

News Clips Report

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04/09/2009	Jeopardy! tryouts draw hundreds	Gazette, The
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04/09/2009	SCC hires committed new leader	Vallejo Times-Herald
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04/08/2009	Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	Despite popularity elsewhere, residents reject community gardens	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	Jeopardy! tryouts draw hundreds to Germantown campus	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	People and Places	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	Some Arab-American leaders express new hope for understanding	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	Education Notebook	The Gazette Papers
04/08/2009	Plans are underway for the 2010 American College	South Florida Craibbean News

04/08/2009	Cricket Spring Break Championship Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood	The Gazette of Politics and Business
04/08/2009	Jeopardy! tryouts draw crowds to MC-Germantown	The Gazette of Poltics and Business
04/08/2009	Education Notebook	The Gazette Papers
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04/07/2009	MC-Rockville cricket team best in U.S.	The Gazette Papers
04/07/2009	AroundTown	Washington Women
04/07/2009	Obituaries, April 8, 2009	Georgetown Times
04/06/2009	Sunday is fun day for Skipjacks	Chesapeake College
04/06/2009	In cricketers' contest, the goal is recognition	Sarasota Herald-Tribune - Online
04/06/2009	Montgomery College exhibit shares tales of struggle	Gazette, The
04/06/2009	Russian beauty wins American pageant	Russia Today
04/05/2009	Sudoku Creator Sees Game Blossom	The Washigton Post
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04/05/2009	Cherry Blossom Festival Blooms Approach Peak, Time for a Peek	Associated Content
04/05/2009	'Jeopardy' Tryouts Come To The Region	WFMD-AM - Online
04/05/2009	New vocational, technical courses free for all	Army Times
04/04/2009	TWO O'CLOCK TODAY ON MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S GERMANTOWN CAMPUS.	Afternoon Report - NewsChannel 8
04/04/2009	TWO O'CLOCK TODAY ON MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S GERMANTOWN CAMPUS.	Afternoon Report - NewsChannel 8
04/04/2009	Style Decision Time: Parade or Pillow Fight?	The Washington Post

News Clips Report

From Marine Corps to Boston and Back Washington Running Report

04/10/2009

s to Boston and Back

Washington, DC

For the Washington Running Report

Chasing across the only stretch of grass in the finals meters of the 1987 race.

Marathons have always been dear to my heart. After all, it is the main race you can brag about just finishing. Marathon has come to mean a long, long way to the general population. When you tell people you have run a marathon, they nearly always ask how far you ran. They rarely ask how fast you ran but want to know if you are crazy to run that far. Yes indeed, we are crazy and there is a great satisfaction in just finishing a marathon.

Today we know it as 26 miles 385 yards. The race was not always that long. Nearly 500 years before Christ, a Greek soldier named Pheidippides died after running nearly that far to announce a victory in battle. Back in 1896, the Olympics were revived by adding a nearly twenty-five mile marathon (40,000 meters). A year later, the Boston Marathon began. It was also shorter than the current distance. In 1908 at the London Olympics, the distance was first run as now but did not become official until in 1924.

My first race ever was the 1987 Marine Corps Marathon. It was run on a bet. I should have been old enough to know better but I was young enough not to care. I did not know it would be hard. All I had to do was persevere and I knew I could finish. I also knew it would not be fast. Still, it would be my first PR and set the stage for becoming a runner.

I did go downtown and walk the course so I would know the way. As always the race was so well marked with so many volunteers (and runners) that it was impossible to get lost.

How about black socks to go with my Nike fliers?

The race was much smaller in those days, so I had no problem starting out on the starting line. The weather was a perfect fall day and I had no fear/knowledge of hitting the wall. After all, I had only been running for about three months and had only once run longer than six miles. Adrenaline pumping, I darted out to a 6:22 mile. My splits were at 5 mile (33:30), at 10M (67:30), halfway 90:00, 20M 2:22:00. I cruised in at 3:14:33. The log book noted, 'First twinge at six miles, legs in and out after eight, and calves out at 16, groin out at 20, feet numbing but I was able to sprint at the finish. I was ever out of breath; can do 2:50.'

After the race as I walked back to the Metro, a young kid with his mother saw me walking with my finisher's medal hanging around my chest. 'Look mom; there is the winner.' For that moment I was though I did not make the top one thousand finishers that day.

The following year I ran 2:55 to qualify for the famous Boston Marathon. Ben Beach, who is running his 42nd straight Boston this year, was already going for number 22. I was used to races being on Sunday so I booked a flight for Friday and arrived a day early. I was taking classes at Montgomery College and played hookie to get up to Boston.

One of those rare short-sleezed shirts for this race.

I was supposed to get a room at the Red Roof in Framingham and met up with some other runners. There were two Red Roofs and I was at the wrong one. Thus, I was without wheels and it was 21 miles to downtown Boston and packet pickup. It was also slightly cool 35 degrees with a light snow falling as I walked all the way into town. Once there I found there was a rail system that would take me most of the way back. Sunday I met up with fellow runners and got a ride after about nine miles of walking and we went to Cheers and then the pre race pasta party on a ship in the harbor.

I had no illusions about my time but I was determined to enjoy the race. The scenery was marvelous. The crowds always large were fully supportive. There was a Dixieland band on the roof of one building and the girls of Wellesley were out in

News Clips Report

force forcing the runners to channel down to single file. It was a recurring dream of being surrounded by scores of enthusiastic college women.

Race day was extra warm and the crowds of runners in Hopkinton were huge. No surprise we were packed like sardines. At the start, there were seven people touching me. When they said go it took 31 seconds before we even moved. The first mile took more than seven minutes but we were really nearly sprinting to get around the crowds. My splits were at 5 mile (31:00), at 10M (62:15), halfway 82:00, 20M 2:08:00. I had a solid PR in 2:51:18. This time I did not die after 20 miles and mused during the race that Heartbreak Hill was not so bad.

I ended up running 14 Marine Corps Marathons from 1987 through 2000 and another Boston in 1991. Some day I would like to get back to Marine Corps and maybe I can qualify to get back to Boston.

Finally clear of the opening crowding, the race in Boston is mostly downhill.

See the 113th Boston Marathon on April 20, 2009

See the 34th Marine Corps Marathon on October 25, 2009

News Clips Report

What's Happening The Washington Post

04/09/2009

What's Happening

"DETAILS, AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS" -- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through April 22. Montgomery College art professor Harry St. Ours displays his recent photographs. Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Visions Exhibition Space, 5701 Marinelli Rd., North Bethesda. Free. 301-565-3805 or <http://www.professorharry.com>.

News Clips Report

Jeopardy! tryouts draw crowds to MC-Germantown Gazette, The

04/09/2009

Tryouts for what popular quiz show drew more than 1,200 would-be contestants to Montgomery College's Germantown campus Saturday?

Readers who answered 'What is Jeopardy!?' may have missed an opportunity.

The campus swelled with know-it-alls looking for the chance to be on the quiz show. Though the event was scheduled for 2-4 p.m., one fan reportedly showed up as early as 4 a.m.

Announcements for the tryouts warned that only the first 1,000 people would take the 10-question pre-test to qualify for an interview and audition. However, Montgomery College spokeswoman Elizabeth Homan estimated that about 1,200 were tested, and many more were turned away. 'The pressure wasn't on until last week,' said Sonny Meyers, 46, of Fairfax, Va., one of the first 50 to arrive. Meyers said he watches the show nearly every night and practiced for the tryouts by playing a Jeopardy! game. 'I'm a history buff and an astronomy buff, so that helps.' Participants tested their wits in a 'just for fun' version of Jeopardy!. Members of the Jeopardy! 'Clue Crew' a group of hosts who roam the world to read questions to contestants on video read off the prompts.

Even without knowing whether they will qualify for an interview or audition, some were already thinking about unique stories to tell host Alex Trebek when he interviews contestants during the show. 'I was trapped inside the Wienermobile once,' said Derwood resident Lisa Van Nostrand, 43, referring to Oscar Meyer's hot-dog shaped vehicle. Van Nostrand said she was working in Syracuse, N.Y., as a radio broadcaster and was taking a child to school in the Wienermobile for a promotion when it broke down. 'They seem to focus on the goofiest thing that's ever happened to you,' Van Nostrand said. Even for trivia buffs, few people said they correctly answered all 10 questions on the test. 'They were the type of questions you feel at the tip of your tongue,' said Homan, who took the test. 'You know it's back there buried in your brain.' Many people who attended had grown up watching the show, Homan said. 'It's that armchair Jeopardy! player who is convinced they can do better than the player on TV,' she said.

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Jeopardy! tryouts draw hundreds Gazette, The

04/09/2009

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News Clips Report

Montgomery Entertainment Calendar April 9-16, 2009 Washington Post - Online

04/09/2009

'EASTER CELEBRATION' -- 10 a.m.-noon today. For children, learn how to make a 'rabbit greens' salad with raspberry dressing, chicken crescent rolls and carrot-shaped carrot cake. Young Chefs Academy, 5626 Randolph Rd., Rockville. \$45; members, \$35. 301-816-2433 or <http://www.youngchefsacademy.com/rockville>.

'PETER AND THE WOLF' -- 10 a.m. today and tomorrow; 11:30 a.m. today-Sunday; 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Christopher Piper performs the classic tale with life-size marionettes. The 40-minute show is recommended for children in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Glen Echo Park, Puppet Co. Playhouse, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$10, group rates available. 301-634-5380 or <http://www.thepuppetco.org>.

Dance

'AROHANAM -- ASCENT' -- 7 p.m. Saturday. Nrityanjali dancers perform in the classical Indian Bharatanatyam style. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville. \$20; students, \$15; sponsors, \$35. 301-330-8573 or <http://www.nrityanjali.com>.

Dancing

BALLROOM DANCING -- 8-11:15 p.m. Saturday. A one-hour introductory rumba and fox trot lesson, followed by general dancing to a DJ. Beginners welcome, no partner necessary. Now and Then Dance Studio, 10111 Darnestown Rd., Rockville. \$10. 301-424-0007 or <http://www.nowandthendancestudios.com>.

Exhibitions

'FORM' -- Noon-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, Tuesday through May 2; reception, 6-9 p.m. tomorrow; artist's talk, 1-2 p.m. April 18. The latest pieces by figure painter Douglas Wolfe. Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Hwy., Bethesda. Free. 301-951-9441 or <http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com>.

'VISUAL PERSPECTIVES: ABSTRACT AND INTERPRETIVE PAINTINGS AND PRINTS' -- Times vary, through April 30. Paintings and prints by Audrey Salkind. River Road Unitarian Universalist Church, 6301 River Rd., Bethesda. Free. 301-229-0400, <http://www.audreysabstractart.com> or audreyspen@comcast.net.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLEIN AIR ARTISTS -- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays through May 17; reception, 7-8:30 p.m. next Thursday. Members of the group exhibit their oil, acrylic, watercolor and pastel works. Gaithersburg City Hall, 31 S. Summit Ave. Free. 301-258-6310 or 301-258-6394 or <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov>.

'DETAILS, AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS' -- 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, through April 22. Montgomery College art professor Harry St. Ours displays his recent photographs. Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Visions Exhibition Space, 5701 Marinelli Rd., North Bethesda. Free. 301-565-3805 or <http://www.professorharry.com>.

'THE COUNTY COLLECTS' -- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. today and tomorrow. An exhibit featuring prints, drawings and collages from Montgomery County's Public Arts Trust. Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, King Street Gallery, 930 King St., Silver Spring. Free. 301-565-3805 or <http://www.creativemoco.com>.

'WASHINGTON GARDENER PHOTO CONTEST' -- 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, through May 10. Washington Gardener Magazine exhibits 16 winning photographs taken in Washington area gardens. World Building, Adams National Bank lobby, 8121 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Free. 301-565-0766 or <http://www.washingtongardener.com>.

CAROLE CLEM, KAY LAYNE AND BRENDA TOWNSEND -- 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 28. The artists exhibit their photography, ceramics and paintings. Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville. Free. 240-314-8682 or <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/arts/exhibits.htm>.

News Clips Report

New Children's Book Follows Survival of Families of Trees StreetInsider.com

04/09/2009

Accomplished Screenwriter Jere Silber Shares Humorous, Touching Story Accompanied by Illustration

OLNEY, Md., April 9 /PRNewswire/ -- The original, touching children's story from screenwriter Jere Silber, which sparked acclaimed adaptation 'The Family Tree' on cable television and later as an audiobook nominated in the Spoken Word category of the 2001 Grammy Awards, 'Tree Story' (published by AuthorHouse) is at its heart about generations of trees surviving and sticking together despite the odds. 'Tree Story' follows families of trees, primarily the Birches and the Sycamores, in one particular forest. One morning, the forest is forever changed when three men enter and nail signs to some of the trees. Bedlam and confusion disrupt the formerly calm life of the trees as they wonder how they will survive what happens next.

As weeks pass by, another set of visitors enter the forest and this time they are friends, hoping to save and protect the trees. Believing that their human friends had saved them, the trees became peaceful once more. Months later, at the dawn of winter, the sound of bulldozers entered the forest. Silber writes:

The peaceful calm of the past few months quickly faded away. The entire forest was frightened. The animals hurried to seek shelter. But the family trees had nowhere to go. With nowhere to hide, the family trees were stranded. Grandfather Sycamore knew this was the end ...

As the first trees began falling in the background, Grandfather Sycamore used the remaining moments to say farewell to his family. 'As the head of this family it has been my responsibility to protect you from whatever Mother Nature had us withstand, from her cold winters to her hot summers and strong winds. Whatever she threw at us, we survived her! 'Today I ask you to be as proud of yourselves as I am of you. So be strong, and always remember, long live the family tree!' As the trees are taken away one by one, they are convinced that they will never see each other again, but, miraculously, they do -- once at the lumber mill and again when Grandfather Sycamore, as a grandfather clock, is reunited with Grandfather Birch, a coffee table, at the Robinson's home. And soon, other family members are discovered as the kitchen cabinets, the wood siding, baseball bats and even a copy of 'Tree Story.' The birds from the forest visit the family trees and tell them of the regeneration of the forest and the new generations of trees that will take root and leaf. 'Tree Story' ends with the knowledge that the families of trees will continue to thrive and survive in and out of the forest.

Jere Silber is an accomplished screenwriter with over 35 years of experience working on radio, television and theatrical productions. He studied radio/television broadcasting at Montgomery College and screenwriting at The American Film Institute. 'Tree Story' is his first published book.

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News Clips Report

New Children's Book Follows Survival of Families of Trees Phoenix Business Journal

04/09/2009

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News Clips Report

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As the trees are taken away one by one, they are convinced that they will never see each other again, but, miraculously, they do -- once at the lumber mill and again when Grandfather Sycamore, as a grandfather clock, is reunited with Grandfather Birch, a coffee table, at the Robinson's home. And soon, other family members are discovered as the kitchen cabinets, the wood siding, baseball bats and even a copy of 'Tree Story.' The birds from the forest visit the family trees and tell them of the regeneration of the forest and the new generations of trees that will take root and leaf. 'Tree Story' ends with the knowledge that the families of trees will continue to thrive and survive in and out of the forest.

Jere Silber is an accomplished screenwriter with over 35 years of experience working on radio, television and theatrical productions. He studied radio/television broadcasting at Montgomery College and screenwriting at The American Film Institute. 'Tree Story' is his first published book.

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News Clips Report

Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood Gazette, The

04/09/2009

Residents of the College Gardens and Plymouth Woods neighborhoods in Rockville say they are eager to find a solution to an issue they say has created division and hostility among neighbors.

That issue is Montgomery College's decision to build a fence blocking access to Princeton Place, a popular congregating spot for smokers and students.

Residents living on Princeton Place are relieved to have the fence in place, which keeps loiterers off their front yards, they say. Many other residents of the surrounding neighborhood are fuming at the loss of a long-standing access point to the college. 'I'm sad about the split that's formed in our community,' said Mike Phillips, president of the College Gardens Civic Association. 'Our neighborhood has not had this kind of problem historically. That's been the hardest part.' Disagreements are centered on whether there should be 24-hour access to campus and if there should be permit parking on Princeton Place. 'This kind of process prolongs the community being torn apart,' said Elyse Gussow, president of the Plymouth Woods Condominium Association. 'I'm all for getting this thing behind us, and we are getting somewhat closer to a solution.' The fence was built in March following complaints by neighbors that smokers forced off campus by the college's tobacco-free policy were congregating on Princeton Place and creating a nuisance. 'Montgomery College and the City of Rockville are caught between neighbors with competing interests,' said Dr. Judy E. Ackerman, vice president and provost of the Rockville campus. 'After several meetings with all of the stakeholders I am optimistic that we are getting closer to a solution agreeable to most of the people involved.' At the end of March the city and college identified an area within the college's fence that is actually city property, and officials have proposed designating that a smoking area as an alternative to forcing smokers onto Rockville Pike or Mannakee Street.

A 200-yard sidewalk directing pedestrians away from Princeton Place and toward the proposed smoking area is also being suggested, although some residents are concerned about the college's plan to build a fence along both sides of the sidewalk.

Residents voiced their concerns and suggestions for the plan Monday at a meeting with college and city officials in Rockville.

Jenny Kimble, assistant city manager, said the meeting was the last public forum before city staff formulates a recommendation for the City Council and the college president.

News Clips Report

SCC hires committed new leader Vallejo Times-Herald

04/09/2009

FAIRFIELD -- Solano Community College's new permanent superintendent-president is Jowel Laguerre, the vice president of academic affairs at Truckee Meadows Community College.

Laguerre, 53, will be serving as a college president for the first time and told trustees and about 20 college staff members he expects this job to be his one and only presidency. 'My commitment to Solano Community College is for the rest of my life,' Laguerre said, in a prepared statement following the board's 5-1 vote to hire him Wednesday.

Board president A. Marie Young said trustees were impressed by his educational experiences and his April 1 interview. 'Dr. Laguerre is accustomed to dealing with pressure and creating specific solutions for various problems at education institutions,' Young said. 'His extensive accreditation experience will make him a valuable addition to (Solano College) as we focus on removing the district off of accreditation sanctions,' Young added. At a March 31 candidates' forum, Laguerre peppered his comments with humor and passionate remarks about Solano College.

Laguerre will step into the top spot at a critical time. Solano College is fighting to keep its accreditation, and bring stability and order.

While at the 13,000-student Truckee Meadows, he led the college in an accreditation self-study and prepared accreditation reports.

He's also served as the institutional liaison for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and has served as an accreditation evaluator.

His appointment may stop the revolving door in the president's office. Solano College has had three top leaders in just over two years.

The last permanent president, Gerry Fisher, abruptly retired in September after one year.

Trustee James Claffey cast the lone vote against hiring Laguerre, saying afterwards he opposed a \$10,000 annual housing allowance in his contract.

Otherwise, Claffey said Laguerre, 'was my first choice.' A three-year contract starting July 1 provides Laguerre a \$225,000 annual salary. He also will get the annual housing allowance, a \$5,000 vehicle allowance, \$5,000 for fundraising and entertaining, and \$3,000 to attend professional conferences.

The board chose Laguerre over two more seasoned candidates -- Thom Armstrong, the interim vice president of academic affairs at Barstow Community College; and Kevin Drumm, president of Northern Wyoming Community College District.

But his lack of college president experience is not a hindrance, Laguerre said before the meeting. 'I think I'm prepared for this challenge. I've worked with a lot of presidents very closely. It's not a one-person show,' he said. 'It's always a team effort.' While the board has frequently been divided, particularly in backing the president, Laguerre said trustees are making headway.

Laguerre added he will help trustees lead and work effectively.

Prior to Truckee Meadows, Laguerre served as executive vice president for academic and student services at Montgomery College in Maryland.

Since 1978, he has taught English as a second language, French and other subjects.

A native of Haiti, Laguerre holds a doctorate in educational leadership, plus two masters degrees from the University of Kansas. He came to the United States in 1982. He is married to Marie-Claude Laguerre, a nurse, and has

News Clips Report

two grown children.

Contact staff writer Sarah Rohrs at srohrs@thnewsnet.com or (707) 553-6832.

News Clips Report

Trustees choose new chief for SCC Reporter, The

04/09/2009

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News Clips Report

What's Happening Washington Post - Online

04/09/2009

XTREME TEENS SEWING -- 7-9 p.m. Monday and April 20 and 27. For age 18 and older, basic sewing techniques. Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Rd., Landover. \$52; nonresidents, \$65. 301-583-2400.

Concerts

UNIVERSITY JAZZ CONCERT -- 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday. Chris Vadala directs a University of Maryland School of Music student ensemble. Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Route 193 and Stadium Drive, College Park. Free. 301-405-2787.

'AFTERNOON TEA' WITH JIM VANDELLEY -- 2 p.m. Wednesday. The accordion player performs American and Russian music. Arts/Harmony Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. \$15. 301-203-6070.

BUCK HILL JAZZ CONCERT -- 8-11 p.m. Saturday. The saxophonist from Greenbelt, discovered by Charlie Byrd, has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis and Shirley Horn. Magic Ray Jazz, a trio from Lanham, will also perform. New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt. Free. 301-474-5642.

JAZZ CONCERT -- 8-9:30 p.m. Saturday. R&B vocalist J.D., with special guest Marcus Johnson. Four Points by Sheraton, 8500 Annapolis Rd., New Carrollton. \$20; dinner not included; dinner seating starts at 6:30 p.m. For tickets, call 301-221-1096.

JIM STIMSON -- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays. A performance of light music on a lute. New Deal Cafe, Roosevelt Center, 113 Centerway, Greenbelt. Free. 301-474-5642.

JAM SESSION -- 8:30-11:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Bassist Walter Crosby hosts a weekly session for musicians. Artmosphere Cafe, 3311 Rhode Island Ave., Mount Rainier. \$5. 301-927-2233.

BLUES JAM SESSION -- 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Mike Baytop leads weekly sessions. Black Box Theatre, 4185 Indian Head Hwy., Indian Head. \$5. 301-743-3040.

Exhibitions

PRINTMAKING AND BEYOND -- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, through June 5. Works in printmaking processes by Montgomery College faculty artists Nancy McNamara, Joyce Jewell, Wilfred Brunner, Mary Staley, Carla Klevan and Maureen Feely-Kohl. Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel. Free. 301-953-1993 or 410-792-0664.

'IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK' -- 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturdays. An exhibition of interiors, cityscapes and abstract images that portray social interaction. Prince George's Plaza Community Center, 6600 Adelphi Rd., Hyattsville. Free. 301-864-1611.

LEE GOODWIN PHOTOGRAPHS -- 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, through April 25. Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel. Free. 301-953-1993 or 410-792-0664.

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Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

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Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood
City officials will prepare recommendations for council, college president

by Nathan Carrick | Staff Writer

News Clips Report

Residents of the College Gardens and Plymouth Woods neighborhoods in Rockville say they are eager to find a solution to an issue they say has created division and hostility among neighbors.

That issue is Montgomery College's decision to build a fence blocking access to Princeton Place, a popular congregating spot for smokers and students.

Residents living on Princeton Place are relieved to have the fence in place, which keeps loiterers off their front yards, they say. Many other residents of the surrounding neighborhood are fuming at the loss of a long-standing access point to the college.

"I'm sad about the split that's formed in our community," said Mike Phillips, president of the College Gardens Civic Association. "Our neighborhood has not had this kind of problem historically. That's been the hardest part."

Disagreements are centered on whether there should be 24-hour access to campus and if there should be permit parking on Princeton Place.

"This kind of process prolongs the community being torn apart," said Elyse Gussow, president of the Plymouth Woods Condominium Association. "I'm all for getting this thing behind us, and we are getting somewhat closer to a solution."

The fence was built in March following complaints by neighbors that smokers forced off campus by the college's tobacco-free policy were congregating on Princeton Place and creating a nuisance.

"Montgomery College and the City of Rockville are caught between neighbors with competing interests," said Dr. Judy E. Ackerman, vice president and provost of the Rockville campus. "After several meetings with all of the stakeholders I am optimistic that we are getting closer to a solution agreeable to most of the people involved."

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Jenny Kimble, assistant city manager, said the meeting was the last public forum before city staff formulates a recommendation for the City Council and the college president.

News Clips Report

Despite popularity elsewhere, residents reject community gardens The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Despite popularity elsewhere, residents reject community gardens
South Silver Spring site removed from county plans; neighbors say they weren't involved in process

by Jason Tomassini | Staff Writer

Montgomery County's first public community gardens will come to Takoma Park and Sandy Spring next month but a proposed site for south Silver Spring was removed from plans due to complaints from residents who said the county did not involve them in the planning process.

On May 15, the county's Parks Department will open a community garden at Sligo Mill Park, which is also known as Sligo Overlook Park, on Orchard Drive in Takoma Park and another off Layhill Road in Sandy Spring, near the Red Door Country Store. A community garden is a plot of public land where local residents can purchase space to garden.

Current plans at Sligo Mill Park include 18 plots being available with residents able to purchase a 200-square-foot plot for \$25 per year or a 400-square-foot plot for \$45 per year.

The first two locations will be part of a pilot program and with demand for community gardens high, the Parks Department will determine future sites once the Takoma Park and Sandy Spring locations are up and running, said Ursula Sabia-Sukinik, community garden coordinator for Parks.

"For [Sligo Mill Park], we have a waiting list twice the amount of plots," she said. A lottery system will be conducted to decide who gets a spot. Sabia-Sukinik said 70 percent of the plots will be given to residents near the Sligo Mill Park garden.

Despite the demand across the county, the majority of residents near another proposed garden site at Silver Spring Intermediate Park, at the corner of Boston and Chicago avenues, rejected plans because the neighborhood already uses the park for recreation purposes.

"We don't need to take unstructured open green space to make community gardens," said Karen Roper, who lives in east Silver Spring near the proposed site.

Roper said the community is in favor of community gardens but when a notice went out last week with Silver Spring Intermediate as a possible site, it was the first time many residents had heard about the gardens. The community garden program was first proposed in November by Councilwoman Valerie Ervin.

Because of its terrain and the activity it receives from residents, Silver Spring Intermediate "wouldn't have been a very successful garden," said nearby resident Edith Holleman.

"I don't understand how a horticulturist can say, 'Let's put it in a place where every time it rains it floods,'" said Holleman, who is part of a community garden at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C.

Sabia-Sukinik said a community garden site must be at a property that is owned by the Parks Department, is not environmentally sensitive, receives eight hours of sunlight per day and is not actively used for recreation. When the department examined potential sites in the winter, Silver Spring Intermediate met all those criteria. But when the department and Ervin's office met with residents last week, it was determined that recreational sports and dog walkers were too prevalent at the park to put a garden there.

"At [Silver Spring Intermediate], the pushback [was so ferocious, we decided if you don't want a pilot garden in your community, other communities are lining up]," said Ervin (D-Dist. 5) of Silver Spring.

Some residents near Silver Spring Intermediate were in favor of the gardens and Ervin said the removal of Silver Spring

News Clips Report

Intermediate would not prevent downtown Silver Spring from receiving gardens in the future.

"This is the first time I've heard this type of reaction," said Kathy Jentz, who lives a block from Silver Spring Intermediate Park and is also the editor of Washington Gardener magazine. "Usually a [civic] association will demand a garden be put in their park."

Community gardens are available at places like Woottons Mill Park in Rockville but the pilot program would be the first county-owned gardens. Community gardens are also available in surrounding counties like Howard and Frederick.

Each garden will have a kiosk with gardening information and general community news and an online group on Yahoo.com will be established for gardeners to communicate, Sabia Sukinik said. There will be gravel parking spaces at the Sandy Spring site, which is mostly removed from any residential properties.

Several community meetings are scheduled for Silver Spring and Takoma Park to present the plans.

Mostly vegetables, legal herbs and flowers will be allowed at the gardens, Sabia-Sukinik said, and the gardens will be periodically reviewed to ensure proper upkeep.

"Community gardens get all these people from different locations to come together at a central point," Sabia-Sukinik said. "They get people to meet each other."

Community meetings to discuss community gardens program in Montgomery County:

-7 p.m. Monday: Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting at Silver Spring Library, 8901 Colesville Road, Silver Spring.

-7:30 p.m. Tuesday: Takoma Park Environment Committee at Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park.

-7:30 p.m. April 20: East Silver Spring Citizens Association meeting at Sligo Recreation Center, 500 Sligo Ave. in Silver Spring.

-8:30 p.m. April 20: Takoma Park City Council, Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park.

-7 p.m. April 21: North Takoma Citizens Association meeting at Montgomery College Silver Spring/Takoma Park Campus Student Services Building Room 320, Fenton Street and New York Avenue in Silver Spring.

News Clips Report

Jeopardy! tryouts draw hundreds to Germantown campus The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Jeopardy! tryouts draw hundreds to Germantown campus

by Erin Donaghue | Staff Writer

Tryouts for what popular quiz show drew more than 1,200 would-be contestants to Montgomery College's Germantown campus Saturday?

Readers who answered "What is Jeopardy!?" may have missed an opportunity.

The campus swelled with know-it-alls looking for the chance to be on the quiz show. Though the event was scheduled for 2-4 p.m., one fan reportedly showed up as early as 4 a.m. Announcements for the tryouts warned that only the first 1,000 people would take the 10-question pre-test to qualify for an interview and audition. However, Montgomery College spokeswoman Elizabeth Homan estimated that about 1,200 were tested, and many more were turned away.

"The pressure wasn't on until last week," said Sonny Meyers, 46, of Fairfax, Va., one of the first 50 to arrive. Meyers said he watches the show nearly every night and practiced for the tryouts by playing a Jeopardy! game. "I'm a history buff and an astronomy buff, so that helps."

Participants tested their wits in a "just for fun" version of Jeopardy!. Members of the Jeopardy! "Clue Crew" — a group of hosts who roam the world to read questions to contestants on video — read off the prompts.

Even without knowing whether they will qualify for an interview or audition, some were already thinking about unique stories to tell host Alex Trebek when he interviews contestants during the show.

"I was trapped inside the Wienermobile once," said Derwood resident Lisa Van Nostrand, 43, referring to Oscar Meyer's hot-dog shaped vehicle. Van Nostrand said she was working in Syracuse, N.Y., as a radio broadcaster and was taking a child to school in the Wienermobile for a promotion when it broke down.

"They seem to focus on the goofiest thing that's ever happened to you," Van Nostrand said.

Even for trivia buffs, few people said they correctly answered all 10 questions on the test.

"They were the type of questions you feel at the tip of your tongue," said Homan, who took the test. "You know it's back there buried in your brain."

Many people who attended had grown up watching the show, Homan said.

"It's that armchair Jeopardy! player who is convinced they can do better than the player on TV," she said.

News Clips Report

People and Places The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

People and Places |

Celebrated sculptor to speak

at Montgomery College

For the fifth event in its academic yearlong Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration, the Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement will present sculptor Ivan Schwartz, speaking on "Sculpture and the Visual Storyteller."

The talk, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. today, will focus on the new Lincoln sculpture designed by Schwartz's studio and installed at the Lincoln Cottage on Lincoln's birthday, Sunday. The event will take place in the first-floor auditorium (room 204) of the Resource Center on New York Avenue at Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.

This program, which is free and open to everyone, is underwritten by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council.

An independent artist and designer, Schwartz is founder and director of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based StudioEIS, which has produced hundreds of sculpture projects for major museums and cultural institutions in the United States and abroad.

Community members are welcome and students are encouraged to attend.

Contact Francine Jamin, director of the Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement, at 240-567-1385 or francine.jamin

@montgomerycollege.edu.

News Clips Report

Some Arab-American leaders express new hope for understanding The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Some Arab-American leaders express new hope for understanding
County, college celebrating their heritage with activities this month

by Nathan Carrick | Staff Writer

Montgomery County has celebrated Arab-American Heritage Month for 10 years, starting two years before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But this year, some Arab-American community leaders are expressing a new hope for understanding and progress thanks to the election of President Obama.

"Because Obama used Hussein [his middle name] in his inauguration, we feel we have a new leader," said Kareem W. Shora, the national executive director for the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. "When you stereotype one population over another, you're serving to hurt what this country is all about."

Shora was the keynote speaker at Montgomery College's Arab-American Heritage Month kickoff event Thursday, an annual celebration which began in 2005. Later that evening, the county held its 10th annual Arab-American Heritage Month celebration in the Executive Office Building in Rockville.

Shora told a story about a meeting he attended several weeks ago in the West Wing of the White House. He called his mother as he was walking in, telling her where he was.

"She started to cry," Shora said. "It was just symbolic. I've had more important meetings at other locations. But to be invited to the White House because they wanted to hear my opinions was incredible."

Other activities throughout the month at Montgomery College include a screening of "A Land Called Paradise," the 2008 grand-prize winner in the One Nation Film Contest, on April 14 at the Germantown campus; a production of "I Heart Hamas: And Other Things I'm Afraid to Tell You," on April 24 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus; and a performance of "A Land Twice Promised," by storyteller Noa Baum, an Israeli who began a dialogue with a Palestinian woman while living in the United States, on April 27 at the Rockville campus.

"These activities are designed to enhance our knowledge about Arab-American contributions," said Dr. Judy E. Ackerman, vice president and provost of the Rockville campus. "It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, learn, share and expand our experiences."

Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, president of the libertarian Muslim think-tank Minaret of Freedom Institute and a professor at the University of Maryland, spoke at the county's kickoff event last week.

"Montgomery County is a county with a lot of diversity in it, but of that diversity, the Arab-American population is relatively small," he said. "It's very significant that we've been recognized by the county. It shows that the spirit of community here is a very positive one."

Ahmad was more hesitant to say the Obama administration would mean significant change for the Arab-American community.

"As a symbol, it is extremely positive," he said of Obama using his middle name during the inauguration ceremony. "The degree to which his administration will make any substantive change is yet to be seen."

Lily Qi, the Asian American and Middle-Eastern American liaison of the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, said Arab Americans are among the least understood of all Americans.

"Many Americans are surprised that two-thirds of Arab Americans are Christians," she said. "People often consider Middle Eastern, Arab and Muslims the same things. This program allows us to highlight this community and its many

News Clips Report

contributions to our country and human civilization."

Approximately 1 percent, or about 10,000 people, in the county are Arab American, Ahmad said. Approximately 70 percent of Arab Americans living in the United States are Christian, compared to 5 percent or 6 percent worldwide, he said.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) said the county should use the celebration to learn about the diverse cultures living within the county and to come together as a community.

"If the current financial crisis teaches us anything, that is how interdependent we are in today's world," he said. "We simply cannot afford not to understand one another."

For more information on Montgomery County's celebration of Arab-American Heritage Month, visit the county's Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov or call the Office of Community Partnerships at 240-777-2584 or send an e-mail to [partnerships@](mailto:partnerships@montgomerycountymd.gov)

montgomerycountymd.gov.

For more information on Montgomery College's celebration, call Enas Elhanafi, program coordinator, at 240-567-1759 or e-mail her at [enas.elhanafi@](mailto:enas.elhanafi@montgomerycollege.edu)

montgomerycollege.edu.

News Clips Report

Education Notebook The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Education Notebook: Holton students lend a hand during spring break

College experts descend on WJ

College admissions experts from six colleges will host a college information night at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda.

Counselors from The George Washington University, Montgomery College, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Gettysburg College, University of Pittsburgh and the University of Maryland, College Park will be on hand to answer questions about the admissions process and speak about their schools.

The event will take place in the school's cafeteria and is open to all.

Walter Johnson is located at 6430 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda.

Education Notebook is a weekly column during the school year. Send story ideas by 10 a.m. Thursdays to Bradford Pearson via e-mail at bpearson@gazette.net, by fax to 301-670-7183 or by mail to 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Photos will also be considered.

News Clips Report

Plans are underway for the 2010 American College Cricket Spring Break Championship South Florida Craibbean News

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009 Last Updated Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Plans are underway for the 2010 American College Cricket Spring Break Championship

LAUDERHILL - On the heels of staging the historic and succesful American College Cricket Spring Break Championship '09, American College Cricket's Lloyd Jodah and Nino DiLoreto are gearing up for the 2010 Championship.

The first order of business was meeting with Chris Thakoorpersad, Manager of the 2008 ICC Cricketer of the Year Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Mr. Thakoorpersad affirmed Chanderpaul's longterm commitment to support College Cricket in the United States. "With all the honors Shiv is receiving, he wants to give back to the game he loves and boosting youth cricket in America is one way of doing that. One day his son may want to go to college and play cricket and that may very well be in the United States" stated Thakoorpersad. Chris went on to say that he and Chanderpaul are proud to be associated with American College Cricket and its plans to develop College Cricket in the United States. "Whenever Shiv's cricket schedule permits, he will make appearances at American College Cricket's majoe events" added Thakoorpersad.

Nino DiLoreto, Vice President of American College Cricket, stated that the Championship will return to the Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill, Florida next year. " We received great support from the City of Lauderhill. Mayor Richard Kaplan, Commissioner Dale Holness and Leslie Tropepe did a great job" stated DiLoreto. "The South Florida Cricket Community supported the Championship especially Brian Edun of Laparkan Shipping, Eddy Edwards, Ravi Bedessee of Bedessee Sporting Goods, Danny Khan of the Florida Cricket Umpire Association and Hal Batson among others" added Nino.

The Quality Inn Conference Center at Sawgrass Mills will once again be the Official Hotel of the Championship. "The Hotel staff really did a great job of taking care of the Teams. Round trip transportation to the stadium was provided and the players enjoyed the amenities" said DiLoreto.

The American College Cricket Spring Break Championship received unprecedented media coverage. The New York Times provided a two page special report on its national and international editions. In addition a video highlighting the Championship was also produced by the New York Times. DreamCricket.com, CricketWorld.com, NewYorkCricket.com, Caribbean National Weekly, Sports Illustrated and a host of International Media outlets from the UK, India, Australia and others provided coverage of the Championship.

Lloyd Jodah, President of American College Cricket, announced that the 2010 Championship will be a four day event. "There will be a minimum of 16 College Teams competing for the Shiv Chanderpaul Championship Trophy in 2010" stated Jodah. "CricketWorld.com's Jim White is planning on bringing 2 British Universities Teams and we plan on inviting the University of the West Indies as well," added Jodah.

The five pioneering Teams that participated in the 2009 Championship: Montgomery College, Carnegie Mellon University, Boston University, The University of South Florida and the University of Miami have already indicated that they will return.

This year's Champions Montgomey College are getting kudos at home, including a Press Conference by the College. Participating Cricketers from the other Colleges are also receiving attention as requests for interviews are coming in from as far away as Australia.

Tangible benefits have emerged as a result of the Championship. The University of South Florida now has a Coach. Hubert Smythe, an ICC certified Umpire and Coach, will do the honors. Likewise at the University of Miami where Brian Edun will coach the 'Canes. Barry University will field a Team for the first time and has a Match scheduled with UM. According to Mr. Jodah, students at Hofstra University have taken the first steps in starting a Cricket Club. "This Movement has spread like wildfire. The enthusiasm and passion exibited by the student athletes for the Sport of Cricket is unbelievable. It makes myself and Nino work that much harder to bring College Cricket to the mainstream of the

News Clips Report

American Sports landscape," stated Jodah.

The tentative dates for the 2010 American College Cricket Spring Break Championship are March 18-21, 2010. The Semi Finals and Finals will be played at the Cricket Stadium and will be webcast worldwide.

News Clips Report

Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood The Gazette of Politics and Business

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Residents say college fence is dividing the neighborhood
City officials will prepare recommendations for council, college president

by Nathan Carrick | Staff Writer

Residents of the College Gardens and Plymouth Woods neighborhoods in Rockville say they are eager to find a solution to an issue they say has created division and hostility among neighbors.

That issue is Montgomery College's decision to build a fence blocking access to Princeton Place, a popular congregating spot for smokers and students.

Residents living on Princeton Place are relieved to have the fence in place, which keeps loiterers off their front yards, they say. Many other residents of the surrounding neighborhood are fuming at the loss of a long-standing access point to the college.

"I'm sad about the split that's formed in our community," said Mike Phillips, president of the College Gardens Civic Association. "Our neighborhood has not had this kind of problem historically. That's been the hardest part."

Disagreements are centered on whether there should be 24-hour access to campus and if there should be permit parking on Princeton Place.

"This kind of process prolongs the community being torn apart," said Elyse Gussow, president of the Plymouth Woods Condominium Association. "I'm all for getting this thing behind us, and we are getting somewhat closer to a solution."

The fence was built in March following complaints by neighbors that smokers forced off campus by the college's tobacco-free policy were congregating on Princeton Place and creating a nuisance.

"Montgomery College and the City of Rockville are caught between neighbors with competing interests," said Dr. Judy E. Ackerman, vice president and provost of the Rockville campus. "After several meetings with all of the stakeholders I am optimistic that we are getting closer to a solution agreeable to most of the people involved."

At the end of March the city and college identified an area within the college's fence that is actually city property, and officials have proposed designating that a smoking area as an alternative to forcing smokers onto Rockville Pike or Mannakee Street.

A 200-yard sidewalk directing pedestrians away from Princeton Place and toward the proposed smoking area is also being suggested, although some residents are concerned about the college's plan to build a fence along both sides of the sidewalk.

Residents voiced their concerns and suggestions for the plan Monday at a meeting with college and city officials in Rockville.

Jenny Kimble, assistant city manager, said the meeting was the last public forum before city staff formulates a recommendation for the City Council and the college president.

News Clips Report

Jeopardy! tryouts draw crowds to MC-Germantown The Gazette of Politics and Business

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Jeopardy! tryouts draw crowds to MC-Germantown

by Erin Donaghue | Staff Writer

Tryouts for what popular quiz show drew more than 1,200 would-be contestants to Montgomery College's Germantown campus Saturday?

Readers who answered "What is Jeopardy!?" may have missed an opportunity.

The campus swelled with know-it-alls looking for the chance to be on the quiz show. Though the event was scheduled for 2-4 p.m., one fan reportedly showed up as early as 4 a.m.

Announcements for the tryouts warned that only the first 1,000 people would take the 10-question pre-test to qualify for an interview and audition. However, Montgomery College spokeswoman Elizabeth Homan estimated that about 1,200 were tested, and many more were turned away.

"The pressure wasn't on until last week," said Sonny Meyers, 46, of Fairfax, Va., one of the first 50 to arrive. Meyers said he watches the show nearly every night and practiced for the tryouts by playing a Jeopardy! game. "I'm a history buff and an astronomy buff, so that helps."

Participants tested their wits in a "just for fun" version of Jeopardy!. Members of the Jeopardy! "Clue Crew" — a group of hosts who roam the world to read questions to contestants on video — read off the prompts.

Even without knowing whether they will qualify for an interview or audition, some were already thinking about unique stories to tell host Alex Trebek when he interviews contestants during the show.

"I was trapped inside the Wienermobile once," said Derwood resident Lisa Van Nostrand, 43, referring to Oscar Meyer's hot-dog shaped vehicle. Van Nostrand said she was working in Syracuse, N.Y., as a radio broadcaster and was taking a child to school in the Wienermobile for a promotion when it broke down.

"They seem to focus on the goofiest thing that's ever happened to you," Van Nostrand said.

Even for trivia buffs, few people said they correctly answered all 10 questions on the test.

"They were the type of questions you feel at the tip of your tongue," said Homan, who took the test. "You know it's back there buried in your brain."

Many people who attended had grown up watching the show, Homan said.

"It's that armchair Jeopardy! player who is convinced they can do better than the player on TV," she said.

News Clips Report

Education Notebook The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Education Notebook: LGBT summit planned for this month

Getting parents ready for college

Parents of middle-school students are invited to attend a college orientation program that will focus on college awareness, readiness and financial preparation on April 21.

The program is geared toward parents of middle school students, but is open to all parents. Speakers will include Montgomery County Public Schools counselors and representatives from Morgan State University, Montgomery College and the College Savings Plans of Maryland.

The session will be held 9:30 to 11 a.m. at John T. Baker Middle School, 25400 Oak Drive in Damascus.

For more information, e-mail Genevieve Floyd at Genevieve_L_Floyd@mcpsmd.org

News Clips Report

Weaker, Greenberg The Gazette Papers

04/08/2009

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Weaker, Greenberg

Donna and Norman Weaker of North Potomac announce the engagement of their daughter, Jenna Rachelle Weaker, to Scott Alan Greenberg, son of Karen and Robert Greenberg of Potomac.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of Quince Orchard High School, earned an associate's degree from Montgomery College. She is pursuing a degree in early childhood education.

The prospective groom holds a bachelor's degree from the Art Center College of Design and a master's of architecture degree from Catholic University. He is an architect at Gordon & Greenberg Architects in Potomac.

A May 24 wedding is planned

News Clips Report

Spring Tours Washington Post - Online

04/08/2009

Here's a list of notable home and garden tours coming up in the Washington area:

-- Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens includes 13 acres of well-groomed grounds with plants in bloom. Through June 13, docent-led tours of the gardens are included in admission to the estate. These tours are Tuesday through Saturday, starting at 10:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. 4155 Linnean Ave. NW. 202-686-5807, <http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org>. \$12, seniors \$10, students \$7, children 6-18 \$5, younger free.

-- The annual White House Gardens and Grounds Tours will be April 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and April 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. View the Rose Garden, Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, Children's Garden and South Lawn, and catch a glimpse of the new White House Kitchen Garden. 202-456-7041. Free; tickets required (timed distribution at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion, 15th and E streets NW, beginning at 8 a.m. each tour day).

-- Historic Garden Week in Virginia runs April 18 to 25 across the state. Browse private homes in locations including:

{scheck} Old Town Alexandria: April 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 703-838-4200 or 703-838-4994

{scheck} Leesburg: April 19 from 1 to 5 p.m., April 20 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 800-752-6118

{scheck} McLean: April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 703-978-4130

{scheck} Fredericksburg: April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 800-678-4748 or 800-654-4118

{scheck} Warrenton: April 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 540-937-4683

{scheck} Eastern Shore: April 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 757-678-7889

{scheck} Winchester: April 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 877-871-1326 or 540-662-1473

For more information, see <http://www.vagardenweek.org>. Prices vary.

-- Pick from six tours featuring more than 50 homes and gardens for the annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage, which is on select weekend days from April 25 to May 17. Locations include:

{scheck} Baltimore: May 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 410-323-0568

{scheck} Anne Arundel County: May 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 410-269-1737

{scheck} Baltimore County: May 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 410-771-1341

For more information, see <http://www.mhgp.org>. \$30 in advance, \$35 on tour day.

-- The Georgetown House Tour is April 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit 11 homes in the historic neighborhood, including the D.C. Design House, and enjoy tea and sweets at St. John's Church, 3240 O St. NW. 202-338-1796. <http://www.georgetownhousetour.com>. \$40 through April 19, \$45 after.

-- Arlington's Tuckahoe Elementary School is holding its annual Tuckahoe Home and Garden Tour on April 25 from noon to 4 p.m. Wander through six homes and one garden. 703-228-5288. <http://www.apsva.us/tuckahoe>. \$15 in advance, \$20 on tour day.

-- More than a dozen homes will be featured during the annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour on May 3 from 1 to 5 p.m. This year's theme is 'Almost Lost.' One home was once under threat of demolition to make room for a 10-lane highway; another was in the way of a proposed expansion of Montgomery College. 301-270-2831. <http://www.historictakoma.org>. \$15 in advance through local businesses, \$20 in advance on the Web site and on tour

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day.

-- Tour eight gardens within walking distance of each other during the Georgetown Garden Tour on May 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 202-965-1950. <http://www.georgetowngardentour.com>. \$30 through May 2, \$35 on day of tour.

-- The Capitol Hill Restoration Society's House and Garden Tour showcases the Barracks Row neighborhood this year. The annual event includes a candlelight tour of homes May 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. and a daylight tour May 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Peek into the Home of the Commandants, part of the Marine Barracks, on May 9. 202-543-0425. <http://www.chrs.org>. \$25 in advance, \$30 on tour days.

-- Learn about two gardens, Dumbarton Oaks and Tudor Place, on May 23 at 11 a.m. during the annual Georgetown Garden Treasures Tour. The guided tour will delve into how the gardens have changed through the years and preservation challenges. 202-965-0400. <http://www.tudorplace.org>. \$12.

Kathleen Hom

News Clips Report

MC-Rockville cricket team best in U.S. The Gazette Papers

04/07/2009

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

MC-Rockville cricket team best in U.S.

by Dan Greenberg | Staff Writer

It is one of the most popular sports in the world, but 11 Montgomery College-Rockville students cannot even find a place to play it. They smash belters on tennis courts, chase slogs in parking lots and throw googlies in between lecture halls.

Still stumped? Don't worry, they're used to it.

Though only a handful of people know it, MC's Rockville campus boasts the top-ranked cricket team in the United States. On March 23, its first-ever squad beat the University of South Florida to capture the inaugural American College Cricket Championship, held in Lauderhill, Fla.

They did so in complete obscurity. Montgomery College does not recognize cricket as a varsity sport, or even a club team.

So how did they get so good?

"All of us are from places with a cricket background: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India," said team captain Adil Bhatti, a native of Pakistan who moved to Rockville in 2000. "I feel like with the population here, there are a lot of people that play it. All of us are from this area, either Gaithersburg, Rockville, Germantown and one guy's from Silver Spring. The guys on our team, it's kind of our dream to go travel and play cricket nationally. But it was kind of difficult actually getting a team for this."

In actuality, the D.C. metropolitan area has one of the few thriving cricket pedigrees in the country. Most of the MC team, Bhatti for one, play weekend games in the Washington Cricket League. Established in 1974, the WCL has 28 teams and over 1,000 active members. One of its founding members is the Baltimore Cricket & Social Club, founded by Jamaican-Americans over 30 years ago, which regularly travels overseas for professional competition.

However, the man responsible for jumpstarting the MC-Rockville team neither lives in the area nor plays cricket competitively. New York resident Lloyd Jodah, president of recently formed American College Cricket, LLC, masterminded the Spring break tournament in Florida. A Guyana native who has lived in the United States for over 30 years, Jodah has long sought to cultivate his favorite sport in America.

In early 2009, he began bringing his dream to fruition, thanks in large part to the modern-day matchmaker: Facebook.com.

"The thing about cricket is that it has to be sold to people," he said. "I just looked at the situation and said one thing I could do was bring it out in colleges, to make it a school pride thing. I figured the best way to do it was announce that we are going to have the first national championship. Then having it down in Florida was another way to attract attention. You know: "We'll have fun. Cricket and spring break, how perfect."

In a matter of weeks, he had commitments from five college teams: Carnegie Mellon (Pa.) University, South Florida, Miami (Fla.), Boston University and MC-Rockville. Boston was the only team that existed before the tournament. Jodah also received endorsement from West Indies cricketer Shiv Chanderpaul, his country's most recent "Cricketer of the Year," who the tournament trophy was named after.

Upon hearing of the Facebook advertisement from a friend, Bhatti contacted several friends from the WCL, among them fellow Pakistani and Richard Montgomery high graduate Mohammad Kamran. Kamran wound up winning the tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

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"We went to the finals and we kind of kicked their [butts]," said Kamran. "Some of us have been trying to travel to play other countries for real tough competition. Lloyd was talking about recommending us to the U.S. National team."

The United States national cricket team, which had competed internationally since 1965, has been dormant for several years. But Jodah feels that a transcendent cricket following might be on the way, with several Montgomery College players as potential future stars.

"I was expecting the competition to range somewhere from OK to abysmal," Jodah said. "Quite honestly, the standard was extremely high. [Kamran] and Bhatti, for instance, were very good. We're hoping to have 24 teams next year, minimum. We're also trying to get cricket Olympic status for London."

According to Jodah, that is a distinct possibility. Not only was the sport invented in Great Britain, but several high-ranking members of the London Assembly, including Mayor Boris Johnson and Labor Party legislator Murad Qureshi, have strongly backed the inclusion of cricket in the 2012 Games.

Jodah also wants to see the U.S. represented with "younger people."

The Montgomery College team would fit the bill. They, too, have Olympic aspirations. But mostly, they just want a place for bowlers, all-rounders and wicketkeepers to play on campus.

"After we came home with the trophy, I got calls from so many guys who want to play now," said Bhatti. "We want to start a club team at MC. I think once it's an Olympic sport, it's going to get so big here. Everyone will want to play."

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AroundTown Washington Women

04/07/2009

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AroundTown

BY JACKY DOOLY

April 16: Civil Rights Photography Exhibit

An important chapter in the county's Civil Rights Movement, the Poor People's Campaign of 1968 is being recognized at Montgomery College in an exhibit called "A Most Daring Dream." A collection of more than 50 photographs by celebrated photographer Robert Houston. The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, Main Gallery, Montgomery College, Takoma Park/Silver Spring, MD, 202-567-5805.

News Clips Report

Obituaries, April 8, 2009 Georgetown Times

04/07/2009

Marvin August, 81, of Murrells Inlet, formerly of Upper Marlboro, Md., died Friday, April 3, 2009 at his residence.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel, with burial following in Hillcrest Cemetery. The Rev. Carl Hunsucker officiated, and the eulogy was delivered by John Winn. The family received friends at the funeral home one hour prior to services. Sign a guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Born in Philadelphia, Penn., he was the son of the late Samuel and Mollie August. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Navy toward the end of World War II, and was honorably discharged at war's end. After a brief time, he joined the U.S. Air Force, which he always said was the smartest move that he could have ever made. He spent 22 years serving his country, and retired as a master sergeant.

Most of his military career was spent in Washington, D.C. at both Andrews Air Force Base and the Pentagon. Mr. August trained as a computer systems analyst during this time, and received an Associate's Degree in Computer Science. After retirement he spent one year with the Washington, D.C. government before going back to the Pentagon as a branch chief in the same department that he worked in while in the Air Force. He spent the next 20 years again serving his country in civil service.

Mr. August was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Conway. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Betty August.

Survivors include: his wife, Jane Russell August of Murrells Inlet; son, Dr. E. Michael August and his wife, Lori, of Southbury, Conn.; a daughter, Melissa D. Miller of Conway; grandchildren, Cameron J. August of Tampa, Fla., and Micaela M. August of Southbury, Conn.

Memorials may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of S.C., 500 Taylor Street, Ste. 101, Columbia, SC 29201-3000.

David J. Blythe

David Jefferson Blythe of Myrtle Beach died Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at his home.

A memorial service was held 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5, 2009 in The Seacoast Vineyard Church, 9714 N. Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach.

Myrtle Beach Funeral Home, is in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Blythe grew up in Burlington, N.C., and was the son of Harold A. Blythe and Edith Thomasson Blythe.

Survivors include: a son, Greg Blythe and his wife, Monique, of Murrells Inlet; and a daughter, Ericka Sellmon Merrill and her husband, Scott, of Myrtle Beach; and grandchildren, Hunter, Cody, Zachary, Gabriel, and Luci; a brother, Bobby Blythe; and a sister, Sarah Blythe Hedgecock.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Forestbrook Firefighters, 693 Forestbrook Road, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579.

Douglas Elliott Brown

Douglas Elliott Brown, 48, of Conway, died Friday, April 3, 2009 at his residence following an illness.

Funeral services were 3 p.m. Monday, April 6, 2009 at Conway Freewill Baptist Church, with burial following in Westside Cemetery, directed by Conway Funeral Services, 3304 4th Avenue, Conway. Sign a guestbook at conwayfuneralsvc.net.

Mr. Brown was born Jan. 4, 1961 in Conway, a son of Betty L. Smith and the late Elliott Junior Brown. He was

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predeceased by two uncles, Donnie and Tommy Hucks.

Surviving in addition to his mother and stepfather, Henry Clinton Smith, of Conway are: a brother, Mark Henry Smith of Conway; a sister, Amy Lou Gasque of Conway; nephew, Cory Gasque of Conway; niece, Christina Gasque of Conway; uncles, Carl Hucks of Georgetown, Levon Hucks, Henry Hucks, and Allen Hucks, all of Conway, and Randy Hucks of Marion, N.C.; aunts, Linda Hipp, Eastelln Brown, Rosa Dean Brown, Wanda Lou Brooks, Jeanwood Todd, and Doris Hucks, all of Conway, and Molcie Wright of Greer.

Dorothy C. Bruce

Dorothy Carol 'DC' Bruce, 72, of Andrews, the widow of Archie E. Bruce Jr., died Monday, April 06, 2009.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Andrews Chapel of McKenzie Funeral Home.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in the church sanctuary.

Henry Jehu Causey

Henry Jehu Causey, 83, of Conway, died Saturday, April 4, 2009.

Funeral services were held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel with the Rev. Carl Hunsucker and the Rev. Gary Reaves officiating. Entombment followed in Hillcrest Mausoleum. Sign a guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Causey was born in Conway, a son of the late Julian and Annie Connor Causey.

He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, where he was a former president and treasurer of the Men's Sunday School Class. Mr. Causey was the former owner and operator of Causey and Long Oil Company in Conway. He was Past Master and member of the Conway Masonic Lodge No. 65, and was past president of the Waccamaw Shrine Club.

Mr. Causey was a member of the Conway Rotary Club where he was a former member of the Board of Directors. He was past president of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Causey served on the Conway Airport Commission, and was former vice chairman.

Surviving are: his wife, Ginnie H. Causey of Conway; one son, Henry Jehu 'Hank' Causey Jr. of Myrtle Beach; one daughter, Charles 'Charley' Ellen Wood of Conway; two grandchildren, Dock Henderson and Carrie Henderson; one great-granddaughter, Belle; and one stepson, Lane Phipps of Georgetown.

Memorials may be sent to the Shriner's Children's Hospital, 950 West Farris Road, Greenville, SC 29605.

James H. Coley

James Howard Coley, 85, of Myrtle Beach, died Sunday, April 5, 2009 at Waccamaw Community Hospital.

A funeral service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2009 in Belin United Methodist Church with the Rev. Dr. B. Mike Alexander officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel. Sign a guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Coley was born in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., a son of the late Henry and Viola Coley.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. Mr. Coley was a member of Belin United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Mt. Lebanon Masonic Lodge No. 117 in Wilson, N.C., and a member of the Chefs Crew, Waccamaw Shrine Club. He had retired from Peoples Bank in Rocky Mount, N.C.

Earlier in his life, he had served on the Lee County, North Carolina Council of Boy Scouts of America and in Little League Baseball. He was the former president of the Lemon Springs Methodist Church Men's Club, Lemon Springs Ruritan Club, and president of the Evening Optimist Club in Rocky Mount, N.C.

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Survivors include: his wife, Sadie Coley of The Lakes; two sons, James 'Buddy' and his wife, Bonnie Coley, of Murrells Inlet, and Donald T. and his wife, Margie Coley, of Kinston, N.C.; a daughter, Pamela and her husband, Edwin Nichols, of Rockingham, N.C., and grandchildren, James H. Coley III of Chesterfield, Megan C. Meyer and husband, Thomas, of Myrtle Beach, Kevin S. and Eric K. Coley both of Wilmington, N.C., Jason M. Vuncannon of Ellerbe, N.C., Jessie M. Vuncannon of Rockingham, N.C., Edwin L. Nichols Jr. and wife, Rebecca, of Youngsville, N.C., and Laura C. Nichols of Rockingham, N.C.

Memorials may be made to Belin Methodist Land Acquisition Fund, P.O. Box 582, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576, Shriners Hospital, 950 West Farris Road, Greenville, SC 29605 or National Kidney Foundation of South Carolina, 500 Taylor St., Suite 101, Columbia, SC 29201.

Steven H. Dailey

Steven H. Dailey, 63, of Murrells Inlet, died Saturday, March 30, 2009 at his residence.

Services will be private.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel, is in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Dailey was a U.S. Air Force Vietnam War veteran.

Survivors include his sister, Katherine; brother, James F. Dailey; nieces; and nephews.

Kenyon Dorsey

Kenyon Dorsey, 17, of Kingstree, died Sunday, April 5, 2009 at his home.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Nesmith-Pinckney Funeral Home of Hemingway.

Michael H. Elliott

Michael Harrison Elliott, 28, of Georgetown, the husband of Brenda 'Sissy' Elliott and the widower of Senena Sessions Elliott, died Saturday night, April 4, 2009, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the Holy Trinity Pentecostal Holiness Church directed by the Georgetown Chapel of McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Bethel Cemetery. Online Family Condolences may be sent to mckenziefuneralh@aol.com.

Mr. Elliott, the son of Tammy M. Elliott Knight and Donnie Evans was born Dec. 6, 1980 in Kingstree. He was a member of Holy Trinity Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of Georgetown, are: three sons, David Michael Elliott, Brandan Michael Elliott, and Michael Junior Elliott, all of Georgetown; his father of Andrews; a brother, Marshal Alan Knight of Andrews; a sister, Kristina Evans of Georgetown; his grandmother, Annabelle E. Long Elliott of Andrews; his grandfather James 'JC' Evans of Georgetown; and his step-father, Johnny Knight of Andrews.

Harris G. Fletcher III

Harris Gibson Fletcher III, 57, of Pawleys Island, died Sunday, April 5, 2009, at Georgetown Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in the Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church. Officiating will be the Rev. Frank S. Holsclaw. Burial will follow in Pawleys Island Presbyterian Churchyard. The Georgetown Chapel of Mayer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Sign a guestbook at www.mayerfuneralhome.com.

Mr. Fletcher was born in Georgetown on Sept. 28, 1951, a son of the late Harris Gibson Fletcher, Jr. and Lois Hanna Fletcher. He grew up in Pawleys Island and graduated from Winyah High School and the University of South Carolina. Mr. Fletcher was owner of Fletcher Refrigeration Service and a member of the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society. He was a member of the Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church where he was an elder and served on the Cemetery and the Service Committees.

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Mr. Fletcher was predeceased by a daughter, Hannah Leeann Fletcher.

Surviving are: his wife, Jill Hudson Fletcher of Pawleys Island; a daughter, Anna Grace Fletcher of Pawleys Island; a sister, Lynette Johnson (Todd) of Topton, N. C.: and eight nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the Family Life Center Building Fund, Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church, 9967 Ocean Highway, Pawleys Island, S. C. 29585.

Lucian Green

Rev. Lucian Green, 79, of Atlanta, Ga. and formerly of Georgetown, died Friday, April 3, 2009 at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by McKnight-Fraser Funeral Home of Georgetown.

Patricia M. Harmon

Patricia Marie Harmon, 77, of Surfside Beach, died Thursday, April 2, 2009 at her residence.

A memorial service was held at 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 6, 2009 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel, is in charge of the arrangements. Sign a guest book at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

She was born in Washington, D.C., a daughter of the late William and Ruth Burke. She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Harmon was preceded in death by a brother, Allen Burke; and a sister, Jeanne Fletcher.

Survivors include: a son, Charles B. Ford and his wife, Rosemary, of Brookeview, Md.; a daughter, Beverly Edwards and her husband, Raymond, of Surfside Beach; eight grandchildren, Michael Allen, Kim Hogan, Russ Cain, Colby Cain, Barney Ford, Brindley Swaney, Travis Ford and Megan Ford; 12 great-grandchildren, Shawn, Amanda, and Mikey Allen, Abigail and Patrick Wick, Ryan and Bryanna Cain, Casey, Courtney and Corey Cain, and Gavin and Keelyn Swaney; and one brother, William E. Burke of Conway.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital for cancer research and treatment, 332 North Lauderdale, Memphis, TN 38105.

Grace D. Hinton

Grace Elizabeth Darragh Hinton, 104, resident of Highway 72 West, and lifelong resident of Greenwood County, died Saturday, April 4, 2009 at her home.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Monday, April 6, 2009 at Tranquil United Methodist Church in Greenwood. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family is at the home, and will receive friends in the church fellowship hall following the service.

Blyth Funeral Home & Cremation Services is assisting the Hinton family. Online condolences may be made at blythfuneralhome.com.

Born Jan. 22, 1905, she was the daughter of the late William John and Lizzie Cobb Darragh, and wife of the late Sam Hinton. She was a lifelong member of Tranquil United Methodist Church. Mrs. Hinton was predeceased by a sister, Mary Gandy; and three brothers, William, Jim, and Thomas Darragh.

Surviving are: four daughters, Doris White of Simpsonville, Dorothy Burnett of Greenville, Marian Gentry of Charleston, and Peggy Truett of Surfside Beach; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Tranquil United Methodist Church, 1706 McCormick Highway, Greenwood, SC 29646.

J.W. Hyman

News Clips Report

Rev. J.W. Hyman, 84, husband of Nora A. Hyman, of Galivants Ferry, died Monday, April 6, 2009 at Marion County Medical Center.

Funeral services will be held 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 in Oak Grove Original Freewill Baptist Church with Dr. Tommy Bryson and the Rev. Stephen Hyman officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel. Sign a guestbook at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Rev. Hyman was born in Conway, a son of the late Eddie Bright and Myrtle Barnhill Hyman.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. The Rev. Hyman was a member of Oak Grove Original Freewill Baptist Church. He was a retired minister where he most recently served at Happy Home Freewill Baptist Church.

Surviving in addition to his wife, of Galivants Ferry, are: one son, Danny Hyman and wife, Joyce, of Galivants Ferry; one daughter, Bonnie Hyman Todd and husband, Jackie, of Conway; five grandchildren, Kim Purvis and husband, Danny, Rodney Hyman and wife, Angel, Carey Todd, the Rev. Stephen Hyman and wife, Dessie, and Kevin Todd and wife, Michelle; seven great-grandchildren; two brothers, the Rev. Paul Hyman of Gresham and Larry Hyman of Georgetown; and five sisters, Loraine Cox of Georgetown, Doris Lewis and Maggie Lewis both of Conway, Hilda Grimm of Myrtle Beach and Barbara Barnhill of Galivants Ferry.

Memorials may be sent to Oak Grove Original Freewill Baptist Church, 5920 Antioch Road, Conway, SC 29527.

Lofton W. Ward

Lofton Woodrow Ward, 92, of Georgetown, a retired employee with International Paper, died Monday, April 6, 2009 in Georgetown Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 11 a.m. in Wayne United Methodist Church. Officiating will be Rev. Steve Jordan and Rev. Michael Leonhardt. Burial, directed by Graham Funeral Home, will follow in Pennyroyal Memorial Gardens. Sign a guestbook at www.grahamfuneralhome.org.

He was born May 25, 1916 in Williamsburg County, a son of the late Sampson Ward and the late Elizabeth Louise Barrineau Ward.

Mr. Ward retired in 1978 from International Paper with 37 years of service. He was a U.S. Army World War II Veteran. He enjoyed deer hunting, fox hunting, fishing and his garden as his hobbies. He was an honorary member of Wild Horse Hunting Club.

He was a charter member of Wayne United Methodist Church and a member and former treasurer of the Curtis Bell Sunday School Class and a member of United Methodist Men.

Surviving are: his wife, Lonita Jordan Ward of the home; five sons, Gerald Ward and his wife Jessie, Rodney Ward and his wife Ellen, Timmy Ward and his wife Robin, Jeffrey Ward and his wife Patti all of Georgetown and David Ward of Sullivans Island; one step-daughter, Charlotte J. Hull and her husband Craig of Georgetown; three brothers, Norman Ward and Julian Ward both of North Charleston and Trio and Franklin Ward of Georgetown; one sister, Virginia Mae Ward of Aiken, six grandchildren; one great-grandchild and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his first, wife, Margaret B. Ward and three brothers and one sister.

Memorials may be made to Wayne United Methodist Church, 621 Wayne St., Georgetown, SC 29440.

Paul B. Williamson

Paul B. Williamson, 89, of Murrells Inlet, died Thursday, April 2, 2009 at Waccamaw Hospital.

A Celebration of Life memorial service will be announced at a later date.

The family is being served by Grand Strand Funeral Home and Crematory of Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Williamson was a World War II Veteran, serving in the South Pacific with the U.S. Army and was a past commander

News Clips Report

of American Legion Post 389 in Collingswood, N.J. He was a member of Timberlake Baptist Church.

Survivors include: his wife of 67 years, Mary Kurtz Williamson; daughter, Patricia (Carmen) Carella of Murrells Inlet; son, Paul C. Williamson of Myrtle Beach; grandson, Christopher (Lori) Carella of Bridgeton, N.J.; and four great-grandsons, Brandon, Aaron, Jared, and Caleb Carella.

Mr. Williamson was predeceased by his parents, Dorothy and Benjamin Williamson; a brother, Robert Williamson; and sisters Audrey Reuss and Adelaide Boehm.

Memorials may be sent to Timberlake Baptist Church, 9850 Hwy. 707, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 or Winyah Community Hospice Care, 137 Professional Lane, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

Carol Wilt

Carol Wilt, 60, died Saturday, April 4, 2009 in a Biloxi, Miss. hospital.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Ms. Wilt was born in Washington, D.C., a daughter of Zella Wilt of Georgetown and the late George Wilt. She grew up in Wayne, N.J., and graduated from Wayne High School. A voice major, she attended Shennandoah Conservatory. She graduated cum laude from Montgomery College in Maryland and William Paterson College in New Jersey.

Survivors include: her mother of Georgetown; her sons Douglas of Biloxi and Charles of Pensacola, Fla.; sister Barbara of New Jersey; brother William of California; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was predeceased by her father in 2003.

Memorials may be made to the music program of Prince George, Winyah, Episcopal Church in Georgetown or to the American Cancer Society.

News Clips Report

Sunday is fun day for Skipjacks Chesapeake College

04/06/2009

Baseball

Sunday is fun day for Skipjacks

Chesapeake sweeps Cecil, moves into first place in state

NORTH EAST – Sunday was a fun day to be a Skipjack.

Chesapeake College's baseball team swept host Cecil College, 9-4 and 6-1, as the Skipjacks (20-7 overall, 12-3 league) moved into first place at the midpoint of the Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference season. Chesapeake also reached 20 wins for the eighth time in Frank Szymanski's 10 years as head coach.

"I'm just happy with the way we're playing," said Szymanski, whose team has won four straight games. "The guys are playing extremely hard and they're focused."

Chesapeake is involved in a state title race every bit as crazy as last year's championship chase, which wasn't decided until the last day of the season. The Skipjacks are battling Allegany College (24-8, 13-5), Anne Arundel Community College (19-9, 8-4), CCBC-Dundalk (15-11, 8-4), Hagerstown Community College (23-8, 7-4), and Montgomery College Germantown (13-8, 6-4) for this year's championship.

"One of our goals in the beginning of the year was to play meaningful games in May," said Szymanski, whose team is coming closer and closer to that goal. "We've got to stay focused and stay hungry."

Chesapeake won Sunday's opener with a four-run sixth inning that broke a 4-4 tie. Jesse Savage reached on an error, Chris Bell singled and both came home on Mathieu Vallieres' three-run homer off Cecil reliever Lee Croft. Mike Liddell then hit Croft's next pitch for a solo shot.

Cecil led, 3-1, until the Skipjacks pieced together a three-run fifth inning built around Chris Bodnar's two-out, two-run single that finished off Seahawks starter Jimmy Brooks. Mike Turner then greeted Croft with an RBI single that gave Chesapeake a 4-3 lead.

"They came through in the clutch," said Szymanski, whose team finished with 13 hits in Game 1. "That's what it's all about – getting the timely hits when you need them."

Cecil tied the game on Chris Baldini's solo homer leading off the fifth inning against Skipjack starter Jake Garvey. One batter later, Garvey was replaced by reliever Ryan Staton, who allowed one hit and one walk with two strikeouts over the final three innings while improving to 3-0.

Vallieres, Liddell, Turner, Cory Kirby and Chris Bell each had two hits for the Skipjacks in Game 1.

Chesapeake broke on top in Game 2 with a pair of first-inning runs as Liddell and Bodnar singled home runs. The Skipjacks added single runs in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings to methodically pull away.

Every starter had a hit in Game 2, with Vallieres going 2-for-4 with two runs to lead the way.

Rob Karwacki earned the Game 2 victory, allowing one run on seven hits with two walks and three strikeouts in 4 1/3 innings. Ben Newport finished with 2 2/3 innings of no-hit relief.

"Our pitchers did a great job today throwing strikes, keeping the defense in the game," said Szymanski. "The pitching has been very effective and we had two more outstanding defensive games."

Losing pitcher Zach Williams went five innings and allowed the Skipjacks' first five runs.

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The Skipjacks host Montgomery College/Rockville Tuesday at 3 p.m.

News Clips Report

In cricketers' contest, the goal is recognition Sarasota Herald-Tribune - Online

04/06/2009

LAUDERHILL - Sandwiched between a soccer game and a barbecue, the Montgomery College cricket team edged closer and closer to victory. And when at last it came, after four days of wickets, overs and sixes, the players were exultant.

Just as cricketers do from Australia to Antigua, they snatched the wooden cricket stumps out of the grass and waved them around their heads in mad celebration.

The players felt they had claimed more than the 3-foot trophy for the first American College Cricket spring break championship. In their minds they had brought their sport one step closer to the American mainstream.

Though cricket counts its fans by the billion worldwide, the sport does not register a pulse in the United States. Of the five teams in attendance at this experimental event last weekend -- Montgomery, in Maryland; Boston University; Carnegie Mellon; the University of South Florida and the University of Miami -- most exist only as social clubs. None of them has club team status, and the sport is not recognized by the NCAA.

With only a few weeks' notice, the five teams did what many college students do this time of year: they packed their sunscreen and headed to Florida. Nearly 60 players drove or flew at their own expense to the lush cricket pitches of Central Broward Regional Park.

Lloyd Jodah, the founder and president of American College Cricket, said that the idea for the college tournament came to him last year as he campaigned to have cricket included in the Olympics. Standing on Wall Street with a cricket bat in one hand and petitions in the other, Jodah, 50, an immigrant from Guyana who works selling health club memberships, met Kalpesh Patel, a Jamaican business student from the University of Miami.

Jodah and Nino DiLoreto, 62, a former soccer player from Italy, spent many evenings tracking down college cricket players, and the group swelled to more than 500 members. 'We could have waited till next year to have the tournament and maybe taken more time to organize it,' Jodah said. 'But it was important to actually do something this year, to have something to show for ourselves.' Invitations went out and T-shirts were printed.

Unlike a couple of the teams, which had snazzy uniforms, the University of South Florida contingent did not even have a team until a few weeks ago; they were just a few guys who played a regular pickup game. They settled on sweatpants and green T-shirts from the college bookstore. Not having names on their shirts caused a few awkward moments when a player would run to the

News Clips Report

Montgomery College exhibit shares tales of struggle Gazette, The

04/06/2009

For the last few weeks, visitors to the Takoma Park Community Center have gotten an exclusive look into the lives and personal struggles of 24 Montgomery College students and alumni. The 'Portraits of Life: Student Experiences' exhibit, spearheaded by the college's arts institute, features often-tragic stories juxtaposed with a now-positive outlook on the future. The students and alumni were interviewed and photographed over 14 months, leading up to the March 4 opening of the exhibit on display in the community center's entrance hall. 'These are people who have experienced things that nobody would wish on anybody,' said David Fogel, who conducted interviews. 'These experiences, while they will be a part of [these people] for the rest of their lives, don't have to define them.' Many of the stories, like alumna Usa Bunnag's, revolve around foreign students who fled wartorn or impoverished nations. Bunnag, 45, remembers being teased by peers for her dirty clothes and poverty growing up in Thailand. She now volunteers her time to ensure a better life for rural Thai. 'I go back twice a year,' she said. A dentist, Bunnag's Bethesda-based nonprofit, Smiles on Wings, provides everything from dental and medical care to clothing and schoolbooks to rural Thai villages. 'My goal with the nonprofit is to keep some of those young boys and girls out of the child sex-slave trade.' Alice Claudine Mucyo's portrait details her harrowing escape with her family from the mid-1990s Rwandan genocide. Now far from the killing and working toward a bachelor's degree in social work, Mucyo's warm smile and open attitude offer no sign of her violent ordeal. 'I remember when we were taking Claudine's picture, and she just knew exactly what to do,' Fogel joked at the exhibit's opening ceremony as Mucyo blushed slightly. 'She was born for the camera.' So far, two identical sets of the portraits have been made; the community center will host the plaques until April 20, while the second set adorns the walls in the State House of Delegates building in Annapolis, according to David Phillips, the college's Arts Institute Director.

Both sets of portraits cost about \$60,000, which was largely paid for by the college's supporting foundation and a grant from the Carl M. Freeman Foundation, Phillips said.

He said he feels inspired by the students in the portraits and hopes the work will be exhibited for many years to come. 'We have students from more than 176 countries on our three campuses, and until you sit down and talk to them, you just walk by them like you'd walk by anybody,' he said. 'We all get caught up in our own stories, and it's helpful to see that other people have overcome greater challenges than we have.' Visitors to the community center have been quite receptive to the portraits. Takoma Park residents Randy Cleaver and his wife Beth Richwine came out to admire the plaques on opening night, strolling up and down the two aisles to read each story. 'It's been very interesting eye-opening in many ways,' Cleaver said. 'They're all very compelling stories, how they were all able to rise above what happened to them, [plus] I didn't realize that there were so many students with different ethnicities going to Montgomery College.'

News Clips Report

Russian beauty wins American pageant Russia Today

04/06/2009

Citizen of Maryland Kristina Bordyugova has won the title of Miss Russian Beauty of America 2009.

A Montgomery College student, 21-year-old Kristina is originally from Moscow. According to Itar-Tass news agency, she also gives classes in ball-room dancing and works as a model in a catwalk agency.

The beauty contest coincided with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, which attracts millions of tourists from around the world to Washington DC.

Millions of tourists dont even realize that the real cream of the Russian Washington is blossoming right in the Russian Center for Culture, said one of the jury members Evgeny Agoshkov.

Kristina Bordyugova will represent the US in Moscow this April at the pageant of Russian community members abroad.

News Clips Report

Sudoku Creator Sees Game Blossom The Washigtion Post

04/05/2009

Sudoku Creator Sees Game Blossom

By David Nakamura

Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, April 5, 2009; Page C01

And now, some numbers for Maki Kaji, the man who helped invent Sudoku:

1984 -- year he created the puzzle, which was based on an American game called Numbers Place;

35 -- seconds it took for him to come up with the game's Japanese name ("su" means number; "doku" means single);

0 -- trademarks that Kaji secured before his game was reproduced around the world.

"Some friends said, 'Maki, you should have trademarked Sudoku. You could have been a millionaire,' " Kaji told a crowd of about 50 yesterday during an appearance at the Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival in downtown Washington. "I said: 'No, that's not what I want. I'm happy to see everyone enjoy Sudoku more easily.' "

Not to worry. Kaji, 57, who owns a puzzle company called Nikoli, is doing just fine: He's publishing new games, traveling the world to promote them (he was in Spain last week and Mozambique last month) and feeling the love from Sudoku devotees. When Kaji left the stage at 12th Street and Constitution Avenue to pass out brochures, he was mobbed by fans.

The game, for the few who might not have tried it, involves ordering the numbers one through nine in nine boxes of nine squares, with each column having all nine numbers vertically and horizontally. Howard Garns, an American architect, is credited with inventing the basic concept in 1979, calling it Numbers Place. Much like the New York Times crossword puzzle, Sudoku games range from easy to difficult.

Lisa Lawler, 43, a Census Bureau employee, and Mariyam Al-Shatti, 18, a Montgomery College student, thrust Sudoku books in Kaji's face and asked for autographs.

"My sister just loves the game. I just play a little, but I admire her because she's so good," Lawler said, thanking Kaji with an "arigato" and bowing. Al-Shatti eagerly volunteered to compete in one of the two Sudoku contests.

They were won by Heidi Lee, 27, a painter from Manhattan, and Brandon Bear, 21, a college senior from York, Pa., who finished the puzzles in about five minutes.

"I used to play a lot," Lee said. "But I don't have too much time."

Charles Snyder, 67, a retired journalist from Montgomery County, was sitting in the front row. He plays several times a day.

"It's a challenge, and there's a certain symmetry to it," he said.

Kaji also appreciated the symmetry in Garns's game and decided to introduce a version in Japan, but "the name did not hit me." With his staff urging a new name and Kaji eager to move on to something else, he blurted out, "Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru," which meant that the numbers should go in single boxes, like the unmarried. The name was later shortened to Sudoku.

"I was already married," he told the crowd, "so please understand that I did not come up with the name because I wanted to be single again!"

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Bada-bump. Kaji might not be a millionaire, but he maintains his sense of humor. Dressed in trendy gray jeans and a charcoal blazer, with a striped scarf around his neck, Kaji gamely tried to speak English but used a translator during an interview.

How often does he play Sudoku? "Only on the plane," he said.

What are his new favorites? Nurikabe and Slitherlink, both number games that his company is marketing, of course.

Is there a difference between Japanese and American players?

Not on the advanced level, Kaji said. But on the general level, Americans tend to fill in the boxes with pencil and make lots of changes before finishing, he said. And according to Kaji, the Japanese think about everything for a long time before writing down their answers just once.

News Clips Report

Budget Cutters Target Bus Service Washington Post - Online

04/05/2009

Bus service in the Washington region is about to suffer its most severe cutback in many years. The Metro board voted to hold public hearings on reducing Metrobus service to close part of the agency's \$29 million budget gap. District members blocked consideration of a 5-cent across-the-board fare increase as an alternative to service cuts. Metrobus, Montgomery County's Ride On, Fairfax County's Fairfax Connector and Alexandria's DASH are among the local services planning to scale back by mid-2009 because their government sponsors are losing money. (That's tax money, not fare box money. The bus services are more popular than ever, but each requires a subsidy from one or more governments.) Today, we'll look at the potential impact on riders of Metrobus, the backbone of the region's bus services.

In some cases, the savings come from eliminating a route or increasing the gap between bus arrival times. The impact falls most heavily on Prince George's and Montgomery counties, because of the varying subsidy contributions. In other cases, some fares would be increased on specific routes. No overall fare increase is proposed.

Route M2, Fairfax Village-Naylor Road Line. (Alternative Route: F14)

Route D5, MacArthur Boulevard-Georgetown Line. (Alternative Route: D6)

Route B27, Bowie-New Carrollton Line. (Alternative Routes: B21, B22; T16, 17)

Routes B29, B31, Hillcrest Heights Line (Alternative Routes: B21, B22, B24, B25; C28)

C7, C9, Greenbelt-Glenmont Line. (Alternative Routes: 83, 86, 87, 89; C2, C8, R2, R5, R12, T17, Z8, Z9; Ride On 10; The Bus 11.)

Routes C12, C14, Hillcrest Heights Line. (Alternative Routes H11, H12, P12)

R3, Greenbelt-Fort Totten Line. (Alternative Routes: 83, C2, C4, C8, F4, F6, F8, R1, R2, R4, R5, R12, T16, T17; The Bus 11, 13, 14, 15, 15X, 16)

Route W15, Indian Head Highway Line. (Alternative Routes: A2, D12, D13, D14, P12, W13)

Route 22B, Pentagon-Army/Navy Drive-Shirley Park Line. (Service to be replaced by Arlington Transit.)

Route 24P, Ballston-Pentagon Line. (Service to be replaced by Arlington Transit.)

Route C4, C2, Greenbelt-Twinbrook Line. (All service on this line between the Wheaton Station and the Twinbrook Station would be discontinued.)

Route C8, College Park-White Flint. (Eliminate weekday off-peak and Saturday service.)

Route J5: Twinbrook-Silver Spring Line. (Reroute over the discontinued segments of the C4 and Q2 as a partial replacement during rush hours only. Increase frequency from every 30 to every 20 minutes.)

L7, Connecticut Avenue-Maryland Line. (Eliminate L7 and increase service on L8.)

NH1, National Harbor. (Reroute from Southern Avenue Station to Branch Avenue Station.)

Routes P17, P18, P19, Oxon Hill-Fort Washington Line. (Reroute all trips to Southern Avenue Station. Charge regular fare instead of express fare.)

Route Q2, Veirs Mill Road Line. (Eliminate service north of Rockville Station and south of Wheaton Station, except for retaining the route between Rockville Station and Montgomery College as required for student travel.)

Routes W13, W14, Bock Road Line. (Reroute all trips to Southern Avenue Station. Charge regular fare instead of express

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fare.)

Route Z2, Colesville-Ashton Line. (Eliminate midday service weekdays. On Saturday, eliminate service between White Oak and Colesville.)

Route 10A, Hunting Towers-Pentagon Line. (Eliminate weekday service after 9 p.m. and all weekend service. Increase service on 10B to replace Alexandria portion of weekday service and the Saturday late evening and Sunday service on 10A.)

Routes 21A, B, C, D, F, Landmark-Pentagon Line. (Restructure to a single route via Reynolds Street, Edsall Road, Whiting Street, Stevenson Avenue, Yoakum Parkway, Edsall Road, Van Dorn Street, Duke Street and I-395 to the Pentagon.)

Routes 26A, E, W, GEORGE Line. (Eliminate all service or increase fare.)

Routes J7, J9, I-270 Express. (Charge \$3.10 cash/\$3 with SmarTrip card.)

Route W19, Indian Head Express. (Charge \$3.10 cash/\$3 SmarTrip card.)

Route 26A, E, W, GEORGE. (Increase from 50 cents to \$1.35 cash/\$1.25 SmarTrip.)

Routes 52, 53, 54, 14th Street Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 4 1/2 to 5 minutes. Meanwhile, a new D. C. Circulator bus route includes 14th Street NW between Irving and H streets.)

Route 80, North Capitol Street Line. (Interval between buses during a.m. rush hours to increase from 8 1/2 to 10 minutes.)

Routes 90, 92, U Street-Garfield Line. (Interval between buses during a.m. rush to increase from 4 to 4 1/2 minutes and during p.m. rush from 5 to 5 1/2 minutes.)

Routes H2, H3, H4, Crosstown Line. (Interval between buses during a.m. rush hours to increase from 5 to 5 1/2 minutes and during p.m. rush from 8 1/2 to 10 minutes.)

Routes H6, Brookland-Fort Lincoln Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 10 to 14 minutes and during midday hours from 15 to 20 minutes. Metro says there will be no loss of capacity on the line because larger buses will be used.)

Routes N2, N3, N4, Massachusetts Avenue Line. (Interval between buses during p.m. rush to increase from 6 to 7 minutes.)

Routes S2, S4, 16th Street Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 4 to 4 1/2 minutes. Meanwhile: Metro has launched a new rush-hour express bus on 16th Street NW.)

Routes V7, V9, Minnesota Avenue-M Street Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 8 to 9 minutes.)

Route X2, Benning Road-H Street Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 6.8 to 7 1/2 minutes.)

Route A12, MLK Jr. Highway Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 20 to 25 minutes.)

J11, J12, Marlboro Pike Line. (Interval between buses during rush hours to increase from 23 to 31 minutes.)

Routes Z9, Z29, Laurel-Burtonsville Express. (Interval between buses during a.m. rush to increase from 20 to 30 minutes.)

Routes Z11, Z13, Greencastle-Briggs Chaney Express. (Interval between Z11 buses during rush hours to increase from 10 to 15 minutes. Z13 schedule fitted to Z11.)

Routes 7A, 7E, 7F, Lincolnia-North Fairlington Line. (7A, F: Interval between buses during evening hours to increase from 15 to 30 minutes between 8 and 10 p.m. 7E: Interval between buses during a.m. rush to increase from 4 to 7 1/2 minutes)

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and during p.m. rush from 7 1/2 to 10 minutes.

News Clips Report

Cherry Blossom Festival Blooms Approach Peak, Time for a Peek Associated Content

04/05/2009

Cheerful spring weather in Washington, D.C. this weekend should ensure ample attendance at the various National Cherry Blossom Festival activities in town. The cherry trees won't be in peak bloom until midweek yet still manage to draw crowds to the Tidal

Basin to admire their fragile blossoms.

Alex Trebek led the Cherry Blossom parade down Constitution Avenue this morning. After hosting the parade, Trebek headed off to Montgomery College's Germantown campus to hold Jeopardy tryouts. This afternoon, the annual Sakuri Matsuri, or Japanese Street Festival, is the primary Cherry Blossom Festival event drawing the visitors.

While the Street Festival may draw the largest crowds, there are plentiful alternatives for spending time amid the beautiful blossoms or learning about Japanese culture.

Warm Weather Beckons at the National Arboreteum

The weather encourages an excursion to the National Arboreteum which houses The National Penjing and Bonsai Museum. Besides viewing the bonsai and strolling the grounds to see cherry trees in bloom, National Arboreteum visitors can learn the art of Ikebana, Japanese flower arrangement, from masters.

See the Cherry Blossoms by Lantern Light

For a different perspective on cherry blossoms, tourists can join the National Park Service rangers in a cherry blossom lantern walk in the evening. The walks depart from the Tidal Basin Welcome Area, taking place between 8 pm and 10 pm. Lantern walk participants are encouraged to bring their own flashlights.

Try Some Less Common Japanese-Themed Activities

For an overview of less common Japanese themed activities associated with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, click [here](#).

Create Your Own Cherry Blossom Bike Tour

News Clips Report

'Jeopardy' Tryouts Come To The Region WFMD-AM - Online

04/05/2009

'Westernland, not Frontierland, is a west themed area of this Asian city's Disneyland' was the question presented by 'Jeopardy' Clue Crew member Sarah Whitcomb to a contestant named Tom. 'What is Tokyo?' was his response. Tom was among hundreds of people who took part in a 'just for fun' version of 'Jeopardy.' It wasn't like the real 'Jeopardy,' but it came close with five categories, dollar amounts for each clue, daily doubles, and, yes, you had to word your response in the form of a question. 'Jeopardy' tryouts were held on Saturday at the High Science and Technology Center at the Montgomery College campus in Germantown. Hundreds of people lined up to take a written test, and try their hand at a mock version of the popular TV game show. They will be notified at a future date as to whether they will be invited to become 'Jeopardy' contestants. One of those trying his luck was Chris Jones, who works at Montgomery College. He says his wife made him do it. 'We always watch 'Jeopardy,' and she thinks I'm really good at it,' says Jones. 'She thinks I can come and win.' In addition to being smart, contestants have to be fast. "'Jeopardy' is all about being thorough and fast,' says Clue Crew Member Jimmy McGuire.

He says everyone who tries out for the show should just try to be themselves. 'Everyone wants to be the next Ken Jennings, but there's only one Ken Jennings,' McGuire says. 'We encourage people to be the best version of themselves, have a lot of fun, have a personality....but there are questions involved, and we hope you're well-read as well.' Ken Jennings set a record last year, and won 74 straight games of 'Jeopardy.' The program will soon begin its 26th season. 'People of all ages can watch 'Jeopardy' and find something for them in the show,' says Clue Crew member Sarah Whitcomb, commenting on the show's popularity. 'You could have a Disney clue that a 3-year-old could get, and a Civil War clue that another family member could get. There's really something for everyone in 'Jeopardy.'" For more information on the show, log on to www.jeopardy.com.

News Clips Report

New vocational, technical courses free for all **Army Times**

04/05/2009

The Army has launched a multimillion dollar education program that offers soldiers free vocational and technical training for high-demand jobs in the civilian sector.

The new program is available to all active-duty soldiers, including mobilized National Guard and Army Reserve members.

Funded for \$19 million as a one-year pilot, the Army Vocational/ Technical Soldier Program targets enlisted soldiers and officers who are seeking training that is not eligible for regular college tuition assistance, and that leads toward state or national licensure or certification.

For example, a nurses aide program that trains students to sit for a certification test qualifies for AVOTEC tuition payments of up to \$4,500 annually.

Within the \$4,500 limit, soldiers can take both vocational courses and college courses. Soldiers may take more than one AVOTEC course, but not at the same time, as the courses may not overlap.

Soldiers can take the courses online or in classrooms at community colleges and vocational schools near their installations.

Through the program, courses in a wide range of specialties are offered at many schools across the country through an agreement with the Army.

Since being launched in February, more than 100 soldiers have enrolled in the program. That number is expected to increase sharply as more people learn about the new benefit, according to Robert Jones, AVOTEC program manager for the Army Continuing Education System. The \$19 million in funding is enough for thousands of soldiers to participate.

Unusual for most education and self-development programs, AVOTEC applies to all officers and enlisted soldiers, even those who have an advanced college degree.

Officers normally incur an additional service obligation for participating in Army-funded education programs, but not so with AVOTEC.

The new program is separate from the Army College Fund and Montgomery GI Bill, and does not erode the value of those benefits.

Soldiers can take college degree courses and AVOTEC courses during the same year, provided their tuition assistance spending does not exceed \$4,500.

Any expenditure above \$4,500 for any combination of courses becomes the responsibility of the soldier.

Certificates and licenses are viewed as a valuable asset for job-seekers in an increasingly volatile and service-oriented employment market, according to education officials.

The program originally was designed as a transition service for wounded soldiers, but is being made available to all active-duty soldiers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guardsmen and reservists who are not mobilized, and who typically attend weekend drills, are not eligible for the Army-funded vocational and technical training, Jones said.

However, Thomas Slaughter, post-secondary program manager for the Army Continuing Education System, said the new program fits well into the normal timeline of mobilized reservists. A soldier can be mobilized, do a deployment, redeploy and sign up for a course before he or she exits back to civilian life, Slaughter said. Army policy requires that soldiers enroll in AVOTEC while they are on active duty. While they can complete the training and certification testing after leaving service, courses cannot be longer than 18 months.

News Clips Report

Jones said the program is not restricted to soldiers who are pending release from the Army, and may be attractive to people who want to hone skills for post-military employment, as well as those who are retraining for reclassification.

Many of the courses included in the program have certification and licensure testing as an integral part of the curriculum.

And, under a recent change to Army policy, the program includes government-funded certification and licensure for courses where testing is not inherently part of the training. That change took effect March 1, and is an additional step for some courses, Jones said. Pvt. 1st Class Angela Baskin, a basic trainee recuperating from a serious training injury in the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Jackson, S.C., was the first soldier to enroll in AVOTEC. While Baskin's injury will prevent her from pursuing a career in Army communications, she just completed a six-week course in cake decorating at nearby Midlands Technical College. I am currently looking at other courses to take through AVOTEC, and really feel blessed to have vocational choices readily at hand, Baskin said. Noting that she has told other people in her unit about the program, Baskin said, I think this is an opportunity no soldier should pass up. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charmayne Askew, a planning manager in the office that is overseeing the implementation of the Army component of a joint service pay and personnel system, also is taking advantage of her AVOTEC benefit.

While working at the Hoffman Complex in Alexandria, Va., Askew attends Montgomery College in Gaithersburg, Md., two days a week to earn certification as a project management professional by the Project Management Institute. The certification is a highly regarded credential for people who manage projects in private industry and government.

Askew, who plans to retire this fall, said this program is designed to assist soldiers who are leaving the Army, and I have told everybody in my office about it. AVOTEC is a really good program because with regular tuition assistance, the Army does not pay for courses after a soldier has earned a masters degree. Askew has a masters degree, and is completing work on a doctorate in organizational leadership through the University of Phoenix.

First Lt. Robert Crotty, a communications officer with the Ranger Special Troops Battalion at Fort Benning, Ga., is enrolled in a graphics design course with Sessions Online Schools of Art and Design. I haven't used any of the Army's other education benefits, and I am participating in this program because it does not have (a service obligation), and I am still not sure how long I want to stay in the Army, Crotty said. Army educational officials said commanders can play a major role in the new program by helping soldiers tailor an AVOTEC regimen that is compatible with their military duties.

For example, a commander might want to authorize a soldier to attend AVOTEC training during a normal duty day if that training supports his Army duties, or is being done in conjunction with transition processing.

Courses available under the program include classroom and online training.

Jones said the program does not pay for travel, so classroom training should be within commuting distance, unless a soldier's unit will pay for the travel. Enrollment in the program can be done online for soldiers who already are enrolled in GoArmyEd, the Army's electronic management system for tuition assistance.

If a soldier needs counseling or assistance in enrolling in GoArmyEd, they should contact their local education center, Jones said.

Educational services officers throughout the Army have been marketing the new program with community colleges and vocational schools close to their installations, which in turn has resulted in a steady increase in the number of schools and courses available to soldiers, Slaughter said. Normally they would not be interested in this kind of program, but with so many states providing National Guard soldiers for mobilization, they are keenly interested, even those without military installations, he said.

News Clips Report

TWO O'CLOCK TODAY ON MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S GERMANTOWN CAMPUS. Afternoon Report - NewsChannel 8

04/04/2009

JEOPARDY IS HEADED OUR WAY AND ALEX TREBEK IS IN OUR AREA LOOKING FOR BRANIACS. SO PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP AND GET READY TO "ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS". AUDITIONS FOR THE GAME SHOW START AT TWO O'CLOCK TODAY ON MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S GERMANTOWN CAMPUS. AND HE WAS THERE HOSTING THE CHERRY BLOSSOM PARADE WITH OUR ALISON STARLING AND DAVE MCKLEYWAY, NOW A STARK SNAPSHOT OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE NEW UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS THE HIGHEST IT'S BEEN SINCE 1983, HITTING EIGHT AN A HALF PERCENT LAST MONTH. ON TOP OF THAT, ANOTHER 663-THOUSAND PEOPLE RECEIVED PINK SLIPS. AND NOW, EVEN THE JOBS THAT PEOPLE COULD ALWAYS DEPEND ON AS A FALL BACK ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. ABC'S ERIC HORNG HAS THE STORY. TRT: 1.45 SIGOUT ELENA CHAPMAN/Job Seeker MICHAEL ERWIN/Careerbuilder. c om CYNTHIA PADILLA/Subway Franchise Hiring Manager CAMERON HALAS/Job Seeker WHEN IRAQ WAR VETERAN CAMERON HALAS LEFT THE ARMY, HE NEVER THOUGHT HE'D END UP APPLYING, AT SUBWAY. NAT, "I'm available most days except half a Tuesday and all day Thursday, " BUT IN THIS DISMAL JOB MARKET, MINIMUM WAGE IS STILL A WAGE, THAT IS, IF YOU CAN LAND THE JOB, SOT, Eric: How many places have you applied? Cameron: I've lost count. I've lost count. I've been applying to places that are very similar - Walmart, Staples, Panera Bread. SO-CALLED "FALL-BACK JOBS", ONCE CONSIDERED SURE BETS IN LEAN TIMES, ARE NO LONGER EASY TO LAND. LAST MONTH ALONE, THE SERVICE INDUSTRY SHED MORE THAN 350-THOUSAND JOBS, INCLUDING 48-THOUSAND POSITIONS IN RETAIL, AND 40-THOUSAND IN LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY, EARLIER THIS WEEK, W LONG PPLIED FOR JUST 300 SERVICE bn hospitality? Er e while before weeated. AT THES STIFF COMPETITION, FOR ONE WITH IMPRESSIVetail managers, restaS RESUME A ARTIST, Eric: Howameron: I'm TRUE FERIC HORNG, ABC NEWS, CHICAGO. ALSO AFFECTING OUR FURRY FRIENDS. SEVERAL ANIMALS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING EUTHANISED BECAUSE SHELTERS, LIKE THE ANIMAL MANAGEMENT FACILITY IN FORESTVILLE MARYLAND, ARE RECEIVING MORE PETS THAN IT CAN HANDLE. SHELTER WORKERS SAY THEY ARE SEEING A DECLINE IN ADOPTION RATES BY AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT OVER THE LAST MONTH, AND OWNERS GIVING UP THEIR ANIMALS ARE ALSO UP 35 PERCENT. AND THE LAST THING SHELTERS WANT TO DO IS PUT THE ANIMAL DOWN, BUT FINDING SPACE IS ALWAYS A PROBLEM. we're at the threshold on a daily basis and if it weren't for the rescue groups over the last few days we would be well over that threshold. NOW THIS SHELTER IN MARYLAND TAKES IN ABOUT 20 ANIMALS A DAY.

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Style Decision Time: Parade or Pillow Fight? The Washington Post

04/04/2009

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By Lavanya Ramanathan
Saturday, April 4, 2009; 12:00 AM

It's pretty much now or never: Today is pegged as the last day to take in cherry trees at peak bloom around the Tidal Basin. Oh, and it's also the only day you can see the annual parade, then slip off for some sake tasting and sumo watching at the Sakura Matsuri street festival.

Highlights from cherry-related events:

The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade begins at 10 a.m. today with an eclectic bunch of paraders -- everyone from "Sesame Street" characters (including a giant Elmo) to the famed Ballou High School Marching Knights to neighborhood toughs the D.C. Rollergirls. And "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek is grand marshal (later, he'll hold tryouts for the game show at Montgomery College's Germantown campus, 20200 Observation Dr., from 2 to 4 p.m.).

Free. 10 a.m.-noon. Constitution Avenue NW from Seventh to 17th streets. (Metro: Navy Memorial on the Yellow/Green lines or Federal Triangle on the Blue/Orange lines.) For details: <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>.