STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Рното ву Скаі

Members of the Langley boys' swim and dive team celebrate winning the 6A North region championship on Feb. 6 at Oak Marr Recreation Center.

reat Falls

# Region Champs

Sports, Page 12

**Great Falls Teen Brings Organ Back** PEOPLE, PAGE 5

School Board Approves \$2.67 Billion 'No Cuts' Budget

News, Page 10

February 10-16, 2016

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8

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2 & Great Falls Connection & February 10-16, 2016

## NEWS Snowzilla Summit Ahead Board names Fairfax County Animal Shelter for Michael Frey.

By Ken Moore The Connection

hat a difference a week makes," said County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D), in case anybody had moved on from the 29.3 inches of measured snow at Dulles Airport during last week's blizzard.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a Snowzilla Summit on March 1, to discuss "what went well, what lessons were learned, and what can be done in future events," Bulova said at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Feb. 2, nine days after the storm.

"It's not like this never happens," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). "We know we're going to have a significant storm every few years.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) remembers the last big storm and county summit when the county analyzed its response overall and neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street. "I intend to do that again this year," he said. "I look at these snow summits on a macro and a micro level."

Foust wants the police to be invited, and to hear analysis of the number of accidents after streets had begun to be plowed and treated.

"As great a job as VDOT did, one area that concerns me the most is the hazardous situations they left when they thought they were done," he said.

Supervisor Cook wants the school system to join, too. Many residents called asking if they could help shovel sidewalks that were covered by many feet of snow in some areas that VDOT cleared from the roads. That will be studied.

"We don't want our children to be out of school an entire week," said newly elected Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck (D).

"I had far more compliments than complaints," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). "It seemed to be contractor dependent. If a contractor came out with good equipment, they didn't give up."

People underappreciated in this storm were also the repairmen fixing the equipment during the blizzard and cleanup, he said.



Experiencing BLIZZARD IN **GREAT FALLS** 

Patty Rojas, 11, on Great Falls, took these pictures of the family dog Annie during the recent Blizzard in Great Falls.

This was also the first storm since Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) took office. The snow cleanup and preparedness is "an important conversation to have with the community."

Consistency was the problem she said her residents told her about.

She used technology to make automatic calls to residents in her magisterial district, giving the option for anyone who answered to press a button to be connected to someone in her office.

"It moves at a pace where you can receive incoming calls as fast as you make outgoing calls," she said. "Putting out an offer to help resulted in a 14-times increase in the

number of people calling us," she said.

Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) said the map alerting residents to VDOT progress "just wasn't accurate."

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) mentioned that Herndon Park and Recreation Department offered a full day program for children during the cleanup days.

"Let's evaluate Herndon's program to see if Fairfax County can do something similar," he said.

"It's a pretty innovative way to make activities available to children and enabling parents to put in work hours on a snow day," said Bulova.

She said Snowzilla Summit will be tele-

vised and be presented on the web so county

residents can watch. Backing out to the macro level, Supervisor Penelope Gross (D-Mason) gave a last bit of perspective.

"Let's consider the amount of snow we were dealing with. VDOT did an outstanding job," she said.

## Animal Shelter Named to Honor Frey

Supervisor Pat Herrity requested that the county animal shelter be named after justretired Supervisor Michael Frey, who spent 24 years as the Sully District Supervisor.

"I will not go over his many accomplishments as a supervisor of supporting schools, local sports programs, historic districts, parks and public safety, but rather focus on his love for animals. Over the years, Mike has been the proud owner of many rescue German Shepherds - Mosby and Marley in the past, and now Boomer," said Herrity.

The Board voted unanimously to rename the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for Frey. "This is an outstanding tribute to him, and

I want to fully support this," said McKay. Herrity said Frey oversaw the creation of

dog parks, was largely responsible" for the renovation of the animal shelter, "worked tirelessly with veterinarians and shelter volunteers to fight for better living conditions for animals in need," and continues to work for animal welfare in the county even after his "post-supervisor days."

"Since Mike announced he would retire from the board, we've talked about this. I'm pleased," said Bulova.

The motion passed unanimously, but it also sponsored a further resolution by the Board to develop criteria for naming county buildings, entities and anything else after people.

"I've always been an advocate for not naming anything for anybody until they have passed from this earth," said Supervisor Penelope Gross. "There should be criteria for naming things for people."

Currently, the Board does not have such criteria, said Chairman Sharon Bulova, "but the Park Authority does, the schools do, ... but we don't and we probably should."

### Langley Rowers Win Two Gold, One Silver

The Langley High School Crew excelled at the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints, the largest indoor rowing event for juniors (18 years or younger) in the United States.

From Langley, Mason Liddell took home the gold in the Junior Lightweight Men 1500m (age 15), Taylor Kuligowski took home the gold in the Junior Women 1500m (age 15), and Sophie Rogers took home the silver Junior Lightweight Women 2k (age 17). Also, competing for

Langley and placing well in their categories were: Stephen Kalinsky, Eliza Pastore, Emily Elkas, Helen Chambers, Leah Damelin, Katie Slade, Nick Stankey, Paul Gorka, Justin Meeker and Erin Pierce.

The Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints included more than 2,000 competitors from over 100 clubs, with athletes ranging in age from five years to over eighty. It is the largest satellite-qualifying event for the World Indoor Rowing Championships (C.R.A.S.H.-Bs) which will take place in Boston on Feb. 27.



From left — Mason Liddell, Taylor Kuligowski and Sophie Rogers.

TO CONTRIBUTED



### A COACH CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

When Barbara walked into Koko FitClub, she was nervous. Facing serious health issues, her doctors prescribed exercise. Traditional "gyms" caused fear and dread – she tried them, and hated them. Her goal: to get healthy and build strength in a place that made her feel like she truly belonged.

At her first session, Barbara could barely lift any weight. Her FitCoach, Tyler, encouraged her to stay positive. He guided her through 25-30 minute workouts, just 2-3 times a week, and discussed healthier eating. Within 30 days, Barbara saw results. The workouts were exciting and (finally!) she could do push-ups!

After several months training with her FitCoach, Barbara is 50% stronger. She looks fantastic. She is strong, fit and, most importantly, healthy.

Tyler is impressed. "To see someone who has gone through so much and is now achieving her goals – it's incredible. Barbara always wants me to challenge her, and I love it! What makes me most proud is the simple fact that she is proud of herself. I may have helped along the way, but if she hadn't made the first step to come into Koko FitClub, none of this would have been possible."

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## PEOPLE

## Great Falls Teen Brings Organ Back

#### Jack Wood, 16, is on a mission to take organists out of the endangered musician category.

By Ashley Simpson The Connection

ixteen-year-old organist Jack Wood can pinpoint the exact moment when the grand instrument piqued his interest. The young musician, who has to date played more than 40 different organs for concerts and church services, said that when he was just four years old, a conversation he heard between his parents and his childhood church's music director about the shortage of young organists struck a chord.

Although Wood did not start pursuing the organ seriously until 2014, the Great Falls resident and Herndon High School junior is on a mission to take organists out of the endangered musician category.

"I began to really like the organ after listening to hymns on YouTube," Wood said, recalling how his interest snowballed into a passion. "Knowing in the back of my head that there was a scarcity of organists made me want to do it even more. I had been playing the piano for years, and the organ was like the piano, but more complicated. I liked the fact it was a challenge. My goal now is to major in organ performance in college and to one day be the music director and organist of a church."

Wood, who practices "anywhere between one to five hours per day" is well on his way to turning his musical passion into his career. To date, Wood has headlined in four concerts open to the public.

Since he splits his time between his father's house in Great Falls and his mother's Middleburg home, he has been able to play for both Catholic and Protestant church services in both Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. At just 16, Wood is completely comfortable taking the initiative in finding these opportunities, considering it a privilege to play for every congregation and audience.

"What I'll do is reach out to the Music Directors, then we meet, and if they like what I do, then they book me for church services," Wood said. "Usually, at first I think they are a little skeptical because I'm a teenager asking if I can play these prized, grand organs. Once I play for them, they do realize that I'm a serious organist."

Wood, who is ready and willing to play the organ for any local church service, said he credits his organ instructor, Dr. Kimberly Hess, for fine-tuning and developing his skill.

Hess, an Instructor of Music History and Music Theory at Marymount University, has been working with Jack for the last year and a half. She said such intense appreciation for the organ is rare among the youth, and that Jack is an extremely talented organist with the passion it takes to go far.

"I love working with Jack," Hess said. "It's rare, but people who find their way into the field of playing



Jack Wood

the organ seem to love it and become very intense with it. There aren't very many young people like him."

Before beginning lessons with Hess, Wood said actually he couldn't read music, in spite of a history playing piano. After spending years learning piano songs by ear, Hess said Jack learned to read music in just a year and half.

Hess said Wood's resourcefulness and commitment takes steps further than raw talent would alone.

"As unusual as young organists are, it's also rare for students to

have an organ in each of their homes," Hess noted. "He's very resourceful. He was able to find a free organ on Craigslist for his mom's house."

Jack Wood's father, John Wood of Great Falls, said that his oldest son has always shown musical promise. He also recalls the day that Jack first heard about a lack of rising organists, but says it has been relatively recent that he realized this instrument was not going to be a fleeting interest for Jack.

See Organist, Page 7



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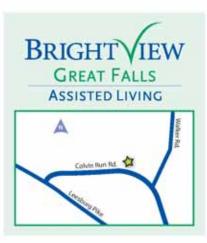
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# OPINION Limiting Local Authority

Assembly rushes bill limiting proffers without addressing who will pay for infrastructure.

n Virginia, a Dillon Rule state, local governments have only the powers explicitly granted by the General Assembly. And what the assembly gives, the assembly can take away.

It's the reason, for example, that localities have limited means of raising revenue and limited taxing authority. And those limited means are one reason localities have turned to proffers, payments and improvements to infrastructure agreed to by builders as part of approval and zoning changes for new Editorial development.

Members of the General Assembly, in-

cluding many who represent only Fairfax County districts, agree with builders that in many places, the way local governments are using proffers is unfair, even out of control.

Many point to Loudoun County, where builders pay substantial cash proffers, as an example. And to other counties where large, off site intersection improvements were required.

Everyone seems to agree that the "abuses" are not taking place in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. But the restrictions apply to these areas as well.

How are local governments supposed to pay for the costs of growth? Should the lion's share be paid by existing residents through increase

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

property taxes?

This is a complex question, not one that should be rushed.

But right now, the General Assembly is rushing to restrict proffers and to give developers and builders substantial clout in legal challenges to local government action. And they are doing this without any consideration to how localities will replace the resources they will lose.

It's time to slow this process down, and for a reasoned consideration. What exactly are the abuses that require action? Look at specific examples and

address the specifics. Local delegates voting in favor of the bill restricting local proffer authority included

Dave Albo (R-42), Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Charniele Herring (D-46), Patrick Hope (D-47), Tim Hugo (R-40), Paul Krizek (D-44), Mark Levine (D-45), Ken Plum (D-36) and Vivian Watts (D-39).

Local delegates who voted against the bill included Jennifer Boysko (D-86), David Bulova (D-37), Mark Keam (D-35), Kaye Kory (D-38), Jim LeMunyon (R-67), Alfonso Lopez (D-49), Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Mark Sickles (D-43), and Marcus Simon (D-53).

The Virginia Senate was expected to vote for

an amended version of the bill on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Reasonable action will fall to the conferees in reconciling the House and Senate versions, and to the governor, who would be able to amend the bill before signing or veto.

> - Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with vou.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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#### A Safe Space for Creative Leaps

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of Great Falls for 26 years and my father has lived here for 36. I have spent the last decade thinking I was supposed to be somewhere else. Ironically, through my recent process of de-cluttering, I have read things from long ago and come to the realization that I have been thinking I was supposed to be somewhere else for much longer than the last decade!

I think we all have a similar struggle, the struggle is real right - as my teenage children remind me. One of my struggles is obviously about where I live. Others I know struggle with food, alcohol, exercise, work, you get the picture.

For the new beginning that is the new moon and the Chinese New Year, Fire Monkey, I have decided to let go of the anger and clutter which are the poisons I have been drinking and expecting others to die. Anger about not living where I think I am supposed to and clutter because I am moving right!?

Since all of our brains are hardwired to assume the worst (think cavemen), tell ourselves a story and then write a stormy first draft (Brene Brown) born from that process. I have decided that I would rather edit, update and build on that first draft rather than

run with it, with all those wrong assumptions. I don't have to believe everything I think!

Joining Great Falls writers group is one of the best things I have ever done. It is a safe space to take creative leaps. It is also a space to learn and grow, especially in editing our first drafts.

When I get out of my own way, I realize I am exactly where I am supposed to be, beautiful Great Falls. I live on the property my father bought in 1980, where my sister lived in her teenage years and drove her 1965 cherry red convertible Pontiac GTO to Holton Arms (an irony she loved), where my husband and I had our wedding reception in 1993, where we built our log cabin in 1995, where

our children have lived since birth and where our address has had the same phone number since the 1950s.

I was agnostic until my sister died on June 7, 2008. When she died, I felt her presence in me almost immediately. She is now my higher power and I am so grateful for it. Knowing and remembering that there is something greater than myself in control helps me to get out of my own way and dive into the life I have been given and let go of the one I thought I was supposed to have.

Thank you Great Falls and Great Falls writing group.

Great Falls



Jeanne Theismann

@TheismannMedia



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Volunteer Events and Opportunities

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support** Group meets by phone on Tuesday, March 8, 7-8 p.m. to discuss aregiving. Join us to discuss your concerns and learn more about making this issue more manageable. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ OlderAdults and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-**324-5484**, TTY 711.

The Fairfax Commission on Aging meets on Wednesday, March 16 at noon at the Hunter Mill District Office, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr. Reston. The publ c is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Sauare Dance, Basic Guitar, Art, and Basic Spanish. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's iust have with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

## Great Falls

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#### Organist

From Page 5

John said that he has enjoyed watching Jack evolve into a more serious, accomplished musician and has come to really grasp just how talented Jack really is. Jack's family, which includes two younger sisters and a younger brother, has watched him play not only in Virginia churches, but also at the helm of organs in other states. No matter where the Woods go, Music Directors all relay the same message to Jack's parents: he's the real deal.

"We've taken him all over," John said. "When we are in New Jersey visiting my parents, I take him to churches there. Music directors are always impressed. Also we rent a house on the beach in New Jersey every year, and one summer I remember visiting this small church in this small town called Strathmere, where the people encouraged us to take him to a church in Ocean City with a really large organ. Jack played for a few days with the music director there, too. At all these places, I always ask if he's any good. They always say, 'Wow. He is awesome.""

John said his son has never asked for money, but is often told that he is too talented to play for free.

Meanwhile, Jack said that he does not yet charge for tickets to his concerts or set prices for playing at church services because he feels lucky for already knowing his calling.

In terms of specific goals, Jack said he is working on mastering what he said is considered one of the hardest pieces for an organist to tackle.

"At some point I would like to complete 'Widor's Toccata' [a symphony for the organ]," Jack said. "Once you can play that, you're the real deal. I've tried, but it's pretty hard to get."

Jack said that as he pursues his dreams and continues taking the steps toward becoming a career organist, he hopes he can inspire other young keyboardists to think about similar paths. As fun as the ivories are, he said that adding pedals to the mix can be a thrilling challenge.

"My advice to any accomplished young pianists is that, if you like this article and if the organ interests you at all, become an organist," Jack said. "We need more young organists. It would be awful if there came a day where churches had to be without organ music. Rock music and guitars can be good, but that isn't traditional church music."

For any inquiries about Jack and his music, visit his Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ NVAOrganist or email him directly at nvaorganist@gmail.com.





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# HomeLifeStyle

While red is often the go-to floral color for Valentine's Day, shades of pink, peach and purple can offer elegance and romance.

Photo courtesy of Merrifield Garden Center

## Stylish Valentine's Day Table Settings

Flowers and candles create romantic designs.

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

resh flowers and candles are an easy way to add elegance and romance to a Valentine's Day table. From dramatic to understated, local tastemakers offer suggestions for setting the mood for a memorable dinner.

"Candles are key to set a romantic atmosphere," said Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda, Md. "Soft lighting is flattering to all of us and creates a sense of intimacy for conversations."

The ambience is enhanced, says Meyer, when the candlelight glints off of metallic acces- A table setting by Alexansories like candlestick holders. "You can use silver, mercury, help move the light," she said.

rent trend, says Angela Phelps votives." of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "They pair well with pinks, candle votives, trays, and glassning table.'

Metallics combined with a few tic — for example, a white table-Md. "The centerpiece [could be] of whimsy.



dria-based Ivy Lane's Alex **Deringer and Courtney Cox** glass or even gold or brass to incorporates fresh flowers.

In fact, gold accents are a cur- array of assorted size candles and

For a more traditional table, Johnson stated that "a black, white reds, and fuchsias," she said. and red table can be very dramati-"So, as you're planning a roman- cally romantic. A black and white tic dinner at home, think about tablecloth [such as] a houndstooth incorporating china, vases, or herringbone ... pattern with red, glass stemware, white dinner plate, ware with a gold trim for a stun- a ruby-red glass salad plate and silver flatware."

Johnson suggests completing the pops of a soft color help create look with a crystal or silver vase an elegant setting. "White and filled with red roses and accented silver tables can be very roman- with few red glass votive candles. peach and purple can offer el-

cloth, mirrored or silver terpieces need to be flowers. She what works for you and what placemats, silver flatware and suggests filling three compote works in your home," she said. "For shakers, festive napkin rings, crystal stemware," said Fay dishes, graduating in size, with example, red doesn't work in my and if you have fancy water or Johnson, an interior designer chocolates and red and pink rose home, so I use watermelon and wine glasses, now is the time with J.T. Interiors in Potomac, petals for table design with a touch apricot."

a silver ice bucket with white A vase can add a powerful style touch of enchantment. A mono- bucket nearby for cooling white and blush colored roses and a impact. "A vase is like a frame for chromatic palette conveys more ro- wine or champagne."

a picture," said Linda Wilson- mance than contrasting colors," Vertin, floral designer with said Wilson-Vertin. She recom-Merrifield Garden Center in Fair mends using "red roses with Oaks. "A clear vase is like not having a frame on the picture."

Instead, choose a vase that has visual interest or one that is meaningful on a personal level. "I like using things that are special to the individual," said Wilson-Vertin. "I ask clients to bring in a container that they like so that I can create said Wilson-Vertin. "Add berries an arrangement that works with and eucalyptus" to complete this

While red is often the go-to floral color for Valentine's Day, Wilson-Vertin says that shades of pink, setting, says Kelley Proxmire of Johnson believes that not all cen- egance and romance. "Go with

Consistency adds an unexpected don't forget the champagne

deep burgundy mini carnations to vary the size of the flower head and texture. Mini carnations have ruffled texture."

"As you're planning a

romantic dinner at

home, think about

incorporating china,

vases, candle votives,

trays and glassware

with a gold trim for a

stunning table."

- Angela Phelps of

Kelley

Proxmire

created an

variety of

glasses,

intimate table

setting with a

candles and

fresh flowers.

gie Seckinger

Le Village Marche

For the ultimate in texture and color variety, "think English garden, like roses, hydrangeas, lisianthus and snapdragons," elegant floral arrangement."

Linen napkins offer a finishing touch to an elegant table Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md.

"Use pretty salt and pepper to use them," she said. "And



Wentworth designed and built an entertainment system around the TV that includes pullout cabinets for electronics. Rill Architects designed this butler's pantry in Potomac, Md., with pocket doors.

## Bringing Order to Household Chaos

Clever design solutions for hiding clutter.

By Marilyn Campbell

ires, cable boxes, soccer cleats, pet bowls and other items are life's necessities, but they can be unsightly and disrupt the aesthetic of an elegant living space. From textured baskets to custom-made furniture, local architects and designers believe that everyday items can be concealed, maintaining the design integrity of a space while incorporating the household items that make daily life run smoothly.

For pet owners, a kitchen renovation is an ideal time to consider adding a custom space for pet bowls and beds. Hidden drawers near the bottom of a kitchen cabinet can keep pet supplies out of sight.

"When designing kitchens and baths, we always consider the best ways to store essentials in a neat, aesthetically pleasing way," said Jim Rill, principal of Rill Architects in Bethesda, Md.

The kitchen is also an ideal room for carving out storage space for electronics and charging stations. "Add an outlet to a small drawer in the kitchen for charging phones so the cords ... are not all over the countertop," said Michael Winn, principal of Winn Design Build in Falls Church. "Use flip, pop-up and other types of hidden outlets in kitchen countertops, like those used in some offices."

Winn says outlets can be hidden in spaces such as fake drawer fronts, under cabinet lighting or a

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countertop edge. "Use a built-in wireless phone charger on a table,' he said. "The Holy Grail is wireless electricity. It's not a stretch to imagine that the homes we'll be building a decade or so from now will have this technology." Interior designer Molly Bruno,

The Connection

owner of Molly Bruno Interiors, suggests choosing one area as the "hot zone" for high-tech devices. "A specific place where your family's phones, iPads and tablets can all charge together. A central spot is key ... someplace away from bedrooms, possibly a corner of the

"When designing kitchens and baths. we always consider the best ways to store essentials in a neat, aesthetically pleasing way." — Jim Rill, Rill Architects







Rill Architects designed a spice rack drawer to keep spices handy and organized.

kitchen or a designated tray on display personal treasures and your desk."

Mudrooms have evolved into an essential space for inclusion in home design, says Rill. "[They] provide a drop-off spot for coats, from view," he said.

Interspersing closed storage with open is a design strategy that Bruce or sporting equipment." Wentworth, president of so attractive and open shelving to for family and guests.

books," he said.

From soccer cleats and shin guards to basketballs, corralling clutter becomes less daunting with textured baskets, says Bruno. "Pothats, keys, and more when enter- tery Barn's beachcomber baskets ing a home and [are] often hidden are great placed at the end of a couch for extra blankets and pillows or by the back door for shoes

These also work in a linen Wentworth, Inc. uses to hide fre- closet or bathroom. "Roll up sevquently used household products. eral clean towels, place them ver-"Closed storage to conceal the ne- tically in the basket and you'll cessities of life that are not always have fresh towels at the ready"

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Great Falls Connection & February 10-16, 2016 & 9

## News

## School Board Approves \$2.67 Billion 'No Cuts' Budget

Calls for general salary raises and additional \$40 million for teachers, lowering elementary class sizes.

> By Tim Peterson The Connection

embers of the Fairfax County School Board have taken the next step in realizing Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza's vision of no additional cuts in the Fiscal Year 2017 school system operating budget. The \$2.67 billion budget, a \$121 million or 4.8 percent increase over the FY 2016 approved budget was supported unanimously at the board's Feb. 4 regular business meeting.

Highlights of the new budget include a step and one percent market scale adjustment salary increase for all FCPS employees, as well as another \$40 million earmarked for making teacher salaries more competitive and reducing class sizes in elementary schools.



Photo courtesy of FCPS Jeanette Hough, a newly elected at-large school board cal to maintaining an essential member, introduced an unsuccessful amendment that would have reduced the proposed Fairfax County transfer to the school system schools, our children, and the by \$4.3 million.

"The Superintendent's Budget Task Force spent many hours over several weeks last summer and fall developing a list of potential program cuts and new fees," Board Chairman Pat Hynes said in a statement. "Those cuts and fees

are not in the Advertised Budget because they would fundamentally change the quality and character of FCPS. I did not leave the classroom to serve on the School Board so that I could preside over the dismantling of this world class school system. Potential cuts will, sadly, have to be considered should we not receive the revenue our schools need."

BUDGET COMMITTEE chair and School Board member Janie Strauss introduced the motion to approve the budget.

"This budget reflects the basic needs of our schools and is critiquality education for our children," she said in a statement. "Community support for this budget is critical to the future of our overall strength and reputation of Fairfax County."

At-large member Jeanette Hough, a new addition to the board, presented a lone amendment to the advertised budget. She proposed reducing the transfer request from Fairfax County by \$4.3 million, in part through recognizing additional funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia and also absorbing some employee living wage expenditures into the Food and Nutrition Services fund.

Increased funding from the state, a potential \$3.2 million, is part of Gov. Terry McAuliffe's proposed budget, which the General Assembly has yet to approve. This uncertainty caused most other board members to vote against the motion.

"It's still a proposal of the Governor's, not in hand by any means," said Vice Chairman and Mason District representative Sandy Evans. "It's also a best case scenario. These chickens are far from hatching."

There was also concern over the effect Hough's proposal would have on developing a higher quality food program.

"As we try to improve nutrition for our young people, I don't want to put more pressure on that fund right now," said Strauss.

Though each member congratulated Hough on her effort to dig into the budget and make an attempt to improve it despite her short time on the board, Springfield representative Elizabeth Schultz and the new

Sully member Tom Wilson were the only other members to vote in the amendment's favor.

"In the Virginia state code, there's a requirement for board members to run school systems with 'the utmost efficiency," said Schultz, who went on to address the Food and Nutrition Services aspect of the amendment: "This is an incredibly modest way to recognize a self-sustaining fund that numbers bear out over time is already provided for in the budget.

"The best face we can put forward is that we have done all the appropropriate things to recognize savings when we can," Schultz added.

what this \$3.2 million is, it's just another assumption we're basing our budget on."

#### THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

has scheduled public hearings on the budget on April 5-7. More information about participating and the complete budget calendar is available online at www.fcps.edu/ fs/budget/budgetcalendar.shtml. Additional info on the FY 2017 budget can be found online at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml.

## McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS AMERICA'S PRIZE-WINNING MUSICAL! **Final Six Performances!** he Musical Music and Lyrics by Book by Based on a Concept by Sherman Edwards Peter Stone Sherman Edwards Original production directed by Peter Hunt. Originally produced on the Broadway stage by Stuart Ostrow Alden Theatre • McLean Community Center FEB. 5 – 21, 2016 Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm. Sundays at 2pm Tickets 866.811.4111 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org 1776 is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) All performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th St. NY, NY 10019

10 & Great Falls Connection & February 10-16, 2016

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@ connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### ONGOING

- McMurry Artist Showcase. Feb. 1-24. Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Framing, 1025-J-Seneca Road, Great Falls. Local artist Richard McMurry's stylized landscape paintings will be on display. www.broadwaygallery.net. 703-450-8005.
- **Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship** Deadline. Friday, Feb. 12. Each year, the McLean Community Center recognizes the hard work and talent of young performing artists through the James C. Macdonald Performing Arts Scholarship Competition. Following a preliminary audition and a final round of competition, prizes are awarded in each of four categories: Dance, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music and Theatre. High school students who reside or attend school in the McLean tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville) are eligible to apply mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0123.
- "When the Rain Stops Falling." Feb. 4-28. 1st Stage Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Epic in scope and poetic in language, this beautiful, haunting play crosses continents and challenges the boundaries of time to tell the story of one family and the events that bring them together and drive them apart. \$15—\$30. www.1ststagetysons.org. 703-854-1856.
- Pigments of My Imagination. Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots
- puppies and cowboy boots. Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.
- "1776." Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Through Feb. 21. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The founding fathers who participated in the creation and signing of one of the most important documents in our nation's history are presented in a humorous way, with their human foibles and failings. Directed by Annie O'Neill Galvin; produced by Jerry Gideon and Jean Matich. \$23-\$25. mcleanplayers.org. 866-811-4111.
- Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 11

- Valentine Making and Champagne Tasting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Valentine Making workshop will be led by one of McLean Project for the Arts' experienced faculty members, and the tasting will be special curated selections of champagne and prosecco provided by The Vineyard. \$35/\$30. 703-790-1953.
- Gallery Talk. 7 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join us for storytelling and poetry. Artists, Nasrin and Nahid Navab, will share stories behind their collaborate exhibit "Hushed Revolt." Poetry reading by Safia Elhillo from Split This Rock. Free.
- www.mpaart.org. 703-790-1953. Valentine's and Champagne. 7:30-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Put the

Puppeteer Jim West performs at the McLean Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 20.

> PHOTO CONTRIBUTED ART in HEART this Valentine's Day. Create one-of-a-kind Valentines while tasting special champagnes and proseccos from The Vineyard.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Coffee and Roses. 9:30-11 a.m. StarNut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Coffee discussion, "Selection, Sources and Rose Care." Hosts Frank Polk and Pam Powers. arlingtonrose.org. 703-371-9351. Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-

Workshop led by one of our

experienced instructors. \$35/\$30.

www.mpaart.org. 703-790-1953.

- Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Valentine's Market. www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.
- Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Mclean. Showcasing unique cultural performances from The Jow Ga Shaolin Institute continuing with more fun family festivities, crafts and entertainment. Free. 703-997-0977.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 14

- Smooth Jazz Brunch. Noon-2:30

   p.m. Maggianno's Little Italy, 2001
   International Drive, McLean. Join
   Tony Craddock, Jr. & Cold Front and
   Ken Navarro as they touch hearts
   through music. Ticket prices include
   Brunch Buffet and a \$10 gift
   certificate to Maggiano's. \$60.
   www.tonycraddockjr.com/
   jazzbrunch. 703-398-6171.

   Grain Grinding Demonstrations.
- Noon-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd., Great Falls. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, \$ for children and seniors. 703-759-2771.

#### MONDAY-TUESDAY/FEB. 15-16

Graham Nash. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter and founding member of iconic bands Crosby, Stills and Nash and The Hollies, Graham Nash is a two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Songwriter Hall of Fame inductee, a Grammy Award winner, a New York Times bestselling author, and an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. \$80-\$90. www.wolftrap.org.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 19

Kevin Griffin of Better than Ezra. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Frontman of the alt-rock band Better Than Ezra, this prolific singer/songwriter has penned numerous hits for Train, Sugarland, James Blunt, Howie Day, Missy Higgins, Blondie, and more. \$25-\$27. www.wolftrap.org.



FRIDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 19-21

Hope on Ice. 3-8 p.m. Tysons Skate Rink, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Community ice skating extravaganza benefiting American Cancer Society and honoring cancer survivors. DJ Civil, live music, entertainment and Luminaria on ice ceremony. First 50 cancer survivors receive commemorative T-shirt. \$12. skatetysonscorner@gmail.com. 703-673-8044.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 20

- Puppetry Festival. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jim West Puppets and Crabgrass Puppets will present and perform. Children can enjoy two puppet shows and learn how to make their own puppets. \$15/\$10. http://ow.ly/WLmhq. 703-790-0123.
- Winter Wine Tasting. 7-10 p.m. River Bend Golf and Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Mingle with and join your neighbors for a delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines. \$75. http:// www.celebrategreatfalls.org/winterwine-tasting/.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Hula Dance Master Class. 3 p.m. The Center for Education, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Take a trip to the fascinating Hawaiian islands in this fun-filled hula dance master class. Learn the beautiful footwork and graceful hand motions of a hula 'auana, modern hula, to a special mele, Hawaiian song. Ages 13 to adult. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Itamar Zorman, Kwan Yi. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Violin and piano pieces by Mozart ("Sonata in B-flat Major K. 378"), Crumb ("Nocturnes"), Brahms ("Sonata in A Major"), Bartok ("Sonata no. 1 for Violin and Piano"). \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Scott Miller. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Staunton, Va. native, singer songwriter and farmer. www.jamminjava.com.
John Eaton, The Swingin' '30s. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Join renowned pianist and vocalist John Eaton as he interprets the Great American Songbook. \$25-\$27. www.wolftrap.org.





## Here's What's Happening at MCC



#### Registration Now Open for Summer Camp Programs

Choose from a wide variety of summer day camp options, including art, cooking, theater and outdoor adventure.

#### Macdonald Performing Arts Scholarship Competition Applications are due

Friday, Feb. 12, 2016



Puppet Festival Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents

Featuring performances by Crabgrass Puppets and Jim West Puppets.

#### Old Firehouse Teen Center Friday Field Trips Verizon Center: Washington Capitals Friday, Feb. 26, 3:30-10 p.m. \$65/\$55 OFTC members

5th and 6th Grader Party St. Paddy's Day Party Friday, Mar. 4, 7-9 p.m. \$35/\$25 MCC district residents



## Sports Langley Boys' Swim and Dive Wins Region Championship

## Saxon girls finish region runner-up.

By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

he Langley boys' swim and dive team entered the season hoping for a top-three finish at regionals and states.

After a championship performance last week, the Saxons' goals have shifted.

The Langley boys won the 6A North region championship on Saturday, Feb. 6 at Oak Marr Recreation Center. The Saxons finished with a score of 229.5, holding off runner-up Patriot (215).

Langley head coach Ryan Jackson said the Saxons put themselves in position to win with a strong performance on Friday during prelims.

"It sunk in last night when I went home and scored out how we did in prelims," Jackson said. "We did well last night. We put ourselves in position, event after event in prelims, to be in the place to score points. We had all three relays in the top eight. We had swimmers come back in every event. We had points coming from diving from Wednesday. We really had a complete team show up and we swam great."

Langley's victory came one week after the Saxons took home the Conference 6 title on Jan. 30 at Washington-Lee High School.

Sophomore Casey Storch had a strong regional meet, winning the 200 IM with an All-Americanqualifying time of 1:49.29.

"I feel that was a strong race," he said. "Going into it, I was a little scared of all the other guys coming back. I ended up going out really fast in the first half but I felt strong the whole time."

Storch also placed third in the 100 breaststroke with an All-American time of 56.1, which also bested the previous meet record of 56.5, and helped the 200 medley and 400 free relays finish third.

"He's just so talented," Jackson said about Storch. "It looks effortless, but he just gives 100 percent. He anchored the [400] free relay right after the breaststroke, he split a 45 low - just incredible. That's right up there with the big boys in the 100 free and right after swimming the breaststroke. He's definitely talented and he has a lot of poise, as well."

The Langley 200 medley relay (Ryan Ha, Storch, Devin Truong, Carter Bennett) finished with a time of 1:33.92 (All-American) and the 400 free relay (Chase Bradshaw, Truong, Justin Rose, Storch) posted a time of 3:09.14 (All-American consideration). The 200 free relay (Bennett, Adam Fischer, William Wingo, Justin Rose) also took third, finishing with a time of 1:26.46.

Rose, a senior, placed fifth in the 100 butterfly (50.99) and 100 backstroke (51.12, All-American consideration).

Bennett, a senior, tied for fifth in the 50 free with a time of 20.99 (All-American consideration) and finished 10th in the 100 free (47.26).

12 Screat Falls Connection Sebruary 10-16, 2016



The Langley boys' swim and dive team won the 6A North region championship.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection



The Langley girls' swim and dive team finished runner-up at the 6A North region meet.

After Saturday's region championship, Jackson, who announced to the team earlier this season that he will take a break from coaching after 12 years with Langley, said the Saxons' outlook for states has changed.

"I think our goals have shifted a little bit in terms of a top-three finish," he said. "Maybe we're going to try to take a sweep.'

The defending state champion Langley girls' team finished runner-up at regionals with a score of 194. Robinson won the title with a score of 222.

Langley junior Isabella Rongione placed second in the 500 free with an All-American time of 4:46, finishing four-tenths of a second behind Oakton senior Megan Byrnes. Rongione placed fourth in the 200 free (1:49.87, All-American consideration) and helped the 200 free and 400 free relays place third.

The 200 free relay (Micaela Grassi, Celeste Pace, Rongione, Michelle Owens) turned in a time of 1:37.79, and the 400 free relay (Grassi, Joanne Fu, Owens, Rongione) recorded an All-American-consideration time of 3:30.28.

The 200 medley relay (Grace Gent, Pace, Fu, Kendall Heebink) finished eighth (1:51.01).

Fu, a junior, placed second in the 100 butterfly (56.03) and eighth in the 200 IM (2:08.4).

Owens, a junior, placed fourth in the 500 free (4:53.01, All-American consideration) and fifth in the 200 free (1:50.46, All-American consideration). The 6A state diving championship is scheduled for Feb. 19 at Oak Marr. The 6A state swimming championship meet will be held Feb. 20 at George Mason University.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTIO Carolyn Brown-Kaiser and the McLean gymnastics team qualified for regionals during the Conference 6 championship meet on Feb. 5.

## McLean Gymnastics **Qualifies for Regionals**

"She knows

-Head coach

**Courtney Lesson on** 

**Carolyn Brown-Kaiser** 

By Jon Roetman The Connection

he defending state champion McLean gymnastics team earned a regional berth with a runner-up finish at the Conference 6 meet on Feb. 5 at Washington-Lee High

School. McLean finished with a score what she was of 139.6. Yorktown won to do to get the team champithe job done. onship with a total of 146.225, ... She's really snapping the Highlanders' good at streak of four consecutive dismotivating the trict/conference

titles. team." While McLean is used to finishing atop the Liberty District/Conference 6, the Highlanders

tors from last year's state cham- ish (9.25), and Aliyah Cheva-Brown-Kaiser and Jacqueline Green.

"It's really great," head coach Courtney Lesson said. "I feel

like this year we have a younger team, so [we had to get] them understanding the concept of how things go."

McLean sophomore Carolyn Brown-Kaiser qualified for regionals in the all-around with a score of 35.825. She placed second on vault (9.3), sixth on floor (9.2), sev-

enth on bars (8.75) and tied for 12th on beam (8.575).

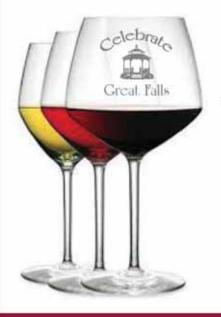
"She's really motivated," Lesson said. "She knows what she was to do to get the job done. ... She's really good at motivating the team."

McLean's Calista Pardue qualified for regionals in two events, tying for fourth on beam (9.025) and plac-

managed to qualify for ing fifth on floor (9.225). Anna regionals despite the gradua- Brower qualified for regionals tion of multiple key contribu- on vault with a third-place finpionship team, including Lizzy lier tied for seventh on floor (8.9).

The regional meet will be held Saturday, Feb. 13 at Patriot High School.

## Celebrate Great Falls Foundation's WINTER WINE TASTING



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## Not Snow Fast

#### By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As an originally diagnosed-as-terminal, lung cancer patient, I try not to panic or worry unnecessarily or be a harbinger of doom or a purveyor of gloom. Unfortunately, the providers of the news/weather reports of "accumulating" (that seems to be the popular phrase of late) snow in the forecast currently and in general, apparently are of the opposite opinion. Rather than make light of the inches predicted, the common (as if they're all reading from the same script) presentation is typically fraught with inferences of impending disaster and/or catastrophic loss. Not only is the message tiresome, its redundancy is downright distressing, as if the goal is to strike such fear into the local population that toilet paper, bread, water, and batteries aside; it's the media that will be the most important musthave

Do you know what my most important "must-have" is? Sanity, and calm in the face of adversity; logical and rational behavior in the midst of over-the-top reporting of events (maker that snow/weather predictions) destined to change lives - of the media, for the most part. Granted, there's lots of valuable information that must be disseminated when a storm of generational proportions smothers the area. Nevertheless, don't burden us with emotional baggage in the interim. The weight of the snow, especially for us manual shovelers, will do more than enough to keep us "sheltered in place." Sometimes, the message is lost in the hyperbole, or in the "emergency programming as seen on the non-stop, 'round the clock reporting. The sheer volume of it diminishes its impact. Quite frankly, less is more, and more manageable, too.

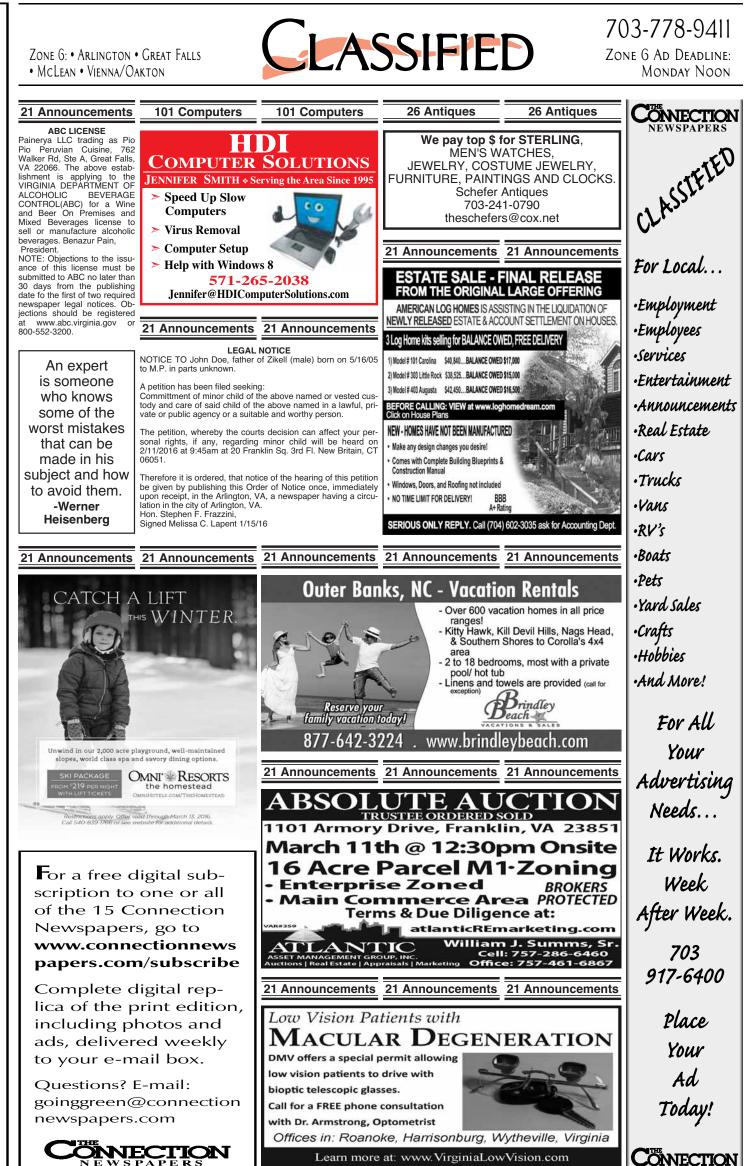
What us viewers and listeners endure in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Area, or what it has increasingly become known as: "The D.M.V;" (yet another media creation forced upon us residents) is above and beyond the call of citizen duty. Being called as a juror appeals to me more than being subjected to the media maelstrom that precedes (and of course, follows), these "weather events."

Yet here I sit and write, approximately two weeks after the "Blizzard of 2016," trying to filter out fact from fiction concerning next week's "snowcast." And even though the twoplus feet of snow is mostly long gone (but not forgotten), I fear its effect on our preparations and predictions will inhibit us for years: fueled in no small way by the media's fascination with itself and its presumptive place in the world as well as its presumptive place in the lives of thousands of local residents for whom they feel uniquely responsible.

Not that I totally understand many of the ulterior motives behind the means and methods of communication when snow is in the atmosphere, but the pattern seems familiar: create the fear, report the fear, and then cover the effects of the fear; and then in another occasional adjunct: the after-the-fact selfanalysis of the fear that was created, the reporting of that fear, and then a post-mortem on all the fear and its consequences.

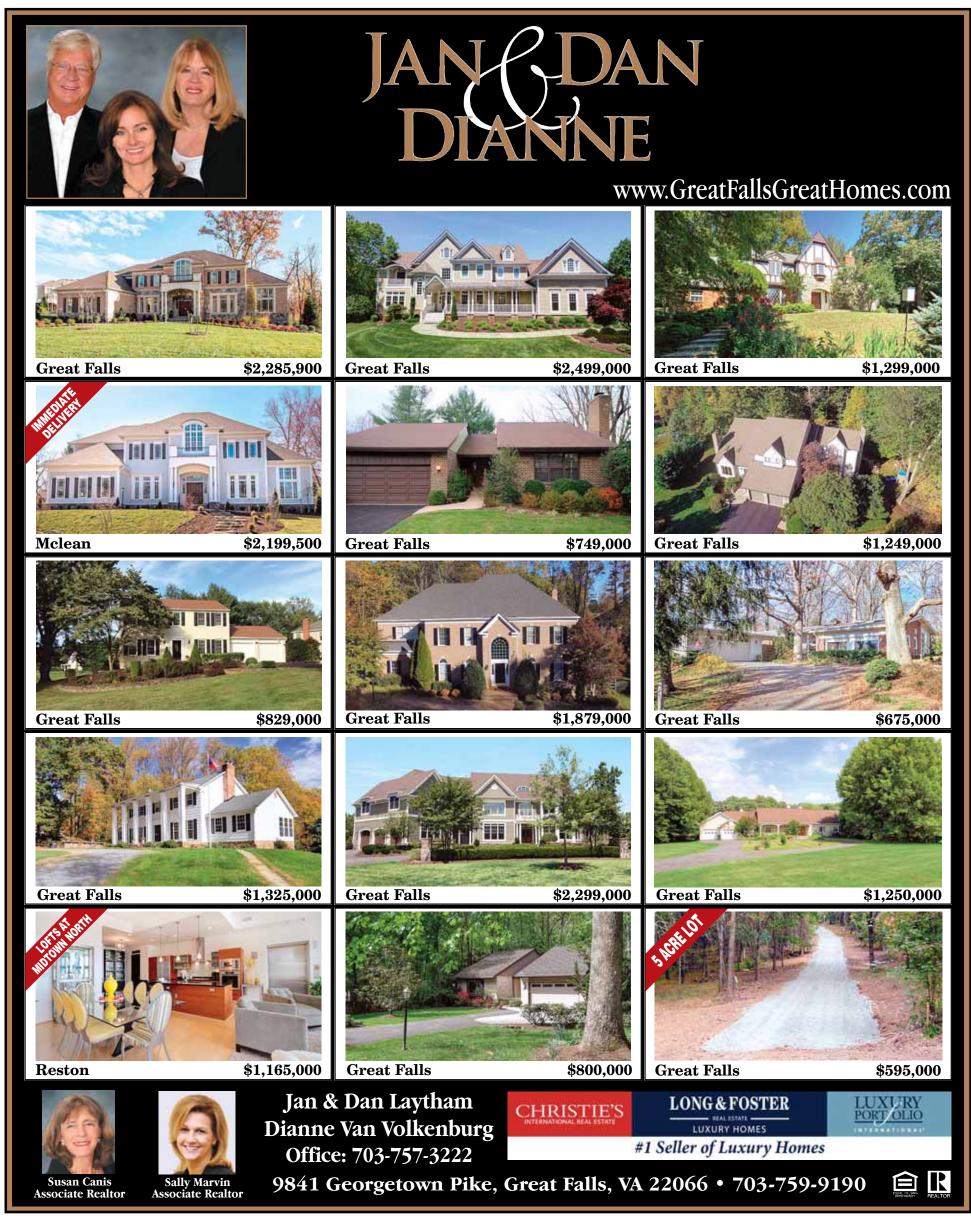
I have to tell you; as a cancer patient, I can't live my life this way. Every day, I have to buck up and not look for trouble – and not make any trouble, either; not exactly the mission of the media. Ergo, I don't need to make matters any worse than they might otherwise be, nor can I presume and anticipate the worst, or create consequences in advance of them being consequential. Since I'm a great believer in context, having an incurable form of cancer (NSCLC, stage IV) may make me less tolerant of the snow coverage by the media. Then again, maybe I'm just a victim of circumstance, tired of being made to feel like the victim.

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16 Screat Falls Connection Screary 10-16, 2016