

# Potomac ALMANAC

## Fire Engine Sleigh

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## Navigating 'Uncharted Waters'

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## Churchill Boys Basketball Suffers First Defeat

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Santa is ready to board the fire engine at the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department's fire house that will take him into various Potomac neighborhoods.

## National Trial Hits Home

NEWS, PAGE 3

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CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE / THE ALMANAC

# Hadeed

## Oriental Rug Cleaning

*Wishes You  
and  
Yours  
a*

*Happy Holiday  
From  
all of us*



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**Pardiss Kaviani (7 years old) and her brother, Navid (9 years old) look over the trees for sale.**



**Rayvin Huger of Avenel (Potomac) picks out her tree.**



**Shoppers look at the trees available at the Cabin John Park Fire House.**

# National Trial Hits Home

**Potomac resident takes on pharmaceutical company.**

BY ANSLEY LABARRE  
THE ALMANAC

**L**ike so many women her age, Diane Wisneski reached a breaking point with her menopause symptoms. She turned red in the face during hot flashes with sweats that made her feel as if she had been sprayed with a hose while sitting at her work desk. When it all became too unbearable, Wisneski sought the help of her physician.

The solution was Prempro — a prescription drug of estrogen and progestin hormones — to replace those that decrease during menopause and lead to symptoms like Wisneski's. Aside from hormone therapy, Wisneski says the drug was marketed as one that would benefit her heart, bones and overall well-being.

"It was presented as a package of goodies," said Wisneski.

But like an estimated 12,000 other women, Wisneski now has a lawsuit pending with Wyeth, a division of the Pfizer phar  
SEE RESIDENT, PAGE 4

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

# Navigating 'Uncharted Waters'

**Berliner not at the helm.**

BY ANSLEY LABARRE  
THE ALMANAC

**I**n a decision that came with the start of December, Councilman Roger Berliner (D-1) was not elected president of the Montgomery County Council. Berliner, who served as the Council's vice president for the preceding year, lost the position in a 5-4 vote to Nancy Floreen (D - At Large).

In the minutes following the election, Berliner addressed his colleagues on the Council with disappointment for the disregard of tradition. The Potomac resident is the third vice president in 40 years of council history not to succeed into presidency, and a representative from District One —

SEE UNCHARTED WATERS, PAGE 4



## Fire Engine Sleigh

**A Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department fire engine, decked out with holiday lights, prepares to carry Santa to meet children in several Potomac neighborhoods.**



**Santa is ready to board the fire engine.**



## Farewell to the Old, Awaiting the New

Following the schedule of modernization for schools in the Churchill Cluster, Cabin John Middle School on Gainsborough Road has been demolished as construction on a new building begins. The two-year project is estimated to finish in 2011, and students will resume classes at the refurbished school as other facilities begin their own modernization process.

— ANSLEY LABARRE

## Resident Takes on Pharmaceutical Company

FROM PAGE 3

pharmaceutical company, regarding the alleged link between the company's knowledge of the heightened risk for breast cancer with the use of Prempro. Wyeth is also accused of failing to establish its hormone therapy drugs were safe for long-term use and many of the promoted benefits were illegitimate.

In October of 2001, several years after Wisneski had been taking Prempro, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She says she remembers receiving her diagnosis in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedies, and felt as though her own world had come crashing down. Wisneski lost her own father to cancer and knew it was a formidable battle.

"I was scared," said Wisneski. "My biggest fear was that I wouldn't be able to see [my grandchildren] grow up."

**WISNESKI UNDERWENT** a complete mastectomy and reconstructive surgery as a part of her treatment, which resulted in two separate procedures from infection and illness. She beat her breast cancer but Wisneski says the healing process was not an easy one.

The judicial process has not been easy either. It has taken seven years and scores of women from across the nation to bring their cases against one of the largest pharmaceutical companies. Wisneski says when she began using the medicine for hormone therapy, the risks and side effects were described as no greater than the common marketplace of available treatments.

Wisneski's attorney Robert K. Jenner of Janet, Jenner and Suggs L.L.C says the Food and Drug Administration asked Wyeth to run tests to verify the long-term effects of combination hormone therapy. That was the 1980s. Jenner says it took two decades and a tax-payer funded federal study through



**Diane Wisneski of Potomac is one of 12,000 women in the country with a lawsuit pending against Wyeth.**

the National Institute of Health to re-examine the effects of Prempro and its link to breast cancer. The study — known as the Women's Health Initiative — was eventually stopped when researchers established a link between Prempro and breast cancer.

"Our evidence is clear that Wyeth did not do the tests that were necessary to determine effects," said Jenner.

**WHILE WISNESKI'S TRIAL** with the company remains pending, two plaintiffs put theirs to rest in Philadelphia at the end of November. Juries awarded the women compensatory and punitive damages, collectively reaching more than \$103 million.

Jenner says Wyeth maintains it did nothing wrong and will appeal the verdicts.

"It's important to examine all of the trial-set cases where there have been rulings by judges or juries, or decisions by plaintiffs to withdraw their cases after they were set for trial. There have been 28 such cases to date. Of these, there are only four cases where verdicts for plaintiffs are in effect today, and all are under challenge," said Sally Beatty, a spokeswoman for Pfizer.

Prempro remains on the market, but is sold in half the dose that his client and other patients once received. The pill now comes with a black box warning, noting its use over a short period of time at the lowest dose possible. Jenner said it is a completely different use and indication for use of the drug.

"The hypocrisy is comparable," he said.

**WYETH OFFICIALS** did not respond to allegations of prior knowledge of the drug's possible health risks, but maintains the information for patients regarding Prempro's side effects is clear.

"The labels on our hormone therapy medicines are accurate, science-based and consistent with our duty to provide physicians information on the benefits and risks of these medicines," said Beatty.

It has yet to be determined when Wisneski's trial, among many other women's, will go to court. The Potomac resident says she was thankful to the juries of previous trials, believing they arrived at just verdicts in cases against Wyeth. But Wisneski isn't focused on her own trial, saying she is simply happy to be in good health once again. She thinks about her five grandchildren and the limitless time she has to spend with them.

"I've been very fortunate," said Wisneski. "But a lot of other women have not."

## 'Uncharted Waters'

FROM PAGE 3

Potomac, Bethesda and Chevy Chase — has yet to fill the role.

"This was their turn as much as mine," said Berliner in reference to his constituents. Berliner believes that by setting the agenda in role of the president, he would have been better suited to advocate the needs of his district.

"The new majority is more aligned with development interest and county jobs," said Berliner. "My more careful centrist approach to development is more consistent with my constituents."

**FLOREEN BUILT** a reputation on transportation, environment and economic development, as noted in her nomination for the office by fellow councilman Michael Knapp (D -2). Upcoming development initiatives — including the Gaithersburg West and White Flint Master Plans — are on the council's front burner.

"I am concerned that growth and development will be the guiding principles for the 2010 agenda," said Liza Durant, president of the West Montgomery County Citizen's Association. "We will want to make sure the community is aware of the policies that are being worked on and should be actively weighing in and making their views known."

As a constituent of District One, Durant says she believes the person filling the role of president is not the issue at hand.

"The council will be rebalanced according to the will of Montgomery County voters, regardless of who is president," said Durant. "It's just one single year and we're keenly aware of the challenges that lie ahead."

The challenges will come by the dozens. Berliner says there was little time to ponder the defeat and he quickly moved on, focusing on Montgomery County's most difficult year to-date that is swiftly arriving. With the price tag on the county's budget hole nearing \$600 million for fiscal 2011 beginning July 1, there is much work to be done.

"We will only have bad options," said Berliner. "These are uncharted waters."

**THE FOCUS** has shifted from what could have been to what will be. The councilman plans to hold more public input meetings during the spring of 2010 and look to his constituents in defining what is "essential." Berliner predicts among many of the departments to be scrutinized are health and human services, and parks and recreation to name a few.

"We have to redefine government and look at essential government services," said Berliner. "Not just what are worthy and notable programs because, as great as they may be, we simply can't afford all of them."

Is there any good news on the horizon? Berliner, alongside others, looks to the economy to begin its rebound.

"I feel we've seen the bottom, but it could be awhile before the economy improves significantly," said Potomac Chamber of Commerce President Adam Greenberg, who predicts sales will no longer decrease and be

SEE UNCHARTED WATERS, PAGE 8

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# 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.

Shiloh is a 3-year-old female Shih-Tsu. At 20 pounds, Shiloh is already spayed. With a sweet demeanor, one would think she has taken up an Eastern philosophy to complement her Chinese breed heritage. She is friendly, obedient and appears to like people and dogs. Shiloh won't last long with PAW so come and see this girl soon.



Midge is a 2-year-old female Minipin mix. At 20 pounds, she is already spayed. Midge is all action and enjoys running, jumping and playing with abandon. She's intelligent and needs a challenge — like jogging or an agility buddy. Midge would love an active home with a dog buddy and children over 8 to share her enthusiasm for life.



## BULLETIN BOARD

To submit an item for the Civic Calendar, e-mail [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com).

### 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).

**Support Group. 1:30-3 p.m.** For anyone with chronic pain, family members and interested residents. At 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville (located in the Jewish Council of Aging and Nonprofit Village building. Call 301-231-0008 or [www.painconnection.org](http://www.painconnection.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me?** Free workshop for all parents of children ages 2 1/2 to 18 presented by the Parent Encouragement Program. 3-4:30 p.m. at the PEP

### THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Pain Connection Chronic Pain

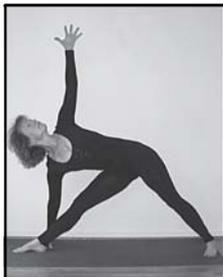
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

## YOGA CLASSES IN POTOMAC

### For Daytime Classes

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St. James Episcopal Church  
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### For Weekend & Evening Classes

#### Hamsa Yoga

St. Andrews Episcopal School  
8804 Post oak Road  
Mon & Wed 6:30 & 8:00pm  
Thurs 6:30pm  
Sat 9:00am

### For more information please contact:

Nancy Steinberg  
240-994-5092  
[nancy@kulayogaclass.com](mailto:nancy@kulayogaclass.com)  
[www.Kulayogaclass.com](http://www.Kulayogaclass.com)

Shanthi Subramanian  
301-320-9334  
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Morgan Fleming

## PEOPLE

### Fleming Earns Silver Award

Morgan Fleming, 14, a member of Girl Scout Troop 3288, has earned the Girl Scout Silver Award. She is a freshman at Churchill High School and lives in Potomac.

For her Silver Award project, Morgan created, organized and executed a Bridging Ceremony for approximately 90 Girl Scouts of all ages in the Potomac Village community. A Bridging Ceremony is a special event which marks the transition from one level of Girl Scouting to a new level. Morgan's theme was "Light Your Own Path" and her event was the kick-off to a new Girl Scout year for nine troops. It featured tea lights for each participating girl and a wooden bridge that Morgan built for the event.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest honor awarded to Cadette Girl Scouts (seventh through ninth grades). It requires girls master the leadership and planning skills necessary to execute a project which makes a positive impact in their community



Marilyn Wood of Potomac dances with several partners during the waltz program in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park last month.



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

### Waltzing the Night Away

Len Kelly of Silver Spring dances with Leslie Pubols of Arlington.

### New Rabbi

U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin and U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen presents a U.S. flag to Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, as a welcome to Maryland, as Rabbi Zuckerman is officially installed as Congregation Har Shalom's new senior rabbi. Though Rabbi Zuckerman has been with Har Shalom since August, the official installation service took place on Nov. 8. Rabbi Zuckerman previously served a congregation in White Plains, N.Y.



# CALENDAR

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 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).

## 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.

## 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: [fncontra@yahoo.com](mailto:fncontra@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

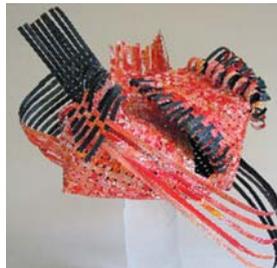
**The Nutcracker.** The American Dance



**Rock: Irma Spencer**



**Paper: Marsha Goldfine**



**Scissors: Renate Chernoff**

## SUNDAY/JAN. 10

**Rock, Paper and Scissors.** A multimedia exhibit of stone sculptures by Irma Spencer, paintings by Marsha Goldfine, and paper sculptures by Renate Chernoff. Artist's reception from 1-3 p.m. on Jan. 10 At Har Shalom Synagogue, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Exhibit runs from Jan. 5-Feb. 24, 2010. Call 301-299-7087.

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, \$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. Beginning 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 [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.

## JAN. 7, 8, 9, 10

**"Aida, the Musical."** 7:30 p.m. nightly, with 2 p.m. matinee on Jan. 10. Tickets are \$10. Presented by Wootton High School Center for the Arts. Directed by Adam Graham and Jackie Serratore, Wootton's production features the talents of Jenay McNeil as Aida, Jonathan Helwig as Radames, Jordan Smilan-Goldstein as Amneris, Joseph Horowitz as Zoser, Jeffery Popkin as Merib, Alex Garretson as Pharaoh, Ari Halevy as Amonasro, and Stephanie Wasser as Nehebka. The leads are well supported by a talented cast of 25 additional students. Vocal direction is provided by Jacqueline Serratore with choreography by Ms. Serratore, Mr. Graham, Mel Allard, and two student choreographers, Claire Mauro and Allie Myers. At Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. Call 301-279-8581.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 9

**Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me?** Free workshop for all parents of children ages 2 1/2 to 18 presented by the Parent Encouragement Program. 3-4:30 p.m. at the PEP Office, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Pre-register by calling 301-929-8824. [www.PEPparent.org](http://www.PEPparent.org).

# LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

## JUMBO MORTGAGES

Recently we are finding that due to increased housing prices, there is a corresponding rise in the number of "jumbo" loan applications. These days you need to assume a "jumbo" mortgage when buying even a modest sized ranch, and so this option is no longer limited to high-end luxury residences. There are now new loan programs which address the large increase in "jumbo" loan applications. Due to the hot market in recent years, new mortgage packages are required to provide financing when the mortgage loan required is in excess of the conforming limits in big cities or their surrounding suburbs. These new loans have either a 40 or 50 year amortization, or an interest-only option. This gives the lender a far longer payback time period. There is also an option where the principal repayment can be deferred for a few years, which would save on the monthly payment. Of course the financial institution stands to make far more profit if a mortgage is taken out over a longer period of time than the usual 30 years.

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[Michael.Matese@wfp.com](mailto:Michael.Matese@wfp.com)

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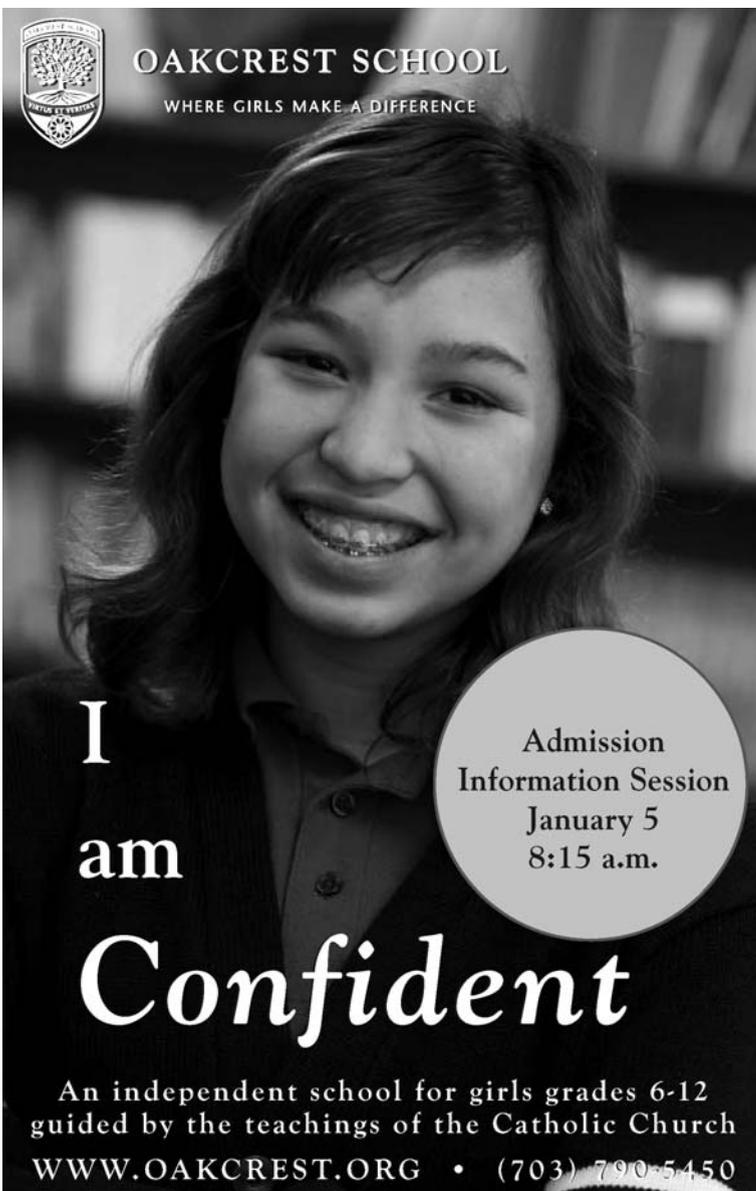
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## Navigating 'Uncharted Waters'

FROM PAGE 4

gin the slow process of leveling out. One highly debated topic — the future budget of the county's public schools — relies on funding from state dollars. Berliner acknowledges the distinguished quality of Montgomery County Public Schools should be preserved, but presents an unprecedented challenge.

Winston Churchill Cluster Coordinator Laurie Halverson says if budget cuts are to be implemented, four major areas of concern could impact Potomac schools: an increase in class size, the reduction of maintenance positions, a loss of county transporta-

tion to magnet programs and the reduction of signature programs at the high school level are areas of concern effecting the Churchill cluster.

"We're not sure what's going to happen," said Halverson.

Even with a seemingly dim forecast, Berliner said the council will not waver on the needs of its constituents. Over the course of his three years in service, Berliner acknowledges he has been able to pass major legislation among his colleagues without the aid of institutional power.

"District One will continue to be well-served," said its councilman.

### CRIME REPORT

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 8800 block of Tallyho Trail, Potomac on Thursday, Dec. 3, between 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Entry was forced; property was taken.

Multiple **thefts from vehicles** occurred in the Potomac area between Tuesday, Dec. 1, and Thursday, Dec. 3, during the overnight hours in the vicinities listed below:

- ❖ 7600 block of Hackamore Drive – Vehicle window broken. GPS taken;

- ❖ 10900 block of Deborah Drive – Unknown entry. Cash, 2 digital cameras & GPS were taken. A second unlocked

vehicle was entered, but nothing taken;

- ❖ 8200 block of Inverness Hollow Terrace – Vehicle door unlocked; cash was taken;

- ❖ 8200 block of Inverness Hollow Terrace – Unknown entry. Unknown whether property was taken;

- ❖ 7900 block of Lakenheath Way – Vehicle door unlocked, searched trunk and left trunk ajar; CD player, GPS, and 2 ID cards taken.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 13100 block of River Road, Potomac between Tuesday, 12/1 at 11:00 p.m. and Wednesday, 12/2 at 8:30 a.m. En-

try was unforced; property was taken. The incident might be domestic-related.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 9300 block of Winterset Drive, Potomac on Thursday, 12/3 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. Entry was forced, but nothing was taken.

A **residential burglary** occurred in the 8900 block of Maine Avenue, Potomac on Friday, 12/4 at approximately 12:45 p.m. Forced entry; property was taken.

**Arrested:** Male, age 18, from Washington, D.C.; male, age 17, from Washington, D.C.

### 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

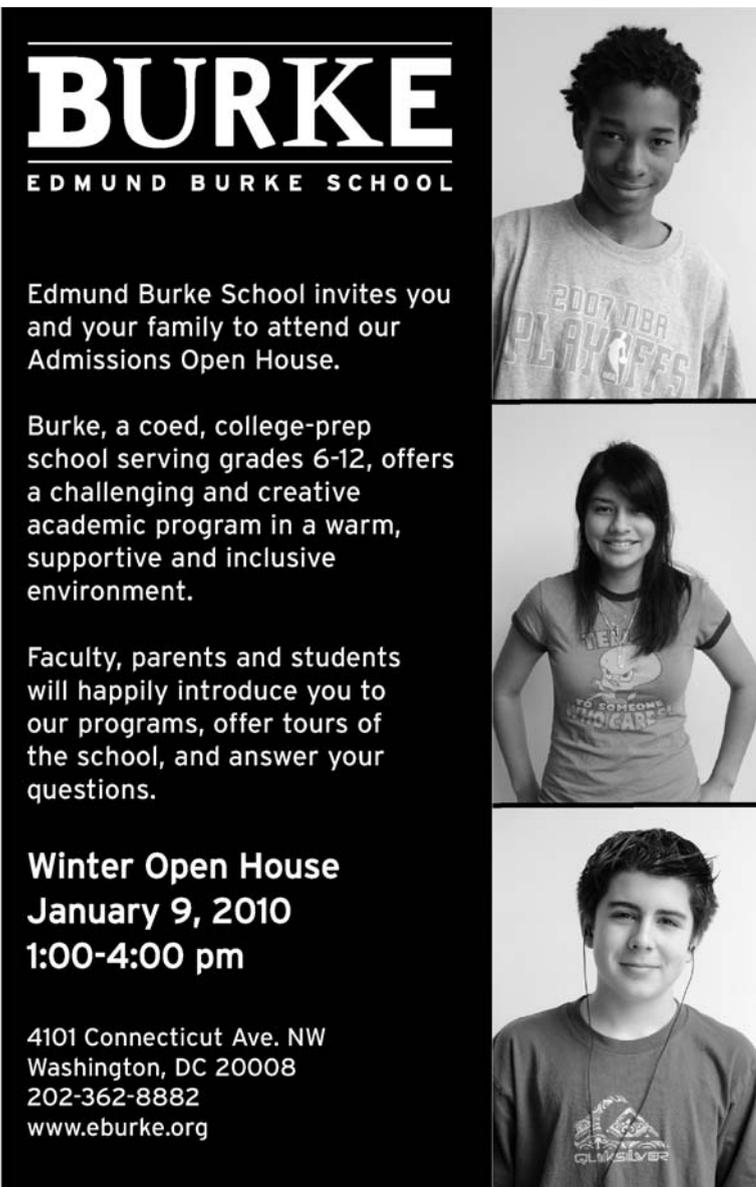
**Benjamin F. Myers of Potomac** is this year's Rensselaer Medal winner at St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C. The Rensselaer Medal is awarded by more than 3,900 secondary schools in the world. The award is given to students who have distinguished themselves in math and science. To be honored, a student must be a member of the junior class and the high school's single most promising science and math student. Each medalist who is accepted and subsequently enrolls at Rensselaer receives a scholarship of \$60,000 payable in four yearly awards of \$15,000 each.

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# Churchill Boys Basketball Suffers First Defeat

Churchill boys basketball coach Matt Miller said he is more concerned about his young team improving than he is about winning during the early part of the 2009-10 season. Miller's statement was put to the test Dec. 15 when the Bulldogs suffered their first loss of the season, 53-45 to Magruder.

Churchill won its first two games of the season, defeating Kennedy, 46-45, and Watkins Mill, 58-45.

**SPORTS BRIEFS** "Obviously you are never happy when you lose a game," Miller wrote in an e-mail. "We did some things that hurt us tonight in a close ballgame. We missed a number of chances to score, whether it was missed layups or poor perimeter shooting. We also didn't rebound in key situations. Our guys just didn't have it all together tonight offensively. However, we had another strong effort against what we all know to be a pretty good team. I was pleased with the way we battled and defended. We didn't make it easy for them all night on defense and perhaps the amount of energy we expended on that end hurt us on the other end — I don't really know — but if so, we need to find a way not to let that happen."

"... Overall, I can't be too disappointed because our guys gave it all that they had tonight and put themselves in a position to compete and possibly win the game. And right now, that's what we have asked them to do first and foremost."

The Bulldogs trailed 25-20 at halftime and struggled with offensive consistency in the second half. Jake Eskin led Churchill in scoring for the third straight game.

The senior finished with 21 points while

no other Bulldog scored more than six. Eskin, who transferred from Northwest prior to this season, is averaging 20 points per game.

"Also, we are a better offensive team than we showed this evening," Miller said. "Jake did his thing tonight but we need to get him some help. Guys like Jordan Bass, Will Lewis and Sam Edens are collectively going to shoot a lot better most nights — they know that and we know that. But they are young guys playing in their third varsity game so we expect some ups and downs early in the season. Also, our big guys are going to need to finish around the rim better if we want to be successful."

**LEWIS SCORED** 17 points in the team's season opener against Kennedy. Tom DiFato scored 10 against Watkins Mill.

Edens scored six points against Magruder. Bass, Kyle Edwards and Thomas Greenen each scored four points for Churchill, while Michael Ely and Lewis each added three.

"You are going to think I have a problem with repeating myself but I'll say the same thing that I said after the past two games — win or lose, we need to get better in several areas so that we can be the type of team that the players, coaches, parents, students and everyone at Churchill wants," Miller said. "So we're going to take the same approach that we always talk about. We're going to go watch the tape and evaluate what we as a staff could do better and also what the play-



Jill Beauregard and the Churchill girls basketball team defeated Magruder on Tuesday for its third straight win.



Senior guard Jake Eskin led the Churchill boys basketball team with 21 points during its loss to Magruder on Tuesday. The Northwest transfer is averaging 20 points per game with the Bulldogs.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

## Churchill Girls Win Third Straight

The Churchill girls basketball team defeated Magruder, 71-39, on Dec. 15 to improve to 3-0. The Bulldogs faced Springbrook and Northwest, but results were not available before the Almanac

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 10

# Experienced Whitman Boys Have Multiple Weapons

**Vikings win three of first four games to open 2009-10 season.**

BY JARED WASSERMAN  
THE ALMANAC

After an underwhelming 11-12 season, the Whitman Vikings boys' basketball team jumped out to a 3-1 start in its current campaign, including a 55-52 win over Bullis on Dec. 11 and a 79-45 rout of visiting Einstein on Dec. 15.

"I think [we've] got a lot of work to do to continue to get better," head coach Chris Lun said, "but we're real excited to be able to knock off Bullis ... we're excited we've gotten off to a pretty good start, but we've still got to work on defense, ball movement, and free throws — I think we're shooting around 60 percent which we have to get up."

The Vikings attribute their early season success to a more battle-tested lineup, one

that boasts three returning starters.

"I think we're a little more experienced this year," Lun said. "Our top six guys in the rotation are seniors so I just think experience helps."

Senior forward Charlie Waugh heads the group of captains, leading the Vikings in points (15.0), assists (2.5), steals (2.8), and blocks (1.5) per game. Six-foot-3 inch forward/center Sam Walsh controls the glass with 7.5 rebounds per game.

"I'm looking to be more aggressive in terms of attacking the rim and scoring as a senior," Waugh said, "whereas last year I was more of a role player, getting rebounds and playing solid defense along with the occasional buckets."

However, guards Demetrius Cook (12.3

ppg), Eddie Wytkind (12.0ppg), and Ross Koehn (8.0 ppg) make it difficult for opposing defenses to key in on just one player on the floor.

**"We have six seniors this year that are ready to step up and play well at any moment of any game. It helps with leadership as well because many of us have been here before."**

— Whitman senior guard Eddie Wytkind

Even in the team's one loss, a 65-60 defeat at the hands of the Paint Branch Panthers, there were silver linings. The team overcame a late 11-point deficit to take a 58-57 lead with 35 seconds remaining, and had three players score in double-figures, including a career-high 24 from Waugh.

"There is no reason that our team shouldn't be 4-0," Koehn said. "The Paint

Branch game was a real tough loss. We broke down defensively and had trouble breaking their press late in the game. There is no excuse for our team not to win most of our games. We go into every game expecting to win, we just need to execute."

The Vikings' fast start set up a highly anticipated matchup with an undefeated Richard Montgomery squad on Dec. 17. Results were not available before the Almanac deadline. The Rockets look to be in the running for a state championship, and the early season test could go a long way toward legitimizing Whitman as a team to be reckoned with throughout county.

"I think we match up really well with RM," Koehn said.

"Right now we just want to continue to work to get better and play our best basketball when the playoffs roll around," Lun said. "Senior leadership is good to have come playoff time. ... We have to get better one game at a time and hit our peak in mid February when the playoffs come. Like I said, a lot of work left to do."

## 'Tis the Season...



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

To be thankful. Let's be realistic; I'm a stage IV lung cancer patient/survivor, eight months into a treatment protocol with a life expectancy initially projected out to between 13 months and two years, so jolly isn't really in the discussion – or in my vocabulary any more. Still, I'm not complaining, just providing a little context for the rest of this column.

It's post-Thanksgiving Sunday and now that the food and festivities are mostly finished (and work looms tomorrow, Monday, for many), reality has once again reared its ugly head. Life goes on (for me, Thank God!) but to not be thankful every day for the "above average"/relative good medical fortune I've experienced (since receiving my quite unexpected diagnosis last March) would be disrespectful to those very Gods who likely control my fate.

Whatever mental exercises in futility I employ to defeat these death-defying cancer demons, I do so without their expressed written consent. It is a battle royal every day (more so the nights) and no doubt it will be a battle to the end, or at least that's my intention. And one of my unique weapons in this war against attrition is my attitude. Inherited from my parents, I guess, programmed somehow into my DNA, I can fight this fight with positive – and realistic optimism, good humor and good sense. But "jolly" I can no longer be, regardless of the season. Thankful though, at every opportunity, I can and will be this holiday season.

And not that I think this "holiday season" will be my last. Hardly. But as a cancer patient, one of the attitudes you are encouraged to embrace is "today." I can still remember Team Lourie's first meeting with my oncologist (how can I forget?) when, after listening to the doctor's reading/reviewing of all my medical reports/scans and biopsy, ending in the diagnosis with which many of you regular readers are intimately familiar, I replied, "Wow, it doesn't sound like I should be working any more;" to which the doctor added, "And you might want to consider taking that vacation you've always wanted to." ("WHAT!?", in my head.) From that moment (the beginning, if you will), it was communicated to me/us (my wife, my brother and me) that tomorrow (the future) has now left the building. At that point, the word "jolly" also left and went right out of my brain for evermore.

But it's eight months later, almost nine in fact, much has transpired in my treatment. I have "tolerated" (a semi medical term commonly used, in my experience, anyway, to describe the body's reaction to whatever the doctor/medication is doing to it) extremely, maybe even exceptionally well, all that my oncologist has "protooled." What happens next? What scenario might play out? It depends on everything that it is dependent upon. Meaning, death and taxes – as they say, are all that's guaranteed, as opposed to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One is a declaration, the other is a decree, almost.

Every day presents new challenges, mentally and physically. My attitude remains good, great even. "Jolly" it will never be, though. Thankful, it most certainly is.

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

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FROM PAGE 9  
deadline.

Churchill will host Robinson (Virginia) on Dec. 29.

## Wootton Girls Even Record

The Wootton girls basketball team defeated Quince Orchard, 63-46, on Tuesday for its second consecutive win. The Patriots improved to 2-2 with the victory.

Gabby Flinchum led the way for the Patriots, scoring 21 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Jess Welch also reached double figures in scoring with 14 points. Danielle Khattar finished with five points, three steals and 15 rebounds.

The Patriots faced Walter Johnson on Dec. 17 and Richard Montgomery on Dec. 21, but results were not available before the Almanac deadline. Wootton will play in the Sherwood holiday tournament starting on Dec. 28. The Patriots will face Reservoir at 4 p.m.

## Wootton Boys Fall To Quince Orchard

The Wootton boys basketball team lost to Quince Orchard, 75-52, on Dec. 15. The Patriots (1-3) trailed 22-9 after the first quarter and couldn't bounce back.

Wootton faced Walter Johnson on Dec. 18 and Richard Montgomery on Dec. 21, but results were not available before the Almanac deadline. The Patriots host The Heights at 7 p.m. Dec. 29.

## Whitman Girls Beat Einstein

The Whitman girls basketball team defeated Einstein, 64-31, on Dec. 15, improving its record to 3-1. The Vikings faced Richard Montgomery and Walter Johnson but results were not available before the Almanac deadline.

## Former Bulldog Dyson Leads UConn

Jerome Dyson, who attended Churchill until his sophomore season, led the UConn men's basketball team in scoring at 19.8 points through eight games.

## Wootton Grad Contributing In College

Becca Feldman, a 2008 Wootton graduate, is averaging 7.5 points through eight games for the Emory women's basketball team. Feldman has started three games and leads the team with nine 3-point field goals made. The sophomore scored a season-high 15 points on Nov. 30 against Sewanee and has reached double figures in four of the team's last five games. Emory hosts Birmingham Southern on Dec. 29.

# BUSINESS



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

## Grand Opening

**Char Rosnick, representing U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, presents Rosie Ahmad, Amani's owner, with a certificate from the congressman commemorating the opening of the Amani Wellness Spa.**



**Amani's owner Rosie Ahmad and "Mr. Amani" — the stuffed peacock.**



**Jila Jarvandi rests under a healing pyramid. She is holding magnetic healing crystals.**

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5  
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240-777-1355.

## BUSINESS NOTES

To have an item listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, 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. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. If you have any questions, call Steve Hibbard at 703-917-6407.

**Joan Reilly**, Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Potomac, recently announced the office's Top Agents for the month of October:

- ❖ **Carol Marino** - Top Producing Agent
- ❖ **Debra Marko** - Top Listing Agent
- ❖ **Rokhsan Fallah and Frank Holliday** - Top Sales Team

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is dedicated to creating exceptional real estate services for its customers and communities through the delivery of truly remarkable service.

The office's top agents for the month of September were:

- ❖ **Valerie Puddington** - Top Sales Agent
- ❖ **Marc Infeld** - Top Listing Agent
- ❖ **Rokhsan Fallah and Frank Holliday** - Top Producing Team

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**My Gym Children's Fitness Center of Potomac** will recognize its 10<sup>th</sup>-year anniversary with a celebration on Friday, Jan. 15 from 4-7 p.m. at its 11325 Seven Locks Rd. in Cabin John Mall. During this event, all are welcome to meet the staff, see the facility and play! There will be fun and games, discounts, raffles and more.

**Principals of the law firm, Paley Rothman of Bethesda**, have been chosen by their peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, which has been regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States. The Paley Rothman attorneys from Potomac selected to Best Lawyers are:

- ❖ **Glenn M. Cooper, of Potomac**, manager and senior member of the firm's Litigation and Appellate practice

groups, past president of both the Montgomery County, Maryland Bar Foundation and the Bar Association of Montgomery County, who has been named one of the top attorneys in the Washington, D.C. area by Washingtonian on three separate occasions.

❖ **Steven A. Widdes, of Potomac**, a co-chair of the firm's Estate Planning and Estate/Trust Administration practice groups, who was named a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, is a former chairman of the Maryland State Bar Association Taxation Section and previously served as chairman of the Georgetown University/D.C. Bar Association Estate Planning Program.

**Alana Lasover**, Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Bethesda, recently announced the office's top producers for the month of July: **Howard Morin**, Top Sales Agent and Top Producer; **Charles Bressler**, Top Listing Agent; **Barbara Abeille**, Top Listing Group; and **Ellen Wilner**, Top Sales Group and Top Producing Group.

**Derek Smith**, a resident of Potomac, was recently selected to join Signature Financial Partners, LLC as a financial representative. Based in Vienna, Signature Financial Partners, LLC is a local financial services firm and member of John Hancock Financial Network (JHFN), a national network of independent career firms.

A graduate from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, Derek Smith is active in several community and business organizations such as the Sierra Club, The National Scholars Honors Society, Delta Tau Delta Alumni, and the Logistics, Transportation and Supply Chain Management Club.

**Imagination Stage** has been awarded a New Generations grant from the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. The New Generations grant, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by TCG, provides \$77,500 over two years and will allow Imagination Stage to expand programming.



## For Businesses

**Fred Sommer, attorney with Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy and Ecker Law Firm, speaks with Tom Dudenhofer of Payroll Network following a seminar entitled, "Common Employer Mistakes Under Wage & Hour Laws." The seminar, held last month, was co-sponsored by the Potomac-based law firm and Payroll Network. See [www.payrollnetwork.com](http://www.payrollnetwork.com).**

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