

Potomac

ALMANAC

Kay Ridgeway-Mostyn (Charlene Sloan) and Jaqueline De Serverac (Erin Gallalee) rehearse in The Potomac Theatre Company's production of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile."

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PEOPLE

Victory through 'Sabermetrics'

For the fourth year in a row, The Fourth Presbyterian School hosted the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee for Montgomery County on Saturday, March 3. The bee is sponsored by The Meakem Group of Wells Fargo and was held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

Thirty-eight Montgomery County public and private schools were represented this year. Eighth grade student Reid FitzHugh from Julius West Middle School prevailed in the end, clinching the championship by spelling "sabermetrics" correctly. Alex Brassel, an eighth grader from Herbert Hoover Middle School, was the runner-up. FitzHugh will now go on to compete in the 85th Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in June, along with hundreds of other elementary and middle school students from across the United States.

The winner of the National Bee receives a \$30,000 cash prize and an engraved loving cup trophy from Scripps, a \$2,500 savings bond, a reference library from Merriam-Webster, \$3,800 in reference works from Encyclopædia Britannica, and a \$5,000 cash prize from the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.



Spelling Bee champion Reid FitzHugh with bee sponsor Carolyn Meakem of The Meakem Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.



Reid FitzHugh, an eighth-grader at Julius West Middle School, is congratulated by second runner-up Reethi Padmanabhan and first runner-up Alex Brassel at the 2012 Scripps Montgomery County Regional Spelling Bee at the Fourth Presbyterian Church on Saturday morning. Padmanabhan attends Travilah Elementary School and Brassel attends Herbert Hoover Middle School.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC



Many students had their own techniques on how to remember the correct spelling of their words, like writing the word out on their arm with their finger, like second runner-up Reethi Padmanabhan, a student at Travilah Elementary School.



Stonegate Elementary School student David Hill carefully spells his word. He was knocked out in the third round of the 2012 Scripps Montgomery County Regional Spelling Bee.



Gabriel Wu, a third-grader at Farmland Elementary School, concentrates on spelling his word in the sixth round, which was his final round, but he made it to the final five and was the youngest competitor to make it that far.

Solving Mysteries

Potomac Theatre Company returns to Agatha Christie.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

This month The Potomac Theatre Company presents Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile."

The story is a classic who-dun-it murder mystery about a couple on their honeymoon aboard a paddle steamer sailing on the Nile. Last spring, The Potomac Theatre Company performed another Agatha Christie mystery, "The Mouse-trap."

The appeal of Christie's work can be summed up by director Danny Tippet: "Agatha Christie has a way of writing that keeps you interested. The characters are well rounded and she keeps you guessing right up until the end. This is a really interesting show with lots of twists and turns. This play does not have her usual hero Hercule Poirot in it, so you can get attached to other characters in the play."

Bill Byrnes who plays a cleric, Canon Pennefather, agrees. Unlike Christie's detective Poirot, Canon Pennefather finds himself personally involved in the action. Byrnes feels his character is "concerned



Simon Mostyn (Tony Pisarra) and Kay Ridgeway-Mostyn (Charlene Sloan) rehearsing The Potomac Theatre Company's production of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile."

about the soul of the murderer. He has a more emotional involvement besides just an average detective hero. It gives an added layer to this play. The Canon is personally involved in the action and even finds himself to be a suspect. This is a character you are not so sure about. He is unproved and not as sure as a detective. Audiences love a good mystery thriller and this is one of the very best. Even if you figure it out you want to see the aspect of the chase and how we will corner them."

Behzad Dabiri (Steward/McNaught) enjoys the murder mystery genre because the story "is constantly making you guess who did what and who would have a reason to do murder. The plot is constantly making people guess and they are mostly wrong

about what they are thinking. What is beautiful about this play is that it keeps you guessing the whole time."

There is quite a cast of characters aboard the ship. The actors enjoyed finding out their character's history and motivations. Erin Gallalee (Jaqueline De Serverac) reveals "all the characters in this play have a history and a journey. In most murder mysteries the characters are one dimensional, but these characters are very well developed have many layers and several sides to them. There are lots of 'Oh and Ahh' moments."

Carole Steele plays Ms. Helen Ffoliot Ffoulkes who "takes everything to the

SEE POTOMAC THEATRE. PAGE 12

'No Child Left Inside'

2nd generation farmer seeks to continue educational agriculture on Nick's Organic Farm.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

The movement for "No Child Left Inside" encompasses both environmental education and efforts to combat childhood obesity.

But in Montgomery County, the school system is giving up a rare 20-acre organic farm in the heart of suburbia so the county can turn the land over to a private soccer developer.

Proposals to build soccer fields on the 20-acre farm were due on March 1.

Local farm advocates from around the region have been engaged in the effort to save Nick's Organic Farm. But Sophia Maravell, a second-generation farmer, has an additional reason to try to save the farm. It's where she grew up.

"I had the chance to grow up on this farm and have a deep connection with this land," Sophia Maravell said.

"We have a viable plan to use this school land to teach kids about food, farming, water, soil and the environment," she said.

Sophia Maravell and Dea Keen submitted an unsolicited proposal on Thursday, March 1 to offer an alternative plan for the land, which has been farmed by her father, Nick Maravell, for 31 years. He has tended the 20 acres, growing organic, heirloom corn and soybean seed that is free from genetically modified organisms. Nick Maravell is a national expert on organic farming, appointed by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to the National Organic Standards Board.

Sophia Maravell and Keen launched Brickyard Educational Farm, an agricultural education program, on the Brickyard farm.

"Let's use Montgomery County Board of Education land for the education of Montgomery County students," Maravell said.

Last week, elementary school students from Bullis attended the first outdoor class on the farm. Maravell and Keen have developed curriculum for all grade levels in elementary school as well as high school classes in Earth Science, Environmental Science and Chemistry.

Currently, Nick's Organic Farm has a license with Montgomery County to continue working the land through August 2012, when the county might begin its efforts to turn the farm into soccer fields and park

SEE 'NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE.' PAGE 12

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ MARCH 7-13, 2012 ♦ 3

Wootton High Thespians Present 'The Wizard Of Oz'

And there will be flying monkeys.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Wootton High School is "off to see the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz." This beloved tale of Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow has warmed the hearts of audiences since 1939 when Judy Garland introduced Dorothy with her ruby slippers to America.

Wootton's version will include lions, tigers, and even flying monkeys — yes flying. D2 Flying Effects, a theatrical flying company, will rig the stage with a series of harnesses and pulleys to support the flying monkeys and crows.

Theater Director Jessica Speck, former

Wootton Choral teacher Carla Ingram, choreographer Nancy Newell, crew director Stephanie Daisley, music director Carolyn Herman and producer Sue Thorpe chose "The Wizard of Oz" because, as Speck explains, "It offers our musicians, technicians and actor/singers an opportunity to showcase their tremendous talents while also welcoming in the larger community."

The production includes a cast of 60 Wootton students, an additional 30 elementary school "Munchkins," 50 crew members and 50 students who perform in the orchestra.

The musical is an Americana classic — the fantasy tale of young Dorothy swept away by a tornado to the Land of Oz, and the adventures and characters she encounters in her pursuit to return home to Kansas.

"The Wizard of Oz plays to our purest

SEE TRANSFORMING. PAGE 12



Kayli Modell (Dorothy) and Mitchell Myers (the Lion) in Wootton High's production of "The Wizard of Oz."

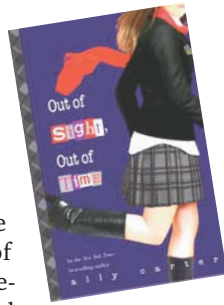
SCHOOLS

Author, Author

Once again, librarian Sarah Stonesifer at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac has arranged an event to spark students' excitement about reading.

On Tuesday, March 13, two young adult writers will visit and talk with the students about their work, what's it like to be a published author, and how they produce great ideas, characters, and get paid to do what they love.

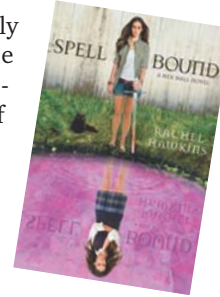
Ally Carter is the best-selling author of the Gallagher Girls series. These New York Times-bestselling young adult novels feature Cammie Morgan attending an all-girls boarding school for "especially gifted students" that is actually a spy training program. Carter also wrote "Heist Society" (2009) and its follow-up "Uncommon Criminals" (2011). On the day that she vis-



Writers for young adults to visit Connelly School of the Holy Child.

its at Connelly School of the Holy Child, the fifth volume of the Gallagher Girls series will be released, "Out of Sight, Out of Time."

Rachel Hawkins' Hex Hall series began with the eponymous book released in 2010. This series tells the story of the teenage witch, Sophie Mercer, who is shipped off of the magical reform school



for those fantastical beings that cannot control their powers. The third book, "Spell Bound," will also be released on March 13.

Politics & Prose is also offering an ordering option for Ally Carter's "I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have to Kill You" and the new "Out of Sight, Out of Time" as well as Rachel Hawkins' "Hex Hall" and "Spell Bound."

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PEOPLE

Making Spring and Summer Camps Fun and Educational

Coach Doug Wilson gives back to the community.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

“Kids have a tendency to be afraid to try things because of their fear of failure. The only failure is not attempting. No one fails — they just fail to try.” That’s Coach Doug Wilson of Potomac and he knows all about trying.

When he was 22, he was in a motorcycle accident resulting in a coma and traumatic brain injury. He was never supposed to talk or walk again — but he has recovered and is giving back to the Potomac community every day through his youth camp programs. After his accident, he was determined to walk, run, graduate from college — and regain life as he knew it.

Wilson credits children with helping him recover.

“I used a walker to get to Lake



Coach Doug Wilson

Normandy Elementary School [now the Potomac Community Center]. I would spend the day there, trying to play basketball, tossing balls around and just playing with the kids. They didn’t care that I couldn’t talk very well or throw or catch a ball — they just kept inviting me into their games, and gradually I re-learned my skills. Because of them, I recovered

— and because of them, I changed my goals in life and began to organize and run my camps. I want to give back to them — because they gave me so much — they saved my life.”

Today Wilson is 43 and extremely active as a camp director — and as a member of several Montgomery County service organizations. He donates his time to raise funds for Shady Grove Hospital, for the Elks Club and many other charitable causes.

Wilson’s summer Challenger Space and Rocketry Camp, which will be held at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, Bethesda and at Lakewood Elementary School, Rockville. This camp will stimulate the interest of young people in the space program, astronomy, space travel, living in space, rocketry, jet propulsion and astronaut preparation. Many areas of science and technology will be featured as the children experience the thrill of launching their own rockets, imagining life on another planet, and learn about the wonders of the universe. This camp will provide sessions for pre-school children (ages 3-5), and elementary school



Coach Doug Wilson plays with the younger campers.

students (Grades K – 5).

Prior to summer, Wilson will once again offer his Spring Break Club Holiday Camp at Potomac Community Center and Burning Tree El-

ementary School, Bethesda. The camps run from April 2 through April 7 for children ages 3 – 13 and

SEE GIVING BACK, PAGE 7

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OPINION

A \$350,00 Golden Fleecing

BY SUSANNE LEE
WMCCA PRESIDENT

Remember the Golden Fleece Awards awarded annually by the late U.S. Senator Proxmire? They signaled out for ridicule wasteful, unnecessary government projects that often benefited only a special few. They diverted money away from projects that truly were needed. Even if you don't remember the awards, no one wants to be "fleeced." But that is just what happened to local citizens when Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection awarded a contract allegedly to carry out the Glen Hills study mandated in the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master plan.

The County Council appropriated \$350,000 for the study — over \$1,000 per Glen Hills household! What are we getting for that money? Unfortunately, a study that contradicts the Master Plan and fails to fund work that would actually be useful to the community. As reported in last month's newsletter, DEP awarded the contract without any input from the public and initially refused to release the scope of work even after award. This occurred even though the Master Plan required that it be "conducted in coordination with the citizens of the area."

Over 200 neighbors attended a DEP public meeting at Lakewood Elementary School on Feb. 21 to find out what pig in a poke we had bought with our tax dollars. Now it is clear why there was no public input. The study description confirms our worst nightmares — that it would be over-reaching and form a basis to force sewer on low density areas that do not want sewer and that are not to be sewered under the Potomac Master Plan.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Park Deer Adding To Damage, Danger

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to Superintendent Kevin Brandt of the C&O Canal National Historic Park.

Dear Superintendent Brandt,

Montgomery County has a serious and growing deer over-population problem. The County Council's Public Safety Committee (PS Committee) annually reviews the County's deer management plan and the results of efforts the County has undertaken that include managed hunts and police sharpshooting on County parkland. On Jan. 26, the PS Committee discussed deer management with representatives from Park and Planning, the County's agricultural services program, and residents who are extremely concerned about increased damage to plants and trees, deer-vehicle collisions, and Lyme disease. Brian Carlstrom, deputy superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historic Park (NHP), attended this meeting and we greatly appreciate the National Park Services' participation in this discussion.

Deputy Superintendent Carlstrom may have relayed to you that the Council has received many complaints from people living in Potomac

The Master Plan requires a narrow study of "septic failures in Glen Hills to develop measures necessary to ensure the long term sustainability of septic service . . . and to address the need for limited sewer extensions if needed." At the public meeting DEP admitted the contract goes beyond the Master Plan and that instead of septic failures it will evaluate all "existing septic systems and wells within the area based on past and present design standards." Thus, even though a septic system has never failed it will be evaluated. There is a real fear that the results will be used to conclude that sewer is necessary because, although it met "past design standards" (and functions successfully), it was not constructed under "present design standards."

Furthermore, the County unilaterally expanded the study area beyond Glen Hills to include: Glen Hills Club Estates, North Glen Hills, Potomac Highlands, Glen Park, Lakewood Estates, Lakewood Glen and Hollinridge. Hollinridge is of particular concern because it is not contiguous with Glen Hills and borders on the Piney Branch Stream Valley, a Special Protection Area in which sewer extensions are severely limited under the Master Plan.

At the public meeting, neighbors requested additions to the scope of work that would actually be useful:

- ❖ A separate list of failed septs and why they failed.
- ❖ Water quality testing of wells.
- ❖ Advice on how to construct and maintain successful septic systems using real life Glen Hills conditions.
- ❖ Monthly public meetings to update the community on the study results.

DEP rejected all of these stating the details of the study had already been determined and

adjacent to the Gold Mine Tract of the C&O Canal National Historical Park about the negative impacts from too many deer. Over the past 10 years, these residents have expressed concern about the number of deer in the area. Records on deer-vehicle collisions show a consistently high number of deer-related accidents in the general area. National Park Service deer population data for the Gold Mine Tract for 2010 estimates a population density of about 128 deer per square mile. In addition to causing concern to local residents, a population this high is surely having a negative impact on the vegetation in the park. Our residents are willing to do what they can and several in the area have contacted bow-hunters to see if deer can be legally harvested on their properties.

The PS Committee members were very interested in understanding how the National Park Service will address this problem. Deputy Superintendent Carlstrom explained to the Committee and others present the process involved for a National Park to implement deer management. He stressed the cost and time required to complete a Deer Management Plan and the associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We understand that Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia has been working on this process for a number of years and is just finishing up the final Plan. We also

Next WMCCA Meeting

The next meeting of the West Montgomery County Citizens Association will be held Wednesday, March 14, 7:15 p.m., at the Potomac Community Center's community room.

If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

The speaker will be Bob Hoyt, director, Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County Government.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is housed with the County Executive Branch and consists of Divisions of Watershed Management (including stream monitoring and stormwater management), Environmental Policy and Compliance and Solid Waste Services. He will bring the Potomac community updates on implementation of the MS-4 Permit (the county's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems), stream protection plans (including Special Protection Areas such as Piney Branch), the proposed Forest Conservation/Tree Canopy Law, and the Glen Hills Sewer Study. The public is always welcome.

the contract awarded. And we might add — clearly without public input. So — for \$350,000 we are getting what we didn't need or want. And there is no money for what would actually have been useful. We truly were fleeced! The DEP website describing the study: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/glenhills.asp>.

Potomac Swim and Recreation Association Indoor Tennis Bubble Facilities

As required by the conditions of the Club's Special Exception, representatives of the Club met with a representative of WMCCA and the surrounding neighbors on March 1. They reviewed the status of the facility and, in par

SEE GOLDEN FLEECING, PAGE 11

understand that National Park Service staff from around the country, recognizing a growing need to manage ungulates on NPS lands, are meeting to discuss ways to streamline the process.

We must work together to find ways to manage the deer population along the C&O Canal and its neighboring communities. The Gold Mine Tract represents, by far, the largest refuge in the area. We are formally requesting the C&O Canal Historical Park initiate the EIS process and develop a Deer Management Plan for the Gold Mine Tract to reduce the deer population as soon as possible. We recognize that deer management on National Park Service parkland must strike a balance in your mission to protect and preserve this historic gem. However, the damage is already significant and getting worse. A solution needs to be developed now.

Thank you again for sending Deputy Secretary Carlstrom to meet with the Council's PS Committee. Please contact me or Councilmember Phil Andrews, chair of the PS Committee, if you would like to discuss this request further.

We look forward to your reply.

Roger Berliner
Council President

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Newspaper of **Potomac**
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1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PEOPLE

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On Jeopardy!

John Botti, a teacher at the Landon School from Rockville, competed for the \$100,000 grand prize in the "Jeopardy!" Teachers Tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 15. The "Jeopardy!" Teachers Tournament was introduced for the first time last year and puts a national spotlight on the nation's brightest K-12 educators. Above: Botti with host Alex Trebek.

Giving Back to the Community

FROM PAGE 5

focus on agility, fitness, cooperation, teamwork and building self-esteem through sports, games and other activities. After spring break, his PRE-Wee Wanna Be, Wee Wanna Be programs as well as his soccer, tennis and sports camps will continue from April – June in the spring in community centers throughout Montgomery County.

Wilson will be running other camps this summer including a Computer Keyboard-

ing Camp for ages 8 – 12 at Pyle Middle school, the Coach Doug Space Adventure Camp at Bullis, and his Endless Summer camps for the month of August.

"Kids need to keep learning all summer long. My camps help them get ready to start school in the fall, because they are working on their educational skills while they have fun," said Wilson.

For more information about Coach Doug's camp programs, view his website at www.coachdoug.net or call 301-983-2690.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

Home is Where The Comfort Is

You think of your house as a refuge from the outside world, we all do. That's part of what buyers are looking for and one of the best ways to market a house is to make the buyer feel as if they must have that sanctuary.

You can help that feeling along by creating at least one space that tells a buyer, "Come right in here, put your feet up and relax."

With warmer weather, you can create an outdoor space that will tell buyers, "This is it, you're home, no need to look further."

Find a space outside that's calm and has a great view, then start decorating. Start with a simple set up, wicker chairs and a sofa with thick cushions in a nice neutral color. Splash those neutrals with muted throw pillows, maybe even a small blanket and add a simple area rug in muted tones and a subtle pattern to place under the furniture. Place low wattage lamps on end tables and you're set with your sanctuary!

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Musician Nate Foley. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

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

Open House. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Principal Rebecca (Robin) Gordon invites the community and Seven Locks Alumni to an open house to see the newly built Seven Locks Elementary School at 9500 Seven Locks Road, Bethesda. The school is pending LEED certification through the U.S. Green Building Council after the \$15 million modernization.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Spirit of Uganda. 8 p.m. A project of Empower African Children where 22 youth artists bring song, dance, spirit of East African culture to Strathmore. Tickets are \$28 to \$48. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Stone Kawala. Doors at 8 p.m., concert at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. Part of Friday Night Eclectic at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, Rockville. For further information or tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

MARCH 9 AND 10

"Fame — The Musical." Friday, March 9 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by Connelly School of the Holy Child. This year's production has 12 guest actors and musicians from other local schools, including The Heights, Gonzaga, Georgetown Prep, Quince Orchard, Churchill, and St. John's.

MARCH 9 TO 25

"Murder on the Nile." Show times are March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24 at 8 p.m. and March 11, 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. Presented by the Potomac Theatre Company, at the Blair Family Center for the Arts, Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Directed by Danny Tippet. Tickets are \$20/adults; \$18/seniors, students. Prepaid groups of 10 or more save 20 percent off. All seats reserved. Call 301-299-8571.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Spaghetti Dinner. 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10/each; \$40/family of four or more. Sponsored by Potomac Boy Scout Troop 773. At the Potomac United Methodist Church Parish House, intersection of Falls Road and South Glen Road. Contact Bennett Lunceford at 301-610-6543 or email at bennett.lunceford7@gmail.com.

Dogs at Play. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Trainer Robin Bennett, co-author of Off-Leash Dog Play — a Complete Guide to Safety & Fun, will use videos to help you understand what you're seeing when dogs play — whether at dog parks, day care or play groups. Learn about stress signals, polite and rude greetings, breed-specific play styles, social gestures, and emotional states.



FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Spirit of Uganda. 8 p.m. A project of Empower African Children where 22 youth artists bring song, dance, spirit of East African culture to Strathmore. Tickets are \$28 to \$48. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Sponsored by Your Dog's Friend. Please leave your dog at home. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda. Email register@yourdogsfriend.info or call 301-983-5913.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Potomac library monthly used book sale. Most hardback and large paperback (trades) are \$1 and regular paperbacks are only \$.50. All books are donated by our community for this sale. All proceeds are for the benefit of the Potomac Library, at 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac.

MARCH 10 AND 11

"The Odyssey." Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16/adults; \$12/seniors. Presented by the Rockville Civic Ballet. At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre at the Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. For tickets, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre or by phone 240-314-8690.

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

"Esperanto." 10:25 a.m. Why English-speakers need another International Language. Erin Piatetski, a consultant for the Esperanto Studies Foundation, will speak at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Visit www.ruuuc.org, 201-229-0400.

Cajun and Zydeco Dance Party. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$15. With the band, Squeeze Bayou. Introductory Cajun Lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3 to 6 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.DancingByTheBayou.com.

Potluck Lunch. 11:30 p.m. Free. All are

welcome to bring a dish to share; those not bringing dishes are also welcome. At Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac.

MONDAY/MARCH 12

Gala Concert. 7:30 p.m. Gerard Schwarz will guest conduct the U.S. Marine Band. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Free but tickets are required. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 13

Troubadour/Storyteller Mike Agranoff. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Visit www.focusmusic.org. Contact David Spitzer at focusrockville@earthlink.net or 301-275-7459.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

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

Reel Around the Shamrock with Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul. 8 p.m. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Tickets are \$25-\$55. Will be joined by 20 dancers from the Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance, fiddler Brendan Mulvihill and the first B/C button accordionist in Irish music, Billy McComiskey, in a celebration of Irish culture. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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Agatha Christie's

MURDER ON THE NILE



Directed by Danny Tippet

March 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24, 2012 at 8 pm
March 11, 18 and 25 at 2:00 pm

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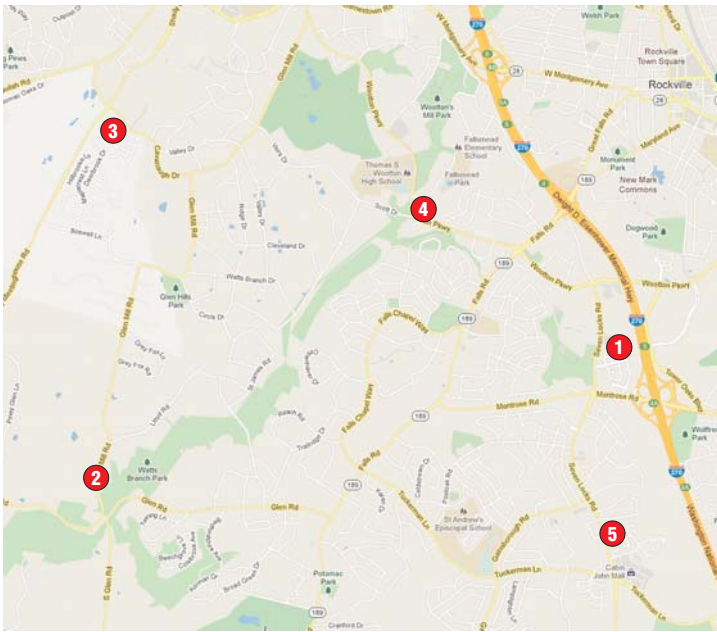
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4 13 OLD CREEK CT	4	2	1	ROCKVILLE	\$515,000	Detached	0.30	FALLSMEAD	01/18/12
5 7848 HEATHERTON LN	3	2	1	POTOMAC	\$425,000	Townhouse	20854	INVERNESS KNOLLS	01/20/12

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OPINION

A \$350,00 Golden Fleecing

FROM PAGE 6

ticular, confirmed the following: the bubble will be taken down for the season on or before April 15; there are now three types of membership; use of the facility is limited to members and their guests playing with them; no non-member groups such as schools or camps are using the facility; surveillance equipment will not be used to photograph, or record conversations on, surrounding neighbors' properties; and, hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Club disclosed that it had applied for a use and occupancy permit to use the trailer currently on the site as a tennis office until the permanent office is constructed. WMCCA is checking whether the terms of the Special Condition would permit such a use.

Brickyard School Site Anniversary Update

BY GINNY BARNES

This month marks the one year anniversary since our community was blindsided by the County Executive's plan to build a soccerplex of up to four full-sized fields plus parking where organic farmer Nick Maravell has leased 20 acres for the last 31 years. First, the County leased the site from the Board of Education (BOE) with the intention of contracting the property out to a private club or soccer developer. Neither Mr. Maravell, the immediate neighbors nor the community knew about it until three days before the BOE voted on the lease. Subsequently, the County Executive has issued a request for proposals but as yet no soccer club/developer

has been named.

Meanwhile, our community has sustained the outrage first voiced at so-called "public" meetings held by the Executive last year, which drew hundreds of people concerned about a process that never included them. We have since organized into a Brickyard Coalition consisting of several civic organizations including WMCCA and many hundreds of residents. We have appealed to the Maryland State BOE and that appeal is proceeding, but Montgomery County has belatedly requested to intervene. Since we knew nothing about what led to this decision we were forced to file numerous Maryland Public Information requests in November of 2011. All records were to have been produced within 30 days, but the County has continued to stonewall, and still fails to produce meaningful response documents. We are reviewing available legal options to have the Courts force Mr. Leggett to obey the law.

We continue to maintain the Potomac Subregion Master Plan has been violated and deliberately misinterpreted by the County Executive to justify creating a soccer complex where a school or local park should be located. We continue to believe a deal was made and that the BOE lease is illegal. We continue raising money to fund the appeal with the State BOE, the Maryland Public Information Act lawsuit, as well as upcoming legal actions that will ultimately allow us as citizens to participate in deciding the best use of the Brickyard property. You can make a contribution by writing a check to WMCCA with Brickyard Fund in the memo line. Send to P.O. Box 59335, Potomac, MD 20854-9335.

FINE ARTS

MARCH 2 - APRIL 9

Forces of Nature. Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park presents Forces of Nature, an exhibition of black and white photography. The show's images record the visual beauty of the forces of nature on the natural and man-made worlds. Saturdays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Sundays & Mondays, 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. Opening reception, March 11, 4p.m. - 6 p.m. Artist Talk, March 24, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org or email gaylesue@me.com.

MARCH 2-30

Artist Cam Ha Nguyen. Her paintings feature the play of light and shadow on flowers, gourds, and plants in gardens, conservatories, living rooms, backyards, and parks. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Visit www.rruuc.org or call 301-229-0400.

MARCH 3 - 25

Glen Echo Park Faculty Invitational. Noon to 6 p.m. The Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park presents a Faculty Invitational Art Show. This exhibition will feature work by selected Glen Echo Park students, chosen by resident artists and faculty, in a variety of media from painting and drawing, to glass, sculpture, ceramics, silver and more. An Artists' Reception will be held on Sunday, March 11 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

MARCH 3 THROUGH APRIL 14

Works by John Paton Davies Jr. Opening reception is Sunday, March 11 from noon to 2 p.m. A Singular View: The Art and Words of John Paton Davies, Jr., an exhibit of monoprints from the archives of the American diplomat and artist. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701

Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

MARCH 3 TO 31

Artists-In-Residence. Featuring Vian Shamounki Borchert, Perry Fowler, Gregory Lambert, Daniel Wise and Deborah Jaffe. The five artists will be painting, creating artwork and giving demonstrations during the month of March. A reception will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. with an artist talk at 6 p.m. At the Yellow Barn Stone Tower, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit: www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

MARCH 11

Spring Collection. 2 to 4 p.m. Exhibit9 gallery presents its spring collection of fine arts, art jewelry and accessories by artists and designers — Nasser Ovissi : Watercolor; Nurieh Mozaffari: Jewelry and Paintings; and Sarah Barzmehri: Drawings. Also donated items on sale with 100 percent of the proceeds to the homeless families at Watkins Mill High School. To RSVP, contact Sarah at: exhibit9gallery@gmail.com or visit www.exhibit9gallery.net.

MARCH 3 TO 25

Monica Barbosa Time. The Glen Echo Park Partnership Gallery presents Time, an exhibition featuring works by mixed media artist Monica Barbosa made between 2009 and 2011, in which she uses techniques of photogravure, etching, dry point and collage. Mondays - Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

MARCH 4 TO MARCH 23

Student Artists Showcase. At Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville. Students who would like to participate in the show should visit www.rockvillemd.gov/arts or contact

Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov.

MARCH 6 TO APRIL 7

Excavations and Negotiations in Clay. Ceramic vessels by Michael Poness and New Work by Gallery Artists. A reception will be held Friday, March 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. An artist's talk will be held Saturday, March 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com

MARCH 6 TO 31

Mind's Eye: A Vision of Contemporary Art. Featuring contemporary paintings by Annapolis artist John Bodkin. Opening reception is Friday, March 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. At Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MARCH 10-11

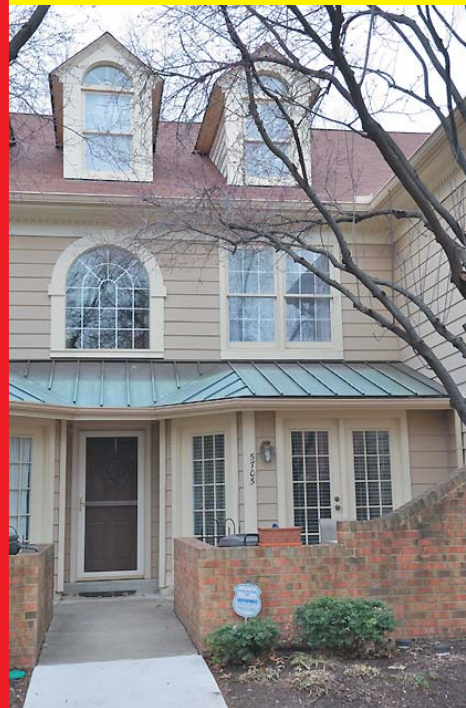
13th Annual High School Student Art Exhibition. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by high school students in the Yellow Barn Gallery. Saturdays and Sundays, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

MARCH 11

Coffee and Critique. A monthly Sunday morning photo jam session at Photoworks studio. Bring photos to a morning critique led by a Photoworks faculty member. Enjoy the camaraderie of your peers, along with coffee and bagels and a lively discussion of your images. In the Photoworks Studio from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 301-634-2274 or visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

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All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

Potomac Theatre Company Returns to Agatha Christie

FROM PAGE 3

extreme. She is elitist, doesn't like foreigners, or people she feels are below her. She is a prissy, brittle English spinster type. She is the comic relief in the play. I think the appeal of Agatha Christie's work is that she builds wonderful characters. It is interesting to see people in mysterious and exotic situations."

Joe Bissex (Smith) found it challenging to create a balance of "goofiness and seriousness in my character. He plays the fool a lot but has a sincere heart and is not shallow."

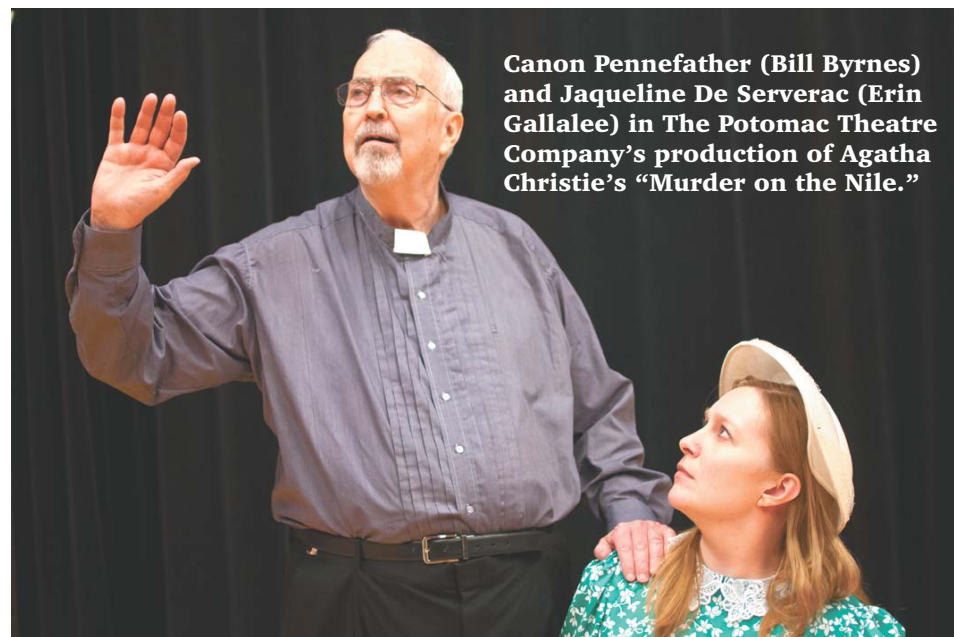
For this production the actors had to master British, French or other European accents. Charlene Sloan plays Kay Ridgeway-Mostyn, the wealthiest girl in England. "She is polite to fault, pretentious, and snobbish. She has always had everything given to her, so it is interesting to see how she unravels when challenged. To practice her accent I watched Dr. Who on BBC to look for guidance."

As an actor, Bethany Stiller (Miss Christina Grant) has enjoyed the teamwork and camaraderie of being in the cast. "This play

was so much fun to do. It is so well written. There are so many intricate, creative things that Agatha Christie threw in there. She doesn't do anything haphazardly. She builds the suspense and doesn't let up and I think that is why most people enjoy it. Being in 'Murder on the Nile' was an absolutely amazing experience. It builds a sense of community and let's people celebrate the performing arts together."

Brian Lingenfelter (Dr. Bessner) feels Agatha Christie stories "help you get into the mind of someone who has sinister thoughts. It is a look into the dark side. I hope people will come and enjoy the show and appreciate what we are doing. Community theater is great entertainment and you don't have to spend a fortune on seeing a show."

The production will run at The Blair Center for the Arts at the Bullis School 10601 Falls Road for three weekends: March 9, 10 and 11; March 16, 17 and 18, and March 23, 24, and 25. Shows will be Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. The play is directed by Danny Tippet and produced by Tammi T. Gardner. For reservations call 301-299-8571.



Canon Pennefather (Bill Byrnes) and Jaqueline De Serverac (Erin Gallalee) in The Potomac Theatre Company's production of Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Nile."

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Transforming Wootton into Oz

FROM PAGE 3

American notions — the dream of a bigger life and then the appreciation for what we have," Speck said. "With the tornados ripping through the Midwest just this past week, it's not easy to forget that our stage tornado is a metaphor wrapped in the true Kansas Experience. Audiences will see the show now through the lens of 'Wicked' thanks to the book and the highly successful Broadway musical."

WHILE MOST of the songs are familiar to the audience — from "Ding Dong, the Witch is Dead" to "If I Only Had a Brain/Heart/Nerve" to "Over the Rainbow," — Speck is bringing back some of the little known parts that were glossed over or cut from the movie, such as the big "Jitterbug" number in Act Two.

Junior Kayli Modell is thrilled to play the lead role of Dorothy: "I have grown up watching the film my whole life, so getting to play such a well-known role is really an honor and a lot of fun for me. I have learned a lot about acting and creating a character as well as a lot about dancing." Choreographer Nancy Newell told her, "By the end of this show, you will be a dancer." Kayli, who found dancing to be challenging, put her mind to it and now she found she can do it. "Oz" is her 5th show at Wootton. She also participates in a Wootton student-run a

capella group, Chaos.

As the Cowardly Lion, senior Mitchell Myers has enjoyed putting his own character spin to his role. "The lion is a character that people can relate to because everyone gets nervous and scared, but he shows the irony of being a coward and what it does to people. This is such an iconic show that everyone knows. It has been an amazing experience for me." Myers has been in Wootton plays and in Chamber Chorus since 9th grade.

The Scarecrow will be played by Adam Uslan, the Tin Man by Landon Fleishman, Glinda by Corrieanne Stein, the Professor/Wizard of Oz by Christopher Walkup, the Guard by Elgin Martin and the West Witch by Julia Wainger. Modell says, "Our show has absolutely amazing directors, and an outstanding cast, crew and orchestra — and I recommend that everyone see the production. It's a great night for people of all ages and for the entire family."

"The Wizard of Oz," will be performed in the Wootton Center for the Arts, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville on Friday, March 16; Saturday, March 17; Friday, March 23, and Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. The play will also be performed on Sunday, March 18 and Sunday March 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be ordered at <http://schooltix.org/wootton>. Reserved seats are \$15 and general admission is \$10. Tickets can be purchased at the door.



Bells Mill Girl Scout Troop 1635 members Shreeya Kharana, Rebecca Stolz, Sarah Lininger and Hannah Roberts take advantage of the opportunity of Black History Night at Bells Mill Elementary School on Feb. 24 to raise money for research into diabetes.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

'No Child Left Inside'

FROM PAGE 3

ing.

Meanwhile, many people hope that the county will instead embrace the resources of the farm.

"I think Montgomery County is resting on its laurels," said Naomi Bloch. The school system has the opportunity to do something heroic or to fall well behind the bell curve for environmental literacy, she said.

"There is enormous possibility of what this land can be for the school system," said Bloch.

A YEAR AGO this week, in March 2011, Nick Maravell and local residents heard of the county's plans to have a private soccer

organization build soccer fields on the farmland just a few days before the Board of Education voted to turn the land over to the county. The county had been in negotiations with school board and a soccer organization for two years, documents show.

Local citizens groups and homeowners were outraged by not being including in plans for the site.

"The fact is there was no transparent process and all we have been asking all along is that we back up and rewind the tape and start over with a process that includes the community," said Ginny Barnes of West Montgomery County Citizens Association at a meeting in January. "The real issue is a transparent process that we were promised when Mr. Leggett ran for office."

WELLBEING

Cleaning Up One's Plate

Local nutrition experts encourage healthy eating during National Nutrition Month and always.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

When it comes to healthy eating, Alexandria, Va., wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella encourages her clients to load up during meals, but she offers a caveat. "Crowd out your plate with good stuff," said Mirabella who has offices in Alexandria and Warrenton, Va. "If you're eating nutrient and fiber rich foods, you're naturally going to be more full and more satisfied and therefore you might not be reaching for the junk food as often."

In observance of National Nutrition Month, Mirabella is offering suggestions for making wise food choices. She and other health experts say that while trading in salt-laden potato chips for potassium-packed baked spuds might be challenging, making positive dietary changes is easier than one might think, and is worth the effort.

"I believe that food is medicine and we can use it as a way to prevent diseases and heal our body," said Mirabella "If we eat foods that are full of nutrients we're going to give our body everything it needs to do what it does naturally. Food can be a very powerful medicine in terms of disease prevention and reversal."

Begin by simplifying food choices. "The first step is focusing on what isn't food and then finding cleaner options," said Nina Elliot, an Arlington, Va.-based personal trainer. "All the additives ... that are in many of our favorite foods can contribute to obesity and health challenges. Replacing processed foods with whole foods may take a bit more work in the kitchen and a little more grocery money, but the health benefits are tremendous."

Add fresh fruits and vegetables to each meal. "Vegetables are high in antioxidants," said Mirabella. "Frozen fruits and vegetables are an excellent choice too. They are affordable and they're nutrient rich because they've been picked at the peak of their freshness. They went from the field to the freezer, so the nutrients are locked-in."

Watch for hidden sodium. "Deli meat for example, is highly processed and high in sodium," said Paulette Helman, a registered dietitian in Potomac. "You're better off baking a chicken breast with a little lemon juice."



Alexandria, Va.-based wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella creates a nutrient-dense salad with avocados and spinach. Dietitians recommend eating fiber and antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables with every meal.

Choose whole grains. "Whole grains are healthier than plain, white processed grains," said Jean Glossa, M.D., medical director, Fairfax Community Health Care Network and Molina Healthcare in Virginia.

"The closer the food is to the way that it came out of the ground and the less processed it is the healthier it is. But that doesn't mean that by switching to whole grains you can eat an unlimited amount of it. Portion size is still important."

When it comes to protein, keep it lean. "Ideally with every meal and snack, you want to have protein," said Mirabella. "For example, you might have eggs for breakfast and toss in spinach or broccoli and a little feta cheese. If you have an apple for a snack you might dip it in a little bit of peanut butter so that you get protein and healthy fat along with carbohydrates from the apple. Lean cuts of meat are good, but you want to stay away from saturated fat."

Nutritionists say gradual adjustments work

best. "Making small changes is more manageable than overhauling one's diet all at once," said Elliot. "[They are] more likely to lead to the next positive change ... which means people are [more] likely to want to continue improving ... their diet."

Plan ahead. "Try to eat three meals and two healthy snacks each day," said Mirabella. "That is a great way to keep your blood sugar in balance so you can make healthier food choices all day long."



Wellness educator Cheryl Mirabella grows vibrantly colored, vitamin-packed vegetables in her garden. She believes that nutrient-rich food is medicine for the body.

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Look What She Saw—Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well there's five seconds that fellow super-market-shopper won't have back anytime soon. The question, the curiosity is: will she have nightmares and/or live to regret staring at me so intently that I think I may have seen the whites of her eyes – and it wasn't even remotely dark? Two chemotherapy infusions in (with four more to go), the toll has begun to be taken: hollow eyes, smooth beard, thinning and wispy hair, ashen gray and hospital-like pallor; granted, I'm not a pretty sight, but please madam, control yourself.

And not that I'm the least bit self-conscious, but I am sensitive and aware of some of the inadvertent and awkward, embarrassed-to-be-caught, staring-type glances cast in my direction. Though I wear a hat whenever I'm out in public (almost always in private too), I am determined to live as normal a life as I can despite the wear and tear of chemotherapy. Unfortunately, it's not Halloween, so my ready-made costume can serve no greater good. However, if it were the end of October, my services as a haunted house-type prop would be most valuable.

So far, my energy level (drawn from one's red blood cells) is still reasonably normal, enabling me to actually get off the couch and shop if necessary. Eventually though, the chemotherapy will destroy enough of these cells (along with the white blood cells) so that getting off the couch will become more difficult. Not painful. More like challenged. I equate it with not having any gas in the tank. The car will not drive/move without it. It's nothing personal. It's nothing professional. It's not indicative of a bigger problem. It's simply not able to function.

As concerns those white blood cells, they too are also being targeted by the chemotherapy in an attempt to eradicate any remaining cancer cells hiding in their midst. Once the white blood-cell count has been lowered by the treatment, my immune system will be seriously compromised. As such, I will become more susceptible to germs, infections, sickness, etc. Purell, the hand sanitizer, will become my constant companion. Bottles of it will be everywhere in my house – and cars – as I attempt to remain vigilant in my attempts to fend off the sickness that my weakened immune system must inevitably endure.

Unfortunately, killing the cancer cells – however temporary, has the related effect of looking like it's killing the patient, too. Apparently, that's what this female shopper was reacting to: my rather sickly appearance, and so close to Valentine's Day, too. In fact, we were both in the card aisle. Presumably she was looking for a little color, not the absence of color – as in the color missing from my face, and it startled her almost; and to tell you the truth, she really didn't deal with it too well – at least in my presence, anyway. And her inability to not stare at me surprised me at first: what's she staring at? (You have a problem, ma'am?) Then I realized what – and why, she was staring at: me. I don't look so good. In fact, I may be starting to look bad. And though I don't feel as bad as I might already be looking, to the casual observer however, it may be thought that as bad as I look, I probably feel worse. Which I don't – and haven't. Nevertheless, it's a peculiar sort of mixed presumptions. And there's nothing I can or care to do about it. Still, as I noticed this woman "eyeballing" me, I thought, oddly enough; something must be wrong with her. Imagine that? Something wrong with her? And she looked normal. How's that for mind over matter. I don't mind if it matters to someone else. I'm going to live my life. I have to.

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

Churchill Boys Fall to Magruder in Region Final

Bulldogs reach first region championship game in 33 years.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

As the 4A West Region championship game neared an end and the Churchill boys' basketball team's fate was all but sealed, members of the Bulldogs kept spirits high, motioning to their fans to continue cheering. Later, applause could be heard from the guest locker room at Blair High School, where the Bulldogs held their postgame meeting.

Magruder, the region's top seed and defending champion, defeated No. 2-seed Churchill 54-39 on March 3 to take home the region title and advance to the state tournament. While disappointed their season had ended, the Bulldogs could take pride in what they had accomplished not just this year, but since the arrival of head coach Matt Miller four years ago.

After a pair of seasons in which Churchill finished near the .500 mark and won a play-off game, the Bulldogs in 2011 totaled 18 victories, captured their first division championship in more than three decades and reached the region semifinals. This year, Churchill won 19 games, captured its second consecutive division title and advanced to the region final for the first time in 33 years.

"We're a little disappointed that we came up short, but we're still happy because we had a great, successful season," junior guard Dominique Williams said. "We're just gradually building each year. That's the motto: just keep building. It's been a lot of hard work — a lot of blood, sweat and tears."

Magruder defeated Churchill 65-39 in the regular season finale on Feb. 21. Saturday's meeting was more tightly contested, however, as the Bulldogs led by two early in the third quarter when a Williams jumper gave Churchill a 21-19 advantage with 6:02 remaining. But that's when Magruder took over, outscoring Churchill 13-4 during the remainder of the quarter before pulling away in the fourth.

The Bulldogs led 5-4 after one and 14-12 in the closing seconds of the first half before Magruder's Justin Witmer buried a 3-pointer to give the Colonels a one-point halftime lead. Churchill limited Magruder to three field goals in the first 16 minutes.

"I just think we gave a more inspired effort tonight," Miller said when asked about

"Our class was Coach Miller's first class — it was his first year when we were freshmen — so we really laid the foundation for the program."

— Churchill senior Thomas Geenen



Churchill senior Sam Edens scored a team-high 13 points against Magruder in the 4A West Region final on March 3 at Blair High School.

the difference between the Bulldogs' effort against Magruder in the regular season and the region final.

Another difference was the presence of senior forward Thomas Geenen, who missed the final two weeks of the regular season with a sprained ankle. Able to play against Magruder on Saturday, the 6-foot-6 Geenen grabbed 17 rebounds in his final

high school contest. He finished his career as Churchill's all-time leader in rebounds (695) and steals (125).

"Our class was Coach Miller's first class — it was his first year when we were freshmen — so we really laid the foundation for the program," Geenen said. "Looking back, we can't hang our heads on this loss. We have to be proud and look forward to the future of what we built. We can look back 10 years from now and see this is a product of what we started in 2012."

Fellow senior Sam Edens led Churchill in scoring with an average of 15.4 points per contest, including a team-high 13 in Saturday's championship game. The 6-foot-3 guard also led the Bulldogs in 3-pointers made and finished his career ninth on the program's all-time scoring list with 650 points.

Edens said he will remember playing in front of Churchill fans.

"The fans are always amazing," he said. "It's an honor to play for them."

Geenen shared Edens' admiration for the



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Churchill senior Thomas Geenen finished his career as the Bulldogs' all-time leader in rebounds and steals.

program's supporters.

"Our sophomore year, which was [Edens' and my] first year on varsity, we almost got no fans at our home games," Geenen said. "And you could tell with the success that we had, more fans kept coming and coming. You saw tonight, it was incredible."

Fellow seniors Quan Gill, Christian Bonaparte, Kyle Edwards, Louis Rothstein and George Nichols also suited up for Churchill for the final time on Saturday. Gill scored 10 points in the region final, including throwing down an alley-oop dunk.

"I think these seniors deserve a lot of credit for what they've done," Miller said. "[Some have played] varsity basketball since their sophomore year and they've gotten progressively better."

Williams will be the top returning athlete



Churchill junior Dominique Williams will be the Bulldogs' top returning athlete next season.

on what figures to be an inexperienced 2012-13 Churchill team. The 6-foot-1 guard, who is also a standout receiver for the school's football team, scored nine points in the region final and is one of the Bulldogs' best defenders.

"I don't think there's going to be a difference in our team," Williams said about next season. "I see myself telling [younger players] that you just need to keep up the intensity. Learn from us because we seniors are going to teach them a lot."

Geenen's words of advice for next year's team: "Don't get too cocky. We've had two great years in a row, but you can't assume that next year is going to be the same. You guys have to work hard and create your own destiny. You can't allow yourselves to rely on the past."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill's Sutton Wins State Title

Churchill's Hunter Sutton won the 138-pound state wrestling championship with a 10-6 decision against Duvall's Antwan Reddick in the final last weekend at the University of Maryland.

As a team, Churchill finished 29th with 25 points. Wootton finished 14th with 37 and Whitman was tied for 16th with 34 points.

Wootton finished third in the 4A/3A West Region, behind North Hagerstown and Springbrook. Wootton's Austin Tritto (106 pounds) and Ralph Bernardo (220), Whitman's Brad Taylor (160) and Josh Daryoush (285) and Churchill's Sutton won region championships.

Geenen, Edens Named All-Stars

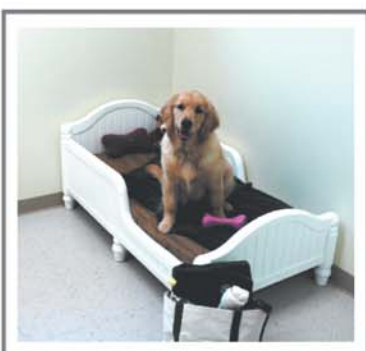
Churchill seniors Thomas Geenen and Sam Edens were selected to play in the MOCO Public School All-Star Game at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 at Einstein High School.

Geenen and Edens played key roles in helping the Churchill boys' basketball team reach its first region final in 33 years, where the Bulldogs lost to Magruder on March 3. Geenen finished his career as Churchill's all-time leader in rebounds and steals, while Edens finished ninth on the Bulldogs' all-time scoring list.



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