

# Potomac ALMANAC

## Hoops Season Under Way

SPORTS, PAGE 8

### Kickboxer's Story of Triumph

NEWS, PAGE 3

### EagleBank Opens Branch

NEWS, PAGE 2

Sarafina Arthur-Williams is averaging more than 10 rebounds per game for the Churchill girls basketball team.

### Battling Leghold Traps

NEWS, PAGE 3

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CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE / THE ALMANAC

# EagleBank Opens Branch in Park Potomac

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

“We’re getting back to banking the way it used to be.” Those words, from Linda Dawkins, vice president and relationship manager of the new EagleBank branch at Park Potomac, explain the philosophy of this community bank. “We are all about building relationships by knowing our customers well. Each new client is paired with a team of bank personnel who will make a special effort to know them and their needs. Then, if one of us is not available, the client will always have a contact and immediate answers to their questions. When a customer comes to us with a problem which does not have a specified answer, we work to come up with a new solution. We want to know our clients well enough to make recommendations to them based on their lifestyles as well as their wants and needs. We want them to know who their banker is.”

EagleBank opened a new branch in Park Potomac on Nov. 2. The

mural of an eagle on the rotunda welcomes customers. Most of the staff has been with EagleBank since it first opened. Although the economy has been difficult, EagleBank continued to grow this past year. In 2008, they merged with Fidelity & Trust Financial Corporation which increased the size of their customer and business base. They also added a new banking unit, International Banking, which specializes in services to Embassies and related foreign entities. EagleBank offers a full range of financial services.

Banking has changed radically in the past 10 years. Clients have become adept at using ATM’s and on-line banking, which removes the personal aspect to banking. Many times, customers never enter the bank and the bank officials have no face to put with a name. Banks have merged and, at times, the bank that one started with is no longer in business, having been acquired by a larger bank. Deregulation in 1999 permitted other financial institutions to compete with banks by offering many of the same services (checking and sav-



The mural of an eagle fills the rotunda.



Linda Dawkins, vice president and relationship manager of the new EagleBank branch at Park Potomac.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

ings accounts, mortgages and loans).

Founded in 1997, just prior to deregulation, EagleBank did not allow the deregulation to affect their mission. They are committed to changing the anonymous client

to one who is a colleague and friend. “We are also committed to the community,” said Dawkins. “Unlike larger banks with headquarters in far-away states, EagleBank encourages employees to actively volunteer within Mont-

gomery County. The Eagle Bank Foundation Fight Breast Cancer Golf Classic raised \$112,000, which was donated to local hospitals. The Rockville Scholarship Foundation partners with the City

SEE EAGLEBANK, PAGE 11

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## TLC Initiative Battles Leghold Traps

Group reaffirms commitment to get its bill passed.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**O**n Christmas Day, 2001, a kitten was thrown away — dropped into oncoming traffic on Route 107 in front of Poolesville Elementary School. Taylor Higley, Lynn and Craig Dietz, and Ellie Trueman heard the kitten's terrified meows. They followed the horrific cries to the storm drain. Courageous yet frightened, Trueman crawled down into the storm drain to rescue the trembling kitten. She adopted her and named her TLC, in honor of Taylor, Lynn and Craig. Unfortunately, TLC disappeared in 2005. Soon after her disappearance, while running her dogs, Trueman discovered that leg-hold traps for animals were being installed just a few feet from her fence at the farm next door to her Dickenson residence.

Leg-hold and body gripping traps consist of two jaws, springs and a trigger in the middle of a round pan. The lure attracts the animal and the jaws tightly close around the legs or the body of the animal, holding the animal in place, causing crippling, damage to the soft tissue, broken bones and cut tendons and ligaments. The wiggling animal may further aggravate their injuries and, in their effort to escape, may even chew off a limb caught in a trap. When the trapper finds his prey, he often kills the animal with a club in order to keep from being bitten and to take his pelt or the meat.

In honor and memory of the kitten TLC, the TLC Initiative (Trapping Legalizes Cruelty) was formed to get legislation passed to end the use of leg-hold and body-grip-



PHOTO BY PAT MICHAELS

**From left to right: Anne Davies - The TLC Initiative, Del. Craig Rice, Del. Brian Feldman, Sen. Mike Lenett, Ellie Trueman - The TLC Initiative, Del. Tom Hucker, Megan Draheim - Project Coyote, Tami Santelli - The Humane Society of the United States, and Cindy Eeg - for Peter Eeg D.V.M. Not shown: Sen. Jamie Raskin and Michael Tabor.**

ping traps in Montgomery County. Founded by Trueman and Laura Van Etten of Dickenson and Anne Davies of Boyds, the TLC Initiative members spent at least two days a week in Annapolis lobbying the Maryland General Assembly to pass their bill - MC 922-09 - Steel Jaw Leg-hold or Body-Gripping Traps - Prohibition.

"The traps are indiscriminate and many times they catch stray animals, family pets and endangered species," Trueman said. "This practice is absolutely counterpoint to Maryland's Cruelty to Animals Laws." Trappers claim these animals are released unharmed and that new types of traps do not harm these animals. Many county farmers feel that the traps are necessary to protect their livestock from foxes and coyotes. According to the Humane Society of the

United States, more than 90 countries have banned the use of these traps as well as the states of Florida, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts and Washington have approved statewide ballot measures to severely restrict leg-hold traps and all body-gripping traps.

Trueman, Davies and Van Etten thought that the bill would pass easily. However, the three northern Montgomery County residents were shocked that the NRA and Farm Bureau would not support their initiative. These groups wielded their influence over a few MC legislators to vote against the bill. The bill did pass the Montgomery County House Delegation by 21-3. The House mem-

SEE FIGHTING TRAPS, PAGE 11

### TLC Honorees

The first annual TLC Initiative Awards were presented to nine Honorees at the Potomac Community Center on Dec. 7. The 2009 TLC Initiative Leadership Award was given to Del. Brian J. Feldman who not only sponsored House Bill 831 to ban trapping in Montgomery County, but championed it through committees, hearing and debates. The other 2009 TLC Initiative Award Recipients were Megan Draheim, Peter H Eeg, DVM, Delegate Tom Hucker, Sen. Michael Lenett, Sen. Jamie Raskin, Del. Craig L. Rice, Tami Santelli and Michael Tabor. At the award ceremony, The TLC Initiative reconfirmed its commitment to get this legislation passed whether it takes two years or 20 years.

## Retired World Champion Takes Another Swing

Marco Sies writes personal story of success.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE  
THE ALMANAC

**M**arco "Babyface" Sies remembers the first time he heard an American crowd cheering his name. It was his first fight in the country — long before he won seven world kickboxing championships — and the boy from Santiago had been set up to lose. Although Sies only made it through three rounds that night, he says it is one that helped distinguish his career.

To the man who later retired from kickboxing because he ran out of willing opponents, Sies believes losing is critical to winning. The North Potomac resident begins his recently published book with this inverted story of triumph, and goes on to share his personal climb to glory in "The

Master Method: 4 Steps to Success, Prosperity and Inner Peace."

Sies left the world of professional kickboxing in 2005 and conducted seminars in motivational speaking. He says he wanted to share his philosophy with the world.

"Every experience that comes your way — good or bad — serves a purpose," said Sies.

His book alludes to the experiences that drove Sies to become the best kickboxer in the world. He began martial arts training at the age of five, and came from a long line of competitors. But Sies also had his share of hardships. He says the stories of poverty and homelessness are ones he hasn't chosen to share before, believing it would tarnish his image as a champion.

**AT 21**, Sies left his home in Chile for the dream of a better life in the U.S. He knew he couldn't reach the highest level

SEE HIS STORY OF TRIUMPH, PAGE 11



**Marco Sies signs his new book, "The Master Method," at his Kicks Karate venue on Travilah Road. The former seven-time world champion kickboxer says he wants to share his formula for success with others, having overcome poverty and homelessness.**

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# POTOMAC ALMANAC

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# LETTERS

## Expand Student Board Role

To the Editor:

The following letter was addressed to the Montgomery County delegation.

Please support the expanded right of the Student Member of the Board of Education to full voting rights (except negative personnel).

Recently, the Montgomery County Board of Education on Nov. 10 voted 7-1 to support Tim Hwang's (the current SMOB) motion to expand the Student Member's vote in their 2010 Legislative Platform. Student Members have been fighting to gain this right for decades, and this was a historic step into the furthering of student advocacy in MCPS. Please vote to support MC 12-10.

Maryland is famous for its commitment to student advocacy on local Boards of Education. It is time for Montgomery County to lead the way for the next generation and send a strong message that the 142,000 students of Montgomery County are truly represented and valued.

❖ Support the Board of Education and their role in the educational process.

❖ The student member is experienced, responsible, and knowledgeable — and deserves to contribute to all aspects of the decision-making process.

❖ The student member has firsthand interaction with students, teachers, administrators, and parents each and every school day. This allows the student member to see how board policy affects students at the grassroots level.

❖ The students are the greatest stakeholders in the educational process yet they have the least representation.

❖ The Student Member's vote will force the Board of Education to have a stronger consensus and will create a stronger sense of unity among the Board.

❖ The students are not a special interest group — students are the reason for the educational system. Students pay taxes and yet they don't have a stake in the budget. The Student Member is the only official elected by the students and in Montgomery County the election is conducted by the Board of Elections for all students grades 6-12.

❖ It is ridiculous to say that students are taught to handle the real world by 12th grade and yet not give them a vote on issues that affect them. What kind of message is this sending?

❖ The vote gives respect to the student opinion not previously allowed, a greater appreciation for the function of the school board,

and an understanding of the student role in decision making.

❖ The Student Member prepares in the same manner as all other board members — reading the agenda, researching, etc. are also required to communicate and seek input from students. They also are a part of the day-to-day school routine and see the effects of each Board decision. For this reason, their views are very mature with educational experience. Students are just as capable of voting and understanding the intricacies of boundaries and budgets their implications as their adult counterparts.

❖ It will create a culture of respect where the student's voice is truly heard and respected.

If the County and the State are truly committed to improving the educational system of Montgomery County and placing the interest of the students first, especially in these tough budget times, it must affirm and respect the contributions of the student voice by granting this right.

Please support the Board of Education and their position on the Student Member's expanded voting rights.

**Meenu Singh**

SGA President

Winston Churchill High School  
 Potomac

## Priorities

To the Editor:

Isn't it strange to think the government is putting monstrous money into the destruction of historic buildings and redoing a lock at Pennyfield, when the Breach sits there totally blocking the Canal? Not only did the blow out occur recently (2009!) under emergency circumstances but it disables the continuity of the Canal near Anglers Inn, one of the most popular areas of the Park. It is unfathomable that it is not a priority repair.

**Barb Brown**

## Write

The Almanac welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor

The Almanac

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Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail:

almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

# PETS

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](http://www.paw-rescue.org), call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

**Finn is a 2-year-old male Husky/Chow mix. At 44 pounds, Finn is a handsome dog with plush fur and blue eyes. He loves people, car rides and is curious about other**



**dogs. Finn would love someone who will give him treats and help him perfect his leash walks in a forever adopter's home and neighborhood.**

**Dexter is a 3-year-old male Boston Terrier mix. At 17 pounds, he's happy, bouncy and already neutered. Dexter loves retrieving toys and may be a flyball prospect. He**



**loves to play with other dogs and take walks. He even tries to play with cats. Due to his energy and playfulness, Dexter would do best in a home with older children since he could accidentally knock over toddlers.**

## CRIME REPORT

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 9200 block of Bentrige Avenue in Potomac on Thursday, Sept. 24 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Suspects forced entry and removed property.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 15600 block of Ambience Drive in North Potomac on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 2:30 a.m. The victim saw an **unknown suspect wearing dark clothes** run to a **white 4-door vehicle**. Property was taken. The suspect was also seen holding flashlights and looking into other parked vehicles. No other property was reported missing.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 8900 block of Copenhaver Drive in Potomac between 11 p.m., Monday, Sept. 28 and 6:45 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 29. No forced entry, property was taken.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 14100 block of Stonecutter Drive, North Potomac on Thursday, Oct. 15 between 4:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Forced entry; nothing taken.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 500 block of Longwood Drive in Rockville overnight between Tuesday, Oct. 20 and Wednesday, Oct. 21. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed a credit card. The suspect was arrested later that day for an unrelated event. **Arrested: Male, 22 yrs. old**, from North Potomac

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 14400 block of Frances Green Way, North Potomac between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5. No forced entry; property taken.

An incident of **graffiti vandalism** occurred in a playground in the area of 12221 Pissaro Drive, North Potomac on Friday, Nov. 6 between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Five juvenile males were seen

spray-painting playground equipment.

A **residential burglary and vehicle theft** occurred in the 19900 block of Appledowre Circle, Germantown on Friday, Nov. 6 between 11:15 p.m. and 11:23 p.m. Forced entry. Property and vehicle taken. **Arrested: Male, age 34, from North Potomac.**

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14300 block of Stonebridgeview Drive in North Potomac on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:57 p.m. Suspects forced entry and removed property.

A **theft from a vehicle** occurred in the 14300 block of Stonebridgeview Drive in North Potomac on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:08 p.m. Suspects entered an unlocked vehicle and removed property.

An **attempted commercial burglary** occurred at Good Earth Garden Center, 11650 Falls Road in Potomac between Friday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14 at 8 a.m. Attempted forced entry, none gained, nothing taken.

An **attempted residential burglary** occurred in the 11700 block of Flints Grove Lane in North Potomac between Friday, Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. Suspects forced entry but were unable to gain entry.

An **aggravated assault** occurred in the 11800 block of Smoketree Road, Potomac on Saturday, Nov. 28 between 4 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. The incident was domestic.

Multiple **thefts from vehicles** occurred in the 10800 block of S. Glen Road, Potomac between 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29 and 6:24 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 30. Suspects took property from two vehicles; entry was not forced.

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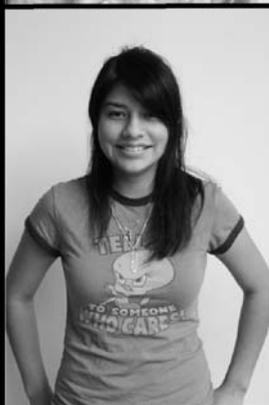
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To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send e-mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Call 703-778-9412.

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 10, 2010

**"Disney's Mulan."** At Imagination Stage. Performances on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. 4 p.m. Some Saturday 11 a.m. performances as well. Tickets from \$10-\$21. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave, Bethesda. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or purchase at 301-280-1660.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

**Celtic Holiday Concert with Sean McComiskey.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. A rising star in the Irish music scene, Sean McComiskey's button accordion conveys a wistful, evocative and uplifting take on traditional holiday songs. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 17

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** Slow Blues Lesson 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests will play a wonderful variety of styles including traditional and contemporary blues music, and classic cover tunes going back through the history of blues music. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to [info@CapitalBlues.org](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 18

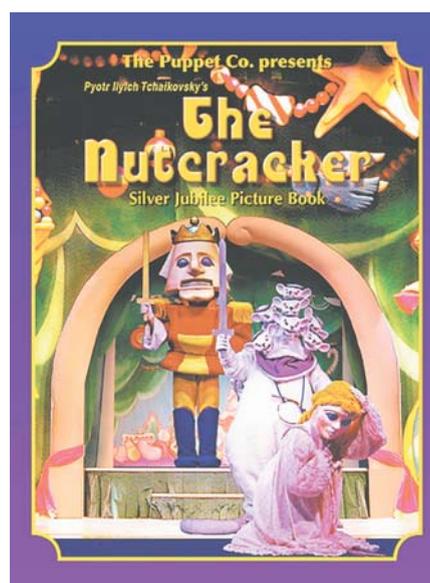
**Take Joy! An Original Strathmore Concert Production.** 8 p.m. Starring John Michael Higgins, E. Faye Butler, Rob McQuay, Jennifer Timberlake, Kevin Moreno, Zephyr Ingle, Max Talisman, and Julian Ivey. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100.  
**La Divina Milonga Party.** 8:30 p.m. to midnight. \$15 admission. Lesson for Argentine Tango beginners from 8:30-9 p.m. Dance Party to recorded music from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Call 703-798-1071.  
**Contra Dance.** 7:30-11:30 p.m. \$9 admission. Contra dance lesson 7:30-8:15 p.m.; called dance to live music 8:30-11:30 p.m. With the band, The Morrison Brothers. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Email: [fdncontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fdncontra@yahoo.com).

### DEC. 18-20

**"Look Out Below!"** Featuring **Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell,** and **Karen Hansen**, "Look Out Below!" is a fun and affordable alternative to the usual holiday season entertainment. Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 1 and 5 p.m., and Sundays at 1 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15 with kids age 18 and under \$10. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 240-644-1100, online at [www.roundhousetheatre.org](http://www.roundhousetheatre.org) At Round House Theatre Bethesda, 4545 East-West Highway. Call 240-644-1100 or [roundhousetheatre.org](http://roundhousetheatre.org).

### DEC. 18, 19, 20

**The Nutcracker.** The American Dance Institute presents a condensed version of *The Nutcracker*. On Friday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. In addition, *The Sugar Plum Extravaganza* (\$25 for one child and one adult) will be held on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will allow children to interact with a story-dance, fun crafts, treats and a tea party. Performances are \$20/adults,



### NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

**"The Nutcracker."** Presented by The Puppet Co. 50 minutes. For ages K to adult. Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10; group rates available. Call 301-634-5380 or visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org).

\$10/children ages 12 and under. At American Dance Institute, 1570 East Jefferson Street, Rockville. For tickets, call 301-984-3003 or go to [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 19

**"A Christmas Carol."** 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12. At BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown. Call 301-528-2260 or visit [www.blackrockcenter.org](http://www.blackrockcenter.org).  
**Dog-centric crafts.** 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Make dog-centric human treats and crafts for the dog lovers on your list. At the Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Register at [register@yourdogsfriend.info](mailto:register@yourdogsfriend.info). Sponsored by Your Dog's Friend, [www.yourdogsfriend.info](http://www.yourdogsfriend.info), 301-983-5913.  
**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m. to midnight. \$14 admission. Beginner Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. A Jingle Bell Swing with the Daryl Davis Band. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: [dance@flyingfeet.org](mailto:dance@flyingfeet.org).

**Gan Shabbat.** 11 a.m. An interactive Saturday morning service for young children and their families. Members and non-members welcome. At Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 20

**Festival of Carols.** 10 a.m. Performed by the choir at the Potomac United Methodist Church. Also, the community is invited to Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 p.m. (family service) and 7:30 p.m. (candlelight service). At Potomac United Methodist Church, 10300 Falls Road, Potomac.  
**Contra and Square Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/nonmembers; \$9/members. Newcomers' lesson at 7 p.m.; dances called by Ted Hodapp to The Morrison Brothers from 7:30-10:30 p.m. A focus on New England style contra dances, including square dances, country mixers, waltzes and couples dances. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.  
**Waltz Dance.** 3 to 6 p.m. \$8 admission. Beginner waltz lesson from 3-3:30 p.m. Dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. With the music of Waltz Magic. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: [info@waltztimedances.org](mailto:info@waltztimedances.org)  
**Christmas Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Swingin' Santas, an all-male holiday cabaret. Sponsored by Fox Hill. At the Music

Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100.  
**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 7-8:30 p.m. Slow Blues lesson. Dancing from 9-11 p.m. DJ Mike Marcotte and guests play traditional contemporary blues music. Admission is \$14/workshop and dance, or \$8/dance only. At the Back Room of Glen Echo Park, on the far left side of the Spanish Ballroom. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to [info@CapitalBlues.org](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

**A Candlelight Christmas with The Washington Chorus.** 7:30 p.m. Featuring the Whitman Choir with Jeff Davidson, choral director at Walt Whitman High School. At the Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda. Tickets are \$15 to \$60. Call The Washington Chorus: 202-342-6221; Order online: [www.thewashingtonchorus.org](http://www.thewashingtonchorus.org); Music Center at Strathmore: 301-581-5100.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 26

**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m. - midnight. \$15 admission. Beginning lesson at 8 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the 16-piece Tom Cunningham Orchestra. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 27

**Contra and Square Dance.** 7-10:30 p.m. \$12 nonmembers; \$9/members. Newcomers' lesson at 7 p.m.; called dances with Adam Hurt from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Traditional American dancing with a focus on New England style contra dances, square dances, country mixers, waltzes and couples dances. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 31

**Swing Dance.** 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. \$20 admission. Beginner swing lesson from 8-9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. A New Year's Eve Party with New York City's Lady Luck and the Suicide Kings. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**Three-D Thread Sculptures.** 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Eileen Doughty, one of this year's two Conant Grant recipients, will lecture on her investigations into creating sculptures formed with thread and a sewing machine. At St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Sponsored by the Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. Go to [www.potomacfiberartsguild.org](http://www.potomacfiberartsguild.org)

### MONDAY/JAN. 11

**Beth Shalom Book Club.** 8 p.m. Will be reviewing Ariel Sabar's "My Father's Paradise." This non-fiction book is Sabar's quest to reconcile an ancient past with his own life today — and to knit his father's story to his own. All are welcome. Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah is located at 11825 Seven Locks Rd. Potomac. Email Tanya Lampert [alamp9608@yahoo.com](mailto:alamp9608@yahoo.com).

### JAN. 15-FEB. 21

**"Rapunzel."** Presented by the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park. Performances Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is recommended for PreK- Grade 4, and runs 45 minutes. Tickets are \$10, with group rates available. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or call 301-634-5380.

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# THEATRE

## DEC. 18-20

**"Look Out Below."** Featuring **Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell,** and **Karen Hansen,** Look Out Below! is a fun and affordable alternative to the usual holiday season entertainment. Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 1 and 5 p.m., and Sundays at 1 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15 with kids age 18 and under \$10. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 240-644-1100, online at [www.roundhousetheatre.org](http://www.roundhousetheatre.org). At Round House Theatre Bethesda, 4545 East-West Highway. Call 240-644-1100 or [roundhousetheatre.org](http://roundhousetheatre.org).

## "TINY TOTS"

Saturday, Dec. 19 — "Nutcracker Fantasy"  
 Saturday, Jan. 2 — "Snow Show"  
 Sunday, Jan. 3 — "Winter Wonderland"  
 Saturday, Jan. 16 — "Magic Toyshop"  
 Wednesday, Jan. 27 — "Winter Wonderland"  
 Saturday, Jan. 30 — "Penguin's Playground"  
 The Puppet Co. presents "Tiny Tots @ 10," a program designed for our youngest theater patrons (ages 0 - 4). The shows are shorter, the lights stay on, the doors stay open and the show is set up on the floor!  
 Performances on select Wednesdays and Saturdays each month at 10 a.m.  
 Tickets, \$5, adults and children (including babies). Reservations strongly recommended. Call (301) 634-5380 visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org).

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 10, 2010

**"The Little Engine that Could"**  
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## FINE ARTS

## NOW THROUGH JAN. 16

**FotoWeekDC 2009.** Exploring The Land: Personal Observations by Ten Contemporary Landscape Photographers. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturdays; Noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

## NOW THROUGH DEC. 18

**Recent Works by Walter Michael Bartman III.** At the Landon Family Gallery at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Contact Walter Bartman at [walt\\_bartman@landon.net](mailto:walt_bartman@landon.net) or 301-524-2083.



## NOW THROUGH JAN. 10

**"Disney's Mulan."** Saturdays and Sundays 1:30 and 4 p.m. Cost is \$10-\$21. This is the stage musical based on the 1998 film. Christmas-New Year's week shows are: Dec. 24 at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Dec. 26 at 11 a.m., 1:30 and 4 p.m., Dec. 27-30 at 1:30 and 4 p.m. and Dec. 31 at 11 a.m. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660. Go to [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or call 301-280-1660.

## JAN. 6-30

**"Wake Up, Brother Bear!"** For ages 2-5. Admission is \$7. This show allows children to enter the world of a young brother and sister bear as they discover the seasons of the year. Show times at 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. At Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda. Call 301-280-1660 or go to [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org)



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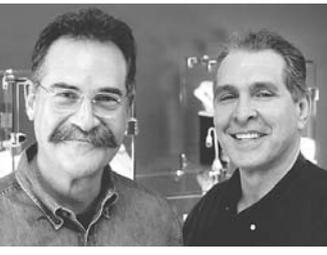
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# Churchill Girls Beat Watkins Mill

The Churchill girls basketball team improved to 2-0 with a 50-40 victory over Watkins Mill on Friday at CHS. Churchill head coach Kate McMahon said a strong defensive effort by the Bulldogs helped the team overcome a rough offensive night.

"Watkins Mill had a couple of really good guards," McMahon said. "Our goal was to shut them down. ... We managed to do that, but we were pretty sloppy on offense."

McMahon, who is in her first season as varsity head coach after coaching the junior varsity, said the Bulldogs want to be one of the best defensive teams in the county.

Ashley Nelson knocked down a trio of 3-pointers on Friday and led Churchill with 15 points. Erica Lindsay made one 3-pointer and finished with 11 points. Sarafina Arthur-Williams is averaging more than 10 rebounds per game.

Churchill travels to take on Magruder at 7 p.m. Tuesday, host Springbrook at 7 p.m. Thursday and travel to face Northwest at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 21.

## Churchill Boys Improve to 2-0

Churchill point guard Jake Eskin scored nearly half of his team's points in Friday's first half. Fortunately for the Bulldogs, the senior

was just getting started.

Eskin scored 20 of his team-high 29 points in the second half as Churchill improved to 2-0 with a 58-45 road victory over Watkins Mill. The teams were tied at 19 at halftime, but Eskin led the Bulldogs to a nine-point lead through three quarters and a 15-point advantage midway through the fourth.

"Again, we had another strong effort. The fact that this young team has been able to go on the road and get two straight victories to open the season is important for our development. We're nowhere near where I think we can be but we keep finding ways to get things done. Our perimeter defense was outstanding [Friday]. We contested shots and made it difficult for their scorers from the opening possession until the end."

Eskin's 29 points came one week after he scored 20 in the Bulldogs' season-opening 46-45 win over Kennedy.

"Jake was playing at a different level [Friday] offensively," Miller said. It seemed that he could do what he wanted most of the second half. I'm happy for him because I know how hard he has worked in the offseason to become a better player and it's nice to see some of that hard work reaping dividends. There is no doubt that tonight he was the best player on the floor."

Eskin transferred from Northwest prior to the 2009-10. He is one of three seniors on the team,

along with Tom DiFato and Michael Ely. DiFato scored 10 points against Watkins Mill and Ely added three.

"Our seniors really showed some leadership," Miller said. "Of course, we all saw what Jake Eskin did out there offensively with 29 points, but I think Tom DiFato and Michael Ely gave us huge contributions as well. We had a lot of guys contribute tonight in various areas and I like the fact that our bench is getting deeper because it will make us a stronger team in the long run."

Will Lewis scored seven points for Churchill against Watkins Mills. Jordan Bass finished with four points for the Bulldogs, Christian Bonaparte added three and Jesse Simon and Sam Edens each had one.

Churchill hosts Magruder at 7 p.m. Tuesday, and travels to face Springbrook at 7 p.m. Friday and Northwest at 7 p.m. Dec. 21.

"We're going to find out a lot about our team over the next three games as we are facing three of the top teams in 4A," Miller said.

## Whitman Boys Beat Bullis

The Whitman boys basketball team improved to 2-1 with a 55-52 home win over Bullis on Friday.

Whitman had four players score in double figures, led by Eddie Wytkind's 16 points. Charlie



HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

**Ashley Williams led Churchill with 15 points during its victory over Watkins Mill on Friday.**

Waugh scored 14 points, and Demetrius Cook and Sam Walsh each added 10 points.

Waugh led or tied for the team lead in assists (3), blocks (3), offensive rebounds (2) and steals

(6). Whitman hosts Einstein at 7 p.m. Tuesday, travels to face Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. Thurs

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 9

# Churchill Wrestling Edges Springbrook at Home

## Bulldogs freshman Plummer gets pin.

BY JARED WASSERMAN  
THE ALMANAC

After blow-out wins by margins of 54 and 65 against Wheaton and Kennedy, the Churchill wrestling team edged visiting Springbrook on Dec. 9, 39-38, to improve its record to 3-0.

"Everybody did exactly what they had to do to win — we knew it was going to be close," head coach Michael Endler said.

The Bulldogs held a 33-32 advantage with two wrestlers remaining, at which point senior David Lee, wrestling in the 130-pound weight class, pinned his opponent with 53 seconds left to extend Churchill's lead to 39-32.

Senior Colin Whitaker's loss to close out the match proved insignificant, as the Bull-

dogs had built an insurmountable lead with six pins and one decision on the night. Senior Cody Egan (160-pound weight class) and sophomore Jake Sutton (119) contributed two impressive pins for the Bulldogs. Sutton finished sixth at the Montgomery County High School Wrestling Championship last season.

Endler noted the effort of the team's newest wrestler as a major factor in the victory.

"Every win was really important," Endler said. "The huge win was the rookie Ryan Plummer. It was his first match ever, he'd received two forfeits against Wheaton and Kennedy, so that was the first time he ever actually wrestled anybody. He went out there and got a pin. ... They were all really important but Ryan Plummer being a freshman and that being his first match, that was really huge."

On Dec. 16, the team will take its unbeaten record to face one of the most re

SEE FRESHMAN, PAGE 9

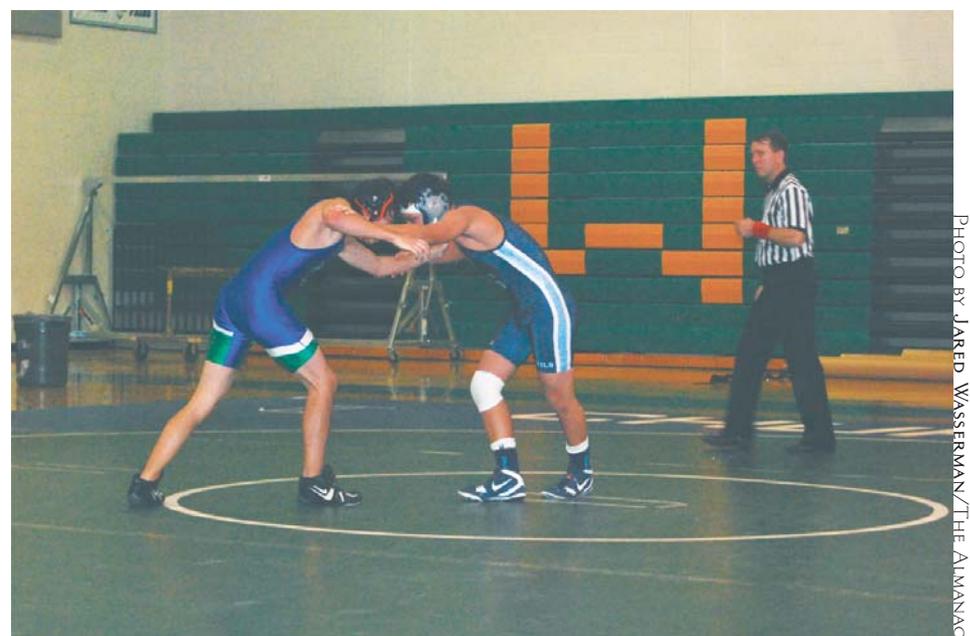


PHOTO BY JARED WASSERMAN/THE ALMANAC

**A member of the Churchill wrestling team, left, competes against Springbrook on Dec. 9. Churchill defeated Springbrook, 39-38.**

## SPORTS

# Freshman Plummer Gets Pin

FROM PAGE 8

spected programs in Montgomery County. "We have a big test this Wednesday against Whitman," Endler said. "I would love to upset them, I know we'd have to play our greatest match of the century and they'd have to play one of their worst, but as long as we're really competitive with them, I'll be happy. Realistically, we'd have to wrestle phenomenally to do that."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 8

day and hosts Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. Dec. 21.

## Whitman Girls Improve to 2-1

The Whitman girls basketball team defeated Connelly School of the Holy Child, 49-32, on the road Thursday, improving its record to 2-1. Whitman lost to Paint Branch, 62-54, at home Dec. 8 and defeated Watkins Mill, 53-37, on the road Dec. 4.

Whitman travels to face Einstein at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. Friday, and hosts Walter Johnson at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 21.

## Wootton Girls Get First Win

The Wootton girls basketball team defeated Magruder, 52-43, on the road Thursday, improving its record to 1-2. The Patriots lost to Urbana, 59-49, on the road Dec. 8 and fell to Paint Branch, 68-57, at home on Dec. 4.

Against Magruder, center Gabby Flinchum

While the likelihood that the Bulldogs defeat a talented and experienced Whitman squad is not strong, the team expects to improve on last year's county standing, despite graduating Michael Chen, who won second place at the Maryland High School State Championship.

"I hope to really compete well and do better than we did last season," Endler said. "I hope we can be competitive in every match and come out ahead in all of them."

led Wootton with a double-double, scoring 20 points on 8-of-13 shooting and grabbing 10 rebounds. She also blocked six shot attempts, recorded three steals and dished out three assists. She is averaging a team-high 16.7 points per game.

Danielle Khattar finished with 10 points. Sami Krug and Amanda Lyberger each added six. Gillian Sissman recorded eight steals and five assists.

Wootton hosts Quince Orchard at 7 p.m. Tuesday, travels to face Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. Thursday and hosts Richard Montgomery at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 21.

## Wootton Boys Lose a Pair

The Wootton boys basketball team lost to Urbana at home, 57-46, on Dec. 8 and Magruder on the road, 62-50, on Friday.

Against Urbana, Jack Weis led Wootton with 16 points. Ryan Trafton added 12 for the Patriots.

Wootton travels to play Quince Orchard at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. Friday and hosts Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. Dec. 21.

## SCHOOL NOTES

To have an item listed mail to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call 703-778-9412

**Summit Educational Group**, a local leader in test preparation, is offering free practice tests for the regular SAT and ACT on Dec. 19, beginning at 9 a.m., at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD. For a complete listing of dates, visit [www.mytutor.com](http://www.mytutor.com).

To register for a practice test, visit [www.mytutor.com](http://www.mytutor.com) or call a Summit Program Director at 1-800-MYTUTOR (800-698-8867).

The following **Marymount University students** are recognized in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges:

❖ **John McConnell of Potomac** who is majoring in Business Administration.

❖ **Andrea Scherf of Rockville** who is majoring in Health Sciences.

**Air Force 2nd Lt. Jonathon J. Campbell** has entered into the Uniformed

Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Md., as a first-year medical student of a four-year program. The student will be trained and prepared to serve as a physician in the Army, Navy, Air Force or the Public Health Service. Outstanding scientists and health care practitioners are prepared for careers in service to the nation.

He is the son of Marisela Z. Campbell of Sebago Road, Bethesda, Md.

His wife, Donna, is the daughter of Paul Dinh of S. Flagler Ave., Pompano Beach, Fla.

The lieutenant graduated in 2004 from Boyd H. Anderson High School, Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton.

**Suzanne L. Collier of Potomac** has been inducted into the Colgate University chapter of the national scholastic honorary society of Phi Eta Sigma, which recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of first-year students. Suzanne, currently a sophomore at Colgate, is the daughter of Mr. Guy Collier and Mrs. Linda E. Collier of Potomac. She is a graduate of Winston Churchill High School.



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## "Serve-Us" Contracts?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can someone please explain to me the pros and cons of these after market, service contracts, available for purchase after your car dealer's/manufacture's warranty/warranties have expired? Their solicitations on television, radio and print are almost replacing the credit card companies in their vigorous pursuit of American consumers. Just yesterday, I received in the mail, what looked like a very official, certified-type, for your-eyes-only directive, aimed very specifically at yours truly, owner of an expiring automobile warranty. When I tore the four perforated sections and opened the remaining fold, what I found was yet another "If your car is not more than 15 years old and has less than 200,000 miles on it" offer of automobile repair and maintenance relief.

However, since I wasn't born yesterday (or even the day before), I can't help being cautious and concerned about the "relief" offered. Moreover, I can't help thinking that there's likely so much fine print, finely printed, that I won't be able to read or, won't likely understand, that as a car owner with future repair bills ahead, what I'll likely be relieved of is my money, not my worry about those future bills. But what do I know? As has been proven in this space many times before, not much.

My instincts, as a former Life & Health insurance broker, is to be concerned – and to plan for – worst case scenarios and pre-existing conditions (meaning exclusions). With respect to life and health insurance, I am well aware of the issues and conditions under which medical and lifestyle-type, pre-existing conditions/considerations might adversely affect one's coverage. However, I don't have near that same level of experience and instinct when it involves car repairs and maintenance. What little I can say is, with absolute certainty, that the longer a car is driven/owned and the more miles it accumulates, the more likely repairs will be needed. And if I may presume a little bit more, the more expensive and involved those repairs likely will be.

That presumption being logical and agreed to, in theory; why would companies take on that unfunded – and likely undocumented by the car's owner – commitment, to assume liability of future repair bills likely to be "major:" engine, transmission, struts, gaskets, etc., as listed in the company's advertisements? Further presuming that these companies are not in business to lose money and are not advertising (putting their money where their marketing mouths are) because they are stupid, I'm left with no other conclusion than to paraphrase one of my recently deceased father's favorite expressions: the idea must have merit.

Still, I can't get past the "If it sounds too good to be true..." feel of these promotions/assurances. Are these companies regulated in some way like Life and Health, and Property and Casualty insurance companies are? Must these service-contract companies have a certain amount of cash reserves on hand to pay for their future – and as yet undetermined – liabilities? Have they been vetted/investigated/researched and/or evaluated by consumer groups, consumer magazines or even Consumer Agencies? Has the Better Business Bureau done any due diligence?

I understand the coverage is not free. However, if I am to believe – and ultimately buy in to – all that I hear, read and see about these reassuring offers, I'd have to be crazy to not to want to learn more and see if I really can eliminate the worry I will admit to having, about these inevitable future car repairs. But I'm hesitating. I must be crazy, right? (Maybe that's a side effect of the oral chemotherapy?)

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

## Fighting Leghold Traps

FROM PAGE 3

bers who voted against it were Ben Kramer, Karen Montgomery and Ann Kaiser. The bill failed in the Montgomery County Senate Delegation by one vote. Senators Rob Garagiola, Nancy King and Rhona Kramer voted against the bill.

Out of their TLC Initiative, The Watchdog Constituency and the Animal Friendly Report Card were created. The Watchdog Constituency ([www.WatchdogMC.org](http://www.WatchdogMC.org)) will be an effort to register pet, horse and animal owners in Montgom-

ery County to serve as a constituency to gain the respect and attention of elected officials. Registration will be free. The Animal Friendly Report Card ([www.AFRCCMC.org](http://www.AFRCCMC.org)) is a Web site-based program which will be administered by the Watchdog Constituency Council, a bi-partisan, geographically diverse group of 50 residents. This group will vote on whether elected officials are in favor of animal friendly legislation and publish it on their Web site. Both Web sites are not up and running yet. For more information, e-mail [bantrapping@aol.com](mailto:bantrapping@aol.com)



### 'Tear Down This Wall'

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the German School Washington, D.C. used a rebuilt wall – given to the school by the German Embassy in Washington, D.C. and completely divided the school building into an eastern and a western part, recreating the feeling of separation and the lack of freedom. The morning was spent with video and documentary presentations about the wall, the border fences with their minefields and watch towers, and concluded with personal recollections from people who lived in Eastern Germany at the time.



A table commemorates Sies' accomplishments, hosting his equipment and champion belts as symbols of success after struggling to land his first fight in America.

## His Story of Triumph

FROM PAGE 3

of professionalism in his career if he remained in South America, but his expectations went awry. Sies found himself on Virginia streets with no money. But he kept dreaming and training, running in the cold with plastic bags taped around his ankles to keep his sneakers from soaking in the snow.

"I never lost sight of my vision," said Sies while explaining the obstacles he faced.

Sies says he now realizes it is these stories that did not keep him from being a champion, but rather turned him into one. Since his retirement from the professional world of fighting, Sies manages

Kicks Karate on Travilah Road. He hopes to share his recipe for success with generations young and old, and sees his book as another form of outreach.

Infused with quotes from Buddha to Socrates, Sies says his "Master Method" differs from other self-help books because it not only gives the reader the tools to become successful, but also those to sustain success. After claiming the world kickboxing title on seven different occasions, Sies is confident his personal story and derived methods for happiness will benefit others.

"Teaching people how to be successful is my passion," he said.

### BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon two weeks prior to the event. For questions, call 703-778-9412.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 21

**Lower Your Pain Level. 1-2:30 p.m.** Learn how to lower your pain level using various biofeedback techniques in this Biofeedback class. At 7920 Norfolk Ave., Suite 200D, Bethesda. Call Michael Sitar, Ph.D., 301-718-3588 and/or Pain Connection, 301-231-0008, or visit [www.painconnection.org](http://www.painconnection.org).

#### ONGOING

CANTER-Mid Atlantic to open a **racehorse rehabilitation** program with donations from Delaware Park and the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association earmarked to serve Delaware Park trainers and owners. To find an ex-race horse, volunteer, or to make a donation, visit [www.canterusa.org/midatlantic](http://www.canterusa.org/midatlantic).

**To become a** volunteer Bike Patrol on the C & O Canal, send an e-mail to Norman Liebow at [Liebow@comcast.net](mailto:Liebow@comcast.net) or 301-714-2218.

## EagleBank Opens in Park Potomac

FROM PAGE 2

of Rockville and Montgomery College to provide scholarships for Montgomery County college students. This is the first year for the EagleBank Bowl, which will donate proceeds to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. There is a real sense of community first."

EagleBank is one of the first businesses to open in Park Potomac. Harris Teeter expects to open within the next two months along with restaurants, a dry cleaner and clothing stores. Park Potomac is located just west of the Montrose exit of I-270 off of Seven Locks Road.



EagleBank opened a new branch in Park Potomac last month.

## Police Report Daytime Burglaries

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police 1<sup>st</sup> District Investigative Section are investigating eight recent daytime residential burglaries that occurred in the Potomac area.

Since Nov. 18 of this year, there have been eight residential burglaries in several Potomac neighborhoods. Most of the burglaries have occurred on weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. In all of the burglaries, force was used to gain entry into the house either through a window or a door. In each burglary, high-value jewelry was taken. In several of the burglaries, cash was also taken. In three of the burglaries,

a white male suspect described as being between 30 and 48 years of age, with short brown hair, was seen leaving the area in an unknown type of vehicle.

Residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows and make sure that their garage doors are secure when they are not at home. Residents are also asked to notify their neighbors, and encouraged to have a caretaker stop by the house when they are away for extended periods of time. In addition, residents are encouraged to use timers on their lights, radios, and televisions, and to hold their mail and news subscriptions while they are away.

Residents should report suspicious activity, vehicles, and individuals to the police by calling the non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. A detailed description of the suspicious person or vehicle is helpful to the responding officers. Descriptors may include race, gender, clothing-type, and hair color. Obtaining the vehicle's color, make, model, and tag number will also assist responding officers.

Anyone who may have information about these residential burglaries and/or the involved suspect(s) is asked to call the 1<sup>st</sup> District Investigative Section at 240-773-6084.

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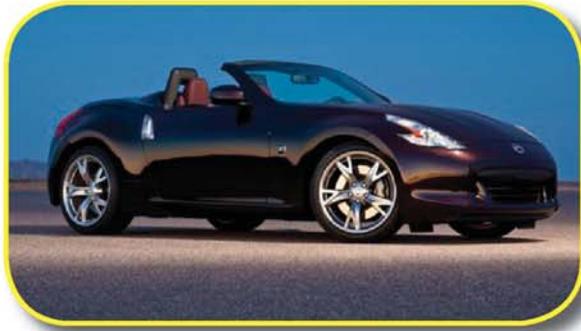
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