

Potomac ALMANAC

Shirley Povich interviews Walter Johnson, and you can perch on the bench with them.



Big Train, Big Experience

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Fireworks!

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Options for Voting

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REAL ESTATE, PAGE 2 ♦ EDUCATION, PAGE 9 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY KEN MOORE

JUNE 15-21, 2022

ONLINE AT POTOMACALMANAC.COM

Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS FROM BRIGHT MLS

April, 2022 Top Sales

IN APRIL, 2022, 68 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$4,050,000-\$733,000.



2 10818 Red Barn Lane — \$3,700,000



7 6 Hartman Court — \$2,050,000



4 10901 Burbank Drive — \$2,520,000



6 9308 Mercy Hollow Lane — \$2,318,000



5 9012 Belmont Road — \$2,475,000



1 9919 Logan Drive — \$4,050,000



3 10617 MacArthur Boulevard — \$2,575,000

Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City.....	Sold Price...	Type.....	Lot AC.	Postal Code ...	Subdivision.....	Date Sold				
1 9919 LOGAN DR	7	..	7	..	2	.....	POTOMAC	\$4,050,000	...	Detached..	1.15.....	20854.....	POTOMAC	.....	04/27/22
2 10818 RED BARN LN	6	...	8	...	2	.....	POTOMAC	\$3,700,000	...	Detached..	2.04.....	20854.....	POTOMAC	.....	04/29/22
3 10617 MACARTHUR BLVD .	6	...	7	...	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,575,000	...	Detached..	0.58.....	20854.....	POTOMAC	.....	04/22/22
4 10901 BURBANK DR	5	...	4	...	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,520,000	...	Detached..	2.23.....	20854..	POTOMAC MANOR	.....	04/08/22
5 9012 BELMART RD	5	...	5	...	2	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,475,000	...	Detached..	2.07.....	20854...	POTOMAC FALLS	...	04/29/22
6 9308 MERCY HOLLOW LN...	5	...	4	...	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,318,000	...	Detached..	1.82.....	20854..	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	.....	04/21/22
7 6 HARTMAN CT	6	...	3	...	2	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,050,000	...	Detached..	0.56.....	20854....	MCAULEY PARK....	.....	04/05/22
8 10701 BALANTRE LN	6	...	7	...	1	.....	POTOMAC	\$2,001,000	...	Detached..	2.38.....	20854	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS	.....	04/29/22
9 10514 UNITY LN	4	...	4	...	2	POTOMAC	\$2,000,000	...	Detached..	2.49.....	20854...	NONE AVAILABLE..	04/29/22

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[HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2022/MAY/17/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-APRIL-2022/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/may/17/potomac-home-sales-april-2022/)

Big Train, Big Expectations

We knew them when ...

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Before Hunter Renfroe became an outfielder for the San Diego Padres, Tampa Bay Rays, Boston Red Sox and now the Milwaukee Brewers, his “host mom” Becky Crowley promised him a steak dinner whenever he hit a home run for the Bethesda Big Train at Cabin John Park’s Shirley Povich Field.

Renfroe hit 8 home runs and batted .305 the first year he played for the Big Train in 2011. After his next season at Mississippi State, he had opportunities to play in the

lo remembers being asked.

“Is the Pope Catholic?” he said.

“Everything he did, he worked for,” said Colangelo.

Renfroe set records the next year that still stand in the Big Train record books: 16 home runs and 53 runs batted in.

“Hunter, I can’t keep up,” Crowley said of the steak dinners.

BIG TRAIN HISTORIAN

Bill Hickman keeps track of how Ren-froe and other Big Train Alum-ni are doing in MLB, the minor leagues, and other levels of professional baseball.

Other players Hickman keeps an eye on in the Major Leagues this season include Ty France, a first baseman with the Seattle Mariners and a 2013 Big Train player; his teammate Logan Gilbert, a pitcher with the Mariners who played on the 2016 Big Train; Brandon Lowe with the Tampa Bay Rays

(2014 Big Train); David McKay (2015 Big Train) with the New York Yankees; and Joe Mantiplay, pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks (2010 Big Train).

After 22 seasons, 43 percent of Big Train players continued to play professional baseball; 17 have made it to the major leagues.

“The biggest thrill was the very

SEE BIG TRAIN, PAGE 6

Cape Cod Baseball League and for Team USA in the Olympics.

But Renfroe chose to return to Bethesda and the Big Train, and to Crowley, his “host mom” in Olney. Big Train’s Manager Sal Colangelo vividly remembers receiving a call from Renfroe’s college coaches before the next Big Train Season.

“Hunter wants to come back. Do you have a spot for him,” Colange-

2022 Home Games

Shirley Povich Field
10600 Westlake Drive
Cabin John Regional Park
See www.bigtrain.org

Thursday, June 16, D.C. Grays, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 18, Gaithersburg Giants, 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 19, Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 25, Alexandria Aces, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 30, Olney Cropdusters, 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 2, Gaithersburg Giants, 7 p.m.
Sunday, July 3, D.C. Grays, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, July 5, All-Star Game, 7 p.m.
Thursday, July 7, Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 9, Metro SOCO Braves, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, July 13, Gaithersburg Giants, 7 p.m.
Friday, July 15, Metro SOCO Braves, 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 16, Olney Cropdusters, 7 p.m.
Monday, July 18, D.C. Grays, 7 p.m.
Thursday, July 21, Alexandria Aces, 7 p.m.

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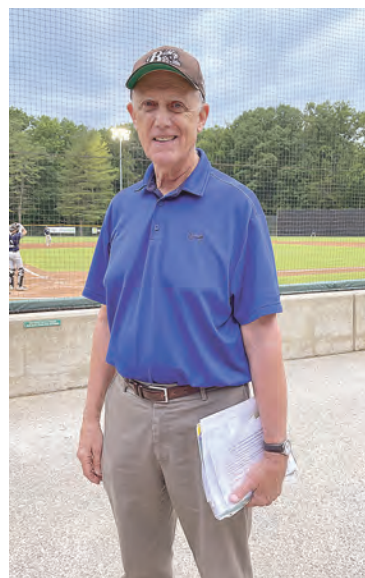


PHOTOS BY MARY KIM

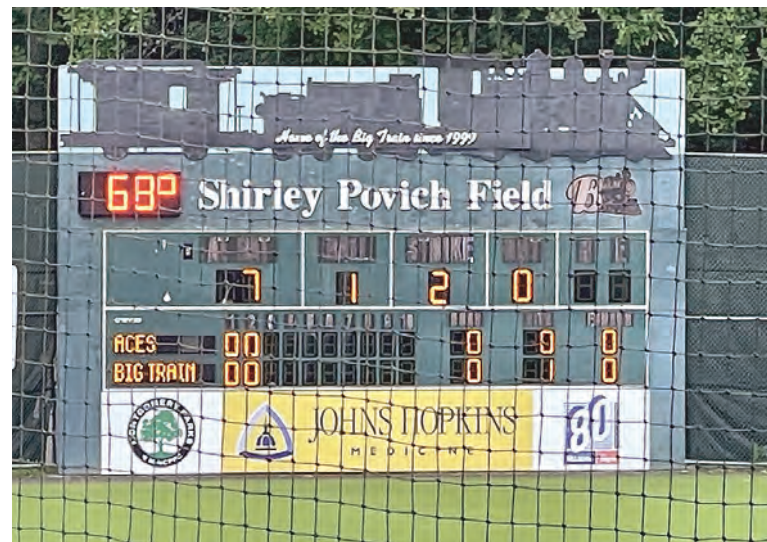
More than 260,000 people have watched Bethesda Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field since 1999, with crowds averaging between 500-750 people per game. <http://www.bigtrain.org/>



“We didn’t pick 750 seats because we were clairvoyant. Truth be told, we picked 750 seats because that was what we could afford,” according to Big Train documents.



Bruce Adams.



Scoreboard at Shirley Povich Field Saturday, June 11. Follow Bethesda Big Train on twitter @BethesdaBigTrain.

Concerts and Fireworks Shows in Germantown and Kensington

Montgomery County will host two Independence Day fireworks displays this year, one on Saturday, July 2 and the other on Monday, July 4.

"It's great to be able to gather again and enjoy the fireworks and celebrations," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "I know they have been missed by so many. These are the first in several years; we're thrilled to return and we have so appreciated everyone's cooperation and understanding of the need to protect public health. Have a safe and happy 4th of July."

The Independence Day celebrations will take place at the following locations:

❖ **July 2:** Mid-County Sparkles at Albert Einstein High School, located at 11135 Newport Road in Kensington

❖ **July 4:** Germantown Glory at South Germantown Recreational Park, located at 18041 Central Park Circle in Germantown (Boys)

Mid-County Sparkles will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, July 2 with a concert by Joe Fale-ro Band, a Latin Jazz band. Quiet Fire, a soul, rhythm and blues and rock band, will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. The only parking available on-site at Einstein High School will be for individuals with disabilities. Free parking and shuttle service will be provided from Westfield Wheaton, located at 11160 Veirs Mill Road. Parking at Westfield Wheaton will open at 5:30 p.m. Event goers who park at Westfield Wheaton prior to 5:30 p.m. may be subject to towing by the property owner. Shuttle service will begin at 5:30 p.m. Follow the directional signs for event parking and shuttles.

Germantown Glory will kick off on July 4 at 7 p.m. also with a concert by Quiet Fire. Follow



the directional signs for free on-site parking.

The fireworks displays will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. at both celebrations. The timing of the fireworks shows may change due to weather conditions. Low lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are welcome at both events. There will be food vendors at

both locations. Alcoholic beverages and pets are not permitted.

Sign language interpreter services and other auxiliary aids or services will be provided upon request with as much notice as possible, preferably at least three business days before the event. To request special

accommodations, contact a therapeutic recreation specialist at 240-777-6870 or email rec.inclusion@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County Recreation thanks its sponsors the Maryland Soccerplex, Montgomery Parks and Westfield Wheaton for their support.

25th Juneteenth Celebration

Montgomery County's 25th Juneteenth Celebration will be held at the BlackRock Center for the Arts from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. This will mark the first official observance of Juneteenth as both a national and County paid holiday.

The BlackRock Center is located at 12901 Town Commons Dr. in Germantown.

The celebration is a free, family-friendly event, but an RSVP is encouraged to receive a day-of-event reminder email with the direct link to the event and any additional announcements. An RSVP can be made at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-juneteenth-journey-to-freedom-tickets-316992431897>.

Juneteenth commemorates the 157th anniversary of the events of June 19, 1865. On that day, Union General Gordon Granger and 2,000 Federal troops arrived in Galveston, Tex., to take possession of the state and enforce the emancipation of its enslaved people. The anniversary today is known as Juneteenth and is celebrated widely across



the United States.

The County event will feature an award recognition ceremony and Juneteenth-inspired food. This year's "Journey to Freedom," will hold a theme of "Memorialize the Struggle, Celebrate the Successes and Secure Justice." The celebration is designed

to recognize equality through education, art, dance, music and honoring elders.

New this year, the festivities will include "Trail of Knowledge" educational passport activities — a historical journey of African American Music and artistic entertainment. All activities are designed for the whole fam-

ily and will take place throughout the BlackRock Center campus. There will be food trucks too.

Special Guest Rare Essence will perform, along with other musical and artistic surprises. The Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, the Human Rights Commission, Friends of the Human Rights Commission and the County Executive's African American Advisory Group are coordinating the program.

"The end of slavery not only meant freedom for a people, it meant freedom for a nation," said Office of Human Rights Director James Stowe. "However, nothing is guaranteed — as we see efforts at voter suppression nationwide, confrontation with law enforcement and excessive force issues for Black and Brown people, social justice crisis and an attempted insurrection and end of our democracy. This is a must attend program for every freedom-loving member of our community. ... So come on out and bring your entire family for a full day of education, fun, good food, music, art and entertainment."

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Big Train in Our Local Park

FROM PAGE 3

first time,” said Hickman, referring to John Maine, who was drafted and played for the Baltimore Orioles, New York Mets and Miami Marlins, and was a 2000 Big Train player.

“The feeling that we were seeing these college players play in this small ball park in front of 750 people and now they’re going to play before 30,000 to 40,000 in the major leagues. Wow!” he said.

CROWLEY HAS TRAVELED to see Hunter Renfroe at Fenway, at Wrigley, in San Francisco and Cincinnati, and has a goal to see all 50 states while watching him and other players she has hosted. She traveled across the country to see him as he was rising through the minor league ranks to the big leagues.

“Hunter deserves everything he’s getting, he’s a wonderful guy,” said Crowley, who has been honored by the Big Train for hosting a player every season since 2001.

The San Diego Padres selected Renfroe with the 13th pick in the 2013 MLB Draft.

“I loved when he played in the minor leagues, too,” she said.

IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES last year, Renfroe hit 31 home runs and had 96 runs batted in for the Boston Red Sox. He hit 33 home runs for the San Diego Padres in 2019. This season, as a Milwaukee Brewer, he has hit 10 home runs in 45 games, as of Monday, June 13, including one on Tuesday, June 7, the opening of this year’s Big Train season at Cabin John and his first game back from the injured reserve because of a hamstring injury.

Manager Colangelo isn’t surprised when his former players make it to the Big Leagues. “I usually think, ‘Wow,’ this is amazing that this young man gets to live out his dreams,” he said.

Hickman is doing research on a project of pitchers in the Major Leagues who have just one win.

One of Hickman’s favorite stories is 2011 Big Train alumni Ryan Garton, a pitcher who made his major league debut on May 26, 2016 for the Tampa Bay Rays. Garton had one win and one save, according to Hickman.

“A Cinderella story,” Hickman

“We were seeing these college players play in this small ball park in front of 750 people and now they’re going to play before 30,000 to 40,000 in the major leagues. Wow!”

— Bill Hickman, Big Train historian

said. “He’s a lot prouder of his save than his win.”

BRUCE ADAMS also had a dream and vision. Adams, a former Montgomery County Councilmember (and Director of Office of Community Partnerships for more than a decade), co-founded the Ripken League, co-founded the Bethesda Big Train with John Oursman, and led the construction of Shirley Povich Field.

This season is the 23rd season of

“It’s an enormous boon to the community,” said Hickman. “Not only do people get to see baseball, professional caliber baseball in the summer, there are so many non-profit organizations that get to come out and get in front of the microphone, to set up tables and promote what they do in the community.”

Saturday night, June 11, the featured nonprofit was Nourishing Bethesda, which provides drive-through family food distribution at BCC Rescue Squad every Friday, 1-3 p.m., while supplies last. 301-654-7767 <https://www.nourishingbethesda.org/>

COLANGELO HAS LED the Big Train to nine regular season titles and eight league championships with a regular season record of 434 wins and 177 losses for a .710 average and a national championship.

“I have the best college baseball job in America,” he said. “I’m blessed that Bruce trusted me to run the team since 2005.”

Collegiate Summer Baseball Register ranked the Ripken League as the third and fifth best league in summer college baseball in 2018 and 2019. Big Train was ranked the nation’s number six team in 2019, highest of any summer team in the country that wasn’t with the Cape Cod League. In 2011, Perfect Game USA named Big Train the nation’s top summer college team.

About 197 Big Train Alumni made it to pro ball, somewhere. Four became first-round picks, four were second-round picks and 3 were third-round picks to MLB.

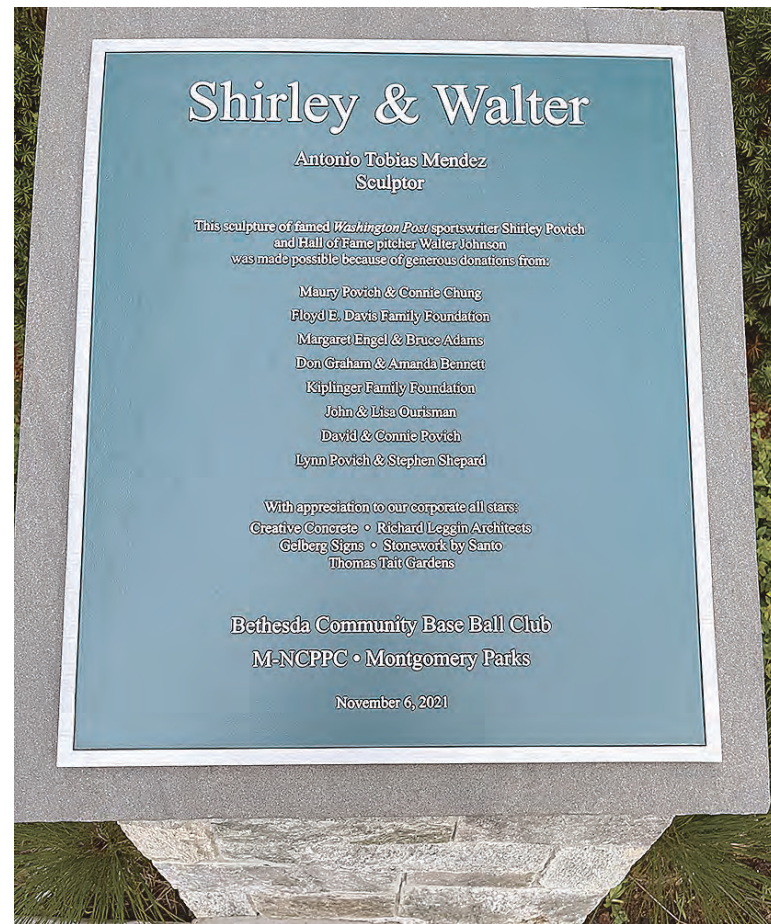
About 159 colleges have had players come to play for the Big Train.

“Players are the best recruiters,” said Colangelo. “You build these relationships because they know

SEE BASEBALL AROUND, PAGE 8



Toby Mendez sculpture of famous Washington sports journalist Shirley Povich interviewing Walter “Big Train” Johnson became a fixture in Shirley Povich stadium last November.



Plaque for the Toby Mendez sculpture of sports journalist Shirley Povich interviewing Walter “Big Train” Johnson.



At the dedication ceremony, Shirley Povich’s son Maury Povich said if his father had the choice to sit next to anyone other than family for eternity it would have been Walter Johnson. Maury Povich said his father believed that the Senator pitcher was “the most honest, the most humble and the most human of any athlete he had ever been around.”

PHOTOS BY MARY KRAM



A young fan gets up close and personal with Shirley Povich.



It’s a great atmosphere for an afternoon or evening out with friends and family. Tickets are \$10.



Baseball Around the Corner

FROM PAGE 7

you're going to treat them right."

In addition to the 17 players from the Big Train who have made it to the Major Leagues, an additional 22 alumni have played with Major League teams in spring training games. Also, after 15 seasons, 440 Ripken League alumni have been drafted by major league teams and thirteen players have signed as free agents.

Some players use experiences they gain in the summer in Bethesda for different careers. "I really enjoy seeing what happens to the players after they leave," said Hickman. "It gives me a positive outlook."

SUCCESS OF THE BIG TRAIN, "all starts with the host family," said Coach Colangelo.

Emily Waldman and her family hosted their first Big Train player in 2013. Now, she is the co-host family coordinator with Amy Matush and helps find families interested in hosting Big Train players for the summer.

"The closeness that Becky feels with her players is not unique," said Waldman.

"There's no financial incentive, so the people who want to host really want to host. The families tend to be really excited about doing it," she said.

Waldman got involved partly because she remembers her family hosting opera singers when she was growing up and wanted her children, who played baseball, to have a similar type of experience.

"We would go to every game at home, a lot of away games, that was our evenings. It meant that we



Fans can get this close to the action.

organized our vacations and activities with what was happening with the Big Train schedule," said Waldman. "We kept doing it because we enjoyed the experience."

Crowley remembers her first two players back in 2001, she calls them by first name, Chris (Welsch) and Brady (Glass).

"They got me a book and taught me how to score a game," said Crowley. "You watch the game differently and people start talking to you."

Waldman calls the volunteer work that host families do "a leap of faith," and not just for the families hosting the players, but for the players and the players' parents, too.

Crowley wanted her players to be able to just focus on baseball while they are here in Bethesda. And now Crowley focuses on baseball here in Bethesda and throughout the country as her players make it to the minor leagues or become adults doing whatever they do.

"I can't tell you how many weddings I've been to," she said.

When she describes watching the Big Train, she describes the vision Bruce Adams had when he founded the team.

"It's like being in a small town, it's a wonderful baseball, and you meet these wonderful people," she said.

At Big Train games, "everyone talks, everyone is interested in all the players and I have inside information," she said. "It's good baseball, it's fun."

Crowley lives closer to the Big Train competitor, the Olney Croppers, but she and Bruce Adams have a deal.

"Bruce says, 'You're staying with me,'" she said.

Colangelo and Crowley have their own deal, said Colangelo, who has been the Big Train's manager since 2005.

"She does anything and everything for the kids. She has the biggest heart, she really becomes a Mom to them," said Colangelo.

"We have a deal; when she retires, I retire," he said.



PHOTOS BY MARY KIM

Ice cream is a hit. You can also get hot dogs, pizza, and more.

Big Train Major League Players (So Far)

John Maine, 2000 Big Train

Baltimore Orioles
New York Mets
Miami Marlins
Major League Baseball Debut:
July 23, 2004

Steve Schmoll, 2000 Big Train

Los Angeles Dodgers
MLB Debut: April 6, 2005

Charlton Jimerson, 1999 Big Train

Houston Astros
Seattle Mariners
MLB Debut: Sept. 14, 2005

Bobby Livingston, 2001 Big Train

Seattle Mariners
Cincinnati Reds
MLB Debut: April 25, 2006

Dirk Hayhurst, 2001 Big Train

San Diego Padres
Toronto Blue Jays
MLB Debut: Aug. 23, 2008

Michael McKenry, 2004 Big Train

Colorado Rockies
Pittsburgh Pirates
St. Louis Cardinals
MLB Debut: Sept. 8, 2010

Brian Dozier, 006 Big Train

Minnesota Twins
Los Angeles Dodgers
Washington Nationals
New York Mets
MLB Debut: May 7, 2012

Mike Costanzo, 2003 Big Train

Cincinnati Reds
MLB Debut: May 13, 2012

Cody Allen, 2008 Big Train

Cleveland Indians
Los Angeles Angels
MLB Debut: July 20, 2012

Matt Bowman, 2010-2012 Big Train

St. Louis Cardinals
Cincinnati Reds
MLB Debut: April 6, 2016

Ryan Garton, 2011 Big Train

Tampa Bay Rays
Seattle Mariners
MLB Debut: May 26, 2016

Joe Mantiplay, 2010 Big Train

Detroit Tigers
New York Yankees
Arizona Diamondbacks
MLB Debut: Sept. 3, 2016

Hunter Renfroe, 2011-2012 Big Train

San Diego Padres
Boston Red Sox
Tampa Bay Rays
Milwaukee Brewers
MLB Debut: Sept. 21, 2016

Brandon Lowe, 2014 Big Train

Tampa Bay Rays
MLB Debut: Aug. 5, 2018

Ty France, 2013 Big Train

San Diego Padres
Seattle Mariners
MLB Debut: April 26, 2019

David McKay, 2015 Big Train

Seattle Mariners
Detroit Tigers
New York Yankees (40-man roster)
MLB Debut: May 20, 2019

Logan Gilbert, 2016 Big Train

Seattle Mariners
MLB Debut: May 13, 2021

* Source: Bethesda Big Train

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Baylor Cobb, catcher from Louisiana Tech, at bat for the Big Train Saturday night, June 11, against the Alexandria Aces.

Prepare Aspiring Biologists for International Competition

Top high school biology students prepare for USA Biolympiad (USABO) competition.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marymount University hosted 20 of the nation's brightest high school biology students earlier this month for the USA Biolympiad (USABO) competition. The group received ten days of rigorous science instruction, lab training and testing. They were vying for a chance to become one of the four gold medalists who will represent the U.S. at the International Biology Olympiad in Yerevan, Armenia from July 10-18.

The students, including Lynn Tao of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria and others were chosen from more than 11,000 students who registered to participate in USA-BO's national biology exams.

"We start with the 20 who have placed highest on the national test, and we put them through a rigorous week of intense refresher courses and offer them new ways to work through the problems of science," said Todd Rimkus, Ph.D, Director of Marymount's School of Science, Mathematics and Engineering. "Our mission was to prepare

them for the competition."

The instruction that students received included day trips to get hands-on experience with the lessons they were studying. "One of the most amazing excursions for these students was a field trip out to a local lake, where they got the opportunity to set turtle traps and then return the following day to see what they were able to catch," said Rimkus. "When we pull up a net with over 100 pounds of different types of turtles, including large snapping turtles, the students are amazed. They learn that not all science happens in a lab, and many areas of science that they may have never considered in the past may contain the kinds of questions they would want to try to answer."

The students were also able to watch an open heart surgery as part of the INOVA Dome Experience program. "Our students at Marymount in the Nursing and Biology majors get an opportunity to see these surgeries on a pretty regular basis," said Rimkus. "It is always a wonderful experience to see the surgeons and nurses work with such care and expertise. USABO students always ask great questions of our hosts at the hospitals."

USABO is managed by The Center for Ex-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Biology students attend rigorous classes at Marymount University as part of a competition to represent the U.S. at the International Biology Olympiad in Yerevan, Armenia. For the Information on 2023USA Biolympiad (USABO) visit: <https://www.usabo-trc.org>

cellence in Education (CEE) and Marymount also hosted their scholars in 2018, 2015 and 2014. "[We] have a longstanding relationship with CEE," said Rimkus. "Our close proximity to their headquarters in Washing-

ton, D.C., means that they were looking for a University with expertise in the biological sciences. "Our finalists have received many gold medals ... so I am confident that this group is ready to achieve similar outcomes."

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Voting Options

Mail-in Voting: Requesting a Vote-by-Mail Ballot:

To request a vote-by-mail ballot you must register to vote or be a registered Maryland voter.

To register to vote or update your voter registration please visit Voter Registration and Mail-in Ballot Request <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

To check your voter registration status please visit Voter Lookup or text CHECK to 77788. <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

To learn more about voter registration please visit Voter Registration Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/voter-registration-faqs.html>

To request a vote-by-mail ballot online please follow the link Voter Registration and Mail-In Ballot Request or text the word VBM to 77788 <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>

To print a request for a vote-by-mail ballot, please follow the link Maryland Mail-in Ballot Request Form return the completed and signed form to Montgomery County Board of Elections. https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/documents/Mail-in%20Ballot%20Application_English.pdf

To request a vote-by-mail ballot in person, please visit Montgomery County Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 210, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

A registered voter may request a mail-in ballot by submitting a written request and returning it to the Board of Elections, if it includes:

- the voter's name and residence address;
- the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if different from the residence address;
- voter's signature

Permanent Vote By Mail List

If you want to receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot for all future elections, you can sign up for the permanent vote-by-mail ballot list. Please just mark on your vote-by-mail application 'I would like to receive a mail-in ballot for all future federal and state elections'.

Once you sign up, we will send



you your vote-by-mail ballot for each future election you are eligible to vote in, and you won't need to resubmit a request.

If you decide you want to vote in person instead of receiving a vote-by-mail ballot you will need to contact your local board of elections.

2022 APPROVED EARLY VOTING CENTERS

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park
- Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center
- Damascus Community Recreation Center
- Germantown Community Recreation Center
- Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center
- Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center
- Mid-County Community Recreation Center
- Montgomery County Executive Office Building
- Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center
- Potomac Community Recreation Center
- Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department Station 4
- Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza
- Wheaton Library & Community Recreation Center
- White Oak Community Recreation Center

For information on the approved early voting centers and hours of operation, go to the Early Voting Information page <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/EarlyVoting/2022EarlyVotingCenters.html>



This barred owl sat on a branch over a stream for more than an hour observing two 7-year-old boys playing loudly in the creek.



A doe reaches out to sniff her fawn, one of twins born just moments earlier.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at
ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome.
Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Featuring the ensemble Sugar Beat playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. The 45-minute dance lesson begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 pm. Admission is \$15, \$5 for full-time students with student ID. No partner required For more information, 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.

MONDAY/JUNE 20

Juneteenth Celebration. 4-7 p.m. At The Circle, Scotland Drive, Potomac. Featuring history, fun and music. Featuring a basketball shootout, slam dunk contest and cash prizes. Special presentation of African dancers. Activities for kids include moon bounce, face painting, tattoos, crafts and games.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

In honor of Pride Month, Montgomery County will host its second annual Pride in the Plaza, a free, outdoor LGBTQ+ pride festival on Sunday, June 26 from noon to 8 p.m. in Veterans Plaza in Downtown Silver Spring. Pride in the Plaza will feature food, music, an LGBTQ+ focused resource and vendor fair, bilingual Drag Queen Story Hour, and the championship finale of Live in Your Truth Program's Drag Duels series. The day will conclude with the second annual Pride in the Plaza Mini-Ball, a free voguing competition with cash prizes, starting at 5 p.m., in partnership with Capitol Ballroom Council. Local businesses that want to support Pride in the Plaza can visit PrideInThePlaza.com/partners-in-pride. Pride in the Plaza will showcase a diverse cross-section of local nonprofit organizations, LGBTQ+ owned businesses, artists, and networks tabling to share information about their services for Montgomery County's LGBTQ+ communities. HIV and other health screenings will be provided free of charge, in honor of National HIV Testing Day (June 27). In the week leading up to the festival, the County is partnering with LGBTQ+ led organizations on a slate of events for residents of all ages, including Pride in the Field, an LGBTQ+ focused field day, Pride in the Parks Movie Night, Pride in Sexual

Health Symposium for healthcare providers, Pride on the Page Book Talk with local author Eric Nguyen, and a Pop-up of the Maryland Trans Resilience Conference, organized by Trans Maryland. A full list of events can be found at PrideInThePlaza.com/Events.

To encourage residents to attend multiple events, the County has created a "Passport to Pride." Those who attend and get their passports stamped at three or more Pride in the Plaza events will be entered to win one of 10 grand prizes. The passport can be found online here or picked up at any Pride in the Plaza event.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE BEGINS

The Montgomery County Public Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, June 15. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities." Children and teens are invited to sign up online or in-person at any branch. MCP's Summer Reading Challenge! offers children and teens a chance to fill their summer with great books and fun learning activities, as well as in-person and virtual events. This year, MCPL and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are greening up Summer Reading by keeping plastic out of the waste stream. As children read and complete missions, MCPL will help plant trees, restore oyster beds, and improve animal habitats throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

An indoor-outdoor Kick-off event will be held on Saturday, June 18 at the Rockville Memorial Library. The event will include:

A Chesapeake Bay Foundation hands-on educational table

Strolling magician Abracadabra Alex

Summer Reading Challenge! signups and book giveaways

Craft tables

Participating is easy: Sign up (or log in) online beginning June 15

Read books and do activities to earn online badges and complete missions

(Optional) Print an Early Literacy or Elementary School Age game board at home or pick one up at your local library.

Take our survey (English or Spanish) when you've finished the program. Your voice counts!

Summer Reading Challenge!, which runs through Aug. 31, is generously sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.

For more information about the program, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

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One Small Step for Humankind ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... One Giant Step for Yours Truly. I hope so, anyway. And what am I giant-stepping about? The Entenmann's selection at my local supermarket. After years of disappointment and of suffering in silence concerning the same old-same old choices, I am planning this week to introduce myself to the store's manager to inquire about the possibility of changing the Entenmann's selection to some varieties more to my liking. Specifically adding: the "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" and the "Chocolate Chip Iced Cake," and any glazed "Holiday Sprinkled Pop'ems" as well.

To say I speak from experience goes without saying to anybody who knows me. For those of you who don't know me, know this: when it comes to chocolate desserts, I am a maven (Yiddish for expert). I wouldn't say exactly that I've written the book, but I can say I've contributed a few chapters. Thanks to my mother's feeling that her two boys needed to drink eight glasses of milk daily for healthy bones, she (don't call your mother 'she'; I can still hear my father admonishing) deduced that washing down dessert/chocolate with milk would be an excellent/recurring way to reach this goal. And boy was she right. We had dessert multiple times per day: after breakfast, packed with our school lunches, an after-school snack at home, after dinner and finally before bedtime, and always with a glass of milk. Five separate occasions. The product line: Hostess, Drakes, Nabisco; repeat.

And not that I'm the least bit undernourished or deprived by my local supermarket's poor Entenmann's selection. Hardly. If nothing, I'm flexible when it comes to chocolate desserts. However, I have my preferences, and the older I get – and possible even the less healthy I become, I'm going to want/need to treat myself/lift my spirits by eating delectable/desired desserts. Because, at the end of the day (at the beginning too), as I was told many years ago by my publisher after she learned I had been diagnosed with lung cancer: "Kenny, it's all about you." And believe me, upon receiving a "terminal" diagnosis from my oncologist it wasn't much of a stretch to focus on me, myself, and I.

But as time has passed and I have not, I got away from my individual requirements and tried to blend in with whatever choices were available to me. In that time frame, I've purchased a wider variety of desserts, now to include Tasty Cake and Little Debbie to go along with the original big three. But over time, and not able to get over the disappointment in taste and preference of the usual suspects, I expanded my horizons to include Entenmann's products. And with the lack of diversity in my supermarket's Entenmann's' selections (except for the few and far between times when either of my preferences were available), I had become increasingly tolerant – until recently, since my store never has the varieties I crave, so finally, after months of complaining – to my wife, I'm going to get off my couch and try to do something about it.

As I contemplate more than my navel, I am salivating at the prospect of being able to pre-order and in effect, guarantee me that my favorites will be in-store, possibly even with my name on the package and a visible "Not for Resale" warning printed across the cardboard box. What joy this kind of control would bring a cancer patient who only wants to have a "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" when I want it, not when it's available – which is never, at least at my local supermarket. This is not exactly a dying man's wish, but it is a wish nonetheless that if I'm going to succumb to my disease, before I die, I would like to have my cake and eat it too.

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

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