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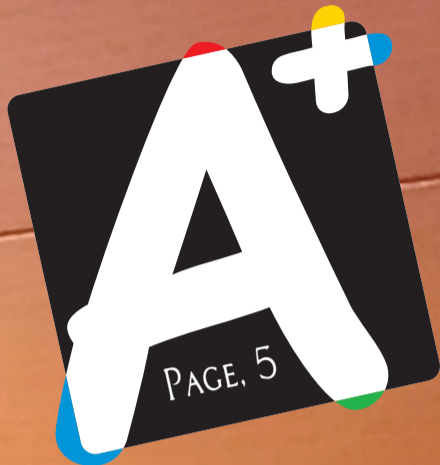
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Reston CONNECTION



Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police Department announced that on Monday, Feb. 19, 2018, the department would begin training and the rollout of body worn cameras in Reston and two other communities.

Body Worn Camera Pilot Program Launched

NEWS, PAGE 3

South Lakes Girls Win
Region D Championship

NEWS, PAGE 3

A Welcome Addition to
Reston Food Scene

DINING, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

Purim Palooza in Northern Virginia What's a Purim Palooza?

It's a Purim Carnival and more, **February 25, 12 to 2 PM**, all rolled up into great fun and merriment with food! and costumes! and prizes! for "kids" of all ages, Beth Emeth style.

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For a full schedule & to RSVP visit:
bethemeth.org/purim



East Spring Street Widening

Town of Herndon

Design Public Hearing

**Thursday, March 8, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Herndon Community Center, Gym
814 Ferndale Avenue
Herndon, VA 20170

If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the alternate date and location will be **Thursday, March 15, 2018** in the lobby of the **Herndon Municipal Building, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA 20170.**

Find out about plans to widen East Spring Street from four to six lanes from just west of Herndon Parkway to Fairfax County Parkway. The project also includes intersection and sidewalk improvements.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Categorical Exclusion is being prepared for this project. Pursuant to Section 6009 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and 23 CFR Part 774, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will make a Section 4(f) impact finding for proposed right-of-way acquisition from parkland and historic sites. In compliance with the Section 106 provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, information concerning potential effects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be included in the environmental document.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1795 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **March 19, 2018** (March 26, 2018 if the meeting is held March 15) to Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "East Spring Street Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: U000-235-354, P101
UPC: 105521
Federal: STP-5A01 (749)

SPORTS

South Lakes Girls Win Region D Championship

With dominating performances in the sprints and relays, the South Lakes High School girls' team celebrated Valentine's Day by winning the 6A North Region D indoor track and field championship Wednesday, Feb. 14.

It's the first region championship for the school's girls indoor track program.

The boys team scored 59 points and finished third.

Sophomore Hannah Waller led the Seahawks by winning the 55 meters (6.99), 300 meters (39.43) and anchoring the winning 4x400 meter relay team with senior Aly Rayle, junior Nicole Post and sophomore Mary Gregory (4:03.32).

She also started the two-day meet by winning the long jump on Day 1 with a school record performance of 18-08.00. The previous mark of 18-05.50 was set by Danielle Hale during the 2011-2012 season.

Other top three finishes for the SLHS team came from:

❖ Gregory, who won the 500 meters in 1:17.64 and finished second in the 300 meters (41.45).

❖ The winning 4x800 meter relay team of Rayle, sophomores Emily Lannen, Caitlyn Morris and junior Isabelle Gulbert (9:34.28).

❖ Gulbert, was second in both the 1,600 meters (5:14.04) and 3,200 meters (11:24.33).

❖ Senior Jamie Richards, who was third in the shot put (37-00.00).

For the boys team, juniors Nicky Gryski and Calvin Warstler teamed with seniors Sean Casey and Alex Loukili to win the 4x800 meter relay (8:05.34). Casey was also third in the 1,600 meters (4:27.89). Senior John Eggeman was third in the 500 meters (1:07.70) and teamed with senior Otman Srayi,



South Lakes High School girls celebrate after winning Region D Indoor Track Championship Feb. 14, 2018.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Mary Gregory and Hannah Waller in victorious 4x400 relay.

junior Stevie Jones and sophomore David Ramirez for third place the 4x400 meter relay (3:32.58).

SLHS will compete in the 6A

State Indoor Track and Field Championship Feb. 23-24 at the Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton, Va.

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Body Worn Camera Pilot Program Launched

Training and rollout beginning Monday, Feb. 19.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) held a news conference, Friday, Feb. 16 at the new Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters to announce the rollout of its Body Worn Camera Pilot Program to launch Monday, Feb. 19 at three district police stations, Mason, Mount Vernon and Reston. Full implementation of the project is March 13 with 230 cameras deployed.

According to a press release by FCPD Media Relations Bureau in December 2017, Reston was added because it differs from the two police districts that were already included in the program. "The patrol areas within the Reston District include a number of high-rise buildings as well as stops along Metro's Silver Line. Additionally, our Reston District Police Station is the newest building among our stations and already has the physical infrastructure in place to accommodate the technical needs of the program."

Present at the news conference was Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police, Fairfax County Police Department. He was joined by Major Christian Quinn and Captain Chantel Cochran as well as others, including Kofi Annan, president of Fairfax NAACP. The body worn cameras were on hand and available for demonstration.

CHIEF ROESSLER explained the Body Worn Camera Pilot Program is a model pro-

Captain Chantel Cochran, Fairfax County Police Department, explains how the new body worn camera works as a member of the media tries one on at the Friday, Feb. 16, news conference to announce the launching of the program Monday, Feb. 19, 2019.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

gram based on nationwide best practices and input from a committee of community stakeholders and organizations. Roessler explained the program is designed to understand the scope of the project's cost, how the policy would best work, staff needed to run a full-time program, and to study whether or not body worn cameras have a reduction in complaints against officers and a reduction in the use of force deployment in the community.

One of the major questions Roessler clarified is when to turn the cameras on and off to protect privacy rights of the community while at the same time not compromising the task or safety of the officers.

During the news conference, Roessler said the department engaged multiple community stakeholders in the development of the program, as well as mental health advocates, and other community agencies that serve individuals in crisis.

According to Roessler, American University will gather and study data from the cameras to see if their use makes a difference in the community and for the police

officers. The analysis will cover data and community feedback over the length of the program and will assess the impacts before, during, and after the pilot program window.

American University is conducting this study, Roessler said, "With the highest of academic rigor to make sure we can have an informed decision later on this fall."

During the news conference, Roessler pointed out that School Resource Officers would not be part of the pilot project. He emphasized if an officer who is part of the project is called for service in a school and the officer comes in as a backup officer or if the officer works off-duty at a school function, such as a sports event, the camera will be worn.

During the presentation and question and answer period, topics centered on the body cameras, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), when videos would be released and deleted, and staffing changes.

Annan said, "The policy has gone from being really a policy written 'for cops by cops' to one that includes concerns from the community... I do think it was very impor-

tant that the community was involved and especially from the minority community which has traditionally... had a lot of concerns with the regards of trust... This is a great opportunity to shore up that trust by helping to bolster the transparency portion that factors into the police trust."

CAPTAIN CHANTEL COCHRANE explained in detail if it is a service call meaning there is no crime in process, like a domestic dispute and the officers are let into the house on a consent basis, if the officer is asked to turn off the recording, the officer will stop recording. Notwithstanding, if anytime later while at the scene, there is a sign of something criminal, violent, or there is going to be a use of force, the officers will start recording once again. She noted there is the 30-second buffer built into the camera.

Chief Roessler added: "There are many nuances and this (pilot program) will provide us the opportunity to work with the community, so we all understand on/off, delete/not delete."

Major Christian Quinn said, "We are bringing in some limited term employees both on the IT side and the Information Technology Bureau. So, we are going to have 24/7 technical support for the program throughout its duration. We're also bringing in some folks that are going to be assigned to the Media Relations Bureau, that's where we currently process FOIA requests, Freedom of Information Act as well as visual video evidence for the Commonwealth attorney and also internal law enforcement requests."

Quinn added that by the evening of March 1 Fairfax County Police Department should have 200 cameras on the street and have all their workforce trained by March 13.

A Welcome Addition to Reston Food Scene

Willard's Real Pit BBQ: A perfect setting for a super-casual meal.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

Few things in life — at least to a foodie — are as compelling as the smoky aromas of barbecued pork ribs, brisket, sausage, and KC burnt ends. You get all of that in the Willard's BBQ place in Reston, across the parking lot from Home Depot. Add to all the tempting aromas the background country music, and that's the perfect setting for a super-casual meal.

Opened not quite a year, Willard's is a well-known name in the Northern Virginia area — the parent store in Chantilly has been pleasing and feeding customers for at least 10 years. But this much smaller offshoot is a welcome addition

to Reston's food scene: this smoky BBQ is the real deal — and it is the only BBQ place in the Reston area. Yes, Mookie's is in Great Falls, but Willard's is just around the corner.

What to order, you may wonder, besides 16 different dishes? Fortunately, you can eat in, though seating is a bit cramped at meal-times, so plan to order something to enjoy at that moment, plus another option to take home.

Good choices — though they all probably are — would be the NC pulled pork sandwich with two sides. This comes as a roll filled to overflowing with pork and your choice of sides could include mac 'n cheese (not on the menu but usually available), cornbread, collards, coleslaw, potato salad, and much more. Desserts, should you have

any appetite left, consist of assorted pies (including Key lime pie, sweet potato pie or peanut butter pie) or a big, crunchy chocolate-chip/pecan cookie.

If you still hanker for the smoky pork flavors, order for home pig-outs a half or whole rack of ribs, your choice of sweet or spicy sauce on the side. To make this a full-fledged meal to share, pick up a few sides and a few dessert choices. Or you can just take them home to indulge your own BBQ whims.

Note that in the short time Willard's has operated its Reston store, it attracts plenty of customers who eat in or take out. On a recent noontime, the tables were filled, and although there is a stand-up counter that's probably not for eat-in patrons. For them, it is grab and go...

Plan to go often, and try out such dishes as the BBQ burrito, a large flour burrito stuffed with rice, beans cabbage, and salsa as is, or filled with pulled pork or chicken, brisket or burnt ends, and with cheese as an added treat. If you are looking to sort-of cut calories, opt instead for the Big Green Salad with cornbread. The salad can be greens only, or with your choice of pulled chicken, spicy chicken salad, or smoke turkey breast.

Actually, this eatery has so many tempting offerings that these justify frequent trips. You can even place catering orders if you want to feed groups of friends. But chances are you will come back often and eat plenty of goodies yourself.

Willard's Real Pit BBQ, 11790 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston, VA. 703-429-1755. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"From the Heart." Through Feb. 27, various times, at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Members of the League of Reston Artists display paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and two-dimensional works. Free and open to the public during the center's regular operating hours. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Small Business Support Sundays.

Visit independent stores and restaurants, and those that support small businesses at Reston Town Center, offering specials, discounts, tastings, and localized treats every Sunday. Visit SmallBusinessSupportSundays.com.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running.

Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Book Club. 12:15-1:15 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a lunch-time book club on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first book is *Girl Waits with Gun* by Amy Stewart. Visit scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a live video discussion with Amy

Stewart, the author of *Girl Waits with Gun*.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Jazz Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House/Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Patrons may enjoy Mykle Lyons and company as they wine and dine in the cozy second floor wine bar. Admission is free. Call 703-501-6289 or email maurisapotts@gmail.com.

THROUGH FEB. 23

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center collection in building lobbies at Reston Town Center. The annual Diva Central Dress Drive' mission is to promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags and accessories, collected in boxes located in building lobbies. Visit restontowncenter.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 23-24

Cabaret: "Back to Broadway." 7:30 p.m. at Herndon High School (Auditorium), 700 Bennett St., Herndon. 2018 marks the 20th Anniversary producing this Broadway Cabaret under the direction of Dana and Jim Van Slyke. This family-friendly night is always a winner, and all proceeds go directly to the Herndon High School Choir. Tickets are sold at the door (\$10 adults/\$5 students and senior citizens; cash or checks accepted).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 6

Reston's Gin Perform in Festival

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Reston choreographer Shu-Chen Cuff and her Gin Dance Company will perform at the 2018 Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival. Gin Dance Company (GDC) was selected to perform after a rigorous application process including "the artistic merit" of the company, noted Heidi S. Hawkins, director of programming for the Atlas Festival.

The Festival will bring together more than 100 performing arts groups offering intersections of the performing arts.

"We are thrilled to be participating in this special event," said Gary Cuff, Executive Director, Gin Dance Company. "We will present a full evening production titled 'Phenomena.'" The performance will feature the world premiere of "L.E.O.," choreographed by Gin Dance Company's Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff. The dance was inspired by the work of composer and 20th century giant Leonard Bernstein for the centennial celebration of his birth.

'L.E.O.' is an acronym for:

- ❖ Listen – listen deeply into your inner beliefs;
- ❖ Enrich – enrich your soul, and
- ❖ Optimize – make the best out of what you



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHU-CHEN CUFF
Shu-Chen Cuff, artistic director Gin Dance Company

Where and when

Reston's Shu-Chen Cuff and Gin Dance Company performing "Phenomena" at 2018 Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival, Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. Performance March 3, 2018 at 6 p.m. Call 202-399-7993 or visit www.atlasarts.org/.

have.

"This work stands behind Leonard Bernstein's philosophy and his dedication to music that we do our part to make the world a better place," said artistic director Cuff.

The Atlas INTESECTIONS evening will also present dances "The Other Side," and GDC signature pieces "Burgandy" and "Connect.Disconnect."

"We wanted to bring four meaningful and uplifting works to the audience." "The Other Side" aims to explore the audience's imagination. For an edgy, energetic contemporary ballet, there is "Connect.Disconnect."

With a mission of "enriching lives through dance," Shu-Chen Cuff is a recipient of a Strauss Artist Grant from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Gin Dance has performed throughout the D.C. area. Shu-Chen has also performed at dance festivals in Japan, Malaysia and Taiwan.

"I'm so very excited about 'Phenomena.' It is my hope that our dances will touch the audience in different ways and expand their imaginations," said Shu-Chen Cuff.

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30TH

SUN DESIGN

Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Throughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement."

"One could argue that there wouldn't



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."

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News

**Tax Relief Workshops To Be Held in
McLean, Reston and Vienna**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced they are hosting a series of free 2018 Tax Relief Workshops for older adults and people with disabilities in late February and March at several locations throughout the county. Both real estate and vehicle tax relief are available for adults over 65 years of age and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications.

The fairfaxcounty.gov website states staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. No appointment is necessary.

Two workshops will be hosted by Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), March 12 and March 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McLean District Office, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Call 703-356-0551.

Three workshops will be hosted by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), two in Reston and one in Vienna. The Reston workshops are March 8, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston - 703-478-0283 and on March 20, 10 a.m. to noon at the North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. A Vienna workshop is on Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Madison High School (Lecture Hall), 2500 James Madison Drive in Vienna.

According to the Fairfax County Government, "To qualify for real estate tax relief, you must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled...The gross income from all sources of the owners of the dwelling and any relatives of the owners who reside in the dwelling may not exceed \$72,000...The total combined net assets of owners of the dwelling and of the spouse of any owner who resides in the dwelling may not be greater than \$340,000, not including the value of the home, its furnishings and the homesite (up to one acre of land).

Renters, who meet the age, disability, residency, and income requirements, as well as other require-



**Dranesville
District Supervisor
John Foust
(D)**



**Hunter Mill
Supervisor Cathy
Hudgins (D)**

ments, can qualify for tax relief under the Tax Relief Program. The county reminds applicants when they come to a workshop to be sure to bring with them a copy of their lease agreement and rental receipts or canceled checks for each month of the previous year documenting the amount of rent paid.

As for vehicle ("car") tax relief, the county states applicants must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled, as of Jan. 1 of the application year and reside in Fairfax County; the exempted vehicle must be owned and used primarily by the applicant, and tax relief will only be granted on one vehicle. Also, the gross income of the applicant may not exceed \$22,000. The total combined net assets of the ap-

plicant and spouse may not exceed \$75,000. Other conditions also apply.

Tax relief is available on mobile homes used as full-time residences.

Fairfax County reminds individuals that returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1.

For more detailed information and qualifications go to fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities.

— MERCIA HOBSON

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 4

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Purim Palooza. noon-2 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Fun for all ages. Carnival, crafts, gift shop sale, costume contest, raffle, lunch, hamentaschen plus. Special program for pre-schoolers to 1st graders with families at 10:45 a.m. \$10-\$25. Visit www.bethemeth.org/purim or call 703-860-4515, ext 101.

Author Event. 4 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Author Dennis Woods will be discussing his memoir Black Flag Journals. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com/event/black-flag-journals-dennis-woods.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

Photography Critique. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to attend the club's critique. Ellis Rosenberg and Carla Steckley, experienced photographers and exhibit judges, will critique member photos. Nonmembers are welcome. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. The first exhibit features artwork by Craig Moran, a DC-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242, ext. 114 or visit restonarts.org.

MARCH 1-APRIL 1

"Godspell." Thursdays through Sundays at NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop opens "Godspell" with a modern twist to the musical, setting the new production in a coffee shop. Tickets, \$35-\$65, at www.NextStopTheatre.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Jazz Night. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Coffee House/Wine Bar, 1612 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Patrons may enjoy Mykle Lyons and company as they wine and dine in the cozy second floor wine bar. Admission is free. Call 703-501-6289 or email maurisapotts@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will share their

poetry. An open mic will follow. Free and open to the public. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Out of the Shadows. 4-5:45 p.m. at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Highlighting music by female composers, from Hildegard of Bingen and Lili Boulanger to Cecilia McDowell and Moira Smiley. Featuring special guest Ysaye Barnwell, formerly of Sweet Honey in the Rock. A reception will follow the concert. \$20-25; free for 17 and younger, active duty military. Call 703-834-0079 or visit www.restonchorale.org.

"Phenomena." 6-7 p.m. at The Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE, Washington, D.C. Reston-based Gin Dance Company presents "Phenomena." Gin Dance Company will be celebrating the legendary Leonard Bernstein Centennial. \$30. Visit www.gindance.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

Indigo T-shirt Dyeing. 2-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Indigo T-shirt Dyeing with Elizabeth Gibson. Ages 7-13. \$20 per student. Visit artspaceherndon.org.

BULLETIN

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration.

THROUGH FEB. 28

Diva Central Dress Drive. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at at its RCC Hunters Woods, Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road and RCC Lake Anne, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Reston Community Center is now accepting dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags, shawls and other accessories for its 16th annual Diva Central Dress Drive. Call 703-390-6158 or email LaTanja.Jones@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/FEB. 20

Land Use Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at North County Governmental Center Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. On the agenda: Virginia Electric and Power Company. Call 703-478-0283 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. We will be discussing "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell. The event is free and open to the public. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Hunter Mill District Community Meeting. 9-11 a.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Hear presentations from County and Public Schools staff on the FY2019 proposed budget. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/.

Free Dentistry Day. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Smile Wonders, 11790 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 105, Reston. Dr. Rishita Jaju of Smile Wonders, a local pediatric dentist, is hosting a free day of dentistry for for infants to preteens in need. First come, first serve. Children do not need to be established patients of Smile Wonders or provide proof of income or dental insurance to be treated. Free. Call 571-350-3663 or visit www.smilewonders.com/give-kids-a-smile.html.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Program. 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. Richard Twombly, Crime Prevention Officer, Fairfax County Police Department will talk on: Crime Prevention – What can we do? Luncheon is \$18, and includes tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required. Call your reservation and choice of entree to Shirley Boning at 571-442-8910 or e-mail Shirley.boning@comcast.net no later than Thursday, Feb. 22.

Reston Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. On the agenda: TH Holding Company LLC (vote) and CRS Sunset Hills, LC (vote). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/.

TUESDAY/FEB. 27

INOVA Blood Drive. 1:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. More than 250 units of blood must be collected daily to meet the needs of patients in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. INOVA Blood Donor services will be partnering with Reston Regional. Consider donating today. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were “demanding,” or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure (“on demand” disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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

OPINION

Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

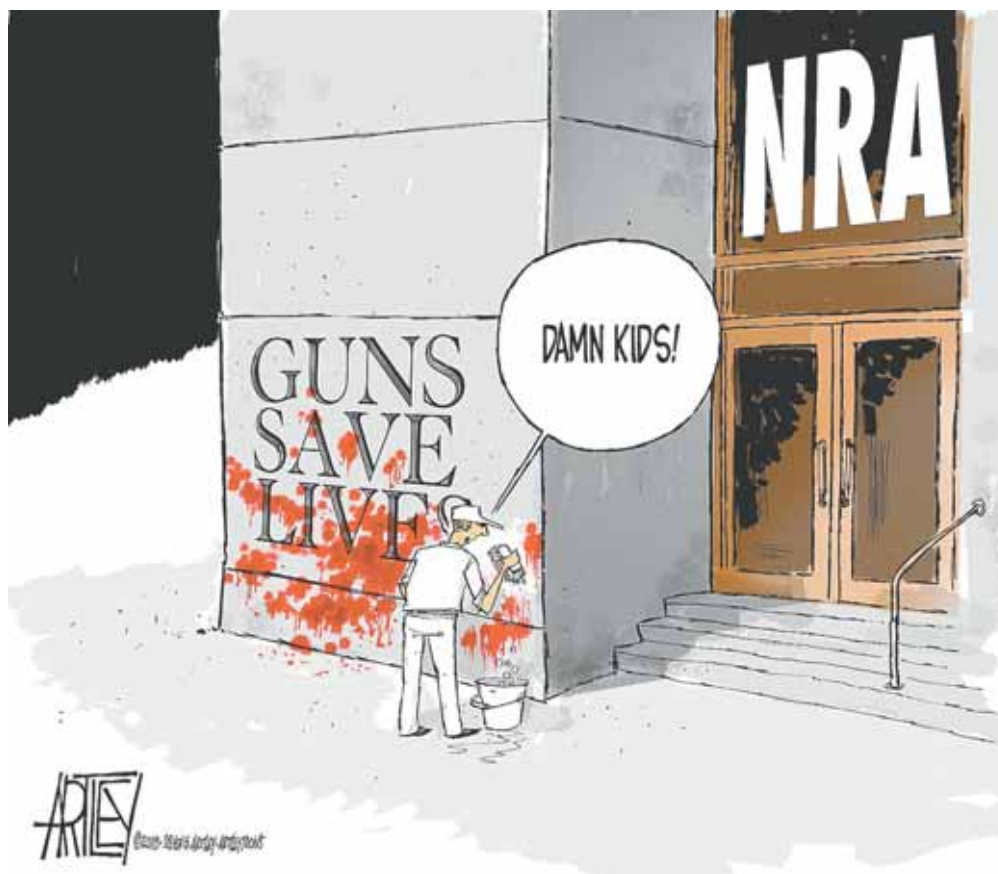
You can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

EDITORIAL Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I’m with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I’m with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America’s young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don’t let anyone tell you that there isn’t hope, that we can’t fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

More Than Enough

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

“**E**nough is enough” is a slogan adopted by many advocates for action to end gun violence, but with 290 school shootings in the U.S. since 2013 clearly we are to the point that the shootings that have occurred in schools and numerous locales are more than enough.

Last Wednesday started off as a usual day at the legislature with the added feature that it was Valentine’s Day with lots of red decorations in the hallways and an abundance of chocolate available. It was also the first day of Lent with ashes offered at several nearby churches. The day took a sharp turn in the late afternoon as the news media brought early reports of another instance of school shootings; this time at a school in

Parkland, Florida. The timing was critical in that the General Assembly had over the past several weeks defeated with minimal debate and consideration more than 30 bills intended to reduce gun violence. My bill for universal background checks was among those.

The process for considering these bills was the same for all of them regardless of their approach. In the House the bills were assigned to the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee and then to a subcommittee on guns composed of six members — four of whom have perfect NRA ratings. The outcome of the hearings is predictable. The advocates make many good and passionate arguments on behalf of common sense gun violence prevention legislation. The NRA representative states the organization’s opposition along with someone from the Virginia Citizens Defense League with little argument

or comments. The vote is always two for and four against. As important as the bills are to many people they are defeated; four members of the House of Delegates with their minds already made up decide for all 100 members of the House. There are few voting records to check because most members never get the opportunity to vote on gun regulation issues.

The strong concern among members of the press and on social media makes it clear that the legislature is going to have to respond to gun violence issues. Unfortunately, the schedule for introducing new bills in this session has passed; otherwise bills would have been introduced in response to the Florida shootings. Legislators would have had to confront the reality that there has been more than enough gun violence.

A New York Times article offered some direction as to how legisla-

tures might proceed. An article “How to Reduce Mass Shooting Deaths? Experts Say These Gun Laws Could Help” first appeared on Oct. 5, 2017. It found that there is no way to eliminate the risk of mass shootings, “but there are a handful of policies that could reduce the likelihood of such events or reduce the number of people killed when such shootings do occur.” These include denying purchases by anyone convicted of certain felonies, universal background checks, limiting the sale of certain types of weapons and ammunition, and waiting periods for purchases.

In the next cycle of elections, positions of candidates on gun violence will play an even greater role in who gets elected. If minds of incumbents do not change, voters are likely to change their elected officials. The public has had more than enough.

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CONNECTION

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