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Potomac ALMANAC

Brain Surgery and More at Potomac Elementary Career Day

NEWS, PAGE 3

Students at Potomac Elementary School learned about the functions of the brain from Dr. Dimitri Sigounas, a brain surgeon and father of a PES kindergartener.

Need for Paid Sick Leave

PAGE 2

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Coronavirus Could Hit Family Finances

Millions of workers lack the sick leave that coronavirus could demand.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Nearly 27 percent of employees don't have comprehensive paid sick leave. But "good business is all about taking care of your employees," said U.S. Rep. David Trone (D-Md).

Workers without sick pay can't afford to stay home when they are sick, or quarantined, one of the pillars of containing the national outbreak of novel coronavirus.

U.S. Rep. Rose DeLauro (D-Ct) introduced legislation Monday that would require all employers to allow workers to accrue seven days of paid sick leave and an additional 14 days in the event of a public health emergency. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va), Trone and DeLauro with advocates held a conference call to discuss the proposal with reporters.

"Now is the time to move this forward, it

makes all the sense in the world," said Trone.

"This comes at a critical time. A quarter of workers don't have comprehensive paid sick leave," said Beyer.

Beyer pointed to data that shows that in cities that require paid sick leave, the rate of flu is significantly lower. "Not only is the worker protected, the whole community is a lot healthier," said Beyer.

"This is an absolutely necessary piece of legislation," he said.

Trone pointed to Maryland where the 2018 Maryland Healthy Working Family Act requires that paid sick leave be provided by all employers with more than 15 employees. (In 2018, Md. Gov. Larry Hogan (R) had vetoed the bill, but the Maryland Senate voted to override the veto.)

Maryland identified five confirmed cases



(D-WA) and DeLauro.

"A public health crisis like the coronavirus underscores the urgent need to pass paid sick leave legislation. Workers deserve the flexibility to care for their health without fear of losing a paycheck," said Kaine. "This legislation will help ensure that no American has to put their health – and the health of others in their community – at risk to keep their job."

MORE THAN 32 MILLION private sec-

of coronavirus, four in Montgomery County, as of Monday.

Virginia announced four cases of coronavirus as of Monday, three in Fairfax County and one in Arlington.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va) co-sponsored the emergency paid sick leave legislation, introduced by Sen. Patty Murray

tor workers are unable to earn paid sick days. Workers of color and workers in low-wage industries are among the least likely to have access to paid sick days.

Deborah Ness is the president of the National Partnership for Women and Families. "This is not a new issue. It has been hurting our workers and our families for too long," said Ness.

"When emergencies hit, they often affect the people who work most closely with our public," Ness said. Workers can't afford to stay home and lose their pay check or possibly their jobs. "The situation is inhumane and dangerous for our nation's health," said Ness.

Trone and Beyer are both businessmen who tout offering paid sick leave to employees. Trone founded Total Wine which has 7,000 employees. Beyer's family business, Don Beyer Volvo, has "about one-twentieth" that number of employees, he said.

Last week in the Virginia General Assembly, a bill to require some paid sick leave failed in the Virginia Senate just as Virginia's first cases of coronavirus were confirmed.

The Virginia Senate failed to vote on the conference committee report on SB 481, that would have required employers to provide five paid sick days to employees. The Virginia House of Delegates had approved the conference committee report earlier.

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Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road

Thursday, March 19, 7pm - 9 pm

The Menace of Climate Change and What You Can Do

Thu, April 2, 7pm - 9pm

Healthy Aging by Natasha Sacks, Program Director, Lifelong Learning Institute, Montgomery College. Learn about healthy aging strategies from the fields of gerontology, psychology & actual experiences of centenarians.

Details at 240-221-1370

www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org

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NEWS

Doctor, Lawyer, Vet, Chocolatier

Potomac Elementary students explore future career possibilities.

BY PEGGY McEWAN
POTOMAC ALMANAC

More than two dozen parents and friends of Potomac Elementary School students shared about their work at the school's second annual Career Day Friday.

Students had choices from attorney and author to veterinarian and video game designer and many more to hear from as they switched from presentation to presentation during the morning, for third through fifth graders, and afternoon, for kindergarten through second graders.

"It was hard to choose, there are a bunch of good jobs to choose from," Max, a fourth grader, said.

Max knows he wants to be a professional football head coach when he grows up, but he found some other interesting careers to think about.

Police defense analyst, video game designer and the military IT service are the jobs he selected to learn about.

Fifth grader Nola elected to hear the video game designer too but also selected hearing about the work of a writer and a "U.S. military person," she said.

Her favorite was learning how video games are designed.

"I'm really interested in video games," she said. "I like to code."

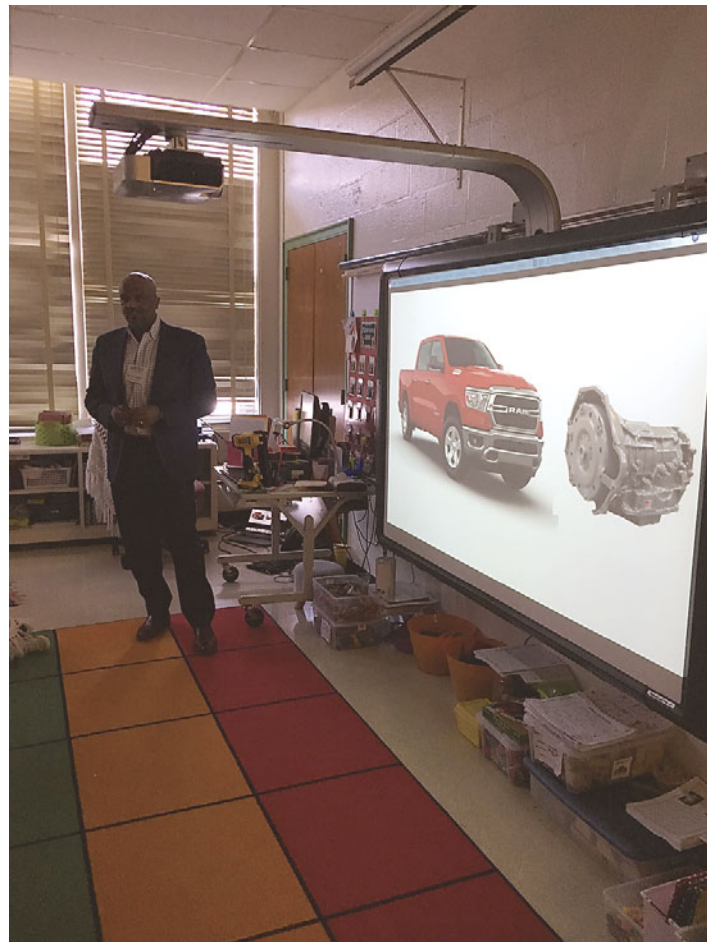
But when she grows up, she said wants to be an artist.

Knowing what she would like to do in the future did not take away from her interest in Career Day.

"I think it's a good idea to help students learn that they have more than a few career choices," she said.

Max seconded that thought.

"It's a good way for children to think of a path [to the future]" he said.



Guru Bandekar showed slides of the different projects he has worked on in his career as an engineer during Career Day at Potomac Elementary School. This is a picture of a truck and its transmission.

It wasn't just the students who enjoyed the day.

"I loved it," said Jairo Irreno, owner of Irreno Construction. "They are so cute, and they had good questions. The second graders, they knew their math."

Irreno was dressed for his job, including safety vest and hard hat, and shared information with the kids about ways to stay safe

on the job, that they can use at home and play.

As a group of second graders left the room to make way for another group to come in, they thanked Irreno and said his talk was a very good one.

So it went, students going from room to room, listening to doctors, scientists, writers, a mortgage securities professional, a



Leah Stone, a Potomac Elementary School mom and a health policy attorney, poses with her son Asher before her presentation at Potomac Elementary School Career Day.

cheer coach, security specialist, hospitality administrator, IT manager, a special agent, hospital administrator, procurement officer, veterinarian, jeweler and a Cyber Security specialist.

Did I mention a chocolatier - with samples- and a reporter?

Twenty-eight presenters and 444 students shared visions of the future.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOTER REGISTRATION

AT LIBRARIES

The Montgomery County Board of Elections will conduct voter registration and election worker recruitment drives on Saturdays during March at local public libraries according to the following schedule:

- ❖ Saturday, March 14 (11 a.m.- 1 p.m.)
Connie Morella (Bethesda) Library, 7400 Arlington Rd, Bethesda 20814
- Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd, Germantown 20874
- Marilyn J. Praisner (Burtonsville) Library, 14910 Old Columbia Pike,

- Burtonsville 20866
- ❖ Saturday, March 21 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Olney Library, 3500 Olney Laytonville Rd, Olney, MD 20832
- Maggie Nightingale (Poolesville) Library, 19633 Fisher Ave, Poolesville 20837
- White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring 20904
- ❖ Saturday, March 28 (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)
Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr, Potomac 20854
- Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave, Rockville 20850
- Wheaton Library, 11701 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring 20902

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Undergraduate Expo. 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Universities at Shady Grove invites prospective students and guests to learn more about the USG campus and the wide variety of undergraduate degree programs offered by its university partners at the upcoming Undergraduate Expo.

USG is a regional higher education center of the University System of Maryland that offers approximately 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs from nine different state universities, all on one convenient campus in Montgomery County. Attendees of the spring Undergraduate Expo will be able to tour the campus, including USG's new Biomedical Sciences and Engineering (BSE) education facility, a 220,000-square-foot building fully-equipped with teaching laboratories, collaborative learning spaces, and clinical training facilities. Visit shadygrove.umd.edu/discoverUSG.

APRIL 1-2

Montgomery County Energy Summit. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday. At 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring. Registration is now open for the seventh annual Montgomery County Energy Summit.

The Summit will be co-hosted by Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the US Green Building Council National Capital Region (USGBC NCR). Regular online ticket prices are available after March 6. For entry on both days, regular tickets are \$100. Regular single-day tickets are \$70 for Day 1 (commercial) and \$50 for Day 2 (residential). To register and for additional information, visit the event's website at www.MCEnergySummit.org. Questions may be emailed to energy@montgomerycountymd.gov.

EBOOK COLLECTION

To better serve County residents, Montgomery County Public Libraries now has its own independent Overdrive ebook collection. Customers can expect an electronic collection that reflects the interests of County residents and a system that is

more responsive to their requests and needs. This includes greater functionality within the OverDrive application, shorter hold times, and a greater flexibility to provide service features that will increase usability and satisfaction. For information, contact James Donaldson, assistant director, Technology and Collections at 240-777-0030.

FREE TAX HELP FOR RESIDENTS

County residents earning \$56,000 or less can schedule an appointment for free tax preparation through the Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Free tax assistance is available now through April 15, 2020 at sites throughout the county: Gaithersburg (Mondays), Silver
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

December, 2019 Sales, \$750,000~\$800,000

IN DECEMBER, 2019, 58 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
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**1 12413 Beall Spring Road
— \$800,000**



**7 12213 Red Church Court
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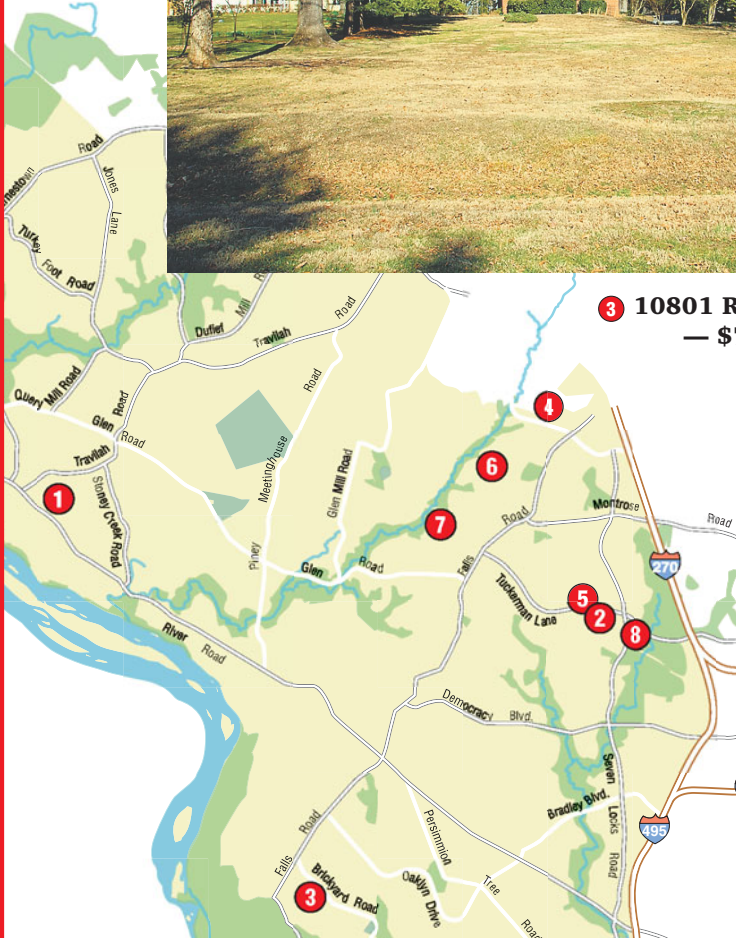
5 11600 Georgetowne Court — \$775,000



**3 10801 Rock Run Drive
— \$780,000**



2 8209 Lochinver Lane — \$790,000



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1 12413 BEALL SPRING RD	4	..	3	..	1	POTOMAC	\$800,000	Detached	2.19	20854	BEALLMOUNT	12/17/19
2 8209 LOCHINVER LN	5	..	2	..	1	POTOMAC	\$790,000	Detached	0.29	20854	INVERNESS FOREST	12/27/19
3 10801 ROCK RUN DR	3	..	2	POTOMAC	\$780,000	Detached	1.10	20854	FAWCETT FARMS	12/02/19	
4 1407 FALLSMEAD WAY	4	..	2	..	1	POTOMAC	\$775,000	Detached	0.27	20854	FALLSMEAD	12/03/19
5 11600 GEORGETOWNE CT	4	..	3	POTOMAC	\$775,000	Detached	0.37	20854	REGENCY ESTATES	12/20/19	
6 9105 HUNTING HORN LN	5	..	3	..	1	POTOMAC	\$755,000	Detached	0.25	20854	FOX HILLS WEST	12/05/19
7 12213 RED CHURCH CT	4	..	2	..	1	POTOMAC	\$750,000	Detached	0.35	20854	GLEN PARK	12/06/19
8 11013 SEVEN HILL LN	4	..	2	..	1	POTOMAC	\$750,000	Detached	0.24	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	12/12/19

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ASPIRE HOUSE McLEAN DESIGNER SHOW HOUSE

To Benefit
CANCER SUPPORT
COMMUNITY

Aspire Design Home in McLean will be open to the public from May 9 through June 7.

Local Designers Donate Talent for a Cause

A home in McLean Gets a Makeover to Benefit Cancer Support Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Some local interior design gurus are joining tastemakers from around the country to revamp the Aspire Design Home in McLean, Virginia, as part of an effort to raise money for charity.

The effort will give visitors a chance to see the latest trends in home design while supporting the Cancer Support Community, the largest professionally led, nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide dedicated to providing emotional support and navigation for individuals impacted by cancer, including their families and friends.

"I have had the enormous privilege of working with many of the talented creatives whose submissions and design work were selected to complete the interiors of this remarkable house," said Mary Douglas Drysdale, design chair of the McLean 2020 Design House.

"The final show house will be exceptional."

The makeover event has drawn 31 designers from around the world and local designers including Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling in Bethesda, MD and Falls Church, VA, Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build in Falls Church, Maria Galiani of Galiani McLean, Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors in Reston, Jonas Carnemark of Konst Siematic in Bethesda, MD, Paul Lobkovich of Lobkovich in Tysons, Federica Asack of Masseria Chic in McLean, and Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, Va.

The home itself is described as an innovative marriage of classical Monticello elements and on-trend materials and design techniques. Among those materials is a whimsical green hue, cheetah pattern wall covering created by Allie Mann of Case of Design/Remodeling for the upper level bathroom.

"Bathrooms in general are these little gems that

can be both public and private where great design can live," she said. "In this show house bathroom, the tile is the biggest part of the space where I'll incorporate materials that are a little edgier or unexpected in terms of color or saturation and that will really create a dramatic space. I also love the different play with the pattern of the tile."

It was a personal connection that influenced the upper level bedroom created by Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors.

"Our bedroom is dedicated to my inspiring mother and all of those who fight or have fought the brave fight against cancer," he said. "This enchanted aerie creates a quiet respite that exists for relaxation and renewal inside of a large and sprawling home."

He says that his design process is often instigated by the discovery of what he describes as animating objects. "For instance, in January I traveled to Paris and uncovered some wonderful items from some favorite sources," said Hildreth. "Our retreat reflects a love for the beauty of France and artfully mixes French and other design elements across the centuries into a jewel box space that delights the eye and promises hope for a better tomorrow."

While guest bedrooms often accommodate one's in-laws, Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design says that the space she is re-imagining doesn't fit that mold. "This isn't 'granny chic,' she said. "It's 'uncle chic,' with masculine furnishings paired with traditionally feminine elements to create a warm and inviting retreat."

Wallpaper made of subtle pink grasscloth encompasses masculine, modern elements such as the quasi-industrial étagère, which has tiny brass rivets on metal strapping and a black-caned bench at the foot of the bed, says Elliott. "The bed is canopied, but in Cowtan & Tout's Rutland – a sophisticated woodland scene in browns, greens, and blues – to counter the sweetness of the pink walls," she said. "We repeat the fabric on the drapes, layering it over woven wood shades for depth and texture. The room is a mix of vintage, and vintage-look furnishings."

To Go

The designer show house will open with a Preview Gala on May 8, 2020 and remain open to the public from May 9 through June 7, 2020. May 9-June 7, 2020, Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$35 and the proceeds benefit the Cancer Support Community. For more information, visit www.aspireshowhouse.com/mclean.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor's Note: Be aware that many events could be cancelled as precaution to the spread of COVID-19. Please check before heading to events.

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Kindergarten Orientation.

Wednesday/April 29. Potomac Elementary School is holding Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2020 are eligible for enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents/guardians should notify the school at 240-740-4360 to receive enrollment information and to set up an appointment to participate in the Orientation Program.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Family Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. These programs encourage children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Navigating Friendships.

6:30 p.m. At Connelly School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac. Establishing and nurturing friendships is an important life skill. In this workshop, explore how parents can help children: Develop meaningful and authentic friendships through empathy and kindness; Join groups and share effectively; Understand the "hidden curriculum" of social norms and how to resolve conflicts. Dr. Parker earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and has experience in a variety of educational leadership and counseling roles from preschool through college-age students. She is passionate about understanding the role that schools play as "part of the village" in raising children. She speaks frequently to area parents and schools on a wide range of topics, including "Parenting in the Digital Age" and "The Neuroscience of Learning." Visit the website <https://www.holychild.org>

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Orchestra Prazevica and the Yehla Collective. 7:30 p.m. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd., Rockville. A night of Eastern European protests songs incorporating gypsy jazz, western swing and an eclectic group of Czech, Slovak, Armenian, Moravian and American musicians. Cost is \$25 door/\$20 adv | Students with ID / Children \$20 door/\$15 adv. Info: Rob Hinkal at publicity@imtfolk.org or www.imtfolk.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Friends of the Library Booksale. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Monthly Potomac Friends of the Library Booksale! Used books, DVDs, and more available for children, teens, and adults. All are welcome.

Hopkins & Porter Remodeling Seminar. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. At 12944-C Travilah Road, Suite 204, Potomac. During this seminar, you will learn: The differences in remodeling companies; The importance of design; Realistic remodeling budgets; What to expect when remodeling; And so much



Encore Creativity's Sentimental Journey Singers in Fairfax, a choir for those with early Alzheimer's, performing in a holiday concert this past December. Encore is starting a second Sentimental Journey Singers program at the Bender JCC in Rockville, Md. in March.

Sentimental Journey Singers

Mondays/March 9 to April 27, Mondays, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Bender Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral organization for adults over 55, will start its second choir for adults diagnosed with early to moderate Alzheimer's disease and other memory struggles. Participants will learn vocal techniques and three-part harmony while singing familiar songs and new pieces in a social group setting under the leadership of conductor Dr. Mary Ann East, also a performer and teacher and founder of Capital Harmonia, and pianist Rachel Thompson, a board-certified music therapist who works with adults with cognitive impairments and dementia. The program will culminate in a performance, Saturday, May 2 at 1 p.m., at the JCC Social Hall. Tuition is \$104 and \$25 for care partners. Registration is open now at www.encorecreativity.org



DuPont Brass, co-writers: Anthony Daniel Jr, Jared Bailey, Isaac Bell IV, and Jake Grotticelli.

Live Concert

Friday/March 13, 7:30 p.m. At Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. The sixth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, will once again feature a live concert performed by the competition finalists. The following five songwriters will perform their original songs at the concert. One will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. * DuPont Brass, D.C. Metro Area; * Co-writers: Anthony Daniel Jr, Jared Bailey, Isaac Bell IV, Jake Grotticelli; * Hayley Fahey, Derwood, MD; * Select songs co-written with Austin Bello of Bristow, VA; * Genna Matthew, Charlottesville, VA; Eric Scott, North Beach, MD; and Maimouna Youssef, Baltimore, MD. Tickets begin at \$15 and are available at www.bethesda.org or call 301-215-6660.

more. Bring all your questions. Remodeling experts will be available to help you make good decisions when remodeling.

President's Social. 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Hilton Rockville Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville. President's Social "Women's Voices and Votes Count!" Sponsored by the Montgomery County Section, NCNW, National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Tickets: \$45. Call Millie West-Wiggins 301-520-6781.

How To Get Your Orchid To

Rebloom. 1-2:30 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Have you been given an orchid and don't know what to do with it? Proud that you haven't killed it yet, but it hasn't bloomed in years? This interactive workshop covers the specific "tricks" of getting your orchid to rebloom including the proper light, water, temperature, fertilizer, and potting media. Basics of pests and diseases will also be covered. This workshop coincides with the annual Friends of Brookside Gardens

DOG LOVES BOOKS



Dog Loves Books

Saturday/March 14, 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Louise Yates' New York Times bestseller comes to life in ArtsPower's newest musical about the irresistible Dog who loves everything about books. Tickets are \$7 Adults, \$6 Seniors, \$4 Students and Children. Call the Box Office: 240-567-5301 or visit the website www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac

Orchid Show and Plant Sale where you can purchase hundreds of different varieties of orchids. Cost: \$25 / FOBG: \$22; registration required. Instructor: Jason Gedeik.

Scouts Spaghetti Dinner. 5-8 p.m. At Potomac United Methodist Parish Center, 9908 South Glen Road, Potomac. Scouts Troop 773 will host their 62nd annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser. The all-you-can-eat dinner selections are prepared and served by Scouts and Scout parents in casual, family style seating. No reservations are required.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$10 per person. Anyone interested in supporting Troop 773 but unable to attend the dinner we welcome to purchase tickets that will be donated to the local first responders. Cost is \$10. Visit <https://www.troop773.com/payments/>

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Waltz Dance. 3:30-6 p.m. At Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Featuring the ensemble Morrison, Knight, and Rose playing a lively mix of folk waltzes with a few other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. 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 p.m. Admission is free. No partner required. For more information, call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org or e-mail info@WaltzTimeDances.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Dance and Laughter for Total Wellness - with Kumud Mathur. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Attention Seniors! Want to stay healthy and pursue wellness while having fun?

Seán Heely and Kevin Elam. 7:30 p.m. At Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd., Rockville. Join in a lively evening to ring in St. Patrick's Day with Irish music from Celtic Duo Seán Heely and Kevin Elam w percussive dancer extraordinaire Agi Kovacs. Cost is \$25 door/\$20 adv | Students with ID / Children \$20 door/\$15 adv. Info: Rob Hinkal at publicity@imtfolk.org or www.imtfolk.org

Talk on Moss Gardening. 8 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Learn how to identify moss, where to find moss, how to cultivate/propagate it. and how to care for mosses. Speaker, Young Choe, studied oriental art in Korea prior to moving to the United States and then acquired a Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from the University of Maryland. Young currently works at the U.S. National Arboretum as a horticulturist. Sponsored by the Silver Spring Garden Club.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day Green & Growing Scavenger Hunt. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. You don't have to be Irish to like the color green! Visit the Children's Classroom for a fun garden planting craft, stories and games. Afterwards make your way outside to find Leprechaun riddles and clues. Find buried treasures just for you! Meet the friendly garden Leprechaun.

Read to a Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Looking for a great opportunity to improve your little reader's language skills and interact with cool furry friends in the process? Then "Read to a Dog" is for you.

Teen Writer's Club with Neal Gillen. 6:30-8 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Teens ages 13-18 with a passion for writing are invited to join our Teen Writers' Club.

Churchill Teacher Is Finalist for Teacher of the Year

Three teachers have been named finalists for the 2020–2021 MCPS Teacher of the Year Award by the Marian Greenblatt Education Fund. They are: **Anne Moore**, kindergarten teacher at Farmland Elementary School; **Inge Chichester**, World Studies content specialist at Sligo Middle School; and **Rodney Van Tassell**, social studies resource teacher at Winston Churchill High School.

Rodney Van Tassell has been a social studies resource teacher at Winston Churchill High School since 2011. He has also worked at Takoma Park Middle School. He is known as a collaborative problem solver who is patient, detailed and constantly on the lookout for new ideas. He has brought a focus to his department on student-centered learning by modeling and teaching about project-based learning. This year, he arranged student desks in pods of four, because he believed this fosters student-to-student discourse. His lessons are fun and creative. He had students write a breakup song between the U.S. and Great Britain; and transformed his classroom into a courtroom for students to put Thomas Jefferson on trial for writing the Kentucky Resolution. These efforts have resulted in high achievement on Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History exams and Maryland High School Assessments. In the last decade, he grew the AP U.S. History and Psychology programs about 300 percent, and saw scores increase from an average of 3.5 to 4.1. He was the longtime head coach for Churchill swimming and diving, and coaches numerous All American, All-County and All-Met athletes.

“A good teacher is someone who will teach you enough to pass the class, but a great teacher, like Mr. Van Tassell, will make you love his subject and want to come to class every day,” wrote student Emily Abramson.

Anne Moore is a kindergarten teacher at Farmland Elementary School. Moore has been a teacher in MCPS for 23 years. A National Board Certified teacher, she builds genuine,

caring relationships that enable students to grow academically and socially. Her classroom is an enthusiastic and happy place. She has created a “writing workshop” to cultivate a love of writing and excellence in writing skills. The students host an authors’ reception at the end of the year to present their writing.

Inge Chichester is the World Studies content specialist at Sligo Middle School. She expects greatness from her students and is a fierce advocate for them. She supports them as she holds them accountable. She listens to them, and has a special ability to make them see and believe in their own growth and capabilities. She talks with them about self-care and strategies to ensure success. She brings compassion to the job and actively seeks out students in need of academic support. She greets all students as they come through the main doors every morning with a bullhorn. She ends every student conversation with her motto: ‘I love you to life!’ Her classroom feels like a family.

The Greenblatt Education Fund is also honoring **Joanna Martinez-Mack**, a science teacher at Julius West Middle School, as the 2020 Rising Star Teacher of the Year. This award honors teachers with less than five years of experience whose creativity and enthusiasm encourages students to stretch themselves and achieve more.

Finalists for the Teacher of the Year Award, who must have five years or more of teaching experience in Montgomery County, are interviewed by a panel of educators, Board of Education members, MCPS staff and representatives from the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, as well as a member of the Greenblatt family.

The teachers, along with other MCPS employees and partners, will be honored for their extraordinary work as part of the annual Champions for Children Awards Celebration. The MCPS Teacher of the Year will be named during the event, which will take place Monday, April 27, at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club in Bethesda.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

Spring (Tuesdays), Rockville (Wednesdays), East County and Germantown (Thursdays), and Wheaton (Fridays). To make an appointment, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback, call 240-777-1123 or call 3-1-1. TTY users, please call MD Relay (711). To request special accommodations, call 240-777-1123 at least three business days in advance of appointment.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED

Montgomery County’s Board of Elections is seeking registered voters to serve as election workers at polling places for the Presidential Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

- ❖ Individuals are needed to serve throughout the county; particularly in the areas of Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Darnestown, Potomac, and Rockville.
- ❖ Due to the diversity within the county, voters who speak multiple languages are needed.

Voters who are fluent in both English and Spanish are especially needed in each polling place to meet the requirements of Section 203 of the 1975 Voting Rights Act which stipulates that bilingual Spanish speakers be available at the polling places.

- ❖ Students 16 years old or older are eligible to register to vote and serve as election workers. Each 16 or 17-year-old applicant must submit a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian. Students serving as election workers may choose to earn up to 25 Student Service Learning (SSL) credits or up to a \$210 stipend.

To serve in this paid volunteer position you must be registered to vote in the State of Maryland, able to speak, read, and write the English language, and cannot hold, or be a candidate for, public or party office. In addition, election workers may not serve as a campaign manager for a candidate or as treasurer for any campaign finance entity.

Training is required and will be provided to all election workers. Volunteers will be paid for completing training and working the election. Information on several different positions, including full day and part day assignments, is advertised at 777vote.org. To apply, text SERVE to 77788 or for more information, visit 777vote.org and select the Election Workers. For other election information, call 240-777-VOTE (8683), visit 777vote.org or the Maryland State Board of Elections’ website at elections.maryland.gov, or follow the Montgomery County Board of Elections on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @777vote.

DEMENTIA CONSULTATIONS

Caring for a person with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementia spans generations. Everyone has a role: spouses, siblings, children, and friends each play a part on the care team. It requires thought, strategy and, most importantly, a plan. To schedule a consultation, call the Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

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Now Where Was I Again?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And here I was thinking I was such a big shot, a thyroidectomy patient with nary a blemish on his body 30 days out from surgery. Metabolic balance? Ha! What metabolic balance! I was having none of it. A month into my post-surgical recovery and all I had to show for my troubles was one extra lab visit to measure/adjust my calcium and magnesium levels. Other than that, as Brooks said in “Shawshank Redemption” to Andy DuFresne about delivering library books to their fellow inmates: “Easy peasy.” No fuss, with no muss whatsoever. Famous last words, or in my case, infamous first words.

It all began innocently enough with some bilateral shaking of my arms and some associated dropsies: items seemed to just slip from my grasp with no apparent reason - or awareness on my part. Then I began experiencing some “wicked,” as we say in New England, pain in my lower back by my kidneys. Next came some forgetfulness and bouts of confusion. I knew who I was and I knew where I was but I definitely knew something had happened to me. I just didn’t know if I was simply a victim of my own circumstances, so to speak, or had something more insidious taken root. I mean, I am a cancer patient with two types of cancer now.

I decided to email some of my doctors and share these new symptoms. My oncologist, in conjunction with my otolaryngologist responded. He arranged for me to see a neurologist which I did so the next day. The neurologist gave me the once over twice and ordered some additional lab work which I completed the next day after a 12-hour fast. Later that same day, Friday, Feb. 28, I received a call from my oncology nurse. She had received my lab results and after discussing them with my oncologist, advised me to go to Urgent Care immediately as I was at risk of a possible heart attack. My calcium levels, a previously well balanced component of a functioning thyroid gland had levels nearly off the chart, literally, 40% above normal. And since we couldn’t exactly put my thyroid back in, off to Urgent care I went.

After excusing myself to the front of the waiting line, I was led back to an examining room where I was treated pending transportation - or not, to somewhere else. After spending an awkward night on site, I was eventually transported by ambulance to a local hospital where I would spend the next four and a half days trying to wean my body off its own elevated calcium. Finally, on Tuesday, I was pronounced fit enough to be released. My ordeal seemed nearly over. By late Tuesday afternoon, I arrived back home where I collapsed in my own bed for the first time in nearly a week and began to recover once again. The rest of the story consists of bits and pieces, fragments of recollections and words-to-the-wise in an attempt to prevent a recurrence.

I can’t really say that I’ve learned my lesson because I did nothing wrong. I was simply following doctor’s orders. Adjusting one’s calcium and magnesium levels is a proactive part of life without a thyroid gland, though it’s hardly a matter of routine, and I have no doubt there’s still some tinkering yet to occur. Nevertheless, onward and upward I go. with hopes that future episodes will be met with similar vigilance.

Now, back to the previous cancer-themed column. I’m meeting with the endocrinologist on Tuesday to determine a course of action to eliminate the remaining 10% or so thyroid cancer embedded under my collarbone. Once we get that process straightened out then we can get back to treating my underlying non small cell lung cancer.

I imagine I’ll live to write about it, but I’d be lying if I didn’t admit to being a bit scared. When one treatment is delayed due to the treatment of another, I can’t help thinking there should be penalty called for piling on. I don’t mind carrying my share but two cancers is hardly share and share alike. Too much of a bad thing is just plain bad.

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



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