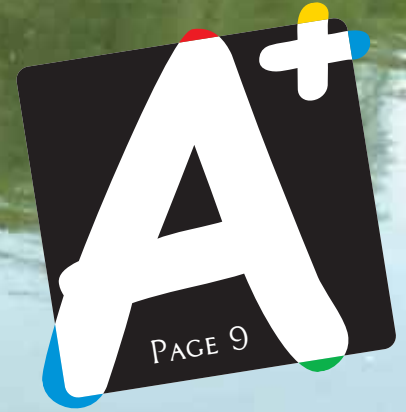


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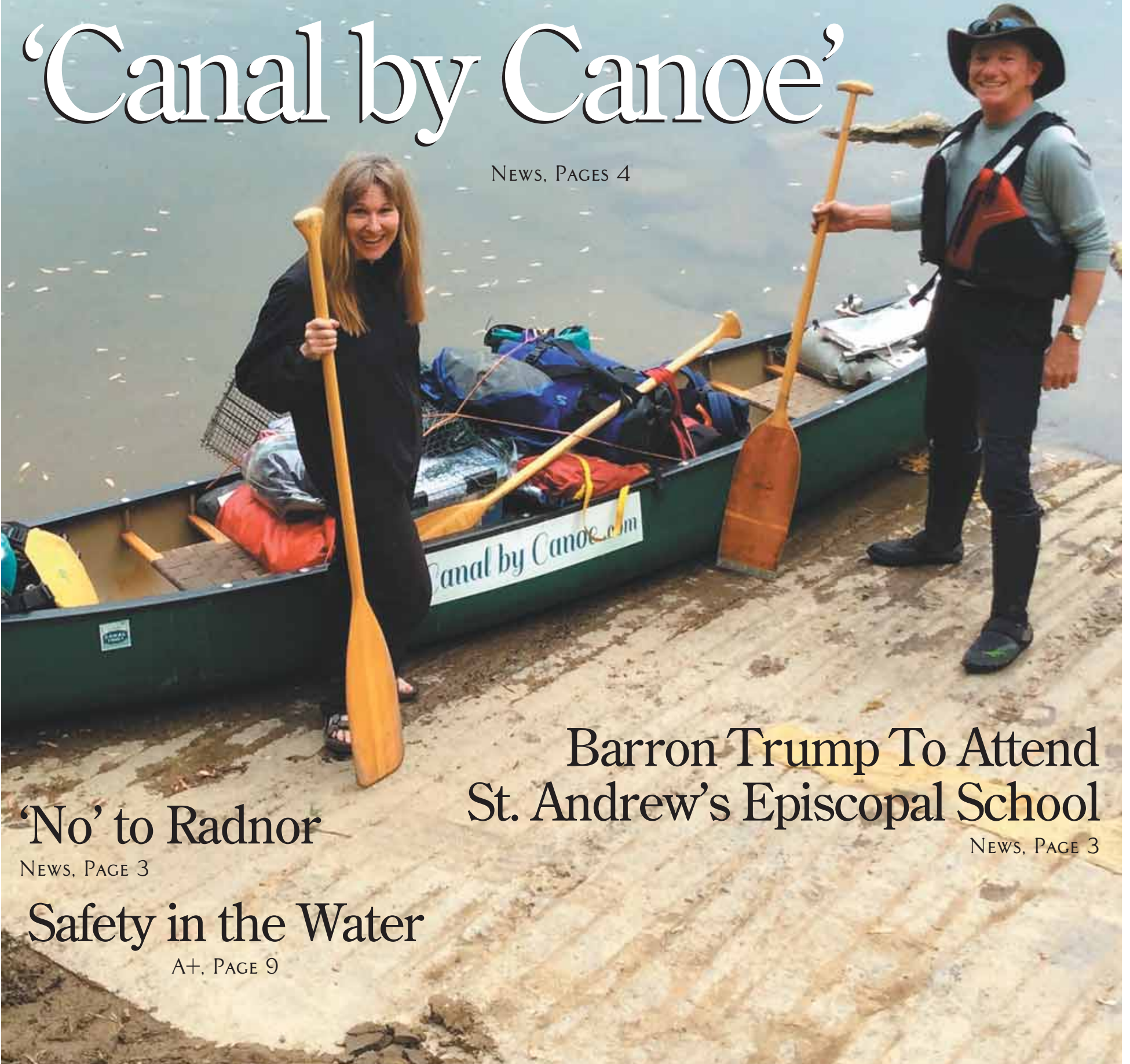


Mary Kearney and Joe Hage at the boat ramp at Noland's Ferry. The couple decided to raise funds for the C&O Canal Trust and to post a blog with photos about their "Canal by Canoe" journey.

'Canal by Canoe'

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Safety in the Water

A+, PAGE 9

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'No' to Radnor

Potomac Elementary School parents vote to oppose move to Radnor school during construction.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Members of the Potomac Elementary School PTA voted Monday night, May 15, to oppose the choice of Montgomery County Public Schools to transfer Potomac students to the Radnor holding center during construction of the new PES.

The change is scheduled to take place at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year and is expected to last until January of 2021.

Ahead of the formal vote, several PES parents testified at the May 9 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Education against the Radnor option. They also asked the board to review errors in communication between the MCPS and members of the school's community.

"... Having been involved in the discussions pertaining to the PES modernization project, we are disheartened and disappointed with the lack of transparency and the misleading information that is being used to make fundamental decisions about the project," Zahra Raney, mother of two PES students, said before the board.

Raney's testimony continued with examples of what she considered questionable including distance and drive time from the current school location to Radnor, the option of keeping the current school operating during construction, cost estimates and design.

"I... urge you to review the concerns that we have brought forth, and ask for full disclosure and for you to review all supporting data before rendering any decision," Raney said at the end of her testimony.

Another parent, Justin Greene, with one child in kindergarten and another entering kindergarten, suggested alternative sites to Radnor. He included revisiting the use of the Brickyard site for the new PES, purchasing a 3.2 acre property adjacent to the current school site to use for construction staging so students can remain on site during construction, or use of other holding centers, including Tuckerman and Grosvenor. Tuckerman is currently leased to the McLean School and Grosvenor is currently has students from Luxmanor Elementary School and is slated to take in students from Cold Spring Elementary School when that school is up for modernization.

"I sincerely hope that the proposed alter-



PHOTOS BY PEGGY McEWAN/THE ALMANAC

Potomac Elementary School students are scheduled to attend Radnor Holding Facility in Bethesda beginning in September 2018.

natives will be given their due consideration. It seems that there are multiple options that satisfy both the Potomac Elementary School parents' adamant desire to not go to Radnor and the MCPS concern about building while school operations remain onsite," Greene said to the board.

Potomac PTA President Stacey Shenker did not testify on May 9 because, she said, the PTA had not taken an official position at that time and she did not want her testimony to be taken as that of the PTA. She was not available for

comment after the vote.

At the Board of Education meeting President Michael Durso reminded those offering public comment that it is "not our practice to take action at this time." Those who testified were asked to submit written copies of their testimony.

The board takes community comments into consideration when making its final decision, said Gboyinde Onijala, spokesperson for MCPS. But, she added, the Potomac Elementary School project is still in very preliminary stages.

Barron Trump To Attend Potomac School This Fall

St. Andrew's Episcopal School selected.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

The office of First Lady Melania Trump confirmed Monday, May 15 that Barron Trump, 11-year-old son of President Donald Trump and the First Lady, will attend St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac starting in the fall.

In her official statement, Melania Trump said: "We are very excited for our son to attend St. Andrew's Episcopal School. It is known for its diverse community

and commitment to academic excellence. The mission of St. Andrew's is 'to know and inspire each child in an inclusive community dedicated to exceptional teaching, learning, and service' all of which appealed to our family. We look forward to the coming school years at St. Andrew's."

Barron is currently a fifth grader at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in New York City. He and his mother stayed in New York after President Trump's inauguration rather than move to the White House so he can finish this school

year. He will be in sixth grade in the fall.

St. Andrew's is an independent, coeducational college preparatory school serving students in preschool through grade 12.

No one at the school confirmed that it is the Trump's choice for their son.

"St. Andrew's respects family privacy," said Richard Coco, the school's director of communications and marketing. "And will not comment on whether a student has sought enrollment."

According to the St. Andrew's website there are 580 students currently enrolled at the school

with an average class size of 15 students. Student to teacher ratio is listed as 7:1, and 100 percent of St. Andrew's graduates go on to college. The 2016-2017 tuition for middle school students is \$38,590.

"St. Andrew's offers the most research-informed education you'll find anywhere," Robert Kosasky, head of school, is quoted on the website. "We are at the forefront of work to improve how teachers teach and how students learn. Teachers love to teach here and students are happy here. And as our own research has shown, happy students embrace rigor and learn best."

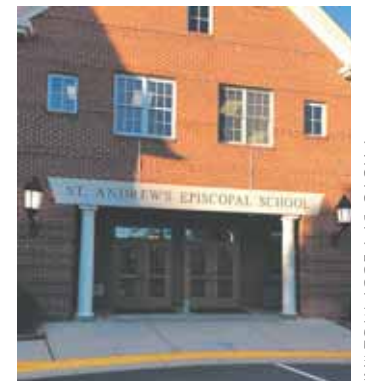


PHOTO BY PEGGY McEWAN

The office of First Lady confirmed Monday that Barron Trump would attend St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac in September.

Canal Pride Day Cancelled Again, Rescheduled Again

BY PEGGY McEWAN
THE ALMANAC

Officials at the C&O Canal Trust are hoping the third time's the charm as they had to cancel the planned work day along the canal at Great Falls Park because of the wet weather Saturday.

They also had to cancel the April 22 work day because of rain and are now scheduled for Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate,

said Becky Curtis, director of programs and partnerships for the Trust.

"It's very rare that we get rained out," she said.

This year marks the 10th year of Canal Pride Days sponsored by the C&O Canal Trust.

Canal Pride Days take place at several places in the C&O National Historical Park each year. Trust employees and volunteers and park rangers work together to determine areas of need that volunteers can help

meet to improve the looks and function of the park.

"We have a number of different projects planned," Curtis said. "We try to think of interesting things for people of different ages and abilities."

This year, she said, those interested in historical preservation can work at the Great Falls tavern or on the canal boat, the Charles F. Mercer. Others can help clear invasive species from the hillsides along the towpath.

The biggest project they have planned,

Curtis said, is to improve the mule pen.

"We have a team of six canal mules," she said. "They have pasture land and a barn on the hill above the Tavern. Erosion is a big concern so we want to work on that and improving the space."

Heidi Schlag, director of marketing and communications for the C&O Canal trust, said more than 100 volunteers usually help at Great Falls for Canal Pride Days.

To volunteer for the June 10 date, visit canaltrust.org.

‘Canal by Canoe’ Trip raises funds for outdoor education.

By SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Mary Kearney and Joe Hage’s first date in 2012 was canoeing down the Potomac River, a favorite activity for both. The courtship continued with many more outdoor activities — hiking, biking, camping, birding and lots more canoeing. The couple discovered that paddling a canoe in tandem was ever so wonderful — and thus, they spent more and more time together in “synchronized paddling.”

Four years ago they decided to launch a new adventure — canoeing down the 184 miles of the Potomac River that runs from Cumberland to Georgetown along the C&O Canal. The couple decided to raise funds for the C&O Canal Trust and to post a blog with photos about their “Canal by Canoe” journey.

“Once we spoke to the Canal Trust about our idea, we could really instantly feel the love, support and appreciation,” Hage said. Each year the contributions have increased and this year, they reached an all-time high of \$1,750. With the match of the “Live Like Jack Fund,” their total donation to the Canal Classrooms Bus Scholarship Fund for Outdoor Education is \$3,275. These funds give 650 children in need the opportunity to attend an outdoor education program at the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

For the past four years, Kearney and Hage have crammed their canoe full of food and supplies and set off on their two-week canoeing adventure down smooth water and rapids, through rain, snow, sleet and hail — but also on spar-



Joe Hage at Canal Quarters Lockhouse 28 in Point of Rocks

ling bluebird days on the river. They pack a six-day cooler to the brim with gourmet food such as filet mignon and Caesar salad and then stuff in their camping gear, Gore-tex garments, comfortable sleep pads, tent, cooking stove, utensils of every sort, beer, wine, chairs — and Hage’s ukulele. Sometimes they stay at a B&B or one of the Canal Lockhouses, but often they pitch a tent at one of the Canal Lock parks along the way. Sometimes they cover 20 miles and sometimes only a few, depending on the weather and the speed that the Potomac River is running.

This year, they chose a shorter trip, launching their canoe on April 24 at Harper’s Ferry and ending at Sycamore Island, just south of Old Angler’s Inn. They spent their

first two nights at the Brunswick Family Campground where their host came down with a truck, picked them up along with all their gear and canoe (as Kearney said, “We don’t exactly travel light!”). He took them to the campground and then to their launch site. “We are fortunate that many people help us portage around dams and areas where we cannot canoe,” Hage said. “It’s really difficult trying to lug our gear and the canoe.”

However, Kearney said, “Joe is really strong and can singlehandedly lift the canoe above his head and carry it the distance we need to go — but it’s a real help when people come to give them a hand — or a truck.”

On this trip, the weather did not cooperate for the first six days. Even though each day was cold

and rainy, they managed to find some good ripples, delectable places for lunch and shelter for two nights at Lockhouse 28 (circa 1830) located near Point of Rocks. There they enjoyed meeting Canal walkers, joggers, bikers and interested passersby, listening to the trains (that ran 50 feet from their quarters), taking photos and enjoying the period furniture and photographs in the Lockhouse. Their canoe trip from Point of Rocks to Noland’s which are 4-and—half miles apart, involved heavy rains and lots and lots of mud in their canoe.

Finally on day 7, their perseverance paid off and the rains ended. They canoed seven hours from Meadow Island to Edward’s Ferry, past the Monocacy Aquaduct. Hage wrote in his blog, “The Monocacy Aquaduct is amazing and is considered the finest canal structure in the U.S. It was severely damaged in 1972 but thanks to some passionate individuals, and groups, it was restored in 2005.”

They chose to spend a night at Lockhouse 25 at Edward’s Ferry which had just recently been used by a Paranormal Society. Someone from the Paranormal Society reported in the Lockhouse Logbook that the “ghosts upstairs were nice.”

The next day, they traveled 16 miles to Swain’s Lock through Class II rapids. Hage described the terrain: “This part of the river below Violette’s Lock is known as ‘Seneca Breaks and Blockhouse Point Rapids.’ It isn’t quite as challenging as the section of whitewater that we did upstream but on this day the river was

SEE TRIP, PAGE G



Mary Kearney catches up on the blog.



Fellow travelers: baby geese in the canal.

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NEWS



Happy Mother's Day

My mom, Selva Ekrek, has lived in Potomac for 47 years. Every spring, her front lawn transforms into a field of yellow buttercups and she asks her landscapers not to mow them down so everyone can enjoy them for a few brief weeks of glory. People driving by always stop and take photos. She's the Buttercup Lady of the neighborhood.

— NADINE EKREK

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Will Change Mean Delay?

To the Editor:

Montgomery County Fire & Rescue is going to downgrade Ambulance Medic 309 to a basic life support unit this month. Medic 309 is stationed at Station 30 (Falls and Oaklyn Drive). It has been a medic unit for

over 20 years through the support of the Potomac community. I am curious why our area will now be under served after so many years? It will mean delay of critical care treatment/transport awaiting for a Medic unit from another area.

J. Miller
Potomac

PETCONNECT RESCUE

Brownie And Cocoa

Hi, I am Brownie and this is brother Cocoa. Would you believe that we spent much of our lives in a crate? We are 9-year-old Lhasa Apso, young-at-heart litter-mates, Try to imagine what it was like for us, looking through those bars waiting for a pat or a kind word. But, those years are over. Now we are having the time of our lives in our new foster home. We run all day and bury our noses in the lush grass.

Oh, by the way, we are very sociable. We love meeting new dogs.

And yes, we are neutered and up to date on our shots. Plus, we had our teeth cleaned and would be proud to show you. If you like to stroll around the block, we can go too. We love exercise.

I should mention that I am diabetic and I need shots each day to stay healthy. But, don't worry, I don't mind. I am a good



Senior Dogs, Brownie and Cocoa, are looking for their forever home.

girl. Cocoa, he is fine.

We would be so happy if you would like to share your life with us, but please try not put us in a crate. It would be terrible. Being with you would make our lives complete, so If you think you would like to meet us, please call Carole and she will tell you more.

Carole Dell 240-506-1369 is a board member of PetConnect Rescue, To see more adoptable pets, volunteer, or donate to help homeless animals, visit www.petconnectrescue.org.



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Doctor of Audiology

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Trip Raises Funds for Outdoor Education

FROM PAGE 4

higher, and we had a fully loaded canoe. We decided not to follow the 'Potomack Canal' route on river-right and opted for a center line, right down the middle of the old rubble dam. The roar of the rapids muffled everything as we picked up speed and dropped over the first ledge of the old dam. We did our best to keep the canoe upright as we picked our way past the huge expanse of big rocks, islands, and deep ledges. We made it beyond the rubble dam but the river kept dropping so we had to stay focused as we navigated our barge-like canoe through the choppy waves. Every time that we thought we could relax, there was another hole to avoid. Then it was over. We were breathless and our hearts were thumping, but in less than 20 minutes of continuous whitewater, we had covered almost four miles! Now, finally, it was gravy time. No dams, no whitewater, just free-flowing river, with the wind at our backs for the last five miles down to Swain's lock and the camp ground there. Life is good!"

Hage said, "Mary is fearless. She's in the front of the boat — that's the scariest place to sit. She's also terrific as shopping and packing the most delicious meals for the trip and bringing along items that make a campsite a home — such as our own portable shower and even a kitchen sink."

Their most humorous experience happened at Swain's. They stayed there on Saturday, one of the busiest days for the Canal. They viewed the usual hikers, bikers, fishermen, Scout groups and other campers. Big families, speaking many different native languages gathered for picnics, REI was holding a nature photography class, a man from Tucson was camping at Swain's to attend three marches in Washington — and an entire yoga class of 25 set up with their mats and did poses for two hours.

Kearney wrote, "One woman was doing her poses next to a tree, embracing it and leaning on it — maybe not knowing that the tree and the ground beneath it were completely covered in poison ivy!" The same group (perhaps minus the poison ivy victim) returned at 7:30 a.m. the following morning for another two-hour class.



Mary Kearney on Monocacy Aqueduct.



Joe Hage silhouetted at sunset in canoe at Edwards Ferry.



Joe Hage packs the canoe at Lockhouse 28.

Kearney concluded, "After being first amused, then annoyed, then amused again by the yoga people, we realized that it's all part of the ebb and flow of life at Swain's. People from everywhere just come to the river. They always have. They always will. And we're so lucky to have places like Swain's that make it easy for all of us to go down to the river whenever we need renewal."

On their final day, they left Swain's and were able to canoe the C&O Canal, waving to on-lookers as they passed by. However, the water in the Canal ran out before they got to Old Angler's Inn, so they had to portage back to the Potomac. They took their first whitewater drop at Offutt Island, where they met some kayakers and paddleboarders. One of them shouted out, "Welcome to the neighborhood!"

Their trip came to an end at Sycamore Island, where Hage is the caretaker for the Sycamore Island Canoe Club. (Kearney is a former immigration attorney.) The two plan to embark on a fundraising trip down the Potomac and Canal again next year and are looking forward to more adventures both on and off the river. To read their blog about their trip and to view their photos, go to www.canalbycanoe.com. Donations can also be made through this website to help more children experience the joys of nature and the C&O Canal.

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4 9821 BETTEKER LN	5	3	0	POTOMAC	\$750,000	Detached	0.41	20854	GLEN PARK	03/17/17
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Safety in the Water

Water Safety Month designed to educate public in advance of summer swimming.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL

During the month of May, National Water Safety Month, water safety educators are waging a month-long campaign to educate the public about responsible water practices before the start of summer. The campaign is designed to help prevent drowning and water-related illness and injuries.

"The most important tip from swim experts [is] to have your child in perpetual swim lessons," said Gina Bewersdorf, who owns Goldfish Swim School in Reston. "Situations will always arise in which we or our children are around water, [like] at a friend's pool party, vacation near a lake, or a boating trip, so learning the necessary skills to stay safe is vital. It only takes a second for a child or adult to unsuspectingly fall into a body of water."

Constant adult supervision is the first and best way to prevent accidents in and around water, says Lisa S. Grepps, director, Marketing & Communications, The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals in Alexandria. She also recommends additional safeguards to help prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to a pool or spa or to warn of a child's presence. "But don't get lulled



Learn to swim no matter the age. This is one of the best ways to be safer in and around the water.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL

into a false sense of security with barriers and other devices as they are just backups to the primary means of accident prevention which is constant adult supervision," said Grepps.

Keeping a cell phone nearby to make a call to 911 in case of an emergency and avoiding swimming at the first sign of bad weather are two tips that Ann Thompson of Ann's Aquatics in Bethesda offers to her students and their parents. "I tell parents that certain flotation devices are great, but they are in no way a replacement for responsible adult supervision," she said. "And the supervision should be undistracted.

Don't get lost in a conversation or a phone call and divert attention away from your children, not even for a second. If you leave the pool area, no matter how brief the period of time, take the children with you."

In addition to learning to swim, Bewersdorf recommends making sure that children are taught water safety skills as well as how to perform CPR on both adults and children. "We recommend a child enroll in swim lessons as early as possible [and] year round, not just during the warmer months. Persistent swim lessons are proven to be incredibly beneficial in order to keep these life-saving skills sharp" she

said. "We offer classes as young as four months old in which the parents are constantly with their infants. This gets the child used to simply being in and around water and they learn simple safety skills."

When choosing a pool, check for an on-duty lifeguard. In cases where a lifeguard is not available, look for accessible safety equipment such as a rescue ring or pole.

"We want people to have a safe and fun time swimming and that's why [we] issue permits to all public pool facilities and routinely inspect them to ensure they are being operated in a safe and healthy manner, in accordance with Fairfax County Code," said Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health supervisor for Fairfax County. "It's also important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury or illness to themselves and others."

Thompson advises adhering to other safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which include looking to see if the drain at the bottom of the deep end is visible, staying out of the pool if you have diarrhea, covering any open wounds with waterproof bandages, showering before entering the pool and only using flotation devices that are Coast Guard approved.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Tally Ho Toastmaster's Club. First and third Mondays each month, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road.

2016 Inaugural Video Art Exhibition. 5-7 p.m. at Glen Echo Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Photoworks showcases a group of female visual artists who use video to reveal the personal, the intimate and the artistic. Desires, dreams and fears are all visually explored in Photoworks' Inaugural Video Competition and Exhibition, curated by Na'ama Batya Lewin. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.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.

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. www.BennysBarGrill.com.

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. 301-983-8838 www.popovers.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.

Acoustic Open Mic. Wednesdays, 7-11 p.m. at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane. Everyone welcome to perform. Wine bottles are 50



PHOTO BY ALEKSANDRA RADIC

Serbian Folk Dancers

SerbFest 2017 takes place 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on May 19-21 at Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, 10660 River Road. Serbian food, culture, crafts including traditional Serbian dishes, beverages, dance and music performances, gifts and boutique items and family-friendly activities./ Free admission and parking. Rain or Shine. Visit www.serbfestdc.com/ for more.

percent off. www.bennysbargrill.com.
Potomac Games Group. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. The world is in the midst of a Golden Age of new board and card games for players of all ages. Free. Contact event host Randy Hoffman at 412-983-5411 or wrandyhoffman@gmail.com.

Art Exhibit. Throughout May at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Featuring the art of Potomac resident Dr. Meenakshi Mohan, an educator, painter, and art critic. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/, or call 240-777-0690 for more information.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Signature Live Concert. 6-8 p.m. in Veterans Park, located at the corner of Woodmont and Norfolk avenues. Blues-R&B band Signature Live is the second performance in a concert series by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, featuring free Thursday evening concerts during May, June, and July. The concerts offer a range of music including rock, funk, jazz,

swing, and reggae. 301/215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Grand Old Ditch Lecture. 7-9 p.m. at the Bolger Center's Franklin Building, 9600 Newbridge Drive. Potomac Community Village hosts this program, the C&O Canal's past, present and future, including its role in the Civil War. Historian and author Judy Welles will present historic highlights and photographs. Free. Visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Bike to Work Day 2017. Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. Email Megan Goodman at mgoodman@mwco.org, or call 202-962-3209 for more.

Annual Art Exhibit. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Geneva Day School, 11931 Seven Locks Road, Rockville. Geneva Day School's art program focuses on the creative process using a variety of art techniques. Visit www.genevadayschool.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Laurel Canyon Concert. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues and Jazz, 7719 Wisconsin Ave. Golden songs of Los Angeles, 1966-1972. \$25. Call 240-330-4500 for more.

MAY 19-21

SerbFest 2017. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Saint Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, 10660 River Road. Serbian food, culture, crafts including traditional Serbian dishes, beverages, dance and music performances, gifts and boutique items and family-friendly activities./ Free admission and parking. Rain or Shine. Visit www.serbfestdc.com/ for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Artists Reception. 5-7 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Exhibition is "The Role of Film," an exhibition of work by eight local

artists who are longtime students of faculty member Frank Tico. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 21

Potomac Hunt Races. 10 a.m. at 14401B Partnership Road, Poolesville. Visit www.potomachuntraces.com/ for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

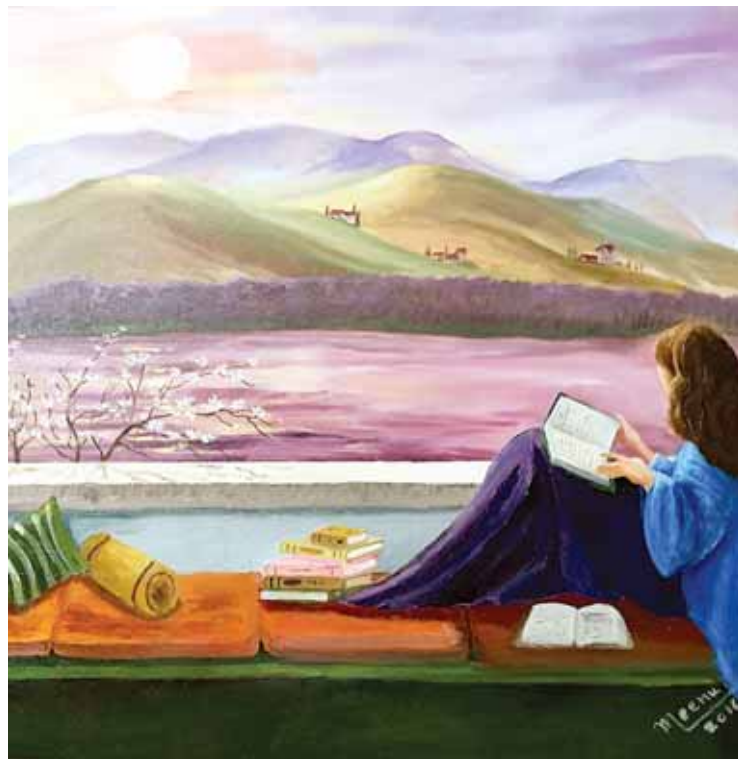
Be'la Dona Concert. 8 p.m. at Bethesda Blues and Jazz, 7719 Wisconsin Ave. Dance night. \$20.

SUNDAY/JUNE 11

Zemer Chai: The Jewish Chorale. 4 p.m. at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The concert features the DC premiere of the evocative "Sing Our Song" by Gerald Cohen with words by Elie Wiesel. \$40 reserved seating; \$20 general admission, \$25 at the door. Visit www.ZemerChai.org for more.

JUNE 19-AUG. 9

Toca Summer Soccer Camp. 6-8 p.m. at Avenel LP, 10051 Oaklyn



ART BY MEENAKSHI MOHAN

One of the works by Dr. Meenakshi Mohan on exhibit in May at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive.

Call 240-330-4500 for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 28

Celebrate Memorial Day. 11 a.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road. A tribute featuring the West Point Alumni Glee Club in its seventh annual Potomac performance. Call 301-299- 6007 or email admin@potomacpresbyterian.org for more.

Waltz Workshop. 2:45-3:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The 45-minute dance lesson begins at 2:45 p.m. with a half-hour introductory Waltz workshop and a more advanced move presented the last 15 minutes. Social dancing follows until 6 pm. Admission is \$10. No partner required. Call 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Local Artists Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Artists and Makers Studios 2, Main Gallery 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. Art by Potomac resident and artist F. Lennox Campello, show runs through June 29. Free. Call 240-437-9573 for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Strawberry Festival. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sykesville Freedom Fire Department, 6680 Sykesville Road (Rt. 32), Sykesville. Visit www.melchurch.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At Photoworks

The role of film is the theme for an upcoming show at Photoworks, May 19-June 25 in the Photoworks gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo. Artists reception is Sunday, May 20, 5-7 p.m.

Drive. Improving skills, making friends and staying fit. Email info@tocajuniors.com, or call 301-221-8305 for more.

JUNE 24-25

Heritage Days 2017. Various times at 40 parks, museums, and historic sites all across Montgomery County open with free admission highlighting local history, culture, and outdoor recreation with live music, children's games and crafts, exhibits and demonstrations, and food. Visit www.HeritageMontgomery.org or call 301-515-0753 for more.

News Briefs

Celebrate Memorial Day at Church

A remembrance of the men and women in each of the uniformed services will be held in the Faith and Freedom celebration at Potomac Presbyterian Church at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 28.

Members of the community are invited to join this tribute featuring the West Point Alumni Glee Club in its seventh annual Potomac performance. The Glee Club performs throughout the nation and will sing several songs honoring service men and women in appreciation of the sacrifices they have made for the country.

The worship service will feature remarks by U.S. General (ret.) William Hartzog examining the relationship between faith and freedom in the pursuit of peace. A special commemoration will be offered for those who have given their lives in service to their country. This gathering in our local community provides the opportunity for families both to learn and remember the meaning of Memorial Day and for veterans, military families and all citizens to honor those who have served and sacrificed to protect freedom.

The church is located at 10301 River Road. For questions, call 301-299-6007 or email admin@potomacpresbyterian.org.

Learn about Potomac Community Village

Potomac Community Village (PCV), with a mission of empowering older Potomac residents to age in place in their existing homes, strengthen existing social connections and build new ones, is hosting a Prospective Member Get-Together on Sunday, June 11, at 2 p.m., at a private home in Potomac.

The event, an informal get-together with light refreshments, offers community members an opportunity to get to know PCV better, ask questions about how direct services for members — such as computer help, simple household repairs, plant watering while on vacation and transportation to medical appointments — are arranged, meet some of our current members, and learn about all the benefits and activities that PCV membership offers.

RSVPs no later than Friday, June 9, at 240-221-1370 or info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org, for location and directions.

PCV's new membership policy is now a rolling membership instead of the previous July-to-June membership year. This allows a full 12 months of membership at whatever point in the year someone joins. Anyone wishing to join PCV now may do so by submitting a membership form, found on the PCV website (www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org), or may contact PCV at 240-221-1370 or info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

PCV has two membership categories: Full Membership, open only to those who live within the 20854 zip code, and Associate, open only to those who live outside of 20854. Full members is \$100 per individual and \$150 per household per membership year. Associate Membership is \$50 for an individual, \$75 for a household.

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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
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New To Some, Old News To Others



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you unfamiliar with my column: in Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, welcome aboard the Kenny train. I have been writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers since December 1997 appearing primarily in our "Tuesday papers," as we call them: Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Arlington, Chantilly, Centre View and Potomac. The question has persisted among friends and family: Ken he continue to, as my older brother Richard jokes, "churn out this dribble?" Apparently so, if the last 19 and half years are any indication.

Back in the day when I first had to characterize my column for various local yearly Press Association editorial contests (of which I have won nearly a dozen awards), I would write "Everything in general about nothing in particular." A great friend of mine, Edward Faine, himself an accomplished author — of children's and jazz books, and a small press publisher as well, has described my columns as "Thoughtful humor and insightful commentary." Perhaps between these two quotes you'll get a sense of what you're likely to get from my weekly wondering.

And so it continued until June 2009. That's when I published my first column about a diagnostic process which had been ongoing since New Years Day which ultimately lead to a lung cancer diagnosis delivered to "Team Lourie" on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet you remember the date). That column, entitled "Dying to Find Out, Sort Of," chronicled the process, excruciating as it was/is that one often endures attempting to determine the cause of a medical problem; in my case, a pain in my left-side rib cage which a day or so later, migrated to my right-side and eventually took my breath away — almost literally, especially when inhaling and/or bending over. This difficulty forced me off the couch and into my car for a drive over to the Emergency Room. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, I wrote another column entitled "Dying to Tell You, Sort Of" which detailed the findings of the nearly eight weeks the process took to specify my diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Out of the blue, I had become "terminal," as my oncologist described me, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. Surreal, which is a common description offered by many in similar situations, is how one feels after receiving news of this kind, and only begins to tell the tale of the change and evolution in the individual's life living forward into treatment and subsequently beyond into the great unknown.

This 'great unknown' is mostly what I have written about and published ever since; "cancer columns" (original I know) is what I call them. Occasionally, I will write a non-cancer column, one a month or so, depending on my experiences. These columns will address non-cancer issues of the day, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Most recently topics have included the movie "The Exorcist," "Exercising a Demon," paying for things with a credit card: "Credit the Card," reacting to advertising for grass seed and riding mowers: "And So It Begins," and buying in bulk: "Bulky Boy," but never/well, almost never do I write about my wife, Dina; I have been warned.

Though the recurring theme of these columns is cancer, the content is rarely morbid or dare I say, self-indulgent, believe it or not. I try to make fun a very "unfun" set of circumstances. I'm still writing about life; now however, it's life in the cancer lane, a road unlike any I had ever traveled before. Nevertheless, I've gotten through eight years and nearly three months of it relatively incident free, save for a week in the hospital three and a half years ago. And yes, I am still undergoing treatment.

I hope you readers will be semi amused at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune upon which my columns are based. Please know: the significance of their content is not that it is me writing them, it is that cancer is being written about.

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

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Kari Wilner 301-908-9111



POTOMAC FALLS, POTOMAC, MD
Pristine home built by Brendan O'Neil has his attention to detail & a timeless 6BR, 4.5BA floor plan. Fab garden room & family room w/ vaulted ceilings. Flagstone terrace with built-in BBQ + large private yard. \$2,285,000
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POTOMAC FALLS, POTOMAC, MD
NEW LISTING! Custom built in 2013 w/ finest fins. Stunning FR, exciting master & so much more! Spectacular grounds. Four car garage. \$2,150,000
Adaline Neely 301-580-2214
Kari Dainty 240-888-2826



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NEW PRICE! Quintessential Potomac Falls. Renov w/ 2 fam rms, lib & expanded kit. Pool & glorious grounds. 4BR, 3FBA, 2HBA. Churchill. \$1,799,000
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