

Potomac ALMANAC

Listen Up

NEWS, PAGE 2

Jan Bender, a member of the National Capital Chapter Musical Box Society International, demonstrates one of the mechanical music devices displayed at the C&O Canal on Sunday, May 22.

Brickyard
Soccer
Meeting
June 9

NEWS, PAGE 3

Churchill Girls
Repeat as
Region Champs

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Essay Yields
National Award

NEWS, PAGE 2

RAFFIN STREET ORGAN
Raffin street organs are hand made in Germany. This one was made in 1990. Four ranks of melody pipes that are controlled by manually operated stops. There are also tenor and bass pipes. Music is played using punched paper rolls. The Organ Grinder turns a crank that controls the tempo of the music and pumps the double bellows that provide air to the pipes. This organ has no electrical parts or modern electronic components.

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Essay Yields National Award

Churchill student honored by American Society of Human Genetics.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Sixteen-year-old Julianna Hsing is an exceptional violinist, competes on the school crew team, earns excellent grades, plays in the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra — and somehow found time to enter and win third place in the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) National DNA Day Essay contest.

Winning was quite a feat, since more than 700 submissions were received for this year's contest, representing the best essays from among more than 6,000 student entries. Teachers were permitted to submit only the three top compositions from their classes. The essays came from high school students in 45 states and seven foreign countries. More than 250 geneticists read the students' essays and judged them on scientific accuracy, creativity and writing quality.

Hsing's essay, titled "DTC Genetic Testing: Not Ready for Prime Time," addressed the following question: "A number of companies offer genetic testing directly to consumers, bypassing the involvement of physicians and genetic counselors. Discuss whether you think this is a good idea or not." Students were instructed to discuss the medical, ethical, legal and/or social dimensions of this issue in their compositions.

In her essay, Hsing wrote: "The most serious problem with direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing lies in the interpretation and use of these genetic results. Interpreting complex genetic data is not an easy matter for individuals without any genetic training because 1) having the genetic trait or genetic susceptibility does not mean an individual will develop the disease; and 2) many common diseases, including heart disease and certain cancers are polygenic — affected by more than one gene." She also



Julianna Hsing and her science teacher Anat Schwartz.

wrote: "Most DTC testing does not take into account of other important risk factors, such as family history or past environmental exposures" and points out that "Clearly, without input from a genetic expert, DTC genetic results will be easily misinterpreted by consumers, leading to consumer confusion, anxiety and inappropriate medical care. Her final point against DTC testing is the "inadequate protection of privacy" as well as the lack of regulation — and "... without oversight and regulations and without input from genetic experts, DTC will do more harm than good to consumers, and is not ready for prime time."

The prize winners were announced on April 15, National DNA Day. Hsing is the third student from WCHS to be named as a winner in this contest. Michael Kovacs won first place in 2009 and his brother, William Kovacs won third place in 2010. Another WCHS student, Pavel Vlasov won honorable mention this year as did Eric Yi from Thomas S. Wootton High and Peter Luu from Pooleville High.

"I was really thrilled and speechless," said Hsing. "I never ever expected to win 3rd out of 700 essays."

She was awarded \$150 from AHSG.

Hsing stays busy playing violin with the Churchill orchestra, participating in a Chamber Music Group, studying and earning good grades, and rowing with the Crew team, a club sport which she helped to start at Churchill. Hsing said, "I play with the chamber group to give back. We perform at the NIH Children's Inn during dinner hour



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Listen Up Street organ Grinders with the National Capital Chapter Musical Box Society International gathered Sunday, May 22 at the C&O Canal to demonstrate a variety of antique music boxes and other mechanical music devices. Above, Marvel Freund.



Terry Bender



Chapter Chairman Paul Senger

and at local nursing homes. I love rowing and crew because being out on the water with nature is so peaceful. We started the Crew Club and now have over 40 competing in regattas. It's really fun — and a great stress reliever."

In the future, Hsing is looking forward to studying the DNA molecule in depth, and

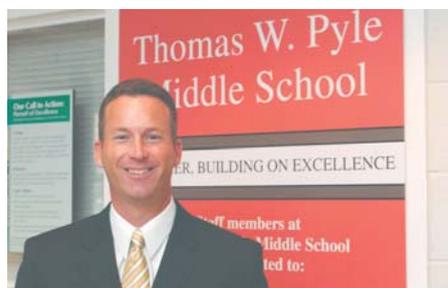
plans to enter another essay next year. Currently enrolled in AP Biology, she plans to take Molecular Genetics next year. In college, she will major in Biology and Pre-Medicine. This summer, she is excited that she has been chosen to serve as a special volunteer at the National Cancer Institute of NIH.

Mike Zarchin: A Familiar Name Continues To Serve MCPS

From principal to consulting principal.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Many Potomac families remember Michael L. Zarchin, the affable assistant principal of Churchill High School in the late '80s and '90s. Many may also remember young Michael J. Zarchin, his son, an athlete and student at Churchill who graduated in 1987.



Mike Zarchin when he was principal at Pyle Middle School.

The elder Zarchin has retired and is staying busy keeping up with his 10 grandchildren. Zarchin and his brothers attended

Churchill during the years when their father was assistant principal. "I think he just wanted to keep an eye on the boys in the family, so we drove from Olney to Potomac to go to high school," said Zarchin. One brother, Brian, is now a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and the other, Kevin, works for Boston Scientific.

Following in his dad's footsteps, yet paving his own way in Montgomery County Public Schools, Zarchin served as the principal of Pyle Middle School for six years. He has now become a consulting principal, advising four high school and three middle school principals. Before moving into ad-

ministration, Zarchin was an elementary teacher, high school counselor and a baseball, football and swim coach.

His new job is a three-year position. He consults with principals on all aspects of their jobs. "No job is as tough as a principal's," he said. "The principal must work with the school community to make decisions that serve the best interests of students. Each school is different and has unique challenges.

"What makes a principal successful are his/her relationships with staff, community

SEE MIKE ZARCHIN, PAGE 4

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Brickyard Soccer Meeting June 9

Meeting designed to address details of soccer proposal, but citizens groups still angry about process.

BY MARY KIMM
THE ALMANAC

Montgomery County Public Schools has leased 20 acres on Brickyard Road to Montgomery County for private soccer fields, and the county has scheduled a second community meeting for June 9.

This time, the meeting is supposed to “focus on the RFP” said Kassa Seyoum, project manager for public-private partnerships for soccer fields.

The county plans to release a “request for proposal,” for a private soccer organization to build and operate soccer fields on the future middle schools site, occupied for the last 30 years by an organic farmer.

Most people expect Montgomery Soccer Inc. to be the developer of the site, but that is still up in the air according to the organization’s president.

Doug Schuessler, president of Montgomery Soccer Inc., said his organization has been open about its desire to develop more soccer fields in the county, including posting all of its meeting minutes online for everyone to see.

“I can’t imagine anything we could have

Get Involved

PUBLIC MEETING

Brickyard Road Soccer Fields RFP
June 9, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Potomac Community Center Social Hall
11315 Falls Road, Potomac

done to be more transparent,” Schuessler said. “I think we’re doing exactly what we’re supposed to be doing” as an organization whose mission is to advocate for soccer.

While county officials have said that there is a possibility of the organic farmer continuing to farm part of the property alongside soccer fields, as well as other public amenities, the signed lease says that the property can only be used for ballfields.

This was not the intention of County Executive Ike Leggett, said Ken Hartman, director of Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services.

“The county executive fully intends to have a dialogue with the community and see if there are other uses including farming that can go on the property” in addition to soccer fields, Hartman said.

One consideration is to work with Nick Maravell, who has farmed the 20-acres on Brickyard for more than 30 years, to develop a “county organic incubator,” looking for another site in the county large enough for organic seed farming, Hartman said earlier in May.

The county is in the midst of a controversial process of seeking a contractor to build and operate four soccer fields on Brickyard Road.

The property belongs to the school system. The Board of Education voted March

8 to lease the property to the county for private development as soccer fields, with only a few days notice to the farmer, citizen associations or neighbors of the property. Neither the school system nor the county engaged neighbors or community organizations in the decision beforehand, despite advancing the proposal for Brickyard soccer fields since at least 2009. More than 200 people turned out for a boisterous meeting April 4 at Potomac Elementary, objecting to lack of community involvement in the decision.

At the meeting, county officials said the lease between the county and schools designates the property for “ballfields.” Item 4, Use, states: “County or its agents shall use the leased premises solely for ballfields and improvements associated with that use such as a parking lot and amenity facility.”

The lease also makes no mention of promised restrictions, such as prohibiting lights, sound system or artificial turf.

“Once we get the input, the community wants whatever it wants, then we’ll check that it complies with the lease,” said Seyoum.

In addition, a selection committee is still reviewing one or more proposals for a public-private partnership for one soccer field at the Potomac Community Center, replacing the roller hockey rink.

A copy of the lease is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/DGS/DBDC/Resources/soccer-brickyard-lease.pdf>.

For more, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/DGS/DBDC/soccer.asp>

BRICKYARD ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE TIMELINE

June 9, 2011: 7:30 - 9 p.m. Meeting on Brickyard Road Soccer Fields RFP, Potomac Community Center Social Hall, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac.

April 19, 2011: The lease between the County and the Board of Education was signed.

April 4, 2011: More than 200 people attend first public meeting on what the county calls “Brickyard soccer project”

April 1, 2011: Montgomery County-side Alliance and other groups propose that the organic farm serve as an anchor for agricultural education as a part of a Food and Agricultural Policy Council in Montgomery County.

March 8, 2011: The Montgomery County Board of Education voted 5-2 to lease the 20-acre field for 10 years to the County to convert it into soccer fields. David Dice, head of general services for the county, says the site could hold four soccer fields and that parking would likely be the constraining factor. Planners say they often require 70 spaces for one soccer field.

March 3, 2011: First public announcement of proposal for soccer fields on future Brickyard Road Middle School site. Mont-

gomery County Board of Education released documents showing it would vote to lease the Brickyard Road Middle School site to the county to contract with a private athletic organization to construct and operate private soccer fields.

Oct. 19, 2010: MSI Executive Committee Minutes, Field Development Report - Future public-private partnerships to develop new soccer fields in the county were discussed. The county still has not released the RFP for field development at GXS, Brickyard, Potomac, Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Park. As soon as the RFPs are released, MSI will prepare and submit a bid where appropriate.

October 2010: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack appoints Nick Maravell to a five-year term as one of four farmers on the 15-member National Organic Standard Board, which recommends standards for the definition of “certified organic.”

June 15, 2010: MSI Executive Committee Minutes - Field Development Report - We anticipate the county will release an RFP for field development at GXS and possibly Brickyard later this summer/fall. In addi-

tion, we are looking at field development opportunities at Cabin John and Wheaton Regional Park.

April 13, 2010: MSI Executive Committee Minutes - The Field development Task Force is prepared to develop and submit a bid for soccer field development at GXS and Brick Yard [sic] when the RFPs are requested by the county.

Jan. 31, 2010: MSI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Field Development Update - Jerry Pasternak reports that of the nine possible sites under consideration only two have any realistic chance for development over the next 1-3 years. Cabin John may be achievable with a tentative availability for the fall 2011/spring 2012 seasons. ... No contracts or formal agreements have been signed, but MSI continues to work with various governmental agencies to create possible field development opportunities in the future.

Dec. 23, 2009: Letter to Leggett from Patricia B. O’Neill, president of the Board of Education - “This is in response to your letter [below] regarding a proposal for the

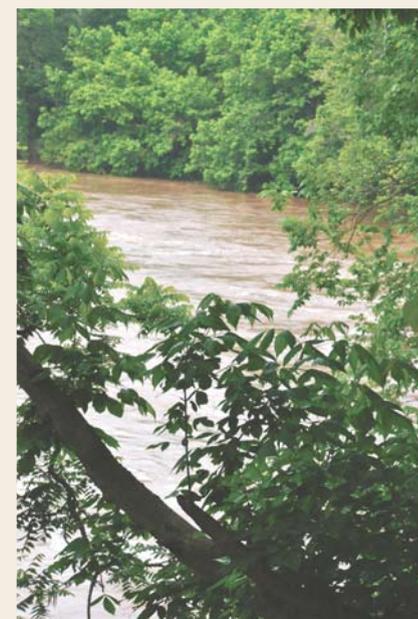
SEE TIMELINE, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

High Water Closures

Areas of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park have been closed due to high water. Billy Goat Trail Section A and the Olmsted Island bridges in the Great Falls area of the park are closed. The high water has covered the towpath areas near Whites Ferry and Edwards Ferry in Montgomery County, Harpers Ferry in Frederick and Washington Counties, and in the Dam 4 area in Washington County. Several park roads are covered with water and are closed. Spring Gap and Paw Paw campgrounds are closed. For information on river conditions visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration site at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lw> For information on the effect of water levels on boat ramps visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/pdfs/upperpotomac.pdf>



Mike Zarchin: From Principal to Consulting Principal

FROM PAGE 2

and students.

"I miss the relationships with the kids the most now," Zarchin said. "That was the hardest part of becoming a principal and then moving on to become consulting principal. I loved the day-to-day conversations with students and staff and seeing the kids develop, change and grow."

While at Pyle, Zarchin was honored by MCPS with the Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award. MCPS gives this award annually to an administrator who shows an exceptional ability to encourage academic excellence, positive human relations and strong community outreach. He was chosen for his school's focus on core values, the way in which the community, staff and students worked together to develop a shared sense of purpose and commitment, and his dedication to each individual student. He also placed a strong emphasis on understanding and celebrating the cultural diversity at Pyle.

What does he see as the toughest issue kid's face? "The pressure on kids to earn good grades and to be outstanding in every area creates all kinds of problems. The demands come from peers, parents and from the students themselves. Students have to be great in music, art, sports, gymnastics — everything and anything. They have to take more AP classes than the next kid — and score well on their AP exams. It's not like it was when I was growing up. We wanted to be good — but we did not have the pressures kids put on themselves today."

After graduating from Churchill, Zarchin attended the University of Dayton and graduated in elementary education. Next, he pursued a master's degree in counseling



The Zarchin family: From left are brothers Kevin (WCHS '90), Brian (WCHS '88), sister Debbie, dad Mike, mom Sue, Karen, Danny and Mike (WCHS '87).

from Johns Hopkins and is currently finishing his Ph.D. from Walden University. Zarchin is married with children ages 7 and 8. His wife is a first grade teacher.

Zarchin enjoys his new position, but particularly misses coaching. "I enjoy helping principals set their visions, develop their

leadership practices and close the achievement gap. However, I do miss coaching and this year, found a way to do both. Now I am happy because I coach my own son's basketball team with my brother, whose son is also on the team. We don't win them all, but we sure have fun with our sons."

BRICKYARD ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL SITE TIMELINE

FROM PAGE 3

County to lease the future Brickyard Road Middle School site in Potomac from the Board of Education for Recreational purposes." Letter states that a meeting is scheduled between County Executive's staff and MCPS staff.

Nov. 10, 2009: Leggett letter to Shirley Brandman, Board of Education - "I have been encouraged by the partnership formed between the County and MCPS staff in expanding and coordinating after school programs — especially for those most at risk. ...

"The demand for playing time on ball fields is significantly greater than the available supply.

"I believe one of our vacant school sites provides a unique opportunity for us to provide additional recreational opportunities for many of our youth without sacrificing the intent of preserving future school sites ... I understand that the 20-acre Brickyard Road site is largely vacant and underutilized.

"I would ask that MCPS lease this property to the County so we may provide additional ball fields to the County's youth teams."

August 25, 2009: MSI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes -Field Development. The Task Force is working closely with our professional consultant to develop solutions to the shortage of soccer fields in Montgomery County. We are currently working on a public-private partnership proposal with the county government and MCPS to develop viable soccer field development opportunities.

May 19, 2009: MSI Executive Committee Minutes - Field Development. A report on the Task Forces efforts to develop soccer fields. The following sites are being investigated: Sligo Creek Golf Course, Brickyard

Road, Julius West, John Hopkins, and White Flint Mall.

March 23, 2009: MSI Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes - The Task Force members have met with and hired TDL consultants and have identified three priority properties to focus on for future soccer fields. The priority areas to focus on are Laytonia, Sligo Creek and Brickyard. The task force is scheduling meetings with county council members, planning board members and other key officials in the county to develop a soccer field development partnership.

Feb. 23, 2009: Lobbyist and consultant Jerry Pasternak registers with Montgomery County Ethics Commission to lobby on behalf of Montgomery Soccer Inc. for youth recreation and ball fields with compensation of \$30,000.

Feb. 17, 2009: MSI Executive Committee Minutes - The Field Development and Legislative Task Force proposes allocating from our designated funds for field development, the initial sum of \$350,000 towards MSI's field development goals. This sum of money will have restricted use as outlined below. We feel it is imperative to embark on a significant campaign utilizing lobbyists, land use attorneys, designers, and other professional consultants as may be required to facilitate the securing of land to be used for premium quality fields in a private public partnership with the local governments. It should be viewed that this significant expenditure is in place of land acquisition costs, but at a fraction of the cost of what we would otherwise have to spend to secure land. We, in essence, are trying to develop fields, which is not without significant risk. Although we cannot guarantee what the funds will secure, we are confident that these such funds will give us the best opportunity to navigate the political environments necessary to achieve

our goals.

1) An accounting of funds dispersed will be provided at each Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting as part of the Treasurer's Report.

2) The Field Development and Legislative Task Force will have the authority to spend up to \$20,000 annually to any individual consultant as required. The sum of expenditures by the Task Force for all expenditures will not exceed \$50,000 annually without Executive Committee approval.

3) Should funds in excess of \$20,000 be required to be disbursed to any single vendor/payee in a single year, prior Executive Committee approval will be required.

4) Any required funds in excess of the \$350,000 limit will require approval of the Board of Directors.

Discussion: The board members agreed that we need consultative assistance to help MSI move the field development initiative forward. The MSI board members and staff have done a commendable job over the past five years working with the county government to create potential field development opportunities. However, dedicated professional support is needed to help us finalize a field development plan, negotiate with the appropriate governmental agencies and successfully help MSI develop quality soccer fields for our 15,000-plus players. After careful deliberations, the proposal was put forth for a vote and unanimously approved by the board of directors present. [According to 2009 Tax Returns, MSI had just under \$3 million in income, with assets of just less than \$6 million.]

Spring, 2004: Board of Education declines to surplus Brickyard or other school sites. Board member Pat O'Neill said she doubted the likelihood of the board being able to leverage any value from the Brickyard property. "I also happen to think that the people in Potomac will fight this tooth

and nail, and we will not see any money for years," she said, predicting a protracted court battle. "I'm not convinced that saying good-bye Brickyard is going to get us the money right now."

February, 2004: County Council identified undeveloped school sites, including parcels on Brickyard Road and Kendale Road in Potomac and one on Edson Lane in Rockville, as possible sites for affordable housing.

October, 2003: County Executive Doug Duncan sends a letter to MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast asking that the board declare three parcels of land, originally planned for schools, as surplus. Two of these parcels — 20 acres on Brickyard Road and 10 acres on Kendale Road — are in Potomac.

2002: Potomac Master Plan Approved - Page 135 - "Surplus and future school sites offer potential for fulfilling some of the recreation needs of the Potomac Subregion. All schoolsites not otherwise recommended in the plan for environmental conservation should be considered for other public uses, including park use, if they are declared as surplus.

"The Brickyard Junior High School, Kendall Elementary School and Churchill Elementary School could be developed as local parks with ballfields or other recreational uses. (Recreational uses should be evaluated along with other public uses identified elsewhere in this plan to determine the priority use for each available site.) Any site acquired for parkland should be evaluated to determine whether it is appropriate for recreational opportunities (e.g. trails, ballfields, etc.).

March 23, 1980: Nick Maravell first leases land on Brickyard Road from the Montgomery County Board of Education, and begins to farm it organically. He has farmed the site continuously since then.

CRIME

❖ **Graffiti** was spray painted in the front of Winston Churchill High School, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac on Wednesday, April 20 between 1:30 and 1:45 a.m.

❖ An **aggravated assault** occurred in the 7800 block of Scotland Drive, Potomac, on Saturday, April 23 at 11 p.m. The suspect, who is known to the victim, used a weapon to threaten the victim.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



Tiger Paws (Cat)- Male, 4 yrs., neutered, gray Tabby cat- Tiger Paws was born to an abandoned momma cat but is now an affectionate, socialized house pet. He's somewhat shy but when he knows you he will push to the front of the line for human affection.



Wren (Dog)- Female, 1 1/2 yrs., 50 lbs., spayed, Lab mix- Wren was rescued by PAW and has turned into an affectionate girl who loves people and activities like hiking. She is still young but settles down nicely after exercise.



Scout (Cat)- Male, 1 yr., neutered, DSH Tuxedo cat- Scout loves to explore and doesn't seem to be intimidated by dogs he's seen through the window. He doesn't mind his nails being clipped and likes other cats. Scout is affectionate.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

How Wired Are You?

Back in the day, regardless of how large or small your house was, it needed only two wiring systems, one for your phone and one for your electricity. Now, with the advent of personal home computers, surround sound televisions and stereos, not to mention home security, that just won't do.

Today's complex life style of electronic gadgets and gizmos requires that homes be wired up to encompass the entire house from foyer to outside living room. If you want your house to be a permanent member of the 21st century, you need to be able to offer wiring schemes that enable the whole house.

Advanced wiring schemes allow homeowners to customize their use of technology while meeting their individual needs. Everything from Category 5 wiring and coaxial cable to fiber-optic cable is available, although fiber optic is a bit difficult to install and expensive. If you're building, many different built-in home automation systems become available, moving from the simple to the complex. With today's innovations, you can wire your entire house to run everything from one simple location.

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GETTING AROUND

Andrew Card Wows Club With History and Humor

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

The man who whispered into the ear of President George W. Bush, “America has been attacked,” recently told a spellbound Potomac audience about the tense moments leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001 horror. The President was speaking to a group of Sarasota, Fla. second graders when the attack occurred nearly 10 years ago.

Andrew H. Card, Jr., then Chief of Staff to President Bush, recalled the moments from when the first plane crashed into the New York City twin tower. He said they thought, at first, it was a terrible accident. But, when Karl Rove informed them a second plane had hit, Card said, “I had to go in that classroom.” Explaining it was most unusual to interrupt the President, he said, “He had to know. I left the room and the President stayed. I was really glad he stayed. He did nothing to introduce fear to the students or the press corps in the room.”

Card told his audience of about a hundred guests attending a May 17 Potomac Republican Women’s Club annual fundraiser at Jean Mullan’s Potomac Falls home the minute details of the horror, from the President’s first knowledge of the attack to his return to Washington. “He wanted to fly direct to D.C., but the Secret Service said ‘no way,’” he related.

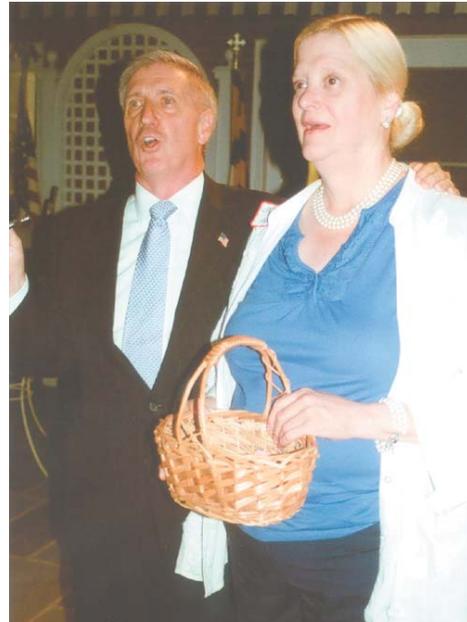
During his hour-plus talk (“I’m told I talk too much,” he told one guest) Card repeatedly drew bursts of laughter from the crowd as he explained his numerous political experiences, first, when running the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia followed by Bush’s request that he be Chief of Staff. (Bush senior was later called Bush 41. George W. was known as Bush 43.)

“Andy, keep your dance card clear,” Bush 43 repeatedly told him during the convention. At the time Card was a General Motors’ vice president, but as the “dance card” began to fill during both prior and post convention duties, he resigned from GM.

When Bush 43’s presidential campaign revved up, Card said, “One time my wife [Kathleene] asked, ‘Are you married to me or George W. Bush?’” That was shortly followed by a 6:45 a.m. phone call. “I was al-



Potomac Republican Women’s Club president Linda Lurch welcomes President George W. Bush’s Chief of Staff Andrew H. Card, Jr. to the club’s annual fundraiser.



Lynn Adams of Potomac gets help from Andrew Card, Jr., while hawking raffle tickets at the fundraiser. Adams jokingly touted “Six tickets for \$5 if you are a Republican. Five tickets for \$6 if you are a Democrat.”



Andrew Card, Jr., greets club member Marilyn Dankner at the May 17 evening gathering at Jean Mullan’s Potomac home.

ready up, but she answered the phone. ‘It’s George W. Bush,’” she emphatically and loudly announced.

Card’s earlier connection with the Bush family occurred when he was named President George H.W. Bush’s Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff in 1989. In 1992 Bush 41 appointed him U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

When asked by a reporter if he sees the family now he responded, “I will see George and Barbara in Kennebunkport this Friday. He is in a wheel chair more often than not, but his mind is as sharp as ever. Barbara is re-energized,” he remarked.

He also recalled an incident when the senior Bushes were in the White House. “There was a knock on my door and when I answered it was Barbara. ‘You are up and dressed,’ she said. ‘Grab a cup of coffee and come join us,’ she said. I did and knocked on their door. They were both in bed. Join us,’ he was invited. I did (coffee in hand) and we talked.”

Card said he hadn’t seen Bush 43 recently. “I have talked with him and exchanged e-

mails,” he said. His recollections of his tenure as his Chief of Staff were vivid. “When I was asked to be Chief of Staff I thought it was for another job. If you want me to do the transition, I will,” he replied. President Bush answered, “I’m not talking about transition, I mean the big one,” Bush 43 said. “He never said, Chief of Staff,” Card recalled, “until the next day.”

“The privilege of being his Chief of Staff is such a unique privilege most don’t really understand it. The average time for a Chief of Staff is less than two-and-a-half years,” he advised. Card was in that office for five years and six months.

Among his most vivid memories are those of frustration. “When I saw him (the President) not being appreciated, and when expectations are not met it’s extremely frustrating. The worse was Katrina. His decisions were not implemented,” he said.

The former Chief told his audience that “The real job is to meet the challenges no one else anticipates. A huge part of the job is to see that the President is never hungry, angry, lonely or tired. I focused on every

minute of every day,” he said. He also added to the itinerary, peripheral vision, marketing and selling the President’s decisions.

Many in the crowd expressed surprise at the enormity of the job. “I came away thinking the position of chief of staff to a president is incredibly challenging. You have to stay ahead of the curve and anticipate every move,” said Jean Roesser, a former Maryland state senator.

“I worked with Andy for four years at the White House, under George 41,” said Donna Barron. She was deputy associate director in the office of political affairs when Card was senior Bush’s Deputy Chief of Staff. “Andy was beloved by the entire staff for his integrity, fairness and sense of humor,” she recalled.

There were others in the group involved in Card’s background. Lynn Adams, also a member of the Potomac club, said she had supported him when he ran (unsuccessfully) for Governor of Massachusetts in 1982. He had previously served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975 to 1983.

When a reporter asked, “If given the opportunity, would you get involved in politics again?” he emphatically responded, “absolutely.”

Questioned on his preferences for the 2012 election he said, “I like (Indiana Governor) Mitch Daniels a lot. I spent two hours with him in Indianapolis three weeks ago. I am a big fan of his and have encouraged him to run. I don’t think Newt (Gingrich) is going all the way to the end,” he added. He also expressed surprise Huckabee (former Arkansas Gov. Mike) dropped out.

Linda Lurch, president of the Potomac Republican Women’s Club, could only have agreed with the club’s promotional flyer, “It will be an evening of historical remembrances.” There was also a tremendous amount of humor thrown in.



From left: Anita Brikman, WUSA-TV anchor; Ed Eckenhoff, founder, National Rehabilitation Hospital, and Sara Reges, major gift officer, National Rehabilitation Hospital.

Fashion Show Benefits Brain Injury Program

One hundred women enjoyed an afternoon at the annual Spring Fashion Show benefiting the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) and patients who suffer from brain injury. The event was held on the flower-decked patio of the Old Angler’s Inn on May 5. The show, with fashions provided by Bloomingdale’s, featured mother-daughter models in some of the latest styles for spring. Honorary chair of the event was WUSA-TV anchor Anita Brikman. Julia Palmer, OVP/General Manager Bloomingdale’s at Tysons Corner, served as master of ceremonies.

— SUSAN BELFORD



A model at Old Angler’s Inn on May 5.



Truck Day

Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center celebrated Truck Day on Wednesday, May 18. The 4-year-old Lions students try out ATVs belonging to Michael Schnall, a father in the school. They include, from left, Naomi Esterowitz, Jackson Koslow, Michael Hahn, Gershon Menditch, Noah Schnall and Jake Silverman.



The 4-year-olds Lions students are excited about the ice cream truck. From left are Sarah Goldschmidt-Hopkinson, Gershon Menditch, Michael Hahn, Jake Silverman, Leah Goldschmidt-Hopkinson, Jackson Koslow, Imri Lindsay-Broder and Naomi Esterowitz.

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OPINION

Soccer Site Fails To Engage Citizens

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to County Executive Ike Leggett.

It has been two months since the community first learned of your plans to lease the Brickyard Road Middle School site from Montgomery County Public Schools and enter into a public/private partnership with an as yet undecided soccer organization to build soccer fields. We are now aware your office has been involved in discussion and planning with MSI for at least two years without the knowledge or input of the local community. The current leasee Nick Maravell, neighbors of the site and relevant citizens associations learned of this plan just three business days before the School Board voted on the lease.

LETTER

A meeting held by your office on April 4 at the Potomac Elementary School drew over 200 people. Most expressed concerns over the lack of a transparent, inclusive process. At the time, no lease had been signed between MCPS and the County and the public was not allowed to see the proposed lease. Neighbors were assured there would be additional park-like amenities besides the proposed soccer fields that might include sharing the site with a scaled back organic farm. But when the lease was made public a few days after the April 4 meeting, it designated only ball fields. It states "the County or its agents shall use the leased premises solely for ball fields and improvements associated with that use such as a parking lot and amenity facility."

Now you have scheduled another public meeting on Thursday, June 9, presumably to seek input on the Request For Proposals (RFP). But the previous April 4 meeting brought the community no closer to inclusion in partnership plans and has led only to further exclu-

sion as witnessed by language in the signed lease. The soccer fields will be private and only open to selected players. No free access by Montgomery County school children and no access by the public. The Brickyard fields will be reserved for the dues-paying soccer organization members. These fields will be built, managed and controlled by a private vendor. There is nothing public about them. Why should we be part of a meeting clearly intended to deflect criticism without any possibility of dialogue?

In our county, when a private developer proposes a land use change on a property of this size in an established residential community, they become subject to long-standing policies established by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) that intended to engage citizens. At the earliest stage of development review, MNCPPC advises the applicant to meet with appropriate community stakeholders and neighbors. That has not occurred here. Plans were discussed only between the Executive, MCPS and with soccer organizations for two years before citizens knew anything about it.

The formal MNCPPC process requires planners to review a development application for consistency with the adopted master plan. It considers impacts on the environment, examines the quality of intended design and compatibility with neighbors, as well as the availability and impact on public facilities such as water and sewer. It requires a study of traffic impacts.

Staff work with developers and neighbors as well as relevant state and county agencies to address issues of concern throughout the process and well before sending any proposal to a public hearing before the Planning Board. Citizen input is sought prior to and testimony

taken at that hearing. Only then is a decision rendered by the Planning Commission. Voters have a right to expect our County government to abide by the same requirements we expect of the regulated building community through our planning process.

In this case, a decision has already been made. An exclusive lease has been signed and a project is well underway before ever consulting the various stakeholders most affected by the proposal. We have asked many questions and received few answers. Why is there no transparency here? What is the County getting out of this besides \$200 a year above what the organic farmer now leasing the site is paying? The public deserves to know if the greater public benefit you assert really exists and more importantly, is it worth the price? This school site is not being surplus by MCPS and is not being proposed for parkland as cited in the Potomac Master Plan. It is essentially being leased to a private developer for exclusive use as soccer fields.

Mr. Leggett, you have expressed an interest in meeting with representatives of the community but so far this outreach has gone unfulfilled.

We ask the County representatives to follow through on this commitment, sit down with the signers of this letter and discuss in detail what the county's plans are and see if we can turn this contentious decision into one of co-operation. Hopefully our government will start performing in the manner that has made us proud to be citizens of Montgomery County.

West Montgomery County Citizens Association (WMCCA)
Civic Association of River Falls (CARF)
Citizens for Transparency
Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA)



Churchill High Prom-Goers

This group of Winston Churchill High School students met at the home of Paige Gross of Potomac before dinner at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tysons Corner and then the prom on May 20. From left: Alyssa Ranck, Paige Gross, Nikki Banner, Giulia Giannangeli, Sami Soma and Emily Heger. Sixty-five students gathered for photos.

Father's Day Photo Gallery, And More

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and once again the Almanac will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos in .jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of all the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

PROMS AND ... While Almanac photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or alternative activities) and send in photos in .jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

We're also interested in other milestone events.

Email photos to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

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PEOPLE

From Potomac to Nashville

Margaret Durante
launches new
music video.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Potomac native Margaret Durante had the desire to be a performer as long as she can remember. Before turning 16, she performed at weddings and private affairs, and served as the opening act for a popular Springsteen cover band for several years. She attended Clemson University, where she majored in performing arts.

Durante made her journey to Nashville in 2008 after record company mogul Tommy Mattola encouraged her to pursue her music career full time. He also introduced her to her label head and producer James Stroud, head of Stroudavarious Records). Now, at just 22, Durante is becoming one of country music's newest stars.

How did a girl from Potomac find her way to Nashville?

When I was able to do shows with The B Street Band it was such a cool opportunity to have a band back me at such a young age. My parents would drive me up to the Jersey shore to do shows with them and then drive me home. While at college it became very clear to me that I was dedicating all my time to crafting my music. When I turned 19 I moved to Nashville. My neighbor from Potomac Tom Natelli took an interest in my music and wanted to help my find a contact.

He went through his Rolodex and found a friend of a friend that might have a music connection. By luck and six degrees of separation I was invited to come and sing in the office of Tommy Mottola (former CEO of Sony Music).

I told him I wanted to pursue a career in country music. He introduced me to my producer, James Stroud. We have spent the past three and a half years working together. Everything I have done is collaborative. I write my own music and learned how to play the guitar.



Margaret Durante

What inspires your writing?

All of my writing is based on my own experiences. I treat the writing process as the end result. I want it to be conversational like I am talking to a friend. I want my songs to be genuine and take the filter out and say what I am feeling. I polish it up and honestly tap into what I am feeling. I co-wrote six songs on the album. The ones I didn't write made me feel a certain way. I want to move and entertain the listener. Some of the things in the songs happened to me. I was going through a heartbreak and felt I has nowhere to turn. The music provided a comfort to me. I knew I wasn't the first one to go through it. You can look to music when you need to. I get to tell stories and entertain people with my music."

What is it like being in Nashville?

Nashville is a small town. There are so many musicians and talented people here who love and appreciate music. There are lots of resources available to you and lots of people who will collaborate with you. You see many successful people here and no one bothers them. It is a different atmosphere than say NY or LA. I miss my family and friends but love coming back to visit them.

SEE MARGARET DURANTE, PAGE 15

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* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY/MAY 25

Zemer Chai Jewish Choir. 8 p.m. With Dr. Ysaye Barnwell, of the acclaimed Sweet Honey In The Rock. Tickets are \$20/advance; \$40/preferred; \$25/door. At Ohr Kodesh Congregation, 8300 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase. To purchase tickets, go to www.zemerchai.org or call 301-963-3462.

Effective Communication. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Become the speaker and leader you want to be. With speakers from Toastmasters International. At Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave., Auditorium 1st floor, Rockville.

MAY 25 AND 26

Festival of the Arts. 6 to 9 p.m. Will feature Walt Whitman High School student displays of painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, graphic design, ceramics, and digital and commercial art — with full evenings of choral, orchestral and jazz performances by more than 10 different Whitman ensembles and one-act plays developed by students in the drama department. At Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

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

FRIDAY/MAY 27

Swing Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$14. Swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the Boilmaker Jazz Band. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact dbarker@glenechopark.org, call 301-634-2231, or go to www.DanceDC.com.

Blues and Soul Fusion Dance Party. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$10. Dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. DJ Ken Roesel. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit <http://www.dancebuddies.com/AllThingsBlues.htm> or contact Ken Roesel at 703-282-4187 or at DanceBuddies@Starpower.net.

TTouchTM for Dogs. 7 to 8:30 p.m. A demonstration and book signing by Linda Tellington-Jones, founder and director of the Tellington TTouch Method, a form of bodywork and movement exercises that can influence a dog's behavior by helping him keep a calm and attentive frame of mind. At Your Dog's Friend Training Center, 12221 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. Contact administrator@YourDogsFriend.info or 301-983-5913.

MAY 28 TO MAY 29

Hometown Holidays. 1 to 10 p.m. Features George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic, plus more than 40 bands and entertainers on eight stages. Children's activities, a teen party on the Rooftop, Taste of Rockville and an Arts and Crafts Festival. Concert performances start at 9 a.m. on May 30 followed by a Memorial Day ceremony at 9:30 a.m. and parade at 10:30 a.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/events/hth.

MAY 29 TO JUNE 12

"Romeo et Juliette." Presented by the Bel Cantanti Opera Company. Tickets: Online: Adult - \$38, Student - \$15 / At the door: Adult - \$40, Student - \$15 / Groups of 10 and more: \$30. Call 301-266-7546 or tickets@belcantanti.com. At the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville.

SUNDAY/MAY 29

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. With the band, Taylor Among the Devils. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 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.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$17/\$12. Slow blues lesson from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:30 to 11 p.m. With the Jamie Lynch Band. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, send e-mail to dbarker@glenechopark.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte and



SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Violinist Soovin Kim. 8 p.m. Performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the National Philharmonic. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Soovin Kim will also conduct a master class for high school students on Friday, June 3 from 5-7 p.m. in room 402 at the Music Center at Strathmore. On Saturday, June 4 at 7 p.m., a free pre-concert lecture will be offered at the Music Center at Strathmore's Education Center. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore Ticket Office at 301-581-5100. Ticket prices are \$32 - \$79.

Guests. Slow blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 to 11:30 p.m. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Swing, Blues & Soul Dance. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$10. With DJ Ken Roesel. Dance lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Contact Ken Roesel at 703.282.4187 or at DanceBuddies@Starpower.net.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

National Trails Day. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help restore areas of the C&O Canal towpath surrounding the River Center at Lock 8. They'll be running activities to include picking up trash, pruning vegetation along trails, and repairing the towpath and trails. At the River Center at Lock 8, 7906 Riverside Drive, Cabin John. Visit www.potomac.org/site/river-center-events/index.php.

SUNDAY/JUNE 5

Autism Speaks Fundraiser. 2 to 6 p.m. Shop mom-based businesses like Arbonne, Stella & Dot, Pampered Chef, Yuppie Baby, maxi*rose designs, Rookie 19 Kids Boutique, Suburban Swag. At My Gym Potomac and in Cabin John Mall. Call Mandy Lemar at 301-204-1393. Or visit www.mygym.com/potomac.

Open Door Reading. 2 p.m. Linda Pastan reads from "Traveling Light," her new collection of poems. She is joined by poet Michael Salzman, who reads from his recent collection, "The Enemy of Good Is Better." At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Visit www.writer.org or call 301-654-8664.

Blues and Swing Dance. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$12. With the band, Meschia Lake and the Little Big Horns. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. For more information go to <http://www.dclx.net> or contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or manchioneal@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

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



Washington Toho Koto Society performs.



An Open Jam at the Washington Folk Festival.

Washington Folk Festival Is June 4-5

The 31st Annual Washington Folk Festival will be held Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5, 2011, from noon to 7 p.m. at Glen Echo Park. Free to the public and held rain or shine, the Festival features over 450 musicians, storytellers, dancers, and crafters all from the Greater Washington Area.

The festival has as its focus the presentation of traditional performers and crafters who live or work in the Washington area.

Many of these people are highly skilled artists, bringing the music, dance and cultural traditions of their original homes to our community.

Over the past few seasons the Festival has presented music and dance from India, Mongolia, North Africa, Ireland, Scotland, France, Israel, Brazil, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Iran, Turkey, Japan, Spain and from across the USA.

This year the Festival will again provide a rich smorgasbord of international culture along with American blues, bluegrass, old-time string bands, contemporary singer-songwriters, gospel, western swing, storytellers, and hand made crafts.

The Bumper Car Pavilion is transformed into a craft marketplace where local artisans demonstrate and sell their



Positive Vibrations Youth Steel.

wares. The Spanish Ballroom comes alive with music and dance workshops including traditional Hawaiian Hula, Klezmer, and English country Dance. Children and adults can listen intently to tall tales at the Storytelling Stage before heading to the restored 1921 Denzel carousel for a ride.

Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. There is a free shuttle available from the Geico Parking Lot at 4608 Willard Ave Chevy Chase, just blocks from Friendship Heights Metro.

Visit <http://www.washingtonfolkfestival.org> for the 2011 program schedule.

ENTERTAINMENT

Imagination Bethesda Celebrates Children and the Arts

The 17th annual Imagination Bethesda, a children's street festival celebrating children and the arts, is scheduled for Saturday, June 4 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Musical performances and professional children's entertainers will light up the stage, while hands-on art and craft activities will line the streets along Woodmont Avenue and Elm Street in downtown Bethesda.

Organized and managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, the festival will host local businesses and arts organizations that will provide a variety of hands-on art and craft activities to entertain and energize the 12-and-under crowd. Additionally, the festival will feature face painters, balloonists, a stilt-walker, a juggler, free giveaways and more.

Imagination Bethesda is a free event produced by the Bethesda Urban Partnership and is sponsored by MIX 107.3 FM, DC50 (WDCW-TV), The Gazette, Washington Parent and Bethesda Magazine. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Event participants hosting hands-on activities include: Adventure Theatre



Rocknoceros will be performing.

Create an 'Annie' decoder ring
American Plant
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Artworks
Draw with pastels
Audubon Naturalist Society
Create a nesting bag
Be With Me Playseum
Make air-dry cupcakes and wood painting projects
Beanstalk Montessori Mommy & Me
Montessori crafts
Bethesda Green
Make-your-own BeGreen chain
Bethesda Magazine
Coloring books, balloons and bubbles
Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts & Culture
Make and decorate musical instruments
Gymboree Play & Music of Bethesda
Movement to music activities
Imagination Stage
Make-your-own mask
Iran Cultural & Educational Center
Face painting, make a bookmark
Jabberü

tion and safety
Musikids
Explore musical instruments
Plaza Artist Materials
Create-your-own photo mat
Round House Theatre
Create miniature costume designs
Arts & crafts
Tea with Mrs. B
Imaginary tea parties, paper flowers
Washington Parent
Prize wheel and giveaways

Performances on stage include:

11 a.m. — The Funny Guy
12 p.m. — Wild Zappers
1 p.m. — Rocknoceros
2 p.m. — The Little Maestros
2:30 p.m. — Urban Impact
3:30 p.m. — Mutts Gone Nuts

Food vendors include: Delhi Dhaba, Haagen-Dazs, Hard Times Café, Lebanese Taverna, M&N's Pizza and Smoothie King.

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FINE ARTS



JUNE 11 AND 12

Angela Hansen — Color of Light Paintings. Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Artist's reception is Sunday, June 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park.

MAY 28, 29, 30

"Light, Shape and Color." An Exhibition of Original Watercolors by Michael F. Shibley. At the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park. The Gallery is open Saturday, May 28 from noon to 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 29, from noon to 5 p.m.; and, Monday, May 30, from noon to 6 p.m. Receptions for the artist are scheduled for Saturday, May 28, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and for Sunday, May 30, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the Yellow Barn Gallery at 1-301-371-5593 or contact the artist at 301-807-6890 or at mfs-art@comcast.net.

NOW THROUGH MAY 29

Miniature Marvels. Oils, watercolors, collages and mixed media with 12 artists: Jing-Jy Chen, Marilyn Devers, Bonita Glaser, Mimi Hegler, Linda Kozak, Pamela Patrick, Ellen Ratner, Genevieve Roberts, Nancy Still, Katherine Sullivan, Bonita Tabakin and Shirley Tabler. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

JUNE 3 TO 29

"Lyrical Hues" by Edith Sievers. Artist's presentation on June 12 and 26 from 1-2 p.m. Artist's reception is Saturday, June 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.



"Circus" by Frank Van Riper

JUNE 4 THROUGH JULY 17

"The Circus Show" — A photography exhibit exploring the wonder, magic and mystery of the circus. Free. The show includes works by August Sander, Lusha Nelson, Bruce Davidson, Benita Keller, Tom Cheche, Gayle Rothschild, Frank Van Riper, Victoria Gewirz, and Frank Herrera. An opening reception is June 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. At Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo.

JUNE 7 TO JULY 2

Embers. Ceramic Art by Liz Lescault and New Work by Gallery Artists. Artist's reception is Friday, June 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

JUNE 2 TO 27

"Explorations." Mixed media by artists Ruth Bird, Anne Carroll, Sue Hamilton, Bonny Lundy, Linda Porten, Elizabeth Riordon, and Kay Sandler. Meet the Artists Reception is Sunday, June 5 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

NOW THROUGH JUNE

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PHOTO BY JAN CROSSMAN

Junior midfielder Mairin Hall, seen earlier this season, scored each of Churchill's three goals during the Bulldogs' loss in the state semifinals on May 21.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Senior attack Katie Ruben, left and seen earlier this season, played her final game for Churchill on Saturday.

Still Not There Churchill girls repeat as region champs, lose big at states.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

For the second straight season, the Churchill girls lacrosse team captured the 4A-3A West Region title. For the second straight season, the Bulldogs' reward was a humbling experience at states.

Churchill lost to Severna Park 20-3 during the state semifinals at Arundel High School on May 21. Churchill trailed 8-0 be-

fore scoring its first goal with 13 minutes remaining in the first half, and faced an 11-1 halftime deficit. The loss is the only blemish on an otherwise perfect season for the Bulldogs, who went 15-0 and reached the region final for the third straight season.

While the loss to Severna Park was lopsided, Churchill is hoping to use it as a learning experience. Last season, the Bulldogs lost to C. Milton Wright 22-2 in the state semis.

"We came out here knowing it was going

to be so difficult," senior attack Katie Ruben said. "We knew once we get out of our region it gets a million times more difficult. These girls have been playing for so long and they're such great competition. We're really proud we did better than last year — last year it was [22-2] — so we know we improved and it feels good to come off with no regrets."

While Churchill will lose Ruben, the team's top goal and point scorer, to graduation, the Bulldogs will return plenty of tal-

ent, led by junior midfielder Mairin Hall, junior attack Maddie Flax and junior goalkeeper Kristina Roberts.

Hall scored each of Churchill's three goals on Saturday.

"I think she played really, really well," head coach Christen P. Gjeldum said. "She didn't surprise me because she always has her game face on. She's very competitive. I knew that she would step up today."

Hall, the team's center-mid, said the Bull
SEE CHURCHILL GIRLS. PAGE 13

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill Baseball Reaches Region Title Game

After starting the season 0-5 while being outscored 31-6, the Churchill baseball team bounced back with three straight victories. After the second win, a 7-2 defeat of Northwest on April 11, head coach Scott Blackwood made an optimistic statement.

"It took time [to start hitting] — it took a lot of time — but the great thing about it is it doesn't matter what your record is going into the playoffs," he said. "Everybody makes the playoffs. As long as we're playing our best baseball at the end of the season, that's all that matters."

Churchill finished the regular season with a 7-11 record, a three-game win streak, and received the No. 13 seed in the 4A West Region tournament. That's when the Bulldogs made Blackwood look like a genius.

Churchill won three playoff games, including an upset of defending state champion Sherwood, to ad-

vance to the region championship game. The Bulldogs fell short against Gaithersburg, losing 8-3, but the postseason run made for quite the turnaround from an 0-5 start.

Churchill's big win came on May 18, a 2-1, nine-inning victory over previously unbeaten Sherwood. Soft-tossing left-hander Kelby Spring limited the Warriors to one run and three hits over eight innings and the Bulldogs, who managed just two hits, won the game with a run in the ninth. Spring pitched the season opener against Sherwood, limiting the Warriors to one earned run on five hits in six innings during a 2-1 loss on March 21.

Churchill also defeated Paint Branch (10-5) and Richard Montgomery (7-4) in the playoffs.

Adu Named to US Gold Cup Team

Freddy Adu, formerly of Potomac, was named to the U.S. Soccer Gold Cup roster. The 21-year-old is a former student at The Heights. Adu made his profes-

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS. PAGE 13

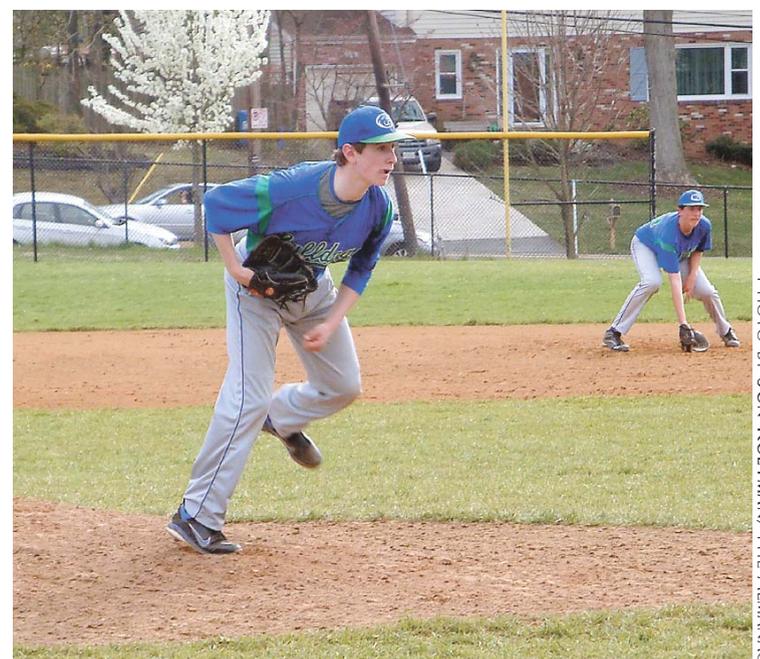


PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE ALMANAC

Churchill pitcher Kelby Spring, seen earlier this season, allowed one run over eight innings during a region semifinal victory over previously undefeated Sherwood on May 18.

SPORTS

Churchill Girls Lose at States

FROM PAGE 12

dogs knew what they were up against, but want to continue building on their performance at the state level.

"It's not the biggest disappointment because we knew it was going to be challenging," Hall said of the loss to Severna Park. "We're happy that we're able to hang in there. This is a huge accomplishment. It's an improvement on last year's score. Hopefully next year we'll come out and it will be even closer and hopefully we'll win. This is a learning experience for everybody.

"Coming here for the last two years, we've taken a lot from these games, seeing what kind of play these girls do. That's a big thing. We focus on the mistakes we've made during this game and try to improve because these are the kind of teams we're going to be playing every year if we make it to this point."

Ruben finished the season with 84 goals, Flax totaled 63 and Hall scored 61 goals and tallied a team-high 35 assists. With a 15-1 record, Churchill moved to 42-5 in three seasons under Gjeldum.

"Two years ago, we were undefeated but then lost in the region" final, Ruben said. "Last year, we weren't undefeated and then [won] the region [title]. This year, we put them both together and it felt great."

Gjeldum said the team needs to improve its possession game, along with speed and throwing and catching while working to compete at the state level. With the talent the Bulldogs will return in 2012, they'll be in the mix for a third consecutive trip to states. "We always look to come here and improve, but we have to mentally always know it's not going to be easy, but it's possible," Gjeldum said. "With the talent that we have, yes we're capable of coming back here, as long as we're confident, not cocky."

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 12

sional debut for D.C. United in 2004.

Wootton Boys Lacrosse Wins Region

The Wootton boys lacrosse team won the 4A-3A West Region title with an 18-9 victory over Walter

Johnson on May 18. The Patriots fell just short of the state championship game, losing to South River 14-13 in the semifinals on May 20 at Arundel High School.

Wootton entered regionals as the No. 3 seed and defeated Paint Branch (18-5), Churchill (10-7) and Walter Johnson on its way to a championship.

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-William Van Horne

Connection With a Reader



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, an e-mail was forwarded to me by one of the editors at Connection Newspapers. It was originally sent by a regular reader of the Arlington Connection. This alert reader had noticed that my column was missing from this particular week's edition, which sometimes happens, for a variety of reasons. Given the cancer content of my columns over the last nearly two years however, this reader expressed electronic concern about my health: "Is he OK?" When I received/read the e-mail, I immediately replied directly to the sender/inquirer that indeed I was "OK," and thanked her for her concern. For future consideration, I referred her to our Web site and provided instructions for accessing and viewing my weekly column, which is typically posted by Friday following our Wednesday publication date.

This reader's query got me thinking though, as I e-mailed my reply to her that evening, about the last column that I write, or I should say, the last column that will appear in print for the Connection Newspapers; you know, the one that I won't be around to read. It's a thought that persists in my head even though I try to deny its inevitability. Hoping and praying don't necessarily make it less likely. It's sort of a rock-paper-scissors kind of reality. There are certain rules – for lack of a better word, that exist. It reminds me of an exchange between Col. Henry Blake and Capt. Benjamin Franklin Pierce on an episode of *M*A*S*H* when "Hawkeye" was upset after a patient he was treating died. Col. Blake spoke with him outside of the operating room, during a brief respite after hours spent in surgery operating on a high number of casualties: "There are two rules in war. Rule number 1, young men die. Rule number 2, doctors can't change rule number 1."

Accepting my circumstances and trying not to stress over them is a major part my routine. Part of that acceptance is not thinking about – too much, anyway, what happens when. Still, somehow I must find a way because there are necessary and appropriate arrangements that need to be made, to simplify certain inevitabilities, shall we say. But thinking about them is exactly what I'm trying to avoid; my thought process being somewhere between denial and being positive. If I don't have negative thoughts, maybe I won't have negative results. And to me, thinking about death is fairly negative, so I try not to. But occasionally, I do, in spite of my best intentions.

Certainly, getting things in order would presumably provide some comfort – for the patient (yours truly) and for the people (family and friends), likely most affected by the patient's death. But if finding that order – and balance, creates so much stress on the patient in the interim that it potentially upsets that relative calm that semi exists (ALL things considered) by not confronting the what-to-do/what-will-happen-when questions, then why do them? "The final move" (Seinfeld reference), the final column/the one that appears after my death (or reference thereto), the final arrangements, etc; are all issues yet to be resolved, and issues quite frankly that need to be resolved. Yet, the prospects of doing so are so daunting that...

The reader didn't see my column, and wondered if its disappearance had something to do with my health. Fortunately, it did not. It was Kenny-column business as sometimes is usual and customary. One day though, hopefully much later than sooner, it won't be Kenny-column business as usual. It will be much different. I know I need to prepare for that day, but doing so means I'll have to alter my denial strategy, which will be an extremely difficult thing to do. And so far, diagnosis-to-date (almost 28 months), following this path of less resistance has worked wonders. I've outlived my original prognosis. How can I change now when I've beat all the odds originally presented to me?

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

PEOPLE

Local Golfer Invents Planefinder

Rusty Pies designs device to fine tune golf game.

By SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Potomac's Rusty Pies is known throughout Maryland for his outstanding golf game. Now he is making a name for himself as the inventor of The PlaneFinder — a golf device which, according to Golf Channel instructor Hank Haney, "teaches the proper swing plane instantly." With this device, golfers can improve all aspects of their game.

Pies, a former professional golfer, was helping a friend Dick Toomey improve his golf swing at his home course — Bethesda Country Club. He decided to build a box-like apparatus to help Toomey make adjustments to the swing on the backswing and downswing. Pies' first attempt was a bulky, wooden box, but with the help of BCC golf pro Pat Bedingfield, Pies changed the design and the materials. Finally, he had a finished product which was effective and provided immediate feedback if the club strayed from the proper plane.

In 2009, Pies traveled to the PGA golf show to learn if others had developed anything like his invention.

At the show, he met Hank Haney, demonstrated his device, and Haney was im-

pressed. He and Pies collaborated to bring the PlaneFinder to the market. Now, PGA Tour Champion Gary Koch endorses the PlaneFinder in a videotape which can be found on the PlaneFinder website www.theplanefinder.com.

Star of the Golf Channel, Haney has taught thousands of lessons to golfers of all abilities. Swing plane is the foundation of his teaching. "The beauty of the PlaneFinder is that you find out immediately what you're doing right and what you're doing wrong," said Haney. "And then by making subtle adjustments to the swing, every golfer can quickly discover their proper plane and how to remain on it. There's a big difference between 'feel' and 'real' and the PlaneFinder never lies."

According to the PlaneFinder website: "Tour players and golf instructors alike know that swinging on the proper plane is the key to effortless power, laser-like accuracy and, most of all, consistency. Golfers can improve all of those aspects in very short order as their swing plane improves. Not only can they use the PlaneFinder during practice sessions at the range, but at home as well. And the PlaneFinder works equally well with every club in the golfer's bag, from lob wedge to driver. It's the next best thing to taking hours of lessons with Hank Haney himself."

Pies said, "It took two years to develop the product and get the patent. Then we had to find investors. We started to demonstrate it to golfers. We found that golfers



Rusty Pies demonstrates The PlaneFinder.

liked our concept and found it to be an exceptional tool for making adjustments to their swing. They loved the immediate feedback. It allows golfers to feel where the swing plane is. Until now, the only way to practice swing on plane was using video or a mirror. It is also a wonderful tool to use with junior golfers to develop their swing."

The PlaneFinder sells for \$119.95 and can be ordered on the website: www.theplanefinder.com or by phone: 888-299-2986. Both right-handed and left-handed models are available.

Margaret Durante Launches New Music Video

FROM PAGE 9

What helped you growing up to get to where you are today?

My family was important in encouraging me to sing all the time. I would sing songs for my parents' friends when they came over. My parents drove me to all my choir practices and made me feel it was worth their time and my time to pursue music. My love for music evolved and became the only answer to "what should I do?"

Why do you think the performing arts are important?

In my house I was the one who sang. My family appreciated it and loved for me to sing. In school it was nice to have a group of people who liked to sing and embraced it. I think if someone wants to be involved in the arts the opportunity should be provided to them without it having to be an extracurricular activity. It should be provided in the community.

Have you always liked country music?

I have always liked country music. My mother played Tracy Chapman, Mary Chapin Carpenter and folk music a lot. I gravitated towards what I was used to growing up.

What was it like shooting your video for Maybe Tonight in your new hometown?

It was cool because the city closed off the roads. I got to drive the bus through downtown. It had no breaks or power steering so that was a bit hazardous. I wanted to include a dance sequence in the video and that was fun to do. I was on the dance team in school and had attended the School of Dance in Bethesda. It is fun to dance in a group and visually compelling. I was happy when I wrote the song and dance means happiness to me. The video is fun and light hearted and shows I don't take myself too seriously.

What is the story behind Maybe Tonight?

It is about the early stages of a relationship and wondering, "What will happen next?" It is a playful, flirtatious song.

What advice do you have for students who want to pursue music?

When you are young, start playing the guitar. I didn't start playing until I moved here and I wish I had started sooner. I also wish I had dedicated myself to a music career earlier. This business is not for the faint of heart. I moved away from my family and friends. It was something I was sure about and I had lots of ambition. If you are sure

of your dream totally jump in. Listen to yourself and your instincts. Your art you are making has to be genuine and true to have it go over with other people.

What is coming up for you this summer?

I am looking into touring this summer and I am playing the CMA music festival. Right now I am doing a 100 city and radio tour. I am anxious to get a full band together and get in front of an audience. I hope to return to the D.C. area this summer. The local support has been incredible.

Margaret Durante's new music video for "Maybe Tonight" is currently being featured on AOL's TheBoot.com and CMT.com, and will be airing on television music channels soon. To watch visit, <http://www.cmt.com/videos/margaret-durante/646117/maybe-tonight.jhtml>.

Also CountryWeekly.com where Durante gives fans a behind-the-scenes tour of The Tracking Studio in Nashville, Tennessee. Throughout the tour, she explains what the recording process can be like. Go to http://www.countryweekly.com/margaret_durante/videos/145

For more information go to <http://www.margaretdurante.com> [Facebook.com/margaretdurantemusic](https://www.facebook.com/margaretdurantemusic) [Twitter.com/margaretdurante](https://twitter.com/margaretdurante).

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A Wonderful Evening of Food & Music

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Our HOSTS

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Roxanne & Christian David
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