

Potomac ALMANAC

A Case Of the Sillies

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Snow White is Mallory Shear and Prince Really is Brian Polk in the Potomac Theatre Company's production of "Snow White & the Several Sillies."

Opportunity
For Ag
Reserve Farmers

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Shemer, Fanaroff
Lead Churchill into
2010 Season

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MARCH 17-23, 2010 ♦ VOLUME LIV, NUMBER 11

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OPINION

Opportunity for Farmers

BY LIZA WILSON DURANT, PH.D.
WMCCA PRESIDENT

Growing Local Food

As part of the "green wedge," Potomac has served the Agricultural Reserve well by accepting TDRs (Transfer of Development

Rights) and their associated increased density, by protecting the sewer envelop, and by pushing back on the march of highways and techways. As a result, we have 90,000 acres of farm and conserved lands at our back door with the capacity to not only

WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

dampen the environmental impact of our urban lifestyle, but to serve as the breadbasket for our community and perhaps the entire county. But where is the local food for our tables, and why are there so few farmers at Potomac's farmers market?

I think part of the answer lies in the age old economic theory of supply and demand and as it stands at present, there is more demand for commodities such as hay and soy beans than there is for locally grown table crops.

Many of us understand the benefit of locally grown food in terms of sustainability. Imagine the journey of Chilean grapes by plane and then by truck or train to our supermarket, the pesticides permitted by a foreign government, and the incredible impact on the environment from the transport of that single commodity. Then imagine the journey of grapes grown near Sugarloaf Mountain. There must be some real cost savings in terms of the environment, resources and sustainability that should be factored into the cost of the grapes so that we will choose grapes grown here in our backyard. But that is not the case.

What barriers exist that limit our access to what is available? What policy changes must be made to foster the local food movement? I read the following in the Washington Post: "Montgomery County Schools Superintendent Jerry Weast believes they are a magnet for pests. ... In a Feb. 26 memo, Weast all but banned schools from planting fruits and vegetables: 'Because vegetable gardens are a food source for pests, create liabilities for children with food allergies and have other associated concerns, the Department of Facilities Management staff has not approved gardens designed to produce food,' he wrote." Perhaps our own county leaders are among the obstacles.

Join me at our next General Meeting where we will meet with leaders in the local food movement to discuss what we can do as a community to create opportunities for our local farmers. Potomac has a 300-year history of growing and bringing food to market via horse and wagon along our rustic roads or by barge along the canal. While our farms have disappeared, we can

The next meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association will be Wednesday, March 24 at 8 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled. The public is welcome to attend.

With the Agricultural Reserve on our doorstep and spring arriving after a long hard winter, our March meeting, Growing Local Food, is devoted to promoting sustainable, marketable, nearby farming. Our speaker is **Ann Harvey Yonkers**, founder and co-director of the FRESHFARM Markets in Washington, D.C., an award-winning nonprofit that operates 10 farmers' markets in the Chesapeake Bay region. She and her husband also own Pot Pie Farm near St. Michaels, Md. where they raise 100 pastured laying hens and



Ann Harvey Yonkers

grow vegetables and fruits using organic methods. Yonkers is nationally recognized by Women Chefs and Restaurateurs as a "Woman Who Inspires" and was recently named a WETA "Home Town Hero" for FRESHFARM Markets service to the D.C. community. Yonkers will show a short film about the FRESHFARM movement and then be joined by panelists in a discussion about how we can increase production of local food generally and particularly in the Agricultural Reserve.

Gordon Clark, founder of Montgomery Victory Gardens, is committed to building a self-reliant and sustainable local food system in Montgomery County. MVG works with individual and community gardeners, farmers and the faith-based community to bring the experience of growing and eating fresh, local food to county residents. MVG has organized the first county-wide community gardening network among houses of worship to support local food pantries, and is heading the effort to persuade our resistant school system to adopt a pro-food garden policy.

Caroline Taylor is executive director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) which works tirelessly to protect the Agricultural Reserve and supports sound economic, land-use, and transportation policies that preserve our rural lands for the benefit of all Washington metropolitan area residents.

Laura Ledgard runs Good Life Farm in Darnestown, a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) which permits a community of individuals to pledge financial support for a farmer's operations and share in the bounty throughout the growing season through a subscription to the weekly harvest of the farm.

SEE AN OPPORTUNITY. PAGE 11



River Surges with Rain, Melting Snow

Access to Great Falls and the C&O Canal National Historical Park was blocked off over the weekend and earlier this week because of extreme flooding on the Potomac River. The river level crested at more than 13 feet at Little Falls in Bethesda on Monday afternoon, March 15, more than three feet above flood level and more than ten feet above the level considered safe for recreational boating.

Just the tops of towering trees are visible above the water

in the Potomac Gorge on Sunday. The islands in the river between Old Anglers Inn and Great Falls Tavern were completely inundated with floodwaters.

Water rose up to the pedestrian bridges, which were closed, that led to the overlook of Great Falls and Olmsted Island from the C&O Canal. The current bridges replaced walkways that were washed away in the floods of June, 1972 when the Potomac River was measured at more than 22 feet at Little Falls during Hurricane Agnes.

Snow White, Music and Mix in Several Sillies

Performances begin Saturday at Bullis.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Mirror, mirror on the wall who is the silliest of them all? This month the Potomac Theatre Company presents "Snow White & the Several Sillies" — a musical adaptation of the classic story. The play and music is written by Potomac resident Marilyn Shockey who adapted the fairy tale of Snow



Snow White is Mallory Shear and the hair dresser is Nan Muntzing.

White for this story. cent outcome for most of the characters in the end."

She has found that children respond better to plays when there is music and not just dialogue. She adds, "The more often things change and move around the more interested they are and the more characters move on and off stage the more engaged they are by the action."

She is looking forward to opening night. "It is a thrill for my work to come alive on stage. It is always interesting to me to see how different directors will interpret my works."

Director Stephanie Offutt feels "the best



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Melanie Williams, Javen Crosby, Jennifer Rutherford (having her hair and nails done), Nan Muntzing and Linda Nguyen Ha.

kind of children's theater is interactive. It is fun being there and being a part of the show and not having to sit still. The kids are encouraged to sing along at the curtain call and the actors will interact with the audience. The back and forth is so enchanting."

As any mother of a little girl knows: Princesses rule. Dress up and dolls are an important part of their world. Offutt feels the girls in the audience will relate to her princess as "Snow White is beautiful, graceful and kind. Goodness wins in the end. Prin

SEE SEVERAL SILLIES, PAGE 4

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NEWS

More For more information visit www.potomactheatreco.org. This Friday, March 19, at 11 a.m. the cast will perform a medley of songs from the play at a free event in the Cabin John Mall atrium.

Several Sillies

FROM PAGE 3

cesses are smiling, good people who would not dream of being unkind. They make friends so easily and nothing can ruin how good they are. Little girls will be struck by the pure, gentle goodness of the princess and boys will like the antics of the sillies.”

AS FOR THE SILLIES they will be reacting to the audience and asking them for their participation. Melanie Williams (Jilly Silly) feels the children “respond well to slapstick.”

Adds Linda Ha (Chilly Silly): “The kids will love the sillies. We are very animated and sing lots of fun songs.”

Tricia Weiler (Filly Silly) enjoys doing children’s theater and is looking forward to seeing how the children will interact and respond to the performance. “The characters are fun and the audience will enjoy the show because they know the story of Snow White and will recognize the characters.”

Nan Muntzing (Pelly/Magic Mirror) hopes “the kids will interact and respond to the characters. The show has very catchy tunes and the songs have terrific words and rhythm.”

Gordon Kiefer (the Royal Henchman) agrees the music has nice little jingles and melody that the children will want to sing along with once they hear it.”

Two of the sillies are real life brother and sister. Raven Crosby (Tilly Silly) “saw my brother in a play and thought it was really cool and wanted to give it a try.” She feels other kids will enjoy the show “because of the funny songs, the kids will have a good laugh.”

Her brother Javen Crosby (Dilly Silly) started acting when his best friend asked him to audition for a play with him and “then I fell in love with theater.” He feels that his acting will help him with public speaking and that he uses his acting skills in school. “I used to be nervous but I grew out of that a long time ago. The audience helps you a lot. I think the sillies are the funniest part of the show for little kids.”

No story would be complete without a villain. Jennifer Rutherford plays the evil Queen Slezinose and tried to make her character “funny so as to not scare the kids, but not so funny that she is not evil. I am expecting them to boo me a lot.”



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE THE ALMANAC

Director Stephanie Offutt

Mallory Shear enjoys playing Snow White and understands the “princess stage” most little girls go through. She feels they “see their mothers as beautiful regal

women and the Disney princesses embody that.” She jokes that, “Everyone wants to wear the clothes, shoes, jewels and tiaras. It really just comes down to the accessories.” She is looking forward to each performance and audience being different. With children’s theater “the kids are right there with you every step of the way with each line. I am sure I will hear, “Don’t eat the apple!”

“Snow White & the Several Sillies” runs at The Blair Center for the Performing Arts at The Bullis School. Performances are March 20, 21, 27, 28 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For tickets: Call 301-299-8571 and leave a message. Tickets: \$12; 20 percent off prepaid groups of 10. The Bullis School is located at 10601 Falls Road, Potomac.



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LETTERS

Lost Dog Rescue

To the Editor:

All too often, we don't stop and smell the roses. We are too "busy" to notice the little things in life. I accept this, as life is chaotic. What I cannot understand, is how we ignore the obvious. Case and point: I was driving home on Falls Road one day and noticed a tiny (but visible) puppy darting through moving cars. I failed math, but I can guess the factors of this equation: Puppy + moving cars = (you fill in the blank).

Most young dogs have not been exposed to cars and do not understand moving vehicles' "squish factor." After pulling off to the side, I jumped out and called the dog to me. 50/50 chance he could reach me unscathed. ... turned out the gods were in our favor. This whole process took 45 painful minutes. At some point, several cars slowed to watch (not help) the "rescue." I hope I looked decent in the pictures they took with their camera phones. I took puppy home. My four dogs were ecstatic, we love small visitors at Chateau Cohen. I put him in a small pen, took his picture and spent two hours put-

ting up "Do You Know Me?" posters. (Created by my brilliant, computer savvy husband.) Fast forward: the owner picked him up 48 hours later, and two little boys have their puppy back. Here are some tips if you find a lost animal: Determine temperament. Domestic pets are usually friendly, and more apt to respond to a friendly voice. Please do not use size or breed as an excuse. I am more confident in a friendly 100 lb. German Shepherd vs. a snarky 10 lb. Jack Russell.

Check for a collar with a name or number. If there are none, and you feel com-

fortable, bring the animal to the nearest vet's office to check for a microchip. The vet will determine whether the animal is healthy, age and breed. The vet will put out an S.O.S to other veterinarians. If you cannot take the animal home for the night, talk to your vet. Most vets are not holding facilities, but the good ones have all animal's best interest in mind and will work with you. Putting an animal into the care of a facility that participates in the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call 703-778-9412.

NOW THROUGH 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.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

Doris Bitler Discussion. 7 p.m. This professor of psychology at George Mason University will discuss the history and traditions of the spring season at the Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Call 240-773-0922.

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

Blues Dance. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Rotating DJs and instructors. Beginning workshop from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: info@capitalblues.org

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Story/Stereo with Kathleen Flenniken and Anthony Varallo. 8 p.m. Story/Stereo welcomes visiting emerging writer fellows Kathleen Flenniken (Famous) and Anthony Varallo (Out Loud). Musical guest: More Humans. Visit www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dancing as well as some square dances and waltzes. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Called dance to live music by Laura and the Lava Lamps from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

La Divina Milonga Party. 8:30 to midnight. Cost is \$15. Lesson for Argentine Tango beginners and up from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Dance Party to recorded music from 9 p.m. to midnight with Teacher and DJ Fabio Bonini, playing Traditional Tango, Milongas, Waltz and Tango Nuevo. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: Jennifer@foreverdancing.com

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. The SingCo Rhythm Orchestra (SRO) specializes in the hot jazz of the late 1920s, the romantic and swiny 1930's and the Benny Goodman/Tommy Dorsey/Glenn Miller "High Swing" of the 1940s. Beginner swing lesson with Tom and Debra at 8 p.m. is followed by the band from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: www.americanswing.org

Gan Shabbat. 11 a.m. An interactive Saturday morning service for young children and their families. Members and non-members welcome. At



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE WILLIAMS.

Pam Saussy and Karen Hinson with last year's winners, Cheryl Kagan and David Spitzer.

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

Scrabble Scramble. 6-9 p.m. Hosted by the Literary Council of Montgomery County to raise money for the adult literacy programs. Tickets are \$200 for a table of four, and proceeds go directly to the Literacy Council. At the Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Contact Pam Saussy at 301-610-0030 or info@literacycouncilcmd.org.

Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac.

Washington Conservatory of Music Concert.

8 p.m. Free. Ronn McFarlane, lute and Ayreheart, and Haskell Small, piano. At Glen Echo Park, South Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. In Glen Echo. Call 301-320-2770 or visit www.washingtonconservatory.org.

Writing the Future Conference. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Join Nick Bilton, Lee Gutkind, Tom Shroder, Jay Ogilvy, Richard Nash, and more to learn how the changes in publishing will affect writers. Following the program will be a reception for Creative Nonfiction from 5-7 p.m. Admission: \$90. Fee includes one-year subscription to Creative Nonfiction and one-year membership to The Writer's Center. Co-sponsored by The Creative Nonfiction Foundation and Arizona State University's Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes, and The Writer's Center. Details: www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

Holy Land Hardball. 3 p.m. An account of the dream to bring America's pastime to the Middle East by Boston bagel maker, Larry Baras. Sponsored by the Brotherhood of Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville. Admission is Free, but donations of gently used sports equipment for baseball and softball are welcomed. (www.pitchinforbaseball.org or www.msissoccer.org). RSVP to <http://holylandhardball.eventbrite.com>.

Blood Drive. Noon to 4 p.m. At the Clara Barton National Historic Site, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo. To make an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. All participants can view a performance of "Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel," starring actress Mary Ann Jung. Call to make reservations, call 301-320-1410.

Bach Marathon. 2-7 p.m. Free. Ten organists will play on the three manual, 2516 pipe tracker organ built in 1975 and installed in 1976 by the Rieger organ building company of Austria. Each organist will present a half hour program. The organists will be Kenneth Lowenberg, Sonya Sutton, Vicki Shields, Gi Young Kim, Jim Walton, Kyle Babin, Carol Feather Martin, Riyehee Hong, Tom Smith and Julie Evens. Presented by Chevy Chase Concerts.

At The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, N.W., Washington, D.C. Call 202-363-2202.

Waltz Dance. 3-6 p.m. Cost is \$8. Beginning lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. followed by afternoon waltzes and other couples dances. Dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. to the music of Laura and the Lava Lamps. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: info@waltzimedances.org.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Cost is \$12/nonmembers, \$9/members. Traditional American contra dancing, which includes square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances called by Beth Molaro to Laura and the Lava Lamps from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: www.fsgw.org.

Open House. Noon-2 p.m. Free. Join Writer's Center staff, workshop leaders, and members at The Writer's Center's spring open House. Details: www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

33rd Birthday Celebration with Pagan Kennedy and Carolyn Forche. 2 to 4 p.m. Following the Open House, "alum" Pagan Kennedy joins Carolyn Forche for a reading and celebration. Admission: \$20. Buy two tickets to the birthday reading and get one free membership to The Writer's Center. Details: www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

MONDAY/MARCH 22

Talk on the Internet. 6:30 p.m. Everything you have always wanted to know about the Internet and your children (probably) already know. At the German School, 8617 Chateau Drive, Potomac. Contact: Elternbeirat@dswash.org.

John Jorgenson Quintet. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20/advance, \$25/door. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org.

MARCH 23 TO MAY 11

Free Chinese Language Classes. Eight-week series of free Chinese (Mandarin) language classes will be offered in collaboration with the

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland (CIM), at the Potomac Library each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to Noon. The series is limited to 15 participants, first-come first-served. The library is located at 10101 Glenolden Dr. Contact Ritchie Kwan or Rebecca McGinnis at CIM, 301-405-0213, or email r.kwan@gmail.com, or rmcginni@umd.edu.

TUESDAY/MARCH 23

Afternoon Tea. 1 p.m. With Becky Dukes, piano. Pre-paid reservations required, \$21. At the Mansion at Strathmore. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5108.

Singer-songwriter Chuck Pyle. 8 p.m. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Tickets are \$18/door, \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org. Contact David Spitzer at focusrockville@earthlink.net or 301-275-7459

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

Artist in Residence. 7:30 p.m. With Ari Allal, bassoon. Tickets \$12. At the Mansion at Strathmore. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5108.

Afternoon Tea. 1 p.m. With Carol Rose Duane, harp. Pre-paid reservations required, \$21. At the Mansion at Strathmore. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5108.

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

Naomi Kudo, Piano. 7:30 p.m. At



MARCH 20-21

All-Brahms Concert. Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Violinist Chee-Yun Aquasmile will perform Brahms's Violin Concerto in an All Brahms program with the National Philharmonic, conducted by Piotr Gajewski. The program will also include Brahms's Hungarian Dance No. 5 and Symphony No. 2. At the Music Center at Strathmore. To purchase tickets visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore Box Office at 301-581-5100. Tickets are \$29-\$79; kids 7-17 are free.

the Mansion at Strathmore. Tickets are \$28. At the Mansion at Strathmore, Music Room, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

Blues Dances. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Cost is \$8. Rotating DJs and instructors. Beginner workshop runs from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact: info@capitalblues.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

Annual Charity Ball. 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Hosted by the Montgomery County Young Republicans. Proceeds will go to MobileMed. \$50/person; mail check made out to MCYRs to 11343 Amberlea Farm Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. At the Women's Club of Bethesda, 5500 Sonoma Road, Bethesda.

Friday Night Eclectic: US Royalty

ft. DJ Will Eastman. 9 p.m. Tickets \$10/advance, \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, Shapiro Music Room, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.

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Shemer, Fanaroff Lead Churchill into 2010 Season

First-year coach Blackwood says senior pitchers pivotal to Bulldogs' success.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

First-year Churchill baseball coach Scott Blackwood stood near the right-field foul line on a cold Thursday afternoon at the Bulldogs' home field and said pitchers Bryce Shemer and Harris Fanaroff are the key to the team's 2010 season.

"They're basically going to be the anchors of our pitching staff," Blackwood said. "We're going to go as far as they take us."

While Blackwood's opinion of the seniors' leadership capabilities was clear, his initial response when asked about their arsenal of pitches could be seen as puzzling.

"Honestly," the coach said, "I don't know."

Don't be mistaken. Blackwood's unfamiliarity with the repertoire of his staff's top arms wasn't due to a lack of effort or observation. It was just part of the 25-year-old's plan for sustained success over the 2010 season — which he quickly cleared up.

"The only thing we're letting them throw is fastballs and change ups," Blackwood said after a recent scrimmage against Quince Orchard. "It's too early in the season. It's not worth throwing out an arm."

How do the Bulldog hurlers feel about being held back?

"We appreciate him trying to save our arms," Fanaroff, a left-hander, said, "so we can be better as the season progresses."

Fanaroff, who also plays first base and outfield, said he throws a fastball (84-85 mph), change up and slider. Shemer, who also plays catcher and shortstop, said he



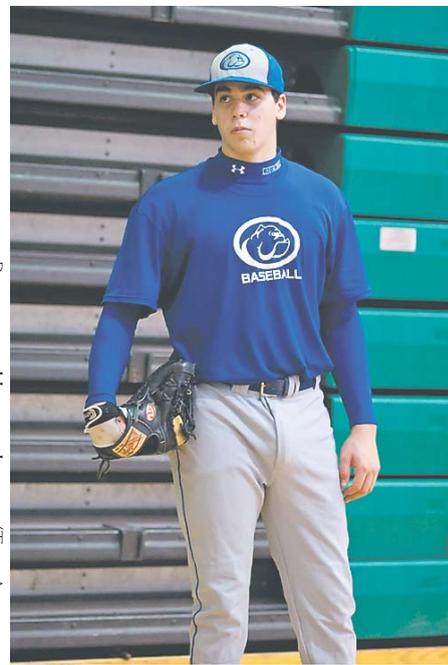
Senior Bryce Shemer will play catcher and shortstop when he's not pitching for Churchill.

throws a fastball (90-91 mph), change up, forkball and slider.

"The previous years we've been going out [during] scrimmages throwing what we want to throw," Shemer said. "This year, which I actually like a lot better, [we are] throwing fastballs and change ups so this early in the season we're not hurting our arms."

Careful attention paid to pitchers is just one positive impact Blackwood has had during the early stages of his first season with the Bulldogs.

"It's just a whole different team atmosphere," said Fanaroff, who added players are spending a lot of time together away from the diamond. "You just see a new energy that you never saw from the Churchill baseball program since we've been here. It's



Senior left-hander Harris Fanaroff will be one of the Bulldogs' top pitchers in 2010.

been everything we could ask for."

THE BULLDOGS started team workouts in December and have noticed a difference.

"We are working," Shemer said, "like we've never worked before."

The senior trio of Seiya Eguchi, Eric Skrzyniarz and Jameson McGrane will patrol the outfield for the Bulldogs. Eguchi has good speed and a strong arm, Skrzyniarz is a threat at the plate and McGrane is the top defensive player of the group, Blackwood wrote in an e-mail.

Brett Mead gets the nod at second base while Russell Rentfro will see time at first base and catcher. Ian Shemer and Jordan Siegal are battling for playing time at third base. Sophomore Danny Weiss will play shortstop when Bryce Shemer is pitching

or catching.

Along with Fanaroff and Shemer, McGrane, Ben Kramer, Danny Weiss, Matt Brothers, Rentfro and Kelby Spring could see time on the mound.

"These kids are hungry to learn," Blackwood said. "If they continue to take

"It's just a whole different team atmosphere. You just see a new energy that you never saw from the Churchill baseball program since we've been here."

— Senior pitcher Harris Fanaroff on the impact of first-year coach Scott Blackwood

what we have to give them and improve, the ... sky's the limit. ... After I saw the work that the kids put in, I can't ask for anything better. If these kids are willing to basically run through a brick wall for you, you can't ask for anything better."

Churchill has some work to do after winning just six games in 2009. Blackwood said he is in search of steady improvement.

"What I'm telling everybody is our expectations are to win more games than we won last year," Blackwood said. "That's six, so if we win seven, then, obviously, we've improved on the year before. ... We want to improve each year."

Fanaroff is confident the Bulldogs can get the job done.

"We know we can play well," he said. "It's just a matter of putting in the hard work that it takes to win games. We know that nobody's going to think of us as a good team and we're OK with that. ... We [want] to surprise some people."

Wootton Motivated by Postseason Loss to Rival Churchill

Seniors Hindman, Kelly lead Patriots into 2010 season.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

The Wootton baseball team is hoping an elite pitching staff headed by senior Alex Hindman as well as the leadership and production of senior shortstop Alex Kelly will translate to a deeper postseason run this go around.

Leading 7-2 over rival Churchill in the first round of last year's playoffs, the Patriots' advantage quickly evaporated, as a senior class that had won the division title in each of its four years was ousted from the postseason tournament by the score of 8-7.

"We got up pretty quick in the game and I think we just kind of coasted through," head coach JD Marchand said. "That's a mistake you can never make. ... A credit to them, they fought back and were able to take the lead."

The team graduated instrumental field players such as Mike Briggs, Doug Browner, Tyler Hatch, Mike Mooney and Evan Pappas, but returns a deep and experienced pitching rotation.

"I think our pitching staff looks really, really good right now," Hindman said. "Last year [senior] Max [Simon] was hurt most of the year so we had to look for a bunch of younger guys to step up. This year Max is healthy and looks real nice right now, and I'm getting back into form. Also [senior] Mark Brown is looking real good so I think we have three solid guys who could be the No. 1 pitcher on most other teams in the county."

While runs should be hard to come by for opposing teams, Kelly, who will play at Middlebury University next spring, will be heavily relied on to produce offensively and stabilize an inexperienced infield.

"While in years' past it was my role to help push the team, it's now time for me and the rest of our senior class to lead, really direct us to a state championship," Kelly said.

The Patriots' consistent regular season success has spawned high playoff expectations, but with disappointing results. The team has not captured a Regional title since 2001.

"Every year we've made a goal of winning the division. ... The last few years we've played exceptionally well during the regular season, but I think last year we lost the last two games of the regular season, so we kind of ended the season on a downward skid," Marchand said. "I think our goal

is to be playing our best baseball at the end of April and the beginning of May going into the playoffs."

"I think we can go really far this year," Hindman said. "This year's team is a lot like last year's in that there isn't really one guy who stands out and has to carry the team. But I do feel like the overall talent is higher this year from top to bottom than it was last year."

With the development of junior first baseman James Wallerstedt, junior second baseman Pete Spiropolous and freshman Andrew Crieg to go along with Kelly and an established pitching staff, the Patriots are confident that they can not only avenge last year's early postseason exit but make considerable noise within their region and beyond.

"Although we put all of our effort into the

SEE HINDMAN, PAGE 8

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS

5Qs

Five questions with Churchill pitcher Harris Fanaroff

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Steak, (cooked) medium. I love a good steak. We've got a rule that if guys do something wrong it's \$5 in a pot and at the end we're going to have a big team dinner. ... Something that makes us run causes the \$5.



Q: Who is your favorite baseball team?

A: I'm a huge Atlanta Braves fan — huge Tommy Hanson fan, too. ... Growing up, there was no [Washington] D.C. baseball team and I was always watching baseball [on TV], so they were on TBS and ... I just fell in love with them.

Q: How do you deal with the early season cold weather?

A: I'm a big guy on long sleeves. If it's under 75 [degrees], I'm in long sleeves. ... Keeping your arm warm is the most important thing.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: Kenny Chesney. I love country music. It relaxes me. It reminds me of baseball.

Q: What do you like to do when you're not playing baseball?

A: We're always doing something baseball related — no joke. We're lifting and running is what I would say [or] we're watching baseball. It's our lives.

— JON ROETMAN

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Hindman, Kelly To Lead Patriots

FROM PAGE 8

regular season there is definitely a new feeling, this year in particular, to make sure we hit our stride once the playoffs begin," Kelly said. "As much as it

pains me to bring it up, no one has forgotten last year's loss to Churchill. We're lucky enough to have a team that has channeled that anger into an intense offseason and I'm excited to see how long we can make this season [last]."

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"According to Computer Models ..."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And no, this isn't a take on the James Cameron-directed, special effects phenomenon, "Avatar." This isn't 3D. This is "reality." This is Doug Hill, Channel 7 meteorologist speaking (advisedly). This is weather at presumably its finest and most likely scenario. Weather predictions via man-made machinery; computers specifically, which we've (most of us, anyway) all come to respect and appreciate as tools of the respective trades. But weather itself is not so reliable, nor is it man made. Weather has a mind (track) of its own; predictable, generally, but subject to change/interpretation? Oh my, yes! As sure as the wind blows. We may think we understand nature, nurture it sort of, maybe even relate to it in some anthropomorphic way. But, it doesn't understand us. It doesn't relate to us, and it certainly doesn't seem to care about us. It reacts to its natural (and unnatural) surroundings and acts not according to any weather model, real or imagined. It just reacts, like a pinball on steroids; any which way, including loose.

As a result, the rest of us are left to pick up the pieces, sometimes literally. Otherwise, we pick up the shovels and "Ice Melt," hammer, nails and plywood and clear the walk and/or batten down the hatches, 'cause weather is coming or in some patterns/predictions, may be here already. And if it is, you better have your supplies, at least in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area because if you're late to the dance, there will be no party afterward. And no milk, bread, eggs, toilet paper or water either; that's presuming you can even find and/or fit into a parking space.

But it's nothing us Washingtonians (or transplants) have not grown accustomed to: panic in the streets (and the shopping centers, too). Are we proud are of our overreactions? Hardly. Has our snow-related behavior over the years been typically much ado about a little something? Until this, year, almost always. Has the Blizzard of 2010 finally earned us a little respect, grudgingly though it may be, from Buffaloneans specifically, and Northerners in general, many of whom have regularly laughed and scoffed at our school-cancellation policy and our many "snow emergencies?" You would think. Moreover, I would say we've earned our snow-shoveling stripes, our plowing medals of honor and our bravery above and beyond the call of reasonable and customary winter duty.

Eventually, life goes on, though. Until the next weather model predicts the formerly ever-scary "wintry mix." Which until this most recent record-setting/smashing blizzard, was as frightful a pair of words ever spoken here (in relation to the weather, that is; after all, this is Washington, D.C., home to the three branches of our Federal Government: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial, where snow accumulation, generally speaking, pales in comparison to the more pressing matters of the day; and night and weekends and holidays, too). Now we all know a little bit better.

And I don't believe we would have known better were it not for the local media who went into crisis mode: non-stop coverage preempting regularly scheduled programming. Much of it helpful and in real-time, but some of it redundant; amusing occasionally, informative certainly, but ultimately it was all too much, just like the snow. In general though, the local media made the most of a bad-weather situation. But the television and radio stations can't help themselves any more than the weather/nature can. Their reactions are mostly out of our control. Except we can turn them off. Unfortunately, we can't turn off the weather. All we can do is hope that the next "computer models" are kinder and gentler than the previous ones.

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

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21 Announcements

OPINION

An Opportunity for Agricultural Reserve Farmers

FROM PAGE 2

still serve as the agents for the movement of goods to market and work towards the vision of an Agricultural Reserve that can provide food for all of us.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

Hanson Farm: On March 4, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to support re-zoning the Hanson Farm on Travilah and

Quince Orchard Road. It next goes to the Hearing Examiner. The Hunting Hill Homeowners Association is working to include binding conditions that will insure dispersal within the development of the MPDUs (Moderately Priced Dwelling Units). They also seek to prevent future driveways from lining Travilah Road. WMCCA promoted and achieved the same restriction on the Clagett Farm, keeping driveway access contained so Glen Road presents a

white farm fence and landscaping rather than a series of driveways.

Norwood School Petition to Modify Special Exception No. S-285: Norwood School on River Road is seeking to expand again and will go to the Hearing Examiner in June. Their newest proposal includes construction of three additional buildings, the

largest a 350-seat, 52,600 square foot performing arts center. Norwood's previous expansion 10 years ago caused destruction of onsite wetlands and added pavement on River Road to accommodate increased traffic. This modification will bring more intense use of the site, especially in summer. The Potomac Subregion Mas-

ter Plan recommends limiting the impacts of existing special exceptions in established neighborhoods.

With four Special Exceptions in close proximity to one another, (Congressional Country Club, the German School and Connolly School), all expanding in size, where are the limits?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 5

euthanasia of animals should be a last resort.

Use the internet and search for all local no kill rescues. Leave messages, e mails, voice mails etc. People involved in animal rescue are most likely very kind (and quirky). They will help you make contacts and put the word out in the animal "rescue community." You are not alone, and with a little effort, there is always a solution. Take pictures and with contact information. The only information you need provide is a first name and phone number. Call major surrounding facilities and fax them a picture with contact information — community centers, schools, libraries, fire departments etc. People congregate in those areas and might recognize the lost animal's picture. Most likely the animal lives in a couple mile radius from where it is found.

Very important: there are a lot of creeps that travel around looking for "lost" dog posters. They will disguise themselves as the heart-broken owner, then turn around

and sell the lost animal for profit. Ask specific questions. What gender is your "lost" dog/cat? What color collar was he/she wearing? (Even if there was none.) What breed? What name does the animal go by? Repeat the name to the animal in a low, even tone. High pitched tones almost always produce a wag or head tilt. If you get bad gut feeling, be polite and take the info to call back. Don't return a call if you feel something is off. A worthy owner will stop at nothing to find their pet. Demand (politely) that the owner bring proof of ownership. Registration, pictures, medical records etc. Lastly, look for the animal's reaction. My puppy friend went into hyper drive when he recognized his family.

I admit, this particular situation was a breeze compared to other scenarios. I might have considered a different plan of action had it been a 75 lb., snarling pit bull. But then again, that is very unlikely. I have never encountered a pit bull I didn't like, let alone one that snarls.

Aly Cohen



For Haiti Relief Norwood School kindergartners and their teachers gather with Red Cross representatives Hank Roser and Laura Dimon after the students presented them with a check for \$7,424.59 for Haiti Relief. The students held an indoor walkathon to raise money, completing 54 laps and four miles around the school's double gymnasium.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese
CONFORMING JUMBO MORTGAGES AVAILABLE

Freddie Mac, a major government-sponsored buyer of existing mortgages, has agreed to purchase new "conforming jumbo mortgages" in amounts up to \$729,750 from several of the nation's largest lenders. That's good news for buyers of luxury homes and all buyers in exceptionally high-priced markets. Fannie Mae, another major secondary buyer of mortgages, also has a conforming-jumbo program. This is the first large-scale effort to jump-start the jumbo mortgage market with provisions mapped out in the Economic Stimulus Act, signed into law on February 13. The new limit is effective through December 31 of this year. However, it's restricted to 224 high cost markets where median home prices are more than Freddie Mac's normal \$417,000 loan limit. Borrowers can now apply for a variety of fixed-rate or adjustable-rate conforming jumbo mortgages that will be less expensive than non-conforming jumbo loans in expensive markets. Borrowers can use these conforming jumbo mortgages to finance up to 90 percent of a property's value. It's a positive step forward in regaining a healthy mortgage and home buying market. Check with your lender or mortgage broker to see if you qualify for a conforming jumbo mortgage.

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NEW PRICE! Beautiful lot with swimming pool, play yard, finished walkout lower level, both family room and library on the first floor. Four bedrooms, three full baths plus bedroom and full bath in lower level. \$1,275,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
 Beautifully appointed & lovingly maintained/updated by current owners with magnificent views of trees. Chef's kitchen & wonderful floor plan for living & entertaining. 3 finished levels, 6BR, 5.5BA, walkout LL. Whitman. \$1,199,000
Traudel Lange 240-463-6918



NORTH BETHESDA, MARYLAND
NEW PRICE! Fantastic home in a quiet cul-de-sac in Luxmanor. Original owners have painstakingly maintained and updated this home. Excellent floor plan with renovated kitchen & baths, walkout LL, garden oasis w/pool! \$1,095,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND
 Special home in the heart of Chevy Chase has been entirely renovated in last 6 years. Large, updated kitchen opens to breakfast area with built-ins. Sun room addition and finished lower level are only a few of the special features. \$995,000
Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



POTOMAC, MARYLAND
 Beautiful townhome has been renovated and faces parkland. Within minutes to C&O Canal and easy commute to DC/VA. 2 finished levels with renovated kitchen & bath. Large master + 2 additional bedrooms. Whitman. \$399,000
Traudel Lange 240-463-6918

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