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OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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South Run Regency Tree Contest

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Lead Judge: Bob 'The Tree Man' Brickner

238 Years: Oldest Tree Found in South Run Regency

NEWS, PAGE 3

A Tale of the Occoquan Suffrage Prisoners

NEWS, PAGE 3

'When Is Passover Supposed to Be?'

OPINION, PAGE 4

Lead Judge Bob 'The Tree Man' Brickner and Jane Jarrell
pictured with the certificate for the oldest tree found in
Fairfax Station South Run Regency, 238 years old.

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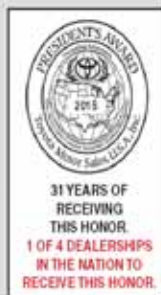
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A Tale of the Occoquan Suffrage Prisoners

NVCC History Professor Alice Reagan gives talk at Lorton Library.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Alice Reagan, a history professor at Northern Virginia Community College, gave a history talk on the women's suffrage movement titled "The Occoquan Suffrage Prisoners," at Lorton Library on International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8. Reagan, a Lake Ridge resident who also works at Lucy Burns Museum at Lorton Prison, outlined the events that happened in our backyard nearly 100 years ago that led to women's right to vote. The following is a condensed transcript:

In the early 19-teen years, a woman named Alice Paul was a Quaker from New Jersey who met Inez Milholland while she was in England for graduate school. Milholland was a lawyer interested in the suffrage movement. Alice also met Lucy Burns and Harriot Stanton Blatch who was the daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns met in London after both were arrested for supporting British women trying to get the vote. They decided to come back to the U.S. and shake things up with the women's movement. Alice Paul's emphasis was on public displays and parades, which she picked up from the Emmeline Pankhurst.

AT THAT TIME, the dominant women's suffrage association was called NAWSA, the National American Women's Suffrage Association. NAWSA leaders believed that if they could get enough states to approve



Alice Reagan, Associate Professor of History, Northern Virginia Community College, gives a talk on the Occoquan Suffrage Prisoners.

suffrage, and that states would elect pro-suffrage Congressmen. But Alice and her friends said what's needed was a National Amendment.

In 1912, the National Women's Party (NWP) decided to target Woodrow Wilson and the Democrats. When Wilson arrived for his presidential inaugural, he got a nasty shock because Inez Milholland, on horseback, was leading 8,000 women suffragists in a parade.

Inez had been leading many parades and burning the candle at both ends with her work. In 1916, she went on a campaign out West and developed a bad case of tonsillitis and anemia. At the age of 30, she died from the complications.

At this point, the women's party passed a resolution calling on Wilson to support a federal amendment in memory of Inez. In 1917, some 300 members of the women's party visited Wilson at the White House, who was not very happy about it. Next, Alice and Harriet Blatch decided to change tactics by taking protests to a militant level and picketing the White House for the first time. On Jan. 10, some 12 women's party members called "The Silent Sentinels" picketed the White House. They carried banners saying, "Mr. President, How Much Longer Should Women Wait for Liberty?"

On March 4, more than 1,000 women picketed the White House on the eve of Wilson's second inaugural. Mobs began to

harass Alice and her friends so Wilson decided to have women arrested for blocking the sidewalk. Lucy Burns was also charged with obstructing the sidewalk.

It is estimated that there were 2,000 women who picketed in D.C. and 500 were arrested. Of those, 168 received jail sentences but not all in Occoquan Workhouse. And 106 women were sentenced with 72 serving in Occoquan.

On July 4, 1917, some 11 additional women including Lucy Burns and Dora Lewis were arrested and served three days in D.C. jail. By mid-July, the authorities decided to get tougher with the women and took them to Occoquan to the Women's Workhouse, which opened in 1912. At the Workhouse, the prisoners were pickpockets, drunks, shoplifters, bootleggers, and prostitutes. From July to November, 1917, some 72 women were sent to Workhouse in effort to separate them from Alice Paul and her followers.

THE FIRST SUFFRAGIST PRISONERS were sentenced on July 14 (Bastille Day), to Occoquan for 60 days when they refused to pay fines. After some negotiation, the women were pardoned after three days. They didn't want to accept the pardon. What set off problems with the women and Wilson was the Kaiser Wilson banner.

Organized by Lucy Burns, the women kept producing banners and flags in Cameron House. So then 11 women were sent to Occoquan for 60 days after they protested during a parade on Labor Day. Pauline Adams, a radical suffragist, was arrested; she was the first woman to insist

SEE PRISONERS, PAGE 5

The Oldest Tree Found in South Run Regency

238-year-old Eastern Red Cedar closely dates to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

BY BOB BRICKNER
CONTEST COORDINATOR

My wife and I have been Fairfax Station South Run Regency residents for more than 25 years. I've always been intrigued by the history of the community. However, reality indicates there are very few pre-development "historical" facts except the property was planned to be part of the "site of the original Dulles Airport" in the early 1950s; fortunately that idea was abandoned! I thought it would be a great South Run community participation project to identify the location and age

of the "oldest living tree" in the development.

While most of our homes date to construction in 1985 or 1986, and arrow heads and shark teeth are rare finds in our nearby forested areas. However, since our community was built "in the trees," for an easier but relevant project, I thought it would be a great South Run community project to identify the location and age of the "oldest living tree" in the development.

The following information was required to properly evaluate the entry:

- ❖ Location (address) of the property and the type of tree entered;
- ❖ Measured circumference of the selected

tree at a height of 4.5 feet up off the ground.

THE "OLDEST TREE CHALLENGE" went on for three months during the summer of 2017 with more than a dozen entries received covering large trees from a myriad of tree species. At a minimum, the old original South Run trees included white oak, red oak, black oak, Spanish oak, tulip poplar, silver maple, American beech and eastern red cedar. Occasionally research had to identify the "type of tree," oftentimes by leaf comparison with selected Internet site photographs.

This "amateur arborist" soon found out that different tree species grow at different rates. Fortunately for me, since all the old "community trees" were generally in close proximity, the variable nature of the soil and other growth conditions important to the professionals were deemed an insignificant

SEE OLDEST TREE, PAGE 10



A house on Rambling Ridge Drive had the oldest tree, an Eastern Red Cedar, at 238 years old.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

OPINION

When Is Passover Supposed to Be?

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR CHABAD OF RESTON-
HERNDON



This was the question recently asked of me by a close friend who is not Jewish. I, of course, was totally caught off guard by the question. I had no idea what he was asking. So, I asked him what he meant.

He replied: "Well, I have lots of Jewish friends. And over the last nearly two decades I have attended many Passover Seders. Almost every year, the conversation turns to either how 'early or late' Passover is that particular year. So, if every year Passover is either 'early or late', when is Passover supposed to be?"

For the uninitiated, the ancient Hebrews were enslaved to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, a little over 3,300 years ago. Passover commemorates the miraculous redemption from this slavery and the birth of the Jewish nation. Though the events took place a very long time ago, we believe that not only do they provide us with eternal lessons and instructions on how to live our lives, even in the most modern of times. We believe that they are also events that are to be relived and re-experienced by every one of us, in every time and place. So, to me, the question runs deeper:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alzheimer's Is a Growing Public Health Crisis

To the Editor:

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 140,000 Virginians over the age of 65 live with Alzheimer's. Additionally, Latinos are at one and a half times greater risk of Alzheimer's than older whites. Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the United States. Alzheimer's costs the country more than \$259 billion a year.

My grandfather, my "Abuelito" in Spanish, was an outgoing, social, and active man and a caring grandfather. One day, he was wandering nearby on surrounding streets, unable to find his way home after one of his daily walks. Luckily, a neighbor recognized him and knew where we lived. She brought him back to our house. My parents could not afford the increasing care he needed as a person living with Alzheimer's. My family decided he would return to Peru, where my aunts served as his caregivers.

I remember Abuelito sometimes picked me up from school. Every once in a while, we walked to McDonald's to get his favorite Big Mac meal and he would buy me a

Happy Meal, too. We used to go trick-or-treating together every Halloween. He gladly held my plastic pumpkin filled with candy. Due to Alzheimer's, I was unable to spend more quality time with my grandfather. We could not take day trips together to Luray Caverns or to the National Aquarium. I missed out on listening to him tell stories about his life experiences and family history.

Please join me in calling on U.S. Rep. Don Beyer to support an additional \$425 million for Alzheimer's research funding at the National Institutes of Health, with the goal of achieving breakthroughs in prevention and treatment. Together, we can end Alzheimer's. Visit www.alz.org/nca for more information.

Jacqueline Calderon
Alzheimer's advocate
Falls Church

Objecting to Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

I am writing to voice my objection to expanding Medicaid in Virginia.

Herndon-Reston Community Seder

This year, join friends and family at the Chabad Community Passover Seder. Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with songs & insights.
First Seder Night Friday, March 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Herndon Kmart Center. 396 Elden St. Herndon 20170
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"When, indeed is Passover supposed to be?"

Well, it turns out, the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzrayim, comes from the same root as the word for "limitations or boundaries." Read this way, we can experience an "Exodus from Egypt" by "emancipating ourselves from our limitations and boundaries."

Every day we are faced with self, or societal-imposed limitations. It may be as big as some world-changing cause with which we would like to get involved, but feel like it is "beyond us." Or, it may be something as simple as a smile and a "hello" to someone next to us in line at the market, or in an elevator. Irrespective of the deed, it is our "limitations" which hold us back from a myriad of acts of goodness and kindness. And yet, it is precisely these acts which can change the world forever, and usher in an era of humanity, understanding and peace, exceeding our wildest dreams.

So, it seems that the correct answer to the question is: Passover is supposed to be every

minute, of every day. And, one certainly does not have to be Jewish, or celebrating Passover to experience their own "Exodus."

How about we start right now? Think of something noble and great you have hesitated to do, and do it. And watch the world change around you, for good!

Happy Passover to all!

❖ ❖ ❖

Passover observances include conducting a Seder. The Seder is a fifteen step, family oriented, tradition and ritual packed feast.

The focal points of the Seder are:

- ❖ Eating Matzah.
- ❖ Eating bitter herbs to commemorate the bitter slavery endured by the Israelites.
- ❖ Drinking four cups of wine or grape juice, a royal drink, to celebrate the newfound freedom.
- ❖ The recitation of the Haggadah, a liturgy that describes in detail the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah is the fulfillment of the biblical obligation to recount to our children the story of the Exodus on the night of Passover.

Unfortunately, this will burden our state spending without any help from the Federal Government. States that have expanded Obamacare's Medicaid program have experienced a massive increase in their spending with no evidence of health improvements for new enrollees. Twenty percent of our state's doctors will not even accept Medicaid.

If we join this program, Virginians will have to fund billions of dollars per year. Let's spend it on something that has been proven to improve health for our citizens. Tragically, we know how this will turn out based on other state's experiences.

Jamie Durkovic
Fairfax Station

reliability. In Virginia we were always faced with a hostile legislature that was controlled by down-state interests who did not see value in supporting mass transit. Meanwhile Metro suffered from the lack of a secure funding source.

This year we see a different picture with the results of last November's election which found the Democrats just one vote short of winning control of the House of Delegates. Elections matter and now we see the real impact of an election that empowers the Northern Virginia delegation to deliver support for Metro funding.

I was pleased to see the Northern Virginia delegation in the House and Senate take leadership on the Metro funding issue.

Sue Boucher
Falls Church

Change in Richmond Brings Metro Funding

To the Editor:

As a long-term resident of Northern Virginia, I have been frustrated year after year to hear of a funding crisis for Metro or breakdowns affecting safety and

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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Prisoners

FROM PAGE 3

they were political prisoners. On Oct. 21, they returned women to the D.C. jail because there weren't enough cells at Occoquan. Lucy Burns was part of group.

Pauline Adams served a 60-day sentence. After Sept. 14, 10 additional women were sent to Occoquan.

There was a big scandal as unsavory stories about how prisoners were treated started leaking out. She testified before a D.C. Commission. There were mass arrests when Alice Paul got arrested herself for picketing. Alice was isolated at the D.C. jail and force fed. After more protests, 31 women were sentenced to Occoquan led by Lucy Burns and Dora Lewis. Burns received a 6-month sentence.

On Nov. 15, Mr. Whittaker, the Occoquan warden, decided to get tough with ladies by sending guards with clubs to terrorize the 33 women prisoners at Occoquan. The women were thrown into cells, beaten, kicked, and thrown around. They left Lucy Burns chained to her cell door overnight. Dora Lewis, a wealthy widow from Philadelphia, got her head bashed against the wall. The suffragists went on hunger strikes so the authorities force-fed Lucy Burns and Dora Lewis because they were afraid the women would die. Burns and Lewis were moved to the D.C. jail and put in the hospital.

On Nov. 23, women who were weak from their forced feedings appeared in federal District Court and collapsed in front of the judge, which shocked everyone. The judge ruled that these wealthy women should not be sent to Occoquan anymore so they were released from D.C. Jail on Dec. 27 and 28.

The women's convictions were then tossed out by federal courts. Faced with an outcry over the suffragists' treatment in Occoquan, Wilson announced he would support the Women's Suffrage Amendment.

Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919 and it went to the states to be ratified. How did they get the amendment approved? The Western states were the first to grant suffrage. And the state of Tennessee provided the breakthrough when a young man named Harry Burn voted "yes" for the ratification after his mother sent him a note urging him to do so. The 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920.



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PHOTO BY JOHN GESSNER

Violinist Natasha Korsakova and pianist/conductor David Michael Wolff will perform a benefit recital March 25 at 6 p.m. at Clifton Presbyterian Church. Funds raised will support efforts to bring the innovative music program Encore Kids! to K-2 students in Fairfax County. For tickets or more information visit www.orchestra2100.org.

‘Encore Kids!’

Nonprofit looks to bring pilot music program to K-2 classrooms.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
 THE CONNECTION

Zip. Zero. Zilch. Bill Craig will be the first one to tell you that’s how much he knows about music. But that didn’t stop the Clifton resident from becoming the band booster president for three years when his two sons were students at Centreville High School.

“I really have no musical ability or knowledge whatsoever,” said Craig, whose sons Kyle and Eric were in the CVHS marching band, jazz ensemble and orchestra. “But I was always impressed when I attended the school performances. I thought the students were professionals — they were that good so I was inspired to get involved.”

Craig is now working to bring an innovative music program called Encore Kids! to Northern Virginia. Started in North Carolina by pianist and conductor David Michael Wolff, Encore Kids! hopes to reach 1,000 K-2 students in Fairfax County when it launches the Virginia pilot program during the 2018-19 academic year.

“Our goal right now is to raise money to launch the program in Fairfax County this fall,” said Wolff, who serves as principal conductor and artistic director of The Carolina Philharmonic. “This will be only the second Encore Kids! program in the country so we are working now to create a greater awareness in Northern Virginia.”

Wolff, along with violinist Natasha Korsakova, will perform a benefit recital March 25 at Clifton Presbyterian Church to raise funds for Orchestra 2100, the nonprofit that runs the Encore Kids! program.

“Northern Virginia is home to many technology leaders and we want to bring their knowledge into the program,” Wolff said. “With advancements in AI [artificial intelligence], this is the future direction of the program, hence the name Orchestra 2100. My goal is to reach at least one million children through music and technology within the next 10 years.”

The hour long performance on March 25 will be followed by a Meet the Artists reception.

“This is a chance for me to talk about the Encore Kids! program and the benefits it can bring to Fairfax County,” Wolff said. “The three-year cycle of curriculum creates something in between a classical music concert and a rock concert. We utilize games and lighting in a show that excites and impacts kids in a way traditional orchestra concerts do not.”

For Craig, whose Chantilly-based company WiSC Enterprises is a sponsor of the concert, partnering with Orchestra 2100 is a way to help bring music to a younger audience.

“I have always tried to support what is going on in our local area,” said Craig, who serves on the board of Orchestra 2100. “The final piece for me is that this involves kids. It’s amazing to see children so enthralled. And watching David perform not only opens up your eyes, it increases the ‘wow’ factor with kids and their appreciation for music.”

The Korsakova & Wolff in Duo Recital will take place at 6 p.m. at Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Tickets are \$30/\$15 for 18 and under. For more information visit www.orchestra2100.org

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Manners in the Tech Age

Etiquette classes aim to teach lost art of manners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

On a sunny, autumn day a group of 10-year-old children sat around an a formal dining room table at a home in Arlington. The boys wore blazers, pressed khakis and shiny loafers, while the girls have donned festive dresses, nude stockings and wore grosgrain ribbons in their neatly combed hair. They had arrived at the home for a lesson in etiquette, but most of them would have rather been someplace else.

"I have to leave early for a soccer game," said Jimmy, who didn't bother hiding his glee over missing part of the class.

In an era when it's commonplace to order pizza on a smartphone and coordinate play dates by text, old-fashioned etiquette can appear obsolete. A recent survey of teachers shows that 73 percent of instructors believe that students are less polite than when the teachers themselves were students. In the age high-tech conveniences, children can become over scheduled and under socialized, which has led to an uptick in the number of parents who are enrolling their children in etiquette classes, say protocol instructors.

"Parents have a tremendous interest in etiquette classes because so many parents realize that they don't have that knowledge themselves," said Dorothea Johnson, who founded the Protocol School of Washington and is the author of the book "Modern Manners: Tools to Take You to the Top," which she co-authored with her granddaughter actress Liv Tyler.

"I think most parents know that good manners and etiquette will be important to their [children's] future," added Henryette Neal who teaches etiquette classes for children through the Fairfax County Park Authority. "Young people will be educated, but without proper social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly." Neal is also the owner of Steppin Out Charm and Imaging Studio.

The result of fast-paced lifestyles combined with overloaded schedules is a generation of children who place more value on social media savvy than on knowledge of social graces. Family dinners are replaced by fast food, says one parent. "Who needs good manners to gobble down a slice of pizza," said Carole Mincey of Alexandria, whose 14-year old daughter and 11-year old son have taken etiquette and ballroom dance from Mrs. Simpson's Classes, one of the area's invitation-only etiquette schools. "Because everyone is so busy and technology is so advanced, reality television shows are setting standards of behavior and handwritten thank you notes have been replaced by emails and texts."

Good manners are as important to a child's future success as academics, says another parent. "I feel like if people know what to do in social situations it empowers them," said Sarah Henry of Chevy Chase, mother of a 10-year old daughter and a 12-year old son. "If you're unsure of what to do it can make you feel intimidated. So it's all about empowering chil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Henryette Neal teaches etiquette classes for children.

dren with knowledge. And it's good for them to be exposed to proper etiquette in case they're not getting it at home. And if they are getting it at home, etiquette classes can reinforce it."

Interactive class sessions help keep their children engaged in the etiquette lessons. "The key is to keep the children occupied," said Johnson. "For example, when teaching proper introductions, I would call two children up to the front of the room and have them introduce themselves to each other."

In addition to learning such common courtesies such as saying "Please," "Thank you" and "You're welcome," children learn to write thank-you notes and introduce themselves to others by making direct eye contact and offering a firm handshake.

"Knowing how to give a proper handshake is important. When I took my seven-year-old granddaughter Liv to formal events, her little hand went out as she was being introduced to someone," said Johnson. "I could take her anywhere because she had impeccable manners."


Henry says that in a class that she coordinated for her daughter's Girl Scout troop, part of the curriculum included having the children form a receiving line with parents where they practiced handshakes and eye contact.

"We also printed proper table setting samples online and give the girls n plastic forks spoons, knives, napkins and a copy of the place setting," said Henry. "We talked about how to talk about the placement of the utensils, how to hold a knife and fork properly. One of my pet peeves is watching people hold a knife like it's a stick."

These are good life lessons, says Neal. "Etiquette classes are important because people still need to be respectful of others, and it starts with our children," she said. "A simple please and thank you is important."

"Young people will be educated, but without good social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly."

— Henryette Neal, etiquette instructor

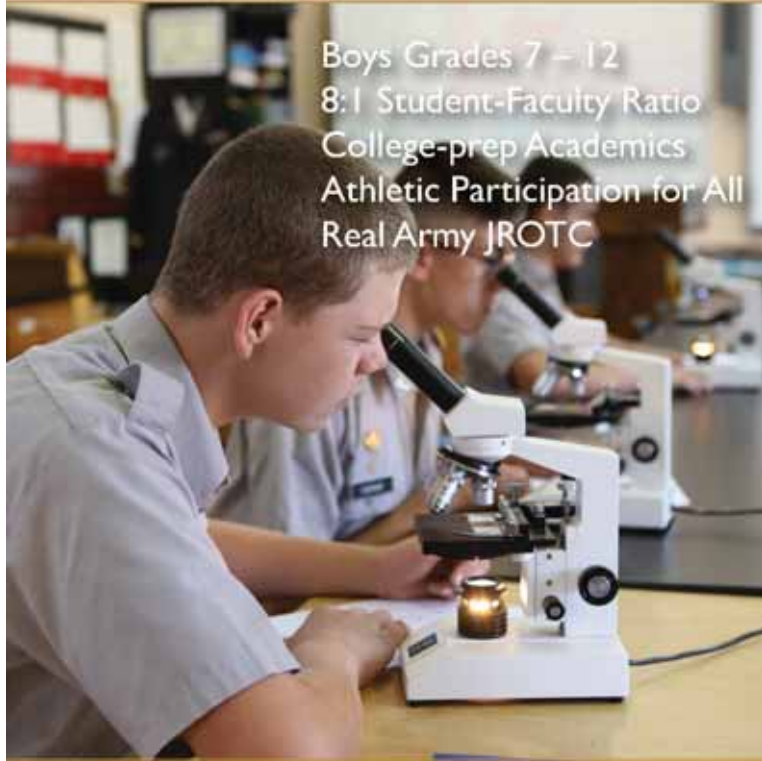


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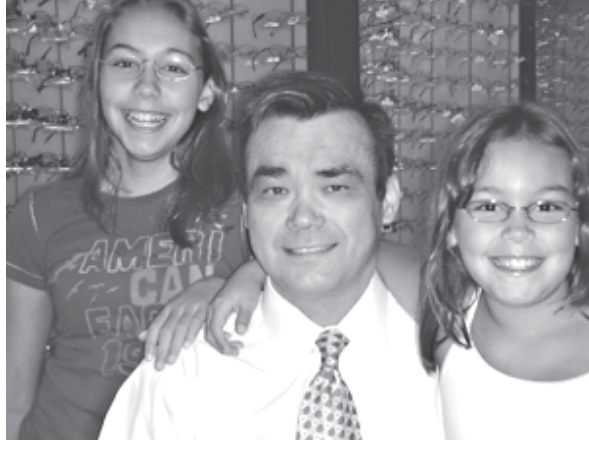


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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press. Through March 31, 5 p.m.-midnight, daily, at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Nasrin Navab and Epicure Cafe present: Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press. Instigated by Helen Frederick, the DC art community came together two years ago in solidarity with people of Iraq and the Middle East to support the "Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!" Project. Al-Mutanabbi Street is Baghdad's bookselling street that has created space for books for hundreds of years. In 2007, the street was destroyed in a car bombing. Visit www.epicurecafe.org/.

Second Saturdays. 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50



PHOTO BY MEGAN CHRISTENSEN/
COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Ruthie Rado (character Lucy) with "Avenue Q" rehearsal puppet designed/created by Silly Puppets.

'Avenue Q' at Workhouse

Workhouse Arts Center presents "Avenue Q" at W3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances March 3 to April 1, 2018. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$35. Call 703-584-2900 or visit www.workhousearts.org. Note: Ticket prices may increase, based on demand. Advanced purchase recommended. Note: Intended for mature audiences due to adult humor, language and situations.

p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo. 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice

and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

Funday Monday 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

WEDNESDAY/SUNDAY/MARCH 21-25

Junior Golf Tournament. The Hurricane Junior Golf Tour will host the Laurel Hill Jr. Shootout at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. This year the Laurel Hill Jr. Shootout will hold an active field of 72 players. The tournament will consist of a 36-hole two-day format and golfers will compete in six divisions. The event is open to the public and free for spectators. Visit www.hjgt.org, call 407-614-2962, or email info@hjgt.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

Teacher Basketball Game. 6:45-8:15 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The staff

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Man Electrocuted After Making Contact with Power Lines

A 47-year-old man is dead after he was electrocuted early morning March 15 while standing at his work vehicle near power lines. Officers and paramedics were originally called to the area of Mordor Drive and Furnace Road in Lorton just after 6 a.m. for a report of an unconscious truck driver on the side of the road. While paramedics were providing medical attention to the man, officers noted that the metal arm of the extended truck cover appeared to be in contact with the overhead wires. The driver, Bobby Blevins Jr., was taken to the hospital and later pronounced dead.

It is unknown why he had pulled over at that location and why he may have tried to raise the extended truck cover. Detectives from Major Crimes Bureau are investigating.

Oldest Tree

FROM PAGE 3

growth variable for this neighborhood contest. However, finding a comparative tree-growth rate database on the internet was very challenging, but persistence led to success.

Based on the tree circumference submitted, the tree diameter (in inches) was calculated. My primary reference website noted the following few examples of "Tree Age Multipliers of the diameter: Tulip Poplar-3; Red Oak-4, White Oak 5, and Hickory 7.5. Thus, a smaller diameter hickory tree could be much older than a larger stately fast-growing poplar. Similarly, a 40-inch diameter white oak is most likely more than 50 percent older than a 40-inch diameter poplar tree.

As the contest rules noted, the property owner of the "oldest tree" will be given a field plaque for installation near the tree. While not originally presumed, a second field plaque will be presented for the "largest tree" in the neighborhood.

This was a first-time competition and intended to be a "low anxiety and fun exercise." However, an under 10-year-old Laketree Dr. participant did ask me: "Who won last year?" I chuckled and thought an appropriate answer might be: "Nobody, as I was not retired then." But, I bit my tongue laughing at the obvious sincere question and stated to him that such a contest has never been done before. Aren't kids' questions great?

As of mid-September, with the entries still coming in, I reported in the community newsletter that "a total of eleven (11) trees consisting of five (5) different species are estimated to be over 100 years old."

FINAL RESULTS of 2017 South Run Oldest Tree

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

from two different elementary schools will play a basketball game to raise money for charity. \$3. Visit www2.fcps.edu/MosbyWoodsES/ or call 703-937-11600.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

Sushi Fest. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Bluefin Tuna cutting, noon; at Wegmans, 11620 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Sushi Fest, a celebration of Japanese cuisine at Wegmans, is bringing the excitement of Tokyo's famed Tsukiji

fish market to customers in the store. A large space within the Market Café will be transformed by ice tables filled with stunning displays of exotic fresh fish flown in overnight from Tokyo. Admission is free. Visit www.wegmans.com/events/0318/sushi-fest.html.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue

equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

Family Movie Night: "Despicable Me 3." 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a free, family friendly (movies are PG) movie night. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. "Britepaths" Food Drive at Family Fun Nights. Britepaths is a volunteer-based organization that identifies and addresses the unmet fundamental needs of Fairfax area residents. Call 703-385-7858.

Fire Fatality in the Hotel Room

On March 15, at 7:23 a.m., Fairfax City and County Fire and rescue units were dispatched to a reported fire with a victim reportedly trapped at 9865 Fairfax Blvd., in the City of Fairfax. Units arrived on the scene at 7:27 a.m. to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a one-story hotel complex. A second alarm was requested to bring additional resources to the scene. Crews initiated an aggressive attack of the fire quickly knocking down the bulk of the fire and made entry to find a 35-year-old female deceased in the hotel room. Smoke detectors and hotel staff alerted and safely evacuated other nearby guests. No additional injuries were reported. The medical examiner's office identified the victim as 35-year-old Megan Shuman, from Sterling. The victim's next of kin have been notified. The medical examiner's office will determine the exact cause of death. The hotel management is working to relocate approximately 25 guests to other properties. The origin and cause of the fire is under investigation.

Competition Tabulated

The "Oldest Tree Challenge" went on for three months with 24 entries covering a myriad of tree species. The highest number of submittals involved poplar trees (8) and white oaks (6). All homeowner measurements of the largest trees were field verified by the competition organizer and field judge.

Based on the submittals, a house on Rambling Ridge Drive had the oldest tree, an Eastern Red Cedar, at 238 years old. That would closely date to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776! Additionally, another on South Park Circle had an 11 feet diameter White Oak, estimated to be 210 years old. The "Largest Tree" winner was a 14-foot-0-inch circumference Tulip Poplar on Laketree Drive. This tree was estimated to be 161 years old. These three families were presented with a sign illustrating a unique status in the South Run community.

South Run has more than 530 residential units, only about 20 families made a submission for the oldest tree contest. I was surprised that two of the three final winners (i.e. the oldest and the biggest) were located within the grounds of the old farm that existed off Lee Chapel Road near the Fairfax County Parkway. My amateur inspection of aerial photos from 1937 estimated that a 130-acre farm existed in this northeast quadrant of the neighborhood. The expanse included about 60 current South Run Regency homesites, the pool area and undeveloped area of Pond Point Park. The old farmhouse was located on the hill at the current corner of South Park Circle and Rocky Ravine Drive. The largest holly tree submitted is about 180 years old and was a survivor of that large farming tract.

For history buffs, the U.S. Civil War of the 1860s was almost 160 years ago. Of the 24 entries from the 20 participants, eight trees in South Run were entered that were estimated to be older than 160 years.

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.

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/kindergarten-registration.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

Hire Vets Now Networking Reception. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir Community Center, 10300 Taylor Road. Transitioning service members and veterans will have the opportunity to connect with many of Virginia's top civilian employers in high growth industries such as medical, IT and cyber security at the Hire Vets Now hiring and networking event. Free. Includes a free "Grab and Go" lunch. Walk-ins welcome or register at www.vachamber.com/hirevetsmarch22.

Springfield CBC Commuter Parking Garage Meeting. 7 p.m. at Edison High School, Cafeteria A, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. To discuss the Springfield Community Business Center (CBC) Commuter Parking Garage project. County staff will present the revised ground floor plan and answer questions. Sponsored by Fairfax County Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/springfield-garage.

Springfield District Budget Town Hall. 7 p.m. at Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The new County Executive and CFO will be in attendance. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2019-budget-town-hall-meetings.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

Good Friday Meditation. 7-8 p.m. at Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B205, Springfield. Meditation to a Compline Service with sacred music. Free. Call 703-623-5400 or visit unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25

Palm Sunday Experience. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite 205, Springfield. A special experience celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the major events of Holy Thursday. Special music provided. Free. Visit unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Holy Week Worship. At King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Palm Sunday, March 25 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, March 29 - 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 30 - 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Visit www.kokf.org or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

MONDAY/MARCH 26

Learn About Becoming a Foster Parent. 7-8:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. For those who have made the decision to open their home to a child or simply want to learn more. To foster or adopt, people must be 18 or older; may be married, single, or divorced; may work outside the home; and must be able to provide a safe, loving home. Call 703-324-7919.

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Almost Exactly Four Days ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... was the length of time during which we were powerless a few weeks back when the wind nearly brought down the house; yet it was no laughing matter. I might have written this column sooner but until Tuesday, March 6 – when the power finally came back on, we were semi-frozen to the bone. The old-fashioned thermostat in our living room indicated 42 degrees at its most frigid.

Aside from the obvious physical discomfort – made a bit more bearable while wearing hats, gloves, coats and scarfs – inside, the toll the cold took on my mental acuity was much less manageable. My brain still worked, but not overtime. It was, to invoke a “Star Trek” reference: “On impulse power,” somewhere between barely functioning and imminent danger.

This power outage was the most significant we had experienced at “Belly Acres” in the 26 years since we took ownership in late May 1992. And though this four-day non-sojourn was difficult, it was for us not a return down power-outage lane. We have been lucky in our time here; very little has upset the apple cart. Considering the hundreds of trees that surround our house, and the many thuds they all made as they fell and hit the ground that extremely late Friday night/early Saturday morning, the miracle is that not one of them hit the house, or either of our two cars parked in the driveway.

I wouldn’t say I woke up in the morning to find our house relatively unscathed because as of 3:30 a.m. when I felt the house shudder for the first time, I never was able to fall back asleep as I kept bracing myself for incoming trees and limbs. Given the potential damage and hassle a direct hit likely would have caused, a power outage seemed a minor inconvenience, all things considered.

As it happened, when the power came back on, I was not at home. I was en route to the Glenmont Metro station in Wheaton to pick up Dina. When I came to a stop at “Kiss and Ride,” I looked at my cell phone and noticed a “missed call” from one of my neighbors. I immediately called back and soon heard my neighbor, Helene, singing “We’re in heaven, ...,” with the explanation – not in verse – that power had returned to New Birmingham Manor (the official name of our 10-home dead-end street). BG&E, our utility company, had finally come by to cut/trim the tree that had been uprooted in the storm and fallen across the power line which electrifies our neighborhood.

As difficult as it had been for some of us, it had not been nearly as difficult for the four neighbors who had generators and thus were prepared and able to keep the lights on and the heat circulating. One of whom was kind enough to call around the neighborhood and offer hot showers as well as refrigerator and freezer storage to anyone interested. Given that the previous week was a post-chemotherapy week for me when I’m not eating much and shopping at supermarkets even less, we had minimal food in the freezer - all of which ended up being a loss, and a bit less than usual in the refrigerator which, after putting the contents into two coolers filled with ice, ended up being a gain.

Oddly enough, I haven’t re-inventoried the refrigerator/freezer as yet. I don’t know if I’m being paranoid or just plain lazy, but I haven’t felt inclined to stop and shop, not even at the Giant. I imagine the feeling will pass because after eating out every night; some fast, some slow, over the last week or so, I’m probably way over our imaginary budget and way under prepared for the next go around. But as is often heard on basketball courts on playgrounds all over America: “No harm. No foul.”

The four days without power weren’t particularly pleasant but we survived the ordeal nonetheless and may have even learned something in the process: our long underwear still fits.

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



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