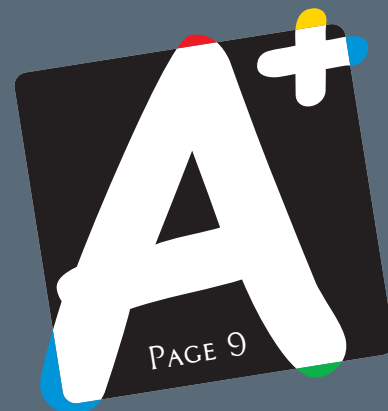


Potomac ALMANAC



State Champs

SPORTS, PAGE 15



County Chamber Presents Valor Awards

PEOPLE, PAGE 4

Making Imagination Take Shape

NEWS, PAGE 3

Members of the Whitman girls' basketball team celebrate winning the state championship. The Vikings defeated Western 71-55 in the 4A final on March 12.

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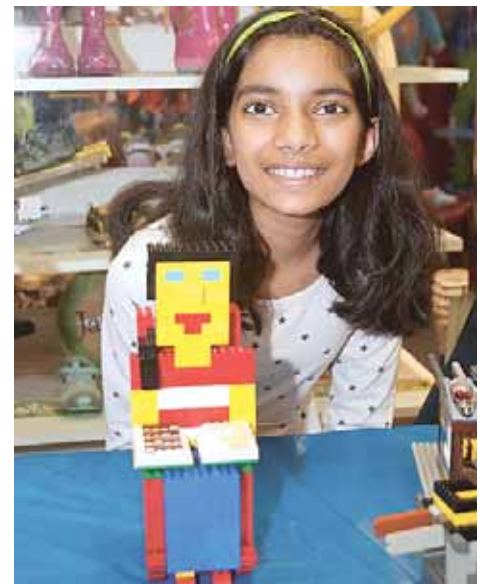
Julio Cupe, 8,
“Legoland Hotel Florida”



Jonah Wang, 9, and Lila Wang, 7,
“Endor Battlefield”



Robert Quinn, 7, and MacKinnom Quinn, 4,
“Circus”



Priyanka Rajapatitana, 10,
“Robot”

Making Imagination Take Shape



Isabella Guevara, 7,
“The best party ever!”



The Lego Build Challenge contestants wait for the voting results to determine the award winners at Toy Castle in Cabin John Mall on Saturday, March 12. The annual event challenges youths to design, create and build with Legos. Entrants are then given the opportunity to judge their peers' creations and vote in three categories: My Favorite; Most Creative Use of Lego; and Most Imaginative.



Lucas Lee, 7,
“Lego War”

PHOTOS BY
HARVEY LEVINE
/THE ALMANAC



Kate Edwards, 8,
“Dragon Battle”



Sam Edwards, 6,
“Star Wars Battle”



Ethan Jenny, 10,
“Peanuts”



Minjuan Lee, 9,
“Doll House”



Chase Hellings, 6,
“Airport”

OPINION

Chamber Presents Valor Awards

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce brought nearly 1,300 business, government, and public safety leaders together at the 42nd Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards Luncheon on March 11 to thank the men and women who protect the community.

During the ceremony, the stories of the heroic acts by the 12 Valor Award recipients were shared by emcees Tom Costello, NBC News Correspondent, and Melissa Mollet, NBC News4 Traffic Reporter:

- ❖ Car fire on the Beltway responders Police Officer 3 Brian Nesbitt (Gold) and Police Officer 1 Cody Fields (Gold)

- ❖ Murder/suicide at Germantown gas station responder Police Officer 2 Andrew Bock (Silver)

- ❖ Car crushed by tree In Takoma Park responder Lieutenant Shibu Philipose (Silver)

- ❖ Safeway suicide response responder Police Officer 3 Nathan Kane (Bronze)

- ❖ Ocean City water rescue responder Master Fire Fighter/Rescuer Timothy Beatty (Bronze)

- ❖ Collision on I-495 split at I-270 responders Fire Fighter Rescuer III Meghan Quinn (Honorable Mention) and Fire Fighter Rescuer II Wyatt Smith (Honorable Mention)

- ❖ Suicide response in Damascus responders Police Officer 1 John D. Durham (Honorable Mention) and Sheriff Deputy 3 Robert Balser (Honorable Mention)

- ❖ Murder in Germantown responders Sergeant Ray Moran (Honorable Mention) and Police Officer 3 Dawn Wenner (Honorable Mention)

Two Unit Citations were awarded:

- ❖ To the Montgomery County first responders to the Baltimore riots who helped Baltimore restore peace after days of violence: the responding officers of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police Montgomery County Division, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and the Montgomery County Department of Police.

- ❖ To the collective responders of a sexual assault in Rockville who stopped a violent sexual assault in progress and demonstrated care and professionalism in dealing with a trau-



The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce honored 12 Valor Award recipients at its Public Safety Awards Luncheon on March 11.

matized victim: Deputy Sheriff 3 Keith Brubacher, Deputy Sheriff 3 Douglas Orr, Deputy Sheriff 3 Alan Summers, Deputy Sheriff 2 Christopher Moxley, Deputy Sheriff 2 Nelson Rosales, and Deputy Sheriff 1 Donghae Thompson.

Two MCCC Public Safety Community Service Awards were presented:

- ❖ To Fire and Rescue Chief John W. Hartley for his lifelong devotion to the fire and rescue community over the past 66 years.

- ❖ To Police Officer 1 Amber Richard for her commitment and acts of kindness on her own time, and at her own expense, towards a 7-year old boy who was admitted to the hospital after a child abuse call.

Attendees also took a moment of the ceremony to make a line of duty death tribute to Police Officer Noah Leotta who is among the fallen officers memorialized at the Montgomery County Public Safety Memorial in Gaithersburg after being struck by a drunk driver near the intersection of Rockville Pike

and Edmonston Drive.

The Public Safety Corporate Vital Link award, sponsored by TD Bank, recognized Lee Development Group for allowing public safety agencies to conduct simulated emergency training free of cost for several years.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) received the Public Safety Government Partner of the Year award, sponsored by Motorola Solutions, for being a federal public safety partner as an advocate for the research and training of the fire and rescue service and law enforcement communities.

The Annual MCCC Public Safety Awards is the largest of its kind in the region. Forty-two years ago, the MCCC was chartered by Montgomery County to host an annual event where the community, colleagues, families, citizens and officials could honor first responders from the public safety agencies. Since the event began, MCCC has recognized 39 Gold, 134 Silver, 232 Bronze, and 174 Honorable Mentions for a total of 579 Valor Awards.

Potomac Artist's Work on Display in Alexandria

Cowles work selected for City Hall.

Potomac artist Tory Cowles is one of three artists to have her work selected to be exhibited in the office of newly-elected City of Alexandria (Va.) Mayor Allison Silberberg.

"We're so blessed to have a community of world-class artists right here in Alexandria," said Silberberg. "I want to promote the arts, not just in words but in deeds. When people visit my office, I am proud to display and promote the work that is created here. This partnership with Tory and the Torpedo Factory is about actionable commitment to the arts in our daily lives."

Cowles occupies Studio 7 in the Torpedo Factory Arts Center along the Potomac River waterfront. Her work #875 is on complimentary loan to Silberberg's office through early 2017. It is also available for purchase through Target Gallery and the Torpedo Factory's Art in Public Spaces initiative.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Potomac artist Tory Cowles, left, is one of three artists selected to have her work displayed in the office of City of Alexandria (Va.) Mayor Allison Silberberg. Cowles is shown with Silberberg and Torpedo Factory Arts Center CEO Eric Wallner next to her painting #875, which will be on exhibit through early 2017.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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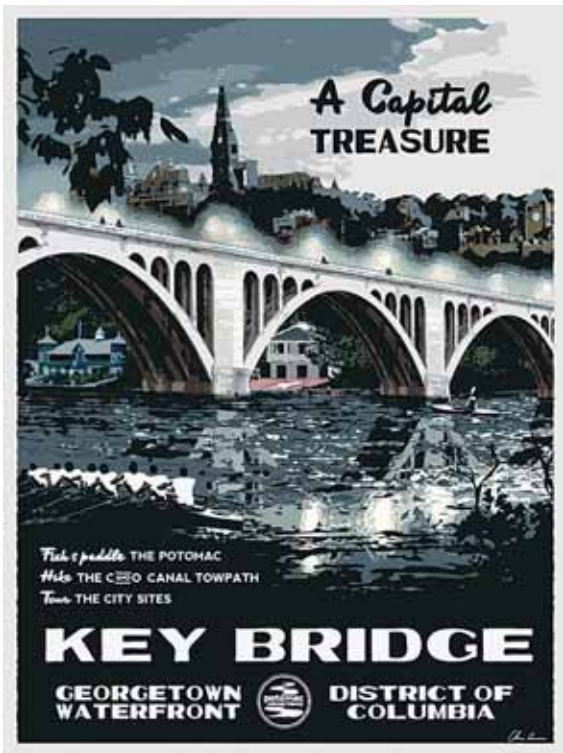
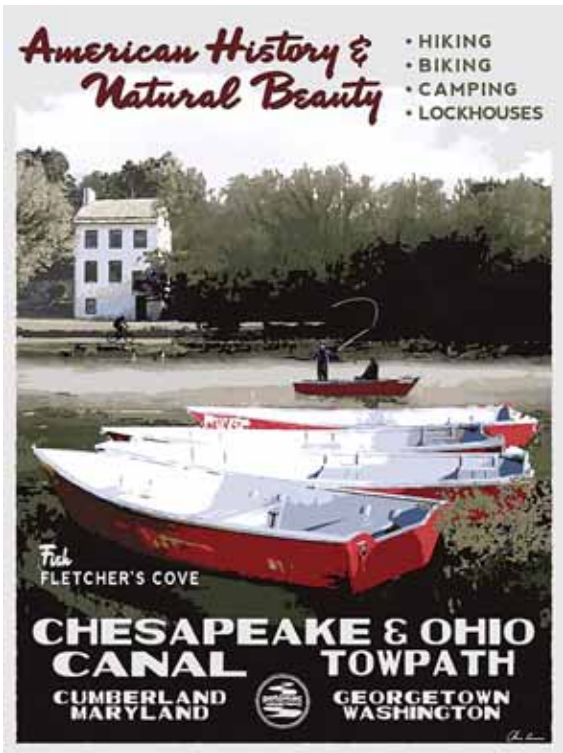
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NEWS



Art To Benefit Potomac Conservancy

Outside Ventures and Firefly Design, Inc. have partnered to create a vintage art series highlighting places along the Potomac River in and near Washington. Reminiscent of the National Park Service posters created in the late 1930s and early 1940s, these prints feature Great Falls, the C&O Canal Towpath, Key Bridge and Rock Creek Park. A portion of the proceeds from every purchase will benefit the Potomac Conservancy, supporting their mission to safeguard the lands and waters of the Potomac and its tributaries. See fireflyworks.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Rachel Hamel: “Necessarily Invisible.” Through March 20, gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Rachel Hamel’s small sculptural paintings encourage visual and tactile encounters with distance, home, place, displacement, and landscape. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Fields of Inquiry.” Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. “Fields of Inquiry” brings together the work of three artists working the space of imagination: Mei Mei Chang, Pat Goslee, and Kathryn McDonnell. Free. Call 301-634-2222.

“City Scapes.” Through April 2, Gallery hours at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. “City Scapes” explores the beauty and fragility of urban life through the lenses of members of The North Bethesda Camera Club. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

Art Exhibit: You and Me, You and I.” Through April 10, gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Artist Calla Thompson examines culture through visual art. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Cranes in Motion.” Through April 24, gallery hours at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. As an artist and filmmaker, Cathy Cook is inspired by nature. “Cranes in Motion” aims to promote public interest, awareness, and appreciation of crane culture through a multifaceted portrayal of the natural history of this species. Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

Children’s Storytime. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda Listen to employees read children’s stories. Free. Visit www.store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/4824850-21.

Adult Single Night. Saturdays, 9 p.m. at at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Find a DJ, open dance floor, and other singles. No cover charge. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

VisArts Cocktails and Canvas Class. at VisArts in the Painting & Drawing Studio, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Price \$40. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas for more.

Thang Ta. Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts, 1525 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. Learn the ancient art of the sword and spear. \$25. Visit www.dancesidra.org.

Weekly Blues Dance. Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. Visit capitalblues.org for more.

Weekly Swing Dance. Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17

and under \$12. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

Argentine Tango with Lessons. Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga. For just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222 for more.

Contra and Square Dance. Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222 for more.

Late Night Comedy. Fridays (open mic night) and Saturdays (established comedians) at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Benny’s is open 8 a.m.-1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Visit www.BennysBarGrill.com.

Drop in Art Activities. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Candy Corner Studio at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., parents and children can explore a new art form or theme. \$10/child, parent combo. Drop-in only. Visit www.pgip.org for more.

Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too). Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. Visit rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me.

Live Music & Dancing. Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. in Margery’s Lounge, Normandie Farm Restaurant 10710 Falls Road. Dance to the music of Barry Gurley. Call 301-983-8838 or visit www.popovers.com for more.

Chocolate Factory Tours. Fridays and Saturdays, 2-5:45 p.m. at SPAGnVOLA Chocolatier, 360 Main St., Gaithersburg. Take a short tour of The Truffle Factory facilities. Free. Visit www.spagnvola.com.

Glen Echo Park Films. Saturdays and Sundays. Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Films about the Park’s history are shown on rotation in the lobby. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org for more.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition, as well as sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. Free. Visit www.silverworksglenechopark.com.

Art Glass Center at Glen Echo. All day Wednesdays; Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Art Glass Center, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Ongoing exhibitions feature work of Resident Artists. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org for more.

Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 p.m. The Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery presents free exhibitions of emerging



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Washington ArtWorks will host the Open Studio Weekend: A Festival of the Arts on April 2 and 3. From 12-5 p.m. at Washington ArtWorks, 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. Over 70 artists create work in studios at Washington ArtWorks in sculpture, painting, glass, fibers, jewelry, photography, and more. Visitors are able to shop, watch demos, and network. Also find a variety of food trucks and live music. Free. Visit www.washingtonartworks.com for more.

artists’ work. Each weekend features the work of a different artist. Most artwork is also for sale. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com for more.

Acoustic Open Mic. Wednesdays, 7-11 p.m. at Benny’s Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane. Everyone welcome to perform. Wine bottles are 50 percent off. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Explorers Open Studio. Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Candy Corner Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Art activities for parents and children. Activities change weekly and there is no pre-registration; \$10 per child. Visit www.glenechopark.org/saturday-art-explorers for more.

Ceramic Classes. Various dates and times. VisArts, 155 Gibbs St, Rockville. An opportunity to try the new ceramic workshops. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/ceramics for a list of class dates, times.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

“The History of Chocolate.” 7-9 p.m. at Bolger Center, Franklin Building, Room F-1, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Potomac Community Village is having Cookbook author Sheilah Kaufman speak about her book “The History of Chocolate.” Free. Visit www.potomaccommuniyuvillage.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

Bethesda Film Festival. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday and 8 p.m. on Saturday at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. The fourth annual Bethesda Film Fest will feature five short documentaries made by local filmmakers. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Signs of Spring: A Walk. 1-3 p.m. at

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park, 14750 River Road, Potomac. Walk with Carrie Blair, a Virginia Master Naturalist, to discover swelling tree buds, which offer some information on color changes; scales opening, and tiny flowers emerging on trees and shrubs. This is a moderate hike with somewhat steep slopes. Free. Visit vnps20160319.eventbrite.com for more.

Pianist Haskell Small. 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Haskell Small, a pianist and composer, will perform Bach’s c minor partita coupled with John Tavener’s “Pratirupa” as well his own “Small Improvisations.” Tickets are free, \$20 suggested donation. Visit www.washigntonconservatory.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Palm Sunday. 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at St. James’ Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. The 10:30 service features a reading of the Passion Narrative according to St. Mark. A brunch with a free-will offering follows the 10:30 service. This is hosted by St. James’ youth group; proceeds benefit the youth group’s workcamp trip to Charleston, W.Va. In addition, there will be an Easter Plant sale. Free. Visit www.stjamespotomac.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Screening: “Brooklyn.” 1-3 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Potomac Community Village presents “Brooklyn,” as the first in its afternoon movie series. Free. Call 240-221-1370 or visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

SATURDAY/ MARCH 26

Loston Harris Concert. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. A jazz pianist performs. Tickets are \$35-45.

Visit www.ampbystrathmore.com.

MARCH 31-APRIL 9

“Idle Playthings” and “Crimes of Fashion.” Various times at Gunston Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. First, in “Crimes of Fashion,” superheroes fight fashion designers bent on world domination. Then, a group of toys come to life and team up to save a family-owned toy store in “Idle Playthings.” Silver Spring-based Inclusive Theatre Companies are directed by trained theatre professionals and feature actors who have intellectual disabilities or learning disabilities, or are on the autism spectrum. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for ArtStream students. Visit www.art-stream.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 1-2

St. Francis Thrift Sale. 8 a.m. -4 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday at 10033 River Road, Potomac. Call Church office- 301-365-2055 or Carol Jarvis- 301-299-4296.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-3

“Broadway Bios.” 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at The Writer’s Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. A local community theatre company presents an original musical revue. Tickets are \$12 for children, \$15 for seniors, \$20 for adults. Visit www.fedesp.com/nihblt.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Lord Nelson Mass. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform Haydn’s “Lord Nelson Mass.” The concert will feature the National Philharmonic’s nearly 200 voice all-volunteer chorale, as well as soloists Danielle Talamantes (soprano); Magdalena Wór (mezzo-soprano); Robert Baker (tenor); and Kevin Deas

ENTERTAINMENT

(baritone). Tickets start at \$29, free for children 7-17. Visit www.nationalphilharmonic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Open Studio Weekend: A Festival of the Arts. 12-5 p.m. at Washington ArtWorks, 12276 Wilkins Ave. Rockville. Over 70 artists create work in studios at Washington ArtWorks in sculpture, painting, glass, fibers, jewelry, photography, and more. Visitors are able to shop, watch demos, and network. Also find a variety of food trucks and live music. Free. Visit www.washingtonartworks.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Panel Talk with Artists, Scientists, and Conservationists. 2 p.m. at VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St. Discussion of artist Cathy Cook's "Cranes in Motions". Free. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Book Club: "The Language of Flowers." 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac. Women of St. Francis Episcopal Church Book Club will meet to discuss "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Free. Call 301-365-2055.

APRIL 5-MAY 7

Art Exhibit: "Intimate Landscapes." Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit

www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 8-10

"Broadway Bios." 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. A local community theatre company presents an original musical revue. Tickets are \$12 for children, \$15 for seniors, \$20 for adults. Visit www.fedesp.com/nihblt.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Art Reception: "Intimate Landscapes." 6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com for more.

An Evening With Molly Ringwald. 8 p.m. at AMP by Strathmore, 11810 Grand Park Ave., North Bethesda. Teen idol-turned-jazz-singer Molly Ringwald perform with her quartet. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit www.ampbystathmore.org for more.

Potomac After Hours. 9:15-11 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Middle schoolers (6-8th graders) are invited to attend "mystery night" and participate in a scavenger hunt. Admission is \$5. Visit www.activemontgomery.org and use code #11953 to register.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Flight of Fancy. 6:30-10:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Join VisArts for our signature fundraising event, Flight of Fancy, a participatory art experience featuring painting,

aerial performance, live music, food and drinks. Proceeds from the evening support our philanthropic programs such as artist stipends, inclusion classes, and camp scholarships. Tickets are \$85 until March 15, \$105 after that. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org or call 301-315-8200.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Discussion: "The Language of Flowers." 11:30 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 10033 River Road, Potomac. Free. Call 301-299-4296.

Art Demonstration: "Intimate Landscapes." 6-9 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Artist Loriann Signori paints landscapes based on Maryland's hills and waters. Free. Visit www.waverlystreetgallery.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Gardening Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring. Find information on how to make the most of gardening. Also find activities for children. Free. Visit www.extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/montgomerycounty-master-gardeners.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 1

Art Exhibit: "Broad Strokes." 12-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio Gallery-Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Meet Nancy Arons, Kathy Byrnes, Jennifer Howard, and Marybeth Paterson and see work inspired by their adventures painting together, filtered through their individual perspectives. Free. Visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

Love chocolate? Then join us at "The History of Chocolate," with Sheilah Kaufman, cookbook author and food writer

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- 5

11800 Falls Road — \$1,050,000



- 2

11003 Larkmeade Lane — \$1,130,000

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- 10

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‘Do You Keep a Gun in Your Home?’

Starting conversations about gun safety can help prevent play date tragedies.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Starting the conversation felt awkward. After all, she didn’t want to offend another parent. It also felt necessary, because putting her 5-year-old son in harm’s way was not an option. After procrastinating, role-playing and even discussing it with a therapist, Sara Hayes finally initiated the dialogue. Before scheduling a play date, she wanted to know if the families of her son’s friends owned guns.

“My son had started making friends in kindergarten and of course I wanted him to have playmates and go on play dates,” said Hayes. “But I had this fear of him being in someone’s house where there was a gun that he could get his hands on.”

Statistics from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence indicate that one out of three homes in the United States with children have guns and almost 1.7 million children live in a home with a gun that is unlocked and loaded. Child development experts say that because many children are naturally curious, the odds of a child finding and playing with a gun that is relatively accessible are high. Even if a parent has never thought to ask about guns in a home or finds the topic too uncomfortable to raise, the conversation is vital to helping parents make decisions about safety, because simply telling a child to stay away from a gun is not enough to change that child’s behavior.

“Each family needs to decide what information they would like to know. Parents should be aware that children’s judgment alone is not a reliable security measure,” said Bethesda-based child psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. “Way too often curiosity wins over judgment.”

A study by a researcher at Eckerd College showed that educating preschool children about the potential dangers of guns didn’t prevent them from playing with guns. In writing

about her findings, Marjorie Hardy, Ph.D., explained, “... We brought a police officer to a class of 60 children and he told them: ‘Don’t touch guns — they’re dangerous. If you see a gun, leave the area. Go tell an adult.’”

After the officer’s presentation, the children could repeat what they’d been taught to do when they saw a gun. “But when we left them alone with disarmed guns, they picked them up and shot everything in sight,” she wrote.

Officer Roger Henriquez of the Fairfax County (Va.) Police Department, Franconia District Station says that parents might consider asking a parent before a play date: “How many guns do you own, and how do you keep them stored?” “Do you have a lock box or other safety features ... like trigger locks?” “Do you take your kids to a firing range?”

Such questions will help parents gather information to determine whether their child’s playmates’ parents share their views on gun safety and storage, since parenting philosophies run the gamut from lax to strict where guns are concerned. “Some parents take their kids to a firing range and other kids are told nothing except ‘Stay away from this box,’” said Henriquez.

Starting such conversations can be fraught with anxiety, and many parents are reticent to broach the subject, especially with friends. “It’s uncomfortable to talk honestly with other parents about issues such as guns because they are so politically divisive,” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. “It’s also difficult to ask other parents questions that may be taken as a judgment on [their] parenting.”

To increase the chance of a smooth and ami-

Tips

The Center to Prevent Youth Violence has created a resource for parents who want to inquire if there are firearms where their children play. They offer these tips, which might make it easier to open a dialogue:

❖ **Ask with other questions.** Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone’s house — such as seat belts, animals, or allergies.

❖ **Use the facts.** Over one-third of homes with children have a gun. Many of those guns are left unlocked and loaded. That is why you are asking — you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

❖ **Don’t be confrontational.** Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is in a safe environment.

For more information, visit: <https://askingsaveskids.org>

cable conversation, Best suggests that bringing up questions about possible firearms and their storage should happen well before a play date, rather than when a child is dropped off at a friend’s house.

“A parent can begin with letting the hosting parent know if your child has any allergies,” said Best. “This can be followed by ‘I just wanted to make sure if you have guns at home, they are secured in a lock box.’”

A straightforward approach is an essential part of initiating these conversations. “It is important to be honest about your concerns,” said Isenberg. “Parents can tell the other family that prior to a play date at a new home, they always inquire as to the presence of guns.”

The statistics, say child researchers, bear out the importance of overcoming initial discomfort about a potentially controversial conversation. “I think most parents support firearm safety, if that means keeping children safe,” said Best.

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SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Healthy Teen Dating Conference. 1-4 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville. Parents, teens, youth service providers, educators and others will gather to discuss the problems around teen dating violence and talk about ways to establish healthy relationships at Choose Respect, a conference on

healthy teen dating. Free, open to students in grades 6-12. Call 240-777-7075 for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 22

The ABCs of IEPs. 7 p.m. at Geneva Day School, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Geneva Day School will host a seminar for any parent who knows or suspects that their child has a learning need. The seminar will be presented by Sarah Novak Nesbitt and Katherine Thomas, attorneys at law with Family Legal Advocacy Group, LLC and Daisy Lizama, Geneva Day School teacher and parent of three IEP Students. Free and open to the public. RSVP to office@genevadayschool.org. RSVP required for complimentary child care.

LET’S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Privacy of the Client

High-profile clients require a Realtor® who is well-versed in issues regarding privacy, discretion and efficiency. An agent who is skilled in the purchase or sale of a luxury home is in themselves a treasure; to secure a Realtor® who is skilled in transactions while maintaining professional discretion and protecting the privacy of high-profile clients is an achievement that is truly worth its weight in gold! Knowing and understanding the specialized needs of the client is first and foremost, as well as having a strong game plan in place as to how to achieve the goals of the client. Specialized circumstances call for customized action plans. With high-profile clients, in addition to meeting with the buyer or seller, it is often necessary to meet with handlers, design teams and decorators to establish guidelines that will facilitate a successful venture. In these circumstances, networking is of the utmost importance, as is prudence and discretion in the networking chain-of-command. It is not uncommon in high-profile transactions for the Realtor® to pre-screen properties, often under the direction of decorators, designers and handlers, in order to offer a limited amount of options to then present to the client as a showcase. From there, if the gallery meets the client’s criteria, the Realtor® often arranges for private showings of the properties, with co-operative work between the client’s team and the Realtor® being the strongest point of the transaction. Here again, discretion and prudence are essential elements to the success of the endeavor. For high-profile clients, the safeguarding of their privacy and their transaction are of the utmost importance—for luxury home Realtors®, these clients may require a revamped action model, but to facilitate the needs of these clients, while maintaining professional discretion can be a feather in the cap of even the most experienced, skilled Realtor®, opening up a whole new level of clients who place their confidence in the security that their privacy is in good hands.

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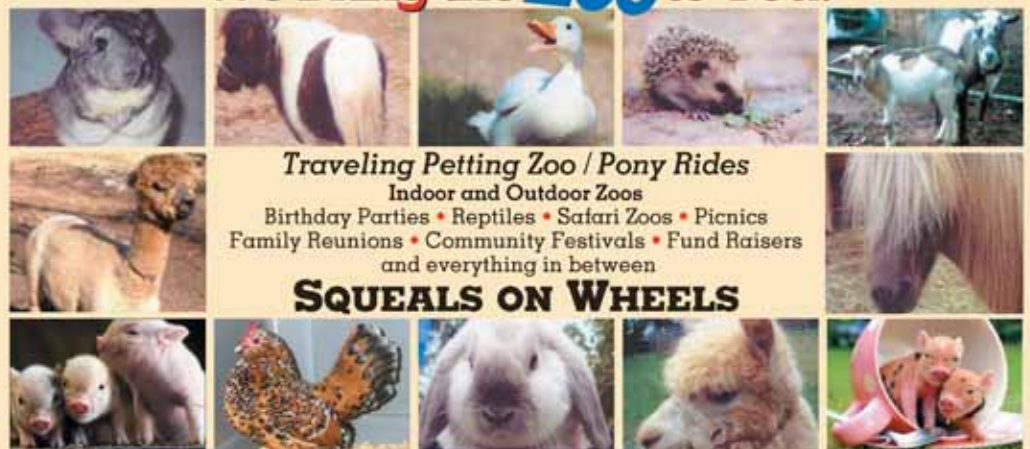
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"I Have Cancer"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Hardly a news flash, as you regular readers know. But when I said it the other day in response to some general conversation, I almost couldn't get the words out. It was peculiar, since I'm not usually uncomfortable discussing cancer or any of the associated experiences, and I certainly spend enough time writing about it. But when I said these words, I almost shook with anxiety or fear or something. And it scared me because it was a reaction/sensation I had never felt before; well, hadn't felt in a long time, anyway.

And it's not as if I spend a majority of my time denying my affliction. I wouldn't say I embrace it, but neither do I shrink from the responsibility of living with it and trying to overcome it. Nor do I mind being asked questions about cancer or my feelings before, during and throughout any and all ongoing treatments, scans, appointments and lab work and how it all relates and impacts. I'm open and honest and try to be "self-effacingly" positive in the midst of/against terrible odds. Generally speaking, not much bothers me. In fact, I've found a little humor goes a long way, and a lot of humor can mask a multitude of negative/unproductive emotions. (As you might imagine, there's no shortage of these.)

So it was odd – to me, when I went unexpectedly negative, experiencing an almost physical reaction to words (which aren't supposed to hurt me; after all, they're not "sticks and stones"). Words which I must have said in some context hundreds of times since I was diagnosed seven years ago, and rarely if ever shuddering – literally, at the mention of them. But shudder I did. I thought I had become accustomed to acknowledging them. Perhaps not?

But this is what cancer does; it sneaks up on you and takes control, physically and emotionally. And not merely when you least expect it, but when you thought you had passed the point of expecting it because you felt you had been there and doing it long enough that you were resistant to its ravages. Well, I was reminded quite clearly by this recent conversation that I will likely never get out from underneath its influence and effect. And here I thought I was Mister Well-Adjusted/Cancer Cool. Not so much, apparently. I'm just another cog in the cancer machine. Granted, I have my moments where I'm Charles and in charge, but this past week has shaken me to the core.

Not that I'm rethinking my approach to being a cancer patient/survivor; more that I've gained newfound respect for my adversary. You know, all things considered, I've had an amazingly easy time of it since I was diagnosed in late February, 2009, and perhaps I've misjudged/miscalculated/totally misinterpreted that amazing good fortune, thinking that somehow I was immune to cancer's insidious nature. Well, if I wasn't convinced before, I'm definitely convinced now. I don't suppose cancer schemes, but now I sort of feel like a pawn in a chess match and all I am is the timer.

But it is Spring Training (baseball) when all things are possible and hope is eternal. And though I have admitted some of my deepest and darkest fears, nothing is inevitable. My original prognosis was "13 months to two years" SEVEN YEARS AGO, so I'm not easily swayed. Presumably, in the future, there will be blips on my health radar, but it's nothing I can't handle. This recent experience actually confirmed it. It made me rethink some of my situational self-assessments and encouraged me in a way. I'm not exactly sure how or why but strangely enough, I sort of feel stronger and more capable going forward. On the whole, an excellent result.

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



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SPORTS

State Champs

Whitman girls beat Western in 4A state final.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Whitman's Sophia Tompkins walked up to Abby Meyers with 1:21 remaining in the fourth quarter and tapped the standout guard on the shoulder. Meyers turned around, hugged Tompkins and headed to bench to join her teammates.

In most cases, head coach Pete Kenah would want Meyers on the court. However, with the Vikings comfortably ahead and less than 90 seconds from securing the program's first state championship since 1995, Kenah's late-

game substitution was about recognition and making a memory rather than providing a breather.

The Whitman girls' basketball team defeated Western 71-55 in the Maryland 4A state championship game on March 12 at Towson University's SECU Arena. After losing in the state semifinals two of the previous three seasons, the Vikings thumped North Point 64-37 in the semifinals on March 10 and led by as many as 24 points in the second half against Western.

In the game's final minutes, Kenah pulled his standout players — Meyers, Hannah Niles, Betsy Knox — from the game to be recognized by Whitman fans. Senior guard Marie Hatch created her own exit when she fouled out with 2:25 remaining.

"It's what you live for as a coach," Kenah said. "... It's always a dream as a coach [that] you get to hug your best players and win the state title, so it was really like a dream come true and a special moment that I'm always going to remember."

Saturday's victory put the finishing touch on a championship quest the Vikings had come close to fulfilling in recent years.

In 2013, Whitman won the 4A West region championship but lost to Baltimore Polytechnic, 33-32, in the state semifinals. Hatch was a freshman on that team, but missed much of the season due to a shoulder injury.

In 2014, sophomores Hatch, Niles and Knox, and freshman Meyers helped the Vikings win 20 consecutive games before losing to Kennedy in the region semifinals.

In 2015, Whitman defeated Wootton in the region championship game, but lost Hatch to a broken ankle. The Vikings would

lose to Eleanor Roosevelt, 48-30, in the state semifinals.

This year, with Hatch, Niles and Knox entering their senior seasons and Meyers a junior, the Vikings had pictures of Towson as their cell phone screen savers for a reminder of what they were working toward.

"They played together in middle school, except for Hannah, and they've known each other for so long," Kenah said. "... I just love them so much and it's how, I really think, public school basketball should be — they live in a five-mile radius and there's no transfers or anything like that. They're just kids and they all love each other."

Whitman came out hot against Western in the championship game. With 4.8 seconds remaining in the opening quarter, the Vikings passed the ball along the right sideline until it ended up in Meyers' hands, and the junior beat the buzzer with a 3-pointer, giving Whitman a 23-9 lead.

After a made free throw by Western, Whitman junior Olivia Meyers inbounded the ball to Niles in front of the Whitman bench. Niles quickly passed

to Hatch near midcourt and Hatch found Abby Meyers for the 3-pointer.

"You've got to give credit to Kenah: that's one of his great plays that no one seems to pick up on or scout us on, so we took advantage of that," Abby Meyers said. "... I had the open shot, I was feeling it in the beginning, so I [shot it] and it went in."

The Vikings cooled down, however, and managed just one field goal during the next 10 minutes. Whitman's lead shrank to 29-23 early in the third quarter, but the Vikings regrouped and pulled away.

"Sometimes the worst thing you can do is make your first couple of 3s," Kenah said. "I think we started 3-for-4 and then at half-time we were [5-for-14]. Western really forces you into that, so we just tried to make a concerted effort to penetrate. The guards were fearless and they made so many plays. [We were] just a little more aggressive in the second half [and] I thought [that] was the big difference."

Abby Meyers led Whitman with 21 points, including four 3-pointers. Niles scored 18 points and grabbed six rebounds.

Niles said Whitman's past state tournament experience helped the Vikings this year.

"It helped a tremendous amount," she

"We've all been dreaming about this moment, honestly, since we came to Whitman. We thought about it since we were freshmen and even before. We always knew that there was talent in this program and if we worked hard we could capitalize on it."

— Whitman senior Betsy Knox



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE ALMANAC

The Whitman girls' basketball team won the 4A state championship on March 12 at Towson University.

said. "We had so much confidence going into this game and we weren't satisfied with Thursday's [semifinal] win. We came into it knowing we could beat Western. Yes, great team, so much respect to them, but we knew it when we stepped on the court for the tip."

Hatch, who has battled injuries throughout her career, finished with seven points and seven rebounds.

"It's really sweet," she said. "Not being able to play last year, missing out, not being able to help my team, that was really hard. I was just glad I was on the court this

year. Whatever I could contribute, I wanted to do."

Knox totaled eight points and 10 rebounds. Olivia Meyers scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds.

Whitman finished the season with a 24-3 record.

"We've all been dreaming about this moment, honestly, since we came to Whitman," Knox said. "We thought about it since we were freshmen and even before. We always knew that there was talent in this program and if we worked hard we could capitalize on it."

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301-996-8700



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Luxmanor Charmer! Top Value. Colonial set on 2/3 acre. 2-story foyer, spacious rooms, chef's kit off farm room. Near shops, dining & parks. \$939,500

Adaline Neely
Kari Dainty

301-580-2214
240-888-2826



POTOMAC, MARYLAND

Fox Hills colonial w/ 5BR up & great level yard! 2,500+ SF w/ hardwoods on 2 levels, renovated kitchen, new windows & roof, Churchill. \$778,000

Meg Percesepe
Alison Shutt

240-441-8434
301-219-7671



DERWOOD, MARYLAND

Terrific TH in like new condition. Three finished levels. Open floor plan with large LR/DR. Lower level rec. room, two-car garage. Minutes to shops and main thoroughfares. \$429,000

Traudel Lange

301-765-8334

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