

Imam Mohamed Magid of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, or ADAMS Center, in Sterling invited one of Nabra Hassanen's sisters to the stage. "I just want to thank everybody for your love and support, and I just want to say to Nabra, I love you and will always miss you," she said.

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GRADUATION 2017

Farewell to 'Always Seahawks'

South Lakes High graduates told to “focus on hopes and dreams.”

BY ELLEN BARKER
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, June 20, the South Lakes High School Class of 2017 walked across the stage at the Eagle Bank Arena to receive their diplomas. The South Lakes Band played “Pomp and Circumstance” as the students entered the arena. This was followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Army JROTC Color Guard, and “The Star-Spangled Banner,” performed by Class of 2017 Chorus Members. The chorus also performed “The Climb” by Miley Cyrus, the Senior Class Song.

Graduation began with Class President Molly Sheets. Sheets thanked those who helped the Class of 2017 reach their moment of commencement. “Four years ago, graduation seemed like a distant dream,” Sheets said. Before the graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, South Lakes teacher Lawrence Ward gave the keynote address.

Ward began his keynote speech by asking the graduates, “Are you ready?” Ward, English department chair of South Lakes High School, went on to speak about the new world the Class of 2017 would be entering, and what they will need to bring with them.

Confidence, courage, and compassion were Ward’s

three most important qualities to bring into the new post-graduation world, along with their diplomas. Referencing “The Sound of Music,” “The Wizard of Oz,” Winston Churchill, and “Catch-22,” Ward reminded the graduates of the importance of both speaking and listening. He also emphasized lending a helping hand. “You probably can’t help them all,” he said. “Pick one.”

Before Ward gave his keynote speech, Katherine Bae addressed her fellow classmates as the student speaker. She spoke of growth, community, and spirit. Of her school and the Class of 2017, she said, “This spirit, this community, goes unmatched for miles.”

Bae recognized that graduation was both a big and small moment. Despite seeming big now, it would become a small moment in time as their lives continued. “Hold your breath, don’t blink, because you might miss it,” Bae said. She ended her speech with a simple phrase, repeated often by the graduation speakers, “Once a Seahawk, always a Seahawk.”

Kimberly Retzer, South Lakes Principal, awarded the Bruce Butler Leadership award to Jenna Hirshfeld. Retzer also recognized the 178 honor graduates, who received a GPA of 4.0 or higher, and the three graduates who will be attending military academies. Assistant Principal, Class of 2017, Greg Luongo, had advice for the graduates as well. “Focus on the hopes and dreams you have inside of you,” Luongo said.

The ceremony concluded with the parting words of Lawrence Ward serving as a sum of the evening. “Class of 2017, working with you has been a privilege, an honor, and a treat. Farewell.”



Katherine Bae was the student speaker for graduation.



Lawrence Ward, English department chair, delivered the keynote address.



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Mohmoud Hassanen, the father of Nabra, arrives at Lake Anne Plaza for the vigil and weeps at the sight of Nabra's close friends and family, including Hadar Abdalla, 22 (right), of Reston who comforts him.



Safeia Ali, 13, of Reston tears up as a prayer is recited during the vigil.



U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) placed a bouquet of white roses on the stage at Lake Anne Plaza during the vigil for Nabra before she gestured the sign of the cross.

Community Lays Nabra To Rest

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston was laid to rest as a martyr on the same day the community flocked to Lake Anne Plaza in Reston for her vigil on Wednesday, June 21.

The "Vigil for Nabra" was organized by the South Lakes High School Student Muslim Association and featured heartwarming speeches by interfaith leaders from the community, prayers and readings from the Quran, as well as performances and tributes from her close friends and family members.

The vigil was held in the evening after Nabra's Muslim community gathered and spent the afternoon in their mosque in Sterling praying for her Janazah, an Islamic funeral ritual involving prayers to pardon the deceased.

The procession then proceeded to the Sterling Cemetery, a hearse carrying her body escorted by police officers from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, which was followed by a long line of buses carrying those mourning her death.

"We're standing here today, burying one of the finest young ladies of our community," a voice said loudly over a loudspeaker in the cemetery after Hassanen's body was buried, family members and loved ones each pouring three handfuls of soil into her grave. "The way she passed away is considered in Islam as being a martyr, or shahid. The shahid is a person that Allah accepts and forgives their sin."

"I would like you today, as you leave, to think about the good legacy and memory of this young lady," the voice concluded.

Hours later, large crowds assembled in Reston at the Lake Anne Plaza and did just that.

Remembering Nabra

"It's unreal," Trajah Edwards, 15, said. "I still don't think it should be happening."

Edwards, a classmate at South Lakes High School, knew Hassanen since they were in middle school together.

"It was sort of chaotic because everyone



Imam Mohamed Magid of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, or ADAMS Center, in Sterling, addressed the crowd. "I would say you represent the spirit of Nabra," he said while pointing to the crowd. "This is Nabra. This Nabra that we love, that Nabra we know, it multiplied to hundreds of thousands of millions of people [across the globe]."

was trying not to believe it, but when we noticed it actually happened, we were all crying," she said, describing how she and her classmates felt when Hassanen didn't show up for the last week of school of her sophomore year before summer vacation.

"She was a nice girl who always had a smile on her face," Edwards added. "She was such a mellow person, always down to earth, always smiling and never sad," she concluded, holding two red roses for her slain friend.

This was a theme during the vigil — Nabra's contagious and comforting smile.

"Whenever I picked up coffee, Nabra was always smiling," said Kinza Raufgeorge, describing her encounters with Hassanen at a McDonald's in Reston where she used to work.

Nabra's uplifting demeanor was noticed by all who crossed paths with her.

"Nabra was a young lady who carried herself with dignity and grace," South Lakes High School Principal Kimberly Retzer said during the vigil. "She never missed an opportunity to say hello or good morning, and

her smile radiated our hallways. Nabra had a joyful disposition that lifted others up each day. She was the young lady who would gravitate to others and have the innate ability to support and nurture her friends through all things."

Hassanen's smile was sorely missed by her friends and loved ones who spoke at a podium peddled with hundreds of flowers and roses that were brought to the stage by community members in what Imam Mohamed Magid described as a "gathering of love," a "gathering of care."

Magid, the imam of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, or ADAMS Center, in Sterling, addressed the crowd, which responded in silence, listening and hanging onto every word the spiritual leader was saying.

"I cannot express my mixed feeling of great admiration for the family of Nabra for how they really hold together in this difficult time," he said. "I cannot imagine or pretend, even to think, I can put myself in the shoes of a father and a mother who lost their child the night they thought they would see her in the morning. A loving and

caring child," he added.

He told the large gathering of people that he saw Nabra — a "loving," "caring" and "very warm person" of his Muslim community — in the crowd.

"As an imam of that community, I would say you represent the spirit of Nabra," he said while pointing to the crowd. "This is Nabra. This Nabra that we love, that Nabra we know, it multiplied to hundreds of thousands of millions of people [across the globe]."

He then invited one of Nabra's two sisters, whose names were not used at the family's request, to the stage, who asked the imam to help her send a message to the crowd.

"I just want to thank everybody for your love and support, and I just want to say to Nabra, I love you and will always miss you," she said, the crowd reacting in loud applause and scattered quiet sniffls and tears.

He had a special message for the youth of his Muslim community and the larger youth community: "You know I love you ... we love you," he said. "Stay strong. Continue to pray for your friend because prayer is powerful."

He finished by telling the youth that even if their loved ones are not with them, they can hear their prayers.

"Keep praying the prayer of peace," he said. "Keep praying the prayer of hope. Keep praying the prayer of love because this community represents all of that."

'Hope For Peace'

Afeefa Syeed of Sterling, a past board member of the ADAMS Center mosque and active member of the community, stood in the back of the vigil wearing a bright blue hijab. As crowds dispersed, she could be seen near the Lake Anne Dock hanging up delicate pieces of white paper under a string of white lights.

"These are peace doves that people are making in origami style from paper and writing messages in them for peace for themselves, each other, for Nabra's parents and for Nabra," Syeed said. "Nabra also has sisters, so some of these messages are for them as well."

SEE 'GATHERING OF LOVE', PAGE 5

OPINION

Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires

Even employer provided insurance would suffer; coverage caps and exclusions of pre-existing conditions could return.

The U.S. Senate bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would take more than \$600 billion (yes with a B) from poor children, poor elders and people with disabilities to give a tax cut to people who make more than \$200,000 a year. Households with income of \$1 million, would gain \$50,000 in tax cuts per year. It is a massive transfer of wealth to the wealthiest households in America taken from the most vulnerable and neediest people. It would lead to more sick people and thousands of preventable deaths every year.

EDITORIAL

While much of the damage is done by massive cuts to Medicaid, affecting poor children, people with disabilities and most people in nursing homes, some of the changes will result in damage to the quality of insurance for those who get their insurance from their employers as well.

What could go wrong?
❖ Millions of people lose their health insurance — 22 million fewer would have health insurance by 2026 according to the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

❖ Loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions, including cancer survivors, people who had transplants, people with asthma, arthritis, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, mental health issues, ADD, etc.

❖ States could opt out of the law's essential

health benefits measure, which requires insurers to cover 10 main benefits, including hospitalization, prescription drugs and other services. That is, companies could sell health insurance that wouldn't actually be health insurance. Would Virginia be a state that opts out? Quite likely.

❖ Ending annual and lifetime coverage caps would also impact people who get health insurance from their employers and the private insurance market. For example, a serious accident or an illness that requires repeated surgeries or bone marrow transplants could put any one of us over the coverage cap.

❖ Medicaid pays public schools for many services for special education students, but the Senate bill removes schools from eligible Medicaid providers, costing Virginia an estimated \$40 million annually; \$3 million in Fairfax County; \$2 million in the City of Alexandria.

❖ \$800 billion plus in cuts to Medicaid puts the funding for most people who are currently in nursing homes at risk. Many of these are people who were middle class and but outlived their savings and coverage.

❖ In Virginia, the proposed changes to Medicaid would cost the state \$1.4 billion over seven years.

❖ Medicaid pays for much of the fight against opioid addiction, including treatment. Cuts would be devastating to efforts to counter the wave of overdose deaths and other effects of

addiction.

❖ Coverage for mental health treatment, including addiction treatment, is threatened both by cuts to Medicaid and by changes in the private insurance market.

❖ There will be greater need for Medicaid over time. More seniors will be poor, as fewer people who are retiring have pensions or adequate retirement savings. The demand for nursing home beds will be increasing as the population ages.

(This is by no means a comprehensive list of problems.)

If a version of the Senate bill were to pass, the results will be harmful to tens of millions of Americans. Call your senators. Virginia's U.S. Senators, Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, are both Democrats in the forefront of pushing back against this bill. But let them know you expect them to do the extraordinary to hold this up. Call the senators listed below and tell them to vote against it.

Ask family and friends to call their senators today.

If you have family or friends who live in West Virginia, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, Alaska or Ohio, their calls are especially important. Senators Shelley Capito (R-WV); Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Susan Collins (R-ME); Dean Heller (R-NV); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Rob Portman (R-OH) are among those reported to be possible opponents of this proposal.

The U.S. Capitol Switchboard number is 202-224-3121, and a switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

November General Elections

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

With the conclusion of the political party primaries last week the general election is now teed up for Nov. 7. There were some surprises coming out of the Democratic and Republican primaries. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam easily won the Democratic primary to be the nominee for governor even though

COMMENTARY

there was discussion beforehand that polls indicated a tight race. Polling for primaries is notorious for being inaccurate because with a typically light turnout the universe of potential voters is almost impossible to determine. Former one-term U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello has a great deal to offer and will hopefully stay on the scene for future opportunities. Although the term "establishment" was grossly over-used in describing Ralph Northam, his service in



the state senate plus his active role as lieutenant governor made him well known and greatly admired throughout the state.

Justin Fairfax gained everyone's admiration after a primary loss to Attorney General Mark Herring four years ago led to his active campaigning during the interim time making him well known for this primary. He was also well known for his work as an attorney.

If you review the areas where Ralph Northam did well and compare them with where Justin Fairfax was strongest, you create a strong statewide team that will be nearly impossible to defeat.

Attorney General Mark Herring was not challenged in a primary and will be on the ballot to succeed himself in November. There is no one-term limitation with the attorney general and the lieutenant governor as there is with the governor.

The greatest surprise of the primaries may have been on the Republican side to pick a candidate for governor. Ed Gillespie who has been mentioned for years as the next Republican governor of Virginia barely got through the primary with a shockingly strong showing by Corey Stewart who is known for his anti-immigrant work in Prince William County and for campaigning with a Confederate flag. He has the distinction of being so over the top that he was fired by the Trump campaign. Turnout was especially low in the Republican primary, and Stewart was just over a percentage point in taking out Gillespie. It will be interesting to see if the folks who voted for Stewart will vote in the general election or decide to stay home.

The Republican primary for lieutenant governor was a slug-fest between two state senators with Jill Vogel winning after a mudslinging campaign that left neither

candidate looking good.

All 100 seats for the House of Delegates are up for election this fall with a record number of contested elections. Historically it has been difficult to recruit candidates to run for the House of Delegates, but events of the past year have brought forth more candidates than ever before. There was a record number 27 seats where the candidates were determined by the primary because there was so much interest in running. Democrats will certainly pick up seats in the House of Delegates getting closer to shifting or sharing power in that legislative body.

While I am uncontested in my race for the House of Delegates you can still expect to see me campaigning. It is a good way to stay in touch with constituents and to increase turn-out for the statewide elections. Expect a busy fall of campaigning leading up to the fall elections in Virginia that will send a signal to the nation as to the public's reaction to national events.

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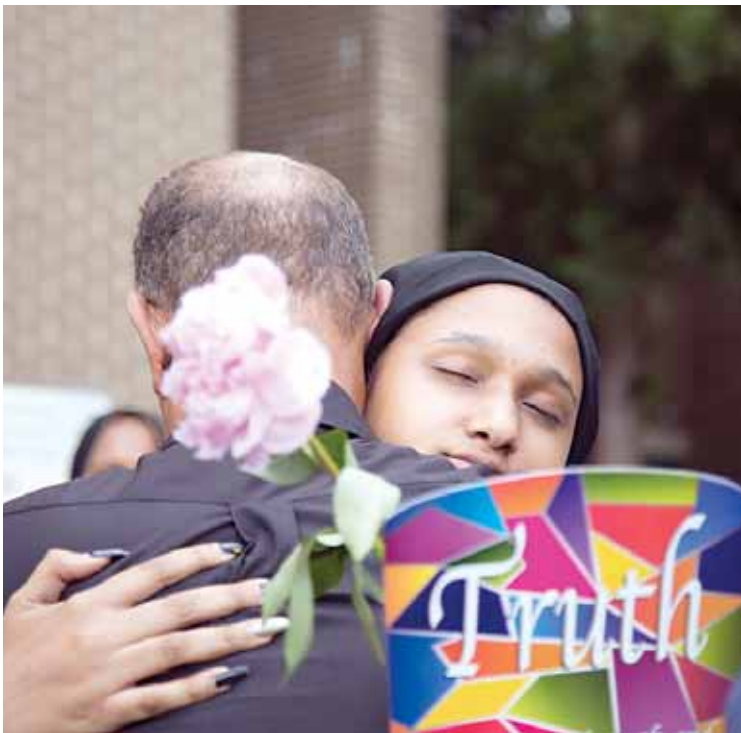


PHOTO BY FALON FORRUSH/THE CONNECTION

Shahed Mohamed, 15, of Reston, Nabra's close friend, embraces Mohmoud Hassanen, Nabra's father, when he arrives at the plaza for the vigil.

'Gathering of Love' At Lake Anne

FROM PAGE 3

The display brought smiles to passersby who joined in and inscribed hopeful messages within the paper wings.

"We were thinking of different ways to remember Nabra and to have everybody have a way to contribute to that," Syeed said. "So, we were thinking about what someone's young life means and it does mean a hope for peace."

Panthea Mohtasham of McLean crafted a paper dove and carefully hung it onto a strand of string.

"She's going to be very much missed," Mohtasham said. "The amount of love pouring out of here, you know Nabra was a great person."

Justice For Nabra

Since Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, was arrested and charged with killing Hassanen, more information about the murder investigation has been shared with the public.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, an arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, lodged a detainer request on Torres, who is a citizen of El Salvador who was living in Sterling without legal permission, according to Carissa Cutrell, a spokesperson for the agency.

ICE lodges detainers on people living in the country without legal

permission who have been arrested on local criminal charges when the agency has probable cause to deport them, according to Cutrell.

Torres had no prior encounters with ICE, according to Cutrell.

Despite the federal agencies desire to deport Torres, the Fairfax County Police Department announced that it will continue to lead the murder investigation. Previously, the department was unsure whether it or the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office would try the criminal case because assaults were committed against Hassanen in both Fairfax and Loudoun counties, according to the police.

Though the ICE detainer request was sent to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where Torres is being held without bail on June 19, according to Cutrell, the FCPD said in a blog post that it would "continue to work alongside the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney" as the criminal case moves forward.

In the meantime, a nationwide #JusticeForNabra movement has trended on social media and manifested in vigils across the country. Those participating are demanding Torres get the harshest punishment and that the country respond to the tragic incident by banding together instead of dividing into hateful factions, many calling for the murder to be elevated to a bias-related crime.

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Art Exhibition. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. through June 29 at U. S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive. Exhibit "H. K. Anne Presents The American Landscape," will be on exhibit at the USGS National Center is a public

building, parking is available in the visitor's lot outside the visitor's entrance. Photo ID is required to enter. Visit HKAnneFineArt.com.

Lake Anne Exhibit. Through July 2 at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza N. Exhibit features work by members of the Reston Photographic Society. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org/rps or call 703-476-4500.

Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Registration now open for race on Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. at Lake Anna, Reston. Participating teams of all ages will construct and decorate their own life-size cardboard boats. For more information or to register a team, visit www.restonmuseum.org/

cardboard. Team sponsorships begin at \$100 for adults and families or \$40 for students (ages 10-18 years of age). email lacbregatta@gmail.com or call 703-709-7700.

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Call for Artists. at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Eligible works are paintings, mixed media, and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging (no photography). The exhibit will be on display from July 3-28. Artwork that reflects USGS's environmental mission is encouraged. Enter works here www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Independence Day Celebration. 10 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Water Mine opens 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; boat rentals open 1:30-2:30 p.m.; puppet show 3-9:15 p.m.; live music 9:15 p.m. (approximately) Fireworks show \$10/car. Food vendors will set up near the park main office. Campgrounds are available for an overnight stay. Reservations recommended, call 703-471-5415.

Deanna Bogart Band Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. A night of dancing to the jump blues of this pianist/saxophonist/vocalist. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts for more.

MONDAY/JULY 3

Mr. Knick Knack Performs. 10:30-11:15 a.m. in the pavilion at the Reston Town Center, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Music for the children, part of musical Mondays program. Call 703-912-4062 or visit restontowncenter.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Firecracker 5K. 8-10 a.m. Reston Town Center, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Live music and American flags while rooting for the runners in the "Battle of the Branches" competition. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com for more.

Herndon Independence Day Celebration. 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Family-fun event featuring games, patriotic arts and craft activities, live music, family games, bingo, food, balloon artists and more. Visit herndonva.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 5

Blue Sky Puppet Theater. 10-11 a.m. at the Visitor Center Pavilion 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Wednesday Morning Children's Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

THURSDAY/JULY 6

The Annandale Brass (American Popular Music). 7:30- 8:30 p.m. at Kidwell Farm, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Thursday Evening Concert Series. Free. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

Lake Anne Roots Music Festival. noon-8 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront), 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Bands include Catchin Toads, noon; Old Town Traditions, 1 p.m.; Snakehead Run Jug Band, 2 p.m.; Split String Soup, 3 p.m.; Eli Pafumi, 4 p.m.; The Woodshedders, 5 p.m.. Visit www.lakeanneplaza.com for more.

Summer Movie Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. A musical about a Harlem schoolteacher, Dorothy. When she tries to save her dog from a storm, she's whisked away to an urban fantasy land called Oz. Free. Call 703-689-2700.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

Rocknoceros (Children's Songs). 10-11 a.m. at the Visitor Center Pavilion 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Wednesday Morning Children's Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

THURSDAY/JULY 13

Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley (Bluegrass). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Kidwell Farm, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Thursday Evening Concert Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 14

Mac and Cheese Night. 6:30-9 p.m. at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. July 14 is National Mac and Cheese Day and The Lake House is celebrating with a macaroni craft, noodle games, and food. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Email kelsey@reston.org or call 703-435-7995 for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

Le Hotclub de Biglic Concert. 4-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Gypsy Jazz style of music. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

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Infusing is Rarely Amusing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Four weeks out of every five, it appears as if I don't have cancer. Fortunately, I don't look the part. Nor do I act the part – in my opinion. However, there is one week out of every five when I most definitely feel the part: the week after my chemotherapy infusion, when eating is a particular challenge. The look, feel, taste and thought of food and/or drink is nearly impossible to swallow – literally and figuratively. And though I'm not in any pain during this post-chemotherapy weak, I am compromised nonetheless.

Friends and family who are familiar with my "normal" eating habits (I'd order off the children's menu if I could) have joked that since I'm unable to eat any of the usual and customary Kenny selections, perhaps I should try eating foods that I would never select: Brussels sprouts, grapefruit, tuna fish in a can, fresh fish on a platter, all condiments other than mayonnaise, all legumes and a million other foods that you probably love. Plain and boring is how I roll (a potato roll is my preference), repeatedly.

The problem is that when I'm post chemo, nothing satiates: salty, sweet or "snacky;" hot, cold or medium; fast or slow; store-bought, home-made or restaurant-ready. It's all merely a variation on a theme where my back stiffens, my head tilts back and down and my eating mind says "no." It's been this way for about two and a half years now. And though I don't look the least bit undernourished, I am overwhelmed by these week-long post-chemotherapy eating fits and non-starts.

Naturally I have discussed this side effect with my oncologist. When asked how long this situation lasts, my seven-ish day struggle seems about average, according to my doctor, maybe even slightly shorter than some other patients he treats who are infused with the same chemotherapy drug as I am. Apparently, there are other patients where the eating challenges last even longer than mine. And since there's nothing to be prescribed/recommended to affect this eating problem/lack of outcome, all I can do is live with the consequences of my treatment. Live being the operative word. So unless I stop treatment, this eating challenge will persist, presumably. (Although, there's scant clinical information regarding side effects on stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients still living after eight years and four months as we're a patient population that doesn't much exist. We're not exactly unicorns, but neither are we ponies at the Fair.)

Fairness – and normalcy for me was officially gone on Feb. 27, 2009, the date of my diagnosis and the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. But so what. As of that date, my perspective/orientation became about living forward, not recriminating backward. Sure, the present was important, but the future was more important, and the past, well, it had passed. No more could I afford to consider who, what, where, when, why and how I ended up in this predicament. My goal was to remain positive, take the bad with good, survive until the next drug approval by the FDA (of which there have been half a dozen in the last two years specifically for the treatment of lung cancer) and try not to impose my problems on anyone else.

Which I believe I've succeeded in doing. Oh sure, I've imposed myself on you regular readers, but what I've imposed on you have been my experiences. Considering the context, I'd like to think I've shared, not self-indulged. Moreover, I'd like to think we're all better off for the 'experience.' I know I am.

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

A Week of Area Independence Day Celebrations

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks at Lake Fairfax Park. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Water Mine Park, boat rentals, live music, food, puppet show, camping and fireworks. \$10 per car. The rain date is Sunday, July 2. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/.

Workhouse Arts Center Festivities. 5-9:30 p.m. at The Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$20. Golf course lecture, hole-in-one challenge, fireworks. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/JULY 3

History Day Tours. Tours at 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Test your knowledge of U.S. history at Sully Historic Site with political trivia, games and fun facts. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Firecracker 5K. 8-10 a.m. Reston Town Center, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Live music and American flags while rooting for the runners in the "Battle of the Branches" competition. Call 703-912-4062 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Autism Speaks 5K. 8 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, Md. Fundraiser for autism. Registration, packet pick up at 6:30 a.m. Call 202-955-3111 or email AutismSpeaks5K@AutismSpeaks.org.

Great Falls Hometown Celebration. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at at Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Great Falls 5K Walk/Run starts at 8 a.m. and then view the floats, antique cars,



People capture the firework display on cell phones and cameras during the 2016 celebration of Alexandria's birthday.

horses and the bike brigade in the 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m. After the parade, food, music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green. At 6 p.m., the gates open at Turner Farm Park featuring music, games, contests and food trucks until the Fireworks Show gets underway just after dusk. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Mount Vernon Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Troop inspection, wreath laying, citizen naturalization, music, fireworks and cake. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Fairfax Independence Day Parade. 10 a.m. On Main Street in downtown Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration.

City of Fairfax Evening Show. 5:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. Children's activities (inflatables, face painting, and balloon artists), Oon-stage entertainment with a fireworks display that follows. The rain date for the fireworks only is July 5. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf, smoking, alcohol and animals (except service animals) are not permitted on the football field. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

Fairfax Station Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

Great Falls Fireworks. 6 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. As part of the Village of Great Falls Independence Day celebration, Christ the King Lutheran Church invites members, friends, and members of the community to gather on the church's front lawn to enjoy the fireworks from this premium vantage point. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

Arlington Independence Day. 5-10 p.m. at the Long Bridge Park, 475 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington. Family-friendly activities including live music, food vendors, games, and a view of the Washington, D.C., fireworks display. Games and activities will include face painting, balloon art, moon bounces (weather permitting), cornhole, bocce, and more. No on-site parking at the event. Free event shuttles will run continuously from 4:30-10:30 p.m. between Long Bridge Park and the



Celebrate Independence Day at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Food, water games, pie eating contest and more. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Pentagon City and Crystal City Metro stations. Free. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/july-4th/.

Vienna July 4 Festival and Fireworks. 6:30 p.m. at at Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Food available from the Vienna Little League snack bar, those who register can get their taste of America in the form of two eating contests: Children ages 5-10 can sign up onsite to participate in a pie-eating contest. Adults can give their chomping skills a try in Vienna's second annual hot dog-eating contest. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

McLean Independence Day. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Musical entertainment by a local disc jockey, as well as food trucks selling a variety of entrees and snacks. Off-site parking and shuttles available. Admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks show will be presented at 8 p.m. on the rain date, Wednesday, July 5. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Herndon Independence Day Celebration. 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Family-fun event featuring games, patriotic arts and craft activities, live music, family games,

bingo, food, balloon artists and more. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july.

Falls Church Celebration. 7-10 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Live music. Visit www.fallschurchva.gov/.

Montgomery County Sparkles. 7:30 p.m., Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington. Montgomery County celebrates Independence Day with live music featuring Gringo Jingo. Fireworks are at 9:15 p.m. Shuttle bus at Westfield Wheaton North Building. Handicap parking only available at Einstein High School. Food vendors on site. Raindate is July 5 for fireworks only. Call 240-777-0311.

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 6

Patriotic Music. 1-2 p.m. at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. \$2 or free for residents. Visit www.holidaypark.us/.

Summer Under the Stars Concert. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Main Street Community Band. Visit fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration. 5-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Event to celebrate the 241st birthday of the USA and the 268th birthday of the City of Alexandria, featuring entertainment, cannon salute during the 1812 Overture, food and beverage sales, and fireworks at 9:30. Call 703-746-5592 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com/alx-bday/.

Riverfront Fundraiser. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Del. Mark Levine's house, at 805 Rivergate Place, Alexandria. Refreshments include "impeachment punch," "Orange Russians," wine and beer, soft drinks, and food. And great views of the fireworks which begin at 9:30 p.m.

Come early to get a good lawn seat or come later after the festivities next door at Oronoco Park.



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