

Potomac ALMANAC

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

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Surviving Together

NEWS, PAGE 3

Seven-year-old Ilana Trembisky claims a snow mountain fort for the United States after the weekend snowstorm ended.

Tennis Bubbles Pop

NEWS, PAGE 3

Whitman To Present 'Amadeus'

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Storm Conditioning

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Weathering the Storm Together



A tree, laden with the weight of a 30-inch wet snow, crashes down on top of a parked car.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



The heavy snow bent trees over power lines along Brickyard Road on Saturday. At one point on Saturday, Pepco reported that more than 15,000 of its 17,738 customers in Zip Code 20854 were without power. More than 2,000 customers were still without power on Monday night as the weather reports predicted another 10-20 inches of snow for Tuesday night, after the Almanac's press time.



This snowplow was a welcome sight on Brickyard Road at the height of the blizzard. Plows were just beginning to dig out side roads and neighborhood streets on Monday evening.

Faced with extended loss of power, residents help each other.

BY ANSLEY LABARRE
THE ALMANAC

Despite her power loss and broken trees, Peggy England found an abundance of warmth in the Feb. 5 snowstorm. A resident to River Falls for barely six months, England said she was astounded by the wave of help from neighbors who, in many cases, were complete strangers.

With her garage blocked by the limbs of broken pear trees, England was seemingly stuck in her home that lost power for nearly two days. Her husband out of town, England searched for a way to get her two young children out of the house as the internal temperature dropped below 45 degrees. After posting a plea for help on her neighborhood's email chat, England was rescued by neighborhood men armed with power tools.

"I was absolutely amazed and heartened by the willingness of neighbors to help neighbors," said England, who maintains her story was nothing out of the ordinary in the aftermath of the blizzard.

But to England and many others who found themselves in the unprecedented and powerless cold, the help from others was extraordinary. Through the same neighborhood email service, River Falls residents found over a dozen invitations to a warm meal, beds

and a hot shower for those who lost their amenities.

Pepco officials have confirmed that Montgomery County peaked at 105,000 residents without power during the storm. As of Monday, nearly three days after the snowfall began, just under 25,000 county residents were still waiting for their service to be restored.

"It reaches a point where you can't stay in your house because it's just too cold," said Kevin Bruns, a River Falls resident whose home also went dark for 40 hours straight. "The frustration from someone who's lost power is that there's so little new information you're getting."

"Neighbors took care of neighbors."
— Peggy England

FOR HOMEOWNERS like Bruns, neighbors became the best resource for information and heat. Among other residents, Katie Coleman took initiative to open the River Falls Club House with its functioning electricity and offered coffee, cookies and a warm place to convene.

"Because of the outpouring of support by people who opened up their homes to other residents, we were pleased that there wasn't a great need for people to use the clubhouse," said Coleman. "However, we were covering all bases. I believe all residents who wanted or needed to leave their homes were able to find a place to go."

Karen Harrison and her husband
SEE IN THIS, PAGE 4

Snow Pops Tennis Bubbles

The two tennis bubbles housing the indoor courts at Potomac Tennis and Fitness Club on Falls Road have collapsed under the weight of the weekend snowfall.

Owner Jeff Wilkie confirmed both the two-court and the five-court bubbles were torn and fell. The bubbles are constructed from a fabric-like material and are kept afloat by large fans. While the Club was able to rely on its backup generators during the power loss to keep the fans running, Wilkie says the heavy snow shifted and caused the bubbles to pop in a fashion he says is comparable to a balloon.

"It's just not designed to handle that heavy snow," he said.

Crews began work on Tuesday to dig out the bubbles before the evening's anticipated snowfall.

Their repairs will require patchwork and cleaning before the bubbles can be blown up to size again. Interior lights were also damaged in the collapse, Wilkie believes the estimated total costs will reach an excess of \$100,000.

Wilkie said he is hopeful the bubbles will be up and running in the next two to three weeks. He said the fitness center and locker rooms are still open with hot showers available to those who may still be without power, but acknowledges the tennis courts will not be operating for some time. Wilkie says he is not aware of any tennis bubbles that have survived the weight of the accumulated snow and repairs are manageable as a result of their design.

"It's just a set back," he said.

— ANSLEY LABARRE

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**LET'S TALK
Real Estate**



by
Michael Matese

**TRENDS IN
LUXURY HOME
IMPROVEMENT
PART II**

Home improvements are up this year, especially in the luxury home arena. Last week we talked about the "green" improvements that are the most popular in high end real estate.

Next on the list of favorite upgrades are kitchens and bathrooms. High end homes are expanding their culinary activities to more than one kitchen. A catering kitchen for dinner parties, a mini kitchen in the master suite for midnight snacks, and an outdoor kitchen for get-togethers by the pool are the latest additions to the traditional central family kitchen.

Luxury bathrooms are becoming full fledged spas with an emphasis on the shower. Multiple head rain and steam showers include aromatherapy, and chromotherapy (colored light therapy) features to wash away stress. Outside the shower, the sky's the limit. Luxury bathrooms are sumptuously fitted with everything from fireplaces, air-jet tubs, multimedia entertainment centers, wireless internet, wine coolers, smart toilets, electronic massage tables, dry saunas, tanning booths, espresso stations, and towel warming drawers.

Some of these improvements may seem extravagant, but most luxury homeowners have very active lives, and it is important to have a stress-relieving refuge that can comfortably support a healthy, busy schedule, parable homes, and recommend features that add value to your property.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY CAROLE DELL/THE ALMANAC

An Arabian horse races along in the snow near Stoney Creek Road in Potomac.

In This Together

FROM PAGE 3

offered their spare bedroom to friends without power, understanding the frustration after losing power for five straight days during a summer storm. Harrison says she was happy to help and believes the same selfless charity would be offered to her.

As the forecast calls for another storm, neighbors are once again bracing for impact. Bruns says he fears the additional weight of a

new snow on top of previously drooping limbs will bring down more power lines and cause additional outages. But along with stocking up on necessities like food and flashlights, the comfort of community support within River Falls makes the next storm a little less foreboding.

"Neighbors took care of neighbors," said England. "A lot of people were complete strangers, but it's a wonderful amount of help they were willing to give."

Cadet Makes West Point Dean's List

Cadet Emily Eugenia Bobenrieth, daughter of Sgt. Maj. and Mrs. Manuel Bobenrieth of Potomac, has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at the U.S. Military Academy.

To earn this distinction, a cadet must maintain a 3.0 average in all courses. The West Point curriculum offers 45 majors balancing physical sciences and engineering with humanities and social sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree and was recently named the top college in the country by Forbes Magazine.

Bobenrieth graduated from Win-



ston Churchill High School in 2007 and will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army upon graduation at West Point.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The following local students are on Marymount University's fall 2009 dean's list:

❖ **Maria Economides**, of North Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing - Accelerated BSN Program

❖ **Susan Gleason**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing

❖ **Sarah James**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Psychology

❖ **Sarah Malik**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Psychology

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

❖ **Martina Pitman**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing

Lauren Sager, Class of 2013 at Skidmore College, earned highest honors for the fall semester. She is the daughter of Mark Sager of Potomac, and Michelle Sager, also of Potomac.

Claire Dufek, class of 2010 at Connecticut College and a resident of Potomac, has been named to the Dean's Honors for the 2009 fall semester.

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Whitman To Present 'Amadeus'

Students work on musical, psychological drama.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

"A great mass of death! Requiem mass for Wolfgang Mozart, composed by his devoted friend, Antonio Salieri! Oh what sublimity, what depth, what passion in the music! Salieri has been touched by God at last. And God is forced to listen."

These are the words of Antonio Salieri, the main character in "Amadeus," a psychological musical drama based on the lives of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. This play of jealousy, despair and duplicity is currently scheduled to be presented March 4, 5 and 6 by the Walt Whitman Drama Department.

The main character, Salieri, is played by Whitman senior Noah Gavil. Told primarily through flashback, the story reveals the jealousy and rage Salieri developed for Mozart. Salieri purports to be Mozart's ally to his face, while doing his best to destroy his reputation and chances of success. Salieri, a devout Catholic, cannot believe that God would choose to give the gifts and ability to write masterful compositions to Mozart instead of to him. Angrily, Salieri rejects God and vows to do everything he can to destroy Mozart.

"These students are able to handle college level material. Many will choose to continue in college and as a career."

— Christopher Gerken

THE TONY award-winning play by English author Peter Shaffer was entitled "Amadeus" (Mozart's middle name) because it means "beloved of," one of the themes of the play. Under the direction of Christopher Gerken, the play will incorporate live orchestra music, 18th century costumes and an authentic harpsichord.

"This play is the most challenging that the Whitman Drama Department has performed. It is a psychological and spiritual musical drama that deals with a lot of difficult concepts. There are many deep thought-provoking themes developed in this play," Gerken said.

The cast of 22 were chosen by audition. Each student had to recite a 2-and-a-half minute monologue in the style of the play. At least 60 students auditioned.

"Whitman has outstanding performing arts students, many with enormous talent. Some are professionally trained musicians who have acted in past performances. These students are able to handle college level material. Many will choose to continue in college and as a career," Gerken added.

The students in the play are Luis Alvarado, John An, Elena Aragon, Molly Bennett, Sasha Berger, Sa-

rah Blush, Andrew Dahreddine, Aidan Edelman, Itai Farhi, Noah Gavil, Michelle Huey, Grace Laboy, Joe Lilek, Haruka Nakagawa, Michael Nguyen-Mason, Emma Rackstraw, Emily Sobel, Jacob Trauberman, Kenny Wesley, Fox Williams, Alex Xourias, Sammy Zeisel, Brian Clarkson, Mickum Mathison, Pascal Charpenrier and Ali Foreman.

AT LEAST 50 students work on the tech and production crews, volunteering their time and talent to make certain the sets are built to the specifications of designers Mia Tong and Will Bartlett, that the lighting is perfect and the show runs smoothly. Producer Erin Pearson, a Whitman senior, was selected through an extensive interview process. She is in charge of the budget, advertising and the business side of the production. She has a large staff of assistants, all of whom help with the details of production.

Although the show is based on the lives of two real musicians, Shaffer took many liberties with history. There may have been some conflict between Mozart and Salieri but evidence shows that they enjoyed a respectful relationship.

Gerken states that he, too, has decided to take some liberties. "We use recorded Mozart music, but I infused live music by having three sopranos sing as well as a chamber orchestra play." The lead actor, Noah Gavil, who has taken piano lessons for eight years, will be playing compositions on a real harpsichord.

Noah said, "The part of Salieri is daunting due to the number and length of the monologues. It has been a reality check, trying to

learn the part. I am required to constantly drill. The entire show is from Salieri's perspective — I feel I need to really understand and delve into his emotions and motivation in order to play him." Noah has performed since he was a freshman. He acted in "The Nerd," "The Odd Couple," "Into the Woods" and joined the students who traveled to Scotland for the Fringe Festival. He would like to continue performing in college on an extra-curricular basis. However, he plans to major in a science field.

Gerken is planning to submit "Amadeus" for the Cappie Awards. Other Whitman productions, including "Aida" and "Damn Yankees" have won these prestigious Washington D.C. High School Drama Awards. In addition, they were named the "Best High School Performing Group" two years ago at the Fringe Festival in Scotland.

Performances are scheduled to be held March 4, 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. The Whitman Box Office will be open to purchase tickets through Feb. 20 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$12 for adults. Reserved seats are \$20. For more information, call the box office at 301-329-6569 or visit the Web site at www.Whitmandrama.com.

Attendance: Daniel McAndrew, James Rutledge, Eric Wargotz and Corrogan Vaughn. At Growlers, 227 East Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17
College Fair. 6-8 p.m. Historically Black Colleges and Universities College Fair. To be held at Richard Montgomery High school, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville.

MONDAY/FEB. 15
Children Fitness Center Open House. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Take the work out of "Work out" exergaming, climbing walls, sports walls, glow rooms. At Fitness for Health, 11140 Rockville Pike, 1st Floor Gym Rockville. Call 301-231-7138.

TUESDAY/FEB. 16
Young Republicans Winter Debate. 7:30 p.m. Confirmed

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POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ FEBRUARY 10-16, 2010 ♦ 5

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

Job Tip Workshops. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Learn how to expand contacts and how to more successfully market oneself in today's job market. Presented by the JSSA Employment and Career Services. At Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. To register, call 301-610-8380.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Super Fiesta Latina Party. 8:15 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Dance is hosted by Fabio and Jennifer Bonini. Lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. for Salsa beginners and up. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. DJ Fabio Bonini plays the best of Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha-Cha, Reggaeton and more. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: Jennifer@ForeverDancing.com or call 703-798-1071.

Singing Our Hearts Out — A Valentine's Day Cabaret. 8 p.m. The cast is made up of 10 women who

have been principle performers onstage at American Century Theater, Factory 449 Productions, Hexagon, Imagination Stage, Olney Theater Center, Pinky Swear Productions, Studio Theater, Shakespeare Theater Company, Taffety Punk, and Washington Improv Theater. Tickets are \$15. At the Bethesda Theater, 7719 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda, Md. Visit <http://www.bethesdatheatre.com/> or call 301-657-7827.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra Dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. called to the Glen Echo Open Band from 8:30-11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

FEB. 12-13

Sol Cherrick Memorial Scholar-in-Residence. Free. Friday at 6 p.m. At the Oneg that follows, Dr. Marc Hirshman will speak on "The Battle over the Bible — Jews and Christians in the Second Century and On." On Shabbat morning, his topic will be "The Battle over the Land of Israel: Politics and Theology" at 11 a.m. and on Shabbat afternoon (5 p.m.) his lecture will be titled "Babylonia-A home away from Home." At Beth Sholom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Call 301-279-7010.

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

BCC Musical Performance. 1:30 p.m. Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet and other ensembles. At the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd. Call 240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840.

Piano Recital. 3 p.m. Presented by the Adult Student Music Forum. At the Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd.



TUESDAY/FEB. 23

Cosy Sheridan. 8 p.m. Folk singer-songwriter performs at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Tickets are \$18/door, \$15/advance at FocusMusic.org.

Call 240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840.

KayDee puppet show. 2 p.m. Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave. Call 240-777-0140; TTY 240-777-0902.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most hardbacks and large paperbacks are \$1; regular paperbacks are \$.50. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenholden Drive, Potomac.

Great Fiber Art Jackets that Fit: A Trunk Show with Rae Cumbie. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. See the results

of a year and a half of jacket making collaborations between quilters, weavers and custom dressmaker Rae Cumbie. Sponsored by Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. At St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$13. Beginning swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. Live music by Red Dress Ball with the Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 14

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12. Dancers will enjoy foxtrot, two-step, waltz, cha-cha, rumba, swing and more in the Spanish Ballroom. With the Hot Society Orchestra of Washington. Dance lesson at 3 p.m. Live dancing from 3:30-6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo. Email: dave@hotsociety.net.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. Traditional American contra dancing with square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couples dances. Lesson at 7 p.m. followed by dances to live music. Admission is \$15. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. in Glen Echo.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 8:30-11 p.m. Slow Blues Workshop from 8:30 p.m. With Donna Barker and Mike Marcotte. Admission is \$14 for both workshop and dance; \$8/dance only. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231, Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.DanceDC.com. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

MONDAY/FEB. 15

Sam Weiser CD release with SONIA and Phoebe Hunt. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$20/door. At St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville.

Discover Strathmore: The Magic of Strathmore. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Headlining the festival are The Spencers in their production "Theatre of Illusion." At the Music Center and Mansion at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5100 or www.strathmore.org/Strathmore

TUESDAY/FEB. 16

Washington Musica Viva. 7:30 p.m. Performers are Regino Madrid, violin, Derek Smith, viola, and Carl Banner, piano. Will perform Mozart's Sonata in A.K. 525. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-891-6844.

Mardi Gras and Zydeco Dance Party. 8-11 p.m. Admission is \$15. Lesson from 7:30-8 p.m. With the bands Curley Taylor and Zydeco Trouble. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to www.DancingbytheBayou.com. The Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9-11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. Dancing from 9-11:30 p.m. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to www.CapitalBlues.org. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.



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FINE ARTS

MARCH 2 TO APRIL 28

“Observations of Light and Place.” Free admission. An opening reception for the artists will be held Sunday, March 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. Features travel and street scenes by Sabine Dickens, architectural studies by Judy Gross, landscapes by Judith MacArthur, and kiln-formed glass pieces by Jamie Agins. Congregation Har Shalom is at 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-299-7087 or see www.HarShalom.org.



NOW THROUGH MARCH 14

“Cut Slash Paste: Collage Work By Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland.” Reception is Friday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. At Photoworks Gallery on the first floor of the Arcade Building, at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

NOW THROUGH FEB. 28

Fiber Imagery. (50 Hook Rugs). Sally D'Alabora, John Flournoy, Carol Koerner, Roslyn Logsdon, and Sarah Province. At the Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Call 301-897-1518.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 14

A Collage Exhibit by Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland. At Photoworks Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident photography studio and teaching facility, presents “A Collage Exhibit by Chris Lawson and Jared Ragland.” Opening reception to be announced. Gallery is open Saturday, 1 – 4 p.m., and Sunday and Monday 1 – 8 p.m., or by appointment. Call 301-634-2274.

Susan Covell Sands. A reception for the artists will be held Saturday evening, Feb. 13. At the Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo Park. Open noon to 5 p.m. both days. Contact the Yellow Barn Gallery, at 1-301-371-5593 or the National Park Service, Glen Echo at 301-492-6229.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 6

21+21. Waverly Street Gallery's 2nd Annual Invitational Show. The 21 artists whose work is regularly featured in the Waverly Street Gallery, have invited 21 other artists to exhibit their work. Reception is Friday, Feb. 12 from 6-9 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441.

FEB. 13-14

Paintings by Susan Sands. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by Susan Sands. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

“People, Places, Things.” Works by Artists Elizabeth Weiss Lloyd and

FEB. 20-21

Group Show: Students of Pat Liebowitz. The Yellow Barn Studio, Glen Echo Park's resident painting and drawing studio, presents works by students of Pat Liebowitz. In the Yellow Barn Gallery. 12 to 5 p.m. Call 301-371-5593 or visit www.yellowbarnstudio.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Critiques and Coffee. A monthly Sunday morning photo jam session at Photoworks studio. Bring photos to a morning critique led by a Photoworks faculty member. Enjoy the camaraderie of your peers, along with coffee and bagels and a lively discussion of your images. In the Photoworks Studio from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call (301) 634 - 2274 or visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.



NOW THROUGH MARCH 27

“Points of Departure.” From 752 entries, discover the top winners in VisArts' newest photography exhibition, Points of Departure. VisArts Center's third annual photography exhibition is juried by a panel of Canon's professional photographers, named “Explorers of Light”. At VisArts Center 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville. Visit www.visartscenter.org, or call 301-315-8200.

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Snow Leads to Conditioning, Scheduling Questions

Whitman's Kahlenberg, Russell finding ways to stay active.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Whitman point guard Caroline Kahlenberg is riding a stationary bike to prepare for the Vikings' biggest game of the season — a matchup with Churchill for the 4A West division title. Susan Russell, Whitman's leading scorer, is walking her dog.

It's easy to question whether better basketball training tactics exist. But when two-plus feet of snow closes classrooms and limits gym availability, you've gotta do what you've gotta do.

Snowstorms in the Washington D.C. metro area led to school closures and athletic event postponements during the last week with more expected in the near future. While athletic directors search for possible re-scheduling dates, coaches and players have causes for concern other than simply returning to competition.

Whitman girls basketball coach Pete Kenah realizes options are limited due to snow but feels his request requires less-than-maximum effort from his players: there's 24 hours in a day; use one for exercise.

THE VIKINGS last played Feb. 4, defeating Northwest 54-52. Since then, Whitman has not had an organized team activity. Schools were closed Friday, Monday and Tuesday. Saturday athletic events were postponed. When Montgomery County Public Schools are closed, "all school and community activities are cancelled, including athletic practices and events," according to the Montgomery County Public Schools Web site. Cold, snowy weather makes for a potential cozy — and lazy — indoor environment. But Kenah's top offensive threats have followed his instructions, finding ways to stay active.

"We all have to find time to work out on our own," Kahlenberg said. "We can't really communicate. We're doing the best we can through Facebook, but it's not the



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC
Wootton's Jess Welch, left, Whitman's Susan Russell and all other athletes in Montgomery County have experienced event postponements of late due to inclement weather.

same as practice."

The senior said she's been busy shoveling snow.

"There are so few options with what we have [to stay active]," Kahlenberg said.

Kahlenberg and Russell said the effects of the storm will be evident when the Vikings return to the court.

"It's really difficult, especially if people don't have treadmills," Russell said of maintaining fitness during recent inclement weather. "I've been walking my dog a lot ... [and] other team members have been walking outside."

Whitman was scheduled to face Churchill for the division title on Tuesday, but the game has been postponed until Thursday, Kenah said. The game could be postponed again with another potential snowstorm headed to the area.

Churchill boys basketball coach Matt Miller said he's concerned

with potential injuries which could result from playing a lot of games in a short period of time after an extended break from action. Miller said teams might play three or four games in a week for several weeks in order to get caught up.

"Who knows what's going to happen," Miller said of re-scheduling. "We'll really have to rely on the depth of our bench. ... It gets challenging in order to prepare. [You don't want to be] doing too much before games [but you want to] maintain strength and conditioning." The Bulldogs last played Feb. 2, beating Walter Johnson 52-38. Churchill had games against Richard Montgomery (Friday) and Whitman (Tuesday) postponed.

THE WHITMAN GIRLS are on a five-game winning streak and have won 10 of their last 11 en route to a 14-3 record. While inclement weather affects everyone,



Churchill's Jordan Bass attempts a shot against Whitman. Churchill head coach Matt Miller said he is concerned about potential injury to his players if multiple inclement weather make-up games are played in a short amount of time after an extended break.

a team like the Vikings that is playing well generally wants to be on the floor as much as possible. With a matchup against Churchill — the only 4A West team to beat the Vikings — looming, time away from basketball is likely the last thing Whitman wants.

"I think momentum-wise I'll see [how the break affects us] when we get back on the court," Kenah said. "We've won five straight heading into our next game against Churchill for the division championship. Our kids are really excited about that."

Whitman is 6-1 in the division. Churchill, which is 13-4 overall and 5-2 in the division, is also playing well. The Bulldogs have won three straight and eight of their last nine. Churchill beat Whitman 55-50 in overtime on Jan. 15.

WHILE THE WEATHER has created some scheduling headaches,

there have been some positives to come out of the situation. Some players have enjoyed taking time away from their respective sport.

"A lot of us are ready for a break or rest so we can catch up on school work," Whitman's Russell said. "We can come back ready to focus on basketball rather than a test or school work."

Kenah said he was pleased MCPS gave advance notice when athletic events were to be postponed, rather than leaving coaches and players to wonder.

With the potential for more snow, players, coaches and administrators will likely spend more time juggling the ups and downs of winter weather.

"We look forward to getting back on the court," Churchill's Miller said. "It's an unfortunate situation and I know all the teachers and administrators would like to stay on schedule for the season."

SPORTS

5Qs Five questions with Whitman guard Caroline Kahlenberg

Q: What is your favorite food?
A: Lasagna.

Q: What did you do for the Super Bowl?

A: I watched the first half. I went over to our neighbors' place. They were having a get together. Then I came home and watched a movie. ... I'm not really into football.

Q: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

A: I went to Israel for my cousin's Bar Mitzvah ... [when I was] 16.

Q: Did you do anything fun in the recent snow?

A: Really, all I've done is shoveled.

Q: You're going to play basketball at Middlebury College in Vermont next year. What are you most looking forward to about the transition to college basketball?

A: I think it's mostly just like a continuation. I don't really think there's a big difference more than I'm just going to be able to keep playing basketball.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Marymount University is proud to announce that 562 undergraduate students (approximately 25 percent of the undergraduate total of 2,224) have been named to the Dean's List for their academic achievement throughout the fall 2009 semester. The following local students are on Marymount's fall 2009 Dean's List:

❖ **Maria Economides**, of North Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing - Accelerated BSN Program

❖ **Susan Gleason**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing

❖ **Sarah James**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Psychology

❖ **Sarah Malik**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Psychology

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

❖ **Martina Pitman**, of Potomac, who is majoring in Nursing

Lauren Sager, Class of 2013 at Skidmore College, earned highest honors for the fall semester. She is the daughter of Mark Sager of Potomac, and Michelle Sager, also of Potomac.

Some 138 Montgomery County area students were named to the Dean's List at Salisbury University for the fall 2009 semester.

Potomac area students include: Dean Allen, Kevin Kavounis, Kevin Motamedi and Jose Pugada.

Rockville area students include: Kori Asbury, Ann Belott, Ginger Berry, Carolyn Bray, Lindsay Callaway, Amanda Cantrell, Jennifer Crist-Watson, Daysi Cuellar, Christopher

Hartman, Alexa Kline, John Kline, Charles Miller, Jacqueline Mizelle, Zachary Thomas, Cheryl Toussaint, Edberg Villard, Carolyn Weis and James Zimmerman.

Fairfield University has announced that the following residents have been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester:

❖ **Christopher Horning**, a resident of Potomac, a junior studying in the Charles F. Dolan School of Business.

❖ **James Jessup**, a resident of Potomac, a senior studying in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Claire Dufek, class of 2010 at Connecticut College and a resident of Potomac, has been named to the Dean's Honors for the 2009 fall semester.

The following local students have been placed on the Fall 2009 list at Gettysburg College:

❖ **Michael Boyland**, a first-year student, from Potomac

❖ **Danielle Carty**, a sophomore, from Potomac

❖ **Adam Pelta-Pauls**, a sophomore, from Potomac.

McLean School of Maryland grad **Lauren Sager**, Class of 2009, has earned highest honors for the fall semester at Skidmore College. She is the daughter of Mark Sager of Potomac, and Michelle Sager, also of Potomac.

While Lauren attended McLean, she was at the top of her class. She participated as secretary of the Student Government Association, served on the Discipline Committee, and was an active member on the Lacrosse Team.



“Life is my college. May I graduate well, and earn some honors!”

• Louisa May Alcott

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Really?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"No turn on red when pedestrians are present." That's what the sign says; many of them say it (print it, actually) throughout Old Town Alexandria (maybe other jurisdictions, too, but I've not noticed them elsewhere). And it's a good thing that it is said, and said/printed so clearly and placed so prominently (on the right side of the road on which I'm idling, staring at the aforementioned red light while contemplating a right-hand turn) because otherwise, I might not react as carefully to the sight of pedestrians walking directly in front of me and my car.

I have to believe that, given the increasing numbers of licensed (and unlicensed) practical drivers out there, a percentage of whom might not read and write English as their primary language, it never hurts to offer refresher-type signage stating the fairly obvious. I mean, drivers have a lot more going on inside their cars (and perhaps even inside their heads) than maybe they used to just a few short years ago.

Cell phones, leap to mind, especially when they're set on ring, are distracting; more so when there's an ongoing conversation, whether hand-holding or hands free. Either way, there's more information in-car (and in-ear) than drivers have previously ever had to assimilate. And of course, this doesn't even take into consideration the demands/activities of any passengers, who we'll assume (for the sake of this column) are not so much interested in, or demanding of, the driver, given their likely involvement within their own hand-held devices (cell-phonning, texting, gaming, video) as in the past.

Speaking of cell phones and distractions, one cannot address the demands on drivers without mentioning the scourge of texting, a silent assassin, if there ever was one. Created presumably to enhance and assure the lines of communication, their use and abuse; anytime, all the time, without regard to time and place, has created an alternative to speaking that unfortunately has led drivers to additional distractions; requiring drivers who decide to reply, something else to do in-car with BOTH HANDS instead of/in addition to HOLDING THE WHEEL AND STEERING.

And lest we not forget the absolute newest distraction to drivers: G.P.S-type navigation systems, the search-and-hopefully-not-destroy-the-driver, computerized rescue devices that will direct drivers to their destination, so long as they manually enter the correct information into the device (most likely also while in the car and driving), and then actually listen to its calm, reassuring voice advising you where to turn, and/or looking at the pop-up navigation screen for further "directionality." A helpful device for sure, but one often strategically placed out of your line of sight for convenient viewing no doubt, but a location which draws the driver's eyes away from watching ahead (or into the rear- or side-view mirrors) to watching down a bit and to the side. Nevertheless, this is information which has provided countless motorists; verbally, visually, digitally and repeatedly, happy endings to an otherwise potentially harrowing journey. Still, this kind of real-time-type streaming data is imposing itself on drivers in a frequency and duration never before imagined and certainly not one for which there has been any training or driver education.

It's obvious, with so much that is new (technologically speaking, especially), that Alexandria has decided to go old school and offer its local drivers a reminder of one of their basic behind-the-wheel responsibilities: to respect their fellow non-drivers. It sounds/reads simple enough, "No turn on red when pedestrians are present," but considering all the cell-phonning, texting, gaming and navigating going on in the car, apparently it made sense to "sign in" while drivers were signing on.

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

OPINION

Surviving the Blizzard as a Community

Connected neighbors save the day; time to check contingency plans, emergency supplies.

More than 48 hours after more than two feet of snow stopped accumulating, after two nights of single digit temperatures in many areas, there are still tens of thousands of households without power.

During this blizzard, random and not-so-random acts of kindness have made all the difference for stranded families in the cold and dark. A little preparation to “shelter in place” also helped.

In neighborhoods around the region, families with power offered help to those without. Consider a few examples of list-serve messages, all sent with addresses and phone contact information, and instructions to spread the word:

“If any neighborhood residents still need a place to stay, you are welcome to come over. You can hang out for just a while to watch the game or stay overnight. We have lots of room and can accommodate a family with kids and pets — we have a large dog who would love to have a playmate for a while.”

“We have hot coffee, food and beds to sleep in. We also have a 4-wheel drive and if my husband can help with driving please let us know. Happy to help!!”

EDITORIAL

“We have a warm house and food and beds. Anyone in need is most welcome. We are unplowed, so we can’t drive out ourselves.”

Consider one family’s experience: an elderly mother who lives alone in the suburbs while her children live in other states. Stranded by two-feet of snow, and out of power for the second day, her children lost phone contact with her. While friends tried to get to her by 4-wheel drive, an appeal via list-serve brought multiple offers from “strangers” to hike through the snow to check on her, and offers to provide a place to stay. The friend of the family was able to reach her, and found indoor temperatures of 31 degrees before getting her to a warm, safe place. But another 24 hours in that house could have been disastrous.

It’s hard to fathom the combination of no power, bitter temperatures and no way to get out of the house or the neighborhood.

By the time you read this, written on Monday in the respite between the blizzard and Tuesday’s predicted storm, we may already be dealing with the next round of snow in this record-breaking winter.

It’s a great time to think about emergency contingencies. Do you know who on your block might need some extra thread in the safety net? Elderly, or lives alone, or any other special circumstance? Do you have a way to reach your family members during a power outage? Do you have food and water for a few days without power?

Here are two links to Ready.gov, explaining the basics of an emergency kit and the required elements of an emergency plan.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>

We welcome your snow stories, snow tips and snow pictures. Do you know of a random act of kindness to share? Please let us know at almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

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County’s Response to Snow Emergency

BY ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 1

The following was sent Monday night, Feb. 8.

Good evening to you all. This has been a rough couple of days — for everyone. 30 inches of snow is really beyond the pale.

My tale is not as bad as some, but I experienced no power and no heat for almost 48 hours (we could see our breath in the kitchen), and my road still hasn’t been plowed. Unfortunately, some of you are enduring even greater hardships — no power still and no real assurances from PEPCO as to when you will have it back.

The frustration with our County’s plowing operation has been intense. I have gotten calls at home from irate constituents, e-mail pleas from friends asking if I could help, and our office e-mail has been overwhelmed with questions, concerns, and complaints.

My staff and I have been in constant communication with both the County Executive’s team and PEPCO executives. Here is what we have been told:

❖ It is our County’s policy, as it is in many neighboring jurisdictions, to focus first on “primary” and “secondary” roads before even starting on neighborhood streets.

In a storm of this magnitude, that means it can be two days after the storm subsides before neighborhood roads are started. As of midnight last night (Sunday), our crews, with something like 800 pieces of equipment, began moving into our neighborhood streets. And while it seems odd (and vexing to be sure) that some streets get plowed before others in the same neighborhood, each crew has its own assignments, and all areas of our County are being treated equitably.

❖ Our office has also been inundated with e-mails and calls regarding the state of some of our major roads — Massachusetts Avenue, Old Georgetown Road, Wisconsin Avenue, River Road, Goldsboro, and Bradley Boulevard. These are state roads, and are the responsibility of the state to plow. We have been in contact with state officials to let them know that these roads have not been given the attention they require. If you would like to report a problem with one of our state roads, call 1-800-543-2515.

❖ PEPCO has its own priority list. It focuses on the outages that affect the most people first, working its way down the list to the ones that affect just a few homeowners. They have been hampered by road access as well. I have asked our County officials

to prioritize plowing in areas that are without power. PEPCO believes the vast majority of people will have power back on in the next 24 hours; however, they are saying that some situations may not be addressed until Friday in light of the new storm expected between Tuesday night and Wednesday.

We have also been privy to some heart-warming stories as well — stories about neighbors pitching in to help other neighbors, clearing trees and streets so that the frail and elderly can get needed services.

These types of emergencies really test all of us. They test our government’s capacity, and our own. Do know that my staff and I are working hard on your behalf to make sure that our County gets to you as soon as possible, that you have power as soon as PEPCO can get it to you, and that life returns to normal as soon as possible — which may not be soon enough if this next storm is what they are forecasting — another 10-20 inches.

BELOW you will find additional information that may be helpful:

❖ For residents still without power, the County has opened three shelters located at: the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center at 1000 Forest Glen Road in Silver

Spring; the Longwood Recreation Center at 19300 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville; and Richard Montgomery High School at 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville.

❖ To report snow removal problems or downed trees, call 240-777-6000.

❖ Montgomery County’s RideOn bus service is limited and is operating under its “S Service” schedule.

❖ Montgomery County’s Fire and Rescue Service urges residents without power to be aware that using gas or charcoal grills, propane heaters and stoves, kerosene space heaters or generators indoors can be fatal. They are a source of carbon monoxide, which can build up indoors and cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

❖ Montgomery County government’s cable television channel — County Cable Montgomery (CCM), which can be viewed on Channel 6 on the Comcast and RCN cable systems and Channel 30 on Verizon — is continuing to feature live coverage of road conditions at all major traffic intersections.

❖ Montgomery Department of Transportation (DOT) plow trucks are assisting PEPCO crews in reaching locations to restore power to the greatest number of customers.

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**FINANCING
AS LOW AS**

0% APR
FOR 72 MONTHS

**REBATES
LOYALTY CASH
BONUS CASH**

ON SELECT MODELS & APPROVED CREDIT

LARGEST INVENTORY

LOWEST PRICES



AWARD WINNING SALES & SERVICE FACILITIES!