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Sean Rizzo

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NEWS

A Voice for the Voiceless

Q&A with SALT Coordinator John Horejsi.

n Saturday, Social Action Linking Together (SALT) held its annual Richmond Wrap-Up session in Vienna. One of the most active nonpartisan advocacy groups in Northern Virginia, SALT, has 1,200 members who bring the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation. SALT has had an impact shaping public policy for more than 20 years. SALT Coordinator John Horejsi talked with The Connection about some of the group's legislative victories and losses during the 2013 General Assembly "short" session.

For more information, visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or 703-938-

Q: What drives SALT's legislative advocacy?

A: "Our activism springs from the principles of faith and responsibility. Our activism on behalf of the vulnerable does not make us better than anyone elsebut it does make us very lucky persons. Our appeal is to people of faith: 'Out of the pew and into the lobby. Be a voice for the voiceless.' Involvement in the political field is clearly a part of the vocation and activity of the lay faithful. Advocacy is part of everyone's job description—even if you're retired. By working together we generate sufficient activity to have an impact. Our community activism, to us, is simply democracy in action.

We seek to serve; not to be served. We are not lobbyists, we are service providers. Our service is our advocacy for the neediest. To us advocacy is the ultimate service— 'service on steroids.'

Through our advocacy we seek to keep social justice issues front and center at the Virginia General Assembly. Through our advocacy, legislators are made aware that there is a responsibility to the needs of vulnerable people—measuring every policy by how it touches the least, the lost and the left-out among

Q: What do you consider some of SALT's most important victories?

In the past, SALT has advocated successfully for many issues, including:

- repeal of the sales tax for food stamps each year in 19 states, increasing food aid by \$9.5 million in
- securing \$4 million in TANF stimulus funding for emergency assistance to 2,500 Fairfax County families during the recent recession;
- * establishment of a permanent statewide Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) with \$5.3 million
- * persuading the General Assembly to pass the Virginia Income Tax Credit (VITC), which boosts the income of 190,000 low-income workers;
- * making Virginia the first state in the nation to create a system in which 100 percent of child support from the non-custodial parents goes directly to the child and custodial parent rather than to the Virginia General Fund.

Q: What were the most important SALT initiatives this legislative session?



John Horejsi of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT), testifies in the public hearing of the **Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General** Assembly in January 2013.

A: "The ban on shackling pregnant inmates and Medicaid expansion. While anti-shackling legislation was defeated in the Militia, Prison and Public Safety Subcommittee, there has been progress by SALT and antishackling coalition groups to prohibit shackling through the regulatory process. There is still a need for legislation to stop this practice. Protection is still needed for some of Virginia's most vulnerable women from being unnecessarily restrained—a practice that not only violates a woman's dignity, but can detrimentally affect her health and the health of her pregnancy. SALT is currently a partner in this Medicaid Expansion Coalition. Right now, the governor has Medicaid expansion in his hands. He has the ability to create a path to Medicaid expansion, or the ability to veto that provision. Medicaid expansion will provide more than 30,000 Fairfax County residents with access to health care coverage. The expansion is a common-sense policy that will help over 400,000 Virginians. Ultimately, we hope the governor will make the right choice for Virginia and Fairfax County and work toward expanding Medicaid as soon as possible. We would like a clear statement that he plans to expand Medicaid. Every day's delay costs Virginia \$5 million in lost funding.

O: You and other SALT members were in Richmond almost every day during this session. What do you think people would be surprised to learn about the way things work in Richmond?

A: "I would say with regard to human services, the bipartisanship that is attributed to the success for transportation funding this year doesn't exist or

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE 7



Voters stand in line at Colvin Run Elementary School at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012.

ennifer Benitz/

Better Training, More Technology

The bipartisan commission released findings, recommendations regarding long lines on Election Day.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection

fter learning that dozens of frustrated voters waited for hours in long lines to cast their ballots on Election Day, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) called for the creation of a bipartisan commission to figure out why and make sure it doesn't happen again.

At the March 19 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the commission—jointly chaired by Former Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and Stuart Mendelsohn, former Dranesville supervisor—released its final report. They recommended additional poll workers, more training and better technology to keep lines moving.

Recommendations encompassed a variety of training, technology, and process improvements, ranging from using more Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) to providing additional parking spaces at polling places.

"I am pleased that the Election Commission has completed its work," Bulova said. "It is important that the county implement measures to reduce long lines, decrease wait times and streamline the election process in Fairfax County. The commission has identified a variety of improvements and efficiencies to ensure access and convenience for voters in future five-hour waits before casting elections.

Additional recommendations included using electronic poll books at every precinct, and asked the county to create a fund that would pay for upgrading voting equipment. The report also suggested that county officials find larger polling places where voters can form lines inside precincts rather than outside during bad weather.

Voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high in November's presidential election, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballots in 2012 compared to 78.7 percent in 2008. In the 2011 state and local elections, just 32 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, while 49 percent turned out for the 2010 congressional

Lines and wait times varied throughout the county's 237 precincts last November. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations, however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have to wait over an hour.

Election officials said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions and bond issues meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

While the long lines created headaches for many Fairfax County voters, some voters in Prince William County faced their ballots.

A copy of the report can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ electioncommission/electioncommission-report.htm.

THE COUNTY LINE

Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

Local leaders say "uncertainty" biggest fallout of sequester so far.

"From the perspective

of business community,

businesses are adept

what's coming. They

uncertainty is driving

-Jerry Gordon, president of the

ment Authority (FCEDA)

Fairfax County Economic Develop-

see a problem; they

solve it. The

them crazy."

when they understand

By Victoria Ross The Connection

airfax County businesses have been feeling the chilling effect of the \$87 billion acrossthe-board spending cuts triggered March 1st for several months.

In anticipation of the original "fiscal cliff" deadline at the end of 2012, apprehensive business owners had begun taking preemptive measures, such as tightening budgets, and implementing hiring and pay

"Small and large companies are taking more conservative approaches to hiring, and government contractors, a large segment of the Fairfax County economy, could see their contracts reduced or ter-

minated," said Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

But what has rattled Fairfax County businesses is not specific cuts in the sequester, but the uncertainty of what the cuts will be and when they will take

"One of the most impactful effects of sequestration thus far has been the uncertainty that is preventing growth in the local economy, "Bulova said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who is a founding partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook Craig & Francuzenko, said his practice and Fairfax County are hurt by the uncertainty fac-

"The biggest problem in Fairfax County is not the se-

quester, per se, it's the uncertainty. If this continues, that's huge," Cook said. "Businesses can deal with bad news. They can adjust to declining revenues, increased costs, what have you ... but not knowing what will happen is crippling. Congress and the president can't do their job, and you and I are going to be paying for this for a long time."

"From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what's coming. They see a problem; they solve it," said Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), "The uncertainty is driving them crazy. Prime contractors, such as SAIC and Northrop Grumman, they can translate their skill sets to non-federal applications. My fear is for the sub-contractors and the sub-sub-contractors, where a single contract can make or break a business."

Economic Forecast: Grim and Grimmer

While every state stands to lose, Northern Virginia's close ties to Washington and the federal spigot have the region squarely in the crosshairs of the sequester.

"With nearly 40 percent of our region's economy tied to the Federal Government, Northern Virginia will be especially hard hit," said Congressman James Moran (D-8) in a recent letter to constituents.

While only 1 percent of Fairfax County's General Fund revenues come from the Federal Government, the human services system in Fairfax County receives 20 percent of its revenue base from federal funding. In 2011, Fairfax procured more than \$26 billion in federal contracts.

"The Washington Area economy has grown tremendously thanks to Federal Government spending. In 2010, total federal spending accounted for nearly 40 percent of the region's GDP," said economist Stephen S. Fuller of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis.

The region's strength is also its "Achilles heel,"

Fuller said and warned the area "faces a sea change" as federal spending decreases.

According to economic forecasters, the outlook is grim and grimmer. Most of the fiscal apocalypse, they say, is related to government-worker furloughs, which could begin as early as next week. In addition to eroding consumer confidence, the furloughs could trigger a domino effect that impacts everyone.

"If the feds are furloughed two days a week, no more housing purchases, no more dinners out, everyone hunkers downs, consumer housing starts to slow down and things come to a grinding halt and everyone is affected," Gordon said.

Some economists take the worst-case scenario further. If the sequester lingers, they predict airport-security lines will get longer because TSA agents will work one fewer day every two weeks; fewer commercial planes will fly because of furloughs to air-traffic controllers; prisons will be locked down because Bureau of Prisons staff will be sent home; terrorists may go undetected because fewer FBI agents and counterterrorism analysts will be working.

While Fairfax County has its weak points, Gordon said the county is still entering the sequester from "a position of strength.

"Our unemployment is only 3.6 percent, far lower than the national average of 7.7 percent," Gordon said. "We've been working toward a diversified economic base for more than 20 years. We are a center of information technology, software development, telecommunications, aerospace and the Internet. Our workforce is highly skilled. We have an outstanding public school system. ... All this has factored into the development of an economy based on technology and professional services. Yes, I think we're going to take hits, but we're in a better position than in most communities."



Danny Vargas, **CEO** and founder of VARcom solutions, during a 2012 mock debate in Spain.

Photo courtesy of

Local Perspective

Small-business owner tackles the sequester.

aul Danny Vargas has beaten the odds all his

The son of Puerto Rican immigrants, Vargas, 47, was raised by a single mother on welfare in Brooklyn. At an early age, he faced poverty and hunger. "We lived in a ramshackle apartment, and there were days when I would eat ice cubes to curb hunger. My mother never learned to read or write, and she didn't speak English."

In spite of the strikes against him, Vargas said he was "blessed" with an older sister who encouraged him to stay in school and reach for more.

"I was running as fast as I could. I always tell my children now that the outcome may not be guaranteed, but the opportunity is," he said.

Never afraid of hard work, Vargas had his first job at 12, selling snow cones from a pushcart on the streets of Brooklyn. "I would scrape shavings from this huge block of ice, and then put it in a cup and pour syrup over it. I remember that vividly. I did every job you can think of. I moved displays in big office buildings, did temp jobs... hard work was the never issue."

He became the first person in his family to earn a college degree, eventually serving in the Air Force. But he always dreamed of owning his own business and launching a career in politics.

In 2004, after a career in the telecommunications industry, Vargas started VARCom Solutions in Herndon. The awardwinning company provides strategic marketing and highto small businesses and major cient. Honestly, I think a 12corporations.

As a small business owner, could do a better job." with 15 to 20 contract employees at any given time, Vargas

thought he had weathered the worst business crisis when the economy shattered in 2008.

But sequestration—and its uncertain ripple effects—are more challenging, both personally and professionally, Vargas

"The uncertainty is the stake in the heart," Vargas said during an interview Monday.

He said he has already noticed agencies, such as the Department of Defense, shelving projects after his company expected to be awarded the con-

"I would say the issue that we've faced is that we're bidding on something, it's basically a done deal, and then, as we're getting close to moving forward, because of the uncertainty of sequestration, the contracts were put on hold, so we can't keep people on the bench," Vargas said.

"Those of us just trying to move ahead, and keep the economy humming, are dealing with the headwind of a dysfunctional federal government."

Vargas is also a politically active business leader. He was appointed by the U.S. Congress as a commissioner on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission and by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Workforce Council. He also served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the first Hispanic to chair a mainstream chamber in the history of Virginia.

His political connections have given him a sobering perspective on the events in Washington.

"Everyone I've talked with on Capitol Hill says they are frightened over our fiscal situation,"

"I do agree that cuts need to be made. We need to be able to rein in spending. But this is the most absurd way of going about profile public relations services it. This blind slashing is ineffiyear-old with a lemonade stand

—Victoria Ross

OBITUARY

Agha Shaukat Ali, of Vienna, 92, Dies

Agha Shaukat Ali died on Tuesday, March 19, in Vienna. Born in Srinagar, Kashmir, in 1921, he was an independent thinker, a visionary in political thought, and had an acute insight and enthusiasm for global affairs that was par excellence.

Agha Shaukat Ali's personal life was intertwined with significant cornerstones of history. Born to a political family, he attended the prestigious Aligarh University in the 1930's. He later married Musrrat Nizamuddin after first seeing her picture in a local newspaper. The newlyweds lived in Kashmir where Agha Shaukat joined the Kashmir Civil Service.

During the end of the British colonial rule in India, Agha Shaukat joined the Kashmir Muslim Conference as a founding member at the request of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. Most notably, Agha Shaukat held a public gathering in defiance of the prevailing prohibitions at the time, and was imprisoned for political reasons from 1946-1949.

Upon the founding of Pakistan in 1947, Agha Shaukat's release from prison was brokered by the United Nations. He was released as part of an exchange of political prisoners between India and Pakistan.

Leaving his mother and brothers in Kashmir, Agha Shaukat was the only member of his immediate family who moved to Pakistan, where he joined his young wife. They lived in Lahore and had four children.

Agha Shaukat attended the Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs at Princeton University as a Fulbright Scholar. His enjoyed his time in the United States in the 1950's and returned to his alma mater on many occasions.

Always with a passion and zeal for international affairs, Agha Shaukat's observations were astute and insightful. He authored a book, "The Modernization of Soviet Central Asia," and was invited by the Government of China to share his predictions regarding the implications of lifting the Red Curtain in 1979. He founded the Iqbal-Shariati Foundation in Lahore, which funded the translation and

publication of the works of Sir Mohammed Iqbal and Ali Shariati, two poet-philosophers whom he greatly admired.

Agha Shaukat is survived by his two brothers, Agha Nasir and Agha Ashraf, who still reside in Kashmir. He is also survived by his children, Tehmina Khan (Imran, deceased), Agha Azhar Ali (Diana Ali), and Rabia Ali; as well as his daughterin-law, Shehrezade Ali. His wife, Musarrat, predeceased him, as well as his younger son, Agha Shahryar Ali. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Amina Khan, Ali Khan, Ali N. Khan, Fatimah Ali, Amber Ali, Gisele Ali, Nadia Ali (all residing in the US), and Ayesha Ali and Agha Tariq Ali, residing in Pakistan.

The funeral was held Friday, March 22, with funeral prayers following at the Imam Ali Center, 7900 Backlick Road, Springfield.

The internment occurred at Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Fairfax.







OPINION

More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

he first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records "shall be presumed open."

It doesn't add, "except when we don't want to," although that provision does Editorial seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a va-

to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a "FOIA request," a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide

public information to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it's a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen

groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public,

riety of ways of making it hard for the public for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

> The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIAable, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is

> The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, "complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence." Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexan-

dria have adopted what they call a "blanket" approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a caseby-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that "will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours," limiting public comment.

> — Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Confusing Response To Lyme Disease

To the Editor:

The letter applauding the Lyme disease bill ("On Lyme Disease Awareness Bill," Connection, March 20-26, 2013) may make its advocacy group happy, but does not live up to what Virginians deserve. And while well intended, this solution is simplistic and rife with potential for confusion and dangerous consequences. Simply, it requires that physicians give patients a piece of paper that states that Lyme disease lab tests may not be accurate. It mandates that this be done for five years, regardless of changes and accuracy of new tests as they become available. This was not a solution the medical community supported and the four physician legislators at the GA voted against this bill. Many lab tests are not precise and need to be interpreted carefully, with an awareness of what is being evaluated. Giving someone a piece of paper will do more to confuse than enlighten and may delay correct diagnosis, create an inappropriate demand for dangerous treatments, and open the door for an untrained and unlicensed legislature to further codify mandates that alter scientifically developed medical care and to try to impose themselves on the patient-physician relationship. It is unfortunate that this prevented them accepting a substitute bill that missioned our public health infrastructure with increasing professional and citizen awareness, education and on-line resources about Lyme disease, a much more fruitful and logical alternative.

This law is a "victory" for an advocacy group and their sympathetic legislators who want to do something to help, but it has limited benefit with a significant downside. Lyme disease is not a new problem and will continue to be an issue for years to come. Education, research and a better approach to controlling the vectors that spread disease are what need the focus and the support of our legislators.

> Russell C. Libby, M.D., F.A.A.P.

President, Medical Society of McLean resident

Metro: Not Ours

To the Editor:

I could not help but read the "Metrorail Phase 1 Nears Comple-

tion" [Connection, March 20-26, 2013] article in last week's paper without... well... anger? I should be excited for the Metro's completion. After all, we live just 1.5 miles from the Greensboro Metro station and have never found it very convenient to drive to one of the Orange Line Metro stops in order to take Metro going to work, so we have always driven to work... right through Tysons. This new Silver Line is so much more convenient, and finally we will be able to take advantage of our metro benefits, keep our cars off the roads, and metro to work! Or not. I continue to be dumbfounded at the narrowminded thinking of the planners who insisted that there should be no parking at any of the four Tyson's Metro stops in order to make Tysons a more walkable urban center. That may work fine in an area with dense housing in immediate proximity to the metro, but the area around Tysons hardly meets that description with its acres upon acres of car dealerships, malls Virginia and office buildings. And how does not having parking make Tysons more walkable? I, and many others, will have to continue to drive our cars through their nice urban village... leaving our carbon emissions in their nice pedestrian air... in order to get to work... or get ourselves to a Metro that does provide parking so we can take advantage of our mass transit system. We cannot have a walkable community if we must take our cars everywhere rather than use mass transit. Clearly, this metro rail was not meant to assist local residents. It won't help us get to work, and it won't help us get to the airport. I guess area residents were quite purposefully left out of the equation. This is someone's Metro for sure... it's just not ours. Oh, and did I mention the folks who looked at the house for sale nearby but opted to buy elsewhere once they found out that they could not Metro to work on the new Silver Line? You lose any benefit of living by the Metro if you can't get to it.

Lynn Spencer

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

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Vienna & Oakton

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Historic Vienna Inc. Membership **Meeting.** 7 p.m., at Dyer-Gunnell American Legion, Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. A brief Civil War historian and reenactor John Vrana, who speaks on the evolution of the railroad running

membership meeting precedes local through Vienna from 1855 to 1968, now the path of the W & OD Trail; refreshments follow. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

Presentation. 7 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

Explore Your Inner Monologue. 7

p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women hosts a presentation in which Capital Fringe Festival entrant Carol Campbell discusses how she crafted her personal narrative. 703-321-7499.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information

Session. 11 a.m.-noon, at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 or

www.fairfaxcasa.org.

ONGOING:

Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI)

Scholarship Program. Those enrolled in a Virginia college or university who are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice are eligible for a Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program, available to both full- and part-time students. Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. To obtain a letter of recommendation, please contact Lieutenant Steve Elbert at shfpio@fairfaxcounty.gov, http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/ or 703-246-3251.

Girls and Boys State. For students finishing their junior year in high school, the American Legion Post 180 sponsors Girls State and Boys State expenses, including bus and transportation, for the week-long program; high school juniors interested should talk to their guidance counselor as selection is made by schools. 703-242-7651.

Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily during weeks from July 8 through July 25 at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna. The Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp teaches players solid fundamental baseball skills necessary to raise their level of play (ages 6-11 and 11-plus, grouped by age and skill). \$150.

Fairfax Adult Softball Teams. FAS is accepting applications for adult softball teams for men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, Reston, senior's (age 50-plus) and women's fast pitch leagues before March 1. 703-815-9007 www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com or office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.





Richmond Favors Rich

From Page 3

doesn't extend to human service priorities. Constituents know they are out-gunned by the special interest lobbyists. But, it would come as a shock to them to know there are 1,200 registered lobbyists at the state level, and there are more than eight special-interest lobbyists per legislator.

However, 'never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,' as Margaret Mean said. This is certainly true for all of the SALT successes listed earlier—starting with the lifting of the sales tax on food stamps.

I think readers would be surprised to know that all the success listed above—even the no-brainers such as removing the sales tax from food stamps—took anywhere from three to eight years to achieve success. Incredible persistence is required. We persist because justice demands it.

When it comes to issues and priorities for the poor it takes longer because resistance is built into the committee and subcommittee system where bills to help the needy

are routinely killed by a majority of four or five subcommittee members. Equally frustrating is the fact that votes are voice votes-not recorded votes—making it difficult to identify opposition for vigorous education unless you can see every legislator and lip-read.

When there are bills affecting the wealthy the committee rooms are filled to capacity, but when issues affecting the needy, the hearing rooms are empty."

Q: Describe your experience as an advocate in the **General Assembly.**

A: "The legislature has become more partisan and contentious. It is no longer possible to get widespread legislator support. In Richmond legislation is passed and defeated when viewed through a partisan lens. Our recent experience is that to hope for any possible success we must enter into coalitions with other statewide groups. SALT has become partners in and out of coalitions to realize success for the EIC Expansion and the Medicaid Expansions."

-Victoria Ross





Spring Fun



If you're a child in Vienna, the next-best thing to the Halloween parade is Public Works Day. Children get upclose to the town's heavy equipment. Refreshments, prizes and activities round out the annual event.



The one, the only Rocknoceros kicks off the children's concerts in June on the Town Green.

From Flowers to Food and Festivals

Spring fun guide to events and activities in Vienna.

By Donna Manz The Connection

pring's weather may be unpredictable but what is always predictable are the many festive spring events in Vienna held year after year. Some are family-centric, some cultural... all are fun.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF

HISTORIC PLACES DEDICATION Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m. at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St.

Freeman Store, owned by the Town of Vienna and operated by Historic Vienna, Inc., was placed on the National Register of Historic Places late in 2012, after it first gained placement as a Virginia historic place. The plaque recognizing Freeman Store's addition to the National Register of Historic Places will be unveiled in a 2 p.m. ceremony on April 6. Throughout the day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Historic Vienna, Inc. is presenting family activities and tours, and the Civil War 150 Historymobile will be on-site with its exhibition.

A reception follows the plaque dedication. All activities are free and open to the public. For more information on the unveiling program and events, go to www.historicviennainc.org. To learn more about the Civil War 150 Historymobile, see www.virginiacivilwar.org/ historymobile.php.

2ND ANNUAL TASTE OF VIENNA

Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department parking lot at 400 Center St. S. hosting the 2nd Annual Taste of Vienna on Saturday, April 27. Over 25



The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department is Local food purveyors, selling samples of their signature dishes, take over the parking lot of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department for the Taste of Vienna food festival.

Greater Vienna area will be on-site selling food and beverages throughou the event. Local food purveyors, from casual to upscale, will sell signature dishes from under tents.

ceeds benefit the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. There is no admission fee; vendors set their own pricing. Taste of Vienna will be held rain or shine. For a list of participating restaurants, go to www.tasteofvienna.org.

WALK ON THE HILL

unday, April 28, 2 to 5 p.m. at Windover Heights Historic District/ Windover Avenue [Rain date, May 5]. garden and landscape tour, sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna and the residents of the Windover Heights Historic District, the annual Walk on the Hill features blooms of azaleas and flower beds. Using self-guided walking tour maps, you may browse throughout the lawn and gardens of homes marked with special "welcome" signs. The Vienna Community Band plays

starting at 3 p.m. The Old Tyme Machine performs throughout the afternoon at 223 Walnut Lane. Roads are close to cars from 2 to 5 p.m. and refreshments are served at the free

For more information, call 703-938-5187 or visit Historic Vienna, Inc. at www.historicviennainc.org.

BIKE RODEOS: MAY 4 AND MAY 5

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m, at the Vienna Presbyterian Church parking lot across from the Town Green. The Vienna Bicycle Advisory Committe in partnership with the Vienna Police Department and Safe Kids USA, is hosting a youth bike rodeo that is designed to be fun while teaching Safe Kids USA will donate bike helmets to the first 200 children after their completion of the bike rodeo. They

SEE VIENNA SPRING, PAGE 13

will help parents and their children in

proper fitting of bike helmets prior to

the Bike Rodeo; discuss the



Four-year-old Riley Zacharia didn't mind waiting in the long line to visit the Easter bunny.

Egg Hunt and Roll Draws Hundreds

Children of all ages converge on Freeman House lawn.

of Vienna children from to pull off the event. participating in the Town of and Roll on the lawn behind the children wore winter jackreal hard-cooked eggs and posing with the Easter bunny.

It took dozens of volunteers and staff, 2,000 plastic eggs

ven nippy morning air filled with candy and novelties, did not deter hundreds and 20 dozen hard-cooked eggs

The egg hunt is sponsored by Vienna's annual Easter Egg Hunt the Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation, in co-Freeman House on March 23. So operation with Historic Vienna, Inc. Children were divided into ets and hats... it was sunny and two groups: 2- and 3-year-olds they enjoyed rushing for candy- and 4- and 5-year-olds. Parents filled plastic eggs, decorating were welcome to help the youngest ones collect eggs after the 10-to-one countdown.

-Donna Manz



This is how you do the egg roll ... you get a plastic spoon, a real (hard-cooked) egg and you push the egg with the spoon.





Sat., April 6th - 10am-2pm

Where: 6862 Elm Street, Suite 330

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. earn about the hot topics you should

Saturday's Seminars:

- Kitchen and Bath Trends
- Paint Colors Made Easy Apples to Apples - Thinking your project through? How do you

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Sabrina at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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Saturday, April 6

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

1420 Beverly Road Behind the Giant

Shopping Center Selling spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis

for \$40. Deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 3 Activity No. 2002.313. Resident sellers only; no commercial



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Spring Fest

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Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-Noon

\$5 per person; Free up to 36 months old; registration required

Morning Movies

"Dr. Strangelove

Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m. Free admission

McLean Spring **Community Garage Sale** and Recycling Event

Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1420 Beverly Road



Asphalt Orchestra

A Street Band with Savvy

Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m. \$25/\$18 MCC district residents

Concerts @ The Alden

Joni Chan, piano

Sunday, April 7, 3 p.m.

Free admission

Christopher K. Morgan & Artists

"MoveMENt"

A new dance work by Alden Artist-in-Residence

Friday and Saturday, April 12 & 13, 8 p.m.

\$25/\$18 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center www.mcieancenter.org Home of the Alden Theatre

www.aldentheatre.org



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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

April

FRIDAY/APRIL 19-MONDAY/MAY 6 Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Vienna Volunteer Fire
Department. The VVFD will host the 2nd annual Taste of Vienna to showcase the many restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer. Visit www.tasteofvienna.org.

May

FRIDAY/MAY 17-SUNDAY/MAY 19 Northern Virginia Fine Arts

Festival. At Reston Town Center, the three-day event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

McLean Day. 10:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Park. Festival and rides will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. http://members.mcleanchamber.org/ events/details/mclean-day-2013-430.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-27

ViVa! Vienna! Vienna's largest festival, ViVa! Vienna!, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, novelties. Admission to the festival is free, rides are not. Visit www.vivavienna.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2

Herndon Festival. The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department hosts the annual Herndon Festival. This is a townwide event and attracts more than 80,000 people from the greater D.C. area. There is no admission fee to enter the Herndon Festival. Visit www.herndonfestival.net.



Guests at the 2012 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston Town Center examine a piece by mixed media 3D artist David Burton, made up of various action figures and toys.



Scott Ramminger and the CrawStickers perform at McLean Day Saturday, May 19, 2012.



Thousands fill the rides section at the 32nd annual Herndon Festival Saturday, June 2, 2012.



There's always a line for the spinning teacups at ViVa! Vienna!

News

'Greater Things Than These' at Unity of Fairfax

Unity of Fairfax church is putting on a musical on Good Friday, March 29, and Easter Sunday, March 31, "Greater Things Than These." The play is based on the book by Ed Townley with music by Melinda Wood Allen. Director Carole Tomhave, music director at Unity of Fairfax, says, "Somewhat like 'Godspell,' the show portrays humor and grace in equal measure, and the songs are snappy and memorable.'

Both performances are open to the public and will be held in the Unity of Fairfax sanctuary, located at 2854 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton. The Good Friday performance is scheduled for 7 p.m. and the Easter showing is at 10 a.m. Admission is free and a voluntary offering will be collected during each service.

For more information about Unity of Fairfax, visit www.unityoffairfax.org or call the church office at 703-281-1767.





Stacey Guenther, who plays a pharisee in the musical "Greater Things Than These," is joined by cast members (left to right) Roger Tomhave, David Vurdelja, Lynn Canzano and Mary Nyingi.

Sandra Bell performs the

Claudia, a woman who is

hem of Jesus' robe in the

musical "Greater Things

Than These."

song, "Hem of the Gar-ment," in the role of

healed by touching the

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SPORTS



Oakton sophomore Lydia Montanino scored four goals against Langley on March 21.



Oakton junior Tori Anderson scored three goals, including the gamewinner, against Langley on March 21.

Oakton Girls' Lax Beats Langley in Frigid Conditions

Cougars win rematch of last year's state final.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

ith temperatures in the low 30s, the Oakton and Langley girls' lacrosse teams braved the elements on March 21 for a rematch of last season's AAA state championship game.

"[The cold weather was] the first thing we talked about down in the locker room," Oakton head coach Jean Counts said. "I said, we can make excuses and really be affected by it, or we can chalk it up to another experience. You're never going to forget this really, really, really cold game against a really, really, great team."

Thanks to junior attack Tori Anderson, the Cougars' memory would not involve overtime.

Anderson scored from free position with

15 seconds remaining, saving the Cougars from additional time on the field while lifting Oakton to an 8-7 victory during a frigid night at Oakton High School.

Last season, Oakton defeated Langley three times, including a 9-7 victory in the Northern Region championship game and a 12-7 win in the state final. On Thursday night, the combination of Anderson and sophomore attack Lydia Montanino helped the Cougars once again top the Saxons.

"[I] just had to make that goal," Anderson said about her thought process in the final minute. "... Composure, composure, composure."

Montanino, a second-year varsity player, finished with four goals and Anderson, a three-year varsity starter, added three.

"They both have this — you can call it boys' style — but they just play [with] a different style," Counts said. "They're the kind of players that [make] you ... do a double take. You're very impressed with what they've done because it's not as conventional on the girls' side. ... They're just

playing so great. ... When [Anderson is] going to goal, it might not always be a goal, but you know it's going to be a quality take and it's so great to see her have the confidence, see her have the strength to do so. Lydia is the same thing. She's got the first-year-freshman-on-varsity [challenge] behind her and she's really starting to mature right in front of our eyes. It's beautiful."

Oakton junior Danielle Palmucci also scored a goal.

Montanino scored a pair of early goals as Oakton built a 3-0 lead in the first 10 minutes. Langley scored four of the next five goals, including two from senior attack Rachel Wagner, but Anderson answered with a goal from free position late in the first half to give the Cougars a 5-4 halftime advantage.

Montanino's second goal of the second half gave Oakton a 7-5 lead with 13:01 remaining, but Langley freshman midfielder Halle Duenkel and senior midfielder Hayley Soutter each found the net to tie the score at 7-all with 5:50 remaining.

Wagner, Soutter and senior midfielder Grace Goettman each scored two goals for Langley. Duenkel finished with one.

The loss dropped Langley's record to 1-2. The Saxons opened the season with a 13-6 loss to Westfield on March 12, and beat Woodson 15-13 on March 14. Langley, which finished Liberty District, Northern Region and state runners-up last season, will travel to face McLean on Friday, April 5.

Oakton improved to 2-1, including a season-opening loss to The Hill Academy on March 12 and a victory against Lake Braddock on March 15. Oakton, the defending Concorde District, Northern Region and state champion, will host Cold Spring Harbor at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 28.

"I want them to connect. I want them to find their own identity," Counts said. "We graduated an excellent, ridiculously talented class last year — not only on the field, but as leaders and personalities. We're more of a subdued group in personalities, but I don't think that makes you any less on the lacrosse field."



Langley's Olivia Sisson shoots against Oakton on March 21.



Langley's Rachel Wagner scored two goals against Oakton on March 21.

Spring Fun

Vienna Spring to Culminate With ViVa! Vienna!

From Page 8

importance of wearing a bike helmet, and bike safety.

Space is limited. Pre-register with the number of children attending by completing the Bike Rodeo Registration Waiver Release Form at www.viennabac.com/vienna-police-dept-bike-rodeo-registration-form.php and email back to viennabac@verizon.net. You can also request the form by email at viennabac@verizon.net.

Sunday, May 5, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., sponsored by the Marshall Road Elementary School PTA, Safe Routes to School and the Town of Vienna, and held on the Marshall Road Elementary School blacktop, 730 Marshall Road. The event is open to kindergartners through sixth grade students and is free, no registration required.

Children must have a helmet to participate. Please call the weather line for cancellations or delays at 703-255-7842.

CONCERTS ON THE VIENNA TOWN GREEN

Friday and Saturday schedule through
June: May 10, Black Sombero Brass
and Herb Albert Tijuana Brass
Tribute Band; May 12, Shenandoah
Run (bluegrass); May 17, US Navy
Sea Chanters; May 19, Chris Polk
Band (blues/classic/rock); May 31,
Veronneau (acoustic world jazz);
June 2, Tommy Lepson Band (blues);
June 7, Vienna Idol competition
finals; June 9, Randy Barrett and the
Barretones (bluegrass);

OPPLODE RIBBON FRIEND GOOD STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

ViVa! Vienna!, sponsored and run by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, is the highlight of the hot-weather season for families for adults. The festival, featuring amusement rides, food, 300 vendors, live entertainment and children's activities, takes over the historic Church Street corridor for the three days of Memorial Day weekend. June 14, Four Star Combo (rockabilly); June 16, Fat Chance (rock); June 21, Andrew Acosta and the Old-Time String band; and June 23, The Tonics (rock).

Wednesday Children's Performances: June 19, Rocknoceros; June 26, Mr. Gabe; and July 10, Peter McCory One Man Band.

Saturday Open Mic Nights: May 18; June 22; July 20; and August 10.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, DUMP TRUCKS, FRONT LOADERS

Thursday, May 23, from 2 to 6 p.m.—if you are a young child, it does not get much better than this.

The Vienna Department of Public Works holds its annual open house at Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St. N.E. in celebration of National Public Works Week. Yes, there really is a National Public Works Week.

There are rows of dump trucks, front loaders, cherry pickers, garbage trucks and forklifts... if it is used on a city street or park, it's here on display at the open house. The best part for children—and a noteworthy photo-op for parents—is that youngsters can climb, sit, touch and otherwise get up close to the heavy equipment that mesmerizes them.

Town employees serve the community day and night in all weather conditions and are on-hand to help the children on to the vehicles. The police department sends over a cruiser or two that children can crawl into, as well as a police motorcycle the they can sit on.

Light refreshments are served and there will be "hard hats" and other

promotional novelties, games, "tattoos" and more for youth. For more information, call 703-255-6382.

VIVA! VIENNA! MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Vienna's largest festival, ViVa! Vienna!, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of nonstop family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food offerings, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, and novelties. From magicians and dancers to kiddie rock kings Rocknoceros, the stage anchors the children's area on the Town Green.

Admission to the festival is free. Rides are not. Kiddie rides require three tickets per ride; other rides require three to five tickets. One ticket is \$1. A sheet of 24 tickets is \$20, and a sheet of 48 tickets is \$40. A wristband that covers all rides is \$35 and is valid for one day.

Saturday, May 25: food, carnival rides and live entertainment from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, May 26: food, carnival rides and live entertainment from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., vendors open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Recycle E-waste available from noon to 6 p.m.; Monday, May 27: food, rides, entertainment and vendors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Recycle E-waste available from noon to 6 p.m.

Net proceeds go to community, charitable and humanitarian organizations. To learn more about the 2013 ViVa! Vienna! offerings, go to www.vivavienna.org.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@ connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive, Vienna, holds an Easter Egg hunt, rain or shine, on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. open to students in preschool through sixth grade. 703-938-3494.

Christ the King Lutheran Church offers Holy Week Services at 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m., on Good Friday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., following an Easter breakfast from 7:30-10:45 a.m. 703-759-6068.

Emotions Anonymous, a 12-step recovery program, offers weekly step meetings in Vienna for recovery for couples from a wide range of problems. Join on Mondays from 8-9 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna. 703-209-0658.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. Also offers two services during the summer – both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

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ABC LICENSE

Samira Safi trading as Kabob Tavern, 523 Maple Ave W., Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Samira Safi, owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered www.abc.virginia.gov 800-552-3200.

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Tom Yum Rosslyn, LLC trading as Tom Yum District, 1515 Wilson Blvd, Suite 102 Arling-ton, VA 22209. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Supat Oursinsiri

Managing member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE YOLO VA, LLC Trading AS Bracket Room, 1210 N. Garfield St, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverages Premises license to sell or manufacture alcohol-ic beverages. Jeffrey Greenberg, managing member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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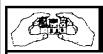
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14.8 Percent





BV KENNETH B. LOURIE

That is the percentage of diagnosed lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years, according to The National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009, in a graph published in the February 26, 2013 Washington Post's weekly Health & Science section. As a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivor beginning his fifth year post-diagnosis, charting my prospects in such a cold and impersonal manner is both chilling and arguable. "Chilling" in that facts speak for themselves and are hardly made up of whole cloth, to invoke one of the late Jack Kent Cooke's more famous quotes. And "arguable" in that charts, statistics, etc. may very well measure the mean, but it sure doesn't measure the man (this man, anyway). Meaning, from my perspective: sure, the chart is scary as hell, but I'm not sure I'm on it, if you know what I mean? (I know you know what I hope.)

Now whether you believe it or not matters not to me, rather what I believe matters most. And I believe in the individuality of individuals and of the immeasurable characteristics that don't show up on twodimensional graphs. Since I live in a threedimensional world, I'm loathe – and quite hesitant, to think that I'm just another terminal patient/number. Now, I don't dismiss such statistics out of hand, obviously, but nor do I take them to heart to determine how I intend on living my life. Certainly I'm not going to ignore them; I'm not a blockhead. But neither do I expect them to affect my thinking, my judgment, my preparation and my attitude. I still believe anything is possible and I'd like to think – and continue to think: "I've lived this long. Certainly I can live a little bit longer" (updated daily).

I have to admit though, that reading articles and seeing charts which offer improving but still extremely discouraging life expectancies, particularly for lung cancer patients (12.3 percent was the previous five-year survival rate, the lowest for all cancers charted in this particular graph) doesn't exactly make my day - or night, for that matter. Somehow, I have to find a way to disassociate myself from that population despite being immersed in its culture every minute of every day. Which when you consider that I have my oncologist's phone number programmed on my speed dial and that the chemotherapyinduced neuropathy in my feet offers constant reminders that I'm not in Kansas anymore (if I were in Kansas, I'm sure the neuropathy would be just as bad), the likelihood of my not feeling the effects of my diagnosis, physical, mental or emotional is somewhere between slim and none. Coping is what it's all about and not taking anything too personally, even though this is all very personal. And though I am keenly aware of my circumstances – as most of you regular readers are, finding a way to not let it define me and/or control me totally, is the challenge with which I am most familiar.

As Popeye the Sailor Man so famously said: "I yam what I yam." And so am I. I'm Kenny-with-cancer. So what else is new?

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

Entertainment

 $Send\ announcements\ to\ vienna@connectionnewspapers.com.$ Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/ artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or www.facebook.com/ BlackfinnMerrifield.

Catie Curtis With Jenna Lindbo. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The 12album-deep International Songwriting Competition award-winner with a penchant for singing

about the highs and lows of life welcomes singer/songwriter and storyteller Jenna Lindbo. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or www.facebook.com/ BlackfinnMerrifield.

The Iguanas. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A progressive Americana trio plays their mix of rock 'n' roll, roots, jazz, blues and Mexican conjunto music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title "America's Next Top Dog. 703-938-0405. **Friends of Nottoway Easter Egg**

Hunt. 9:30 a.m. (registration), 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and noon, at Nottoway Park Picnic Shelter, 9357 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Egg hunt times arranged by age of child participants (1-2 years at 10:30 a.m.; 3-4 years at 11 a.m.; 5-7 years at 11:30 a.m. and 7-9 years at noon); bring your own basket. \$8, cash only; cost to benefit Nottoway Park improvements. 703-324-8566

National Cherry Blossom Festival Central. Noon-3 p.m., at Fairfax County Visitors Center (Tysons Corner Center, Nordstrom wing), 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The visitor center hosts a special event with craft demonstrations and more. 703-752-9500.

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or

www.1ststagetysons.org. **Sean Rowe**. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Singer Sean Rowe promotes his album The Salesman and the Shark www.jammingjava.com.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap regular returns to perform the final segment of his three-part jazz piano series; Eaton together with bassist Tommy Cecil will improvise Great American Songbook numbers and take audience requests. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.



"Erika and Bluebells," encaustic painting, by Nick Deff.

'It's a Spring Thing' Opens at Vienna Art Society

"It's a Spring Thing" is The Vienna Art's Society's annual member-judged show, opening Tuesday, April 2, and up through April 29 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at the Vienna Art Center. The art works are inspired by spring farmers, markets and outdoor cafes, budding trees and blossom festivals, renewal, rebirth and resurrection. Meet the artists at the Award Reception for the best artist, held Sunday, April 14, from 2-4 p.m. The Vienna Art's Center is located at 115 Pleasant St. N.E., Vienna, and is free and open to the public.



As a leading interpreter of music, a jazz enthusiast and nationally-recognized pianist, John Eaton has been performing across the country for over 40 years. He will be performing on Saturday, March 30, at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

2013 Asian American Chamber Gala. 6-10 p.m., at The Westin

Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, AACC Chamber Award Gala recognizing businesses and

leaders of Asian & Pacific Island descent who have made outstanding contributions to the D.C.-area business community and economy; cocktails, dinner, auction and cultural performances included. www.asian-americanchamber.org/

Mason Symphony and the Virginia **Chamber Orchestras Concert.** 7:30 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$20; free for students through grade 12 and Wounded Warriors and their families; \$15 for college students and seniors. 703-993-1380 or http://

music.gmu.edu. **Never the Sinner**." 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or

www.1ststagetysons.org

A Night of Music with Peter Kolkay. 8 p.m., at The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap National Park presents the bassoonist and first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Peter Kolkay. \$35. http:// purchase.tickets.com/buy/ TidetPurchase?agency=WOIF_TRAP&pid=7295869.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.

Chamber Music Evening. 7:30 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An ensemble including Danielle Talamantes, soprano, Kristen Berthelotte, harp, Marian Rian Hays, harp, Igor Zubkovsky, cello, and Diane Winter Pyles, piano presents music of Ravel, Debussy, Schumann, Dussek and others. Donations accepted. 703-421-



Stephen Russell Murray, left, and Alex Mandell as Leopold and Loeb in the 1st Stage production of John Logan's "Never the Sinner."

Some Crimes Never Fade Away

"Never the Sinner" Where and When at 1st Stage.

By David Siegel The Connection

t was the "trial of the century" that mesmerized the nation in 1924. Two teenage college students, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, went on trial for the murder of a 14year-old boy. They were defended by the most famous defense lawyer of the day, Clarence Darrow. These facts and the ultimate outcomes are easily found on Wikipedia.

Yet with so many later trials of the century with their own lurid details for new generations, perhaps interest in Leopold and Loeb has faded, except for a very

The 1st Stage production of "Never the Sinner" by John Logan shows that a good tale, no matter how well known, still with some mysteries left to explore, can be absorbing in the right hands. "Never the Sinner" is well worth a visit, even with script flaws that drag the piece with some cumbersome details.

Under the deliberate, laser sharp, almost restrained direction of Jeremy Skidmore, the audience becomes both witness and jurors as "Never the Sinner" unfolds to its foreordained conclusion. Thankfully playwright Logan has left one meaty mystery item for the last line; one that brings an unexpected twist to who did what and why. Who could imagine a nick-

1st Stage presents "Never the Sinner" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, showing now through April 14, 2013. Performances: Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays 2 & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www. 1ststagetysons.org.

name could have such significance.

Skidmore's almost hushed approach to the production delves deeply into the personal relationship between Leopold and Loeb, their thinking, their feelings, how they speak, even their kisses. They are treated as living without arousal even as they intellectually contemplate taking someone's life, just to see if they can do it.

The actors are up to the task. Leopold (Stephen Russell Murray) and Loeb (Alex Mandell) are cool in their throttle-down mode and mood. Voices are rarely raised, though at times more emotion might have added some menace. As Clarence Darrow, Michael Kramer is whip-smart folksy. He comes across as a man who wants to reshape how punishment is meted out in his aria-like monologues with an unseen judge and his debates with the prosecutor (Eric Lucas).

The technical aspects of the 1st Stage production are of a sepia tone in this jazz age radio style drama. The set, lighting and sound design are seamlessly one. They fit together like handsome, burnished, expensive wood.

For those who crave stimulating theater, with something to chew on and a challenge to their regular entertainment fare, "Never the Sinner" is a good catch. And it's in the neighborhood.