

HomeLifeStyle

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Fairfax High's Sara Young receives her Army All-American Band jacket from (from left) Staff Sgts. Allen Harris and Adam Moreau.

Fairfax CONNECTION

'Practicing Hard Will Take You Places'

NEWS; PAGE 8

Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

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Suspenseful Story with Mystery and Intrigue

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Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

Democrats sweep statewide races, come close to taking over House of Delegates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Democrats swept all three statewide seats this week and picked up so many seats in the House of Delegates that control of the chamber is now in doubt. Voters rejected Republican arguments about sanctuary cities and Confederate memorials, divisive issues that had moderate Republicans trying to win over the most extreme elements of President Donald Trump's coalition. It didn't work, and it may have signaled a new era in how Democrats can take on Republicans and win at the ballot box.

"The new Democratic Party is back," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez during a raucous Election Night party at George Mason University. "And we're back with a bang."

In Fairfax County, Democrats picked up at least two seats in the House of Delegates. In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.86 percent of the vote; in Arlington, he received 80.07 percent; in the City of Alexandria, 78.36 percent.

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie, whose performance slipped a bit from his 2014 nail-biter against Democrat Mark Warner for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Back in 2014, Gillespie won 48 percent of the vote. This year he was only able to get 45 percent. Here in Fairfax County, Republican Ken Cuccinelli won about 10,000 more votes four years ago than Gillespie won this year. Now Republicans say they're ready to



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION
Democrat Ralph Northam declares victory in the hotly contested race for governor at George Mason University.



Northam



Fairfax



Herring

mount their own resistance.

"Our grassroots are now primed to hold Northam accountable during his time as governor, and we plan to do just that," said Americans for Prosperity-Virginia State Director J.C. Hernandez. "If the Northam administration tries to advance policies that

grow government and make life more costly, we stand ready, willing, and able to educate our neighbors on the issues."

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP was not on the ballot in Virginia this year, but he loomed over every part of this campaign.

The election cycle started when many Democrats were still in shock that the real-estate developer turned reality TV star was elected president. A historic women's march after Trump's inauguration led to an unprecedented number of female candidates taking on entrenched Republican elected officials this year, mostly men. The gamble paid off, and many of those defeated male incumbents are now preparing to leave office.

"Women are leading the resistance," said Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock. "A record number of women ran for office in Virginia, and now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to health care."

Voters in key swing jurisdictions voted for Northam; he won 61 percent in Prince William County, 60 percent in Loudoun County, 60 percent in Henrico County and 52 percent in Virginia Beach. And although Gillespie performed well in traditional Republican strongholds like Rockingham and Pittsylvania, he struggled in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield, which was basically tied between the two candidates. Party leaders on both sides of the aisle say voters were reacting to Trump and sending a message.

"Voters turned out in droves in a direct rebuke of state Republicans and the Trump administration," said Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "Americans from coast to coast sent a clear message that when faced with adversity, we will step up and defend our values, safeguard the progress we have made, and push onward."

JUSTIN FAIRFAX beat state Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27). Some Democrats feared that Vogel might end up being the lone Republican to win a statewide seat, potentially yielding a

SEE BLUE WAVE, PAGE 15

Unofficial Election Results 11-8-17

SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS, RESULTS.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV
* Incumbent

GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) 1,405,007, 53.87%
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R) 1,172,533, 44.96%
Clifford D. Hyra (L) 29,303, 1.12%
In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.86%
In Arlington, Northam received 80.07%
In City of Alexandria, Northam received 78.36%

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Justin E. Fairfax (D) 1,361,316, 54.64%
Jill H. Vogel (R) 1,222,603, 47.27%

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D)* 1,379,162, 53.21%
John D. Adams (R) 1,210,398, 46.70%

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

34th District
Kathleen Murphy (D)* 20,496, 60.91%
Cheryl Buford (R) 13,136, 39.04%
35th District
Mark Keam (D)* unopposed 22,566, 93.04%
36th District
Ken Plum (D)* unopposed 21,107, 93.01%
37th District
David Bulova (D)* unopposed 18,856, 93.56%
38th District
Kay Kory (D)* 16,008, 73.51%
Paul Haring (R) 5,718, 26.26%
39th District
Vivian Watts (D)* unopposed 21,392, 92.62%

40th District

Donte Tanner (D) 14,988, 49.73%
Tim Hugo (R)* 15,003, 50.11%

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D)* unopposed 22,959, 90.84%

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D) 18,725, 60.94%
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R) 11,962, 38.93%

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D)* unopposed 22,084, 93.34%

44th District

Paul Krizek (D)* unopposed 18,330, 92.81%

45th District

Mark Levine (D)* unopposed 31,360, 95.09%

46th District

Charniele Herring (D)* unopposed 18,919, 96.40%

47th District

Patrick Hope (D)* unopposed 29,672, 96.20%

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D)* unopposed 27,625, 94.61%

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D)* 19,295, 81.29%
Adam Roosevelt (R) 4,388, 18.49%

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D)* 19,216, 74.34%
Mike Casey (I) 6,336, 24.51%

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D) 17,017, 57.86%
Jim LeMunyon (R)* 12,350, 41.99%

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D)* 17,213, 68.99%
Linda Schulz (R) 7,697, 30.85%

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NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF FAIRFAX FIRE DEPT.

Firefighters at the scene of the Nov. 2 blaze at Exotica Florist in Old Town Fairfax.

Building Fire in Old Town Fairfax

Causes an estimated \$75,000 damage to Exotica Florist.

A fire last Thursday night in Old Town Fairfax shut down roads and caused an estimated \$75,000 to Exotica Florist. It's at 10376 Main St. in the building that formerly housed Spice Merchants.

Units from both Fairfax City and County fire departments responded, Nov. 2, around 6:20 p.m. The fire was reported by a passerby at a downtown business. And fire officials say that immediate report enabled crews to contain the fire quickly with no injuries to civilians or Fire Department personnel. First-arriving units encountered heavy smoke and fire conditions in the building's basement. But they were able to quell the flames and prevent the fire from spreading to any other structure. No one was in the building when the fire broke out.

While firefighters battled the blaze, Main and North streets and University Drive were closed for an hour, from about 6:30-7:30 p.m. City Fire Chief John O'Neal said four fire engines, two ladder trucks, two rescue vehicles and one medic unit rushed to the scene, as did two battalion chiefs, a safety officer and an EMS supervisor. It was also the first fire that Station 3's new foam engine responded to since going into service, the previous night.

"[The] fire in the basement work area was quickly extinguished; however, smoke damage was evident throughout the building," said City Fire Marshal Andrew Wilson. He said the blaze appeared to have been caused by "ignition of dried plant material by an appliance. The fire [also] caused damage to the electrical system, which required disconnection of the power by Dominion. Damage to the structure is estimated at approximately \$50,000, with an additional \$25,000 in damage to the contents."

— BONNIE HOBBS



The command officers, (from left) Capt. Greg Thuot, Capt. Shawn Dunstan and Battalion Chief Page Whitacre. Thuot is the City Fire Department's longest-serving officer.

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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Issue 2017

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

EDITORIAL

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 1. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2017.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

- ❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

See last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Churches Get Ready for Company

BY JOE FAY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FACETS

The warm fall masks what's ahead: a cold winter that jeopardizes the lives of those who have no home. Despite the warmer than average temperatures, the annual community effort to protect and provide for Fairfax residents who are living in the woods, on the streets, in cars, and abandoned buildings is gearing up.

FACETS

Since 2003, FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program has provided a safe place to sleep and nutritious meals to men and women who are experiencing homelessness. This program is operated across Fairfax and Falls Church in partnership with the Fairfax County government and approximately 40 faith communities.

Planning starts months before as our team at FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax, meets with faith community and county partners on the logistics needed to serve hundreds of guests. Throughout the winter, each faith community partner takes a week when they open their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to wel-

come people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and making fixes and upgrades. Other volunteers are planning menus and meals to serve.

Over the years, the program has evolved from solely offering a safe haven to also offering life-enhancing programs. The cold winter means demand for our services goes up. It also means we have the opportunity to address these needs in a very personal way as more people come in from the cold through our hypothermia prevention effort. We use these interactions to connect even more people with housing solutions and critical services.

Last year, we served nearly 300 guests through the hypothermia prevention program. In addition, our case managers worked with 125 of these guests to connect them with health, housing, and job placement services as well as veterans and Social Security benefits.

In addition, we connected some guests with market-rate apartments or houses in the community, where they received rental subsidies and/or services that were tailored to their specific needs, including a caseworker to help ease the transition. Last winter, 34 hy-



Joe Fay

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

pothemia prevention program guests found a home through the interaction.

Fairfax has the second largest population in the region experiencing homelessness, a surprise for many who live in this county with so much abundance. But we also

have a caring, strong community filled with volunteers willing to give of their time and talents to

make life better for all. These volunteers — who are cooking and cleaning to prepare for company that will arrive after Thanksgiving — are great hosts and an important part of our community's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

To learn more or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

Joe Fay is Executive Director of FACETS, a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Money Talks, on Guns Too

To the Editor:

I am weary of the diatribe that follows every mass shooting about how sorry gun proponents, politicians, etc. feel about these massacres. They offer their prayers and compassion each and every time.

What about helping these people? What about the NRA having a fund for victims of gun violence? What about taxing ammunition in order to provide funds for these victims? If a person is hit by a car he or she could get compensation from the insurance. If a person is affected by a hurricane, FEMA, churches and other groups step in to help. I see no sincere

concern for the victims of gun violence, only rhetoric, and the inability of gun advocates to take any responsibility for gun ownership.

If this is a right, then it also bears a responsibility. Perhaps if there were financial consequences, there would be more resolve to deal with the problem. Money talks.

Elaine Miletta
Fairfax Station

Refuse to Enroll

To the Editor:

Virginians shopping for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange have other alternatives. Enrollment through the ACA exchange starts Nov. 1, but individuals can refuse

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Fairfax CONNECTION

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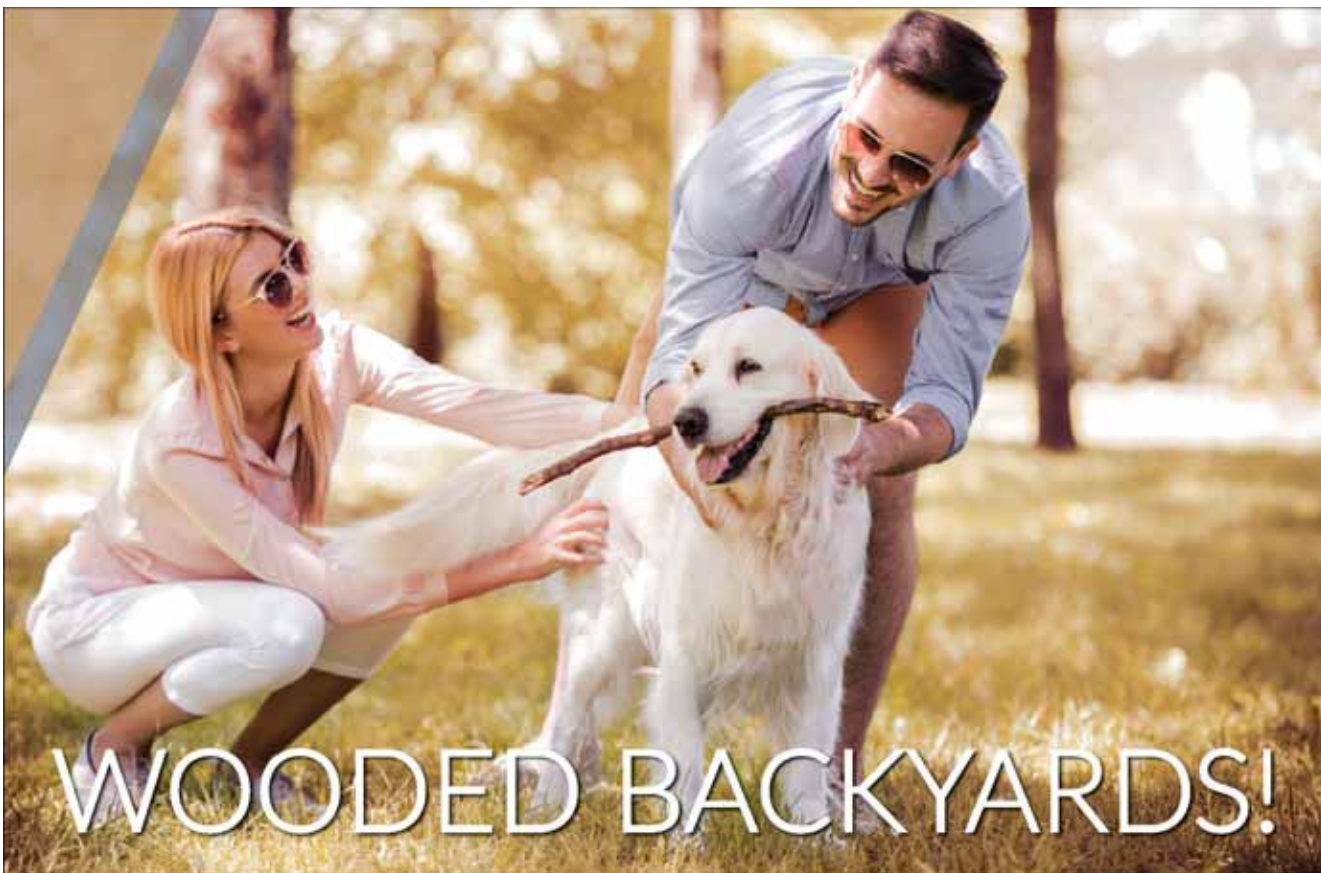


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‘Practicing Hard Will Take You Places’

Fairfax High student Sara Young in Army All-American Band.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High senior Sara Young is a talented and accomplished person, in her own right. But she recently joined an elite group when she became a member of the 2018 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

Only 125 high-school, marching-band members are selected from among the millions nationwide. They’re chosen not just because they excel musically, but also because they’re mentally and physically agile, know the importance of teamwork and – similar to soldiers – can easily adapt to challenging situations.

Each year, this band performs at halftime of the nationally broadcast U.S. Army All-American Bowl football game, next year on Jan. 6, 2018, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. And Young will be there, playing her trumpet in the band.

The Bowl is presented by American Family Insurance. And as part of the event’s Selection Tour, Young was honored in a special ceremony, Oct. 16, before her family and Rebel bandmates in the school band room. There, two Army officers presented her with the All-American Band’s official jacket and welcomed her to the band’s ranks.

“We are here today to celebrate a talented student,” said emcee and All-American Games representative Daniel Doucette. “Our goal is helping the next generation succeed at sports and in life.”

“Only the best and brightest can be an American soldier, just as only the best are selected to be U.S. Army All-American Band members,” added Army Sgt. David Crayle. “Army All-Americans are dedicated, motivated and know how to be a member of a team, as well as a leader. Not only are they expected to achieve musically and academically, but also as young people of character who embody the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.”

Noting that “It takes a great team to make a great leader, both on the field and in the Army,” Crayle then acknowledged the Rebel Marching Band. He also presented a certificate to Fairfax Band Director Jeff Lehman for providing his band members with “excellence in music education.” In turn, Young, thanked Lehman for nominating and teaching her, and her bandmates for their support.

“We’ve been fortunate to have students participate in this, four years in a row, and they all really have a heart to serve,” said Lehman. “They come through – you can count on them – and with no complaints; they get the job done. I’m thrilled for Sara, and thanks to her and to all of you [in the



Fairfax High senior Sara Young with her trumpet.



Craig Young and Mila Cobos



From left: Staff Sgts. Allen Harris and Adam Moreau present a certificate to Fairfax High Band Director Jeff Lehman for providing “excellence in music education.”

band] for supporting her.”

Saying “It takes dedication to pursue your dreams,” Doucette said Young identified her parents, Craig Young and Mila Cobos, as having believed in and inspired her. So he then presented them with a Dream Champion award.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, her father said, “We’re very proud of her. She’s been playing trumpet since fifth grade, and this [honor] represents a lot of hard work on her part. Mila plays the accordion, so Sara’s musical talent comes from her mother.” He said all three of their children are musicians; Daniel sings in the choir at Lanier Middle, and Ana plays violin with GMU’s famed

Green Machine.

Lehman, too, said he was “incredibly proud” of Sara for taking the step to even audition for the All-American Band, last spring, in her junior year. “It’s challenging to put yourself out there,” he said. “And she had to send in videos of her playing trumpet and marching. Then she had to talk about herself and why she wanted this honor.”

Lehman said Young’s selection to the band “speaks to the community and its commitment to both the arts and to service men and women. One of our former winners, Dylan Cate, is a specialist in the Army Reserves. And another winner, Jacob Steblein, is an Army ROTC cadet at Virginia Tech.”

Calling Young selfless when helping a friend or others in the school band, Lehman said she’s also a theater tech and such an outstanding musician that she recently made second chair trumpet in the Senior Regional Orchestra.

Young, 17, said she chose to play that instrument because several people on her mother’s side of the family played trumpet and she especially likes the sound of its middle range. “I really enjoy marching band, but I’m the drum major now, so this event [in January] will be another opportunity to march,” she said. “I also wanted to keep my school’s legacy going because we had three others who were named to the All-American Band.”

SHE FOUND OUT this summer that she’d made it. “I was at the drum major academy in Pennsylvania in July when Dr. Lehman emailed me and said, ‘Congratulations,’ and Rachel Hertz – our other drum major – and I both screamed,” said Young. “I was super excited.”

Regarding the ceremony, she said it was “kind of intimidating” having to speak in front of her friends. But, she added, “As soon as I saw their smiling faces encouraging me, I relaxed.”

Now she’s looking forward to seeing San Antonio and meeting the other members of the All-American Band because, like her, they’re all members of their high-school marching bands, too. But this time, they’ll participate at a whole, different level.

Young has applied to six colleges and would especially like to attend UNC Chapel Hill or Virginia Tech to major in some form of criminal justice. “I just want to be able to help people,” she said. To others aspiring to follow in her footsteps, she advises them to “Practice hard – even if you don’t want to – because it’ll take you places.”

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Home LifeStyle

Light Up the Season

Tastemakers create holiday trees, mantel-pieces, wreaths and a menorah for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Some local designers are collaborating with patients at Children's National Health Center to deck the hall for charity. The tastemakers are creating holiday trees, mantle pieces, wreaths and a menorah for a community fundraiser called "Light Up the Season." The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair designers with patients for inspiration.

"We were very excited to learn about Light Up the Season and be able to take part," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. "Over the years we've been regular participants in the DC Design House, another charity event benefitting Children's National. However, with this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit. It's been a much more hands on experience for us. And who doesn't love decorating holiday trees?"

Subaran, along with Megan Padilla and Kelly Emerson also of Aidan Design created a holiday tree design called "A 'Wimpy' Tree - A Tree in Cartoons," which was inspired by a patient named Wesley and his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

"Our tree will explore a black and white theme in keeping with the graphic novel genre," said Subaran.

The design team says that they used 2- and 3-D interpretations of classic Christmas décor combined with "striking graphic visuals, pops of color, and a good dose of wit, the tree will be both a throwback to a simpler time and on trend for young readers."

"A Guiding Light" is the name of the mantel design created by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc.

and inspired by a patient named Cheyenne. In creating her mantel, the designer said that she, "tied in biblical references to light, which are shown throughout the display, and incorporated Cheyenne's favorite color: red for a red, white and silver-themed mantel."

Two sisters named Leilah and Ava were the inspiration for a tree design called, "A Colorful Family Christmas" by Annie Elliott and Christy Maguire of Annie Elliott Interiors. "When asked what they liked best about Christmas, the girls agreed that being together with their entire family was tops," said Elliott. "In that spirit, they inspired our theme, 'A Colorful Family Christmas.' Playing board games, reading stories, sitting around a fire and decorating the tree also are favorite family activities. You'll see all of these holiday traditions reflected in our



PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

Christy Maguire (left) and Annie Elliott (right) of Annie Elliott Interiors, (pictured with Leilah and Ava) will collaborate on a holiday tree for Light Up The Season 2017.

tree's decorations."

"Leilah and Ava have many favorite colors, but a winner for both is teal," added Maguire. "Therefore, teal drives the tree's color palette, and other of the girls' favorites, purple, blue, and green, also are included."

Other area designers include Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Allie Mann and Alexandria Hubbard of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interiors of Bethesda, Md.; Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley

Flowers of Alexandria; Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors of Herndon; Josh Hildreth and Tara Price of Josh Hildreth Interiors of Reston and Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill.

The holiday designs will be on display during a family-friendly community fundraising event to benefit Children's National at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction, and light fare and libations. In addition, guests will be encouraged to write holiday cards for Children's National patients. Visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason for more.

"...With this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit."

— Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design

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ENTERTAINMENT



Holiday Music

Here Vienna-Falls Chorus sings holiday favorites with Master Director Claire Gardiner at Vienna-Falls Guest Night. This year it is Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7-9 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A Capella Barbershop Style, women of all ages join us for the Vienna-Falls Chorus Guest Night. Free voice assessments, private voice lesson, and education. Visit www.viennafalls.org for more.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Bring canvas and paints, meet with other painters. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net for more.

Civil War Family Story. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "The Benson-Rice Story" – storytellers from the historic Sudley United Methodist Church in Manassas will tell the story of the relationship of a Union soldier and Confederate family during and after the Civil War. Free. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-591-0560 for more.

Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Meet the featured artist and be a part of the local artist community. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Celebration. 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Unveiling and dedication of a Virginia historical highway marker in honor of General William Brown on Richmond Highway outside Pohick Cemetery. General Brown served in the Continental Army under General Washington, was in charge of military hospitals between the Hudson and Potomac Rivers, and is buried in Pohick Cemetery. Free. Email 1066LMN@gmail.com or call 703-304-4152.

SUNDAY/NOV. 12

Fall Festival. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Virginia International University, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Attendees can park at the Waples location, 11200 Waples Mill Road. The university has partnered with the Student Veterans of America, and a quarter of the proceeds from this event will go to support this organization. Email aforbes@viu.edu for more.

Holiday Food and Toiletries Collection. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Britepaths is collecting food items needed: cereal, oil, canned chicken, rice, snack foods such as granola bars and pretzels, peanut butter and jelly. Toiletries include diapers size 6 and

pull-ups any size. \$10 to \$20 food gift cards would also be welcome for families to purchase milk and meats. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

Patriotic Quilt Discussion. 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Textile historian and quilt maker Bunnie Jordan will discuss and display quilts featuring patriotic symbols from the World War I and World War II time periods. Free. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

Taste of Greater Springfield. 3-7 p.m. at the Waterford at Springfield, 6715 Commerce St. Features local restaurants providing samples of their favorite dishes – wines and craft beers also featured. Organized by the Rotary Club of West Springfield Foundation to support local scholarships. \$35. Visit www.rotaryofwestspringfield.org for more.

Fairfax Musician's Final Concert. 5 p.m. at National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. A Celebration to Honor Dr. Douglas Mears as artistic director of the Fairfax Choral Society. Call 703-642-3277 for more.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Vienna-Falls Guest Night. 7-9 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A Capella Barbershop Style, women of all ages join us for the Vienna-Falls Chorus Guest Night. Free voice assessments, private voice lesson, and education. Visit www.viennafalls.org for more.

NOV. 14-JAN. 9, 2018

Fall Art Lessons for Youth Classes. 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

Fall Drawing Plus Color Class. 6:15 p.m.-7 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor. Ages 5-8. Visit www.czartlessons.com or call 703-250-6930 for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Spy Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Braddock District Supervisor's Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Retired FBI Agent Lydia Jechorek discusses her presentation "From Teaching Art to Chasing Spies." Free. Call 703-764-8061.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Nutcracker

Professional guest artists Cody Beaton and Mate Szentes from the Richmond Ballet dazzle as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier in the Fairfax Ballet's Nutcracker, on Nov. 25-26, at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427.

CALENDAR

NOV. 17-18

International Holiday Bazaar. 8:30 a.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. Hosted by Bethany House of Northern Virginia. Friday from 4-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds go to Bethany House of Northern Virginia which provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.\$5. Visit www.bhmv.org for more.

St. Matthews Annual Craft Fair & Children's Show. Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. More than 40 vendors and children's author and entertainer Edward Allan Faine (a.k.a. "How-to Cowboy") will teach attendees how to whistle through their tongues, play hand trumpet, talk like Donald Duck and Darth Vader, and perform other tricks. Free. Visit www.stmatthewsumc.org/ for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax

Station. The NTRAK group with a display of running N Gauge model trains. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Crop Hunger Walk. 2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. 25th annual Burke/Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk to raise funds and awareness to combat hunger and provide disaster relief. Visit www.burkecropwalk.org for more.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 5-7 p.m. at the Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The 5th annual "pre-Thanksgiving" dinner with all the trimmings. The event is free and open to all. Visit www.franconiaumc.org for more.

NOV. 25-26

Fairfax Ballet Company's Nutcracker. Nov. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Ana Victoria Smith of Clifton, dances the role of Clara. Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Historic Clifton Holiday Homes Tour . 4-7 p.m. at Clifton Baptist Church, 7152 Main St., Clifton. \$25 adult; \$5 child; credit cards are more. Visit clifton-va.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Holiday Ornament Craft Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Frosty Follies Show. 6 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Metropolitan School of the Arts will present their annual Frosty Follies shows in the Springfield Town Center in the Main Court. Visit metropolitanarts.org/ for more.

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Suspenseful Story with Mystery and Intrigue

Paul VI High presents the play, “Anastasia.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 55, Paul VI High presents its Cappies show, “Anastasia,” Nov. 16-19, in the school theater. And Director Kathy d’Alelio says it’s going to be something special.

“It’s an incredible story – a tragedy about an inept czar, an innocent and the attempt to bring back the czarina Anastasia,” she said. “And I hope people will enjoy it as much as we’re enjoying doing it.”

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and this fictional play is based on a true story. Nicholas II was Czar of Russia, and Anastasia was the fourth of his five children. She disappeared, and there were rumors that some family members had been murdered, but some escaped.

The story takes place in 1926, eight years after Anastasia’s disappearance. And if she was found alive, she’d inherit her father’s millions. Prince Bounine, who was a general under Nicholas, has found a woman, Anna, that he and some other men plan to pass off as the missing Anastasia. They know she’s not, but they want to split the great Romanov fortune among themselves.

“Bounine needs the approval of Anna’s grandmother, the empress,” said d’Alelio. “But Anna’s former friend and lover, Michael Serensky, knows the truth and could ruin things for her.”

D’Alelio said rehearsals are going well. “The challenge has been the Russian pronunciations, so we’ve had some assistance,” she said. “The scenes take place in Bounine’s home and there are Russian influences in the set.”

SENIOR GLORIA WHITFIELD portrays Anna. “She’s had a tough life and is depressed,” said Whitfield. “She isn’t exactly sure who she is because she has some memory loss and has been through a lot of traumatic experiences. She’s a little sassy and doesn’t take any nonsense. And although she knows she’s being used, she still wants to be her own person.”

It’s a tough role, said Whitfield, because “Anna has so many different layers to her. So playing her is like peeling back the layers of an onion, and memorizing lines in Russian is very hard. But it’s a good challenge and she’s a really interesting character. And I can sort of connect with her because, as a senior, I’m trying to figure out who I’ll be as a young adult and not a teenager.”

Whitfield said this show will be a “very professional performance.” And, she added, the audience will be thoroughly engrossed in “the mystery of whether or not this girl is the real, Russian princess.”

Playing the 75-year-old empress is Mackenzie Bacarella. “She’s a very reserved



(From left) Daniel Jacobs (Prince Bounine), Mackenzie Bacarella (the empress), Gloria Whitfield (Anna) and Danny Mercuri (Serensky) rehearse a scene.

PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
EILEEN CURREN

Posing in costume for Paul VI’s “Anastasia” are (from left) Gloria Whitfield (Anna) and Mackenzie Bacarella (the empress).



woman who’s gone through a lot of tragedy in her life, so she’s built up walls that other people can’t get through,” explained Bacarella. “She’s lonely and bitter and has some scars that she can’t show the other characters.”

Bacarella said it’s difficult to portray someone who’s lost everyone she loved. “And it’s hard to determine her motive or feelings because she doesn’t express them

in words,” she said. “So I have to show them in my body language and facial expressions. The empress is also stiff and regal, so I have to sit very straight.”

But it’s a fun role, said Bacarella, because “Even though you don’t see it, she’s the most emotional character I’ve ever played. She’s got all these strong feelings inside her. And when she’s with different characters, she shows different sides of herself.”

To Go

The curtain rises Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, Nov. 17-18, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10, adults; and \$5, students and senior citizens, at the door.

She said this show “explores the different aspects of what it means to be human. It challenges ideas of love of family and makes you question what people are really thinking – our internal agendas.”

Senior Daniel Jacobs portrays Prince Arcade Bounine. “He’s trying to pass off a woman as Anastasia so he can get his hands on some of the millions the czar deposited abroad before he died,” said Jacobs. “He’s a snake, is very smart and knows how to manipulate people. He does whatever it takes to get what he wants. He uses people and twists the truth, although he’s not completely despicable. He does have loyalty to his partners in trying to mold Anna into Anastasia.”

JACOBS LOVES his part because, for him, “It’s a whole, new experience playing a villain and someone with a different mentality. And because I’m onstage for a good percentage of the play, I interact with most of the characters directly and explore Bounine’s different relationships with the people he knows and show his different faces.”

Jacobs said the audience will love this show because, though it’s a drama, it also has some comedic lines. “People will also like the story, itself,” he said. “They’ve heard of the Disney movie, but this is the original and is more powerful and has a lot more feeling. And watching everything play out – an identity crisis, manipulation and the story of the Romanovs – will just be an amazing experience for the audience.”

Playing Michael Serensky is senior Daniel Mercuri. “He’s a friend of Anna’s; he knew her as Anya Bronin,” said Mercuri. “They met as patients in a hospital, developed a bond and became romantically involved. He’s a doctor and is calm and exudes confidence.

He’s sure he remembers her as Anya and she remembers him. And he has police documents that could prove she’s not Anastasia.”

“It’s a fun role because, in our one-acts, Gloria and I played a married couple, so we already have some onstage chemistry,” said Mercuri. “And Serensky’s easy to relate to because he still cares about Anya and wants her to come back to him. [Their past relationship] is something just out of reach that’s slipped away, and he wants to make it a reality again.”

As for the audience, Mercuri said people will enjoy this play because “It’s a great story and is very suspenseful. Throughout the first two acts, they won’t know who Anastasia really is. The costumes are period 1920s – trench coats and hoop skirts – and the set will be amazing. A lot of the characters are open to interpretation, and the way the actors portray them adds a lot to the show. The suspense builds up until the final act.”

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AOTC FOODS, INC trading as Meokja Meokja, 9619 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Virginia 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer/ Mixed Beverage On Premises Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Chung H. Kim, President and Secretary. 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 or 800-552-3200.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6
to enroll.

Insurance premiums for 2018 are higher than ever, and choice of plans is shrinking. Only seven insurers are offering individual plans in Virginia, and the monthly premium increases range from 35-73 percent over 2017 plans. Many Virginians cannot afford "Obamacare" any longer. The ACA allows three legal opt-out options, including nine primary and 14 hardship exemptions. A simple-to-understand description of these exemptions is available from Citizens' Council for Health Freedom at cchfreedom.org.

While Congress falters on repealing the ACA, Virginians can open the escape hatch and refuse to enroll.

Once people understand that subsidies are dollars taken from taxpayers, and see that the exchange is a system for redistributing wages, they will discover that better choices are available — choices that protect their privacy, their pocketbooks, and their cherished freedom.

Nancy Piotter

Executive Director
Virginians for Quality
Healthcare
Fairfax Station

Not in God's Name

To the Editor:

On Oct. 31, a major tragedy happened in Manhattan, N.Y. A tragedy consisting of eight people

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

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killed and many more injured due to the ignorance and idiocy of a terrorist by the name of Sayfullo Saipov, as he yelled in the streets "Allahu Akbar." Do you know what that means?

"Allahu Akbar," one of the most frequently said phrases in the Muslim world, and the integral part of a Muslim's prayer, means "Allah is the Greatest." Now, how can God, the Omnipotent, Merciful Being be great if in His name there are radicals killing people? Does that mean that since Muslims say this often, that all Muslims, or a majority of us, believe that it is OK to say the name of God to justify killing?

As a Muslim who tries to follow the teachings of the Holy Quran, the exact word of God Himself, I can assure all Americans that have a fear of the phrase "Allahu Akbar" that God truly is the Greatest, and that no true Muslim will justify the killing of a person, especially God forbid, with the name of God Himself.

Why? God gives the answer. He says in the Quran that the killing of one person is as if all of mankind was killed (5:33).

Now, I think, that does warrant "Allahu Akbar," and I hope that all my fellow Americans realize that the meaning behind this phrase is not of evil but rather of beauty and hope.

Haris Qamar
Clifton

The writer is a member of Muslim Writers Guild of America and is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology.

JCCNV Mothers Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children.

Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org.

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News Blue Wave

FROM PAGE 3

key tie-breaking vote in the state Senate on issues like immigration or reproductive rights. But the former federal prosecutor sailed to victory with 53 percent of the vote.

“As just the second African-American to ever win statewide office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Justin Fairfax has already made history just by winning this seat,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America. “For Democrats, he’s also made history by showing doubters in Richmond and Washington that progressives dedicated to an inclusive populist political agenda can win big in Virginia.”

Democrat Mark Herring was the only part of the statewide ticket running for reelection, so his campaign was largely a referendum on his time in office. On the campaign trail, Herring talked about his work tackling the opioid crisis and taking on the gun lobby. Voters agreed, and gave him 53 percent of the vote against lawyer John Adams.

“Attorney General Mark Herring came under attack from the gun lobby for doing exactly what he was elected to do: prioritizing the safety of Virginia families over gun lobby profits,” said former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a written statement. “I am proud to stand by Attorney General Herring as a true champion for safer communities, and I am thrilled to see Virginia voters stand by him as well.”

THE NEXT YEAR in Virginia politics is likely to be one of the most tumultuous periods since Reconstruction. With Democrats poised to take some measure of control of the House, the composition of committees and their chairmen is bound to change. Those details have yet to be worked out. But one thing is clear: When members of the House of Delegates elect a new speaker of the House in January, they will be setting the stage for a session that will have more liberal members than ever before.

“Voters in Virginia soundly rejected the politics of division and bigotry and instead converted hate into political power,” said Julio Lainez, director of America’s Voice Virginia in a written statement. “This, however, is a first step, and it sends a clear message to candidates running in 2018: The Trump/Corey Stewart Political Playbook leads to political oblivion.”

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

SALT Fall Advocacy Training Conference. 9-11 a.m. at the Virginia International University, Conference Room (VD-301), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Sister Simone Campbell, will be the keynote speaker on “21st Century Poverty: Needed Action.” Del. Ken Plum will address “Advocacy is moving to the state levels, Are you moving with it?” and Gay Gardner, with Interfaith Action for Human Rights will speak to “Making Solitary Confinement Truly a Last Resort.” Free. Visit the SALT web site at www.S-A-L-T.org.

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Infusion Schedule is all Fowled Up

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Previously, chemotherapy only had anecdotally-described memory loss: “chemo brain” as proof of a missing fragment. Recently however, clinical studies have confirmed the link. Yet, I still feel as if I haven’t forgotten that I don’t recall any prior infusions occurring on the day after Thanksgiving, as my next infusion is presently scheduled. If I remember correctly, and there are occasional disputes, this would be the first Friday after a holiday when I’ve needed to be local, and infused. And yes, the Infusion Centers are open for business on the weekdays following major holidays.

Having recently had my quarterly, post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist and survived the ordeal, we moved on from discussing the scan results to being examined to scheduling future appointments – including a brain MRI and CT Scan, and of course, my next infusion. And looking at the calendar, Nov. 24 is that next date. Generally speaking, per previous conversations with my oncologist, rescheduling my infusions by a week or two, here or there, had not been much of a problem (my oncologist is a strong proponent of quality of life), and pretty much up to me. However, as I’ve gotten older and presumably wiser – and well aware of my creatinine level/kidney issues, my current infusion schedule is what it is for a reason – protecting my kidneys. Moving the infusion up a week or back a week is not an arbitrary, Kenny-made decision any more, despite my holiday wish least. Sure enough when I asked my oncologist if he had any thoughts on my possibly rescheduling my next infusion to five weeks or seven weeks (vs. the current six weeks), he had a specific preference: five weeks. This would mean infusing the Friday before the following Thanksgiving Thursday (the effect of which would likely cause some eating challenges for yours truly – on my favorite meal of the year no less) rather than extending the infusion interval to seven weeks.

His thinking, as he explained it to us was: he didn’t want me to wait any longer for my infusion/medicine than was absolutely necessary. Not that I don’t realize how precarious my situation is but I am sort of going merrily along of late. His rebuke, so to characterize, to me about not extending my next interval to seven weeks reminded me yet again of the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. The last thing one can do is take cancer’s inactivity for granted. Even though I’ve been stable for four years since I was last hospitalized in August 2013, I do have an incurable disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and I was initially characterized as “terminal,” so hardly am I “N.E.D.”, no evidence of disease.

So my next infusion date is up to me, just not as ‘up’ as I thought it was/has been. Either I can keep my original six-week interval infusion appointment as currently scheduled or I can advance one week to five weeks (my previous regular interval). Extending it to seven weeks is not recommended. According to my oncologist, this is good news. Since my creatinine level/kidney function has not appreciably improved while extending the interval from five to six weeks, shortening the interval back to five weeks is not a concern to him which means my kidneys are up to the challenge, which is very reassuring since kidney damage is permanent.

And even though waiting a seventh week for my next infusion might allow my kidneys more time to filter the chemotherapy a bit longer, it might also give the cancer some time to activate – and we certainly don’t want that.

However, nothing lasts forever, and cancer cells in particular are pretty resourceful and often figure out what’s being done to them and start doing something else which leads to different treatment. At the moment, the drug I’m infusing, alimta, is working miracles. Perhaps the next drug will be as successful, perhaps not; and that of course is the problem, the unknown.

What I do know is this: a definite is better than a maybe. If I infuse the previous Friday, I definitely won’t feel like eating on Thursday. If I infuse on the Friday after Thanksgiving, maybe I won’t feel like driving. So what! A bird in hand ...

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



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