

Potomac ALMANAC

In Praise Of Service

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Bette Thompson
was recognized
for her over
60-years of
service to the
Scotland African
Methodist
Episcopal Zion
Church and to the
community of
Scotland during a
special ceremony
at the church
on July 27.

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

PEOPLE



Friends and family attend a special ceremony honoring Scotland resident Bette Thompson for her service to the community and to the Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Bette Thompson visits with Pastor Don Mumford, a long-time friend, during a ceremony honoring Thompson on July 27. "I was saved here, married here and found my call to the ministry here," said Pastor Mumford, "She was like a mom to me."

Honoring Thompson's Commitment to Community

Scotland celebrates long-time resident and community leader Bette Thompson.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Bette Thompson has seen a lot over the years. Born and raised in Scotland, the community founded by ex-slaves in the late 1800s off of Seven Locks Road, Thompson grew up in the days when she would run through grassy fields to her friends' houses. That was a time when summers were spent playing coed softball games that lasted until dusk, and when the children went swimming whenever the boys in Scotland stopped up a creek.

A lot has changed in Scotland since those

days and Thompson, now in her 70s, has both born witness and played a hand in those changes.

On Sunday, July 27, Scotland A.M.E. Zion Church on Seven Locks Road was packed with Thompson's friends and family — immediate and extended — as the community and Montgomery County officials honored her service over the years.

"It was packed — people were in the aisles, people had to stand up, some people couldn't even get inside ... because they were all there for cousin Bette," said Latisha Gasaway, younger cousin of Thompson's who grew up in Scotland.

Members of the community spoke about

Thompson's character and achievements over the years. Thompson has long been involved with various boards and committees in the Winston Churchill High School cluster, and it was due in large part to more than a decade of her commitment that the County Council earlier this year approved funding to renovate the Scotland Community Center.

That effort stalled several times since it began in the late 1990s due to lack of support from the county, but Thompson never quit, said Gasaway.

"She [would say], 'Come on, let's go, we're going to keep fighting.' And that's one of the main reasons the money is being given to the center," Gasaway said.

On Sunday she was presented with official

citations of commendation from the Montgomery County Delegation of the Maryland General Assembly, as well as from Roger Berliner, Potomac's representative to the County Council.

"It was beautiful," said Thompson of the event. "I didn't know all that was going on, to tell the truth."

AFTERWARD, Gasaway said that she and her sister talked in their car for over an hour about Thompson. They had always known that Thompson was active, but when story after story was told about the number of meetings she had been to and boards she had worked with they were blown away.

"The thing about it is, she deserved it and everybody knew it," said Gasaway of the salute. "It was an honorable moment just to be there."

Two of Thompson's favorite songs were played, including the gospel hymnal "How I Got Over," and Thompson said that, like the song tells, her commitment to the community of Scotland grew out of her religious faith.

"She said 'I'm not sitting down because I'm working for the Lord,'" Gasaway said. "That was a moment, a historical moment."

"The thing about it is, she deserved it and everybody knew it. It was an honorable moment just to be there."

— Latisha Gasaway



Bette Thompson was recognized for her over 60-years of service to the Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.



Bette Thompson was recognized for her over 60-years of service to the Scotland African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and to the community of Scotland.

Split Ranks at Montgomery Humane Society

Former board members raise concerns about direction of organization.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

When Rob Blizard joined the board of directors for the Montgomery County Humane Society last fall he was excited by the opportunity to combine his love of animals with his professional expertise in private fund-raising development. Six months later, frustrated and discouraged about the direction of the organization, Blizard resigned from his post at a board meeting and thought he was done with the group. But when he got home he received an email informing him that his resignation had not been accepted and that instead he had been unanimously voted off of the board.

It was the final twist in a brief journey that Blizard described as tumultuous and upsetting, and he is not alone. In the last five months five members of the 10 active members of the Montgomery County Humane Society's board have either stepped down or been dismissed from the board and at least three of those members did so after repeated disagreements with the president of the Montgomery County Humane Society, JC Crist.

Now, it appears that the Humane Society may have a leadership shakeup in store. Crist held the dual roles of chief executive officer of the Montgomery County Humane Society and president of the group's board of directors until last month, when he dropped the CEO title. That drop of title also meant that Crist went from making over \$56,000 to having no salary, and before the end of the year Crist said that he hopes to hire an executive director or someone with a similar title to run the shelter, a move that he said would open the door for him to pursue new ventures.

That is one of several changes that could be in store. Crist has held several unofficial roles as well over the last two years, including being in charge of fund-raising and financial development for the organization, a role that Crist said he hopes to hire someone for in the coming weeks.

During Crist's tenure, animal placement rates have risen and the number of animals euthanized has dropped but fund-raising totals have also suffered, according to Humane Society statistics and financial statements.

The decline in fund-raising numbers was one of several issues that the former board



The Montgomery County Humane Society runs the county's adoption shelter in Rockville in conjunction with the Animal Services Division of the Montgomery County Police Department.

PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

members said were problematic with the direction of the Humane Society, but Crist said that the disagreements among the departed board members were detracting from the core mission of the Humane Society, which is to protect vulnerable animals.

"Their creative differences or their visions and methods were different than the majority of the board's — they just weren't in line with what we're currently doing," said Crist. "We are the humane society and we give every animal an opportunity at life if it's the right thing to do."

THE HUMANE SOCIETY runs the county's adoption shelter in Rockville in a contracted partnership with Montgomery County that dates back to 1949 and operates in conjunction with the Animal Services Division of the Montgomery County Police Department.

In her March 15 resignation sent by email, former board member and Potomac resident Melissa Rubin wrote that poor leadership has serious hurt the society's fund-raising efforts, and she questioned the direction of the organization.

"The MCHS has suffered from poor leadership in the past and, in my opinion, continues to do so," Rubin said in her letter. That poor leadership has resulted in fund raising that falls far below the national average, something that is unacceptable in a county as wealthy as Montgomery County, said Rubin, who is vice president of Field and Emergency Services for the Humane Society of the United States.

Former board vice president Allan Cohen,

also of Potomac, resigned in March after his relationship with Crist grew sour over what Cohen described as a pattern whereby his questions about the shelter's operations and finances were repeatedly either unanswered or met with hostility.

"I feel that questions were not being addressed in a timely fashion that dealt with the fiduciary responsibilities that we as board members have," Cohen said. "I was asking questions about personnel, about the shelter, their fund-raising, and I felt that we

[had] a CEO ... who is also president of the board who I feel there is very little oversight for."

Crist held that dual role since 2005 but resigned the CEO title last month, though he continued to be the president of the board.

"This dual role I had has always been temporary," Crist said. "It's just too much for one person. That's always been our plan, that's been our plan for two years."

The turbulence on the board of directors has not gone unnoticed within the county. Stephen Dickstein was named the head of the Montgomery County Police's Animal Services Division, which works with the Humane Society out of the county's main rescue shelter in Rockville. He came to the post in May of this year and said that he is well aware of the situation on the board, and that such dissension is not uncommon among those who are passionate about animals.

"It doesn't take you long to look throughout the animal world to find turbulence," he said. "As people tend to be, they're very strong will in many instances and they have

differences of opinion."

Crist agreed.

"More so than I've ever experienced in my life," Crist said of the propensity for animal lovers to butt heads. "It's incredible."

The situation on the Humane Society's board has also drawn the attention Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett. In a recent interview Leggett said that the situation is being monitored.

"We're aware of some of it, we're looking into it," Leggett said. "It is disturbing to hear some of the questions and some of the leadership challenges that are there among some of the board members but it is something that I hope we can put behind us rather quickly and get back to the very serious job of protecting some of the more vulnerable animals in our community."

MARGARET ZANVILLE headed the Montgomery County Humane Society for 14 years before she stepped down in 2005. Before that she was a board member for seven years and a volunteer for several years before that. She has kept in touch with people at the shelter and from what she hears — much as Blizard, Cohen, Rubin contend — is that, there is little to no room for debate or disagreement with Crist.

"This is just, in my opinion of course, [but] it seems that anyone that disagrees with [Crist] is out the door," said Zanville.

Crist said that there is room for disagreement and healthy debate on the Humane Society's board, but that the recently departed board members had each become distractions to the board.

"It's important that we all have one vision and that's for the organization and the animals," said Crist. "Everybody has their responsibility as a director and some people were unable to fulfill those responsibilities or even to fulfill [them] in their committees."

"Everybody should have the opportunity [to object] and then it is really the role of the leadership of the board that everyone has the chance to express his or her opinions and they are listened and they are respected," said Outi Flynn, director of knowledge dissemination for Board Source, a national organization that provides guidance and direction to non-profit organizations. Persistent debate and conflict on a board begs the question of whether an organization has a clear, common focus, Flynn said.

"What you have, basically, is a split of the board," said Jo Ann Hoffman, a Humane Society board member. "The majority of the board thought that we should go in one direction and these people thought we should go into another direction."

Yet the questions that Blizard said drew SEE MCHC. PAGE 10

"There's no strategic plan, I mean where are we going? You have to have a plan for how you're going to raise money."

— Melissa Rubin, former Montgomery County Humane Society board member

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

New President for Rotary Club

The Rev. Anne Benefield was elected in early July as the next president of Rotary Club of Potomac for the year 2008-2009. Benefield is the pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church.

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary club members belonging to more than 32,000 Rotary clubs in nearly 170 countries.

As the president, Benefield plans to focus on local community projects and continue the club's involvement with providing clean, safe water in Togo, according to the organization. In her inaugural speech, Benefield said she plans to build on years of club success, and has also added some new goals. For the coming year she said she hoped to organize a blood drive and start tutoring projects in local schools. The immediate past president was Vijay Khetarpal, president and CEO of Integrity Financial Group.

The Rotary Club of Potomac meets every Wednesday at noon at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac.

County Guide to Services

The Community Outreach program of the county's Department of Transportation has published an updated version of its "Resident's Guide to Services." This brochure lists several services offered by the department.

For a free copy, call 240-777-7155 or send an email to: dpwt.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov. Bulk copies are also available for work places, civic associations, or organizations.

County Solar Car Derby

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, will hold a free 2008 Solar Car Derby for children ages eight through 14 on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.

At the derby, children will assemble and keep a working, solar powered model car and race their cars, weather permitting and will also learn about clean energy.

Program participants must register and be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is a Montgomery County resident. The program is limited to 22 students, and attendees must arrive promptly at 10 a.m. To participate, parents or guardians should contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-7700 or email askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov with the name of the participant, the parent or guardian's name, address and home phone number.

Forest Conservation Opening

The Forest Conservation Advisory Committee — a group of Montgomery County citizens that advises the County Council on matters pertaining to forest and tree preservation — has a vacancy that needs to be filled.

For information on applying, visit http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/exec/vacancies/pr_list.asp. The deadline for application is August 15.

Openings on Board of Appeals

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants for two positions on the county Board of Appeals. The term of Wendell Holloway will expire in September 2008. Holloway has indicated that he will apply for reappointment. Caryn Hines has resigned. Her term expires in September 2009.

The deadline for submitting applications has been extended and now will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 8.

By law, no more than three members of the board shall be from the same political party. These positions can be filled by a Democrat, a Republican, a voter who declines to affiliate with a party or someone who is a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections.

Holloway is a Democrat, as is the resigned Hines. Current mem

SEE WEEK IN POTOMAC, PAGE 7



From left, Rotary club president Anne Benefield, Potomac Rotary Club co-Citizen of the Year Alison Mahlman and Guy Semmes of the Rotary Club.

Potomac Rotary Honors Two

Alison Malmon and Betty Hall named Potomac Rotary Club's Citizens of the Year.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

Everyone has his or her own way of making a difference. For Alison Mahlman, it is preventing suicide in young adults; for Betty Hall it is giving elderly citizens a ride to the dentist.

Both women help others on an everyday basis and both women were recognized for their selflessness by the Potomac Rotary Club last week when they were named co-winners of the club's Citizen of the Year Award.

"These two women really characterized the Rotary Club's motto of service above self," said Rotary Club member Jim Vagonis in remarks during the awards ceremony on Wednesday, July 23.

Mahlman graduated from Winston Churchill High School in 1999 before attending the University of Pennsylvania. In 2002 her older brother Brian committed suicide, the culmination of a four-year period when he struggled with mental illness while being a high-achieving student, a noted thespian and budding journalist at Columbia University. Months before he was to finish his undergraduate degree, Brian Mahlman took a leave of absence and went into therapy after silently struggling for years with what was later diagnosed as schizophrenia and severe depression.

Brian Mahlman had been hearing voices since his freshman year of college but never sought help because he felt that somehow it was his fault and he felt ashamed, Alison Mahlman said. After months of treatment, the schizophrenic symptoms improved but the depression worsened when Brian Mahlman saw his friends graduating from college, his own sister progressing in her own studies and saw himself still living at home with his parents and he felt trapped, Alison Mahlman said. At the age of 22 he committed

suicide.

His death rocked the Mahlman family but it also inspired his sister to reach out to others like him. During her senior at the University of Pennsylvania, Mahlman founded a campus organization called Active Minds to reach out to those experiencing depression and mental illnesses on her campus to let them know they were not alone and to provide support and counseling services.

"Brian and I were very similar and I knew if I had been in his position I would have kept it quiet too; I would have felt ashamed [and] like it was my fault," Mahlman said. "I came from a great high school in Montgomery County, Md. and I don't remember ever hearing anything about mental health. Maybe I did, but either way it didn't stick out."

MENTAL HEALTH issues often arise in young adults during high school and college, "but as young adults you're never taught that there is help, that it's not your fault," Mahlman said. "I want other people to know they're not alone."

Mahlman continued her work with Active Minds after she graduated from college, eventually turning her group into a non-profit organization and a full-time job for herself. She has grown her group to chapters on 145 college campuses throughout North America and said that she hopes to be on 300 campuses by 2010.

Winning the Rotary Club's award was a nice

SEE ROTARY HONORS, PAGE 7

"[A]s young adults you're never taught that there is help, that it's not your fault. I want other people to know they're not alone."

— Alison Mahlman, founder of Active Minds

PHOTO FROM THE POTOMAC ROTARY CLUB

PETS OF THE WEEK



Pandora

Pandora is a female, 5-year-old, 60 pound, spayed Shepherd mix. Pandora has a cute black and white cow appearance and a cow's sweet disposition. She is also very curious like her Greek namesake and can get into unintentional mischief from it. Pandora loves to snuggle with people and will be a great forever pet.

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4PAW or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



Leo

Leo is a male, 4-month-old, neutered, DSH kitten. Leo and his brother were born to a stray mother and has quickly discovered he likes the life of a pampered house kitten. He loves human snuggling, play and following the foster's big cats around. Leo and his brother will make a cat lover feel very lucky with their affection.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

Adoption Workshop. International and domestic adoption information at The Barker Foundation, 7979 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, 1st floor. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Ages 21 and up. Free. Call 301-664-9664.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

Montgomery Hospice Drop-In Discussion About Grief And Healing, for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. 6:30 - 8 p.m. Hughes United Methodist Church, 10700 Georgia Ave., Wheaton. Free. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

Book-A-Librarian. Drop into the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, any Tuesday morning between 10 and 11 a.m. for individualized help with aspects of the library. Call 240-777-0970.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

DBSA (Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance National Capital Area) Family Support Group, will hold its

only August meeting at 7:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall of St. Raphael's Church at 1513 Dunster Road (Falls Road and Dunster Road) in Rockville. The meeting is for the families and friends of people who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar illness. Free. Call 301-299-4255 or 301-570-9065. Internet: www.dbsanca-family.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 9

THE HEALING POWER OF GRIEF workshop led by Montgomery Hospice staff. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Robert A. Pumphrey Funeral Homes, inc., 300 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville. Free. To register for this workshop call Pumphrey Funeral Homes at 301-652-2200.

SUNDAY/AUG. 10

Li-Ming Toastmaster will have meeting from 10:20 to 11:45 a.m. at County Council building (2nd floor conference room 2F, behind cafeteria) at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Contact 301-765-1090.

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PEOPLE



Flying in for the occasion, ex-New York Mayor David Dinkins sits with Margaret Lundy Dell during her birthday party. "I wouldn't miss this night for anything in the world," he said.



Celebrating their annual "Gaga" birthday get-together, Carole Dell, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, Mary Lou Dell and Margaret "Gaga" Dell at Hunter's Inn.

One Hundred Years of Attitude

On July 14, long-time Bethesda resident and native Washingtonian, Margaret Lundy Dell, entered her second century with typical joie de vivre. Her many friends testify that her attitude is the secret to her longevity.

To celebrate the occasion of her 100th birthday, over 150 people, spanning a century of friends and family, arrived from near and far to attend a party given by her son Donald and his wife Carole Dell and her daughter Mary Lou at the Dell's Potomac home.

The birthday bash lasted long into the night with Margaret Dell sitting in a gold brocade chair on the patio and greeting well wishers. A tuxedo-clad piano player enhanced the memories with her favor-

ite tunes.

Not many are still around from a childhood spent at John Eaton elementary school in Cleveland Park in Washington or at Western High School in the District, but those that were came to reminisce.

Some of the guests included: Ann Williams, who taught at the Lady Isabel School in the '50s with Margaret Dell; Pat Haley of the famed sports family from Bethesda with his wife Sue Mallet-Prevost; Ann Donatelli of Potomac with her husband Lou; the Rood's, Grace and Bob, bringing Flaps memories; Bootie Barton, wife of the late Landon coach, Ed Barton and her son, Ted; and the McNair tennis family, headed by Parveen.

After a lifetime of tennis-watching, be-

ginning with her sons, Margaret Dell's circle included a few well-known names in both sports and politics who also came to congratulate: Tracy Austin, with her husband Scott Holt; Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe arrived earlier in the week for lunch, former Redskin, Ray Schoenke, and his wife Nancy joined the celebration, while former Maryland delegate, Mark Shriver and his wife Jeanne stopped by and ex-mayor of New York, David Dinkins, Margaret's fantasy tennis partner, flew in to spend the evening.

Add that guest list to the many family members who arrived for a weekend of revelry, and the party was indeed worth a century of waiting. "It was a blast from the past," said Margaret Dell.



Margaret Lundy Dell is escorted to her birthday lunch by Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, wife of the late Arthur Ashe. She arrived from New York on her annual birthday visit to celebrate "the big one."

PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

Getting To Know ...

Jon Siegel

Potomac resident Jon Siegel recently traded in his job as a sportswriter for The Washington Times to start a new business running youth sports leagues. Siegel spent 11 years at the Times, where he was an award-winning writer. His new venture, i9 Sports, will hold its first league of flag football for boys and girls ages 4-14 at Robert Frost Middle School on Saturdays in the fall. Contact i9 Sports by calling 301-299-1039 or logging on to i9sports.com and going to i9 Sports of Central Montgomery.

Where did you get your education and in what areas?

I went to Northwood High School in Silver Spring and graduated from Tulane University with a degree in finance. I first was introduced to business growing up through my family's chain of shoe stores. The stores were named "The Bootlegger" and we had one in Montgomery Mall. At Tulane, I was sports director of the college radio station and called play-by-play for the football, basketball and baseball teams. My signature phrase when the bases were loaded since we were the Green Wave was "the bases are

filled with little green men." Yet, somehow I never made it to big leagues, though I did call play-by-play one summer for the Chicago Cubs rookie league in Huntington, W. Va. One future major leaguer journeyman pitcher, Amaury Telemaco, played for the Appalachian League club that summer.

How would you describe yourself?

Laid-back. Life should not be taken too seriously. It should be fun. I am opened-minded to new ideas and enjoy a challenge, like opening and growing a new youth sports business.

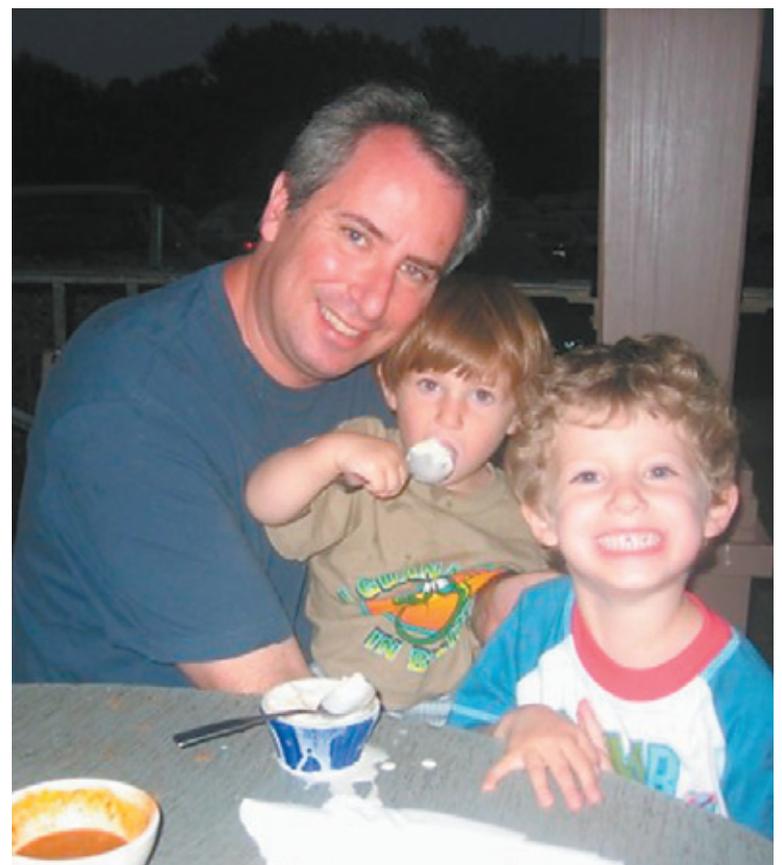
What do you consider to be your biggest achievements?

That's easy. My two children, sons Jesse (4) and Charlie (2). Professionally, it was winning the top sports writing award four consecutive years from the Society of Professional Journalists, Washington, D.C. chapter. Since I changed careers, I won't be able to defend my four-time title. Oh well, it will be a hollow victory for the next winner.

Activities/interests/hobbies?

Sports. I love Bethesda Big Train baseball. I play golf, but haven't lately. That's what children will do

SEE Q&A, PAGE 15



Siegel with his children Jesse and Charile.

NEWS

Honorees

FROM PAGE 4

personal honor, but the chance to get the word out about Active Minds was the real value of the day. Each year 1,100 college students die by suicide Mahlman said, and she wants students to know "you can get help, you can live a successful life."

"**THE THING** that I think is amazing about Betty is she just steps in to help people without any fanfare," said Anne Benefield, the president of the Potomac Rotary Club as she introduced the locally-oriented winner of the club's Citizen of the Year Award. Halls was out of town last week but was expected to formally accept her award at a Rotary Club meeting in August. That arrangement was made after Halls — in her true fashion, said Benefield — grew comfortable with the public recognition.

"I'll tell you when I told her that I nominated her she wasn't very happy," said Benefield. That is because Halls prefers to help others without drawing attention to herself, said Benefield. A longtime Potomac resident and member of Geneva Presbyterian Church, Halls helps others by doing the little things that tend to go unnoticed like volunteering for dirty jobs from running coffee hours to cleaning out the church's refrigerator.

A few years ago Halls moved to a retirement community in Gaithersburg and continued her helping ways from there.

Hall is "the one who takes people to appointments, takes people to the dentist, she does that sort of thing all the time," said Benefield. "She's that unsung hero that in many ways makes the world go round. They're the type of people who don't get any notice but always do the right thing."

THIS WEEK IN POTOMAC

FROM PAGE 4

Members of the Board include Chairman Allison Ishihara Fultz (Democrat); David K. Perdue (declined to affiliate) and Catherine Titus (Republican). Members of county boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time.

Letters expressing interest, including a resume listing professional and civic experience, should be addressed to Council President Michael J. Knapp, County Council Office, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., Sept. 8.



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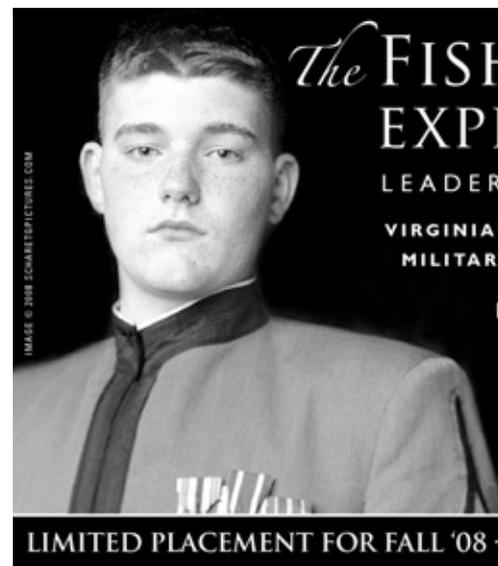
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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

HOW TO INTERVIEW A REALTOR

One of the most important decisions to be made in buying or selling a home is choosing a competent and hard-working Realtor who will represent your best interests throughout the transaction process. It's useful to know what questions to ask when looking for the right agent.

When interviewing a real estate professional, ask about what forms of marketing they use, and what kind of results they get from their advertising. Remember that you are hiring someone for a transaction involving a lot of your money. In addition, ask if they can supply you with local references from both buyers and sellers.

The Realtor-client relationship is built on trust, so explain what you want to achieve in the transaction, but don't stop there. Ask the Realtor to communicate what they understand about your goals, and listen carefully to see if they understand your needs. Successful Realtors sell homes because they really listen to their clients. Whether interviewing Realtors to assist with a sale, purchase, or both, remember this is going to be a "team" effort and that should be the feeling you get when the interview is complete.

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CALENDAR

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WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

Bethesda Outdoor Movies. Catch "An Inconvenient Truth" for free at Woodmont Triangle, corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenue in downtown Bethesda, 9 p.m. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Hot Squares. Join Hot Squares in the Olde Towne Tonight for an evening of traditional American square dancing and general all around merrymaking to live music in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, 8-10:30 p.m. No dance experience, lessons, or partner required. Admission: \$8. Contact Phone: 301-651-8971 or 410-268-0231.

Bethesda Outdoor Movies. Catch "Annie Hall" for free at Woodmont Triangle, corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenue in downtown Bethesda, 9 p.m. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

Baseball. Watch the CRSL Playoffs if necessary at Povich Field, 10600 Westlake Drive in Cabin John Regional Park, Bethesda, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 adults and \$3 for children. Call 301-983-1006 or visit www.bigtrain.org.

Fun in the Sun. Color a beach ball, create magic noodles and enjoy story time with finger puppets with Perfect Parties by Terry at Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

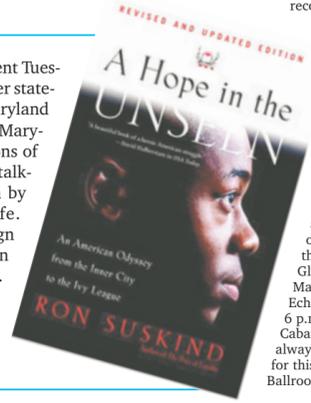
Breaking Dawn Event. A party celebrating the release of "Breaking Dawn" will be held at Barnes and Noble, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, 10 p.m. Call 301-986-1761.

Contra Dance. Contra dance is a type of folk dance for all ages. All dances feature top quality live music. Contra dances are held every Friday night at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, with a lesson at 7:30 p.m. and the dance from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Admission: \$9. Contact Email: info@fridaynightdance.org.

Bethesda Outdoor Movies. Catch "Hairspray" for free at Woodmont Triangle, corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenue in downtown Bethesda, 9 p.m. Call 301-215-6660

BOOKS

Montgomery College will host a special event Tuesday, Aug. 19, to celebrate Maryland's first-ever statewide community reading initiative, "One Maryland One Book." The initiative, developed by the Maryland Humanities Council, aims to get millions of Marylanders reading, thinking about and talking about "A Hope in the Unseen," written by Ron Suskind about Cedric Jennings' life. Jennings will share his personal story and sign books at 7 p.m., in the Theatre Arts Arena on Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. This event is free and open to the public. To learn more about the One Maryland One Book initiative, go to: www.mdhc.org/programs/one-maryland-one-book/.



or visit www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

Storytime. Kat Tales featuring Kat Aerobics will be at Barnes and Noble Book sellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda at 11 a.m. Call 301-986-1761.

Laugh Riot. Enjoy five local comics and have a chance to tell one's own jokes at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, 7400 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 8-10 p.m. Cost \$10. Call 301-657-1234.

Carousel Tours. Carousel tours start at 12 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, and give visitors a closer look at the 1921 Dentzel carousel. Find out how it was made, how it works, and about the rest of the amusement park attractions that were built around it. Visit www.nps.gov/glec.

Park Tour. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, tours begin at 2 p.m. and lead visitors through a walking tour of the Park to learn about its history and the current programs in arts, dance and children's activities. Admission is free. Tours begin at the visitor's desk in the Arcade Building. Visit www.nps.gov/glec.

Nature Program. Come visit Discovery Creek Children's Museum Forest Tales exhibition at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Spend time with the entire family while participating in engaging science and nature activities. In the former Glen Echo Park stable building, near the park entrance. Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free for members and children under 2, \$5 for nonmembers. Call 202-337-5111 to make arrangements or visit www.discoverycreek.org.

Climb Wall Weekend Nature Programs. Climb at Discovery Creek Children's Museum at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. View the Forest Tales exhibit, explore the trails that lead to the creek, and get creative with arts and crafts. *Activities are recommended for children ages 4-9. Free for members and children under 2, \$5 for non-members. Visit www.discoverycreek.org or by phone at 202-488-0627.

Swing Dance. The Washington Swing Dance Committee will Solomon Douglas Swingtet in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginning Swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission fee includes the lesson. To volunteer and get in free - email Derek at wsdsvolunteer@hotmail.com. Call 301-340-9732. Admission: \$12.

Poetry Workshop. Learn about the business of poetry and short story submission at The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda, 1-4

p.m. Ages 16 and up. Members, \$50; non-members, \$65. Call 301-654-8664.

English Conversation Club. Join in practicing and improving your spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, 3 p.m. Call 240-777-0690.

Bethesda Outdoor Movies. Catch "Mission Impossible" for free at Woodmont Triangle, corner of Norfolk and Auburn Avenue in downtown Bethesda, 9 p.m. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

Voices of the River. David Andrew Smith will perform at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal Historical Park, Cabin John, 2-3 p.m. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at chapin@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, x213, or go to www.potomac.org.



Carousel Tours. Carousel tours start at 12 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, and give visitors a closer look at the 1921 Dentzel carousel. Find out how it was made, how it works, and about the rest of the amusement park attractions that were built around it. Visit www.nps.gov/glec.

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Waltz Dance. Waltz Time presents a beginning waltz lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m., followed by an afternoon of waltzes and other couples dances in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. to the music of Cabaret Sauvignon. As always, no partner is required for this dance in the Spanish Ballroom, and the cost is \$8,

including lesson. Contact Email: info@waltzimedances.org.

Contra and Square Dance. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and other couple dances at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo in the Bumper Car Pavilion. All dances are taught, and no partner is necessary. The newcomers' welcome lesson is at 7 p.m., followed by called dances from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Admission: \$12 nonmembers/\$9 FSGW members. Web site: www.fsgw.org.

Sunday Blues. The Glen Echo Park Partnership presents a Blues Dance with music from the area's finest DJs in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The night will feature music selected by a group of local DJs playing a variety of styles including traditional and contemporary blues music, and classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues music. The dance portion of the evening goes from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. For dancers who want to learn more about slow blues dancing, Mike Marcotte and Donna Barker offer a blues lesson from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Admission: \$10 dance only/\$14 lesson & dance. Contact Email: dbarker@glenechopark.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 4

Storytime. Monday morning storytime at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, 11 a.m. Call 301-986-1761.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

Book Discussion. Chinese book discussion in Chinese language at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, 7 p.m. Ask for the book at the Circulation Desk. Call 240-777-0690.

Forensics 101. A hands-on forensic science program involving bugs, gardens and food at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, 7 p.m. Pre-register at 240-777-0690.

Storytime. Summer story time on the Summer Reading Club theme: "Catch the Reading Bug" at the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, 10:30 a.m. Stories, music, and DVDs. Call 240-777-0970.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

Concert. Willow Garden Theater presents afternoon concerts at Bethesda Gateway Building, 7201 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 12-2 p.m. Free. Call 301-352-5387.

Science Fun. The Maryland Science Center visits the Potomac Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, with "What's the Matter?" at 1 p.m. Chemistry with Fizz, Foam and Flash. Call 240-777-0970.



Concert. Dan Haas (Lounge/Pop) will perform at Bethesda Lane from 6-8 p.m. Located where Bethesda Avenue, Woodmont Avenue and Elm Street meet in Bethesda. Visit www.bethesdarow.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

First Thursday Festa. Enjoy Italian treats and activities at Bella Italia, 4844 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free. Call 301-654-2667.

FRIDAY/AUG. 8

Bethesda Art Walk. 12 galleries and



Solar Car Derby

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, will hold a free 2008 Solar Car Derby for children ages eight through 14, Saturday, Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring. At the derby, children will assemble and keep a working, solar-powered model car and race their cars, weather permitting. Students will also learn about clean energy.

Program participants must register and be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is a Montgomery County resident. The program is limited to 22 students, and attendees must arrive promptly at 10 a.m. To participate, parents or guardians should contact DEP at 240-777-7700 or email askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov with the name of the participant, the parent or guardian's name, address and home phone number.

studios open late. Downtown Bethesda, 6-9 p.m. Free. Call 301-215-6660.

Contra Dance. Contra dance is a type of folk dance for all ages. All dances feature top quality live music. Contra dances are held every Friday night at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, with a lesson at 7:30 p.m. and the dance from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Admission: \$9. Contact Email: info@fridaynightdance.org.

Community Movie Night. Admission is free. Free hot dogs and hamburgers served starting at 6 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m. All films rated PG or lower. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Check our website at www.northbethesdaumc.org to find out the evening's feature presentation. North Bethesda United Methodist Church is located at 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Church office: 301-530-4342.

SATURDAY/AUG. 9

Storytime. Kat Tales featuring Kat Aerobics will be at Barnes and Noble Book sellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda at 11 a.m. Call 301-986-1761.

Dragonfly Walk. Join Kevin Munroe as he takes participants on a journey along the C&O Canal towpath to explore the life of dragonfly and damselflies. Meet at the River Center at Lockhouse 8, C&O Canal National Historical Park, Cabin John, 12-2 p.m. Contact Potomac Conservancy's River Center Coordinator, Bridget Chapin, at chapin@potomac.org or 301-608-1188, x213, or go to www.potomac.org.

Laugh Riot. Enjoy five local comics and have a chance to tell one's own jokes at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, 7400 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, 8-10 p.m. Cost \$10. Call 301-657-1234.

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FINE ARTS

Last Chance

"Flight Fantasy" will be at The Dennis and Philip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, through July 30. Gallery hours are Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 12-4:30 p.m. Call 301-897-1518.

"Revolution of Love" A Collection of new works by Sarah Bieda. Artist Sarah Bieda, will introduce her most recent paintings of expressive psychological figures and intimate landscapes, at the **Yellow Barn Gallery**, at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, **Aug. 1-3**. The Gallery is open Friday through Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m. An opening reception will be held on August 1, from 5-7 p.m. in the Yellow Barn Gallery. Call 301- 371- 5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda, welcomes experimental fiber artist Deb Jansen from **through Aug. 2**. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 12-6 p.m. Call 301-951-9441.

Ongoing

"Sumi-E Society of America", East Asian brush paintings and calligraphy will be on display from **Aug. 1-23** at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free. Call 301-581-5200.

The Popcorn Gallery at Glen Echo Park presents an exhibition of artwork by students of all ages, created in classes at Glen Echo Park,

THEATER

"Little Red Riding Hood & The Three Little Pigs" will be presented by The Puppet Co., Glen Echo Park, Playhouse, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo through **Aug. 31**. Show times are Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Ages 3-15. Cost is \$8. Call 301-320-6668.

This summer, Montgomery College will bring "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" to the stage for its Summer Dinner Theatre performances, **Aug. 1-3**. Tickets for Summer Dinner Theatre are \$37 for adults and \$27 for children ages 12 and under. Prices include the performance and a full dinner buffet. At Friday and Saturday night performances, the doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with a show time of 8:15 p.m. On Sunday, the buffet will open at 12:30 p.m., with a 2:15 p.m. show time. All performances are held in the Theatre Arts Arena on the College's Rockville Campus, located at 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. To purchase tickets, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/sdt or call 240-567-7676.

"Babe, the Sheep Pig" will run **through Aug. 3** at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Playing time is approximately 1 hour. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Tickets \$12. Call 301-634-2270 or visit www.adventuretheatre.org.

Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn

Aug. 2 - Sept. 1. Includes painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, glass, sculpture, jewelry and more. Saturdays and Sundays from 12-6 p.m. Artists' reception, **Aug. 9**, from 3-5 p.m. Call 301-634-2222 or visit www.glenechopark.org. Admission is free.

Montgomery County Plein Air Artists are having a show at the Yellow Barn at Glen Echo on **Aug. 8, 9, 10, 12-5 p.m.**, Friday and Sunday and **12-7 p.m.** Saturday. Meet the Artists on Saturday at the reception from 5-7 p.m.

Teen artists are invited to participate in the **Rockville Library Teen Summer Art Show 2008** by submitting original pieces of art depicting what the process of metamorphosis means to them. "Metamorphosis is the theme for this year's Teen Summer Reading Program. The art may be in the form of a painting, sculpture, song, poem, etc. and must demonstrate the concept of metamorphosis. Entries must be submitted to the Rockville Library no later than **Aug. 11**. Selected entries will be displayed at the library beginning Aug. 21. Call 240-777-0170.

The Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts (VisArts at Rockville), 155 Gibbs St., Rockville, presents "**From Farm to Market**", **through Aug. 17**. This exhibit explores the impact food has on people's lives, revealing ways in which it influences relationships in how it is produced and how it is portrayed through a variety of art mediums. This summertime exhibition features work by local area artists who look to food as their sources and inspirations for their work. Visit www.VisArtsCenter.org.



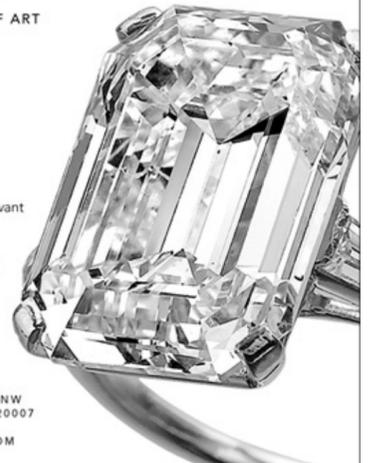
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Former MCHS Board Members Raise Concerns

FROM PAGE 3

the strongest backlashes were those that had to do with financial matters, and that, Flynn said, is not an acceptable way for a non-profit to operate.

"The full board absolutely should have and should request and should determine in which format they get regular financial reports. That is absolutely necessary, that is a key part of the fiduciary responsibilities [of board members]," said Flynn. "If in-

"Everybody should have the opportunity [to object] and then it is really the role of the leadership of the board that everyone has the chance to express his or her opinions and they are listened and they are respected."

— Outi Flynn, Board Source director of knowledge dissemination

formation is missing it is absolutely the chief executive's responsibility to provide what is needed to permit the board members to be good fiduciaries."

AFTER COHEN AND RUBIN left the Humane Society in March, Blizzard said that he stayed on because he thought he could have a greater impact from inside than from outside of the organization. After all, he had joined originally so that he could help with development. Yet Blizzard said that he encountered the same resistance that Cohen described when he asked for figures regarding development statistics; basic statistics like bulk mailing numbers, costs and returns took weeks to get and when he received them he was told they were preliminary and incomplete. When he pushed further, Blizzard said that his queries were met with indifference from other board members and hostility from Crist.

Financial statements for the Mont-

gomery County Humane Society indicate that between 2005 and 2007 the organization's cash and equivalent assets fell from roughly \$1.8 million to just over \$900,000 in 2007. Contributions have also dropped dramatically in the same time span — over 40 percent in three years — from just over \$235,390 to \$140,541. Yet the amount of money spent on fund-raising efforts during that time increased over \$60,000 — from \$120,471 in 2005 to \$184,568 in 2007.

Flynn declined to comment specifically on the Humane Society's numbers but said that generally speaking such downward financial trends are troubling.

"There may be some circumstances where that is completely normal but if it is not understood what is behind that decrease there is reason for concern," said Flynn. "That's exactly why you need, [why] the board needs regular financial reports to keep an eye on these issues."

"What we're guilty of the most is that we have saved more animals ... but you know what? It's putting us in a hole financially because we're spending it on vet bills," said Jo Ann Hoffman, a board member

since 2005 and the board's treasurer for the past year and a half.

That focus on animal care and adoption is the organization's primary concern, but Hoffman acknowledged that the makeup of the board needs to become more oriented towards fund-raising and financial development.

"Where we're really weak [is establishing] how we're going to help these funds with development," she said.

"There's no strategic plan, I mean where are we going?" Rubin said. "You have to have a plan for how you're going to raise money." That lack of direction from a developmental standpoint is the main reason why MCHS raises roughly \$1 per county resident, far below the national average of \$3.50, and a disturbing figure when the relative wealth of the county is considered, said Rubin.

Montgomery County Humane Society currently has no full-time director of development. Crist said that a woman who worked briefly for him last year in that position accomplished nothing and was dismissed. The post has since remained vacant

because of the budgetary constraints of his organization and the he is the de facto development director, said Crist. Periodic membership drives, a quarterly mailer and a variety of fund-raising events held throughout the year constitute much of the Humane Society's fundraising.

"We [also] use word of mouth and depend on the board, [and] use their social contacts as well as my own, to reach out to the community," Crist said.

That tack isn't enough, Rubin said. Like Blizzard, she said that she urged Crist to create a development plan.

"Before it got this financially bad, I kept saying that this is a business," Rubin said. "If you don't have any money you can't help anyone. You have to have a development plan ... and clearly there was none."

As Blizzard's concerns about the organization's finances increased, he asked more questions, which typically were not well-received, he said. Tensions grew until Blizzard refused to sign a new confidentiality and loyalty agreement presented to the board members, and Blizzard said that he was told he could no longer serve on the board if he did not, so he chose to resign.

"I left the room, I resigned, then I got home and I got an email about how I had been unanimously voted off the board," said Blizzard. "If their goal was to make me feel bad about my service I don't. I'm proud of the questions that I kept asking, there were so many red flags."

"I THINK THAT ALL of these people [involved] have at their heart the animals in mind, but this back and forth isn't helping the animals," said Hoffman.

Exactly what impact all of this has had on the animals is unclear. Since Crist took over leadership the group has boasted adoption and placement rates that are among the highest in the nation.

Zanville said that during her tenure placement rates hovered just above 70 percent. She believes that the reason for the sharp spike in adoption rates since Crist took over has less to do with any operational or program changes and more to do with terminology — by counting animals placed in non-permanent foster care situations and by broadening what the definition of an unadoptable animal, Zanville said that Crist has been able to make the statistics look better than they truly are. Zanville said that in a recent meeting with Crist, she told him

as much.

"I told him, his numbers are fuzzy," she said. "His adoption rate is no higher than it was when I was there."

According to figures provided by Crist, the shelter found homes for 2,801 of the 3,543 animals — roughly 79 percent — that it handled between July, 2007 and March, 2008; 587 of those animals were deemed unadoptable, however, meaning that 94.76 percent of the animals that were deemed adoptable were placed.

What makes an animal adoptable or not is debatable; Zanville and others have said that the shelter's definition is too narrow and Crist maintains that he makes the definition as broad as possible.

Crist stands firmly behind his adoption numbers, and he has resisted calls — particularly from Rubin — to adopt widely recognized adoption standards known as Asilomar Accords. Crist said that he is strongly opposed to the Asilomar Accords because they would actually restrict his ability to place animals. For example, Crist said, a cat over seven-years-old would be deemed unadoptable by the Asilomar standards, as would a dog over six-years-old.

Crist said that he prefers to define "adoptable" as broadly as possible and MCHS has specific programs designed to place elderly cats with elderly county residents, for instance.

"Other shelters, instead of having a 6-day or 7-day holding period ... they have a 24-hour holding period. That's just not the way we want to operate," Crist said.

Despite the lack of clear standards regarding what makes an animal adoptable or not, the number of animals that have been euthanized during Crist's tenure has dropped dramatically. According to Humane Society figures 1,039 animals were put down in fiscal year 2008, a decrease of over 30 percent from fiscal year 2005, the last year before Crist took over the shelter.

Zanville said that she doesn't doubt Crist's devotion to animals, but that she is concerned about the future of the organization under his stewardship, and that she would gladly take charge again on an interim basis but that may no longer be an issue if Crist indeed hires an executive director.

"I truly believe in what I'm doing and the difference we're making," said Crist. "We've made a lot of significant changes that will endure and now I want to put in a team that will continue to grow and be productive."

HEALTH NOTES

To have an item listed free in 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean VA 22102, e-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com, or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. If you have any questions, call Matthew Razak at 703-917-6457.

The Wellness Community - Greater Washington, D.C. is starting a free, monthly support group for people who have been newly **diagnosed with cancer** and their caregivers, **Aug. 6** from 5-6:30 p.m. Facilitated by a clinical social worker and oncology nurse,

this support group will provide participants with strategies to cope with a cancer diagnosis. Location: The Wellness Community- Greater Washington, DC, 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100. Call 301-493-5002 or twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org.

Teen Therapy Group. In this interactive therapy group, adolescent boys (ages 14-17) will use didactic and process-oriented strategies to develop and enhance skills for making and keeping friends, increasing self-esteem, improving social interactions, and managing negative feelings. Group meets on Mon-

days, **through Aug. 25**; 4:30-5:30 p.m. at JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville. Call 301-816-2633 to register.

The Wellness Community - Greater Washington, D.C. offers free, regularly scheduled support groups for people with cancer and their caregivers. Location: The Wellness Community- Greater Washington, D.C., 5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 100, Bethesda. Call 301-493-5002 or twcdc@thewellnesscommunity.org.

In recognition of Home Safety Month, the Montgomery County Department of

Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services is offering county residents **free reminder cards** with information on how to prevent falls in their homes. The "12 Ways to Prevent Falls" provides tips on how to decrease hazards in the home. In addition, this easy-to-post card provides ideas on how to lessen other risks for falling. To request a free "12 Ways to Prevent Falls," call the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services at 240-777-3000; TTY 240-777-4575.

The Greater Chesapeake and

Potomac (GC & P) Region asks all eligible whole blood donors to "Be the One We Count On" by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule a donation appointment right away. Blood supply levels are at a critical low. The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region of the American Red Cross is offering all blood program participants an exclusive "Be the One We Count On" T-shirt, as well as a chance to win \$100 worth of free gas in a weekly drawing. Information about Regional Blood Donor Centers or community blood drive locations and times can be found at www.myredcross.org.

FAITH

Following the Bodhi Path

Local Buddhist center is in seventh year of existence.

BY CHANDOS CULLEEN
THE ALMANAC

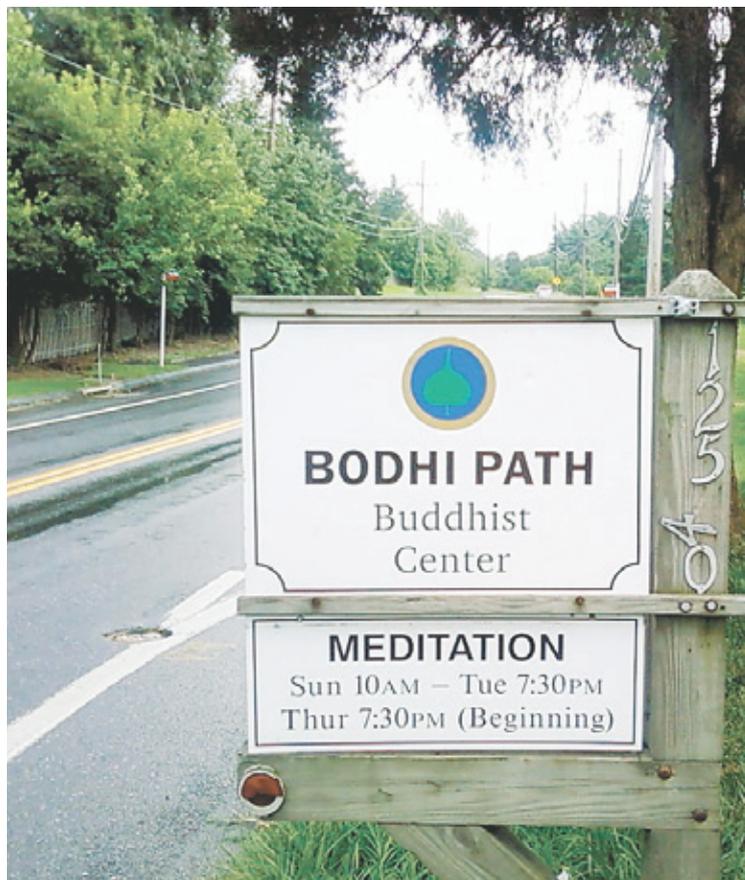
Tucked away off of Falls Road is the Bodhi Path Buddhist Center. Started in March of 2001, the Buddhist Center still remains mostly anonymous in a close-knit community, but this is the way its members wish it to remain. With over 500 students as members over the past seven years, the Buddhist Center has retained its character traits of reservedness and dignity while helping to spread the teachings of Buddhism to an ever-growing number of people.

The center is one of 10 Bodhi Path centers in the United States. These centers were founded by the ShaMar Rinpoche, the second highest leader in the Karma Kagyu Lineage, one of the four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism. The Karma Kagyu lineage also has monasteries and teaching centers in Europe as well as monasteries in Tibet and in other areas of Asia.

According to the Bodhi Path web site, Buddhist philosophy centers on teaching the subject to “question everyday assumptions” as well as pointing out “the limits of material experience and conceptual thought.” Buddhist philosophy also teaches about the “insubstantiality of ‘self’, the process of rebirth, the role of Karma (law of cause and effect due to a habitual pattern of thought and behavior), and the importance of generosity and compassion to all beings.” By realizing that “neither conceptual knowledge nor scientific inquiry can clarify our obscured view of ultimate reality” Buddhists turn to meditation, in the hopes of discovering the ultimate reality, also known as Buddha Nature or the enlightened state. The Bodhi Path centers teach basic meditation practices that “lead first to glimpses of ultimate reality and later to stability of this experience.”

According to Neeraj Khatri Chettri, the ShaMar's secretary and an involved leader of the Potomac Bodhi Path center, ShaMar Rinpoche believes that the West, with its generally high levels of education and wealth, should be particularly receptive to the teachings of Buddhism, in particular meditation. However, in the West, “Buddhism is so new,” said Chettri, “so we have people coming and going” at the Bodhi Path center. Acknowledging that those who attend the Bodhi Path centers will be mainly neophytes, the Bodhi Path centers work to teach Buddhism in the cultural context of the students.

SINCE ITS OFFICIAL opening in March of 2001, the Falls Road Bodhi Path center has evolved from a small group meeting place with few qualified teachers to a thriving center of learning run by a committee of long-tenured students. Despite its growth, the



The sign outside of the Bodhi Path center on Falls Road

PHOTO BY CHANDOS CULLEEN / THE ALMANAC

Falls Road center has found it hard to become as involved in the community as it would like. Since it is the only Bodhi Path center in the area, its members come from a multitude of communities, making it hard for members to attend all events. Further, it is hard to focus interest on one specific community with students coming from so many different areas.

Chettri said that the Bodhi Path center has encountered mixed reactions from the community. While many people have expressed interest in Buddhism and the teachings at Bodhi Path, others have been less than kind. The Falls Road center sometimes hosts meditation and yoga activities on its private lawn, which is surrounded by woods. Since receiving complaints about their morning sessions from a neighbor, Chettri says that the center has been concerned about unknowingly offending others.

HOWEVER, in keeping with Buddhist teachings, the center's teachers are believers in Karma. They stress that they understand the concerns of their neighbors and do their best to address their beliefs and desires. The center hope its actions will be returned in kind. The center uses what it describes as a non-aggressive approach to recruiting members and opens all of its events to the public. According to Chettri, the center has hosted over a hundred people when lamas come to speak. Even visits by the founder, ShaMar Rinpoche have been open to all, and attract particularly large crowds.

Anonymous though it might be, the center is happy with its progress over the last seven years. Chettri points out that Buddhism has hundreds of years of tradition and history in the East, while in the West, Buddhism is a relatively new phenomenon. The Bodhi path centers work to introduce people who may know nothing about Buddhism to Buddhism in a way that everyone can participate in.

More

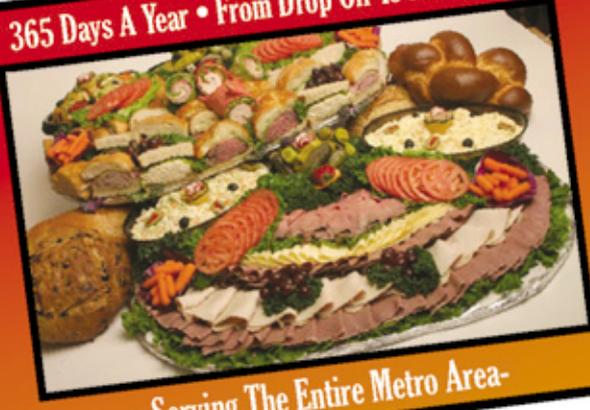
To learn more, visit www.bodhipath.org or e-mail potomaccenter@bodhipath.org to receive information and announcements.



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703-917-6475 or E-Mail the info to Klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Tues at 10 am.

COMMUNITY



Vistors from Israel

U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D) meets with children from S'derot, who are being hosted by Chabad of Upper Montgomery County and are attending Camp Gan Israel day camp of North Potomac. The children are visiting the community so that they can have a summer vacation free from the terror of daily rocket fire in their community in Israel.

LETTER

Raising \$250,000

To the Editor:

A heartfelt thanks to all of the community groups, businesses and corporations who lent their support to help make the 8th annual Autism Speaks Run/Walk on July 4 in Potomac Village an enormous success. The event broke the record books this year raising more than \$250,000 for autism research and an additional \$25,000 in in-kind support. Close to 3,000 participants, 80 volunteers, and several hundred spectators helped to make this 5K the most successful to date. We are so grateful to the many individual and family supporters. This year, 103 teams participated and helped us raise over \$130,000. Will Lash Dream Team, Team Bryan and Shant's Striders combined to raise more than \$38,000.

A special thanks to U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, Del. Jeff Waldstreicher and Chief Meteorologist for 9 NEWS NOW Topper Shutt for taking time out of their holiday schedule to attend the event. Their commitment to the race and quest for the cure is truly remarkable. Three additional individuals deserve recognition for all that they do to continue to support this community event over the years. They are

Adam Greenberg from Potomac Pizza and Potomac Village Deli, Steve Berstein of BOWA Builders and Ben Landers from Drink More Water. It is because we can depend on people like this that we have been able to grow this event. We would also like to thank the Potomac Giant, Safeway and Whole Foods for their generosity. So many of the national franchises in our area no longer participate in community events so we are especially grateful to the local businesses that support this event and continue to give back to the many causes that affect our community.

This year, our presenting sponsor was Abe Networks. We thank Avi Benaim for his tremendous generosity to the cause and support of this event. Additional supporters included the following: Acqua Nails, Art & Chemistry, Austin Grill, BagelTowne Deli, Ballroom Balloons.com, Belina, Bonafish Grille, Booktopia, BOWA Builders, B-Scene, Cabin John Fire Department, Café Deluxe, Carnival Day, Certified Electrical Technologies, Chicken Out - Do Good Foundation, CiCi's Pizza, Cloud 9, Colella Photography, COMCAST, Connection Newspapers, Design at Large, Dr. Amy Light, Drinkmore Water, DuFour & Orens, Ellie Pissarra Cain, Emily Grace, Euromotor Cars, EZGSA, Family

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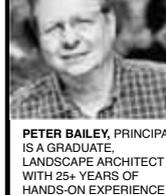
Autism continues to affect 1:150 children. The numbers are staggering and indicate that we have a national epidemic. Next year we will come together on Saturday July 4 for the 9th annual Autism Speaks Run/Walk. With this event, we will aim to raise \$300,000 but we can only do it with your help.

As a community, your proactive partnership for this cause has been awe-inspiring. This level of community support proves that we can — together — continue to do our part to make the dream of curing autism a reality.

See you at the starting line in 09'.

Susan Pereles & Barbara Guterman
Co- Race Directors

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Workers of the Home, Unite

County Council passes law requiring written contracts between employers and domestic workers.

BY JAMES GISCHE
THE ALMANAC

On July 22, one week after the County Council approved it unanimously, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett signed into law a bill saying employers of domestic workers must negotiate and sign a written contract with their employees governing various terms of the job, including hours, wages, duties, and other conditions. The measure, which County Councilmembers George Leventhal and Marc Elrich first proposed, allows domestic workers to file a complaint with the county's Office of Consumer Protection if their employer does not offer them a contract. Additionally, the law requires employers of live-in workers to provide their employees with a bedroom and access to a kitchen, bathroom, and laundry.

THE ACT does not apply in all cases. It only includes employees working at least 20 hours per week for over 30 days and will not affect registered nurses, au pairs, and companions to the elderly or disabled. The latter provision, supported by the county's Commission on Aging because the law would have caused senior citizens unnecessary anxiety, came from Council Vice President Phil Andrew's amendment. Councilmembers Leventhal and Elrich opposed the modification because, according to Elrich, older people would benefit from a set contract with their domestic workers.

Councilmember Roger Berliner, who represents Potomac, added an amendment requiring both the employer and the domestic worker to sign the contract, instead of just the employer, as the bill originally stated. The change also provided the alternative of a disclosure statement acknowledging that the employee declined a written contract. He noted that based on anecdotal evidence, Potomac tends to have fewer cases of abuse of domestic workers, and he wanted to accommodate employers and employees who "prefer a pre-existing informal arrangement because they are very satisfied with it." Despite the possibility that exploitative employers may use a disclosure statement as a loophole to continue abusing their domestic workers, Berliner said that county lawyers assured him that the amendment would strengthen the law.

ALTHOUGH THE MEASURE does not go into effect until Jan. 18, 2009, some residents are already figuring out how to com-



Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, surrounded by supporters, signs into law a bill requiring written contracts for domestics on July 22.

ply with the regulations. "We have been asked several times if our sample work agreement as published at our Web site is sufficient to meet the requirements of the Montgomery County law," said Kathleen Webb, co-founder of Sterling, Va.-based HomeWork Solutions Inc., which provides nanny payroll and tax compliance services. She added that she will not know the answer until the county publishes further guidelines and information about the contracts.

The Office of Consumer Protection will publish a sample contract for both live-in and live-out workers sometime in the next few months and operate an outreach campaign to inform citizens about what they need to do to comply with the law, said Eric Friedman, the agency's director. The latter step is critical: the law's effectiveness will "largely depend on how the word gets out" to the relevant parties, Webb said.

Enforcement of the law will be "primarily complaint-driven," Friedman said. The Office of Consumer Protection's initial response to grievances will be to "try to obtain compliance by working with the employer," but the law does authorize the bureau to issue fines of up to \$1,000.

"I firmly believe, after 15 years in the industry, that a well written work agreement is a necessary foundation for a successful relationship between the hiring family and the nanny or housekeeper," said Webb.

Stephanie Hecht, a Potomac resident who operates household staffing-placement business Helping Hands, agreed: "I think it's

great that they have that law," she said, adding, "I have seen nannies taken advantage of."

A 2006 STUDY of domestic workers, which the County Council Committee on Health and Human Services sponsored, acted as a catalyst for the law's passing. The report discovered that these employees often earn less than minimum wage, do not receive overtime pay, and lack legal agreements with their employers. Accordingly, the council wanted "to ensure that domestic workers in the County receive the legal protections they are entitled to under State law, as well as the right to a written contract governing the terms and conditions of employment."

The law culminated a four-year effort from the Committee of Women Seeking Justice, an association of nearly 100 domestic workers led by a core of about 25 active members. The women came together after they "noticed that they suffered the same common abuses," said Alexis DeSimone, an attorney with the immigrants' rights organization CASA de Maryland, which worked closely with the women. Committee members visit parks, shopping centers, malls, and other areas to distribute flyers informing domestic workers of their rights and to recruit new members, according to Francisca Perez, one of the group's leaders with domestic worker experience.

The women's alliance with CASA de Maryland is a good fit: "immigrant workers are particularly vulnerable, especially with lan-

guage and cultural barriers," according to Webb. However, DeSimone noted that a domestic workers' labor rights are completely independent of any immigration issues. More than 30 other local groups supported the legislation.

According to DeSimone, their original and eventual goal is to create a comprehensive bill of rights for domestic workers regulating pay, hours, time off, and other aspects of the job. However, according to Councilmember Elrich, this sort of law is essentially politically unfeasible and would have to apply to all low-wage employees for it to happen. Furthermore, the council's 2006 study warns that such regulations could backfire: "A misapplication of legislative force may trigger detrimental consequences for domestic workers" if red tape complicates once-informal hiring procedures.

Nevertheless, Jessica Salisbury, another attorney with CASA de Maryland, described the law as an "important step in that direction" and said that her organization was "really pleased with how the bill turned out."

Perez agreed, saying through DeSimone's translation, "I think this is going to be very helpful in our outreach efforts."

"A well written work agreement is a necessary foundation for a successful relationship."

— Kathleen Webb,
Co-founder,
HomeWork Solutions Inc.

DeSimone concurred, but noted that the law "doesn't mean that our work ends here." She added that one current mission is to prevent foreign employers from using diplomatic immunity in abuse cases.

Antonia Pena, vice president of the Committee for Women Seeking Justice, said that she once had to work 12 to 14 hours, six days a week with a diplomat family in Potomac. "We are very thankful and proud that we were heard," she said as DeSimone translated. The law's passing shows "you can achieve great things when you work hard and organize," she added.

PHOTO FROM CASA DE MARYLAND

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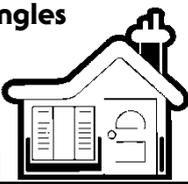
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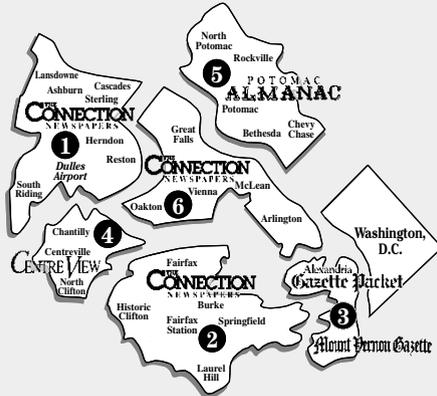
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NEWS

Girl Died After Struck by SUV

Death of child last month ruled
accidental, teenager who was
driving will not face charges.

The death of a three-year-old Gaithersburg girl on River Road in Potomac last month has been ruled an accidental vehicular death and the teenage driver of the car involved will not face criminal charges, according to police.

Jasmine Afolabi was killed after the teenager, a Potomac resident, gave Afolabi's mother and her two children a ride after their car broke down. The driver dropped the family off at the intersection of River Road and Spur Wheel Lane, then, as he made a u-turn to head back down River Road, he unknowingly struck Jasmine Afolabi with the front end of his 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer sport utility vehicle, according to police. Afolabi was knocked to the ground and in the fall she struck her head, suffering what would ultimately become a fatal head injury. According to police her mother did not witness her being knocked down and did not immediately realize the severity of her daughter's injuries.

An autopsy conducted by the Baltimore County Medical Examiner's Office revealed last week that the death of three-year-old Jasmine Afolabi on River Road was likely the cause of being struck by a motor vehicle.

A coroner has four options of classification when determining the cause of death — homicide, suicide, accidental or undetermined — and in this case the nature was determined to be accidental, according to Lucille Bauer, a spokesperson for the Montgomery County Police Department.

That determination "does not mean, however, that someone

could not be charged in relation to the death," Bauer said last week.

However, police announced on Friday, July 25 that the teenager involved came forward willingly when police sought information from anyone who may have given the family a ride. After police consulted with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office the determination was made that the driver would not face charges.

Afolabi was killed on the evening of June 26 after the car that she and her mother and older brother were traveling in broke down on River Road north of Potomac Village. The family was given a ride to the Potomac BP in Potomac Village around 10 p.m., where the mother's behavior concerned employees enough to call the police; when police arrived a short time later the family was gone. Just after 11 p.m. Afolabi's mother carried her into the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department Station #30 on River Road; Afolabi was unresponsive at that point and was pronounced dead after she was transported to a local hospital.

Despite six ongoing investigations by the Collision Reconstruction Unit — an unusually high number, according to Bauer — police were able to solve the case in one month.

"It is simply coincidence that we have had this number of collisions in this time period, but it is unusual," said Bauer. Afolabi's investigation was initially delayed because it began as a joint investigation with the Major Crimes Unit for almost a full week before the focus of the investigation shifted to a vehicular nature.

— AARON STERN

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21 Announcements

26 Antiques

29 Misc. for Sale

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MILITARY NOTES

Air Force Reserve Airman Moses A. Ross has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Wellmon and

Ranjana Ross of Tuckerman Lane, Potomac.

Ross is a 2007 graduate of Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda.

Q&A with Jon Siegel

FROM PAGE 6

for you. Like to visit lighthouses. There is something romantic and mysterious about a beacon of light in the night. There is nothing better than goofing around with my kids, hearing them laugh and seeing those little light bulbs in their heads go on.

Favorite local restaurant or place in the community?

Ledo's. I grew up just down the street from the original on University Boulevard in Adelphi. My mouth waters thinking about their savory sauce. I considered getting a franchise, but they were already all over the place.

Who is a historical figure you would like to meet?

Abraham Lincoln. I would like to talk to him about the Civil War and also ask him about that hat.

What community "hidden treasure" do you think more people should know about?

Great Falls. It is such a beautiful area and fun to walk around in. Another "hidden treasure" is i9 Sports, but we are hoping to change the "hidden" part.

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you "grew up?"

A professional basketball player. Maryland's John Lucas was my idol. If only I was a foot taller, much quicker and had a lot more athleticism ... I would play pick-up ball until it got dark. I would dream of making the winning shot for my beloved Terps. I sort of realized that goal when I covered Maryland winning the national title in Atlanta and was on the basketball floor talking with players as the sound system played "One Shining Moment." I will take that.

What are some of your personal goals?

Run a successful business, enjoy life, travel and teach my kids to work hard, be polite and respectful and chase their dreams.

Favorite movie or book?

"From Beirut to Jerusalem" — a fascinating book by local resident Thomas Friedman on the differing mindsets and outlook towards life in the bordering Middle East countries.

Describe how you would most enjoy spending a single day?

Eating a late breakfast — I could eat breakfast every meal of the day — going to the park with my kids and wife Candice and relaxing at night with a dinner of soft-shell crabs. Pass the Old Bay. Top it off with some ice cream. Hmmm, this makes me sound really simple.

If you could be anyone else, who would you be and why?

I would be Larry Bird. Man, I would kill

to be able to shoot and pass like he did. I wouldn't want to live in Indiana though, nor necessarily look like him.

Do you have a favorite quotation?

"Carpe Diem" and "It's not how many times you get knocked down; it's how many times you get back up."

Why did you start i9 Sports?

I was looking for change after 11 years as a sportswriter for The Washington Times and wanted start my own business. I regularly take my kids to soccer, basketball, T-ball and gym class and felt working in children sports would be a perfect fit. I like to teach, coach and run a business. Hopefully, I hit the trifecta. I also feel too many people take recreational sports too seriously, and hopefully, I can help change that culture just a little.

What does the i9 stand for?

Now, you're making me work. It stands for the nine i's the youth sports organization was founded on. Every day we strive to be more: imaginative, innovative, interactive, integrity-driven, impassioned, inspirational, instructional, insightful and inclusive than yesterday. Is that nine? Yes. And, yes. I had to look it up. Don't ask me to repeat them. We aim to provide a wholesome sports experience that kids will learn from and have fun doing regardless of their abilities.

What does i9 sports offer that is different from other area sport's leagues?

We are the league for kids who want to have fun and learn a few things. We teach the right way to play, with respect and team work, and pass on some basic skills while having fun. Our goal is not to mold professional athletes, but allow kids to enjoy themselves. Kids and parents work hard all week. On the weekend, it is time to have fun and get some exercise, not get all worked up and upset about a game. We are not focused on winning or losing. Instead, we are about the process. Everyone plays at least a half regardless of size or ability and everyone will try every position — including quarterback — during the season. We give awards for sportsmanship to a player on each team each week for someone who exemplifies the skill of the week (for instance, listening) as well as trophies to our champions at the end of the season.

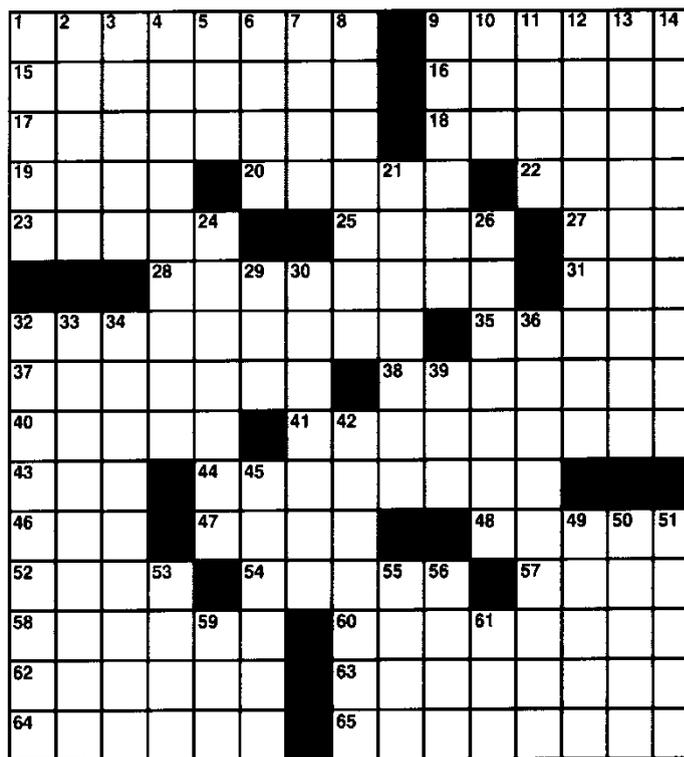
What is your favorite sport? Why?

Basketball. I was raised on the culture of Maryland basketball and always played it on the schoolyard. I would lose myself in the game and the hours would just fly by. And I love to shoot. Just ask anyone I have played with. Which reminds me; i9 Sports will have youth basketball in Rockville this winter. Check us out at i9sports.com or call 301-299-1039. If you think your child is the next Michael Jordan, you might want to look elsewhere. If your kid just wants to have fun, i9 Sports might be the perfect fit.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0320-5



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

ACROSS

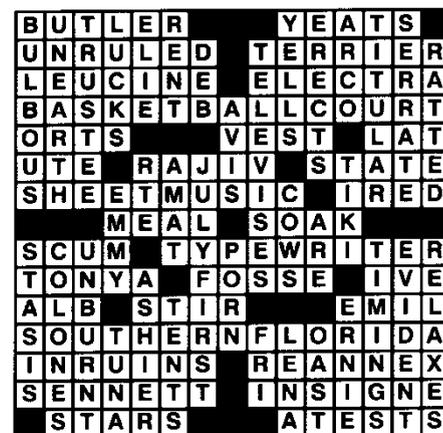
- 1 Best-selling novel set in ancient Rome
- 9 Like salon customers
- 15 Rigor
- 16 When surfing is possible?
- 17 Béarnaise ingredient
- 18 Computing timesavers
- 19 Germs might grow in it
- 20 Catchall reason for failure
- 22 Quartermaster's post
- 23 Overhaul
- 25 Ward heelers
- 27 —Pitch
- 28 Cat's covering
- 31 Sequel tag
- 32 Leaner
- 35 The Osmonds' birthplace
- 37 Philosopher
- 38 Gary's "Desire" co-star
- 40 Scouting outing
- 41 David and others
- 43 Telegraph ender
- 44 Word after family or detail
- 46 Subject of psych. experiments
- 47 Uses a shuttle
- 48 Homme — (French V.I.P.)
- 52 Letters for nine-to-fivers
- 54 The "Little Ol' Band From Texas"
- 57 Quince, e.g.
- 58 Pied
- 60 Heathen of sorts
- 62 Key of Beethoven's Seventh
- 63 Gay old time
- 64 Accouters anew
- 65 1945 Cahn/Styne tune

DOWN

- 1 Where to spend dirhams
- 2 Meter reader's concern
- 3 Sofia's portrayer in "The Color Purple"
- 4 First European to enter New York Bay
- 5 Southern Hemisphere constellation
- 6 Pad
- 7 Pour —
- 8 Neurotransmission site
- 9 Some clouds
- 10 W.W. II agcy.
- 11 It's a sensation
- 12 Chat sites
- 13 11-Down application
- 14 "State Fair" setting
- 21 Kind of bobsled
- 24 Option for the present
- 26 Charged
- 29 Inseparable

- 30 German battleship sunk in 1944
- 32 Source of much bell-ringing
- 33 Kings' milieu
- 34 Alternative to a baked potato
- 36 Aircraft's approach
- 39 Aircraft abbr.
- 42 39-line verse
- 45 They may be straight
- 49 Fields of comedy
- 50 Bahraini bigwig: Var.
- 51 Not windy
- 53 Land in which men wear skirts called sulus
- 55 One-eyed overlord
- 56 Pay (up)
- 59 Rollaway relative
- 61 1950's All-Star Burdette

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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