

# Potomac ALMANAC

# The Nose Rules

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Dogs interpret  
primarily with  
their nose.

‘Yolanda Prinsloo  
and Friends’

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Water Main Break  
Floods River Road

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Churchill Girls’  
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to B-CC

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Board Re-asserts  
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PHOTO BY CAROLE DELL

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2013

ONLINE AT [POTOMACALMANAC.COM](http://POTOMACALMANAC.COM)

## PEOPLE

# Student Wins DAR Essay Contests

**Anna Gray writes of forgotten Revolutionary hero.**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**T**hirteen-year-old Anna Gray discovered the story of unsung hero Sybil Ludington when she googled "Revolutionary War women" — and as Anna explains her choice, "She was the most interesting of the women I had not heard of." Sybil Ludington was a 16-year-old girl who volunteered to gallop 40 miles through a cold damp night on horseback to warn American troops that the British were approaching.

The assignment was to write about "Forgotten Patriots Who Supported the American Struggle for Independence" for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) annual American History Essay Contest. Anna, a seventh grade student at the Fourth Presbyterian School in Potomac, read her winning essay to the Goshen Mill DAR Chapter on Feb. 11, where she accepted a certificate and monetary award. That same day, they announced that her essay had also won the Maryland State Society DAR con-



**Anna Gray**

test and she will receive her award on March 23. Her essay will now be entered in the Eastern Division contest and could advance to the national level.

Anna's composition, "Teen Rides Forty Miles in Storm To Save Town" was written as a newspaper article for the Danbury Post Historic Special on the Revolutionary War of 1777. Under the name of "Annie Grayson, Staff Writer" she wrote the story of a young woman who most likely had many of the same feelings, thoughts and aspirations as Anna does today.

Sybil wanted to be independent and to help her country, as well as her father, a colonel, in the fight against the British. When an exhausted messenger relayed the news that the British were soon planning to attack and burn Danbury, Conn., Sybil, a skilled horseback rider, volunteered for the dangerous mission. She rode from village to village shouting for the militia to meet at her house, since her tired father was mustering the troops. After her journey, she arrived back home to find that the men had all responded and were waiting for orders in her front yard. She was thrilled that they had listened and immediately responded.

Anna wrote, "Her father later reflected on the extraordinary circumstances of his daughter's daring ride. He was overwhelmed that a child of 16 could accomplish so much. He stated in his memoir 'there is no extravagance in comparing her ride with that of Paul Revere and its mid-night message.' Unfortunately the troop was unable to stop the burning of Danbury on April 26, 1777. The 7th Duchess Militia joined the Continental Army, though, in the Battle of Ridgefield and was able to push the British back to their boats the next day."

Anna also included that George Washington and the French Comte de Rochambeau visited Sybil's house to thank her for her bravery. Her birthplace, Fredericksburgh changed its name to Ludingtonville and statues of her stand in Lake Glenieda and outside the Danbury Library. Anna states, "Sadly, after she died, she was only a quickly fading memory."

The DAR American History Essay Contest was established to encourage young people in grades 5-8 to think creatively about the nation's history and to learn about it in a new light. Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to the topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness.

Anna is the daughter of Karen and Corey Gray of Bethesda.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE

## Pisarra and Weiler Wed

**On Sunday Feb. 17, Tony Pisarra, the president of the Potomac Theatre Company, married Trish Weiler. Rabbi Stan Levin officiated.**

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# NEWS

POTOMAC ALMANAC EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN  
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## This Land Is Our Land

Next steps not certain in controversy, but board asserts land belongs to school system.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

**W**ith a resolution Monday night, Feb. 25, the Montgomery County Board of Education made clear what it already thought it had made clear.

The Board of Education voted unanimously Monday, Feb. 25, that Resolution 138-11 authorizing the land agreement with Montgomery County for construction of ball fields at the future Brickyard Road Middle School site “is of no force and effect,” according to Board of Education documents.

“The board wishes to resolve any perceived ambiguity and clarify the status of Resolution 138-11,” according to the documents.

This resolution is “to ensure that it is clear that the board lease with Montgomery County is cancelled and is no longer in effect,” said Superintendent Joshua P. Starr. “At this point, no entity but Montgomery County Public Schools has right to be on the property.”

“Just to be abundantly clear. This property belongs to the Montgomery County Board of Education. There is no lease with anyone,” said Board of Education member Patricia O’Neill.

“This is a future school site,” said O’Neill. “Clear?”

“That is very clear,” said Board President Christopher S. Barclay.

Next steps for the 20-acre property on Brickyard Road are uncertain.

At the board meeting Monday, Sophia Maravell, director of Brickyard Educational Farm, testified along with two other supporters.

She asked the Board of Education to “open the Brickyard Road School site for competitive proposals so that the Brickyard Educational Farm proposal can be seriously considered,” she said.

She asked the board to open the process “so the land does not remain unattended and prone to soil degradation this spring. The possibilities of serving Montgomery County Public School students on this land are enormous and within our reach,” Maravell said.

“While there are no walls in this classroom, there are infinite possibilities,” testified Elizabeth Levien, a teacher at Blair High School. She said 67 Montgomery County schools are located within 10 miles of the farm.

“Take advantage of this wonderful treasure we have in our backyard,” testified Patrick Detzner. “Please, make the best use of this.”

**SCHOOL BOARD** security officers locked

some of the gates to Nick Maravell’s Organic Farm and his daughter’s Brickyard Education Farm on Brickyard Road last Tuesday, Feb. 19.

“As you may be aware, Mr. Maravell has no right to be on the property. On Aug. 17 he was sent a letter saying he could access the property only to harvest existing crops. On Sept. 21, he was told that he and all of his equipment needed to be off the property as of the end of December,” said Dana Tofig, public information officer for MCPS.

“Security and maintenance personnel arrived [Feb. 19] to inspect the property, which belongs to the Board of Education and is not leased to anyone at this point. The staff was not able to access the property because locks had been placed on the gates by Mr. Maravell. Our staff removed the locks, inspected the property and put on our own locks,” Tofig said.

**“There is no lease with anyone.”**

— Patricia O’Neill, member, Board of Education

That night, the Board of Education held a special work session to announce that Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett wrote a letter to the board that “the county has decided not to proceed with the development of any recreational facilities on the site.”

The School Board accepted the surrender of the lease, declared the lease rescinded and of no force and effect. Leggett issued a press release that day. “I today wrote to the Montgomery County Public Schools to inform them we are terminating our sublease with them to use the 20 acres of public land on Brickyard Road to construct soccer fields for County kids.

“I strongly believe public land should be used for public purposes, not for private commercial gain. Montgomery County families need more soccer fields, especially Down County. Under the Potomac Master Plan, this tract was specifically mentioned to be used for recreational uses and ballfields, if not used for a school. The sublease would have fulfilled that.

“I want to thank the hundreds of people who supported this project, including individuals on Brickyard Road itself. I want to thank Montgomery Soccer, Inc., our would-be-partner in this valuable public-private partnership, for caring so deeply about finding places for kids to develop themselves, physically and mentally.

“I will continue my support for finding other options to expand ballfields in the County and to uphold the public interest of Montgomery families,” wrote Leggett.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY** Circuit Court Judge Robert A. Greenberg was expected to rule this week on the legality of the School Board’s lease of the 20-acre prop-

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY DIANA CONWAY

A water main break creates a flood of water on River Road Saturday, Feb. 23.

## Pipe Break Floods River Road

**A**n eight-inch “relatively small” water main break caused spouts of bubbling water on River Road Saturday morning, Feb. 23.

Workers for WSSC had the pipes fixed by Saturday night 12 hours later, according to WSSC spokesperson Lyn Riggins.

No forensics are done on water main breaks of that size, she said. In an average year, 1,700 to 1,800 breaks may occur to the 5,600 miles of pipes in this area.

Alerting WSSC to leaking pipes or broken pipes is helpful, she said. “Sometimes people will call television or news stations first, but ‘call us,’” she said.

Mobile applications available on the WSSC website give residents the ability to report issues to WSSC from cell phones and other such devices and can help WSSC pinpoint locations of problems quickly since global positioning devices can be accessed by WSSC.

See [www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com)



The water lifts sod at a driveway.

## Club Friday To Host Open House

**E**lementary and middle school students are invited to Club Friday’s Open House on Friday, March 1, from 7-10 p.m. Parents are invited, too. Admission is free.

“This is a chance for all to experience the fun and excitement Club Friday members enjoy every Friday night from October through March,” said Linda

Barlock, acting director of the Potomac Community Center.

Club Friday will feature a moon bounce, obstacle course, DJ music, bingo, raffle, art project, snack bar and games.

The Potomac Community Center is located at 11315 Falls Road. Call 240-777-6960.



## School Board Re-asserts Land Control

FROM PAGE 3

erty to the county for sublease to Montgomery Soccer Inc. for soccer fields.

Nearly two years ago in March 2011, Nick Maravell, neighbors and civic organizations in Potomac learned that Leggett had already decided to take control of the 20-acre school property on Brickyard Road to turn it over to a private organization for development into soccer fields, which county officials say were desperately needed. The Board of Education voted with a few days notice to lease the property to the county for that purpose.

Nick Maravell had leased the 20-acre site from the Montgomery County School Board for more than 30 years, running an organic farm, which produces heirloom GMO-free corn, and soybean seed. More recently, his daughter, Sophia Maravell has run the Brickyard Educational Farm on the site as well, bringing in local school children to learn about farming.

Montgomery County Council held a town meeting in November at the Potomac Community Center, and advocated that the County Executive and Board of Education reconsider.

"The way this matter has unfolded has been ugly and costly to everyone involved," five councilmembers wrote in a letter to Leggett and Board of Education President Shirley Brandman. "We do not think this result is necessary or inevitable."

George Leventhal (D-at large) wrote a letter of his own. "This turmoil has not only tainted our constituents' opinion of representative government, but it has also completely shut down communication," he said.

## 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." Whether you're selling or buying, that ambience of peaceful serenity is of the utmost importance.

For sellers, find a space outside that's calm and has a great view, and 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 haven from the outside world!

For buyers, evaluate a home and its rooms not just for what they are right now, but for what they could be. What's now a home office with standard windows could be a quiet family den that looks out into the backyard with the installation of an infinity window; the supplementary laundry room upstairs could easily become a reading nook, perfect for quiet weekends and rainy days at home. With a few cost-efficient upgrades, an spacious bathroom could become a home spa. Take a look at the room you've got to work with, and evaluate what peace and comfort look like to you!

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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## PEOPLE

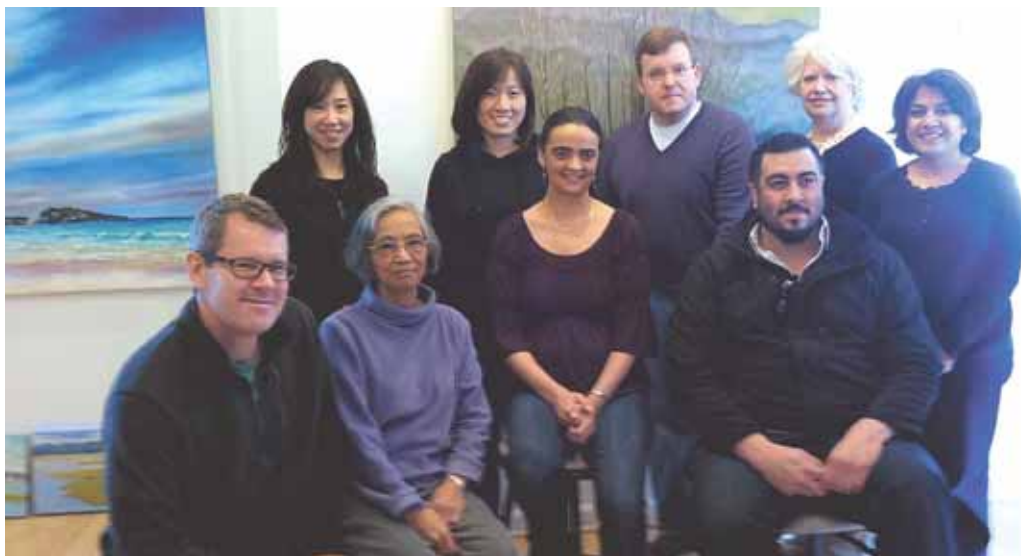


PHOTO BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

Yolanda Prinsloo and her students will show their art this month at The Art Gallery of Potomac. Back row, from left, are Stephanie Shih, Nancy Loh, Mark Claus, Donna Shields, and Swati Gupta, then front row, Scott Spangenberg, Esther Chow, Yolanda Prinsloo, and Javier Padilla.

### Art Gallery Hosts 'Yolanda Prinsloo and Friends'

This month The Art Gallery of Potomac presents "Yolanda Prinsloo and Friends." The show will be in anticipation of spring arriving and will include artwork by: Swathi Gupta, Darinka Zic, Paula Belman, Ed Balkovich, Gary Wind, Donna Shields, Javier Padilla, Stephanie Shih, Nancy Loh, Sandra Duval, Geraldine Duval, Scott Roberts, Scott Spanenberg, Esther Chow, and Betsy Baden.

The show runs Feb. 27- March 31. An opening reception will be on March 2, 5-7 p.m. with music by premier recitalist Jacqueline Nemat and with vio-

linist Jose Cueto.

The Art Gallery of Potomac is located at 9945 Falls Road in Potomac. It has relocated within the same shopping center and is now next to Big Wheels Bikes behind Walgreens. Phone 301-765-7617. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, noon until 4 p.m. For more information go to [www.potomacartists.org](http://www.potomacartists.org) or [www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com](http://www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com)

— COLLEEN HEALY

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2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known



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Those wishing to adopt or foster the pups, please e-mail Melinda at [msolley@petconnectrescue.org](mailto:msolley@petconnectrescue.org) and/or fill out our online application at [www.petconnectrescue.org](http://www.petconnectrescue.org).

To donate or volunteer, please visit our Web site above.

## PET ALMANAC



"My modeling contract says I get a thousand dollars an hour. I guess for that much money I can put up with these bright lights."

— Shuler, who lives with Harvey Levine



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wink out runs her brother Elroy. For almost all of my life, dogs have been in my life. In November 2011, my wife and I had to have our Australian Shepherd put to sleep because she had a massive kidney failure. We love the breed and knew we would be getting another Aussie in the spring. Our pastor told us that we wouldn't pick a dog, a dog would pick us. When we went to the breeder to see Wink (she has one blue eye and one brown eye, so she looks like she is winking) we fell in love with Wink, but told the breeder we needed to talk it over. As we were getting ready to leave, Wink tried to get in our car. On the way home I said my wife, "I think Wink just picked us." Of course we got Wink and she is part of our family.

— Robert A. Jones



The sweetheart who wouldn't stop playing: Kyra and her friend Sophie (8-year-old female Bichon Frise mix).



Partners for Life: Kaylen (10 years old) running the lovely Solo (13-year-old female Afghan Hound).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Redford Berinstein, a Michigan Mutt going on 16 with her younger siblings, Sonya, Jenna and Joel. She loves walking (slowly) along the canal and playing in the snow. She hopes we'll still get one good snow day this winter!

— Diane Berinstein

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This is the first day Kyra (12 years old) picked up her new dog Jet (4-year-old male Afghan Hound). Even on the first day they loved each other.



Emma Dixon with recently adopted kitties Rose and Cumin in Potomac. Rose is polydactyl and was adopted from Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. She and her four siblings were rescued at 2 weeks old and bottle raised by Lost Dog volunteers Jean Card and Stuart Moll. More cats and dogs available at [www.lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://www.lostdogandcatrescue.org). Cumin, the orange kitty, was adopted from Pet Connect. He and his brothers were rescued from a high-kill shelter in South Carolina. More cats and dogs available at [www.petconnectrescue.org](http://www.petconnectrescue.org)



This is Angus. He is a mix between a chihuahua, rat terrier and a Jack Russell. Angus' story begins in West Virginia. I was in college and thought it was a great idea to bring home a little dog. My friend and I went to the pound and saw him in a little cage with no toys and no room to run. He came right over to me and at that moment I knew he was my dog. The pound said he was abused and a little under weight. Now a year and a half later, he's doing great. He's super spoiled, has many toys to play with and plenty of yard to explore. Several activities Angus enjoys are playing ball, digging, chasing squirrels, helping grandma in her flower garden, and snuggling. We are truly blessed to have Angus.

In this photo Angus was helping grandma in her flower garden when he decided he wanted a ride in the red wagon.

— Katelyn Kumm



Bessie lives with Peter and Grace Kimm in Potomac.



Almanac writer  
Ken Moore with  
Holden and Trilke.



# ENTERTAINMENT



**The Land by Pauline Jakobsberg.**



**Bowl (mixed woods) by William Peirce.**

## Adding In, Taking Away

Gallery Har Shalom presents “Adding In, Taking Away.” An opening reception will take place Sunday, March 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., featuring artists Patricia S. Affens, of Olney; Allan Akman, of Rockville; Pauline Jakobsberg, of Potomac; Charles Edwin Myers, of Bethesda; and William Peirce, of Silver Spring. The exhibit runs Friday, March 1 - Monday, April 22, 2013. Free and open to the public. Gallery Har Shalom, located at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087 for hours and directions.

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

### ONGOING

**The Puppet Co.** at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season. There are favorite fairytale princesses, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org). **Alice in Wonderland**, through March 10, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; **Jack and the Beanstalk**, March. 14-Apr. 21, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

**Music Performance.** Artist in Residence Wytold will perform on the electric cello at 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. \$15/person. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 28

**Blues Dance.** 8:15-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Capital Blues presents a beginner workshop at 8:15 p.m. with dancing starting at 9 p.m. to blues music from every corner of the genre. \$8. E-mail [info@capitalblues.org](mailto:info@capitalblues.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**Family Fun Night.** 7-10 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Learn about Club Friday with moon bounce, obstacle course, raffle and more. For families with elementary and middle school aged children. Free. 240-777-6960.

**Ceramics Class.** 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Cours in ceramics is 8 weeks. \$260. Register at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

### MARCH 1 THROUGH MARCH 31

**Exhibit.** “Crossing the Distance” brings together emerging contemporary artists in a cultural exchange. Presents a wide-range of media. Located at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

**Exhibit.** See B.G. Muhn’s “Accidental Reality” at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Browse his paintings, which float between abstraction and representation, presence and absence. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**Free Workshop.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane. Learn how dogs communicate in play settings and more. Free. To register, go to

[www.yourdogsfriend.info](http://www.yourdogsfriend.info) or call 301-983-5913.

**Dare to Draw.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Children in grades K-2 can enjoy this class. \$75. Goes until April 20. Register at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

**Dare to Draw.** 11 a.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Children in grades 3-5 can enjoy this class. \$75. Goes until April 20. Register at [visartscenter.org](http://visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

**Music, Dance, Artist Talk.** 3-7 p.m. at Exhibit9, 10116 Lloyd Road. A portion of the proceeds benefit Johns Hopkins cancer research. RSVP at 202-276-9419.

### THROUGH MARCH 2

**Art Exhibit.** Gallery B presents its February exhibition, featuring photographers Howard Clark, Martin Evans, Stephen Hoff and Dave Montgomery. The exhibit will be on display at Gallery B, located at 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery hours are Wednesday – Saturday, noon-6 p.m.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Strathmore Show: Pianist Alain LeFèvre.** 4 p.m. The Canadian pianist will perform the Washington premiere of Francois Dompierre’s “24 Preludes,” written for and dedicated to the pianist by the composer. The Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

### Fused Glass Seder Plate

**Workshop.** 2-6 p.m. at at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Anyone age 12 and up can learn the basics of working with colorful sheet glass, including selecting, cutting and combining to build a complete piece. \$175. To register, visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

**Waltz.** 2:45 p.m. lesson; 3:30 p.m. dance to the music of Contratopia in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. \$10. No partner required. Visit [www.waltztimedances.org](http://www.waltztimedances.org) or 301-634-2222.

### MONDAY/MARCH 4

**Benefit Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Winston Churchill High School Auditorium. Hear music by the Churchill Wind Ensemble and the Capital Wind Symphony. Proceeds support the middle and high school music programs within the Wootton-Churchill cluster. \$10/adult; \$5/child; band and orchestra players within the cluster are free. Tickets must be purchased online at [www.capitalwindsymphony.org](http://www.capitalwindsymphony.org).

### TUESDAY/MARCH 5

**Dare to Draw.** 5-6 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. \$75. Goes until April 23. Register at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org)

[center.org](http://center.org) or 301-315-8200.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 6

**Introduction to the Wheel.** 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Learn all about the potter’s wheel. \$260. Register at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

### MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 14

**Children’s Theater.** Imagination Stage and Natasha Holmes, director and cofounder of Tell Tale Hearts Children’s Touring Theatre Company presents “From Here to There,” Tuesdays through Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Appropriate for children ages 2-5. Tickets are \$10-\$12 with a lap seat for children under 12 months for \$5. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 7

**Advanced Ceramics.** 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. For those with prior ceramics experience. \$260. Register at [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 8

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. “Crossing the Distance” brings together emerging contemporary artists in a cultural exchange. Presents a wide-range of media. Located at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. see B.G. Muhn’s “Accidental Reality” at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Browse his paintings, which float between abstraction and representation, presence and absence. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200.

**Pencils and Pasties.** 7-10 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Try your hand at sketching. Soda and chips are free, beer and wine will be sold. \$15. Visit [visartscenter.org](http://visartscenter.org) or 301-315-8200 to register.

### MARCH 8-24

**Theater.** Potomac Theatre Company presents “Blithe Spirit” at Blair Family Center for the Arts, Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. \$20/adults; \$18/students, seniors. 301-299-8571 to reserve.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 9

**Dance Bethesda Concert.** 8 p.m. at Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Seven performers and choreographers have been selected to perform including the Washington School of Ballet. \$20/adult; \$10/child 12 and under. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Seminar.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hopkins & Porter, 12944-C Travilah Road, #204. Workshops discuss additions, ways to open up a floor plan, more. Free. Space limited to 15 participants. Register at 301-840-9121.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 10

**Dan Tepfer and Ben Wendel.** 7:30 p.m. Join the jazz duo of piano and saxophone for the release of their new CD. The Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Performance.** 4 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Young Artists of America and the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra presents “Madama Butterfly” and “Miss Saigon.” Tickets range between \$20-\$40. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for tickets.

**Soup ‘N’ Bowls Fundraiser.** Noon-4 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Help raise money for camp scholarships for children and teens with chronic health conditions. Silent and live auction, food and more. \$25/online or \$30/door. Visit [brainycamps.com](http://brainycamps.com) or 202-476-5142.

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# Field Notes: The Nose Rules

BY CAROLE DELL  
THE ALMANAC

**T**he other day I watched my canine companion, Zina, put her nose to the breeze and then bury it deep in the grass near the pasture fence. Her excitement reminded me of the days when my German Shepherds were able to roam freely in the fields before the housing development set in. Their nose-down, tail up odyssey fulfilled every scent-driven need in their bodies.



**The nostrils are moist and mobile. The folds on each side, shown here, allow them to move and expel air. They quiver and rotate in order to seek out the direction of a scent. The moisture aids the nose in detecting scent. If scent is airborne, the dog raises her nostrils to the breeze, if it is buried in the ground, those nostrils can often come up with a nose-full of dirt.**

Dogs are news junkies and scent is their “Washington Post.” They interpret their world with a sniff as readily as we do with our sight. Dogs can discern sex, age, health, and more from another dog’s simple stop at a tree, as well as learn what this canine had for dinner—proteins and amino acids are the clue.

Each year brings new skills to the trained dog’s nose. They can discern cancerous lesions before they appear; detect diabetes and sniff out invasive plants in impossible places.

Sniffing is a dog’s most stimulating experience, so what happens in that joyous moment when a scent goes from nose to neuron? Your pet’s nose is made up of a very complicated sensing system that enables her to decipher each smell and register it.

**ONCE A SCENT** is registered in the memory, it is there for life. By the age of three months, 80 percent of a puppy’s experience is indelibly imprinted on its brain, scent being one of them. Thus, a traumatic event involving a particular smell early on could be adversely relieved when exposed to it many years later.

The part of a dog’s brain used for analyzing smell is about 40 times larger than that of a human and 10,000 times more sensitive. That dog lying on our bed with us has

over 22 square feet of nasal membrane packed in her moist, quivering nose, compared to 3 square feet in ours. The dog’s olfactory lobe, which decodes scent messages, dwarfs that of a person’s.

“If humans are able to detect one drop of a specific substance diluted in a few drops of water, dogs would be able to detect one drop in 25 million barrels,” said Dr. Bonnie Beaver of Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Imagine the deliciousness of the vast array of scents that waft across a whopping 225 million scent receptors in your German Shepherd’s nose and act as a lightning rod for odors. Compare that to the human schnoz, which must make do with a minuscule five million receptors.

And, not all noses are created equal. The Dachshund has 125 million scent-detecting cells and the Fox Terrier 147 million. They were bred for hunting and digging while the Bloodhound has 300 million—so there is not much that can elude that sniff.

Wildlife biologist Alice Whitelaw, director of Programs at Working Dogs for Conservation in Three Forks, Montana, works with scenting dogs but still finds their skills a mystery. You can ask 1 in 10 people about how a dog actually processes scent and their answers can all be different, she said. We still don’t fully understand the dog’s scenting abilities. Her conservation program’s dogs are trained to detect everything from a Gila monster to invasive snails to carnivore scat (feces).

**SCENT RETRIEVAL** begins with sniffing, the kind we hear when our pet buries her nose in a bush. Sniffing is a disruption of the dog’s regular breathing pattern and consists of rapid inhalations and exhalations, which come in sets of three to seven sniffs each. Sniffing allows air to stay in the nasal chambers and is believed to be initiated by a bony structure not present in humans called a “subethmoidal shelf,” which is found below the bones of the dog’s nasal



**The nose dominates the face and has more importance than either eyes or ears in a dog’s interpretation of his world. The more droplets of moisture on a dog’s nose, seen here, the better smeller he can be. The best noses can drip like a runny nose on a child. Dogs interpret primarily with their nose. They see shapes and can react with fear or anxiety until they are able to smell the shape.**

cavity.

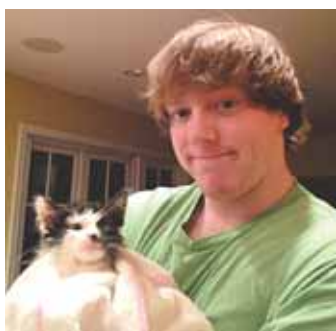
As the particles of sniffed air enter the dog’s nostrils they pass onto the lining of the nasal membranes, the olfactory epithelium, and travel to a pocket above this “shelf” where the scent molecules are trapped to prevent them from being expired when the dog breathes out.

There they accumulate with each “sniff” and interact with the olfactory receptors which are transmitted by the nerves to the brain. It is this process that allows a dog to recognize and remember scents. At about the same time, the dog’s normal breathing continues through the nose and on down to the lungs.

Then, there is the “vomeronasal organ” an auxiliary olfactory sense organ located under the nasal bones close to the nose and used to detect pheromones. It is important in the role of reproduction and social behavior. These fluid-filled sacs are located

SEE THE NOSE, PAGE 9

## PETS



**Brian Kimm dries Ribsy, who endured two baths in as many days. Brian found the starving, bedraggled kitten on the side of the road at Seven Corners in Virginia on a miserably cold, wet February night. Ribsy is now a very happy kitten.**



**Elizabeth Egger, with Harry Potter lightning mark, snuggles the amazingly patient Venus. Venus and her sister Serena are rescue kitties from Mehr Brothers Flowers in McLean, Va.**



**Butters, a golden retriever/lab mix from Mutts Matters Rescue, meets new housemates Venus and Serena, rescue kittens from Mehr Brothers Flowers in McLean.**



**Butters, a golden retriever/lab pup from Mutts Matters Rescue, gets a hug from owner Elizabeth Egger.**



**Jesse Jane, a 12-year-old lab, receives a good-bye hug from owner Elizabeth Egger on the first day of school.**



## PET ALMANAC

# The Nose Rules

FROM PAGE 8

right above the roof of the mouth and open into either the mouth or nose. The vomeronasal organ is also responsible for a dog's reflex called the Flehmen response (in German meaning "to curl the upper lip") That curl helps move the scent into the upper part of the mouth.

In male dogs Flehmen shows up as a kind of tooth chattering in response to a specific scent or pheromone. Some males that have had no experience with females in estrus (heat) will not react to female pheromones. These dogs have to be exposed and learn from the experience.

In their groundbreaking experiments, which are still relevant and written about, the team of scientists John Paul Scott and John L. Fuller put the dogs to a test at their Bar Harbour, Maine, facility in the early 1960s. Their book, "Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog, is still a turn-to book on dog behavior.

In their book they wrote about placing a mouse in a one-acre field and turned a group of beagles loose to find it. It took less than a minute. A group of fox terriers took a quarter of an hour, and the Scottish terriers never did find it, with one actually stepping on the mouse.

Then there's Seamus, a rescue Border Collie trained at Working Dogs for Conservation, who doesn't have to sniff out mice in his line of work. His specialty: leaves, according to Whitelaw, the program director. Seamus' target is called Dyer's Woad, an invasive plant in Missoula, Montana. When the county loses the battle with the plant, they ask for Seamus. He shows up and not only finds the tiny plants hiding on the Missoula plain, but sniffs out the roots after the weeds have been pulled.

That's some big league nose, a Tom Brady kind of sniffer. But, according to Whitelaw, the super sniffers at Working Dogs for Conservation need more than a nose — they need attitude. "There are some great dogs that you wouldn't expect to do this work, but they have the drive," she said. The program usually finds one dog in a thousand that will have the qualities to do the job.

So the next time your beloved pet takes her time sniffing every leaf, wrapping the leash around tree trunks, nose working like a hand-held vacuum, think twice before you drag her away. There's a lot she's missing by not sniffing.

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## To Buy Or Not To Buy

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



That is my question. And though I can't quite quote Shakespeare the way I can quote The Three Stooges: "Moe, Larry, the cheese. Moe, Larry, the cheese," "tis nobler" to ask it nonetheless. Still, if Hamlet had been diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer, as I have, perhaps he wouldn't have been contemplating suicide but rather allocating his monthly budget — as I do every day, with nearly every purchase. That's my dream, "perchance" or otherwise.

Given that I'm not heir to a fortune, but rather fortunate to still be here, what dollars I earn — and in turn spend, are dollars whose expenditure has to make sense (at least add up, anyway). As a result, I'm always thinking "what if," as in "what if" I'm spending money now on relative incidentals, money that I might need later for more important health and welfare-type costs? And I'm not discussing comfort foods, either. I'm discussing in-home care and/or miscellaneous other cancer-related expenses that can't exactly be paid out of petty cash. Expenses that generally don't take care of themselves anymore than cancer takes care of itself. Moreover, though little I know about health and fitness and subsequent complications, I do know my medical ABCs: Anything But Cancer.

However, cancer has become the name of my game and living with it the greatest challenge of my life. Do I ignore it? Do I give in to it? Do I adjust to it? As much as I want to "live long and prosper," and live as normally with my diagnosis as I would live without it, that compromised life expectancy/mortality thing tends to rear its ugly, uncontrollable head. The subconscious control it exerts over me is not so much scary as it is uncomfortable — and somewhat uncharacteristic of who I am and how I want to be. Unfortunately, I can't change the way I think now/how I'm influenced any more than this life-long member of Red Sox Nation can become a New York Yankee fan. It's almost as if your personality profile/tendencies are genetically transformed because of the mutations in your cells brought about by the cancer being triggered somehow. You know what you're doing. You think you know why you're doing it. But you still can't stop yourself from doing it. This preoccupation seems to manifest itself most when I am spending money. I always ask myself if I really need that item now. And if I do need it now, how long might I actually need it for. And how long I might need it for determines the level of financial commitment I'm willing to make. After all, are we talking days, weeks, months or years?

A few decisions that have consumed me of late, involving value versus actual need:

Eight pack of soap. Yes, I need to be clean, but at what cost and for how long?

A 150-count "Mega" pack of tall kitchen bags. We use a bag a week, approximately. This purchase counts for three years. Who benefits from that?

Pills/supplements I buy. Do I supply myself with one-month, two-month, three-month, or longer? Yes, the unit cost goes down but my true cost may go up because my time might be up.

My AARP membership. One-, three- or five-year renewal. Again, the more years I prepay, the less the cost. But at what cost? Who's the beneficiary? Me or my beneficiary?

What to do? Live like having cancer matters or live like it doesn't? Either way, "I'm a victim of soicumstance."

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

## SPORTS

# Churchill Girls' Basketball Falls to B-CC

## Bulldogs finish with 17 victories.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

The Churchill girls' basketball team picked a bad time to have one of its worst offensive performances of the season.

The Bulldogs struggled for most of the night, including a two-point second quarter, during a season-ending 47-34 loss at Bethesda-Chevy Chase in the 4A West region quarterfinals on Monday night. Churchill produced its second-lowest point total of the season and finished with 27 turnovers.

"It just was not there," head coach Kate McMahon said. "We could not get any rhythm on offense. We couldn't hit a shot. All [the credit] to B-CC, they played very well."

Both teams had a rough opening quarter, which produced five field goals, 16 turnovers and an 8-8 tie. But B-CC outscored Churchill 10-2 in the second quarter and took an 18-10 lead into the locker room.

The Bulldogs opened the second half with a 7-2 run and eventually got within one when an Elaine Thronson bucket cut the B-CC lead to 25-24 with 2:56 remaining in the third, but the Barons scored the final five points of the period, including a banked-in 3-pointer by Mariama Tunkara as time expired.

B-CC scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter, part of a 13-0 run, and led by double digits for the final 5 minutes, 10 seconds of the contest.

"[B-CC was] playing really aggressive, up-tempo. They trapped well on the press and that obviously added to the frustration on offense," McMahon said. "The girls started to get a little panicked when they weren't hitting early. I thought they had come out much better at the beginning of the second

half — the first couple minutes looked really good — and then when stuff kind of stopped going their way, I think that [some players] got a little more panicked. Nothing due to lack of effort, it just didn't click."

Churchill's Erica Lindsay and Thronson each had eight points. Japria Karim-Duvall scored seven points and Katie Jenkins added five. Churchill finished the season with a 17-7 record one year after the graduation of center Sarafina Arthur-Williams, who signed with the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. The Bulldogs will lose seniors Jenkins, Lindsay, Thronson, Shira Racoosin and Amory Tetteh.

"I wish we had extended the season, especially for my senior class," McMahon said. "Losing those girls — I will get emotional — they are just such a good group of girls. [They are] all leaders [and] they laid their heart out there tonight and I really wish it happened for them."

No. 13 Churchill defeated No. 4 North-west 45-43 in the opening round.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Whitman Advances To Region Semifinals

The No. 2-seed Whitman girls' basketball team defeated No. 10 Blair 46-43 on Mon-

day to advance to the 4A West region semifinals.

The Vikings will host No. 3 Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27 with a spot in the region championship game up for grabs.

## Wootton Loses in Double Overtime

The Wootton girls' basketball team lost 76-68 in double overtime to two-time defending state champion and No. 1-seed Gaithersburg on Monday night in the region quarterfinals.

Sarah Wallerstedt led Wootton with 17 points. Sophie Ellis scored 14 points and Sheri Addison and Ellie Kobylski each had 12.

No. 8 Wootton defeated No. 9 Magruder 67-46 in the opening round.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Emma Catherine Devine**, a first year French major at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester. A graduate of Thomas Sprigg Wootton High School, she is the daughter of Jack and Joanna Devine.

**Marissa Yoder**, a senior, was named to the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

The following area students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at the University of Vermont: **Matthew Z. Bruns**, a first-year; **Zachary W. Byers**, a first-year; **Aswini Cherukuri**, a first-year majoring in wild-life & fisheries biology in the Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources; **Jason M. Fish**, a senior majoring in business administration in the School of Business Administration; **Melissa M. Guzikowski**, a sophomore majoring in anthropology in the College of Arts & Sciences; **Meraz S. Mostafa**, a sophomore majoring in geography in the College of Arts & Sciences; and **Matthew P. Ray**, a senior majoring in zoology in the College of Arts & Sciences.

**Samantha Dalton Spears** has been named to the fall dean's list at Radford University. Spears, the daughter of Tomye Spears of Sprinklewood Lane, is a freshman communications major.

**Morgane Amat**, class of 2014 at Connecticut College, has been named to the dean's honors list.



Washington Episcopal School sixth-grade student **Ryan Kyle (mermaid)** rehearses a song from the class' production of "The Little Mermaid Jr."



Washington Episcopal Grade 6 students (from left) **Piers Greenan, Morinsola Tinubu, Sophia Mishurny-Santini, Libby Scanlon, Juliet Faris, and Casey Davis** consult the script as they rehearse "The Little Mermaid Jr."

## WES To Present 'Little Mermaid Jr.'

Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. will be performed by the sixth-grade class of Washington Episcopal School, on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. Tickets for each show are \$5. The matinee performance is followed by a pizza/lunch meet and greet with cast members in full costume at 11:30 a.m. Tickets for this event are \$8 including pizza and performance. All performances are open to

the public.

The 60-minute musical, designed for middle-school aged performers, is based on the 2008 Broadway production and the 1989 animated feature film. The sixth-grade cast contains 28 students led by Performing Arts Director Ron Valenzia. Washington Episcopal School is an independent, coeducational day school in Bethesda, for students age 3 to Grade 8, founded in 1986. For more information, visit [www.w-e-s.org](http://www.w-e-s.org).





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