

Potomac ALMANAC

Mozart (Sammy Zeisel) catches Constanze (Sarah Blush) in a game of cat and mouse. Whitman High will present "Amadeus" March 4, 5 and 6.

'Amadeus' Beckons

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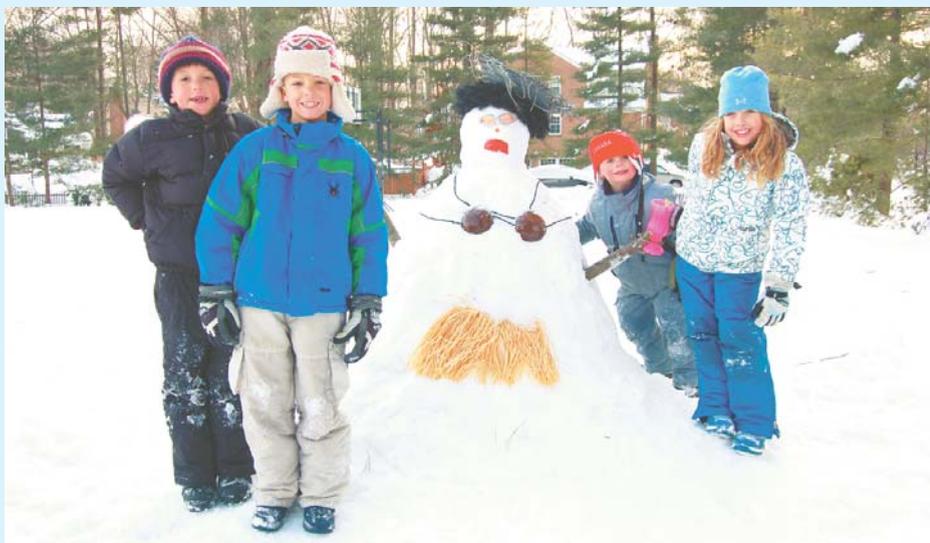


Snowman Competition

The River Falls snowman building competition was held Saturday, Feb. 13 at River Falls Field. Teams were limited to no more than eight people. First-place winner “Beach Groovy Lady” was built by, from left, Michael Hahn, David Hahn, and Kanen Gustafson with the assistance of Mom Sheila Hahn.



Co-second-place winner “Cat in the Hat” was built by, from front left, Jackson Megary, Sean Higgins, Alexander Blass, Kathleen Blass and Ally Mitchell. Back from left: Zachary Moss with Mom Maddy Greenwald. Not pictured: Caroline Higgins and Dalia and David Blass.



Co-second-place winner “Hula Mama” was made by, from left, Ethan Till, Creighton Armstrong, Jr., Matthew Till, Carleigh Armstrong, with assistance from their dads — Shawn Till and Creighton Armstrong.



Third-place winner “Jabba” was built by the Gwynn family, from left, David Gwynn - dad, Haydn, Emil, Kipper and Laura - mom.

Snow Shifts Whitman’s ‘Amadeus’

Performances scheduled for March 4, 5 and 6.

“Amadeus,” a psychological musical drama based on the lives of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri will be presented March 4, 5 and 6 by the Walt Whitman Drama Department.

The main character, Salieri, is played by Whitman senior Noah Gavil. Salieri purports to be Mozart’s ally to his face, while doing his best to destroy his reputation and chances of success.

Under the direction of Christo-



Salieri (Noah Gavil) and Constanze (Sarah Blush) meet for the first time.

pher Gerken, the play will incorporate live orchestra music, 18th century costumes and an authentic harpsichord.

The students in the play are Luis Alvarado, John An, Elena Aragon, Molly Bennett, Sasha Berger, Sarah Blush, Andrew Dahreddine, Aidan Edelman, Itai Farhi, Noah Gavil, Michelle Huey, Grace Laboy,

Joe Lilek, Haruka Nakagawa, Michael Nguyen-Mason, Emma Rackstraw, Emily Sobel, Jacob Trauberman, Kenny Wesley, Fox Williams, Sammy Zeisel, Brian Clarkson, Mathison Mickum, Pascal Charpentier and Ali Foreman.

Producer Erin Pearson, a Whitman junior, is in charge of the budget, advertising and the business side of the production.

Performances are scheduled to be held March 4, 5, and 6 at 7:30 p.m. The Whitman Box Office will be open to purchase tickets through March 3 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and March 4-6 from 6-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for adults. Reserved seats are \$20. For more information, call the box office at 301-320-6569 or visit the Web site at www.Whitmandrama.com.

Help Raise ‘Tents for Haiti’

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Spencer Brodsky, a senior at Bullis High School, was not pleased that the history-setting snow fall in Montgomery County had caused the cancellation of The Bullis School play as well as his Valentine fund-raiser. For months, he had been planning to hold the benefit, selling teddy bears and candy for “Tents in Haiti,” a project which provides tents to the displaced

victims of the Haitian earthquake. But the snowfall and closings did not stop him.

Instead, he sought a solution and was successful in relocating his fund-raising sale to the Cabin John Giant Food store. In one day, Spencer raised \$920 for his new cause.

This is not Spencer’s first fund-raising effort. In the past two years, he almost singlehandedly raised \$160,000 in donations for fuel-

SEE RAISING FUND. PAGE 11

NEWS



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PHOTOS BY ALEX MARKOVYCH

Breakdancing and hip-hop in "The Tale of the Golden Cockerel."

Bringing Pushkin to Dance

Eminence Dance Studio presents "Tale of The Golden Cockerel."

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Action, fantasy and enchantment in a saga of might, love, war and peace — the "Tale of the Golden Cockerel" immersed its audience in many dance forms and cultures as presented by the Eminence Dance Studio.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the studio staged Alexander Pushkin's masterpiece on Jan. 17 at the Performing Arts Center of Montgomery College. Located in Potomac, Owings Mills and Reston, the Eminence Dance Studio is owned and managed by Potomac residents, Liliya and Alex Markovych.

Born in the Ukraine, the Markovychs immigrated to the United States 11 years ago, bringing with them their four-year-old son, Nick. Liliya Markovych had studied dance since she was 3 and majored in dance education as an undergraduate. She earned a master's degree in Spanish Dance, studying under the Russian dancer Pahomova. After they arrived in the US, the Markovychs opened a studio in Reisterstown with 25 students — mostly from Russian families. While serving as the only teacher, Liliya Markovych taught many types of dance, choreographed performances and designed the costumes and scenery. Alex Markovych was in charge of promoting the business as well as managing it.

AFTER FOUR YEARS, they opened their studio in Potomac and have continued to increase the number of students and classes offered. Classes in pre-ballet, ballet, modern, jazz, freestyle, funk, flamenco, folk and hip-hop as well as couples dance are taught. Locally, many classes are held at Hoover Middle School.



Liliya, Nick and Alex Markovych

The couple want their students to experience the joy of dance through the study of many dance forms. The teachers emphasize the importance of correct and healthy techniques. Unlike many studios, Eminence also teaches the art of theater. Their motto of the studio is: "Russian technique which has always attracted the elite of the dancing world."

Alex Markovych also wants their students to learn about the writings of Pushkin. "Pushkin is the best known and most loved poet in Russia. His talent and imagination have influenced the Russian people as well as their culture and literature for two hundred years. It is a wonder how timeless, modern and innovative his language and ideas were," he said.

This was the impetus for creating the "Tale of the Golden Cockerel" production. "It was absolutely our idea," said Liliya Markovych. "I created all the dances, designed and painted the sets, costumes and set it all to the music of composer Sergey Prokofiev. We wanted to use Pushkin's poem to create a production which would stimulate the imagination. Alex took care of all the business arrangements. We had over 450 people in the audience. Eight different embassies were represented. The production was very well received."

SEE EMINENCE, PAGE 11

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PEOPLE



Leila Merzouk, Grace Li, Rakhee Dhawan — all of PNC Bank — and Anne Thompson of A Wider Circle network at the event.



Networking Event

Matthew Stuart, from Potomac Estate Jewelers, is host of the Chamber of Commerce Networking and Gold Buying event on Thursday, Feb. 4 at Normandie Farm Restaurant. Ten percent of sales will go to Autism Speaks and another 10 percent will go to the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/
THE ALMANAC



Jennifer Matheson, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, holds the gift package that new Potomac residents will receive courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce. Adam Greenberg, Chamber president, is at left.



John and Jill Phillips, owners of "Squeels on Wheels" — a mobile petting zoo.

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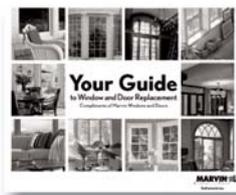
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CALENDAR

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.

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 Edgemoor Lane, 2nd floor. For ages 65-plus. Cost is \$10 to \$65. Call 240-395-0915.

Montgomery County is recruiting talented adults 55-plus for its Montgomery's Got Talent! competition. Singers, comedians, dancers, musicians, actors, and storytellers welcome. Preliminary competitions will take place at community and senior centers throughout the County in April and May. Winners will advance to the Montgomery's Got Talent! finals at an area performing arts venue on May 22. Proceeds from the contest and finals will benefit Haitian seniors. For a registration form, call 240-777-4925. Registration deadline is March 31.

FEB. 21-MARCH 24

"Connecting With God: An Exploration of Prayer." St James' five-week Lenten prayer study program. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Feb. 21-March 24. Sunday mornings, 10:15 a.m.: a 45-minute session with special sessions/breakouts for young children through high school age. Sessions take place in the church undercroft (lower level) Tuesday mornings, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., church undercroft Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 9 p.m., St. James' Parish Hall. At St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Call 301-762-8040 or visit office@stjamespotomac.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

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. 26

Peking Acrobats. 8 p.m. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Go to www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

Wenceslas Square Reading. 7:30 p.m. Free. The new American Ensemble Theatre presents a staged reading of Larry Shue's Wenceslas Square, directed by Krista Cowan. Free series is co-sponsored by The Writer's Center. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org or www.AmericanEnsemble.org or call 301-654-8664.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. There is a Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by the called dance to the Love Mongrels live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: findcontra@yahoo.com

Family Bingo Night. 7-9 p.m. One Bingo card will cost \$5 (good for the whole night). At the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center. Call Dominique Maggio, 301-263-2783, or the Center, 301-229-0010.

Hospice Volunteers Needed. Looking

Rocky Fino 'Will Cook for Sex'

Rocky Fino, author of "Will Cook for Sex: A Guy's Guide to Cooking," will hold a cooking demonstration at the Potomac home of Marla and Steve Garchik on Thursday, March 18 from 7 to 9 p.m. The event will benefit Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC) and individuals who are living with autism.

Fino, known as the Good Time Gourmet, makes cooking simple for all, but especially for men trying to impress women. "Will Cook for Sex" offers recipes for men to enchant the women of their dreams from the first date through the holidays.

At the Garchik home, Fino will demonstrate cooking lemon pepper prawns, fingerling canapés, cremed lamb quesadillas, and roasted figs for dessert.

A suggested donation of \$30 entitles guests to a sampling of Fino's cooking, wine and dessert. "Will Cook for Sex" will also be available for sale and



Rocky Fino

proceeds will benefit CSAAC.

Guests should RSVP by calling 240-912-2269. Payment will be collected at the door. The Garchik residence is located at 9001 Congressional Court, Potomac.

for patient care, bereavement care and administrative volunteers. Training from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the offices of Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Call Christiane Wiese at 301-921-4400 or visit www.montgomeryhospice.org.

FEB. 26-27

Dance Bethesda. Friday night will include an evening of social dances and free lessons from four participating downtown dance studios. Saturday's event will feature a formal dance concert highlighting select area dance companies. With ClancyWorks Dance Company, Dr. Janaki Rangarajan, Jason Garcia Ignacio, Karen Reedy Dance, Tappers with Attitude and Washington Reflections Dance Company, which were selected by the Dance Bethesda judging panel for their choreography, precise dance technique and passionate stories. At Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Tickets are \$20/adults, \$10/children. Go to www.bethesda.org or call 301-215-6660.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Tom Cunningham's 16-piece Orchestra. Beginning swing lesson at 8 p.m. is followed by the band from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: tom@tomcunningham.com

Dance Bethesda Dance Concert. 8 p.m. ClancyWorks Dance Company, Dr. Janaki Rangarajan, Jason Garcia Ignacio, Karen Reedy Dance, Tappers with Attitude and Washington Reflections Dance Company will showcase their finest dancers. At Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West

Highway. Tickets are available at www.bethesda.org for \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Celebrating Food. 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Les Dames d'Escoffier presents its Seventh Salute to Women in Gastronomy. The \$95 fee covers an educational day-long symposium offering 16 sessions, 40 speakers, hands-on cooking classes, a culinary Expo with new products, samples, cookbooks and experts, breakfast, lunch, and dessert & wine finale. At the Universities at Shady Grove, Rockville. Go on line to www.lesdamesdc.org or call 202-973-2168.

The Black hall of Fame Show. An interactive program about contemporary and historic figures in African American culture. Presented by John Taylor, a.k.a. The Kinderman. For ages 6 to 10. At Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd. Call 240-777-0970.

Achieving Your Training Goals. Noon to 2 p.m. Tips on achieving your training goals, why dogs do the things they do, and how lifestyle affects training. Speaker: Katalin Kerekes, <http://www.SpecialPawsTraining.com> Free but register at register@yourdogsfriend.info. At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

From Fear to Confidence — Proven Techniques to Reduce Your Dog's Fears. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Learn to identify what triggers your dog's fear; recognize the body language that indicates your dog is moving into a fearful state; and reduce your dog's fear by using desensitization, counter conditioning and other tools. Speaker: Jeni Grant, CPDT. Free, but must

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

register at register@yourdogsfriend.info.
At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac.

Purim Carnival and Play. 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Activities include games, rides, and silent auction. Free admission. Food available. At 1 p.m., see a free performance of "My Fair Estie," a new musical written by Bob Kurlantzick based on music by Frederick and directed by Marcy Spiro, for audiences of all ages. Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Rd, Potomac. Call 301-279-7010.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, including square

dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Welcome lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by called dances with Tori Barone and Floor Play from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

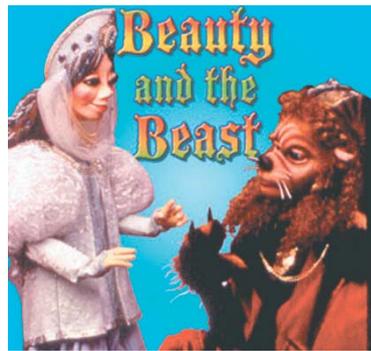
Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 3-6 p.m. Admission is \$15, featuring Jesse Lége and Bayou Brewwith wonderful live music. Introductory Cajun dance lesson at 3 p.m. is followed by dancing from 3:30 - 6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net

Third Millennium Performs. 5 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Tickets at door or call Pam Hilton at 202-316-1646.

THEATER

FEB. 26-28

"The Jungalbook." Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at 6 p.m. Presented by Imagination Stage's Pegasus Company. Tickets are \$10. At Imagination Stage's Reeve Studio Theatre, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660 or online at www.imaginationstage.org.



NOW THROUGH MARCH 21

"Peter and the Wolf." Price: \$10-\$21. For ages 5 and up. A contemporary take on the Prokofiev classic. Show times are Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 and 4 p.m., with some additional Saturday 11 a.m. performances. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660 or visit www.imaginationstage.org.

FEB. 27 TO APRIL 11

"Beauty and the Beast." Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Recommended for grades K-6. Tickets are \$10. Running time: 40 minutes. Presented by the Puppet Co. Playhouse, in the North Arcade Building of Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Md. Call 301-634-5380 or go to www.thepuppetco.org.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 6

"The New Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley"

Based on the popular children's series by Jeff Brown. Ages 4 and up. Performances on Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (Additional performances on weekends and weekdays are listed at www.adventuretheatre.org.) Book Club Performance: Saturday, Feb. 20, 1:30 p.m. ASL Interpreted Performance: Saturday, April 3, 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$12, children 12 and under; \$15, adults. Call 301-634-2270.

"TINY TOTS"

Saturday, Feb. 27 — "Snow Show"
March 10 — "Winter Wonderland"
March 13 — "Teddy Bear's Picnic"
March 24 and 27 — "Bunny Business"
The Puppet Co. presents "Tiny Tots @ 10," a program designed for our youngest theater patrons (ages 0 - 4). The shows are shorter, the lights stay on, the doors stay open and the show is set up on the floor!
Performances on select Wednesdays and Saturdays each month at 10 a.m. Tickets, \$5, adults and children (including babies). Reservations strongly recommended. Call (301) 634-5380 visit www.thepuppetco.org.

Bare Bones Tour of Design House

The 3rd Annual DC Design House will open its doors on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for a Bare Bones Tour. This tour is an opportunity to view not only the host site in its "before stage" but also provides a sneak peek at the 19 designers' presentation boards for their designated rooms.

The house is located at 3911 Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase. Tickets are \$10. Participating designers include:

- ❖ Andrew Law of Andrew Law Interior Design (drawing room terrace)
- ❖ Barry Dixon of Barry Dixon, Inc. (drawing room)
- ❖ Victoria Sanchez of Victoria Sanchez Interiors (library)
- ❖ Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey of SCW Interiors (entry and stair hall)
- ❖ Nestor Santa-Cruz (reception room)
- ❖ Frank Babb Randolph (living room)
- ❖ Sarah Wessel of Sarah Wessel Designs, Ltd. (sun room)
- ❖ Basha White of Basha White Interiors (dining room)
- ❖ Clive Christian Kitchens (butlers pantry, kitchen, porch)
- ❖ Sally Steponkus of Sally Steponkus Interiors (master bedroom)
- ❖ Celia Welch (master dressing room)
- ❖ Rose DiNapoli of Morris DiNapoli (study)
- ❖ Michael Hampton of Michael Hampton Design (guest bedroom)
- ❖ Barbara Franceski of Barbara Franceski LLC (guest sitting room)
- ❖ Lisa Adams of Adams Design, Inc. (boy's bedroom and bathroom)
- ❖ Page Palmer of Page Palmer Interior Design (girl's bedroom)
- ❖ Kelley Proxmire of Kelly Interior Design (family living room)
- ❖ Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design (artist's studio)
- ❖ Cynthia Ferranto of Cynthia Ferranto Landscape Design (landscaping)

MONDAY/MARCH 1

Iona and Ocean. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/advance, \$20/door. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Chinese book discussion in Chinese language. 7-9 p.m. "The Moaning Wind" by Yu Xu. Request book at the Circulation Desk. No registration required. Adults. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac. Call 240-777-0690.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 3

Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk. 8 p.m. Tickets that were purchased for the Feb. 9 performance will be honored. At The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Go to www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

Storyteller Li Min Mo. 7 p.m. Experienced storyteller Li Min Mo presents imaginative tales from Asian folklore. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac. Call 240-777-0690.

THURSDAY/MARCH 4

Loving Your Kid Without Losing Your Mind. Presentation for

parents of tweens and teens by author Dr. Michael Bradley. Sponsored by the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP). 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Walter Johnson High School, 6400 Rock Spring Dr., Bethesda. \$25/person. Tickets available by visiting www.PEPparent.org or by calling PEP at 301-929-8824.

Blood Drive. 3-8 p.m. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Police and the Citizen Academy Alumni Association. At the Public Safety Training Academy, 9710 Great Seneca Highway, Rockville. Appointments for donation can be made by e-mailing: Michele.Smith@montgomerycountymd.gov.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

LUXURY HOME PRICES STILL RISING

In a time where sales of new and existing homes are generally sluggish, sales of multimillion dollar homes are surprisingly strong and growing. This was once a very small niche in the home selling market. Now in 2008 it's among the fastest growing segments of the real estate market. That generally includes luxury homes costing \$5 million and above. This year, values in the luxury market are continuing to rise with no end in sight. Analysts say it's a matter of supply and demand. Multimillion dollar homes tend to be situated in high demand areas with one of a kind views and access to sophisticated amenities. There are only so many of these properties available. While there are still an increasing number of high-priced homes on the market, there are even more affluent buyers looking for the right property. A growing number of those prospective buyers are wealthy foreign buyers from Asia and Europe looking for an opportunity to capitalize on the weakened U.S. dollar. "The very wealthy are pouring more money into residential real estate," said the founder of Institute for Luxury Home Marketing. "While Europeans have always invested in American properties, new buyers are increasingly from Brazil, Russia, India and China." Luxury homes in the U.S. hold great appeal to buyers worldwide and make an excellent long-term investment.

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Neustadt's OT Goal Lifts Whitman over Wootton

Whitman coach Sneddon praises play of sophomore goaltender Bruns.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

Forty-five minutes of regulation was not enough to determine a south regional champ, as the Whitman Vikings defeated the two-time defending state champion Wootton Patriots, 3-2, off the stick of sophomore Aidan Neustadt with 3:34 remaining in overtime at Wheaton Ice Arena.

"In my heart I knew we were the better team this year, but I'd be lying if I said my heart wasn't racing all through overtime," Whitman head coach Tom Sneddon said. "It helped that our forwards really started to drive the net hard. With the exception of one or two quick chances for them at the beginning of overtime, we carried the play. I just kept telling the guys to drive the net and get ugly in front, and in the end that's how Aidan punched in the winner."

"I think Whitman had a lot more energy in overtime," Wootton head coach Dave Evans said. "Just before they scored I was thinking we need to get this into a shootout situation because we weren't pressing. ... As a coach you could see this coming, they had the upper hand."

After a scoreless first period, the Vikings went up 2-0 with goals from junior Nick Domingos and sophomore Seth Butler that were separated by less than 1:30.

As Wootton followers have come to expect, junior Josh Bretner took it upon himself to keep the Patriots in the game. Bretner



Whitman's Aidan Neustadt scored the winning goal in overtime of the Vikings state quarterfinal matchup against Wootton on Feb. 17 at Wheaton Ice Arena.



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC
Whitman goaltender Matt Bruns "played a great game," Vikings coach Tom Sneddon said.

"In my heart I knew we were the better team this year, but I'd be lying if I said my heart wasn't racing all through overtime."

— Whitman head hockey coach Tom Sneddon

broke free and stuffed home a breakaway to draw Wootton within one, then sent a slap-shot from beyond the blue line past sophomore goalkeeper Matt Bruns to knot the score with 7:42 left in the third period.

"Bretner is a great individual player," Sneddon said. "I thought we matched up with him just fine with our D. His

breakaway first goal began with a fluke play in neutral ice, but his second goal was an absolute rocket which despite the length of the shot, was not easy to handle. I think there might be one or two players in the state who could have blasted that in from out there."

"He had all of our offense, he was huge,"

Evans said.

Although Bretner dazzled yet again, the rest of the Patriots could not seem to elevate their play to complement him.

"We have too much of a tendency to watch and see what he was gonna do," Evans said. "It sort of handcuffed him and we lose our overall effectiveness. I don't think it was his fault — he's obviously one of the most talented players in the Montgomery conference, top five in the state no doubt. In terms of him making our guys more effective — through no fault of his own — I'd say not always. He's very much a north-south guy. When he takes off, guys had a lot of trouble in support."

With Bretner's unmatched playmaking ability and Whitman boasting four players with more than 20 points scored on the season, each goalkeeper fared relatively well in tempering the opposing attack.

"Our goalie, Matt Bruns, played a great game," Sneddon said. "Even when he let in the long shot from Bretner, he recovered quickly and made some big stops to give us a chance to win."

"[Senior Keith] Zegowitz was fantastic again, he put us in a position to win," Evans said. "He was a stud."

Playing for a championship is special in itself, but to go through the defending champions — back-to-back champions no less — makes the title quest all the more rewarding for Whitman.

"It made advancing to the state semifinal a little sweeter," Sneddon said. "We played well against them in the same round last year, but came up a bit short. I think we all really wanted to prove that this year was different and that we were the ones that deserved to move on, and there is no better way to prove yourself than to beat the champ. But beating Wootton wasn't our ul

SEE SNEDDON, PAGE 9

SPORTS BRIEFS

Whitman Girls Win Basketball Division Title

The Whitman girls basketball team clinched the 4A West championship with a 56-47 victory at Churchill on Monday.

The teams entered halftime tied at 23 before Whitman secured the win with two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter. The win was the Vikings' eighth in a row, improving their record to 17-3. Whitman finished with a 6-1 mark in division play while Churchill (14-6 overall) fell to 5-2.

"It was really sweet. It was our senior night and our first win over Churchill in four tries," Whitman coach Pete Kenah said. "We're really happy. Things are starting to come together."

Whitman center Whitney Kolakowski had three fouls at halftime and guard Susan

Russell, the team's leading scorer, had two. Kenah said he was happy with the way the Vikings competed in the second half.

"The kids showed great poise," he said.

Russell led all scorers with 18 points. Sophomore forward Angelica Ceccone scored 11 points and Caroline Kahlenberg added 10.

Jill Beaugard scored 11 points for Churchill and Sarafina Arthur-Williams finished with 10.

Playoff brackets have been announced and Whitman will enter the postseason as the No. 2 seed. The Vikings get a first-round bye and on Monday will face the winner of No. 7 Richard Montgomery and No. 10 Magruder.

Churchill is the No. 3 seed and also received a first-round bye. The Bulldogs will face the winner of No. 6 Northwest and No. 11 Walter Johnson.

Whitman also faced Seneca Valley on Tuesday. Results were not available before

the Almanac's deadline. Seneca Valley entered the game with a 21-0 record. Churchill faced Paint Branch on Tuesday.

Wootton Boys Win County Swimming Title, Churchill Third

The Wootton boys swim and dive team won the Montgomery County championship on Thursday at Martin Luther King Jr. Swim Center in Silver Spring. The Patriots finished with 279 points. Second-place Sherwood scored 247 and third-place Churchill tallied 241. Wootton won only two of 11 events, but coach Howard Blue said the Patriots' depth led them to the title.

"It's a long time coming," he said. "We were close two years ago when these juniors were freshmen. We kind of let it slip out of our hands. To win it this time with

no superstars is great. ... Everyone who swam and dove contributed to the event. ... It feels great. It's a whole-team effort. We were not counted on to do this."

The Patriots won the 200 freestyle relay (Michael Fu, Kenneth Ke, Thomas Finn, Matt Gibson) with a time of 1 minute, 30.67 seconds. Wootton's Jordan Lesser won the 1-meter dive with a score of 355.350 and fellow Patriot Bryan Doremus placed second (346.400).

"Our depth is what did it," Blume said. "We took a lot of thirds and fifths. We tried to stay ahead of Churchill no matter what the event." Finn placed third in the 200 free (1:45.46), Gibson placed third in the 100 free (49.33) and 100 backstroke (54.24).

Churchill's Christopher Verboncoeur finished second in the 50 free (22.23) and 100 butterfly (52.30). The Bulldogs took second in the 200 medley relay (Brian Xiao, Collin Stanhope, Verboncoeur, Colin Asbury, 1:41.59).

SPORTS



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Whitman's Seth Butler, left, prepares to score the Vikings' first goal on Feb. 17 during a 3-2 overtime victory against Wootton in the state quarterfinals at Wheaton Ice Arena. Butler is defended by Wootton's Josh Bretner.

Sneddon Praises Goaltender Bruns

FROM PAGE 8

imate goal; our goal was to advance against anyone they put in front of us."

Conversely, with multiple rings already on their fingers, the Patriots grew complacent as a potential three-peat was within their grasp.

"[Whitman is] trying to accomplish this for the first time, our guys were trying to go back for a third time," Evans said. "I think it was more of pressure versus excitement

— the adrenaline was much higher for them... they just looked a little hungrier, a little fresher, there was something that was giving them a little edge in overtime... those guys just really were dying for the opportunity. It's different when you're going for it for the first time, absolutely."

Following a 4-2 victory over Linganore in the state semifinal, the Vikings lost to Glenelg 4-2 in Monday's State Championship game.

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Raising Funds To Help Victims in Haiti

FROM PAGE 3

efficient stoves through his projects “Stoves for Darfur” and “Stoves for Rwanda.”

Hilary Clinton was influential in whetting Spencer’s appetite for humanitarian interests. In 2004, when he was 12, he encountered the senator at the McGovern Awards ceremony at the Smithsonian Institution. She invited him to meet again and Spencer decided to interview her for his school newspaper. In their conferences, she told him, “You have to worry about the world around you.” Through these meetings as well as through a discussion with Mavis Leno (wife of Jay Leno), Spencer became interested in social activism.

Spencer, now 18, researched and found CHF International, a development and humanitarian aid organization. Working in more than 30 countries, the organization provides programs to alleviate human suffering. He learned that CHF had a project which provided fuel-efficient stoves for women and families in Darfur. This interested him because the money went to women and families to better their lives.

To raise money, Spencer decided to produce and sell a DVD about his religious teacher’s emotional story of her parent’s survival during the Holocaust. Spencer said, “The importance of speaking up when there is injustice is a central theme. I chose the Holocaust because I saw similarities between the sufferings of the Holocaust in the mid-20th Century and the suffering of the Darfurian people today.”

“**TENTS IN HAITI**” is his next fund-raising mission. Spencer is relentless when it comes to increasing public awareness. He raises funds through Facebook, Twitter and E-Bay auctions. He contacts corporations, clergy and service organization and is constantly trying to think of new ways to attract donors.

“I am ramping up to spread the word about ‘Tents in Haiti.’ There are over 600,000 people without shelter in the Port of Prince metropolitan area. The distribution of tents is an immediate priority. Forty dollars will buy a tent for an entire family to live in. The rainy season is coming and the Haitian people need shelter from the weather as well as from mosquitoes and disease. There is an urgent need.” Thus far, he has raised \$3,000.

“It is important that people know that all money is paid directly to CNF International.



Spencer Brodsky, a senior at The Bullis School, wants to help displaced individuals in Haiti by providing shelter in the form of tents. When snow cancelled a fund-raiser Brodsky planned at his school, he regrouped and called his local Giant Food store, where Cabin John Manager Glenn Kapuscinski gave him two indoor tables. Brodsky and fellow Bullis student Lexi Kay received \$920 from the Giants shoppers, enough for 23 tents.

I don’t ever see or touch it,” Spencer said. “Checks are written directly to CNF International and are tax deductible.”

Clinton also advised Spencer to seek out other individuals who had made a difference in the world. Thus, Spencer began a project which has led him to write a book. He contacted celebrities who have positively changed the world with their deeds and messages. He has interviewed more than 30 celebrities, including Lance Armstrong, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, Nancy Pelosi, Michael J. Fox, Matt Lauer, Jay Leno and Dick Van Dyke. His book will contain the transcripts of these interviews with fore-

SPENCER HAS ALSO been highlighted on CNN, appeared as a keynote speaker at Cal-Poly Tech at the “Change the Status Quo” conference for over 300 student activists, interned at the Democratic National Convention and been nominated for the Charles Bronfman Prize for his humanitarian work. He said he would donate the \$100,000 prize if he wins.

Next year, he will attend the University of Maryland where he has been accepted to the Civicus Program centered around leadership, citizenship, community service



Spencer Brodsky with Jay Leno. Brodsky is working on a book about humanitarian-oriented celebrities.

and community building in a diverse society. He will be majoring in pre-med with the goal of working in public health.

Currently, he plays the trumpet in the Bullis bands, competes on the tennis team and loves to run.

“Where you help does not matter. That you help matters, and it matters a lot,” he said.

To donate to “Tents In Haiti,” go to www.TentsInHaiti.com

Follow on Twitter: @TentsInHaiti

Follow on Facebook: Tents in Haiti (Facebook Group)

Send an e-mail to Spencer@TentsInHaiti.com for updates and to learn how to get the message out.

petitions and shows while continuing his study of dance. He performed an a tango and a hip-hop in the “Tale of the Golden Cockerel.”

The Eminence Dance Studio will be staging another performance this spring. For more information about Eminence Dance Studio, call 202-465-6465 or 410-935-0225, or contact through e-mail: eminencedance@netzero.net.

Snowstorm Rescue

BY LINDA PERLIS

We were rescued by our knight in shining big SUV.

My husband and I, in our middle 60s, live on an old road in Potomac Village. When our power went out in the middle of that Friday night, we remained in our home for two days and nights with no electricity, heat, telephones, or water (we are on a well with an electric pump). We charged our cell phones in his car, with the garage door partially open.

We could not leave — our very, very long driveway was not plowed at all until Monday night, nor was our street. Fireplace flues were all frozen shut.

We cooked in our old fondue pots, over sterno (so had plenty of hot water — used two cases of bottled water we had just gotten!), and each chose two toilets as our private potties (since they could not be flushed). We slept in hats and socks and gloves and jackets and under so many comforters we could not move.

We have three grown sons, Aaron (and Allison) local, Cliff (and Emily) in Philadelphia, and Roy (and Debbie) in Boston, all married and fathers. They were much more upset than we were — it was a case of the children becoming the worrying parents, I think. It was 42 degrees in our house Sunday afternoon.

Finally, after repeated phone calls, including the oldest son’s, “Mom, you and Dad must go to Aaron’s — he needs you there!” — we received a call from the middle son:

“Mom, sometimes elderly people (!!!) do not make wise decisions in a crisis! Pack your pajamas and your pills and head for the street; Shane (our children’s very good friend, who lives near Montgomery Mall) will be there to pick you up and take you to Aaron’s!”

We protested and carried on that he should not bother Shane, etc., but in not too many minutes, we looked down our driveway and saw a car and then a person trying to shovel a path toward us. We grabbed our stuff in a garbage bag we could drag through the snow and added even more layers of clothing, grabbed ski poles for support, and trudged along toward the street.

Shane trudged toward us to help us, and after lots of trudging in the cold dusk, we got to his nice warm car.

We bounced along our rutted and very frozen street to River Road — and he drove us all the way to our son’s house near Shady Grove Hospital. Our wonderful son Aaron and dear daughter-in-law Allison — and delicious little 14-month-old grandson Sam — hosted us until Thursday night. It was like the old-fashioned homes with three generations under one roof — very warm and supportive and cozy.

Our very very special thanks to Shane Pollin for his heroic rescue. Blessings on his head always.

Eminence Presents ‘Tale of the Golden Cockerel’

FROM PAGE 4

“**OUR STUDENTS** also have many opportunities to participate in competitions and they do very well. We have scored very well in national competitions,” Liliya Markovych said. “They compete in Revolution, Showstoppers, I Love to Dance, and Star Power. In addition, our students are invited

to perform at many events. They have danced at the Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish embassies as well as Slavic Bazaars and the International Festival of 2009 in Baltimore. In Montgomery County, they have presented at the Strathmore Music Center, Marriot Headquarters and the ‘World of Montgomery’ Festival.”

Their son, now a freshman at Churchill High School, performs in their many com-

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I've Been Wondering...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Perhaps some of you regular readers have noticed of late, but recently – for the first time in six months or so of commenting – I have strayed occasionally from my cancer-related norm. And I suppose that's a good thing, a sign or an indication that no longer am I consumed, mentally, by the condition in which I find myself so heavily involved. Apparently, I have assimilated having cancer into my routine. Not so much coordinating my weekly labs, my every three-week chemotherapy infusion, every three-week appointment with my oncologist and miscellaneous other scans, procedures and evaluations into my daily/weekly/monthly/quarterly schedule, all of which becomes (or has become for me) second nature, despite their primary – and ongoing – importance; but more so into the activities of my daily living: reading, writing and 'rithmetic, etc.

Life goes on, believe it or not, even after receiving devastating news. And though I might not have imagined normalizing it (the diagnosis) as I have (especially after that first weekend at home after meeting with the oncologist the previous Thursday), but I have, and the evidence has been in my writing, specifically the non-cancer subject matter (that once again matters). Though the material is still as I see fit to write it, I seem to be a bit more fit than I have been and the proof is in the prose.

Don't get me wrong, the column is still about me, as it always has been. But it's less about the struggles of dealing with a cancer diagnosis, subsequent – and continuing – treatment, plus all the related effects not unique to me, as it has been since June. Obviously, I'm still very caught up and consumed by my health situation/status (and will continue to be), but subconsciously my brain has rewired itself a little bit and compartmentalized/segregated some (definitely not all) of the cancer thoughts thereby enabling me to mentally meander once again and literally lose my mind in some more ordinary and mundane minutiae, the kind of which has characterized my column for the past 12 years.

And as I find myself writing about nonsense once again, I'm feeling empowered, sort of, by its appearance; I'm me again. I'm not Kenny-with-cancer; I'm just, Kenny, who happens to have cancer, who writes about it regularly but not exclusively. And deviating from this most recent 'ab-norm' of late has re-routed me. No longer am I on the cancer train. No longer am I on the road to God-help-me. I'm simply back on the same road as everybody else, back dealing with and managing the same myriad problems as everybody else (with one major exception, of course). But the cancer thing doesn't define me anymore (yeah, right?). Oh sure, it precedes me, it categorizes me, it may even be me, but no more does it control me.

My brain (and my body) has persevered through it all now: the initial testing, the shock of the diagnosis, the chemotherapy which followed, the regular medical activities/appointments/scans which continue and the lifestyle changes, have all been integrated into my/our routine. Onward we go. I feel like I'm myself again and since I've always liked myself, I'm happy to be back (heck, as a cancer patient, I'm happy to be anywhere). I'm not cured of anything, though; I'm just more comfortable (subject to change, of course).

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

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