

Potomac ALMANAC

In the Spotlight

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NEWS



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE ALMANAC

Beautiful But Dangerous

About an inch of sleet and ice fell overnight Monday, closing schools on Tuesday, Jan. 18, and coating trees, driveways and neighborhood roads with a beautiful and dangerous coating of ice. There were numerous incidents of cars sliding off the roads on Tuesday morning.

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POTOMAC ALMANAC EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR POTOMACALMANAC@HOTMAIL.COM
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Making a Difference

Nine-year-old sacrifices his birthday gifts to support new water wells in Africa.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

Last year on World Water Day, Nathaniel Drexler came home from Bells Mill Elementary School very upset. He learned from his teacher, Mrs. Wilkes, that in many developing countries children walk for several hours to get water. Often this water is dirty and filled with germs and disease that cause many to become sick or die.

He became very passionate about the issue of clean water and wanted his family to make a donation to the cause. He also went door to door selling popsicles to raise money and found a website where 100 percent of the donations go to help build clean water wells in Africa. Nathaniel managed to raise \$426 to build clean water well for a village in Africa.

As a third grader, he learned from his teacher Mrs. Kohn about wants vs. needs. This lesson gave Nathaniel an idea for his 9th birthday party. He decided he may want new toys, but he doesn't really need new toys. He feels there are more important needs that other people in the world have.

Clean water is something that people need to have a healthy life. So, he is asking his family and friends to contribute to his clean water donation page instead of bringing him toys to his party. He believes his cause is "important because there are others in this world besides us. We are all hu-



Nathaniel Drexler

In His Own Words

"I'm turning 9 and over those years I've got hundreds of gifts. But all those things are just wants. Some I play with for a day and forget about. This year I have decided to ask everybody that's coming to my birthday party to donate money instead of gifts to go to people who need water in Africa.

"At first I thought, 'I want my gifts.' But then I realized then that a gift is only a want. But water is a need that world-wide has short supply of.

"Most people in these places don't even get to see their 5th birthday. I am turning 9 and have never been threatened in this way. We should all be grateful that we live in an area where we have safe, clean water to drink. But it is not like that everywhere. Some people are unfortunate, and have to walk miles a day just to drink infected water that can make them sick or kill them.

"Please consider donating money to this fund instead of gifts for my birthday. I will feel happy and so will the kids drinking it. Please feel free not to do this if you do not want to. But please consider it as an option."

SEE PRIORITIES, PAGE 4

— NATHANIEL DREXLER

Students Compete in 'Poetry Out Loud' Contest

Three from Whitman participate in event.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

The Poetry Out Loud contest attracted several area high school students to The Writer's Center in Bethesda on Friday, Jan. 14. The competition combines aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theater.

The program, which began in 2005, helps students master public speaking skills and build self confidence. Each student performed poems of fewer than 25 lines, one pre-20th century and one of their own choice. Students were judged on dramatic appropriateness, how they embody the poem, level of difficulty and evidence of understanding.

Walt Whitman teacher Michelle Quackenbush coordinates a similar event

at the high school to determine the finalist who will compete at the Poetry Out Loud event. "We had a huge turnout which was wonderful to see — and here we are today."

For all three Whitman students this was their first poetry competition. Allegra Caldera was inspired to enter the competition by her grandmother who writes poetry. She helped Allegra choose her poems "Dancers Exercising" by Amy Clampitt and "Epilogue" by Robert Lowell.

Classmate Alison Foreman chose poems "where the central theme dealt with the passage of time. I am drawn to the power of the written word and the ideas a poem can emphasize." For her poems she chose "Elegy on a Toy Piano" by Dean Young and "I am Learning to Abandon the World" by Linda Pastan.

Emily Rogers chose "Silence" by Thomas Hood and then "a fun one," "Cartoon Physics, Part 1" by Nick Flynn.

SEE POETRY, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY COLLEEN HEALY/THE ALMANAC

From left: Walt Whitman High School Poetry Out Loud contestants Allegra Caldera, Emily Rogers, Alison Foreman and teacher Michelle Quackenbush. Allegra Caldera came in third place.

CIVIC CALENDAR

Get Involved

COMPILED BY KEN MOORE

Send listings to
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

SEDIMENT FINE BILL

Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The County Council is scheduled to hold a hearing on a bill to increase fines for sediment control violations, introduced by Marc Elrich (D). The bill would tighten the county's enforcement of regulations in preventing discharge of sediment pollution from construction sites, according to the Sierra Club's Montgomery County Group, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Transportation and Environment Committee worksession on the bill is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 27.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

Tuesday, Jan. 25, , 5 - 6:30 p.m.

17th Maryland Environmental Legislative Summit. Join state legislators and the Maryland environmental leaders in the annual legislative summit in Annapolis. Miller Conference Room, Miller Senate Building, 1 Bladen Street, Annapolis, 21401. www.marylandconservation.org/ summit

FOREST CONSERVATION REPORT

Thursday, Jan. 27, approximately 2:15 p.m.

The Montgomery County Planning Board is scheduled to present the Forest Conservation Annual Report to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Montgomery County Planning Board, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760. 301-495-4600. www.montgomeryplanningboard.org

COUNTY COUNCIL CAPITAL BUDGET

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Montgomery County Council. Council Hearing Room, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The public hearing on the FY12 Capital Budget and amendments to FY11-16 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), and WSSC's FY12-17 CIP. Those wishing to testify should call 240-777-7803 beginning Jan. 30. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council

RIVER CLEANUP

Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - noon.

Potomac Conservancy conducts monthly Canal Stewards cleanups, open to all ages at the River Center at Lock 8, off the Clara Barton Parkway. www.potomac.org

MARCH THROUGH MAY 2011

Environmental Training.

National Capital Region Watershed Stewards Academy will conduct a 12-class program to train individuals to raise awareness of watershed issues, assess watersheds at neighborhood level, create solutions for stormwater and pollution reduction into local waterways by installing rain gardens, and educate and engage communities. Contact info@ncr-wsa.org

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Jan. 12 - April 11.

Maryland 428th General Assembly meets for 90 days to act on more than 2300 bills, including the state's annual budget. See <http://mlis.state.md.us/>

SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERS

How to help. Sierra Club seeks legislative committee members, volunteers who review bills, determine support and delegate responsibilities. The committee may also help plan lobby nights and help organize Sierra Club member meetings with legislators. Call 301-277-7111.

PEOPLE



Artist Inna Timokhina and paintings from her Invitation to the Dreamworld show.



Artist Martha Spak and her painting "Perfect Morning."

Art Gallery Spotlights Timokhina and Spak

Exhibit to run through Feb. 20.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

The works of artists Inna Timokhina and Martha Spak are on exhibit now through Feb. 20 at The Art Gallery of Potomac at 10107 River Road in the space that was formerly called the Surrey. Gallery hours are Thursday-Sunday 12-4 p.m.

Growing up in the Siberian town of Novosibirsk, everyone around Inna Timokhina seemed to be a scientist. As a child she liked to draw and paint, but she also grew up to be a scientist and years later found art again.

She calls her painting Dreamworld art — seeing images in her head and painting those images. Her work as a scientist analyzing biology samples of tissues and cells have also influenced her art — translating what she saw under the microscope to her paintings.

Often her painting titles offer a play on words and images. Her rational science side and spontaneous art side come together in her works. Timokhina said, "My creative side was suppressed for so long, now it is coming out with my art. You have less opportunity to be creative in science. Technique-wise I use a scientific approach to painting; like I am doing an experiment. My paintings are like energy snapshots. I hope my painting provides positive change and emotion. There are too many negative

ARTIST PROFILES

things in the world; it is hard to find some happy things. Even in contemporary art there is a lot of negativity. I hope to see things full of illumination and light. Painting is like a snapshot in time where everything is interconnected."

Artist Martha Spak has turned "a quite hobby into a profession. My inspiration comes from anywhere and everywhere. I like to move the paint around to figure out how it works. I am drawn to the heaviness of the oil and work with weight and texture until I find a finish I like. I hope I give viewers a thoughtful pause so they slow down and relax. Art pulls a community together and with viewing different styles you find something you can relate to."

For more information on the exhibits, call 240-447-9417.

Priorities: Understanding Wants vs. Needs

FROM PAGE 3

mans and are all one. If we don't help each other then we are not helping ourselves. Imagine all the people that you will make happy. I have seen pictures on the website of children when they get the new

well for their village and their smiles look like they just won a million dollars. It brings a smile to my face to see how happy they are by bringing them a little water. I hope other feel what I am feeling and start their own donation page. If this catches on we could clean up the whole water problem."

Nathaniel's mom, Lisa Drexler is "very very proud of him. It is just a very mature and selfless thing for a young man to do. Nathaniel has a big heart and cares about plants and animals and people. He has just made us very proud. Some adults do not always act on their values and beliefs. It is an extra step and a difficult step for many to take. It is a very impressive thing for a 9 year old to do."

So far Nathaniel's birthday donations are \$654 and growing.

To contribute to Nathaniel's water fund, go to <http://mycharitywater.org/Nathaniel9>.

To find out more about clean water or start one's own donation page, go to www.charitywater.org.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Icy Fun

Whitman ice hockey skaters Mike Stevens, Sebastian Clore-Gronenborn, and Aidan Neustadt with friends on a pond Sunday, Jan. 16.

FROM PAGE 3

The winner of the contest was Kari Barclay from Richard Montgomery High School.

Poetry out Loud Coordinator Linda Joy Burke feels "poetry is a gift to our society, a measure of our humanity and inhumanity. I hope this contest will expose others to poetry."

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PETS

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



Eddie (Dog) Male, 2 years, 33 lbs., neutered, Shepherd mix- Eddie really romps with other dogs outside but settles down nicely inside. He adores people and has quite a range of funny play moves that will keep you laughing. Still part puppy, Eddie needs an active adopter and one that doesn't have cats.



Oliver (Dog)- Male, 4 years, 45 lbs., neutered, Hound mix- Oliver is a wonderful guy who is friendly, playful, and enjoys a nice couch spot. He likes all kinds of people, including children, other dogs, leash walks, cars, and dog toys. Oliver would do best in almost any family and in a home where baby gates are used rather than crates.

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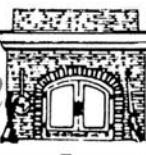


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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Look Before You Leap

Buying a luxury home entails adding a few more steps to make sure you know what you're getting into. Most upscale neighborhoods, in order to maintain their exclusivity and land values are controlled by strict covenants and that means you want to know what the rules are before anything is signed. Be sure and seek the advise of your Realtor, asking questions and letting her know exactly what you're looking for and what's acceptable to you. Some things for you and your Realtor's team to do before you buy: Talk to the people who would be your neighbors. Ask how much they love living in the area, if there have been any problems with the rules and/or the covenants.

Get and read a copy of the area's covenants, homeowner's association rules, regulations and guidelines. Some associations are strict about everything from the color of the house, to how many cars can be parked in the driveway. Find out about the zoning laws. This is important for remodeling or adding out buildings to the estate as well as finding out if any commercial property might be trying to find a way to build in the area. In the long run, gathering all the information you can will only be a good thing.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 21

Friday Night Eclectic Series. 9 p.m. The Petworth-raised X.O. joins forces with the DC rapper/singer RAtheMC, a 2009 MTV VMA Breakout Artist nominee who has toured alongside Wale, The Clipse and Afrika Bambaataa, for an evening of hook-ridden melodies, hard beats and hip hop artistry. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Contra Dance. 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., followed by dances to live music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Pianist Brian Ganz. 8 p.m. The recital, which begins the series "Brian Ganz and the Strathmore Chopin Project," marks the start of his ambitious endeavor to perform the 250 works of Chopin over the next decade. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore ticket office at 301-581-5100. Tickets are \$34-\$44; kids 7-17 are free. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda.

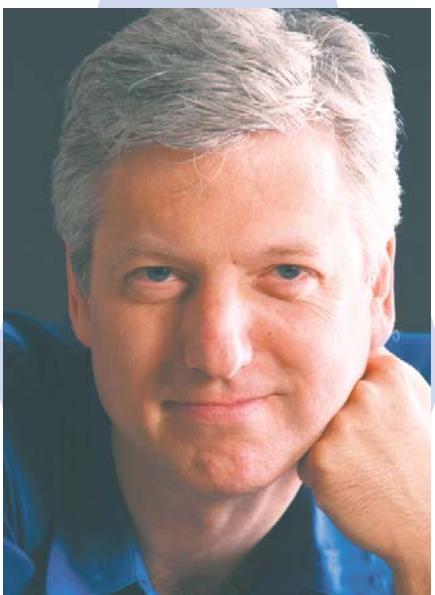
Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. Beginner swing lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing at 9 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.tomcunningham.com.

Shir Ami- Song of Our People. At 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 (Stars price \$25.20). Explore the rich mid-20th century musical heritage of the Jewish people. From Rimsky-Korsakov to Jewish composers who perished in the holocaust to musicians who emigrated after the holocaust and became cultural leaders, this moving performance recovers and rejuvenates music from this tumultuous period of history. At the Mansion at Strathmore. Call 301-581-5109 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Israeli Film Fest. 7:45 p.m. "Dear Mr. Waldman" ("Michtavim L'America"), a coming-of-age story in 1960's Tel Aviv written and directed by the son of Holocaust survivors. The latter film is rated R. Film will be followed by moderated discussion and refreshments. Admission is \$10 for synagogue members, \$12 for the general public. At Congregation Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Call 301-762-7338.

SUNDAY/JAN. 23

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW



SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Brian Ganz Chopin Piano Recital. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$34 to \$44. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Visit nationalphilharmonic.org or call the Strathmore ticket office at 301-581-5100



(Left to Right): Erika Rose as Odette, Natascia Diaz as The Amazing Voice, Ana Nogueira as Ana, Christopher Wilson as Oscar and Vishal Vaidya as Sandip.

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

"Barrio Grrr! 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.

members. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances with live music by AP and the Banty Roosters from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Pianist Frederick Moyer. 4 p.m. Free. Reception to meet the artist follows. At the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, Washington, D.C.

Ballroom Tea Dance. 3 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12. Lesson at 3 p.m. followed by dancing with the Hot Society Orchestra. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: dave@hotsociety.net

MONDAY/JAN. 24

James Hill in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15/advance; \$20/door; \$10/students. At IMT at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Call 301-754-3611 and visit www.imtfolk.org

TUESDAY/JAN. 25

Small Potatoes. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Dr., Rockville. Visit FocusMusic.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte & Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301.634.2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 28

Friday Night Eclectic Series. 9 p.m. Great Noise Ensemble: Paranoid Cheese. Great Noise Ensemble has become one of the most important ensembles in DC's new music scene, winning The Washington Area Music Association's 2007 WAMMIE Award for Best Chamber Ensemble. Tickets are \$10/advance; \$12/door. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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

The John Scofield and Joe Lovano Quartet. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18-\$38. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

JAN. 28-29

An Exploration of the Hasidic Spirit with Rabbi Nehemia Polen Weekend Shabbaton. Friday, Jan. 28, 8:15 p.m.: Rabbi Polen Talk: Introduction to Hasidic Spirituality: Tales, Teachings and Melodies. Saturday, Jan. 29: all-day teach-in beginning with morning services at 9:30 a.m. when Rabbi Polen will give the D'var Torah: Intimacy With God: The Torah's Embodied Spirituality followed by an oneg lunch. 1:30-2:15



SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Bridal Expo. Noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5. The expo will feature more than two dozen vendors who will highlight their services, including caterers, florists, cake makers and designers, musicians and DJs, photographers and videographers, personal care attendants, rental accessory companies and travel agents. At Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Call 240-314-8660.



p.m.: Rebbe's Tisch with Rabbi Polen, Hazzan Rachel Hersh Epstein and others for teachings, songs, nigunim (melody without words as prayer) and bentsching (grace after meals). 2:30-4 p.m.: mini-sessions with various teachers. Two sessions from 4:30-6 p.m.: Rabbi Polen Shiyur: Building Sacred Community: A comparison of Biblical and Hasidic Approaches to enriching our personal and communal quests for meaning; and Hasidic stories and songs for kids (grades K-3). 6:30 p.m.: Havdalah. Babysitting will be available during the Saturday morning service and final 4:30 p.m. sessions. Lunch and snacks will be served. At Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, 7727 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda. Call 301-767-3333, x106 or www.adatshalom.net.

SATURDAY/JAN. 29

"Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing." 11 a.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight with the J Street Jumpers. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Sitar Concert. 3 p.m. Free. By Sitar player Alif Laila. Sponsored by the Washington Conservatory of Music. At the Conservatory's South Arcade Building, Glen Echo Park location, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Contra and Square Dance. 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$12/nonmembers; \$9/FSGW

members. Lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances to live music by Gypsy Meltdown from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit www.fsgw.org

Waltz Dance. 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. Introductory Waltz Workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. With the ensemble Trio con Brio. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to www.WaltzTimeDances.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 3

Slow Blues and Swing Dance. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

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

FEB. 4 TO FEB. 20

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile." Tickets are \$16 and \$14. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Call The Montgomery Playhouse Box Office at 301-977-5751. At the Theater at the Rosborough Center, Building 409, Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg.

FRIDAY/FEB. 4

"Inscape." 8 p.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville.

Author Maxine Hong Kingston. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Will read from her most recent work, the memoir I Love a Broad Margin to My Life. Cost is \$10/members; \$15/non-members. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664 for tickets, or visit www.writer.org.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Seldom Scene. At 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$42 (Stars price \$22.50-\$37.80). With a career that spans five decades, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band has influenced a generation of country rockers with hits like "Mr. Bojangles," "Dance little Jean" and "Fixin' in the Dark." At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



The Washington Episcopal School Robotics Team with its Judges' Choice Award.

Team Takes Judges' Choice Award

The Dragonbots, the Washington Episcopal School (WES) robotics team, took the Judges' Choice Award at the First Lego League Qualifier on Jan. 8 at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel. It was one of seven teams out of a field of 20 who will go on to the Maryland State First Lego League tournament at UMBC on Feb. 26. Participants ages 9-14 were charged with building and programming a sensor-equipped robot that would "fix" simulated broken body parts. At the tournament, the WES team demonstrated their missions with their programmed autonomous robot and they were judged on teamwork, technical aspects, and their research project. The name of the robot is "The All-Seeing Eye."

"We were so excited to win something this year," said fifth-grade team member David Butturini. "I love Legos and robots too, so it's the perfect combo," he added.

"I'd like to be an electrical engineer one day," said Oliver Johnson, also a fifth-grader at the school.

The team studied blindness for the Body Forward challenge and designed a virtual cane from an ultrasonic sensor and an NXT brick. As part of their research on blindness, they hosted Mike May from

California, who is the subject of the book, "Crashing Through" by Robert Kurson.

May spoke to the students and faculty about his 43 years of blindness and how he became one of a handful of people in history to have his vision restored. He lost his eyesight when he was three-years old, after coming in contact with chemicals. His visit inspired the WES Dragonbots to raise money for Pennies for Puppies.

"We raised over \$500 that allowed the school to sponsor a puppy to become a Seeing Eye dog," said fifth-grader Georgia Curry.

"The best part was that the team got to spend extra time with Mr. May. He gave us his autograph in print and also in Braille," said team member Jaymin Ortega.

"Meeting with Mr. May showed us how important it is to be perseverant," said Butturini.

Other related team activities included writing letters to the D.C. Taxicab Commissioner and 12 taxi companies encouraging them to pick up blind people and their Seeing Eye dogs, and communicating electronically with Ione Fine from the University of Washington, who researches Mike May's condition of being able to see color and motion but not detail, faces, or depth perception.

SCHOOL NOTES

Matthew Anderson of Potomac has been selected as a Student Ambassador, representing the U.S. in London, Paris, and Rome this summer, through the People to People Student Ambassador program. Matthew attends Winston Churchill High School, and is studying Chinese and Mathematics.

Benjamin Plotsky of North Potomac is a member of the Marching Band at Gettysburg College.

Giuliana Cortese, a resident of Potomac and a member of the class of 2013, has been named to the dean's list at Providence College for the Fall 2010 semester.

Montgomery County Public Schools students have been selected as semifinalists for the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search, the most semifinalists to come from any school district in the nation this year.

Each semifinalist will receive \$1,000 for his or her original scientific research, and each high school will receive \$1,000 for each semifinalist named. Those awards will be used to further excel-

lence in science, math and engineering education at the recipient schools.

Among the original research topics the MCPS semifinalists took on: prostate cancer, HIV, and breast cancer therapy. The local semifinalists include:

❖ **Wendy Wenyu Cai**, Richard Montgomery High School

❖ **Sharon Ren-Wei Ong**, Winston Churchill High School

❖ **Yinglin Wu**, Richard Montgomery High School.

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RIVER WATCH

New Year's Resolution

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Part of an occasional series on the Potomac River, water quality, and the people and agencies who advocate for its wellbeing.

The Chesapeake Bay will be on a diet. On Dec. 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a revised "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay, implementing cleanup practices to restore the Bay and its streams, creeks and rivers, including the Potomac River, by 2025.

The "pollution diet" is officially called a Total Maximum Daily Load, and sets the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that has to be reduced to bring the Bay back to health, according to the EPA.

The plan calls for a 25 percent reduction in nitrogen, 24 percent reduction in phosphorus and 20 percent reduction in sediment. Excess nutrients from fertilizers and treated sewage in the watershed lead to algae blooms in the Bay that cause large "dead zones" without enough oxygen in the water.

Some of the EPA's plans include: committing to more stringent nitrogen and

The Potomac River is about 33 degrees below the surface. Ice is forming along the edge of the river and on the surface.

phosphorus limits at wastewater treatment plants, pursuing state legislation to fund wastewater treatment plant upgrades as well as storm water management and agricultural programs, and considering implementation of mandatory programs for agriculture by 2013 if pollution reductions fall behind schedule, according to the EPA.

"In the past two years, we have made huge strides that will yield real results for

millions of people who rely on the Bay for their livelihood and way of life," according to Lisa P. Jackson, EPA administrator.

The pollution diet includes plans created by the six Bay states and the District.

"The real test will be whether the EPA and states follow through on their commitments in the coming years," especially in reducing nutrients in agricultural runoff, according to Tommy Landers, policy advocate for Environment Maryland.



RIVER CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb. 13, 10 am - noon. Potomac Conservancy conducts monthly Canal Stewards cleanups, open to all ages at the River Center at Lock 8, off the Clara Barton Parkway. www.potomac.org

RIVER DATA

The Potomac River levels at Little Falls are running approximately 3-feet this week, with temperatures below the surface at just above freezing, 33 degrees. Anything below 4-feet at Little Falls is considered safe for recreation (although not at these temperatures); 10 feet is flood stage.

SOURCE: USGS, waterdata.usgs.gov

The plan also would make cover crops, now voluntary, a requirement, according to Environment Maryland. Cover crops, such as wheat or rye, are planted after summer harvest to soak up excess nutrients in the land.

The American Farm Bureau Federation filed a lawsuit in federal court on Jan. 10, 2011 to halt the EPA's plan for the Bay, calling it "dangerous and unlawful."

The Maryland Farm Bureau has opposed the new guidelines. Some "environmental advocates ... make agriculture the scapegoat for all that is wrong with the Bay," said the Maryland Farm Bureau's president in June.

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HOME SALES

In December 2010, 51 Potomac homes sold between \$3,700,000-\$271,500.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City ..	Sold Price ..	Type ..	Lot AC	Subdivision
10021 BENTCROSS DR	11	.10	.3	POTOMAC	\$3,700,000	Detached	2.78	FALCONHURST
10920 CRIPPLEGATE RD	6	.6	.1	POTOMAC	\$3,525,000	Detached	2.32	GREAT FALLS ESTATES
10816 BARN WOOD LN	6	.5	.2	POTOMAC	\$1,950,000	Detached	6.70	RIVER OAKS FARM
11605 LUVIE CT	6	.6	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,925,000	Detached	0.83	MERRY GO ROUND FARM
10831 LOCKLAND RD	5	.5	.2	POTOMAC	\$1,800,000	Detached	2.03	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
7931 SANDALFOOT DR	4	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,675,000	Detached	0.16	AVENEL
10800 SWAINS LOCK RD	6	.5	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,550,000	Detached	2.18	POTOMAC HUNT ACRES
10024 KENDALE RD	5	.5	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.49	MCAULEY PARK
9217 POTOMAC SCHOOL DR	4	.3	.2	POTOMAC	\$1,454,577	Detached	0.37	AVENEL
11000 RIVERWOOD DR	6	.7	.3	POTOMAC	\$1,300,000	Detached	2.11	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS
7801 BRICKYARD RD	5	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,265,000	Detached	2.02	BRICKYARD MEADOWS
10212 IRON GATE RD	5	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,250,000	Detached	2.48	CAMOTOP
13117 PINEY KNOLL LN	6	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,249,000	Detached	0.65	POTOMAC GLEN SOUTH
10108 GARDEN WAY	5	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,230,000	Detached	2.13	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
10706 STABLE LN	6	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.28	RIVER FALLS
8315 LARKMEADE TER	4	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.21	BELLS MILL ESTATES
9708 MEYER POINT DR	4	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.34	AVENEL
10808 TARA RD	5	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,170,000	Detached	2.09	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS
10906 LARKMEADE LN	5	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.19	BELLS MILL ESTATES
10025 CHARTWELL MANOR CT	4	.4	.2	POTOMAC	\$1,040,000	Detached	0.50	AVENEL
12509 BRIDGETON DR	5	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$1,000,000	Detached	2.00	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE
7815 PEARSON KNOLL PL	4	.3	.2	POTOMAC	\$975,000	Townhouse	0.05	PARK POTOMAC
9424 WINTERSET DR	5	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$925,000	Detached	0.48	WINTERSET
12012 EDGE PARK CT	4	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$890,000	Detached	0.37	GLEN OAKS
11621 GLEN RD	3	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$850,000	Detached	2.34	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE
12605 LAMP POST LN	4	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$840,000	Detached	0.27	POTOMAC COMMONS
8821 MAXWELL DR	4	.2	.2	POTOMAC	\$819,000	Detached	0.50	OLDFIELD
10525 TYLER TER	5	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$742,000	Detached	0.29	BELLS MILL VILLAGE
8000 GRAND TETON DR	3	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$740,000	Semi-Detached ...	0.30	POTOMAC POND
4 ECHO CT	5	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$735,000	Detached	0.27	HORIZON HILL
10824 LARKMEADE LN	4	.3	.1	POTOMAC	\$720,000	Detached	0.32	INVERNESS FOREST
2 WANDERING TRAIL CT	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$713,000	Detached	0.24	FOX HILLS WEST
1902 SUNRISE DR	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$711,000	Detached	0.25	HORIZON HILL
10317 HOLBROOK DR	4	.3	.0	POTOMAC	\$702,500	Detached	0.47	POTOMAC VILLAGE
10502 GREAT ARBOR DR	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$700,000	Detached	0.25	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC
10409 DALEBROOKE LN	3	.3	.0	POTOMAC	\$691,000	Townhouse	0.05	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE
10279 GAINSBOROUGH RD	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$685,000	Patio Home	0.10	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC
7801 WHITERIM TER	3	.4	.1	POTOMAC	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.09	FAWSETT FARMS MANOR
1497 DUNSTER LN	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$642,500	Detached	0.27	POTOMAC WOODS
34 ORCHARD WAY S	5	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$639,000	Detached	0.24	FALLS ORCHARD
11610 GOWRIE CT	5	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$625,000	Detached	0.20	HIGHLAND STONE
11910 ENID DR	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$625,000	Detached	0.41	REGENCY ESTATES
9000 TUCKERMAN LN	4	.2	.2	POTOMAC	\$575,000	Detached	0.24	LAKE NORMANDY ESTATES
8 ROYAL OAK CT	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$555,000	Detached	0.43	HORIZON HILL
1237 DERBYSHIRE RD	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$554,000	Detached	0.21	POTOMAC WOODS
12705 STONEY CREEK RD	3	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$552,000	Detached	1.00	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE
10717 DEBORAH DR	3	.2	.2	POTOMAC	\$479,000	Townhouse	0.05	INVERNESS FOREST TH
9307 BENTRIDGE AVE	4	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04	FALLSREACH
12043 GATEWATER DR	3	.1	.0	POTOMAC	\$352,500	Attach/Row Hse	0.02	FALLSBERRY
12300 MCCROSSIN LN	3	.2	.1	POTOMAC	\$278,000	Detached	0.28	DARNESTOWN OUTSIDE
7923 FOXCREST CT	2	1	1	POTOMAC	\$271,500	Townhouse	POTOMAC CREST	

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12000 Glen Mill Rd	\$849,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-469-4700
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9426 Thrush Ln	\$1,195,000	Sun 1-4	Jon Lee	MD REO	301-631-0778
12002 River Road	\$1,195,000	Sun 1-4	Elaine Koch & Assoc.	Long & Foster	240-751-2216
11404 Falls Rd	\$1,399,000	Sun 1-4	Rhonda Dolan	Long & Foster	301-975-9500
7818 Stable Way	\$1,428,000	Sun 1:30-3:30	Anne Killeen	Wash Fine Prop	301-706-0067

Bethesda (20817)

7400 Lakeview Dr #N404	\$189,900	Sun 2-4	Jim Thomas	Re/Max 2000	301-881-1700
6207 Rockhurst Rd	\$649,900	Sun 1-4	Robert Young	Weichert	301-656-2500

North Potomac (20878)

102 Bent Twig Ln 3358	\$209,500	Sun 1-4	Barbara Miles	Coldwell Banker	301-718-0010
27 Booth St #246	\$280,000	Sat			

SPORTS

Daughter-Father Coaching Combo Succeeds at Churchill

Kate, Pete McMahon possess strong basketball bond.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Kate McMahon planned her future before she reached her teens: She would be a basketball coach and work with her father, Pete McMahon.

Growing up, Kate viewed her dad as a role model and wanted to follow in his footsteps. Pete played basketball at the University of Massachusetts. Kate started competing in the sport before the age of 10. Pete started coaching Kate when she was a third-grader. Kate saw her father in action and developed visions of a coaching partnership.

"Sixth grade was when I first decided I wanted to be a coach and I told [her father] then that I wanted to coach with him," Kate said. "I guess, technically, our plans started when I was about 12."

Thirteen years later, Kate and Pete

"Sixth grade was when I first decided I wanted to be a coach and I told [her father] then that I wanted to coach with him. I guess, technically, our plans started when I was about 12."

— Churchill head girls basketball coach Kate McMahon

McMahon are in their fourth season with the Churchill girls basketball program. Kate, 25, was the JV head coach for two years before taking over the



Churchill head girls basketball coach Kate McMahon instructs the Bulldogs along with her assistant and father Pete McMahon during Friday's win over Whitman.

varsity team last season. Pete, 58, has been her assistant every step of the way. Last season, the duo led the Churchill varsity to a 15-8 record and the 4A West regional semifinals. This year, the Bulldogs are 8-4 and have won four straight and six of their last seven. On Jan. 14, Churchill avenged last year's season-ending playoff loss to Whitman with a 51-21 victory against the Vikings.

"I did think she was serious," Pete said of Kate voicing at a young age her desire to coach with her father. "She always wanted to do it."

From the third grade through high school, Kate played basketball for Pete in some capacity, including Catholic Youth Organization and AAU competition. Kate picked her father's brain, soaking up his basketball knowledge. During tournaments with long breaks between games, Kate would sometimes join Pete to watch other teams play and study their strategies. She did this at the age of 12, rather than passing time like an average child.

"I just love the game," Kate said. "I knew



Kate McMahon, left, and Pete McMahon are in their fourth season coaching together at Churchill.

that I was a good player, but I knew I was never going to be a Division I basketball player — I just don't have the athleticism. I love watching it, I love analyzing players and offenses and defenses. I guess it's kind of odd that a 12-year-old would be thinking about coaching but I just always wanted to. A lot of it is also that [my father] was my role model and he was a coach and I wanted to do what he did."

Kate played high school basketball at Richard Montgomery in Rockville and went on to play shooting guard at Division II Ursinus College, located 40 minutes from Philadelphia. After graduation, Kate accepted a teaching position at Churchill and took over as JV head coach for the 2007-08 season. Pete, who works in the engineering and construction business, joined her as an assistant and the two have been working together since.

The role reversal opened a door for potential awkwardness. Pete is older, has more experience and is used to being in charge — as a coach and a father — but both insist their relationship is in working order: Kate is the head coach, no questions asked. Plus, Kate and Pete are so familiar with one another's thought process that they are often on the same page with coaching decisions.

"Anytime you can help your kids out with their chosen profession, it's fantastic — that's No. 1," Pete said. "We've been studying games for so long together it's almost like we're [coaching] together. ... We usually get a consensus on everything we do. If there's a bad idea, the other one [says something]."

Kate remembers yelling at her dad during a game this season, but the two have a close relationship, so they laughed it off afterward.

"In that sense, it's easier than working with someone else," Kate said, "because you don't really feel like you're going to hurt them personally."

During practice, Kate works with the guards and Pete works with the forwards. During games, Pete keeps track of substitutions, allowing Kate to focus on what's happening on the floor — something Kate said is an advantage for her. During timeouts or breaks in the action, either coach will address the team.

"They're on the same page with everything we do in practice," Churchill senior forward Giulia Giannangeli said. "Their styles are pretty much the same."

Junior guard Emma Barnett has worked

SEE COACHING, PAGE 11

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill Off to Historic Start

The Churchill boys basketball team defeated Whitman 49-30 on Jan. 14 at WCHS. The win improved the Bulldogs' record to 10-2, including a 6-0 in 4A West competition, marking the program's best start in 30 years.

Jordan Bass scored 14 points, knocking down four 3-pointers. Jesse Simon scored 12 points and Thomas Geenen

grabbed 14 rebounds for the Bulldogs, who have now won eight games in a row.

"We are starting to play defense like I think we are capable of," Churchill head coach Matt Miller wrote in an e-mail. "We're not the prettiest team out there but as I often tell our kids, 'Defense and rebounding are not negotiable.'

"What I am really starting to like about our team is how they pick each other up. Everyone on our roster is contributing right now. I've never had a team where from night to night we don't know how is going to

make the plays for us on the offensive end but, at the same time, we know that everyone is going to defend and rebound."

Churchill will travel to face Clarksburg at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21.

Churchill Wrestlers Drop 3

The Churchill wrestling team had a tough week, dropping three matches with Whitman, Wotton and Walter Johnson this week. Whitman won 51-24, Wotton won 36-

25 and Walter Johnson won 37-26. Strong performances were recorded by Randy Bloch (119 pounds) with two pins and one technical pin, Ryan Plummer (125 pounds) with one pin and two wins on points and Hunter Sutton with a pin and a win on points, wrestling at 130 pounds, up from his normal 119 weight class.

Churchill grapplers return to action on Jan. 22 at Blair High School in a tri-meet against Blair and Poolesville.

SPORTS

Coaching Combo

FROM PAGE 10

with Kate and Pete for three seasons, including time on the JV.

The varsity level is "a lot more strict and competitive," Barnett said, "so they stepped it up."

CHURCHILL STARTED the season 2-3, including a 52-46 overtime loss to Northwest on Dec. 20. Despite the loss, Kate said the Bulldogs started to turn things around against the Jaguars and have since won six of seven. Last year, Churchill started 14-4 only to lose four of its final five games. This season, the Bulldog coaches are hoping rebounding from a slow start means Churchill will be playing its best ball late in the season.

"We got [the players] to buy into our game plan, our season plan," Kate said. "From the beginning when we had our first couple loses and it was just a negative stretch, we just kept telling them last year we started off really strong and kind of finished a little bit weaker. This year, we're fixing things in the beginning of the season ... and now we're headed toward the end of February. I think this year, more than maybe even the past couple years, they really believe us because we've been coaching some of them for four years."

Kate said one of the most important coaching elements she learned from Pete is how to communicate with players.

"One thing I really took from him is that you have to figure out how each player will respond," Kate said. "You can't just have one coaching style, either ... intense [and] yelling the whole time or really laid back. I think that he did a really good job of figuring out how you should talk and work with each player, so I've tried to model that."

Kate and Pete aren't the only members of the McMahon family involved with Churchill basketball. Kate's mother and Pete's wife, Beth, fills out the team's scorebook. Kate's older sister, Lauren, is the public address announcer during Bulldog home games and Kate's younger brother, Michael, helps with statistics.

CHURCHILL WILL HOST Clarksburg at 7 p.m. on Jan. 21. As the postseason approaches, Kate and Pete will try to keep the Bulldogs playing well — which starts with their strong coaching relationship on the bench. A relationship built when Kate was a young player who wanted to be a coach, like her father.

"I've seen some other fathers and daughters coach and play in [recreational leagues] and AAU and I think it was really different," Kate said. "He never favored me or had a game plan for me. It was just so easy because I was able to talk about not just what I was doing but what the team was doing and what we should be doing better. I think it was a big advantage being able to discuss throughout."

Not Just Any Wednesday



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Today is the first Wednesday — in three week intervals, going back nearly 22 months, on which I haven't been scheduled for my regular/recurring chemotherapy, per doctor's orders, of course. Given the fact that I've semi-outlived my original prognosis (13 months to two years) and that there are few lung cancer patients who've been infused with Avastin for as long as I have (and lived), according to my oncologist, he decided, pending the still unknown/undiscussed results of my end-of-December scans, that I skip this week's chemotherapy. He wants to wait and see. The risk-reward of continuing to introduce this poison into my system with its potential harmful internal side effects is a constant concern, trying to balance the positive with the negative. The negatives being breathing problems, hypertension, muscle weakness, among others. The most-positive being remission.

Twice before, during my most intense chemotherapy (March '09-July '09, a "cocktail" of three drugs infused for six hours every three weeks) when my white blood cell count was too low, the treatment was delayed one week to allow the cells to regenerate. Fortunately they did — on both occasions, and my treatment continued. That stoppage was, of course, precautionary — and prudent. The stoppage now (perhaps it too will simply be for one week) seems more serious.

Not because of any health reason per se, other than the obvious, but more so because of treatment protocols and how I think I will be monitored going forward: differently for sure, less frequently, presumably. What this likely change in frequency means to me is, that my treatment will now become more reactive as opposed to the feeling/sense that it has been proactive. And what little I know about medicine and health care is, advocating and being proactive likely saves more lives than depending/waiting and reacting does. I can't get the oil light illuminating on the dashboard advisory out of my head: if the light comes on, it's already too late; the damage is done. Being too late is what I'm afraid will now characterize my treatment. Generally speaking, stopping treatment/medication, etc., is better than starting but who knows? The doctors don't, and that's the problem now that I've lived beyond the original prognosis.

And it's the doctors not knowing that's unsettling. Being the exception that proves the rule (I'm still alive) has its benefits but, in so proving, you end up where few have ever been before. Uncharted territory doesn't begin to accurately describe where I feel I find myself now as I near/pass the end of my original prognosis. Where do I go from here? Treatment-wise, routine-wise, frequency-wise. On one hand, living this long — and believing what I believe, feels like a leap of faith. On the other, I feel like I've earned the extra time. And if I've earned any extra time, I've earned it doing what I've done; treatment, routine, frequency — diagnosis-to-date. The last thing I want to do is change what I've been doing. It got me this far, farther than my oncologist anticipated/advised on Feb. 27, 2009, so why would I want to change? I don't think I do but, apparently change is exactly what's coming; it's happened already. No chemotherapy this week. Hopefully, it's a change for the better.

But I'd rather not hope, I'd rather know. (So would the doctors.) I'd rather be monitored as closely as I have, not as closely as future symptoms dictate. Being asymptomatic — so far, has been a blessing. As I consider/anticipate the future, my fear is, now it will become a curse.

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

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