 12, Jonas Hosmer of Potomac and Nick Berray of Great Falls, Va. suddenly found their attention turned to the island nation of Haiti, where a violent earthquake had devastated much of the country.

What set Hosmer and Berray apart from the mainstream press, though, was that they are in fifth and sixth grade, respectively.

On the Friday after the quake, Scholastic Kids Press Corps editor Suzanne Freeman contacted most of the 54 members of her reporting team, instructing them to find out how people in their areas were helping the struggling country, and asking them to look for people who had come from Haiti or had family there. "I said, 'Go do it and have it in by Monday morning,'" Freeman said, adding that she had expected to receive seven or eight stories. On Monday, she found 20 stories in her inbox. "They really came back with, 'Here's what kids are doing and here's how kids can make a difference,'" she said.

Nick, who attends sixth grade at the Potomac School in McLean, Va. immediately got in touch with Save the Children, an organization that had been working in Haiti for decades. "They had just jumped into action," he said. He came away not only with information on what the organization was doing to help quake victims but also with more general tips on how people could offer assistance and how to decide which charities to support. "Because, of course, some people might take advantage of a lot of people just trying to donate and send their money there," he said.

His story also let readers know that cash

"My first interview was definitely the most challenging part of it."

— Jonas Hosmer



Outside the Haitian Embassy, Scholastic Kids Press Corps reporter Jonas Hosmer of Potomac interviews Miss Caribbean Metro USA Chardelle Moore about local efforts to help residents of Haiti after an earthquake devastated much of the island nation.

donations were preferable to contributions of supplies, as aid providers could avoid shipping costs and strengthen the island's economy by purchasing supplies in Haiti and the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Nick said he hoped his story would inspire more people to get in-

involved in Haiti's recovery.

In another story, he reported on the efforts of Virginia's Task Force 1, the team of Fairfax County fire, rescue and emergency personnel that deployed to Haiti shortly after the quake. "That actually was really

fun. I talked to a really nice lady," Nick said, referring to Bonnie Tobalske, firefighter, paramedic and rescue specialist for the task force. "She was extremely generous with her time."

He said he had been especially impressed with the fact that Tobalske crawled through ditches performing emergency rescues but also was a grandmother.

Now that the task force has returned, he said he might do a follow-up story, although he had not yet received his next assignment.

MEANWHILE, JONAS, who is in fifth grade at the Bullis School, headed to the Haitian Embassy, where he found that the streets had been closed down to make room for all the donations that were piling in. There, he interviewed volunteers for the

Local members of Scholastic Kids Press Corps reflect on covering Haiti, possible careers.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Nick Berray of Great Falls, Va., a member of the Scholastic Kids Press Corps, poses with award-winning local author Laura Elliott while he interviews her for a story.

National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH), who were staging a survival kit drive, as well as Miss Caribbean Metro USA, Chardelle Moore.

For the same story, he also interviewed two members of his school's staff who had family in Haiti. "It was kind of sad, even though they were in kind of bright spirits," he said, noting that one of his interviewees still had not heard from his relatives in the shattered country.

"I thought the impact [of the story] was going to be to let everyone know even more about Haiti and what they actually really need," Jonas said.

He said he first heard about the Scholastic Kids Press Corps when his social studies

SEE KIDS PRESS, PAGE 11

Tamm, Whistleblower, Addresses Potomac Rotary Club

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

It was in August, 2007 that 18 armed FBI agents, some wearing bullet-proof flak jackets and carrying guns, invaded Thomas Tamm's Potomac home, seizing computers, calendars, photos and even the couple's Christmas-card list. They awakened his wife and teen-age children, cordoned off his home and instilled fear amongst Tamm's family and neighbors. Tamm was not in his residence at the time. He arrived to find 12 law enforcement cruisers surrounding his home. The FBI was searching for evidence that Thomas Tamm had disclosed classified information to a New York

Times investigative reporter.

Tamm, a former Montgomery County prosecutor, shared his story with members and guests of the Potomac Rotary Club on Jan. 27 at Normandie Farm Restaurant. He told of his agonizing and costly decision to become a whistle-blower to expose illegal domestic surveillance by the U.S. government. In 2004, Tamm had just finished a year at the Department of Justice's Office of Intelligence Policy and Review (OIPR) which controlled highly secret intelligence wiretaps of suspected terrorists and spies. All OIPR lawyers were mandated to seek wire-tapping permission at a

secret hearing of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Tamm discovered that some attorneys were following the law by obtaining the court order prior to the wire-tapping. However, he dis-

"My biggest regret is how my wife and family were affected."

— Thomas Tamm

covered that some attorneys and agencies were not abiding by the law. He also learned that the NSA had been authorized by the Bush administration to conduct covert surveillance on phone calls and e-mails between the U.S. and foreign countries without official court

approval. He found that the NSA had been illegally gathering the same information about American citizens.

"This data mining is illegal according to the 4th Amendment to our Constitution," said Tamm.

TAMM ASKED his supervisors to explain the discrepancies, and was informed not to ask any more questions. He also checked with a friend on the Senate Judiciary Committee. That person did not get back to him and when they finally met, chose not to discuss it. He spoke to an attorney, who advised him not to go public with the information. He became so dis-



Thomas Tamm

gruntled that he chose to transfer from OIPR to work for the U.S. Attorney's Office. However, he was still disturbed by the government's illegal actions.

With shaking knees, and much trepidation, he made the phone call to the New York Times that would change his life and that of his family. He had not shared anything with his family.

"My biggest regret is how my

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Whistleblower

FROM PAGE 3

wife and family were affected," said Tamm.

His contact at the New York Times was Eric Lichtblau. They arranged to meet at Olsson's, a now-closed bookstore near Justice. In December, 2005, after further research and many meetings with Tamm, Lichtblau and his partner James Risen's article was published. It began with the headline: "Bush Lets U.S. Spy on Callers With-

out Courts."

This Pulitzer-Prize winning article set off a chain of events that changed Washington. According to the Newsweek cover story of Dec. 17, 2008, "The Fed Who Blew the Whistle," The New York Times cited President George W. Bush as directly responsible for the illegal wiretaps, and James Comey, deputy attorney general and FBI Director Robert Mueller threatened to resign. President Bush stated that the leak to the Times was a "shameful act." The article triggered congressional reform of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISO).

HOWEVER, the Justice Department launched a criminal investigation to find the source who leaked to the New York Times. They found that Tamm had played a key role in notifying the paper of the illegal acts. Tamm was encouraged to enter a plea bargain in which he would plead guilty for the disclosure of classified information. He refused this plea deal.

"This is not what the Department of Justice is about — or the Constitution. Our government should not be able to break our laws," he said.

The case is still pending.

In April, 2009, Tamm was the recipient

of the 2009 Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling, given annually by the Fertel Foundation and The Nation Institute. At the ceremony, he was named "An American Hero" for his courage and relentless determination to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the law.

Tamm is constantly troubled by his decision to blow the whistle. "I like to think that what I did was patriotic, but I still live in fear of being prosecuted. I constantly live in limbo." He is no longer employed by the Department of Justice. He is currently practicing law in Rockville. His life is forever changed, but he said he does not regret his decision to live according to his principles.

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NEWS

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Damaged by Fire

Fire struck this home in the 10000 block of Chartwell Manor Court in Avenel, on Thursday night, Jan. 29. More than 70 firefighters responded to the call, according to the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Department. No injuries were reported.

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.

Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd. Potomac.

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Montgomery County Civic Federation Meets. 7:45-10 p.m. A one-hour program on development issues and the new 311 phone system will be followed by discussion of other key local issues. At the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville (free parking in adjacent garage). Visit www.montgomerycivic.org

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

From Fear to Confidence. Proven techniques to reduce your dog's fears. 1-3 p.m. What steps you can take to help your dog overcome his fears. Free, but register: www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913. At the Potomac

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CALENDAR

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ONGOING

Senior Tech. Computer and exercise classes for basic to advanced computer skills. At the Jewish Council for the Aging, Bethesda Vital Living Center, 4805 Edgmoor Lane, 2nd floor. For ages 65-plus. Cost is \$10 to \$65. Call 240-395-0915.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 21

"Rapunzel." Presented by the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Performances Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is recommended for PreK- Grade 4, and runs 45 minutes. Tickets are \$10, with group rates available. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or call 301-634-5380.

FEB. 4-6

Musical production. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." Showtimes are Feb. 4 at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. At The Blair Family Center for the Arts, Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Visit www.BullisTickets.com or call 301-634-3631.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

Rusty Musicians with the BSO. 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Marin Alsop, conductor. At the Music Center



Cellist Drew Owen

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Washington Conservatory of Music Faculty Cello and Piano Concert. 3 p.m. Cellist Drew Owen and pianist Jeffery Watson join forces to present a concert of musical favorites for cello and piano. Will include Sonata in F Major by Vivaldi, Fantasy Pieces by Schumann, Sonata for cello and piano by Debussy and Three Tangos by Piazzolla. At Glen Echo Park, South Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. In Glen Echo. Visit www.washingtonconservatory.org.

at Strathmore. Features excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and Elgar's Enigma Variations. \$10 general admission plus tax. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike

Marcotte and Guests. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

Fifth Anniversary Party. 8 p.m. The Music Center at Strathmore marks its 5th anniversary with a concert of Broadway stars and hits in "Luck Be a Lady." Featuring Julia Murney, Emily Skinner and Rachel York with Jim Caruso, plus a cake by Fancy Cakes by Leslie for the audience. Call 301-581-5100 or visiting www.strathmore.org. The Music Center at Strathmore is at 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda.

Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20/advance, \$25/door. At the Fitzgerald Theater, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Call 240-314-8690.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Called dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. Featuring Metro Gnomes: Barb Schmid and McGregor Yatsевич on fiddles, Mark Vidor on piano, and Bob Garber on clarinet. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

FEB. 6-MARCH 21

"Peter and the Wolf." At Imagination Stage. Performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances as well. Tickets from \$10-\$21. Visit <http://www.imaginationstage.org>.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Hip Hop Music. 2 p.m. Grammy award winning hip hop artist Christon "Christylez" Bacon will perform at Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd. Call 240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840.

6th Annual Chili Bowl. 5-7 p.m. Hosted by the United Methodist Men at Potomac United Methodist Church. Adults \$12, Kids (6-12) \$6, children under 5 free. Meat and vegetarian chili, hot dogs, chili dogs, beverages and desserts included. The UM Women will host a bake sale. Contact the Church Office (301-299-9383) or John Sissala for more information: sissala@verizon.net.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$14. Featuring the 18-piece Blue Moon Big Band. Lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Call 301-340-9732.

Daddy-Daughter Dance. 7-9 p.m. Hosted by the Potomac Community Center. Fee of \$20 includes refreshments, DJ music and games, and a special picture of you and your daughter to take home with you. For registration information, call the Potomac Community Center 240-777-6960 or stop by the center to pick up a flyer. The Potomac Community Center is located at 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac.

From Fear to Confidence. Proven techniques to reduce your dog's fears.

1:30-3:30 p.m. What steps you can take to help your dog overcome his fears. Free, but register: www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913. At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd. Potomac.

FEB. 6-7

Take Five. CityDance Ensemble and Levine School of Music. 8 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. At the Music Center at Strathmore, Education Center, Room 405. Tickets are \$20. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org/CityDance.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Dogs & Storks: National Dog and

Baby Safety Program. 1-3 p.m. Get answers to questions about dogs and new babies before your child arrives.

The Dogs & Storks program and its licensed presenters provide practical education during pregnancy and continued support after baby's arrival. To register, contact heddagarland@schoolofdogs.com. Please, no dogs. Cost: \$60 per family. Call Susan Beach, 301-461-4555. At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/members. The evening features traditional American contra dancing and can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by called

dances by Will Mentor for Hammer and Strings. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo.



Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. Admission is \$8. Lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Featuring the ensemble Taylor Among The Devils. 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. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Symphony of the Potomac. 3 p.m. The Symphony of the Potomac, under the direction of Joel Lazar, will present works by Haydn, Mozart, and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

FAVORITE HIS-AND-HER FEATURES

Luxury home amenities are constantly evolving into fabulous new forms. Among the latest must-have features are gender-specific bed and bath facilities.

Dual sinks set in a marble countertop are lovely, but if you want the hottest version, select separate his-and-her bathrooms. His may feature an enormous shower with oversized rain or steam showerhead; hers may offer an oversized whirlpool tub enhanced with LED lighting that lets her enjoy the benefits of chromo therapy while soaking away stress.

The master suite is more desirable if it includes dual walk-in closets and his-and-her dressing rooms. Both men and women appreciate built-in shelving, mirrors, multiple-level clothing racks and places to organize shoes and accessories. Women are pleased when there is enough space to accommodate formal gowns and a climate controlled storage area for furs.

Adjoining rooms that accommodate a variety of activities can further enhance the master bedroom. There might be a shared breakfast nook with a balcony that opens to a marvelous view, an airy, well-lit room for quiet yoga practice, or a gentlemen's sitting room with an adjacent patio or outdoor smoking area. Your real estate agent can give you an idea of the amenities that exist in comparable homes, and recommend features that add value to your property.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7
Beethoven. At Figge Theatre at Georgetown Preparatory School, 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets are \$15/door, \$10/online at 800-494-TIXS or online at symphonypotomac.org. info@symphonypotomac.org

Free Master Class. 2 p.m. The Washington Conservatory of Music will hold a Cello Master Class with Alisa Weilerstein. At Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Call 301-320-2770 or www.washingtonconservatory.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Vance Gilbert with Martyn Joseph.

7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/door. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

Musical Devotions: The Story of Brahms and Clara. 6:30 p.m. With the Levine School of Music, Jonathan Carney, violin, and Melinda Baird, piano. At the Music Center at Strathmore, Education Center, Room 309. Admission: \$15/online or \$20/door. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org

Nicolo Whimsey Show. 11 a.m. Music, juggling and comedy. At Little Falls Library, 5501 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda. Call 240-773-9520; TTY

301-320-8813.
Garnet Rogers. 8 p.m. \$18/door, \$15/advance. Canadian folk singer-songwriter. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Contact David Spitzer at focusrockville@earthlink.net or 301-275-7459.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

Job Tip Workshops. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Learn how to expand contacts and how to more successfully market oneself in today's job market. Presented by the JSSA Employment and Career Services. At Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. To register, call 301-610-8380.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

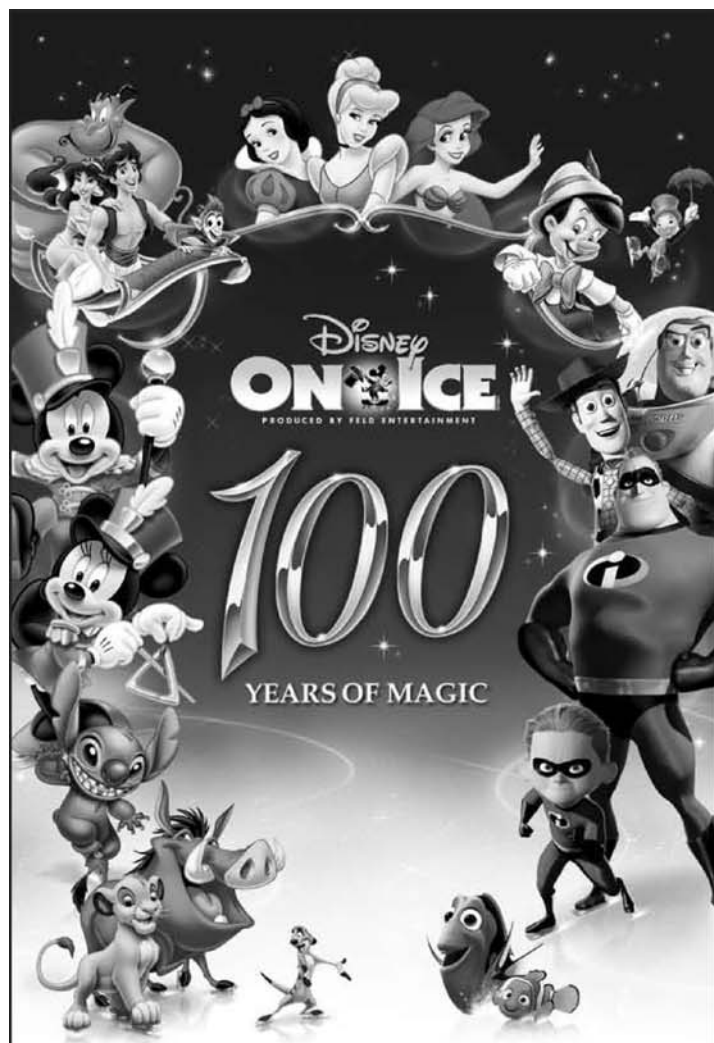
FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Dance is hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. Lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. for Salsa

beginners and up. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. DJ Fabio Bonini plays the best of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Chacha, Reggaeton and more. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com or call 703-798-1071.

Singing Our Hearts Out — A Valentine's Day Cabaret. 8 p.m. The cast is made up of 10 women who have been principle performers onstage at American Century Theater, Factory 449 Productions, Hexagon, Imagination Stage, Olney Theater Center, Pinky Swear Productions, Studio Theater, Shakespeare Theater Company, Taffety Punk, and Washington Improv Theater. Tickets are \$15. At the Bethesda Theater, 7719 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Md. Visit http://www.bethesdatheatre.com/ or call 301-657-7827.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra Dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. called to the Glen Echo Open Band from 8:30-11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.



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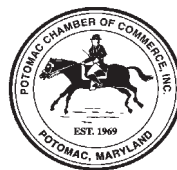
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FINE ARTS

FEB. 5 TO MARCH 14

"Cut Slash Paste: Collage Work By Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland." Reception is Friday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. At Photoworks Gallery on the first floor of the Arcade Building, at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

FEB. 5 TO MARCH 27

Points of Departure. From 753 entries, discover the top winners in VisArts' newest photography exhibition, Points of Departure. Juried by a panel of Canon's professional photographers. Free. Opening reception is Friday, Feb. 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. All activities take place at VisArts Center 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org, or call 301-315-8200.

FEB. 3-28

Fiber Imagery. (50 Hook Rugs). Sally D'Alabora, John Flournoy, Carol Koerner, Roslyn Logsdon, and Sarah Province. Meet the Artist's reception is Sunday, Feb. 7 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

FEB. 5 – MARCH 14

A Collage Exhibit by Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland. At Photoworks Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident photography studio and teaching facility, presents "A Collage Exhibit by Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland." Opening reception to be announced. Gallery is open Saturday, 1 – 4 p.m., and Sunday and Monday 1 – 8 p.m., or by appointment. Call 301-634-2274.

FEB. 5 TO MARCH 27

Exhibition: "Points of Departure." From 752 entries, discover the top winners in VisArts' newest photography exhibition, Points of Departure. Opening reception is Feb. 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. At VisArts Center 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville.

Kolakowski, Flinchum Enjoy Battle of Bigs

Whitman wins on road, limits Flinchum.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

With her team up by five at halftime, 6-foot-3 Whitman junior Whitney Kolakowski turned to the Viking coaching staff and asked, "How many points does Gabby have?"

Later, with Whitman holding a slim fourth-quarter lead, Kolakowski tugged at her shorts, shouted a motivational "come on!" and stepped forward to defend Gabby.

"She's really big, she's really strong and she's really aggressive. Playing against her is definitely a challenge and it's a lot of fun."

— Whitman center
Whitney Kolakowski on facing Wootton's Gabby Flinchum.

"Gabby" is 6-foot-3 Wootton junior Gabby Flinchum. While Whitman and Wootton faced off Jan. 27 in a battle of Potomac-area schools, Kolakowski-Flinchum was the game inside the game — a battle of the bigs under the basket. The two rarely face an opponent of equal size, so matching up against one another presents a rare challenge. On this occasion, Flinchum outscored her low-post counterpart, 13-11. But it was Kolakowski who grabbed more rebounds, 6-5, and came out the victor as Whitman won 56-51 at Wootton High School.

It was clear how much the opportu-



Wootton's Gabby Flinchum, left, matched up against Whitman's Whitney Kolakowski during a Jan. 27 game. Both players are juniors and both stand 6-foot-3.

nity meant to Kolakowski, who hustled on the floor and encouraged her teammates from the bench.

"My favorite matchup of the year is always playing Gabby Flinchum," the Whitman center said. "We're the same age, about the same height. It's just great competition — our schools are rivals. It's just a lot of fun. ... She's a difficult matchup. She's really big, she's really strong and she's really aggressive. Playing against her is definitely a challenge and it's a lot of fun."

Each player is her team's leading rebounder (Flinchum averages 11.6 while Kolakowski is around 9), but offensive responsibilities differ. Kolakowski is capable of scoring double figures, but Whitman primarily looks to its guards — led by Susan Russell — for points. Flinchum is Wootton's leading scorer (16 per game) and forms a 1-2 offensive punch with guard Jess Welch.

But on this night it was Kolakowski who got off to a strong offensive start, scoring Whitman's first four points on a pair of point-blank field goals — the second of was the result of a Caroline Kahlenberg assist. Flinchum responded with a bucket to give Wootton an 8-4 lead in the opening period, but her first-half contributions would soon come to an end. The Patriot center picked up her second foul with six seconds remaining in the first quarter and was relegated to the bench for the entire second period. Meanwhile, Kolakowski added four points to give her eight at halftime, where the Vikings took a 28-23 lead into the locker room.

BOTH TEAMS SCORED 13 points with Flinchum on the bench in the second quarter, but Whitman head coach Pete Kenah said his players gained confidence driving to the basket with the lane void of a 6-3 shot-blocking presence. The Vikings' aggressiveness throughout the game was rewarded with 25 free-throw attempts — about 10 more than the team averages, Kenah said.

Kolakowski started the third quarter on the bench but quickly made an impact after entering the game early in the period.

SEE WHITMAN WINS, PAGE 11

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mason Eager To Play for Shanahan

Potomac native and Redskins running back Marcus Mason has not spoken with new Washington head coach Mike Shanahan, but the former Georgetown Prep star is excited about the idea of playing for him.

Shanahan, who was hired by the Redskins on Jan. 5, was the head coach of the Denver Broncos for 14 seasons during which he was known for producing 1,000-yard running backs. The zone-

blocking scheme used by the Broncos produced 1,000-yard seasons from unheralded backs such as Mike Anderson, Olandis Gary, Tatum Bell and Reuben Droughns. Redskins running back Clinton Portis rushed for more than 1,500 yards in each of his two seasons playing for Shanahan in Denver.

According to Mason, running backs coach/assistant head coach Bobby Turner said each Redskin back will get an opportunity to earn playing time in 2010.

"I like coach Shanahan," Mason told the Almanac on Monday. "I wanted to play for the Broncos because I like their run scheme. He likes young running backs. He'll keep

six running backs and have four run for 1,000 yards, and a fullback."

The 25-year-old Mason rushed 32 times for 127 yards in 2009, his third NFL season. He also caught six passes for 58 yards. Washington finished 4-12 and head coach Jim Zorn was fired after two seasons with the team.

Mason grew up in Potomac's Scotland neighborhood off of Seven Locks Road. He rushed for 5,700 yards at Georgetown Prep, at the time a Maryland prep record. He went on to the University of Illinois before transferring and starring at Youngstown State University.

Bullis' Samson Nominated for All-American Honors

Bullis forward Robert Samson was nominated to be a member of the McDonald's All American High School Boys Basketball team. Samson was one of 39 players nominated from the Washington, D.C. metro area.

The team's 24-man roster will be announced Feb. 11.

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

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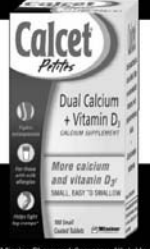
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Strength in Numbers



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My wife, Dina, and I found out the other day that a friend in our social circle was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. It's the first friend/acquaintance of ours so diagnosed since I was similarly informed last February. Naturally I was sorry to hear of another person joining this less-than-exclusive cancer club. However, since I knew this new member, its effect on me was more personal. I called her the next day to offer any insights, answer any questions, share a few anecdotes, some of which hopefully she might find helpful. And in so doing, I felt another sensation, the sensation of not being alone, vis-a-vis the whole honor/camaraderie-amongst-cancer-patients thing.

Initially, upon hearing this friend's news (after she had called and confided in Dina), I again felt the all-too-familiar fear, shock and anxiety I had felt a year earlier when I was told my biopsy confirmed a malignant growth in my lung. And so I could certainly appreciate, although I hadn't yet talked to this friend and learned of the particular set of cancer-related circumstances (X-Ray, scans, biopsy), which lead to this diagnosis, to learn what she had been going through and for how long (it's not exactly share and tell in the beginning, or in the middle or the end, either).

Respecting her privacy and understanding full well the whole private/public, want to talk/need to talk/don't want to talk/don't need to talk cycle, I decided nonetheless to call the next day (not that previous evening when the initial call to my wife had been made). Our friend was very receptive to my call and eager even (can't really say happy) to discuss her health-related deficiencies of late which ultimately lead to her cancer diagnosis.

Similar in some respects to my experience and different in others, still it was comforting (to me) in some ways to not be the one providing the details and discussing medical matters of such severity and sensitivity. I felt as if in making the call I was providing a public service, almost, to someone in need. And in feeling good I began to feel selfish about feeling good. What was wrong with me? Here I am talking to a friend who is sharing intimate – and very personal – details, and life-changing details at that, that very few others in our group have been privileged/entrusted to hear about her tumors, life expectancy, inoperability and so forth, and I'm feeling a kind of serenity and strength, rather than sympathy and sorrow. How, why, do I feel anything other than sadness, especially considering all that I know that lies ahead, for this friend?

I think the explanation has to do with her future now being a part of my present/future, sort of. It's another connection I have in the cancer world. And from what I've read, what I've felt, what I've been encouraged and reminded to pursue during this whole cancer thing is, to find and maintain, connections. And having another member in the club (some club!), a member who so far exhibits all the attributes of a positive force for good/overcoming evil, I feel empowered, emboldened even by her membership. Not that either one of us is particularly interested in fighting this fight. Nevertheless, her attitude and willingness to do so, and her desire to take on all comers in the process, makes me feel stronger, more capable, more determined than ever to win this war.

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

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

Kids Press

FROM PAGE 3

teacher asked the class in early November whether anyone had an interest in reporting for the organization. "I came up to her and I said I was very interested," he said.

He was one of about 250 students who submitted sample stories about the areas where they lived and one of 37 selected to join the press corps, Freeman said. Seventeen reporters were kept on staff from the previous year.

New reporters received a packet that Jonas said "seemed like a thousand pages," giving them tips on how to handle different situations and assignments.

"My first interview was definitely the most challenging part of it," Jonas said, adding that he had been nervous about approaching a stranger as a reporter.

That was at a Veterans Day event at George Washington University, attended by First Lady Michelle Obama, Second Lady Jill Biden and Alma Powell, chair of America's Promise Alliance and wife of former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

There, he interviewed AmeriCorps volunteers and military veterans. "I was really excited," he said.

"What I like about Jonas is he's got such a fresh, new look at things," Freeman said. "He's always surprising me with the questions he asks." She recalled that Jonas had prepared questions for a certain set of people at the Veterans Day event he attended but ended up running into different guests and improvised new questions.

"**THE THING I ENJOY** about this is they really get it," Freeman said of her reporters, noting that each of their stories is better than the last. She started the Scholastic Kids Press Corps as a temporary outfit to cover the 2000 presidential race. In 2005, after the next presidential election, the group became a year-round, nationwide entity.

She said the corps epitomized Scholastic Magazines' longstanding mission to present the world to children in a way that they can understand and that involves them. Not only do the reporters get hands-on experience, she said, but the readers "learn they're really as important a part of the world as anyone else, as the adults are."

Jonas said he had considered reporting prior to his stint at Scholastic. Now, he said, he is more certain that it is a job he would enjoy. "Now that I've done some work in the field, I really, really love doing it," he said.

While many of his peers may find the job attractive because it affords chances to meet the famous and powerful, he said, what he enjoyed was getting to be part of events and interviewing the people involved.

"Before this, I was never really thinking about being a reporter," Nick said. "After seeing how interesting it is, I can see the perks of being a reporter."

He said he enjoyed meeting people who were smart and capable and who were using their skills to help others.

Whitman Wins on Road, Limits Flinchum

FROM PAGE 9

She scored with off a pick-and-roll pass from Kahlenberg and was fouled by Flinchum — her third of the contest. Kolakowski made the ensuing free-throw attempt, giving her 11 points and the Vikings a 33-25 lead. But Flinchum responded with eight points in the quarter, including a shot from the perimeter which caught the attention of Kenah.

"[Kolakowski] really gets up for this matchup," Kenah said. "Versus Gabby I think she just gets so locked in and focused. I thought it was really neat how they went back and forth at each other. Gabby got on a nice run there in the third quarter — a 15-foot jump shot, I haven't seen that in her game, before."

Flinchum scored three points in the fourth quarter and Kolakowski grabbed three rebounds and blocked two shots. Wootton pulled to within two when Colby Wright's 3-pointer made the score 53-51 with 28 seconds remaining, but Whitman held on

thanks to a pair of free throws from Russell and one from Kahlenberg.

Russell scored a game-high 18 points for Whitman and Rachel Sisco added 11. Welch led Wootton with 15 points and Wright added 10.

WHILE 13 POINTS and five rebounds would constitute a strong performance for some, it marked one of Flinchum's least-productive outings of the season.

"[Kolakowski] matches up with Gabby very well — similar size, kind of similar players — I think she did a very good job against her," Russell said. "We did a good job against her as a team, but definitely Whitney had a great impact against her. I don't think Gabby really dictated their offense tonight. She totally can dominate when [she's not defended well]. ... Whitney is very solid. On defense, she's a great communicator. She's always the one yelling — she sort of acts like a traffic cop in the paint — she's like, 'I've got your back.'"

Wootton head coach Maggie Dyer was

pleased with how Flinchum played in the second half after being limited by foul trouble early.

"I think in the first half it was one of those situations where she had to get it together — I think there was some frustration because it is different to play someone your size," the coach said. "I thought she responded very well in the second half. I thought she really started to settle down and play."

While Flinchum and Kolakowski try to beat the other on the court, they also help one another.

"[Kolakowski is] a very good player. We're about the same size. It helps me and it helps her," Flinchum said. "We both want to play in college and it helps because when we get to college we're going to face girls bigger than us. But while we're in high school, we're the biggest girls now."

Kolakowski and Flinchum display several similarities, including standing head and shoulders above many of their opponents. On this night, Kolakowski and the Vikings stood just a little taller.

Five questions with Whitman guard Susan Russell

5Qs

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: Jason Mraz because his music is very chill, very relaxing. I can sort of listen to him no matter what mood I'm in.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Hamburgers.

Q: You are attending Bates College in Maine next year. What are you most looking forward to about the transition to college?

A: I'm looking forward to the challenges of living on my own, without my parents, and being in a new environment.

Q: You write for the school newspaper, the *Black and White*. What got you interested in journalism?

A: I really like reading the paper. [My family gets] the *New York Times*, so I really enjoy reading that. I wanted to see what it would be like to be a part of that.

Q: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

A: I lived in Melbourne, Australia, from when I was in the fifth to eighth grade. ... My dad's job took us there.



SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 9

Churchill Boys Beat Wootton

The Churchill boys basketball team defeated Wootton 60-48 on Friday at Wootton. Will Lewis led the Bulldogs with 17 points and Jake Eskin added 11. The win moved Churchill's record to 7-9, 3-6 in the 4A West Division.

Wootton is 8-8. The Patriots beat Whitman 59-37 on Jan. 27.

SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year. The following students were honored:

❖ **Katherine A. Brown** of Potomac, daughter of Russell and Barbara Brown of Potomac, and a 2008 graduate of Winston Churchill H S, Potomac.

❖ **Hannah L. Davis** of Potomac, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Davis of Potomac, and a 2008

graduate of Saint Andrews Episcopal School, Potomac.

❖ **David T. Iselin** of Potomac, son of Richard and Amy Iselin of Potomac, and a 2006 graduate of Winston Churchill H S, Potomac.

Dylan Thayer, son of Jody and Bradley Thayer of Potomac, has been named to the dean's list at Hamilton College for the 2009 fall semester. Thayer, a first-year student, is a graduate of Saint Andrew's Episcopal School.

Freddy Vance scored 17 points for Wootton, James Wallerstedt scored 14 points and Ryan Trafton scored 10. Ervin Cook scored 10 points for Whitman.

Churchill Girls Beat Wootton

The Churchill girls basketball team defeated Wootton 64-58 on Friday. Leeda Jewayni scored 17 points for the Bulldogs and Ashley Nelson scored 16. Gabby Flinchum led Wootton with 20 points and Iris Cheng added 11. Churchill is 12-4 and Wootton is 7-9.

Kimberly V. Williams of North Potomac was named to the dean's list with highest honors at McDaniel College for the fall of 2009.

Tracy Mardirossian of Potomac was named to the Curry College dean's list for the fall of 2009 term.

Margaret Relle, Class of 2011, earned honors for the fall semester at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. She is the daughter of Brian and Mary Lou Relle of Potomac.



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