

# Potomac ALMANAC

## Undaunted By More Snow

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**Morgan Riso, 10 years old, of Potomac, enjoys some snow-padding on the family hammock. A storm brought a fresh layer of snow on Monday, March 17.**

### Three Minutes Matter

NEWS, PAGE 3

### Hunters' Unplanned Renovations

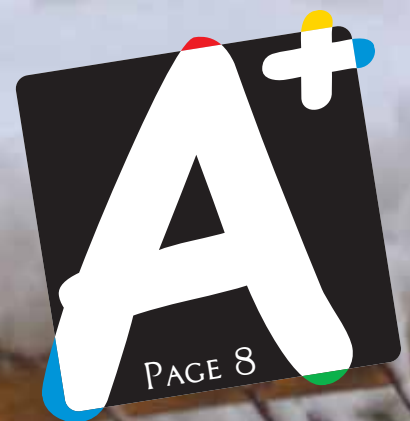
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### CBS Sunday Morning Interviews RentACoop Owners

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### Whitman Finishes State Runner-Up

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JILL PHILLIPS

Bill Geist reporter from CBS Sunday morning accompanied by his producer, sound technician and cameraman, with Tyler Phillips and Diana Samata.

## CBS: Chicken Broadcasting System?

**CBS Sunday Morning interviews RentACoop owners.**

Bill Geist, correspondent of CBS Sunday Morning, came to Potomac on Monday, March 10, to interview Tyler Phillips and Diana Samata, owners of RentACoop.com, a business that rents egg-laying hens and everything needed to gather eggs.

The segment is scheduled to air on Sunday morning, March 23 at 9 a.m. RentACoop provides the opportunity for an unusual pet with a ton of personality, to educate one's children about where food comes from and the ability to have the freshest organic eggs available every morning. What is Included in the RentACoop program?



Jill Phillips, Tyler's mother, being interviewed by Bill Geist and the CBS team. She was scrambling fresh organic eggs from RentACoop hens.

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❖ Informational chicken care pamphlet.



Diana Samata and Tyler Phillips, co-owners of RentACoop.com



Bill Geist is surrounded by chickens in the Phillips' living room.





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Hunters Bar and Grill reopened at 4 p.m. on Monday after a car crashed through its front wall on Sunday night. St. Patrick's Day is always a big day at Hunters.**



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

**Fortunately no one was sitting at the table closest to the front window. The black Audi plowed all the way into the building up to the bar and then backed out, according to witnesses.**

## Hunters' Unplanned Renovations

BY MARY KIMM  
AND KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**I**t was just before 9:30 p.m. on a snowy Sunday night at Hunters Bar and Grill in Potomac Village. In the pub, no one was sitting at the table closest to the front window, and Fred Berman was sitting with his wife and daughter at a table between there and the bar.

Then there was a huge explosion as a car drove through the front wall, smashing through glass, brick wall and tables.

"I thought I was dead," said Fred Berman, who owns the restaurant with his brother Murray. "Somebody drove a car through our window and then it went out as fast as it came in."

The black Audi came fully into the pub at significant speed, knocking over the table where the Bermans were sitting and coming to a stop a few feet from the bar. Berman's wife and daughter fell to the sides, but Fred Berman was knocked to the ground in front of the car, and remembers noting that the car stopped.

One person who had been sitting at that end of the bar jumped onto the bar as the car stopped, and then heard the engine revving loudly and worried that it would fly further into the building.

Instead the car zoomed backwards out of the building and stopped, covered with glass and leaving chaos inside the restaurant.

The driver came into the building and said, "This is my fault," and then sat down and cried, said one eye-witness.

Fred Berman said he took a trip to Suburban Hospital and had a CT Scan confirming that he was not injured beyond some bumps and bruises.

"It was like a scene from a Mel Gibson movie," he said. "It was amazing."

On Monday morning, March 17, workers erected a new sheetrock wall inside, and painted it red in time for Hunters to open at 4 p.m. for St. Patrick's Day, a traditional celebration at the restaurant.

The driver was arrested when police arrived, according to several people on the scene.

More than a decade ago another driver plowed through the front wall on the other side of the restaurant.

Fred Berman said he will talk to the landlord about erecting some sort of barriers to block cars from jumping the curb and smashing into the restaurant in the future.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**One patron jumped up onto the bar as the car sped in. Hunters was able to put up a temporary wall and reopen by 4 p.m. for St. Patrick's Day.**

## 3 Minutes Matter

**Planners urge study of improving water quality in Watts Branch.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**T**hree minutes of advocacy could make a difference. For years, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has said it needs a new water intake pipe in the center of the river.

"Water quality in the middle of the river is much more stable," said Doug Brinkman, an engineer who testified for WSSC before the Montgomery County Planning Board Thursday, March 13.

The current intake on the shoreline is "adversely impacted by its location on the Potomac River shoreline," he said.

"Especially during storm events, sediments and debris, particularly from Watts Branch, cause source water quality to change dramatically, and affect the plant operations," according to WSSC.

But for years, environmental advocates including Ginny Barnes of West Montgomery County Citizens Association and Neal Fitzpatrick of Audubon Naturalist Society have argued that Watts Branch and other streams demand the county's attention.

"Watts Branch is deteriorating and we have to address it," Barnes said during her testimony at last Thursday's two-and-a-half-hour hearing.

"If these stream buffers aren't good enough to protect our drinking water, we need to rethink that. It isn't just to go further and further into the river to put our straw," Barnes said.

WSSC proposed four alternatives for its plans to continue to provide safe reliable drinking water to Montgomery County and Prince George's County, three that include 96-inch steel pipes with capacity to withdraw 400 million gallons of water a day and would take approximately four years of construction to complete.

A "No Action Alternative" is required by county policy in order to demonstrate the impacts should the county do nothing.

Fairfax County already has an intake pipe in the center of the river, and Loudoun County is anticipated to request its own intake in the center of the river shortly.

Following remarks from WSSC and Barnes, the Planning Board asked its staff and WSSC to study the feasibility of improving the quality of Watts Branch, both as an option by itself and as an action to be done in conjunction with the potential building of a new intake pipe.



# POTOMAC ALMANAC

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## NEWS

# EN Bistro and Sushi Opens in the Village

**Chefs prepare  
Chinese, Thai  
and Japanese  
dishes daily.**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

The word EN in Japanese means destiny — and it seems the fate of EN Bistro and Sushi is to bring the freshest of sushi, sashimi, Japanese, Chinese and Thai food to Potomac residents. With the freshness and quality of his sushi and menu items, well-known Montgomery County sushi chef and restaurateur Billy Ye is already making his mark on the Potomac restaurant scene.

Located just behind the Verizon store in the Potomac Village Shopping Center (near Tally Ho and next to Big Wheel Bikes), the space has been built out into a Japanese bistro, complete with a kimono, once owned by a famous Japanese movie actor.

The kimono was sent to Ye by his mother many years ago — and he has been waiting to find the just right spot for hanging it. Ye has other Asian restaurants in Mont-



Chef Honma, Billy Ye and Chef Liu

gomery County, including Momo Taro Sushi (now closed) and Sushi EN in Rockville and the EN Asian Bistro in Germantown.

However, in addition to overseeing his restaurants, his specialty is catering — providing fresh, delicious sushi to other venues, such as Congressional Country Club, Bethesda Country Club, the ATT National Golf Tournament, the Marriott, the Hyatt and more. Ye is well-known throughout the county for the sushi and sashimi platters he delivers for parties and galas. “I usually provide 1000 –

2000 pieces,” said Ye. “The most we ever did was 18,000 pieces for the Gaylord Hotel.” He has also catered many Democratic and Republican Governor parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings and scores of local parties.

Ye, who is Chinese, learned his skill of making sushi in Tokyo. After he immigrated to the U.S., he worked at sushi restaurants and then went out on his own. Now he trains sushi chefs in the art of making sushi. “My secret is to use the freshest fish that I can buy. I also use premium Japanese sushi

rice.”

“I originally thought of opening the restaurant in Potomac to be closer to the sites I cater,” said Ye. “However, the restaurant has taken off and we are attracting crowds from all around the area who know me. We are doing really well. We also feature take-out and free delivery and that too is very busy.”

Ye’s wife Lily, who during the week is the cafeteria manager at Travilah Elementary, and his daughter help in the restaurant on the weekends. He also has a number of experienced sushi chefs including Chef Liu and Chef Honma.

In addition to sushi and sashimi, the chefs prepare Chinese, Thai and other Japanese dishes daily. Some of the menu items include teriyaki chicken, beef, salmon and shrimp tempura as well as noodle dishes from all three countries. The restaurant also features a variety of vegetarian items as well as lunch and dinner specials. “Since I am Chinese, I know what good Chinese food tastes like. Ours is authentic and excellent,” said Ye.

EN Bistro and Sushi, 9945 Falls Road, Potomac is open 7 days a week, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Visit [www.enbistro.com](http://www.enbistro.com) or call 301-983-8600.

# Iron Mike, Two Wash Basins and Me

BY ELLIOT WILNER

Years ago I was a member of a gym (or “Health Club”) located on Wisconsin Avenue in Chevy Chase. Joining this gym was an easy choice for me, since the gym occupied the penthouse floor of the same building in which my office was located. For a time, in the late 1990s — when he was past his heyday as the heavyweight boxing champ of the world — Mike Tyson occasionally visited my gym. He would arrive in the early afternoon, I was told, accompanied by his trainer and a couple of bodyguards, and spend a couple of hours working out. Because I could schedule my visits to the gym only after work, in the late afternoon or early evening, I never laid eyes on Mr. Tyson myself.

The reason for Tyson’s choosing this particular gym — patronized mainly by individuals whose offices were in the building or by retired people who lived in the neighborhood — was a matter of speculation. At the time, Tyson was married to a Georgetown University medical student; he had purchased for his bride a mansion in Potomac, where she resided, and he stayed there, too, whenever it was convenient.

There were other gyms located closer to their

house, and there may even have been a gym in the house, but for some reason he chose to frequent my gym. Maybe he just wanted to get out of the house and out of the neighborhood.

On our daughter’s 19th birthday, in September, 1999, my wife and I had arranged to take her out to dinner. We agreed that my wife would drive, with our daughter, to the street behind my office building and I would meet them there at 6 o’clock. That allowed me enough time to visit the gym for a quick workout and a shower. After I had showered and dressed, I walked into an adjoining locker room where

there were two wash basins, intending to brush my teeth. However, my way was blocked by a very muscular black man — naked except for a towel around his waist — who was positioned between the two wash basins, combing his hair in front of the large mirror mounted on the wall.

His back was to me. There were two other black men in the room, both very large individuals, who were standing against a row of lockers and talking to one another. Instantly I had an intimation of déjà vu.

“Excuse me,” I said to the muscular black man, in the blandest tone of voice that I could muster. “Would you mind moving just a bit to the right or the left, so that I could use one of

the wash basins?”

“Oh, sure,” he answered, as he immediately took three paces backward. “I’m sorry ... please go ahead.”

There was no mistaking that high-pitched, squeaky voice, which I had heard on several occasions when Mike Tyson was being interviewed on TV. Beyond any doubt, the man who was speaking to me was Mike Tyson. Iron Mike. Formerly known as “the baddest man on the planet.”

I quickly brushed my teeth, rode the elevator down to street level, hurried across the street and entered the car in which my wife and daughter were waiting.

While driving, I provided them with an account of what had just transpired in the locker room of the gym.

They both laughed appreciatively, and then my daughter asked a question: “Dad, let me get this straight. You and Mike Tyson were in the same locker room. You told Mike Tyson to back off and he backed off. Do I have that right? Is that what happened?”

I pondered her question for a second or two. “Yes” I said. “That’s about right. That is what happened.”

In all fairness to Iron Mike, I should acknowledge that he was clearly on the downside of his career at the time of our confrontation.



## PEOPLE

# Country Club Manager Honored for Leadership

## University praises Cance's mentoring.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**B**radley Cance, general manager and chief operating officer of the Bethesda Country Club was recently honored by his alma mater, Michigan State University with his selection into the 2013 Hall of Fame "Class of Mentors."

Cance was chosen for the coaching and mentoring support he has given to students from the university. He has counseled and guided interns, and assisted future club managers in their searches for employment within the industry. He has also been one of the top two or three alumni in Destination Auction donations each year for 10 years. Cance received the award at the university's annual Celebration of Leadership, held on Nov. 9, 2013 in New York City.

Cance, who graduated from the School of Hospitality at MSU in 1989, began serving on the board of directors 12 years ago and is now a member of the executive board. He serves as a national representative for the Washington DC Club Managers Association of America. His career in hospitality began at the front desk of the Four



**Bradley Cance receives his leadership award from Michigan State University.**

Seasons Hotel Chicago. "I wanted only the best and was determined to learn from ground zero," said Cance. He came to Bethesda Country Club in 2011 from the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach, Fla. Cance and his wife Mary Beth chose to make the move to give their two children, Harrison and Hunter a place "to call home." Cance's dad was a career executive with American Airlines and growing up, he moved 16 times; Mary Beth, 12 times. Having a permanent home is important to both of them.

"My dad was the reason I entered the hospitality field," said Cance. "I remember one time when he had to calm down an irate passenger (who was a regular flyer on AA.)

He actually hopped on the San Francisco flight to Chicago and sat next to the passenger, apologizing on behalf of the company. The two became friends. I have adopted the same concept of customer service and gracious hospitality."

In the past few years, the Bethesda Country Club has built a new tennis center, renovated their fitness center, built a Golf Course Maintenance facility and made extensive changes to the clubhouse infrastructure.

"I came to BCC after the members decided to go forward with improvements," said Cance. "It's been a good decision and the facilities and club are in great shape. They chose to improve the facilities even though the economy was difficult. This is a family club that has generations that will support it for years to come. I have to give kudos to the leadership among the members of BCC. They have been invaluable in making the club an outstanding facility."

Cance has also brought about important improvements and changes to BCC. When he came to BCC, Cance was given the opportunity to fine-tune operations, to introduce concepts and programs, to hire new

staff and to introduce initiatives. He brought in the award-winning Chef Chris Mayo from the Ritz-Carlton Palm Beach — "a chef who is 'big on presentation and quality,'" said Cance. "His cuisine is contemporary American with a French influence." BCC has increased the numbers of weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs and corporate events held there each year. He has also hired new managers and staff. "I am in the people industry and I understand that the most important resource for success is the people I choose and lead," he said.

Other positive changes have come for BCC employees because of Cance's guidance. There is a new employee dining room, an employee wellness program (the club was just recognized as #4 in the nation for healthy clubs by Prevo Health Solutions) and a team spirit. "We are always looking at how we are going to meet and exceed the member's needs and expectation — but also at how to make the work experience positive for our employees. It's a win-win."

Cance serves as a mentor to his employees as well as to recent grads from MSU. "I help others set clear, concise and reachable goals. I tell them to be proud of what they do. Many have gone before them and blazed a path of excellence with hard work, dedication, risk, self-sacrifice and a desire to be the best at what they do."

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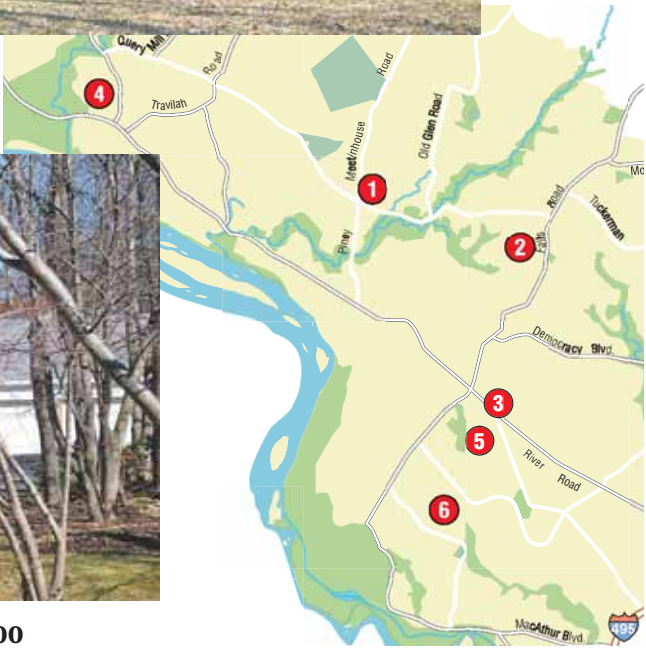
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Theater Performance.** See “Sleeping Beauty” in the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Runs Feb. 13-March 23. \$10. Recommended for grades Pre-K-6. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

**Art Exhibit.** See “Love is in the Air” at Photoworks Gallery in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Exhibit runs Feb. 21-March 31. Hours are Saturdays 1-4 p.m. and Sundays from 1-8 p.m. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** See “Inside Out” at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Runs March 1-April 6. Performances are Tuesdays-Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., and Saturdays-Sundays at 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Interactive show appropriate for ages 1-5. Tickets are \$10-12 with a \$5 lap seat for children under 12 months. Tickets at [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org), at the box office or 301-280-1660.

**Art Exhibit.** See “Expressions in Glass” in the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Hours are Saturdays and Sundays from noon-6 p.m. Runs March 22 through April 7. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 301-634-2222.

**Theater Production.** See “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” presented by Rockville Musical Theatre at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Runs April 4-20. Visit <http://www.r-m-t.org/> or 301-258-6394.

**Art Exhibit.** “Seeing it in Black and White” is on exhibit at Gallery Har Shalom in Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, March 2-April 28. The exhibit features prints, photography, glass jewelry and more. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m.-noon. Free. 301-299-7087.

**Kaplan Gallery.** See “Abstraction: Finding the Thread” through Sunday April 20, at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Some of the artists include,

Timothy App, Dan Dudrow, Dennis Farber, Carol Miller Frost, Bill Schmidt, Jo Smail, and Michael Weiss. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

**Group of Four.** See large format photography exhibit, on March 29-May 4. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Monday-Friday, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**Blues Dance.** 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$8. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 21

**Contra Dance.** 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:15 -11:30 p.m. dancing in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Tunescape provides music. \$10/adult; \$5/age 17 and under. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. See the 15th Annual Friends of the Yellow Barn High School Art Exhibition. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**Opening Reception.** 6-8 p.m., see “Expressions in Glass” in the Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 301-634-2222.

**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Features music by Pie in the Sky Band. \$18. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 23

**Art Exhibit.** Noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. See the 15th Annual Friends of the Yellow Barn High School Art Exhibition. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**Ballroom Dance.** 3-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by Hot Society Orchestra of Washington. All ages. \$14/adult; \$5/child age 12 and under. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11 p.m. at Back Room Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Contra Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to music by Tunescape. \$13/nonmember; \$10/member; \$5/17 and under. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 27

**Blues Dance.** 8:15 p.m. lessons start, dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$8. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 28

**Theater Performance.** Wootton High School is putting on “Hairspray” at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. E-mail [carla\\_a\\_ingram@mcpsmd.org](mailto:carla_a_ingram@mcpsmd.org) or 301-279-8550.

**Contra Dance.** 7:30 p.m. lessons start; 8:30 -11:30 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Figmets provide music. \$10/adult; \$5/17 and under. Visit [fridaynightdance.org](http://fridaynightdance.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**Book Conference.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Rd, Bethesda. Sponsored by the Washington Independent Review of Books, BOOKS ALIVE! is for writers and book lovers of all types. Includes an opportunity for aspiring authors to pitch their work to literary agents. Visit [www.wirobooks.com](http://www.wirobooks.com) for more.

**Blues Workshop.** Noon-5 p.m. in the Back Room Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Admission to be determined. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. Wootton High School is putting on “Hairspray” at in the auditorium, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. E-mail [carla\\_a\\_ingram@mcpsmd.org](mailto:carla_a_ingram@mcpsmd.org) or 301-279-8550.

**Celebration of Music.** 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Free, but donations towards scholarships accepted. Visit <http://washingtonconservatory.org> for more.

**Blues Dance.** 8 p.m. lessons start, dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$17. Capital Blues presents the dances. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 30

**Fundraiser.** 1-5 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. All-you-can-eat shrimp and oyster feast fundraiser. \$45/person. Advance purchase required, 301-977-6634. Visit [www.bccrs.org](http://www.bccrs.org) for more.

**Dramatic Narrative.** 1-3 p.m. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Anthony Cohen will perform “The Underground Railroad.” \$30/adult; \$15/youth age 13-18; families are \$60. Visit [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org) or 301-229-0400.

**Theater Performance.** Wootton High School is putting on “Hairspray” at 2 p.m. in the auditorium, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. \$10/general; \$15/reserved. E-mail [carla\\_a\\_ingram@mcpsmd.org](mailto:carla_a_ingram@mcpsmd.org) or 301-279-8550.

**Waltz Dance.** 2:45-6 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by The Figments. \$10. Visit [www.waltztimedances.org](http://www.waltztimedances.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Performance by Peter Minkler and Jeremy Gill. \$25. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

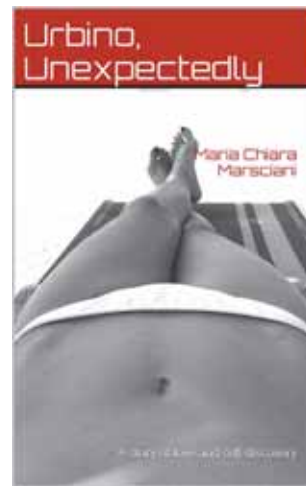
**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11 p.m. at Back Room Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Contra Dance.** 7 p.m. lessons start; 7:30 -10:30 p.m. dancing in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Figments provide music. \$13/nonmember; \$10/member; \$5/age 17 and under. Visit [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 4

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. More than 250 American artisans will show and sell their handcrafted work. Browse pottery, sculpture, glass, fashion, metal, fine art and more. Food, demonstrations, children’s activities and live music will also be available. \$8/online or \$10/door for adults; children under 12 are free. Visit [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com) or call 800-210-9900.

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# How To Prepare for the New SAT

Local experts say working hard in class is the best way to be successful.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**L**inda Mitchell and her 15-year-old daughter, Alexis, say they don't really know what to expect when Alexis sits for the SAT college admissions exam in 2016, but they're not too worried at this point. Two years is a long time.

"I'm just going to make sure she gets the best education possible," said Mitchell, who lives in Great Falls, Va. "There's nothing else that I can really do at this point."

Local experts said that Mitchell's strategy is wise, explaining that the best way current ninth grade students (and those who are younger) can prepare for the test is to become strong readers and writers.

"It would appear that College Board's recent announcement regarding the redesigning of the SAT will indeed have some impact on how students, mainly current ninth graders, will prepare for standardized tests in the coming years," said Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac. "The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in

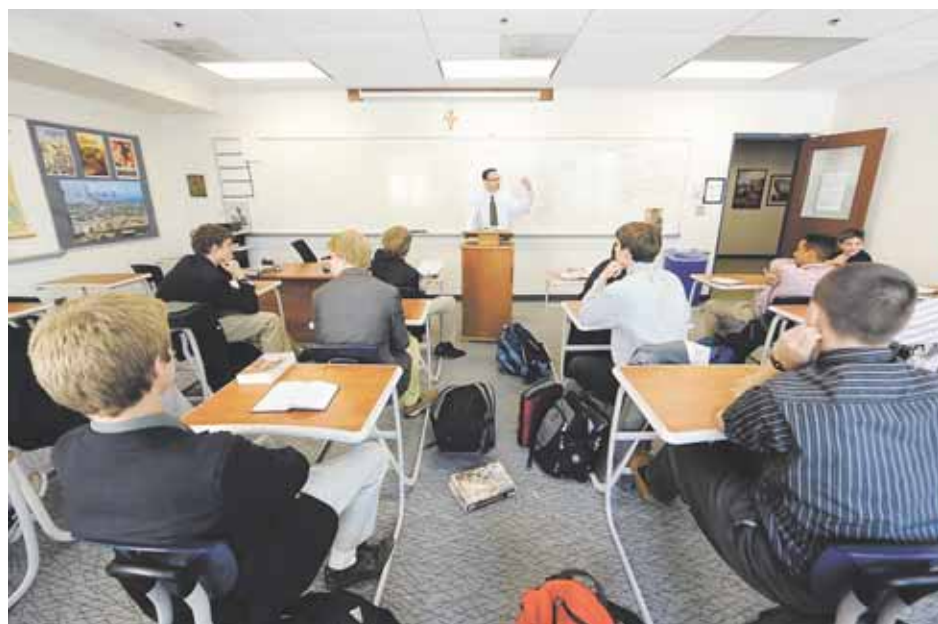


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

**Michael Ortiz teaches an English class at The Heights School in Potomac. Experts say strong reading and writing skills are important for standardized test success.**

everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

Reading and reading comprehension

skills are key. "There are kids today who love to read. They've been exposed to an extensive vocabulary so they aren't afraid

## Test Prep


Harriet Broder of Breakthrough Test Prep will answer questions about preparing for standardized tests for parents of high school students. Broder, based in Potomac, has more than 35 years of test preparation experience. Meet at Westlake Corner Bakery in Bethesda on Wednesday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m.

of words," said test preparation expert Harriet Broder of Breakthrough Test Prep in Potomac. "If you're a strong reader, you're going to do well on the test."

So how can parents help their children become more effective readers? "I have had students who say they hate reading," said Broder. "One thing that parents can do, for example, for children who don't like to read, is if their child wants to go see a movie, the parent can say 'Read at least two or three reviews about this movie and the tell me why you want to see it.' That is the place to start for non-readers."

Students, said Broder, should also be ex

SEE STRATEGIES, PAGE 9






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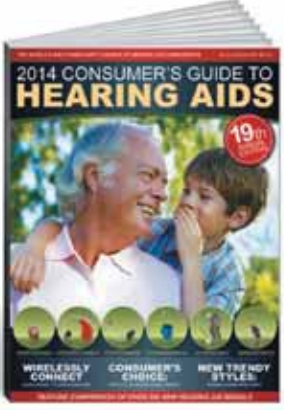
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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

**Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, encourages students “to read as many good and challenging books as possible” to prepare for standardized tests.**

## Strategies for Success

FROM PAGE 8

posed to a variety of writing styles. “There’s no magic SAT fairy dust,” she said. “Students should be exposed to different types of writing. They will be able to apply their skills more comfortably.”

Broder also said improving reading speed and learning to recognize an author’s main point and how the author had developed that point are critical skills. “Kids need to be trained to read to learn the author’s thesis,” she said. “Some students can read a chapter in a school book and can answer questions at the end, but they can’t tell you the main point the author is trying to make.”

Broder said an improved reading ability can be accomplished with “step-by-step ... strategies in critical reading, problem-solving [and] vocabulary development ...”

Officials at Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington, Va., said they will focus on professional development strategies for teachers so they can help prepare students for the new test format.

“The proposed changes to the SAT will definitely have some impact in the way students prepare for the exam. The elimination of more obscure vocabulary words, free online test prep materials and aligning the test to coincide with what students actually learn in

high school will allow students to focus more clearly on what they need to know to do well,” said Kristina Herbst, the school’s director of college counseling. “Also, the elimination of the penalty for wrong answers will make the test more user-friendly and help eliminate much anxiety over guessing while taking the test.”

For those concerned about how the revised test might impact their admittance to their top college choices, officials at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., said they don’t foresee a large ad-

justment.

“We will need to adjust to the changes in scoring, but otherwise no significant difference at this time,” said Francesca Reed, associate vice president for enrollment at Marymount.

“When we evaluate applicants, we look at the applicant holistically and consider not only their high school GPA and rigor, but their letters of reference and the level of engagement at their school and/or community. In an age when colleges are considering test-optional admissions, standardized tests will need to demonstrate that they provide admissions offices with resources that otherwise wouldn’t have been determined through grades and other requirements.”

**“The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible.”**

**— Michael R. Hude, The Heights School**

## LET’S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

### The Appraiser and What He Does

Home appraisals might be more accurately described as “home evaluations”. Appraisals are an essential part of the home sale process, from both the buyer and the seller’s end, and are invaluable tools to have firmly in hand before an offer ever hits the table. Many sellers have an appraisal completed before the home is listed, in order to get a working grasp of current home value trends in the market and establish a baseline for the asking price. It is important to keep a few key pieces of information in mind when having an appraisal performed on your house. First, both appraisers and their appraisals vary—so make sure to find a reputable, experienced, reliable appraiser in your area to perform your home’s appraisal. Three different appraisals by three different appraisers might give you three different ideas about your home’s value—and while you definitely don’t want an appraiser who lowballs your home’s value and causes you to ask for a price lower than your home is worth, likewise you don’t want an appraiser who overinflates your home’s value, making your asking price higher than what the market will bear and keeps your home languishing without a potential buyer in sight. The most accurate appraisal is one that is neither too high, nor too low—a realistic evaluation of what the home is worth, versus what the market will bear that results in a home being sold with a reasonable profit to the seller in an expedient amount of time. An appraiser’s document is only as valuable as their expertise and reliability, and in a profession that’s not strictly regulated, you want to ensure that you’ve not paid a fee to a flight-by-night appraiser whose evaluation of your home’s value isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on. Ask your Realtor® to point you in the direction of a reputable home appraiser, and screen the appraiser thoroughly before contracting their services. With just a little extra effort on your part, your home’s most accurate asking price could be just a phone call away! Things to ask an appraiser before contracting their services include:

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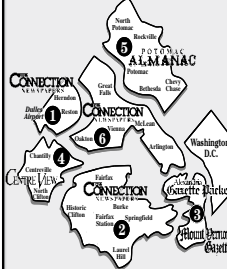
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## No Know. No Problem.

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's and old advisory among salespeople: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naïve, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

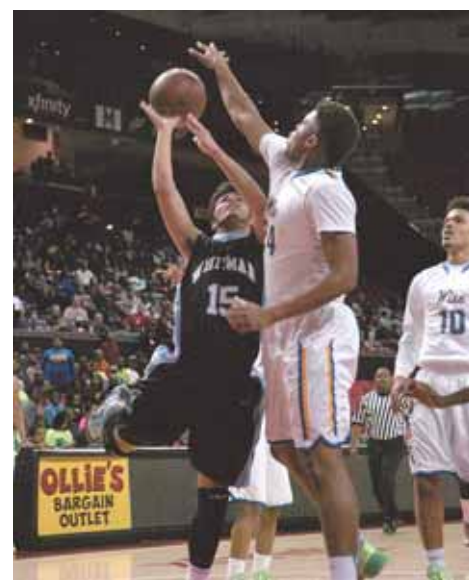
A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

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

## SPORTS



Whitman sophomore Kyle Depollar looks to pass from the floor of University of Maryland's Comcast Center during the 4A state championship game against Wise on March 15.



Whitman senior Max Steinhorn goes up for a shot against 6-foot-5 Wise junior Trevor Brown during the 4A state championship game on March 15.

# Whitman Finishes State Runner-Up

## Vikings crowd stays loud until game's end.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo days after beating Annapolis in the semifinals, the Whitman boys' basketball team took the court at University of Maryland's Comcast Center on March 15 to face a talented opponent in the state championship game.

The Pumas of Wise High School, located in Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County, featured superior size and athleticism. They had four players listed at 6 feet 5 or taller, including 6-foot-6 senior Micah Till, who entered the state tournament averaging 17.2 points per game and will play football at North Carolina State University.

Throughout the evening, Whitman's spirited crowd, equal parts enormous and boisterous, showed an enthusiasm that mirrored the constant effort of their beloved Vikings. But on this night, Whitman needed more than desire and support while facing one of the top teams in the Washington, D.C.-metro area.

Wise scored the first eight points of the game. The Pumas led by 15 at the end of the first quarter and built an overwhelming 42-15 halftime advantage. When the final buzzer sounded, Wise had defeated Whitman 70-43 to win the Class 4A state championship.

Despite the lopsided defeat, the Vikings didn't hang their heads. Head coach Chris Lun held up the state runner-up trophy toward the Whitman crowd. Seniors Ben Castagnetti, Max Steinhorn and Adam Lowet carried the trophy over to Vikings fans to share the moment.

Whitman finished the season with a 21-7 record. While the Vikings earned the No. 2 seed in Section I of the 4A West region, they did so without overwhelming athleticism or a single star athlete. The Vikings worked their way through the postseason, earning the program's first region championship and state-playoff appearance since 2006.

The Pumas are "athletic, fast, quick, well-coached: certainly the best team we've seen," Lun said after the state final. "They absolutely deserved to win the championship tonight. But I'll tell you what, I couldn't be more proud of the guys sitting with me and all the guys back in our locker room. What a season for us and it's something I know these guys will never forget and I

won't either.

"... We're going to keep our heads held high. We had a great run. I couldn't be more proud of our seniors. The team that we had this year, a lot of people never expected us to be here, so we're not going to let anybody take that away from us."

Six-foot-7 senior center Josh Fried led Whitman with 12 points and seven rebounds during the state final. His bucket midway through the first quarter cut Wise's lead to 10-5, but the Pumas pulled away from there.

"We were able to penetrate fine," Steinhorn said, "I just don't think we hit shots and weren't able to spread them out as much."

Sophomore guard Kyle Depollar helped the Vikings reach the state final with a 20-point, five-rebound performance against Annapolis in the semifinals on March 13. Steinhorn had 13 points against Annapolis.

While the Vikings played from behind during throughout the state final, Whitman fans stayed for the entire game, showing support until the very end.

"It was absolutely unbelievable," Castagnetti said. "Our support has been amazing this entire year. They've come out to every one of our games in full force. To see a stadium packed like that is something I'll remember forever. It was just awesome that we could bring that many people and that many people stayed until the very end to support all the seniors and the entire team."

Seniors Fried, Lowet, Steinhorn, Castagnetti, Adam Joel, Ryan Hannegan, Alex Lesley and Alec Szparaga suited up for Whitman for the final time.

Depollar and junior Riley Shaver will be two of the Vikings' top returning athletes for the 2014-15 campaign.

"I think that we put Whitman basketball back on the map," Castagnetti said, "and we're definitely a force to be reckoned with."



## Out in the Snow

Grant Hoscheit and Jack Feldman take advantage of a snow day on Monday, March 17.



Kilo is asking Kizzie and Klipper, Anne Bolen's terriers, for a ride in her truck: "Get me out of this snow!"



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