

Potomac

ALMANAC

Farewell to Class of 2010

NEWS, PAGE 4

Senior Class Historian Jourdao Tobias and MCR Rep. Remi Forster at the Winston Churchill High School graduation commencement exercises in D.A.R. Constitution Hall.

Benefiting Lymphoma Research

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Barlock Retires As PCC Director

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Wootton, Whitman Doubles Teams Win State

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT / THE ALMANAC

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Josh Hedrington and LaJune Pandy



Brian Mitchell and Lisa Wood. Brian Mitchell is the former Washington Redskin star who was a special teams star, running back punts and kickoffs.



A Monte Carlo Night hosted by Katie Rost and Team Believe raised funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society on May 15. Rost introduces the audience to Andrew Luckabaugh (LLS Boy of the Year) and Sklyer Hundley (LLS Girl of the Year).



Juliana and Elisa Luckabaugh eat popcorn while waiting for the wheel of fortune to spin. Their brother Andrew is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Boy of the Year.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



Maryam Darvish, Les Robinson, and Tamara Darvish. Robinson is the women's uncle. The Darvish family created the Darcars dealerships.

An Unexpected End

Linda Barlock is retiring as the director of the Potomac Community Center after 21 years.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Linda Barlock, the only director the Potomac Community Center has ever known, retired effective June 1. As Montgomery County slashes spending throughout the government, Barlock reached an agreement with the Department of Recreation earlier last month to step down after 21 years at her post.

"It's kind of sad," Barlock said. "But I'm happy too. It's kind of mixed emotions."

The Department of Recreation's budget has been cut and Barlock was among several veteran employees given a tough choice: Keep working or retire now with a sweetened incentive package. Though she had intended to work for a couple more years, Barlock took the county's deal.

"In her situation ... it didn't make sense for her not to go," said Larry Chloupek, a member of the community center's advisory board.

Barlock, who has spent 35 years working for the Department of Recreation, was the Potomac Community Center's first director when the old Lake Normandy Elementary School building was converted to its current use. In the years since, she has overseen the center grow to be a vital part of the community.

Chloupek credits Barlock's "unflappable" demeanor with her success in overseeing a diverse range of programming while working with a lot of strong personalities



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Potomac Community Center director Linda Barlock

at one of the most highly-trafficked community centers in the county.

"She's just run the center flawlessly," he said.

OF ALL THE PROGRAMS and events she has overseen, Barlock cites the popular teen get-together Club Friday program as one of her proudest accomplishments.

"I think it's just such a great socialization for the kids," she said.

In an email to The Almanac, advisory board member Herman Yeh credited Barlock's "vision and promotion" of his table tennis program with making the community center a regional competitive hub for the sport.

"With [the recreation department and Barlock's] supports, but without financial burden to the

SEE BARLOCK, PAGE 10

What They Say

Members of the Potomac Community Center Advisory Board shared their recollections of outgoing director Linda Barlock's 21-year tenure at the head of the Potomac institution. Below are excerpts from some of those emails:

Allan Cohen: "[S]he is truly an outstanding individual who made the PCC her second home and a home for the Potomac Community. Her friendly smile and warmth will truly be missed by the millions of Potomac residents who have used the PCC during the past 20-plus years."

Penny Heltzer: "Linda always extended herself in many directions to make things work at the Center. If it was good for the community and PCC, it was 'a go' for Linda. She even enlisted the assistance of her husband and children when she was short-handed. I can't

imagine the PCC without her."

Robert Fogel: "Linda cared about the physical facility as if it were her own house and cared about the community who utilized the center as if they were her own family ... Linda's hard work and dedication to the residents of all ages in Potomac, will be a legacy for years to come."

Humphrey Huang: "Linda is very responsible and experienced at what she does and always strives to improve the Potomac Community Center."

Steve Landsman: "Linda is testament to what can be accomplished by hard work, dedication, and selflessness ... I have the highest regard for Linda, her professionalism, and her spirit of service. She has been a shining light in our community and she will be missed dearly."

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ALMANAC



Persistence pays off as Scott Schuler raises his head for his grandmother to capture a photo.



Senior Class Vice President and Secretary Lawrence Yen and Vincent Hu welcome all the special guests, administration and staff, classmates, friends and family to the Winston Churchill High School graduation commencement exercises for the Class of 2010 in D.A.R. Constitution Hall.

Farewell to Class of 2010

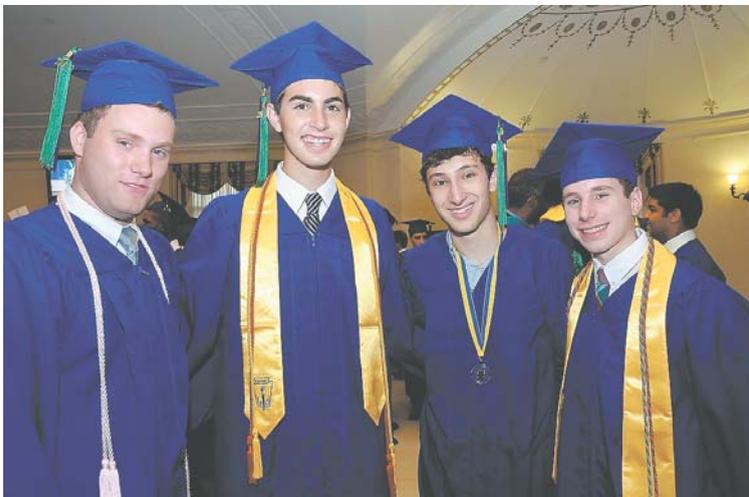


Deborah April, Kirsten Appleton and Laura Ardila.



The Senior Showstoppers directed by Carlos Barillo sing "I'll Be There" by Berry Gordy followed by "We are the World" by Michael Jackson and Lionel Ritchie.

Senior Class Communications Officer Alex Leventer, Executive Board member Eric Fox, Alexander Cort and class treasurer Jordan Kirschenbaum.



Jeffrey Chen, Yu Hae Lin, Cho Hsien Leung and Jason Li.

Doctor Pursues Dream and Saves Lives

BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER
THE ALMANAC

Cliff Matheson of Matheson Communications in Bethesda spent a recent Sunday morning at a breast cancer awareness event. His motivation surpassed his altruistic desire to help his friend and event planner, Jody Goldkind, document the morning for free. He brought a special video assistant for the day, his seventh grade daughter, Rachel. "I brought her because it's my responsibility to be sure she's not completely unaware of women's issues. She could well be living in a Bethesda cocoon, but I try to expose her to the world, to be aware of what's going on around her, to give her a broader perspective."

Matheson and his daughter joined 135 women and men at Norbeck Country Club on April 18, to hear radiologist Dr. Rachel Brem share the latest information and research regarding breast cancer. Brem is director of George Washington University Medical Center's Breast Imaging and Interventional Center. "The Brunch & Brem" event raised \$7,000 for Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer, a grassroots non-profit established in 2004 to help assist and maintain protocols established by Brem.



PHOTO BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER

Hostesses for the event include, back row, from left, Kathy Uhart, Dr. Rachel Brem, Beth Bonita, Julie Futrovsky, and front row, from left, Jackie Brentzel, Paula Schwartz, Andrea Kirsch, Sheryl Nasar, Lisa Paul, Debra Kramer, Cynthia Halper, Jody Goldkind and Susan Swift. Not pictured: Sue Dailey, Susan Davis, Cecelia Georgeson, Maureen Goodwin, Lindsay Judkins and Sue Ellen Tindle.

Lea Frydman, Brem's mother and a breast cancer survivor, was diagnosed at age 33. Frydman said, "I think that Rachel is helping save lives and helping women and their families when diagnosed with breast cancer. She was 12 years old when I had breast cancer and said she wanted to help other women and girls so they would not go through what she and I went through. Her father and I are very proud of her. She's helping the universe."

Brem said, "My mom was a young, beautiful, vivacious woman. After her surgery, things were happening and my brothers and I realized it wasn't the same. We wanted our old mother back, not the one with a long face. I am a zealot in regards to breast cancer. Every single person has been impacted by breast cancer in some way."

Brem noted the importance of self-examination and digital versus analog mammography. She said, "In the United States, almost 80 percent of mammography is digital. It's like spell check on your computer. Digital points out potential areas of abnormality. We find 23 percent more cancers. We find them earlier, we find them smaller and we find them more curable. Breast cancer is a curable disease especially when

SEE WORKING TO SAVE, PAGE 11

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OPINION

Together, We Can Make an Impact

Turn out for the cure.

BY AMBASSADOR NANCY G. BRINKER
FOUNDER AND CEO,
SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE

For nearly three decades, millions have walked or run to honor a loved one and to both raise awareness about breast cancer and to raise funds to discover the cures of tomorrow and fund breast health services that might save the lives of their neighbors today.

We can be proud of how far we've come. What started out as 800 women walking around a shopping mall in Dallas, Texas has grown to include more than 1.5 million people walking or running in more than 140 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure events worldwide this year. People are walking in Richmond and Rome; Cleveland and Cairo. It has truly become a global movement.

ALL THIS WALKING has paid off too. In the U.S. we have entered into a new era of awareness, early detection and personalized medicines. This new era is saving lives and providing hope of one day putting an end to the suffering for good.

Yet for all of our successes, this hope is not universally shared. In capitals across the globe, women and their families do not yet fully understand this disease or appreciate the benefits of early detection. And they live in communities with health care systems which are unable to adequately screen or treat the dis-

ease.

Here too, in the heart of our nation's capital, many women do not fully understand the disease, are confused about early detection, and must navigate a significantly fragmented health care system that is unable to properly serve many areas of our community, particularly for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Together, we can make an impact, both here and abroad. On June 5 on the National Mall, we will host the 21st running of the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure. Up to 75 percent of all the funds raised by the Komen Global Race will stay right here to help local women. The rest will go to support our efforts to share the lessons we have learned educating low-resource women in the U.S. with women in low-resource countries of Asia and Africa and Latin America.

And let me be honest — we have a lot of work to do.

In recent years Komen has sought to raise awareness about breast cancer, particularly in low-income and underserved communities, and to break down barriers that have prevented some women from getting the care they need. And we've had some great successes, such as drastically decreasing the time women at some clinics have to wait in order to get a mammogram.

Yet we are far from satisfied. Komen just finished a comprehensive review of the National Capital Area, and what we found has given us a renewed call to action. Despite our success in raising awareness, women diagnosed with breast cancer in Washington, D.C. are still more likely to die from the disease than women in the rest of the country.

For the Cure, June 5

Late Registration: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Congressional Rooms A & B (Follow the signs from the lobby)
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, June 2, 3, 4, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
See www.globalracefortheCure.org

While there are many reasons for this, two things popped out at us.

WE LEARNED that awareness is not enough — women need to truly understand breast cancer, including how it's detected and treated. We found that myths and misconceptions are still widespread. Many women are afraid of screening, thinking it is painful and that a cancer diagnosis equals a death sentence. Others are confused by media reports with conflicting messages about who should get a mammogram and how often. This confusion is not limited to the health care consumer, but is also prevalent among health care providers.

Notably, we also found that the region's overly fragmented health care system produces substantial barriers to accessing care for major segments of the population. Many women cannot access affordable screening because there is too little funding for programs that provide free and low-cost mammograms. These women face economic and transportation barriers that keep them from seeking help.

No woman should have to die just because of where she lives or where she was diagnosed. While we've come a long way, we are not yet at the finish line. We must keep running. Will you join us?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inept County Management

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to the County Council.

Dear Council Members, yesterday (Tuesday, May 18) I attended

your hearing on Bills 29-10 and 15-10. I had never attended a Council meeting before.

Shame on me, as a voter and Montgomery County resident, for not paying more attention to what the Montgomery County Council is doing to our county, rather than for our county. Watching the facial

expressions of the Committee members and listening to the line of questioning, I came away from the meeting bewildered and incredulous at the lack of intellectual rigor displayed by our elected officials.

It is clear that the Council members who spoke had little under-

standing or appreciation of the mounting challenges taxpaying businesses face in Montgomery County, particularly in the current economic environment. Most of the Council members sat silently, leading me to believe that they, too, neither appreciate nor understand.

Perhaps most glaring was the lack of any scientific discussion about the basis for the alleged threat we all face from carbon dioxide emissions. If you have not been following the scandal that erupted over the falsified climate data coming out of the East Anglia University last year, I encourage you to quickly educate yourselves. There is no scientific foundation for your assumptions about atmospheric warming due to carbon emissions. Our County government is quickly becoming a laughing stock of inept management and greed personified. You have bankrupted our County! Eventually, voters will reach their tipping point, and when they finally realize what has been done to them,

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Me & My Mom

Sean, 7, Brendan, 2, Colleen and Declan, 4, Healy enjoy lunch at Disney World with their friend Pluto on April 7.



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Scoutmaster Ralph Fairbanks III stands behind the Eagle Scouts, from left, Michael Roberson, Patrick Weitzel, Trevor Cramp and Vincent Falcone.

Four Become Eagle Scouts

Four new Eagle Scouts were awarded their Eagle medals by Troop 706 of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Potomac on Sunday, April 25.

Trevor Cramp, Vincent Falcone, Michael Roberson and Patrick Weitzel received Boy Scout's highest honor, the rank of Eagle, during the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony that included a candlelight procession through the various ranks of Scouting on their "Trail to Eagle."

These four boys started their Scouting careers together as Cub Scouts, 12 years ago. To complete their Eagle Rank, each devoted numerous hours toward their Eagle Scout Project. Trevor Cramp, a senior at

Georgetown Prep, repaired and painted wood fencing around the Beall-Dawson historic park in Rockville. Vincent Falcone, a senior at the Heights School, renovated the volleyball area at Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth and Conference Center in Upper Marlboro. Michael Roberson, also graduating from Georgetown Prep, moved, repainted and reroofed a 16-foot storage shed at nearby St. Bartholomew Parish. Patrick Weitzel, a senior at Gonzaga College High School, led a large group of volunteers as well, refurbishing and painting the interior of the 16-room medical clinic, Spanish Catholic Center of Catholic Charities, in Takoma Park. All four will continue studying in college this fall.

Motorcyclist Identified in Fatal Collision

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Collision Reconstruction Unit are continuing to investigate a fatal collision that occurred in Potomac last week. Detectives identified the victim as Robert Brown Latimer, 17, of the 9500 block of Hemswell Lane in Potomac.

On May 26 at approximately 4 p.m., 1st District officers and Fire/Rescue personnel responded to area of Carmelita Drive and Hemswell Lane to a personal injury collision. Arriving officers found that two vehicles were involved.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Latimer was riding an off-road motorcycle and traveling on Hemswell Lane. He was

attempting to make a right-hand turn onto Carmelita Drive. For reasons still under investigation, his motorcycle struck a 1976 Ford Bronco which was traveling on Carmelita Drive. The driver of the Bronco resides in the unit block of Hartman Court.

Latimer was transported to Suburban Hospital where he died due to injuries sustained in the collision. The other driver was not injured in the collision.

The circumstances surrounding this collision remain under investigation and investigators want to speak with witnesses. Detectives are asking anyone who witnessed the collision to contact the Collision Reconstruction Unit at 301-840-2435.

Correction

In the group photo in "A Day of Sport and Social Tailgating," [Almanac May 19-25, page 3], the last person at the right was misidentified. She is Daphne Kiplinger, daughter of Knight Kiplinger.

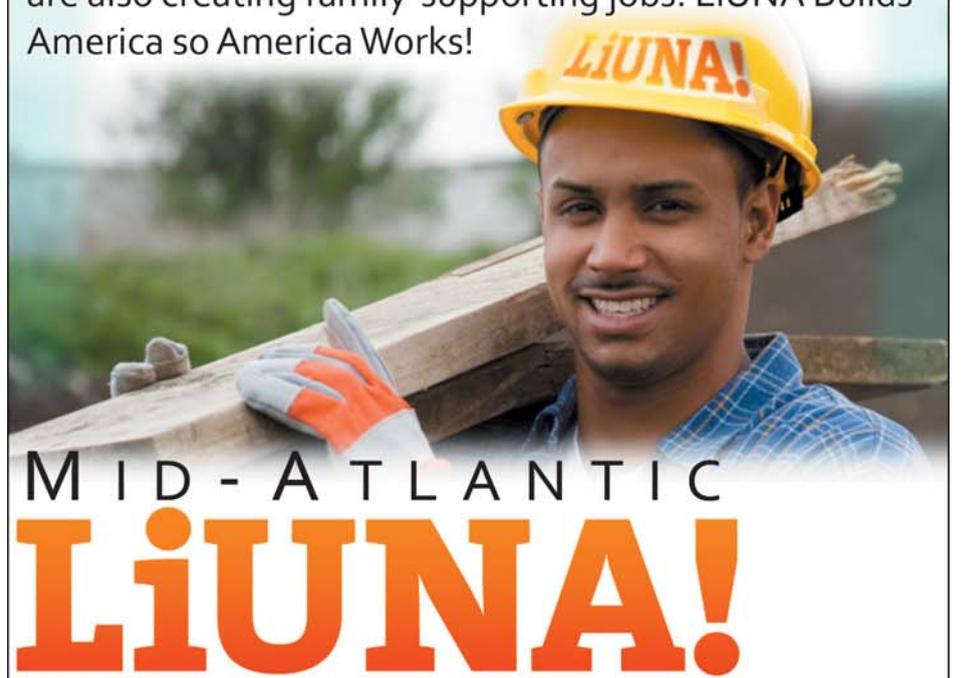
TUNNEL VISION: DULLES RAIL WORKERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE DAILY

Have you ever had nightmares about being stuck in a small space? If so, be glad you're not working on the tunnel construction of the Dulles Rail Project.

If you've been anywhere near Tyson's Corner lately, then you've seen the dirty and often dangerous work taking place (much of it underground) to help make Virginia a less congested, more pleasant place to get around in. Day in and day out, the laborers on Phase One of the Dulles Rail Project are helping to solve our community's infrastructure problems.

The project's planners were worried about finding enough skilled tunnel workers to complete the project on time - But thanks to the training and apprenticeship programs of the local LiUNA! laborers, the project is very much on time, on budget, and has a clean safety record. Which of course means taxpayers don't need to worry about cost overruns and bad budget news. In addition, since the Dulles Rail Project is being built under a unique Project Labor Agreement, it has provided living wages, training and apprenticeship opportunities, family healthcare, and pension benefits. It has also provided minority contractors a better chance for work opportunities. This project has created hundreds of good paying jobs in Virginia's tough economic times. So it's a win-win for everyone.

Not only are we building a first-class project, but we are also creating family-supporting jobs. LiUNA Builds America so America Works!



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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.

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

Live Standup Comedy. 8 to 10 p.m. Five local comics. At the Laugh Riot at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel, 7400 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-657-1234 or visit www.Bethesda.Hyatt.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 2

Introduction to Myers Briggs Type Indicator. 5-6 p.m. Presented by Ellery Owens, LCSW-C. Free. For information visit www.accirockville.org. To register, call Affiliated Community Counselors, Rockville at 301-251-8965 or email accirockville@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 3

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. Beginner workshop from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: info@capitalblues.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 4

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dancing, square dancing and waltzes. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Called dance with the band, Anadama from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

Bells Mill Bash. 5:30-8 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, email Terry-Ann Gardemal at terry_ann@verizon.net. Questions: Contact Linda Cox shiloh61@verizon.net or Terry-Ann Gardemal terry_ann@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/JUNE 5

Twinbrook Day Community Fair. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free community fair with activities for kids, live music, a community yard sale, fitness classes and info booths and tables. Sponsored by the Twinbrook Civic Association and Twinbrook Pool. At the Rockcrest Park and Ballet Center, 1331 Broadwood Drive, and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Big Joe and the Dynafloes. Beginner swing dance from 8 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen



Featured soloist Rebecca Littig

SUNDAY/JUNE 6

Symphony on the Potomac. 3 p.m. The Symphony of the Potomac, under the direction of Joel Lazar, will present Romantic works by Weber/Mahler, Robert Schumann, and Richard Strauss. At Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. Tickets are \$15/door and \$10/online or by phone. Visit symphonymptomac.org

Echo. Email: wscdvolunteer@hotmail.com.

Washington Balalaika Society. 8 p.m. A 60-piece Russian folk orchestra with Alexander Tsygankov, the world's preeminent domra artist, Andrei Saveliev and Irina Petryk. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmondston Road, Rockville. Tickets are \$20/general; \$18/seniors; \$15/students; children under 12 free. Order tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or call 240-314-8690.

Lucky Dog Fund-Raiser. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Silent auction, raffle, off-lease play in 1 1/2-acre fenced in yard, BBQ, Dogma bakery treats and doggie ice cream, Silapada Jewelry on sale, Pet Junkie Pet supplies on sale. Tickets to benefit Lucky Dog (\$20/person; \$45/family, www.luckydoganimalrescue.org). Or \$25/door; \$55/family. Proceeds will help get future Lucky Dogs out of shelters and into loving homes. At 8601 Falls Road, Potomac (@ Suzie's), at the corner of Falls and MacArthur.

Grateful Shred II. 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5/box of paper. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center. At Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. Call 301-229-0010.

National Trails Day. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Celebrate National Trails Day! Volunteers are needed to help restore areas of the C&O Canal towpath surrounding the River Center at Lock 8. At River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Ave., Cabin John. Contact Deanna Tricarico, Outreach Coordinator, at tricarico@potomac.org or 301-608-1188 x.204.

Imagination Bethesda. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A children's street festival celebrating children and the arts. Features hands-on craft activities, international dance troupes, theatre performances, costume characters, face painters and balloon artists for children 12 and under to enjoy. At Woodmont Avenue and Elm Street in downtown Bethesda.

An Evening of Classical Proportions. 7 p.m. Presented by the National Institute of Health Community Orchestra and Chorus. Will feature orchestral and choral music of Johannes Brahms and Franz Schubert as well as American composers Daniel Gawthrop and Morten Lauridsen. In the sanctuary of North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

JUNE 5-6

30th Annual FSGW Washington Folk Festival. Noon to 7 p.m. Free admission. With 450 musicians, storytellers, dancers and craft vendors. Music and dance from India, Mongolia, North Africa, Ireland, Scotland, France, Israel, Brazil, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Iran, Turkey, Japan, and Spain. The crafts pavilion will feature 25 artisans demonstrating and selling their crafts and folk instruments and recordings

will be sold. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org for more details or email WashingtonFolkFestival@gmail.com with any questions or comments.

SUNDAY/JUNE 6

Open Door Reading Series: Cliff Bernier and M.L. Liebler. Free. 2 p.m. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

Contra and Square Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members. Traditional American contra dancing with square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. Lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances with Perpetual e-Motion from 7:30-10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Visit fsgw.org.

Symphony of the Potomac. 3 p.m. Soloist will be Rebecca Littig, soprano. Program consists of the Weber-Mahler Entr'acte from Die Drei Pintos, the Four Last Songs of R. Strauss, and Schumann's Symphony No. 4. Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$10 online or by phone (ages 18 and under free). To purchase tickets, call 800-494-TIXS or visit the website at symphonymptomac.org. For additional information, call 301-984-6390. Concert at Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac.

Show and Concert. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Local visual artists Jean Barnes Downs, Katie Dell Kaufman, Rona Eisner and Sally Giarantana, and a performance by The Bruce Swaim Quartet at a free community reception. The show will run Sunday, June 6, through Tuesday, July 6. Admission to the gallery is free and hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; and closed official City holidays. Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is wheelchair accessible. At the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmondston Drive.

TUESDAY/JUNE 8

Wort Hannam Performs. 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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 8:15 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte and guests. Beginner workshop from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: info@capitalblues.org.

Financial Planning. 12-1 p.m. Presented by Karen Walker, LCSW-C. Free. For information visit www.accirockville.org. To register, call Affiliated Community Counselors, Rockville at 301-251-8965 or email accirockville@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 11

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

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission: TBD. Beginner lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight to a live band. At the Bumper Car Pavilion of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Visit www.americanswing.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Good Management? Good Dog! 2 - 4 p.m. Learn how to set your dog up for success by managing his environment; decide whether to use training, management, or both to solve common problems; and hear new, creative ways to enrich your dog's life through play. Speaker: Ann Melchior is an instructor of puppy, basic, and trick training classes. To register: www.YourDogsFriend.info or 301-983-5913. Please don't bring your dog.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most hardbacks and large paperbacks are \$1. Regular paperbacks are \$.50. At the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenholden Drive, Potomac.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Boogie Woogie Piano Festival with multiple piano players. Along with Ann Rabson (of the Sapphire Uppity Blues Women), Dona Oxford, and Arthur Migliazza, this is a night to delight swing, rhythm and blues, jazz and blues fans alike. Beginner lesson with Tom and Debra at 8 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Visit www.americanswing.org.

Solar Bethesda. A free solar expo for homeowners. Hear from neighbors living with solar. Get info on costs, benefits, rebates, tax credits. Check your home's solar readiness with satellite mapping. Meet local solar companies. Hands-on activities for kids. For more information about the expo, exhibiting or sponsorship opportunities, contact: solar@bethesdagreen.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 13

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Donations of items for the sale are being accepted by the congregation Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. At Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Contact Yard Sale Coordinator Mikki Ashin at 301-526-9797 or mikkiashin@aol.com.

Open House. 2-4 p.m. The Bethesda Chevy Chase Jewish Community Group is having an open house for its Judaic Learning Program. At the Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Rd., Rockville. Next year's programs include Sunday classes for Kindergarten through third grade, family activities, adult education, Israeli folk dancing, community service projects, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and open High Holiday Services. Come and meet with this unique Jewish group that has been in existence for seventy years. Call Celia Barash at 301-762-4188.

"It's Cool in the Furnace." 11 a.m. Presented by the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Joyful Praise Youth Choir. At the church at 7730 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Call 301-365-5733.

Contra and Square Dancing. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers, \$9/FSGW members. Contra dancing with square dances, mixers, waltzes and couple dances. Lesson at 7 p.m. Dancing with the Contra Rebels from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Visit: fsgw.org.



Anthony Carrell II, a junior at Montgomery Blair High School, starring in the lead role of Act Two Performing Arts' production of "Sweeney Todd."

JUNE 3-6

"Sweeney Todd." Shows are June 3-6, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$19/adults, \$17/students, \$12/unreserved. At Georgetown Preparatory School's Figge Theatre, 10900 Rockville Pike. Visit www.ActTwo.org or call 888-402-ACT2. Presented by Act Two Performing Arts of Rockville.



JUNE 10-13

"Annie Get Your Gun." Shows are Shows are Thursday 6/10, Friday 6/11 and Saturday 6/12 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 6/13 at 2 p.m. Tickets prices are \$19/adult, \$17/students and \$12/unreserved balcony seats. Email groupsales@acttwo.org. For tickets or additional information, visit www.ActTwo.org or call 888-402-ACT2. At Georgetown Preparatory School's Figge Theater, 10900 Rockville Pike.

COMMUNITY

Local 2010 Cappies Nominees

- ❖ **Orchestra** — “Chicago, The Musical” Orchestra — Winston Churchill High School, “Chicago, The musical”
- ❖ **Choreography** — Thalia Ertman, Ryan Kanfer, Josh Kaufmann, Ariana Nasser — Winston Churchill High School — “Chicago, the Musical”
- ❖ **Male Dancer** — Josh Kaufmann — Winston Churchill High School — “Chicago, The musical”
- ❖ **Female Vocalist** — Shelby Sykes — Winston Churchill High School — “Chicago, The musical”
- ❖ **Supporting Actor in a Musical** — Josh Simon — Winston Churchill High School — “Chicago, The musical”
- ❖ **Featured Actress** — Divya Mouli — Wootton High School — “Bye Bye Birdie”
- ❖ **Female Dancer** — Tara Youssefi — Wootton High School — “Bye Bye Birdie”
- ❖ **Male Vocalist** — Jonathan Helwig — Wootton High School — “Bye Bye Birdie”
- ❖ **Lead Actor in a Musical** — Alex Garretson — Wootton High School — “Bye Bye Birdie”
- ❖ **Song** — “Honestly Sincere” — Wootton High School — “Bye Bye Birdie”
- ❖ **Sound** — Lydia Carroll, Aaron Rosansky, David Kanter — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Lighting** — Will Bartlett, Alison O’Hearn, Coleman Quimby, Mia Tong — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Make-up** — Nicole Kroeger — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Creativity** — Walt Whitman Pit Orchestra and vocalists - musicianship — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Ensemble in a Play** — “Venticillo” — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Female Vocalist** — Emma Rackstraw — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Supporting Actor in a Play** — Sammy Zeisel — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Lead Actress in a Play** — Sarah Blush — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Lead Actor in a Play** — Noah Gavil — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”
- ❖ **Play** — “Amadeus” — Walt Whitman High School — “Amadeus”

THEATER

JUNE 23 THROUGH AUG. 14

“**How I Became a Pirate.**” A giddy, goofy pirate musical for ages 3 and up. Cost is \$10-\$21. Matinee performances Tuesday-Friday at 10:30 AM and Saturday & Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. See website (www.imaginationstage.org) for exact calendar; this show plays in repertory with Pirates! A Boy at Sea. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660

“**Annie Get Your Gun.**” Shows are Thursday 6/10, Friday 6/11 and Saturday 6/12 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 6/13 at 2 p.m. Tickets prices are \$19/adult, \$17/students and \$12/unreserved balcony seats. Email groupsales@acttwo.org. For tickets or additional information, visit www.ActTwo.org or call 888-402-ACT2. At Georgetown Preparatory School’s Figge Theater, 10900 Rockville Pike.

JUNE 10-JULY 25

“**Sleeping Beauty.**” Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Duration: 45 minutes. Tickets are \$10. At the Puppet Co. Playhouse, North Arcade Building of Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Md. Call 301-634-5380. Online Ticketing: www.thepuppetco.org

NOW THROUGH JUNE 13

“The Red Balloon” - U.S. Premiere.

Adventure Theatre brings to the stage the 1956 award winning film “Le Ballon Rouge” by Albert Lamorisse. Pascal, a lonely French boy, befriends an enchanted and sometimes mischievous red balloon. The beguiling pair draw inquisitive looks from adults and the envy of other school children as they wander the streets of Paris. Adapted for the stage by Anthony Clarke. Directed By Roberta Gasbarre. 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 adventuretheatre.org. Tickets \$12, children 12 and under; \$15, adults. Call 301-634-2270.

“TINY TOTS”

June 2 — “Second-Hand Stars,” Wednesday, 10 a.m.
 June 12 — “Old McDonald’s Farm,” Saturday, 10 a.m.
 June 19 — “Animal Crackers,” Saturday, 10 a.m.
 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.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

STIMULUS PACKAGE GOES GREEN

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the president on February 17 offers help to homeowners who want to make their homes more energy efficient.

By replacing windows with double panes, adding insulation under the roof, installing on demand water heaters and energy efficient heat pumps and air conditioners, a homeowners can recoup 30 percent of their costs for up to \$1,500. The upgrades must comply with today’s energy standards and be completed by the end of 2010. This is just one part of the nearly \$80 billion dollars allotted for energy related spending over the next few years. Energy Secretary Stephen Chu has vowed to act quickly to get America more energy efficient and less dependent on foreign oil as soon as possible.

Homeowners will be able to take advantage on the tax credit with their energy efficient projects immediately. This is a great boon to homeowners and homesellers alike since “green” home upgrades are the most popular improvements with today’s homebuyers.

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NEWS

Barlock Retires as PCC Director

FROM PAGE 3

County, table tennis has now grown into a major recreational sport program at PCC," Yeh said.

Barlock will work for a few weeks at the center on a part-time basis to facilitate the transition, but after that she isn't sure what's next. She'll have more time to spend with her son, a student at Montgomery College, and her daughter, a graduating senior at Wootton High School, as well as her husband. As for her family's reaction to her retirement?

"Well, my husband's jealous," she said with a laugh.

AS THE CENTER transitions, it won't be doing so with the help of assistant director Rich Greene, as his position has been eliminated at all county community centers.

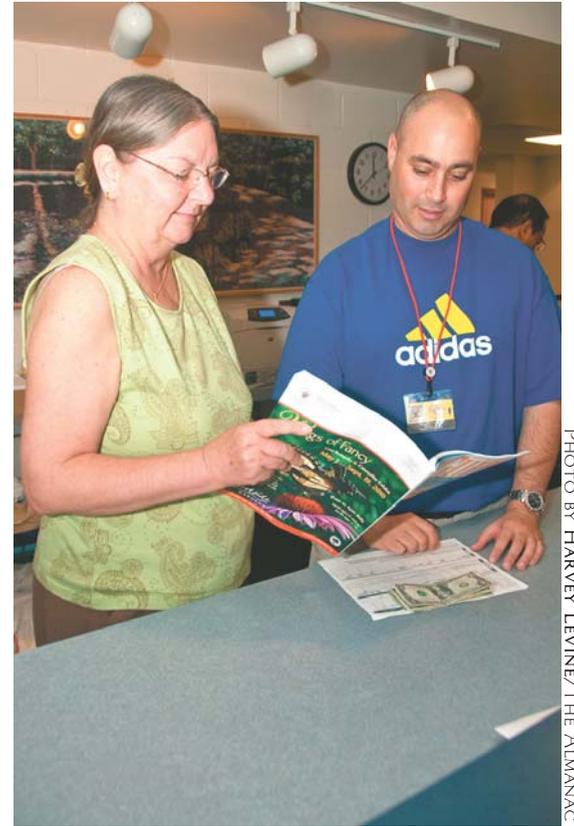
Though she would have preferred to work a couple more years, Barlock said that it's the right time for change, both at the Potomac center and in the other areas of the recreation department where her fellow longtime employees have been pushed into early retirement.

"I think it's time to let the younger ones get in there and build something for themselves that they can build to the next level," she said.

The Potomac Community Center's new director Emily McDonnell will have her hands full running an institution so vital to the heart of Potomac.

Barlock said she is thankful for the support and enthusiasm from the community, particularly from the center's advisory board, and that she hopes her successor will enjoy the same backing.

"I hope that they will continue to be as supportive of the new director there as they have of me," Barlock said. "I'm hopeful that the recreation department



Director Linda Barlock and assistant director Richard Greene at the Potomac Community Center.

will continue to be strong and supportive ... to be able to offer a program that can offer something to everyone, which we have right now."



Truck Day

The Squirrels class students at the Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center and their teacher Jodi Friedman enjoy a visit with the volunteers of the Rockville Fire department for Truck Day.



'Young Writers Celebration'

Brandon and Jonathan Gerber look on as their mom, Joy Gerber, reads. In the background are Mia and Matthew Stern, with their mother, Melissa Stern. More than 150 people were in attendance to read and critique young and budding author's books on April 29 at Congregation B'nai Tzedek's Greenzaid Early Childhood Center.

Working To Save Lives

FROM PAGE 5

found early. You need to get your mammogram and you need to be your own best advocate."

Brem emphasized women should ask who is reading their mammogram and be sure the radiologist reads breast film at least 90 percent of the time, not knees and elbows. "You must ask who is interpreting your exam because your life is at stake," she said.

A KEY COMPONENT of Brem Foundation's programs is a Biopsy Fund which this year paid \$70,000 for biopsies for 70 women who were either uninsured or underinsured and would not have received help otherwise. Brem said, "A woman should never go to the operating room for a breast biopsy. You don't need to be put to sleep or have a scar. Today we have a needle and a Band-aid."

When asked how to reduce the risk of breast cancer, Brem said, "You could be macrobiotic, a vegan, normal weight, avoid alcohol, et cetera, but you cannot make your risk for breast cancer zero. You can reduce your risk, but there is nothing you can do to prevent breast cancer. Living a healthy life style and being vigilant is important. The number one risk factor for breast cancer is being a woman."

One of 18 hostesses, Potomac resident Sheryl Nasar said, "I'm just so impressed with Rachel Brem and all the information she gave the women. She is so persuasive. I feel the best gift someone could give themselves was to attend today."

Hostess Kathy Uhart and her guest, Jane Ireland, both Montgomery County community health nurses, were drawn to participate for heartfelt reasons. "I'm very touched and thrilled to bring the circle of women in my life to such an important event to help empower and educate them about breast cancer," said Uhart.

Ireland's sister-in-law was diagnosed with breast cancer one year ago after having several negative mammograms. "I'm here to-

day to support my sister-in-law and find out what I can do to help prevent breast cancer. I learned the importance of MRI for women with dense breasts."

POTOMAC MOTHER and daughter, Debbie and Julie Stevens enjoyed the question and answer portion of the morning. Debbie Stevens said, "It's good to have sessions like this because you're hearing what your thoughts are too and you get more energy to do something." Julie Stevens added, "You read a lot, but you're never really sure what's going on. Dr. Brem is so motivating. To think that's what her goal, her dream, has been since she was a young girl. It shows if you really put your mind to something that you can change the world." The Stevens' friend, Christine Mitchell added, "I heard a lot of things I never thought of to ask that are good to know. It's reassuring to know there's an advocate out there for women."

And, what did 12-year-old Rachel Matheson have to say? When asked what words she would use to describe Brem Foundation, she said, "Friendly and supportive." What did she learn? "I learned about breast cancer, met new people and I learned how to self-examine."

Concluding her speech Brem said, "For those of you who have supported the foundation, you can't even fathom how much good you have done. I see the good everyday." For more information visit: www.bremfoundation.org.



PHOTO BY CLIFF MATHESON

Rachel Matheson

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Wootton, Whitman Doubles Teams Win State

Churchill's Pinsky takes third in girls singles.

Wootton freshmen Mateo Cevallos and Alex Hahn entered the 2010 state tennis tournament as an undefeated doubles pairing with a hunch they'd face a county rival for the title.

Oh, they felt they had something to prove, as well.

"We knew we were going to play them before the tournament even started," Cevallos said of Whitman's Pablo Gottret and Aaron Hoffman, who the Wootton duo beat earlier in the season. "We really wanted to beat them again. A lot of people said we got lucky last time. I said, 'Let's see if we can get lucky twice in a row.'"

After dropping the first set, Cevallos and Hahn bounced back to defeat Gottret and Hoffman 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 for the boys doubles state championship on May 29 at the University of Maryland.

"As a freshman, it feels really great because they were always our rivals in Montgomery County," Hahn said of the Whitman duo. "Last time they had a couple match points but we still beat them, so we knew it was going to be tough again this time."

Hahn said the Patriot duo improved during the season.

"In the beginning, we started a little slow," he said. "As the matches progressed, we started playing better and got more in a groove with playing high school tennis. We played our best match at the end — this

SEE DOUBLES TEAM WIN, PAGE 13



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC
Whitman's Sarah Macy, left, and Nicky Gottret won the girls state doubles title on May 29 at the University of Maryland.



Whitman's Michael Kader teamed with Christina Davis to take third in mixed doubles at the 2010 Maryland state tennis championships.

SPORTS BRIEFS

State Track Championships

The Maryland state high school track championships were held at Morgan State during the weekend. On the girls side, Churchill finished third in Class 4A with 58 points, 23 behind champion C.H. Flowers. Wootton (53) was fourth and Whitman (8) finished 24th.

Churchill's Kathryn Wolf finished second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.3 seconds. She was also third in the 200 (24.84). The girls 400 relay (Taylor Caulk, Alejandra Martinez, Serenah Polite, Wolf, 48.31) and 800 relay (Caulk, Maryam Fikri, Martinez, Wolf, 1:43.35) took third.

Polite won the triple jump with a mark of 35 feet, 11 1/2 inches, and placed third (16-11 1/2) in the long jump.

Wootton's Jessie Ruben won the 1,600 (5:00.17) and the 3,200 (10:41.28). She was also part of the school's first-place 3,200 relay (Corinne Duvall, Ruben, Andrea Maxwell, Grace Corbett, 9:05.23).

Corbett finished fourth in the 800

(2:16.72).

Whitman's Rachel Osnos was fourth in the high jump with a mark of 5 feet, 2 inches.

In boys action, Churchill finished 12th with 21 points, Whitman placed 21st (10) and Wootton was 32nd (4). Thomas Johnson won the state championship with 127 points, 71.5 more than second-place North Point.

Whitman's Andrew Palmer won the state title in the 3,200 with a time of 9:29.54.

Churchill's Sei Masuoka finished second in the 800 with a time of 1:58.5. Micah Phillips-Spencer placed fourth in the 100 (11.27).

Bethesda Big Train Opens Season

The Bethesda Big Train, a member of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, opens its regular season at 7:30 p.m. on June 4 against the Baltimore Redbirds at Shirley Povich Field. The Big Train also host the Youse's Orioles at 7:30 p.m. June 5 and the Alexandria Aces at 7:30 p.m. June 6.

5Qs

Five questions with Churchill junior Lauren Pinsky

Q: What location is the farthest from the Washington D.C. area that you've traveled?

A: Jamaica.

Q: What do you like to do in your free time?

A: Tennis, hang out with my friends.

Q: What is the best feeling someone can have during a tennis match?

A: Running down every ball.

Q: What was the best part about competing at the state tourna-



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

ment this year?

A: It was great competition this year.

Q: At what age did you start playing tennis?

A: Competitively, I started right before my freshman year, but I had played a little bit here and there.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS

Doubles Teams Win State

FROM PAGE 12

match.”
With a state championship under their belts as freshmen, where do Cevallos and Hahn go from here?

“Just try to win [a state championship] the rest of my years,” Hahn said.

In singles, Wootton’s Eiichiro Okuyama placed fourth, falling to Atholton’s John Healey 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 in the consolation match.

THE WHITMAN BOYS AND GIRLS tennis programs captured a state championship, a runner-up finish and a consolation crown on May 29.

Leading the way were Nicky Gottret and Sarah Macy, who combined to win the girls doubles state championship. The duo entered the tournament as the top seed and advanced through the two-day event without losing a set. Nicky Gottret and Macy defeated Walter Johnson’s Sarah Bernstein and Sarah Andrews 6-4, 6-1 in the championship match.

Along with Pablo Gottret and Hoffman’s runner-up finish in boys doubles, Christina Davis and Michael Kader won took third in mixed doubles with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Walter Johnson’s Arielle Hartz and William Schmidt in the consolation final.

CHURCHILL JUNIOR Lauren Pinsky, the



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE ALMANAC

Wootton’s Alex Hahn, left and Mateo Cevallos won the state doubles championship on May 29 at the University of Maryland.

No. 2 seed in girls singles, placed third at the tournament with a 6-2, 6-0 win over North Carroll’s Taylor Neudecker on May 29 in the consolation final. Earlier in the day, Pinsky lost to Glenelg’s Jordan Maisel 6-4, 6-1 in the semifinals.

“It was a tough match this morning,” Pinsky said of the loss to Maisel. “The girl was a good player. This afternoon, the girl was a good player, as well, I just fought through it.”

Wootton Lax Finishes State Runner Up

Wootton’s quest to become the first Montgomery County team to win a lacrosse state championship fell short with a 13-7 loss to Severna Park in the state title game on May 26 at UMBC. What the Patriots did accomplish in 2010 was maintaining their status as the West’s dominant program, winning their fifth consecutive regional championship while reaching the state title game for the second time in four seasons.

Wootton finished the season with a record of 13-4, winning 13 straight games before losing in the state championship game. The Patriots have won more than 60 consecutive games against Montgomery County opponents, meaning the 2010 senior class graduated without every losing to a county foe.

“We had a great season,” Wootton head coach Colin Thomson said. “To make it that far was great. To make it to the state championship game two out of four years is great. ... We’re happy with the season.”

Senior Jeff Zifrony finished second on the team with 31 goals. Zifrony said he is proud of what the Patriots’ 19 seniors helped the program achieve.

“We accomplished a lot,” he said. “Making it to the state finals was just an unbelievable experience. ... We’ve set a president for future Wootton teams to come.” Junior Chris Doran, who led the team with 47 goals, will be one of the team’s key returning players in 2011. He



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Gordie Gold (3) and Max Romm, seen earlier this season, helped Wootton finish as state runner up.

said the Patriots gave maximum effort in the title game “We put everything on the field,” he said. “We tried our best and that’s all we can” do.

“I think the [underclassmen] learned what it takes to get [to the state title game], which is vital,” Thomson said.

Max Romm entered the state championship game with 27 goals. Alex Kyle had 15, Tim Lenardo had 12 and Matt Greenblatt had 10.

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“Scantastic!” For Now



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The news was good. Heck, the news was great! No tumor growth or movement. No shrinkage though, unfortunately. Still, my oncologist said everything was fine; he was very pleased. After multiple quarterly scans followed by within-the-week appointments to discuss the results, I have learned to accept the uncomplicated answers I often receive. If my oncologist is pleased, then I'm pleased; 'nough said.

It took awhile for me to get there, though. As a cancer patient, you always want to ask another question, try to discern some hidden meaning, gain some certainty into your incredibly uncertain world. Eventually though, you learn to take the not-bad with the could-be-worse and not look a gift-doctor in the mouth. Besides, the more you ask your doctor about what happens next, the more uncertain he/she becomes since there's no real 100 percent-official, no-exception-to-the-rule prognosis/definitive timeline until you're not being treated anymore (and your body doesn't exactly run like a clock anyway) so you go with the flow or else you are flooded with overwhelming emotions. Emotions which, combined with the doctor's uncertainty, make you uncertain/uneasy, and the last emotional thing a cancer patient needs is uncertainty. Uncertainty which, if you let it, transforms into negativity; the real killer.

I have a friend who describes his approach to dealing with his medical problems with the following quote: “My attitude is my blood type: B+” (be positive). I love it. I only wish that were my blood type. Nevertheless, it is my attitude. And the more I can do to stay on a positive track, the better, more effective cancer fighter I can be. Not that there's a straight line between laughing off this kind of adversity and learning my cancer has gone into remission. Hardly. Still, according to what I read and hear about one's attitude as it relates to their disease, being positive isn't the problem.

For me though, obsessing about the disease is a problem. As much as my life is now all about cancer; all about the scans, appointments, lab work, chemotherapy, etc., somehow, it can't define who I am and how I think/live, impossible as that may be. And so I try not to pepper my oncologist with questions about varying scenarios, time lines, what ifs, how comes and so forth because I sort of know the type of unsatisfying (uncertain) answer I'll receive. As a salesman, I have often been advised not to be afraid to take a “Yes,” (from a prospect), so too must cancer patients (me, anyway) not be afraid to take a “Fine.” Today, I got a “Fine,” and I took it like a man, a man with cancer, but exactly as I hope this man will once again take the results from his next round of scans, come mid July.

But for now, I can relax, maybe even sleep through the night. The suspense is no longer killing me, nor for the quarter-being, is the cancer. “Fine” means stable, “fine” means “essentially the same;” results/characterizations I've come to appreciate and understand. Would shrinkage be/have been better? Absolutely! Am I depressed because the tumors haven't shrunk? I'm not thrilled, but, no, not anymore.

I've learned a little bit about life – and death – since Feb. 27, 2009. Much of which has been hard to swallow (thankfully, not literally). But life goes on, thank God! And quarterly scans will be a part of that life, like it or not, as will the waiting and wondering. No growth or movement I can live with, hopefully for a long time.

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

Working Together To Balance the Budget

BY ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 1

The Council officially voted on our County's FY 2011 budget which closed a deficit of almost \$1 billion. It was the most challenging and the most painful budget in our County's history. We faced an unprecedented drop-off in our revenues, particularly in income taxes.

While we expected a significant drop-off in revenues and had implemented mid-year savings plans to plan for it, the magnitude of the plunge was not foreseen by anyone in county government. In the last month alone, the County Executive had to revise his budget to reflect an additional \$200 million gap that had to be filled. That gap included revenues that were required to meet the bond rating agency's strong suggestion that we increase our reserves from the 5 percent originally budgeted to 6 percent if we wanted to have any chance of retaining our coveted AAA bond rating. Our county is one of the few major jurisdictions in the country to enjoy this rating, which reduces the cost of borrowing. With a lower cost of borrowing, we have more funds available for construction projects like school modernizations, new libraries, and other public facilities.

To balance our budget, which we must do every year, we reduced the budget for county government by 4.5 percent, the first absolute decline in the modern era. Compare that 4.5 percent decline to the 14 percent growth in the county's budget in the year before I joined the Council. In closing the gap, we spared our top priorities as much as we could — public safety, safety net programs, our schools, and transit services — but other areas of government were hit hard. Libraries, parks, and transportation budgets were all cut in the 25 percent range. Our employees, which represent 80-90 percent of our budget, also took a big hit — 450 individuals laid off; an average of five days of furloughs for all county government employees (not school system employees); and no increase in salaries.

There were no good options, no easy fixes. To meet that last \$200 million gap, the County Executive proposed approximately \$150 million in new taxes on en-

ergy and cell phones. Many of us on the Council felt that we should look to cut spending more, and tax less. Our concerns were heightened by the fact that, as proposed, we would be recovering more in energy taxes from our business community than PEPCO charges for the underlying service. We were concerned that such a big tax increase would lead businesses to leave our county and make it harder to attract new businesses, undermining our county's economic base when we need it the most.

At that point, the Council began discussions with the school system as to whether they could contribute more to solving the county's budget problem. The school system's budget represents 56 percent of our county's total budget, a percentage that actually increased this year. Until the \$200 million gap arose, the budget we assumed for MCPS had been equal to the funding provided to the school system for fiscal year 2010, faring far better than any other part of our budget, which is appropriate given that it is our number one priority. However, in the face of the \$200 million gap combined with the County Executive's proposed tax increases, the Council decided that an additional reduction from the school system's budget was needed.

These were not easy discussions, but I am pleased that we were able to work out an acceptable agreement with the school system under which they will contribute approximately \$24 million more to balancing our budget. Of that \$24 million, almost \$5 million will come from postponing computer upgrades. The Council has no role in deciding how the remaining \$19 million will be allocated. That is a decision for the school system and your elected school board. I do know that my colleagues and I firmly believe that these reductions, representing approximately 1 percent out of a \$2.3 billion total budget, can be made with a minimal impact on the classroom.

As a result of that agreement, we were able to reduce the impact of the energy taxes on small businesses by 42 percent. We also treated our employees more equitably than had been originally proposed — instead of 10 days of furloughs for a small group of employees, we adopted an average of 5 days, depending on salaries, for a larger group. And we restored what the Council considers to be core and essential services like Ride-On, health care delivery,

the Potomac Spring House Tour, which was held on May 2 and May 3. So many of our house tour "tourists" told us that they heard about it as a result of your article, and that was why they came to our PotomacHouseTour.org website and came on the House Tour. Those who attended were able to get a guided tour from an expert on India who explained some of the Indian art and historical items he has collected for 40 years. Also included were the homes of the famous Potomac artist, Howard Behrens, as well as a "Green Home" that could cut your costs in thirds, and a

and funding for our very fine Montgomery College, which is experiencing a dramatic 7 percent increase in enrollment.

As a result of actions we took this year, we should be in a much stronger position to make more advances next year. We have tasked our excellent Office of Legislative Oversight with the responsibility of making recommendations as to how we can address our structural deficit over the long term, recommendations that will come to the Council before it acts on the budget next year. In addition, the Council adopted my suggestion that we create a commission to make recommendations on how we can make county government more efficient. The Council will be required to vote on those recommendations before the budget is acted upon next year.

I think the best measures by which to judge this budget is whether the deficit was dealt with in a fair and balanced manner without creating an undue burden on any one sector of our County; whether we have properly recognized that our top priorities must still be met; whether we reduced spending and minimized the increase in taxes; and whether we are moving towards a more sustainable budget over the long term. By all of those measures, I believe we met our responsibilities.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM COMMISSION

We owe it to our citizens, particularly in these challenging times, to make sure that we are providing county services in the most efficient manner possible. And there is little doubt in my mind that there are ways we could streamline our bureaucracy and eliminate duplication.

And we made progress towards that goal this year, but we have miles to go. Part of the problem is that if we leave it to the "stakeholders" to work it out, it often results in gridlock. Everyone fights for their own job, which is understandable. But, understandable as it is, we can not let it rest there.

That is why I went to the County Executive and proposed a joint Commission that would take this out of the hands of the stakeholders. Impartial, smart citizens of our county would hear from the stakeholders, the County Executive's staff, our council staff, and you, the residents, on ways we can improve the delivery of services. Im-

home with Italian whimsy and heritage as it's theme, a house with amazing stone works from the local company Vallefucio and another with woodworks that would make you take notice of every detail. The tour goers were most pleased with the varied selection of homes and many wanted to "move right in." We especially want to thank the homeowners for their generosity in sharing their beautiful homes with the community.

Next year's Potomac Spring House Tour will be on May 15-16, 2011. We are looking forward to another great time for all

importantly, I proposed that the work of this Commission not sit on some shelf somewhere, but that the recommendations actually get voted upon by the Council. The County Executive agreed, and I introduced a resolution creating the Commission supported by Councilmembers Trachtenberg, Leventhal, and Navarro. The full Council approved the resolution creating a Montgomery County Organizational Reform Commission.

The Council and the County Executive will appoint four members each not later than June 30, 2010. Commissioners must be County residents. We are seeking people with experience in government, business or non-profit service delivery.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT WAIVER FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

During our budget deliberations, one of the major concerns expressed by many parents was that further cuts to the school system's budget would threaten big financial penalties that would truly harm the system. The penalty parents feared could have come about because the budget fell below the State's "maintenance of effort" requirement. Gratefully, this fear will not come to pass.

On May 25, the Maryland State Board of Education granted Montgomery County a waiver of the State's Maintenance of Effort law for Fiscal Year 2011. The law requires jurisdictions to appropriate at least as much money per pupil to its public schools as it did in the previous year. Montgomery County has historically exceeded State funding requirements for the school system because education has always been, and will continue to be, a top priority for the County. Even in the current difficult fiscal climate, more than 56 percent of our total combined agency expenditures will go to our public schools.

I am grateful to County Executive Isiah Leggett, Council President Nancy Floreen, Superintendent of Schools Jerry Weast and Board of Education President Pat O'Neill for presenting a united front in requesting the waiver before the State Board. By granting the waiver for FY '11 thus eliminating the threat of a penalty, the State Board of Education has made a decision that is the right one for the children of Montgomery County.

and another example of the great local coverage offered by the Almanac. The annual Potomac Spring House Tour is sponsored by Congregation Har Shalom, and helps the congregation continue its volunteer efforts to help those in need through projects that assist more than 40 charitable organizations.

Thank you again for your coverage of the House Tour.

Valerie Gordon,
Chair, Potomac Spring House Tour
Congregation Har Shalom

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

each of you will be looking for other employment.

In the meantime, I implore you to defeat both Bill 29-10 and Bill 15-10.

Cathy Trauernicht
Potomac

Thanks for Tour Coverage

To the Editor:

Thank you so much for your coverage of



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SPRING HILL, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Rarely available 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath brick Colonial on cul-de-sac on private 12,000 SF lot. Large entertaining rooms, 3 fireplaces, curved stairway, open foyer, finished LL, attached 2 car garage. \$1,695,000

Sally Marshall 301-254-3020



BETHESDA, MARYLAND

Beautifully renovated contemporary home with a traditional flair. Soaring ceilings, skylights, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, large rooms complement a floor plan perfect for living and entertaining, all on a 1+ acre lot. \$1,695,000

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NEW LISTING! This is a perfect 10! Great renovation & close-in location make this home a special find. Large rooms, high ceilings, fantastic new kitchen, updated baths, pool, finished basement & more! \$1,595,000

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BETHESDA, MARYLAND

WESTMORELAND HILLS - Sun-filled 5 bedroom Colonial on private 9,000+ square foot lot. Nice entertaining rooms, family room kitchen. Finished lower level, attached garage. Lovely details throughout. \$1,449,000

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Located in the Prescott neighborhood of Avenel, this 6,500 square foot Natelli home offers an exceptional floor plan with sunroom and library on main level as well as a walk-out level leading to a private, heated pool. \$1,439,000

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OLNEY, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Fantastic renovation of Historic Georgian Colonial built by Sears on 2.32 breathtaking acres. Privacy, pool & separate pool house, professional landscaping, all await the most discerning buyer! \$1,399,000

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POTOMAC, MARYLAND

NEW LISTING! Welcome to one of Pulte's best models, The Wentworth. Original owners chose all the right upgrades including marble foyer & gallery, 2 story sunroom adjacent to living room & large open kitchen. \$1,398,000

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POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Superb home with inviting open floor plan, updated & meticulously maintained. Beautiful, private lot with pool & serene views. Minutes to C&O Canal, easy commute to DC/VA. Whitman.

Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598
Traudel Lange 240-463-6918



POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Remodeled Colonial with open floor plan. Beautiful lot with swimming pool, play yard, finished walkout lower level, both family room and library on the first floor. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths + bedroom & full bath in lower level. \$1,275,000

Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598



NORTH BETHESDA, MARYLAND

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 lower level, garden oasis with heated pool! \$1,050,000

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WOODROCK, POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Renovated contemporary townhome overlooking treed parkland. Best location in area. New stainless appliances in kitchen + granite counters. 3 BR, 4.5 BA and garage. \$689,000

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