

Potomac ALMANAC

Day in the Sun

NEWS, PAGE 3

CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC



**Bicyclists and walkers
take advantage of the
spring weather near
Swains Lock on Saturday.**

Giving Public Schools a Boost

NEWS, PAGE 3

North Potomac Teen Missing

NEWS, PAGE 4

Patriots Roll Over Cougars

SPORTS, PAGE 8

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Saturday in Spring

Though a little chilly, Saturday was warm enough for many to stroll along the river.



Bicyclists and walkers took advantage of the spring weather near Swains Lock.



After the flood, the river has receded allowing visitors the chance to enjoy a late afternoon visit.



Potomac's Shiva Ainloo, 17, and Antoine Plante, both Wootton High School juniors, find a cozy spot to celebrate spring at Swains Lock.



Owen Frank, 5, in green and his brother Ben, 8, rough it on a Saturday afternoon, March 27. Their mother Jenifer is a former Potomac resident.



A daffodil is in bloom.

PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

Boosting Public Schools Through Private Donations

Private fund raising gives some public schools more resources than others.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE ALMANAC

Families with children in local public schools systems may not be getting an annual tuition bill but many will tell you their financial contributions to the school go above and beyond what they pay in taxes each year.

In addition to paying for things like sports uniforms, prom dresses and musical instruments, parents contribute and help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to fund everything from professional development for teachers to artificial turf fields.

According to an audit of local school activity funds, 14 Fairfax County high schools in Virginia brought in at least \$1 million in private donations and outside money during the 2008-09 school year.

In Maryland, the Whitman High School Education Foundation, which benefits the Bethesda school and its feeders, raised

funds to build a state-of-the-art language lab that can accommodate 32 students at a time, according to the school's Web site.

Winston Churchill High School has a similar foundation, which has provided support to the school's robotic team and financially assisted teachers working toward graduate degrees, according to a brochure.

"We fund things that don't get funded by the county," said Bob Klepp, president of Whitman's foundation.

DETERMINING HOW MUCH private money goes to schools can be difficult, since boosters and organizations often maintain

"Certainly, in these times of money shortages, those fields would not be getting that type of attention if it wasn't for the boosters."

— Les Ulanow

a separate account and not all of it has to be reported directly to the school system.

Still, the amount of private money that goes directly to supporting local public high schools is likely to be well over \$1 million when all the parent and student fund-raising efforts are combined.

Churchill's athletic boosters spent approximately \$60,000 solely to maintain the school's playing fields last year, according to Les Ulanow, a parent who oversees athletic field maintenance for the organization.

"It is a substantial amount of funds. Certainly, in these times

of money shortages, those fields would not be getting that type of attention if it wasn't for the boosters," said Ulanow, whose daughter plays softball.

Klepp declined to say how much the

Whitman Foundation raises annually, but the organization did receive enough donations this fall to buy three electronic "smart boards" to replace traditional chalk boards at the school. It has also provided money to put an energy-saving film on the school's windows.

"We can do very modest capital improvements. We can't build a wing on the school or anything like that," said Klepp.

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON Partnership Fund, a non-profit that seeks financial support for Fairfax County's Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, raised more than \$500,000 for the Virginia magnet school last year. Other community organizations, like academic and athletic boosters, raised approximately \$1.6 million during the same time period.

"Fairfax basically funds us at the same level as every other school and we require much more equipment in our labs," said Gary Bottorff, the partnership fund's executive director.

SEE PRIVATE FUNDING, PAGE 5

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NEWS

North Potomac Teen Is Missing

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police 1st District Investigative Section are asking the public for help in locating a missing North Potomac teen.

Melissa Moore, 18, of the 14700 block of Latakia Place in North Potomac, was last seen at her residence on Wednesday March 17 at 8 p.m.

She is described as a black female, 5-foot-4-inches tall, and weighing approximately 100 pounds. She has brown eyes, black hair with blond extensions and wears braces. Moore has several mental health conditions and does not have her medication with her. She is known to frequent the Westfield Montgomery Shopping Center and the downtown Silver Spring area.

Police and family are concerned for her welfare. No foul play suspected.

Anyone who has information



Melissa Moore

regarding her whereabouts is asked to call the Montgomery County Police 1st District investigative Section at 240-773-6084 or the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. Callers may remain anonymous.

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

Gainsborough Road Repaving To Start

Gainsborough Road in Potomac will be repaved this spring using hot mix asphalt. Work should be completed in about four weeks, depending on the weather.

Crews will take the following steps:

- ❖ Survey the road and mark areas needing patching with white paint;
- ❖ Complete full depth patching;
- ❖ Mill pavement one to two inches near driveways and curbs;
- ❖ Adjust utilities so that manholes, water valve covers, etc. align with the new pavement;
- ❖ Seal cracks, where necessary;
- ❖ Pave with hot mix asphalt; and
- ❖ Replace lane markings.

For more information or to be added to the project newsletter mailing list, e-mail Highway Services at highway@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Credit Card Use at Parking Garages

Since mid-2009, five pay-on-foot or pay-by-space county public parking garages have been accepting credit cards as a means of payment. The number of patrons relying on the convenience of credit cards continues to grow. In Bethesda, the Woodmont Corner garage has 1,108 spaces and now 56 percent of payments there are by credit card.

For more information on public parking options in the county, visit the Division of Parking Management's Web site, or call Montgomery County's Department of Transportation Customer Service Center at 240-777-6000.

Trading Labor for Haiti Donations

Potomac residents will have the opportunity to donate funds for earthquake victims in Haiti while at the same time have their tree debris cut up.

Fellow resident John Graham, Montgomery County Public School staffer with U.S. Forest Service experience, is offering to trade his labor and chainsaw skills for tax deductible donations to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

Though he will not haul away the tree debris, he will get it down to

SEE NEWS, PAGE 11

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Private Funding

FROM PAGE 3

Allowing too much private fund raising for individual public schools does create questions about equity in school budgets.

While Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology may be the most successful high school at soliciting private money in Fairfax, the school also has one of the county's wealthiest student bodies.

Of Jefferson students, 1.73 percent are considered poor enough to qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch. In Fairfax County overall, 22.47 percent of the student body receives free or reduced-price lunches.

Approximately \$250,000 of the \$500,000 raised by the Jefferson fund last year came from parents directly. Just one family with a child at the school agreed to give the school \$50,000 over the next four years, according to an orga-

nization newsletter.

CHURCHILL AND WHITMAN also draw from some of Montgomery County's most affluent communities, where parents are likely to have the financial resources to be more generous.

"[Donors] are most definitely people connected to the school. They are the parents with children in the school," said Klepp of the Whitman foundation's supporters.

According to Unalow, Churchill boosters also tend to get a lot of support from local businesses. Some advertise on local banners in the sports stadium or participate in the Churchill discount card program, which provides discounts at local businesses in exchange for a donation to Churchill.

"They are places people from Churchill shop and use — car dealerships, SAT prep services, stuff like that," said Unalow.



Troop 773 Hosts Spaghetti Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 773 of Potomac hosted its 51st annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 13. Above are, from left, Patrick Esch, Ben Hartmann and Dan Nguyen. More than 400 people attended the event, which raises most of the funds to operate Troop 773 — a troop that has been in Potomac for 51 years. The troop meets Tuesday nights at the Potomac United Methodist Church, at the corner of Falls Road and S. Glen Road. All middle and high school boys are welcome to join.



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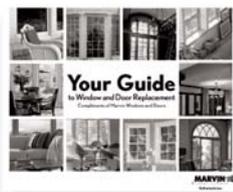
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CALENDAR

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.

NOW THROUGH MAY 11

Free Chinese Language Classes.

Eight-week series of free Chinese (Mandarin) language classes will be offered in collaboration with the 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.k.kwan@gmail.com, or rmcginni@umd.edu.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 31

Teddy Bear Tea. 1 p.m. Pre-paid reservations required, \$26 plus tax. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org.
Violinist David Garrett Performs. 8 p.m. At the Music Center at Strathmore, Concert Hall, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Go to www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. Admission is \$8. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests will play a variety of styles including traditional and contemporary blues music, and classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Storyteller Dovie Thomason. 10:30 a.m. Will share stories of the First Nations People of North America, including stories from her Kiowa, Apache and Lakota relatives. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Call 240-777-0690.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. followed by called dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. This week Tom Hinds calls to Mortal Wombat. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: findcontra@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, Red Stick Ramblers from Louisiana. Beginner swing dance 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., Glen Echo. Email: wsdcvolunteer@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 4

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members. Traditional American contra dancing. Lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances with the Capitol Quicksteps from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen

Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Waltz Dance. Admission is \$8. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 3-3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. With the band, Quickstep Strings, which provides a mix of folk waltzes, Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango and Polka. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. 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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Open Rehearsals. 7:15-9 p.m. Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras is holding a free, open rehearsal with special guest conductor and prodigy, Ilyich Rivas, age 17. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5108.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 9

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the Boilermaker Jazz Band. A beginning

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7



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FINE ARTS



APRIL 3-4

“Reinterpreting the Figure.”

Painting and sculpture by James Wilner, whose work, which reflects the figure in large canvases, is representational in an abstract context. Open from 12-5 p.m. with a reception from 5-7 on Saturday. At the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park. Call 301-371-5593.

APRIL 6 TO MAY 8

Artist Books. Prints and Stories by Ann Zahn. Her current exhibit of artist books and related works are paper sculptures, often replete with stories or poems. Artist’s reception is Friday, April 9 from 6-9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery. Visit www.annzahn-artist.com.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 27

Generations in Glass. National Capital Art Glass Guild (NCAGG) show. At Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive. Open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Contact Julie Farrell, arts program specialist, at 240-314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts.



NOW THROUGH APRIL 18

Mirror to the World. Documentary Photography 2010. Photoworks Gallery at historic Glen Echo Park is proud to present its 2nd Annual ‘Mirror to the World’ exhibition of documentary photography, featuring the work of eight photographers from the D.C. area. Photoworks Gallery is located on the first floor of the Arcade Building, at 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. Visit: www.glenechophotoworks.org.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 3

Clay, Copper, Wood and Fire. Wood-fired pots by John Snyder and New Work by Gallery Artists. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4500 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Yarns and Spinning with Sally Jenkins. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Sally Jenkins will present information on two different types of wool yarn, woolen and worsted. Sponsored by the Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. At St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Go to www.potomacfiberartsguild.org.

APRIL 10-11

APRIL 9-10

2010 DC Lindy Exchange Weekend. D.C. Lindy Exchange returns in its 9th year with a full weekend of swing and lindy dancing at Glen Echo Park, featuring live music and late-night dances with renowned DJs. Open to all dancers, beginners to advanced. Visit dclx.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$18. With the DC Lindy

NOW THROUGH MAY 8

Craig A. Kraft: A Selection of Light Sculptures 2007 to 2010. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Saturday noon to 5 p.m. At the Osuna Art Gallery, 7200 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-654-4500 or visit osuna@osunaart.com

Paintings by Local Artists. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Barbara Stott McCoy’s “She Had a Dream of Love;” Gary Phillips’ “Year on Ferrell Ridge” and Justin Pyles’ “Capitol Blossoms.” At the Yellow Barn Gallery. The opening reception is Saturday, April 10 from 6-8 p.m. Contact the Yellow Barn Gallery, at 301-371-5593 or Glen Echo, at 301-492-6229.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 28

“Observations of Light and Place.” Free admission. Features travel and street scenes by Sabine Dickens, architectural studies by Judy Gross, landscapes by Judith MacArthur, and kiln-formed glass pieces by Jamie Agins. Congregation Har Shalom is at 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087 or see www.HarShalom.org.

APRIL 5-26

The Way We See It. A Meet the Artists reception is Sunday, April 11 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Exhibit with artists Ellen Burgoyne, Linda Cafritz, Rachel Collins, Smadar Livne and Joel D’Orazio. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

Exchange. Beginner swing dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. followed by dancing until midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: info@dclx.org

Potomac River Watershed Clean-up. 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will be supplied with trash bags and gloves. At River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Visit www.PotomacCleanup.org or call 202-518-7415 or email bhorer@fergusonfoundation.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

swing dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. followed by dancing until midnight. At the Bumper Car Pavilion of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: info@dclx.org.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra Dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., followed by the called dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. This week, Louie Cromartie calls to the fabulous Glen Echo Open Band. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com



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SPORTS

Wootton Dominates in First Inning

Patriots roll over Quince Orchard, 18-4, in five innings.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Fifteen plate appearances, 10 runs, five walks, three doubles, two singles and one home run. For Quince Orchard, the bottom of the first inning was a disaster. For the Wootton baseball team, it was the start of something “fun.”

On Saturday, March 27, Wootton continued its early season offensive onslaught, beating Quince Orchard 18-4 in a run-rule shortened five-inning contest at WHS. The Patriots scored 10 runs before their second out and cruised to victory.

Coki Cruz, Alex Kelly, Andrew Weinstein and James Fitzwilliam each had at least one hit for Wootton in the opening frame.

Fitzwilliam landed the decisive blow, blasting a three-run homer to left-center field. The senior right fielder gave Wootton a 6-0 lead and fueled the Patriots’ confident dugout chatter. Quince Orchard’s starting pitcher walked the next three batters and was pulled. The Patriots continued to pound the ball as the Cougars used five pitchers on the afternoon.

Wootton is off to a 3-0 start, scoring 34 runs in its first three games. The Patriots have already hit seven home runs, which, according to head coach J.D. Marchand, is



Wootton right fielder James Fitzwilliam hits a three-run homer in the first inning of the Patriots’ 18-4 victory over Quince Orchard on Saturday.

more than they hit during the last two seasons combined.

“I don’t think I’ve seen anything like this,” senior shortstop Kelly said.

The left-handed-hitting Kelly popped an opposite-field grand slam in the second inning, giving the Patriots a 14-2 lead. Fresh-



Wootton freshman Andrew Craig approaches third base after belting a two-run homer in the third inning Saturday.

man third baseman Andrew Craig hit a two-run homer in the third inning and Fitzwilliam has homered in each of the team’s first three games. Pete Spriopoulos homered twice in the Patriots’ second game, an 8-0 win over Paint Branch.

The long ball contributed to Wootton’s swagger on Saturday as the dugout emptied to meet base-circling home run hitters at the plate.

“We’ve never shown that much intensity in a game,” Fitzwilliam said. “It really comes down to just trying to hit groundballs and line drives because with this short field (305 feet down the left-field line, according to Marchand) if you hit a strong line drive, it’s going to go out. ... It’s just great having that intensity. ... It’s a great way to start off.”

What’s the reason behind the Wootton



Wootton pitcher Max Simon picked up the win Saturday, allowing two earned runs in four innings.

power surge? Marchand attributed the offensive success to hard work in the offseason, confidence at the plate and a change in the team’s weight-lifting program.

The Patriots incorporated more Olympic lifts for power in 2009 and this year are lifting once or twice a week during the season. In the past Wootton was focused on circuit training, which targets general fitness.

On Saturday, pitcher Max Simon was the beneficiary of the Patriots’ run support. The senior allowed two earned runs and struck out four in four innings to earn the victory.

“I knew we had the lead so I was more relaxed than when I came out in the first inning,” he said. “It just got fun. We were working hard but it was fun.”

Wootton scored all 18 of its runs in the
SEE WOOTTON, PAGE 9

5Qs Five questions with Wootton senior Alex Kelly.

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

A: I was in Kansas City [Mo] ... [for] a connector flight from a baseball tournament. I’m going to Park City [Utah] this spring break [for] snowboarding.

Q: What do you like to do when you’re not doing something sports related?

A: I’m really into music.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist?

A: I’m a Jack Johnson and John Mayer kind of guy. It’s something that really mellows me out, keeps me calm. They’re good lyricists.

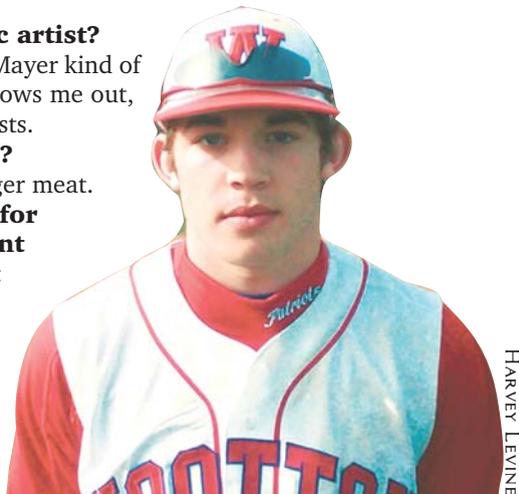
Q: What is your favorite food?

A: My mom’s pasta and hamburger meat.

Q: You’ll be playing baseball for Middlebury College in Vermont next year. What are you most looking forward to about the transition?

A: I think it will be nice to go to a new place and expand my borders a little bit.

— JON ROETMAN



HARVEY LEVINE

“I don’t think I’ve seen anything like this.”

— Alex Kelly, Wootton senior shortstop

Laufer Leads the Way

Patriot softball drops opener to Springbrook.

BY JARED WASSERMAN
THE ALMANAC

After graduating their dominant pitcher along with four other pivotal seniors, the Wootton Patriots softball team looks to compensate for those losses behind senior shortstop and captain Rachel Laufer’s leadership and experience. “Since we are a young team, it will take

time to play to our full potential,” Laufer said, “but we will get progressively better as the season goes on.”

Nicknamed the “Fab Five,” the core of last year’s squad included pitcher Andi Garnher, Megan Berman, Sara Biron, Jamie Sargent and Alex Shamburek. The group led the Patriots to a first-round victory in the 2009 playoffs, before falling to Gaithersburg in
SEE LAUFER, PAGE 9

SPORTS

Laufer Leads Way

FROM PAGE 8

the subsequent game.

"The team still has a lot of talent," said head coach

Alton Lightsey. "Laufer will be one of our big threats offensively and defensively as well."

In their first game of the season on March 23, the Patriots lost to Springbrook, 7-5, despite fighting back from a seven-run deficit during a strong comeback effort in the final inning.

"The team looked great in the scrimmages, and they get along with each other very well, but that was not demonstrated in the way we played today

[against Springbrook]," Lightsey said. "Although it wasn't a bad game, it was not a game we should have lost."

"Although it wasn't a bad game, it was not a game we should have lost."

— Alton Lightsey, Wootton head coach

With the development of their underclassmen and more consistent run production throughout the game, the Patriots expect more favorable results when the season continues following a two-week layoff.

"We will work hard every day in practice to build the players' confidence and get the young players more experience," Lightsey said. "So by the end of the season and [by] the time playoffs come around we will be one of the toughest teams to beat."

Wootton Dominates in First Inning

FROM PAGE 8

first three innings, pushing across at least four runs per frame. The team finished with 11 hits.

Is hitting contagious?

"There's definitely something to that," Kelly said. "There's an energy that the whole bench gets when somebody gets a hit, especially a bit hit."

Fitzwilliam said the four-time-defending division champion Patriots' offensive wealth is spread evenly throughout the lineup.

"I wouldn't say we're better [than in previous seasons] offensively," he said. "We have a deeper lineup. Everybody hits all the way through. Previous years we would have strong points and weak points. This year every-

body hits well."

Wootton hosts Avalon Wednesday, March 31, at 4:30 p.m.

"You hope [offensive success] carries over," Marchand said. "It doesn't always carry over. [You hope] their heads don't get too big. [If] we stay level-headed and they use what they learned [Saturday] and their bats stay hot, [we'll be in good shape]."

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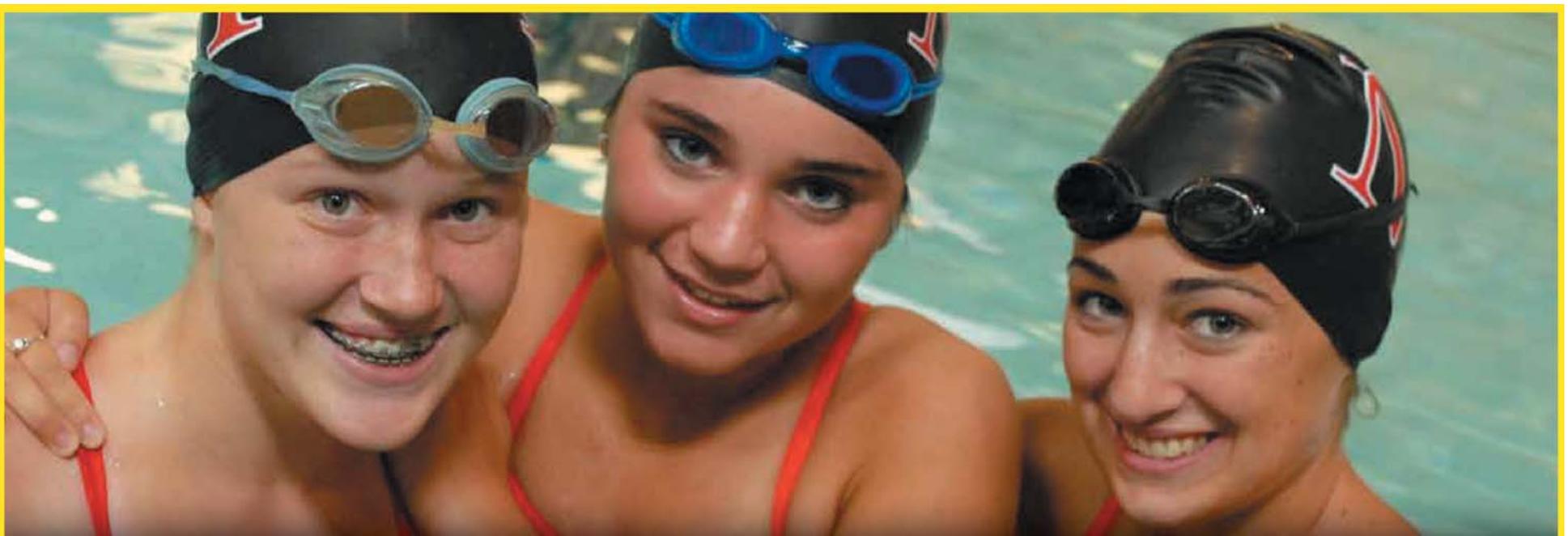
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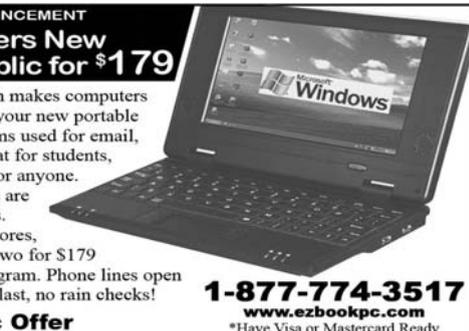
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Make Mine A Double



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Wow! My oncologist sure sobered me up the other day and I hadn't even been drinking. But I sure felt like grabbing a stiff one – or three – after we spoke. What he said wasn't anything he hadn't said previously, but it was something I hadn't heard in a long time, 11 months to be exact. It was cancer related. It was responsible – and perhaps even considerate, of him to tell me. It was my future as the statistical averages see it. It was straight forward (as my doctor knows I prefer to hear it). It was, if nothing else, a reminder, and an advisory to boot (not really a kick at all, though).

What he suggested was, since my appointments with him are now scheduled to be every three months instead of every three weeks (as they have been for the past year), that I try to make those appointments after I've completed my quarterly scans (MRI, CT and Bone) and to bring along a family member as well, in case there's bad news. (WHAT?!) Then, in response to my usual life expectancy/prognosis question, he reiterated that cancer patients with my diagnosis live, on average (and he was careful to explain what average really meant, using a cliff reference) 13 months to two years (this appointment occurring around the 12-month anniversary – some anniversary!). We then proceeded with my physical exam, which I passed with flying colors. After which, we exchanged our final pleasantries ending with the doctor saying casually: he "hopes to see me in three months." "HOPES?!" I knee-jerked out loud. "What do you mean, 'hopes?' You're not supposed to say 'hopes,' you're supposed to say you'll see me in three months or something like that." Unsettled didn't begin to describe my emotional state (state of panic, state of anxiety, state of fear cumulatively, might have though).

In fairness, none of this was/is new information. In fact, it's old news. News my wife, my brother and I were given on March 5, 2009, the date of our initial Team-Lourie meeting with my oncologist. And it wasn't given then, any more then it was given now, for shock value or effect even. It was provided then as now, as useful and timely information, crucial information, for a stage IV lung cancer patient to have. However, it was a conversation we hadn't had in almost a year. And not that I forgot much from that first life-changing doctor-patient exchange, but after the last year of treatment, scans, medical appointments, lab work, and all, it's not all that I have to remember, so its place, its dominance in my brain/life has become less intense. I have learned to live with my diagnosis and all the cancer-related activities, as previous columns have indicated.

Still, there's nothing quite like a metaphorical 2x4 to the head to shake out the mental cobwebs. Not that I thought I was getting – or had become complacent in my coexistence with cancer, but given my mental state after this thwack, perhaps I had. I mean, the light's always been on, definitely, but maybe I haven't been home as often as I think/though.

But that's how I've coped – and hoped; by focusing less on the negative and more on the positive. I haven't obsessed about cancer and as a result, I don't believe I've regressed because of it. Life has gone on (thank God!) and I'm grateful that it has. The uncertainty of the future (heck, the present, too) remains a constant and disturbing companion, however. The doctor's courtesy/responsibility in reviewing my timetable the other day struck directly at the heart of that day-to-day existence which scares the living daylights out of me (if you want to know the truth). I know exactly why I wanted that drink, to forget.

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

Churchill Wins Season Opener

The Churchill baseball team opened its season with an 8-7, eight-inning victory over Sherwood on March 24 at Churchill.

Trailing 7-6 in the bottom of the eighth, Churchill's Eric Skrzyniarz tied the game win an RBI double and Jameson McGrane drove in the winning run with a single.

The Bulldogs trailed 6-1 in the sixth inning but tied the game with five runs in the frame.

"It was great," said first-year Churchill coach Scott Blackwood. "It's one of those things because these kids could have just folded. ... These kids, it showed a lot about their character to be able to come back from a deficit and not give up. ... That's a good thing to know in the back of your mind [if we're down] ... we could easily fight back."

Skrzyniarz went 2-for-4 with two doubles and three RBIs. Bryce Shemer had two hits and picked up the victory in relief, allowing one earned run in two innings pitched. Harris Fanaroff had two RBIs.

The Bulldogs won despite batters striking out 13 times and pitchers issuing 10 walks.

Churchill returns to action at 3:30 p.m. April 7 at Magruder.

FAITH NOTES

To have an item listed free in The Potomac Almanac, e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. If you have any questions, call 703-778-9412.

St. James' Episcopal Church Holy Week Schedule.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 (1 service);
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Easter Sunday (April 4). St. James' Episcopal Church of Potomac Schedule of Services. 7:15, 9:15; 11:15 a.m. (child care available at 9:15; 11:15 a.m. services). Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. All are welcome

7:15 a.m. Rite. Holy Eucharist with Organ and traditional Easter hymns.

9:15 a.m. Family Service with Choir, Brass, and Bells (child care available)

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt follows the 9:15 service on the playground; inclement weather, lower level of the church building.

11:15 a.m. Festival Service with Choir, Brass, and Bells (child care available) Pre-service music begins 15 minutes prior to the service at 11 a.m. full Episcopal liturgy as found in The Book of Common Prayer

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FROM PAGE 4

a size that complies with the specifications of the Montgomery County curbside pick-up service.

Anyone who likes the idea should send an e-mail to grahaj05@gmail.com with an address and phone number that Graham can call to schedule. He will provide a waiver of liability in case anyone is nervous about what happens if he's injured while working on his or her property.

The work will be done on April 4 and 5 — if people respond quickly, he could even start on April 3. He will give a suggested donation amount and a minimum. He hopes there will be a large number of small jobs.

Ride On's Annual Food Drive

Ride On bus passengers in Montgomery County can help needy families and receive free bus rides by donating canned or non-perishable food during Ride On's annual food drive. A free trip will be provided to riders who donate food from Sunday, April 11 through Saturday, April 17. Food collected through the drive goes to Manna Food Center, which feeds 3,000 hungry families a month.

During the Give and Ride promotion, food collection bags will be placed near the fare boxes on all Ride On buses. Riders using free shuttles and other transit services can participate by bringing their donations to a



Learning about Passover

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Ride On bus. In addition to non-perishable food, children's items are also needed. Disposable diapers, formula, baby or toddler food and juice are especially useful to families in need. Plastic containers are preferred.

All food donations, regardless of the number of cans, will be valued at the regular fare rate of \$1.45. Passengers who transfer buses will need an additional food donation to ride free on the second bus. Riders who wish to buy a Regional One-Day pass will need to add \$1.75 to the fare box.

Checks made out to Manna Food Center will also be accepted. Writing in "Ride On" on the "For" or "Memo" line in the lower left corner of a check will make it easier to track the success of the program.

For bus stop locations or bus schedules, call the County's Transit Information Center at 240-777-7433; TDD/TTY 240-777-5869. Route and timetable information is also available on Ride On's Web site at montgomerycountymd.gov/rideon, then click on "Ride On."

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