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Springfield CONNECTION

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EASTER & SPRING FUN

PAGE 8

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (center) meets with students Laura Kirk (left) and Ella Wogaman from West Springfield High School at a Gun Control Round Table, held March 23 at George Mason University's Arlington campus.

The Children's Crusade

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A Gun Control Round Table was held March 23 at George Mason University's Arlington campus.



Photos by Vernon Miles/The Connection

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine meets with students Laura Kirk (left) and Ella Wogaman from West Springfield High School.

The Children's Crusade

Kaine hosts Northern Virginia gun control discussion.

By Vernon Miles
The Connection

One month after a school shooting in Parkland Florida, coming just after the highest-casualty mass shooting in American history in Las Vegas, the debate over gun control is once again in the public spotlight.

At a March 23 round-table discussion at George Mason University's Arlington campus. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine spoke with local leaders in gun reform and victims of gun violence. Kaine said he was normally optimistic, but felt particularly downtrodden after the gun control legislation failed repeatedly after the Sandy Hook shooting.

"These kids are giving me hope in a way I haven't had in a while," said Kaine. "I've found, in young activism a reason to not be despairing."

Kaine pointed to a few items in the recent congressional budget that show signs of progress on gun control. Additional funding for school security was included in the budget, initially proposed to be cut in the President's budget proposal but found bipartisan support in Congress. Kaine said that probably would have happened anyway, but other changes like allowing the CDC to research gun violence and part of a background check fix, only came about as a result of activism from students. Kaine said if the floor is opened to allow discussion of gun control measures, the gun control advocates will need to meet to put together three pieces of legislation that can make effective progress and still be seen as palatable. Kaine said he believes that while outright banning assault weapons would be difficult, senators like Marco Rubio from Florida have begun to show a willingness to look at limiting magazine sizes.

Kaine said the wave of activism reminded him of the Children's Crusade in Birmingham, where students came out in waves to support Dr. Martin Luther King's march, arguing against his protests that the future



Andy and Barbara Parker, whose daughter Alison Parker was murdered on-camera in Roanoke in 2015.

of the country was of just as important to them, if not more.

Others around the table didn't share Kaine's optimism. Martina Leinz from the Northern Virginia chapter of the Brady Campaign, said she doubted Republicans would touch gun control legislation any time before midterms. Andy and Barbara Parker, whose daughter Alison Parker was murdered on-camera in Roanoke in 2015, said they believed the only ways to get Congress to make any progress on gun-control issues was to vote out members who were receiving support from the National Rifle Association (NRA).

State Sen. Adam Ebbin, representing the 30th District, confirmed that at the Virginia level gun safety legislation had been effectively stalled. Of the 69 gun control bills submitted in the 2018 session, all had failed.

"There's an idea of 'what's next' if we ban things like bump stocks," said Ebbin. "We need to reassure gun owners that we don't want to take away their guns."

Tired of Planning An Escape Route

Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, Of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School participated in Saturday's March for Our Lives.

Rowan said: "I am tired of having to plan an escape route. As children and young people, it's come to the point where we have to know our laws and read the bills because they have failed us."

Added D'Alessandro: "An AR-15 is meant for war. We shouldn't be able to buy them. There is no reason for civilians to have these military weapons."

—Bill Bronrott



Photo by Bill Bronrott

From left, Rowan Clark, 13, eighth grader at Frost Middle School, Fairfax, and Ellie D'Alessandro, 19, of Fairfax, 2016 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School.

While the panel hosted a wide range of gun control advocates, there were a few notably missing parties. While one of the major topics of the day was working together with moderate gun owners to find a compromising solution, there were no pro-gun or anti-gun reform panelists present.

Philip Thompson, representing the Loudoun chapter of the NAACP, said the gun control gathering was good to see but lamented that he was the only African-American present for an issue that had disproportionately affected black communities in America.

"We have to work with those who suffered through this for years," said Thompson. "I lost a sister-in-law and had a brother-in-law that was shot. There's a joke in our community, that if we all open carried around D.C. we'd have gun reform."

IN THE POLICY DISCUSSION of how to change gun laws, survivors of gun vio-

lence also reminded the panelists of the human toll. Peter Read's daughter was killed at Virginia Tech and said that it's been important in the years after the massacre to see other members of her peer group moving on and continuing with their lives. Read also agreed with Thompson, saying that the kind of violence his family experienced is one that black communities in America are forced to live with on a constant basis, and that any gun control legislation had to work with that in mind.

"People are with us," said Read, "they're willing to act. Money isn't everything. It's votes. Young people have fear, but also hope."

Two high school students from West Springfield were in attendance and were planning on marching the next day.

"We're screaming as loud as we can," said Ella Wogaman. "Find the kids in your district. We are organizing. We are trying. Listen to the kids, we're doing what we can."



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News

Del. Filler-Corn Participates in 'She Suite Summit'

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) participated in the final panel of the "She Suite Summit" which also included State Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond) and Arlington County Board Chair, Katie Cristol.

The "She Suite Summit" was put on by Velvet Suite, a marketing consulting group and was sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. The day long summit took place in McLean on March 16. The theme of the conference was "Awaken Your Greatness".

Del. Filler-Corn and Sen. McClellan discussed the changes in this year's General Assembly. Filler-Corn focused on the new makeup of the House of Delegates which now includes 12 newly elected women of all ages including two who recently gave birth. They also discussed the challenges of being a female legislator in a predominantly male environment. Chair Cristol gave an additional perspective about her role, not just as a woman, but as a millennial.

"I appreciated the opportunity to share my story with two of my good friends and colleagues," said Filler-Corn. "I am grateful for the women who paved the way before me, and I look forward to the successes of many women elected officials to come," she added.



Photo contributed

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), left, participating in 'She Suite Summit' panel in McLean.

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A New Eagle Scout

Joseph Tirre (207) Passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review at BSA Troop 1131, Burke. Pictured, Eagle Scout Board of Review members: Carol Herrity-Tun, Philip Sternberg, Troop Committee Chair, Karla Tirre (mother), Paul Hoffman, Unit Commissioner, Eagle Scout (207) Joseph Tirre, William Tirre (father), Alan Dunham, C.P. Watkins, Patriot District, Mark Blanchard, Scoutmaster. Not in photo G.C. 'Gary' Black, III.

Joseph Tirre is a junior at Robinson Secondary School and attends St. Stephens UMC in Burke. His father is William Tirre and his mother is Karla Tirre.



Photos courtesy of G.C. 'Gary' Black, III



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Opinion

'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin
State Senator (D-30)

Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.

I'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since

Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated. Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours. I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate. Speak up by calling your elected officials.

Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.



Get involved at election time.

Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay active.

Vote.

Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target. When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange. A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute.

Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough.

We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline. We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back. We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

Cracking Down on Online Predators

Bipartisan legislation to protect sex trafficking victims.

By Barbara Comstock
US Rep. (R-10)



For years we have warned of human traffickers preying on our youth at a mall or places where teens may congregate. A predator would approach a young girl — average age 12 or 13 — pretending to be a boyfriend and groom them for sexual exploitation by showering them with gifts or drugs, and then exploit their naivety and traffic them for sex.

The same thing is going on today, only now the predator is using the Internet to reach out and exploit our youth.

Online predators now reach into our homes and target unsuspecting children on computers and social media. Congress investigated this Internet sex trafficking and we came up with landmark, bipartisan legislation that will protect sex trafficking victims who have been targeted by online predators.

I cosponsored the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which has now passed the House and Senate. It will give prosecutors, state attorneys general, and sex trafficking victims a clearer path to take legal

action against websites hosting advertisements for prostitutes, which, in reality, often turn out to be young girls and boys who are being illegally trafficked for sex.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, nearly three-quarters of all reports of online child sex trafficking can be traced back to the website called Backpage.com. In a recent CBS News article, a 14-year old girl who was trafficked on the site said, "They're letting all of this happen on their website. I mean, without Backpage, I would have never been in any of this in the first place."

Her mother continued, "Backpage has a primary purpose and it's to sell sex. Backpage has not done anything to ensure the safety of the kids on there, period."

Congress investigated the practices of Backpage and disclosed that its operators actually helped predators modify their ads to delete references to teenage prostitutes or young victims of human trafficking, and still allowed the ads to run. The Washington Post reported that Backpage used a company in the Philippines to solicit both prostitutes and johns from other websites and created new ads that facilitated trafficking.

It became apparent that current anti-trafficking laws could not be applied to websites like Backpage, which host thousands of exploitive

ads daily — too many of which are children being trafficked by adults. Backpage, time and again, successfully cited the Communications Decency Act, which they argued protected them.

In a 2016 case against Backpage.com, the First Circuit Court of Appeals made clear: "The remedy is through legislation, not litigation." All 50 state Attorneys General joined the call for reform of this legislation to address the use of these sites for trafficking and both the House and the Senate responded on a bipartisan basis. This legislation included backing from many in the technology community such as Facebook's COO Sheryl Sandberg: "Those of us in the United States must recognize that these deplorable acts of buying and selling children for sex don't just happen in other countries. They happen here as well — right under our noses ... we at Facebook support efforts to pass amended legislation in the House." Now our prosecutors will be able to crackdown on online predators.

Every summer, as part of my Young Women's Leadership Program, we provide a session on the problem of human trafficking. We have made it a priority to educate young women about this threat that is online, as well as in their communities. With the passage of this legislation, there will be more tools to stop these unspeakable crimes against our youth.

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Commentary

Embark Ushers in a New Phase for U.S. 1

By Scott Surovell
State Senator (D-36)



Last week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Embark Route 1 comprehensive plan revision, a step that lays the groundwork for development over the next 30-40 years for the seven miles of U.S. 1 between the Huntington Metro Station and Fort Belvoir. This plan, reflecting several years of community input, has significant implications for both Fairfax and Prince William counties.

When I was elected to the House of Delegates in 2009, efforts to reach consensus for a Fairfax County, U.S. 1 road design had frozen during work on the U.S. 1 Centerline Study, issued by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in January 2010 after a 15-year process. Prince William County was planning a series of U.S. 1 redesigns while Fairfax County's decision-making had stalled after disputes arose about incorporating transit into redesigns and right-of-way impacts. Then-Congressman Jim Moran had secured \$180 million to expand U.S. 1 to six lanes in Fort Belvoir, but that expansion would create a bottleneck at Jeff Todd Way.

After consulting VDOT experts, then-Virginia Sen. Toddy Puller and I introduced legislation requiring VDOT to conduct a new study focused on Fairfax County's segment of U.S. 1. Gov. Bob McDonnell and Virginia's Secretary of Transportation at the time, Sean Connaughton, had Mt. Vernon roots, were sympathetic and helped free up \$2 million in state funds. Senator Puller partnered with Prince William Sen. Chuck Colgan who put \$2 million in the state budget and the Route 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis was born.

Between 2011 and 2014, officials held numerous public meetings and at their conclusion, the consultants recommended that U.S. 1 be widened to a consistent six lanes incorporating sidewalks and multi-use paths along the entire 14-mile stretch. Transit was the hard part.

I adamantly insisted that a Yellow Line Metro Subway extension be incorporated. The consultants determined that a Metro extension was feasible to Hybla Valley, but to create an environment to support such a

large investment and obtain federal funding, the county would have to boost commercial and employment density. The consultants also recommended constructing bus rapid transit (BRT) from the Huntington Metro station to Woodbridge to facilitate the growth necessary to support Metro.

The study's executive committee approved these recommendations in October 2014 and the Board of Supervisors adopted the study's conclusions in early 2015. Then the county initiated the Embark Route 1 process for phases I and II through Fort Belvoir, a process needed to incorporate these recommendations into the county's Comprehensive Plan. This is what the Board of Supervisors adopted last week.

The Embark plan will bring a new street grid to facilitate parcel interconnectivity and keep cars, bikes and people off U.S. 1 and create thousands of new jobs. Projects will "daylight" long-buried creeks, getting them out of sewer pipes and coupled with modern storm water control facilities, become community assets. Sustainable development approaches will reduce individual energy consumption. Similar to the Arlington Metro Corridor, this project will take cars off the roads.

For residents in Woodbridge, Phase III will connect bus rapid transit to the Woodbridge VRE, expand the Occoquan River bridge to six lanes, improve the commute into Fort Belvoir, facilitate better access to Metro and generate more jobs. Phase IV will extend Metro.

I am proud that many people worked together to get this done, but now the hard work begins. Thus far, we have only identified a fraction of the \$2.1 billion necessary to implement this plan. The 2013 Virginia transportation tax increases will help. Federal transit grants are expected to cover about half of the cost, but Fairfax County must rewrite its affordable housing ordinance to facilitate no net loss of affordable housing in our corridor — a federal requirement to receive \$1 billion in federal transit grants. U.S. 1 is central to the quality of life for all the people of eastern Fairfax and Prince William counties. Its future affects jobs, housing, retail, our environment and everyone's property values. Embark Route 1 is the next step to make our community the best place to live in Northern Virginia.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Email me at scottsurovell@gmail.com if you have any feedback.

Blood Donation Opportunities

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March. Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives.

Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring. Make an appointment to donate blood

by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area, March 20 to April 15

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See Blood Donation, Page 13

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Easter & Spring Fun

Easter Egg Hunts In the Area

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Upton Hill Park, Arlington. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks for details and to register.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Pohick Bay Park, Lorton. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks for details and to register.

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THURSDAY/MARCH 29

EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt. 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow-in-the-dark-themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with the Easter Bunny



Photo by ECHO Yard Sale

Shoppers browse the many tables of goods for sale at an earlier ECHO Yard Sale.

ECHO Yard Sale

Join the hunt for treasures at ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. Toys, fashion accessories, collectibles, and more. Proceeds benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others in Springfield. Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m.-noon in the Gymnasium of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Free admission. Email cefrabee@verizon.net.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is

running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child. On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake**

Park is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age 1-9. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child - cash only at registration.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Egg Hunt. Friday, 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter egg. \$12 children, \$5 adults. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit gracepresby.org. **Traditional Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Municipal Center Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Features craft projects, story time, dance sessions with

KinderJam, a petting zoo, coloring mural, potting station and photos with the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$9 per child in advance; \$10 onsite. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-435-6800, ext. 2128.

MCC Spring Fest. 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Carnival games and arts and crafts projects, soccer demo, roaming duck, bunny and squirrel characters as well as magic tricks by The Amazing Kevin. A parent and child Easter Egg Hunt will be featured. For children ages 3-8. Hosted by McLean Community Center. Visit www.mcleancenter.org, and use Activity No. 4501.318. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY-711.

2018 Community Egg Hunt. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., Tysons.

The brunch buffets on both Easter, April 1, and Mother's Day, May 13, occur from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and feature gourmet stations with an array of dishes.

Arrive early as a maximum of 50 participants will hunt in each age group. In addition, the Easter Bunny will be available from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for photos. Reservations at 703-761-5131 or on OpenTable at opentable.com/harh.

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Between Thwarted Love and Madness

Virginia Opera presents "Lucia di Lammermoor" at GMU Center for the Arts.

By David Siegel
The Connection

Virginia Opera concludes its season at the Center for the Arts with the "bel canto" (Italian for "beautiful singing") "Lucia di Lammermoor." Set in Scotland, Donizetti's "Lucia" is the tale of a young woman forced to marry a man she does not love in order to improve her family's fortunes. As she becomes completely distraught, she imagines what it would be like to have married the man she loves. Then she takes actions that change everything.

Ari Peltó, who conducts the opera, called "Lucia di Lammermoor" the pinnacle; the glorification of the voice and

what it can do." Describing the opera, Peltó said it was "full of all the things we could love about opera including grand dramatic gestures and a young woman struggling as she tries to save her family from ruin. It is unforgettable." Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor" will feature Metropolitan Opera soprano Rachele Gilmore in the title role of Lucia. Gilmore described her character as "a woman at her emotional breaking point." Complementing Gilmore bel canto soprano voice will be tenor Joseph Dennis as Edgardo.

"Lucia" is about a woman growing up in difficult times. All the men in her life are pressuring her to do things as they wanted," said Gilmore. The opera is full of vocal fireworks and highly dramatic elements, "so the audience will understand and be drawn into and focus on the tragic tale and my character of Lucia."

In an interview, Gilmore noted that she always wanted to be a singer. She received her Bachelor's of Music from Indiana University and continued with Graduate studies at Boston University. As an artist, she was a winner in Plácido Domingo's renown Operalia World



Soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

Opera Contest in Paris.

For director Kyle Lang, "Lucia di Lammermoor" is a cautionary tale of a fragile "heroine of a gothic horror story.

It is warning tale of the destructive power of blind ambition." "Lucia" is one of the most-per-

Where and when

Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor" at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: April 7 at 8 p.m. and April 8 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$110, \$90, \$54. Note: Sung in Italian with English supertitles. Pre-Performance Discussion with Dr. Glenn Winter "Dr. Opera" begins 45 minutes before the performance.

Photos by Ben Schill
Photography Courtesy Virginia Opera



Tenor Joseph Dennis (Edgardo) and soprano Rachele Gilmore (Lucia) in Virginia Opera's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

formed operas worldwide with its focus on the beauty of the human voice and enduring romantic themes. "Lucia will be a great production for our company and the audience," said Russell Allen, President and CEO of the Virginia Opera. Donizetti's "Lucia di

Lammermoor" is surely to be a compelling performance concluding Virginia's Opera's season at the Center for the Arts. And join Dr. Glenn Winters for his "Opera Up Close" pre-curtain talk for his informative, entertaining insights.

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Calendar

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

ONGOING

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/.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 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.

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

MARCH 29-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. Program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child. On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child – cash only at registration.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

Fact Checking – Effective

Speaking. 7-8:30 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, Meeting Room B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. Workshop on media literacy and dialogue skills. Guided by experts from GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL librarians. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3783528.

EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt. 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow in the dark themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with Easter Bunny and obstacle course moon bounce. 10-14 years old. Bring a basket and a flashlight. \$5 per hunter. Register at apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/11522.

THURSDAYSATURDAY/MARCH 29-31 Volunteer: Baskets and Bunnies at

Burke Lake. Assist with arts and crafts, help with registration, dress up in the Sunny the Bunny costume, assist with Mini Golf or be a Sunny the Bunny helper. Volunteer on Thursday, March 29, Friday, March 30, Saturday, March 31. Sign up for shifts. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies.

MARCH 30-APRIL 15

“The Pavilion.” at The Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. This play is by turns poetic and comic, romantic and philosophical. Peter returns to his 20-year high-school reunion with dreams of winning back Kari, the girl he left behind. Visit www.thehubtheatre.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit gracepresby.org.

2018 Community Egg Hunt. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar.

Art & Lunch. noon-3 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax, Fairfax Art League at the Village Gallery. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. New members welcome. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 3-29

Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction. Gallery hours in Arches Gallery, Building W-9 of the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Pulp Fiction showcases work by artist Anne Hollis, exploring mixed media art while focusing on moments in time from mythological stories to real life. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

National Walking Day. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Enjoy a brisk walk around the mall, while learning how to lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. The American Heart Association is partnering with Sheehy Auto Stores and Springfield Town Center to host this free public walking and wellness event. Registration will start at 10:30. Email GWRHA@heart.org or visit www.facebook.com/events/567199020306840/.

GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series, “In Lorton’s Darkroom.” 7:30 p.m. at GMU’s Johnson Center Cinema, 4477 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax. Short documentary screening and discussion with filmmaker Karen Ruckman, producer Emma Pearce, and photographers Calvin Gorham and Michael Moses El. Includes powerful video of Lorton in the mid 1980s, a visit to the prison before it was closed in December 2001, and in-depth interviews over a twelve year period with two men who talk frankly about the horrors of prison life, and how learning to take photographs gave them the discipline and tool for self-discovery. Free. Visit fams.gmu.edu/events/7499 or call 703-993-2768.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-8

Mason Theater Performance. Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 2 p.m. at George Mason

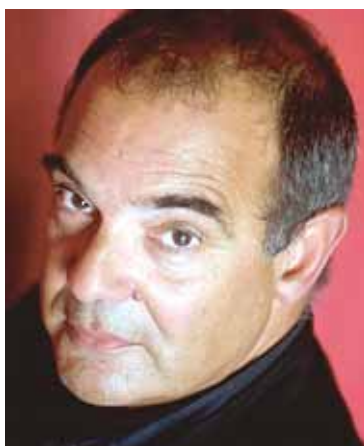


Photo courtesy of Edward Gero

Directed by Edward Gero (pictured).

‘The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail’

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee imagine circumstances surrounding 19th Century writer Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment for his refusal to pay a poll tax designed to support an unpopular war in “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail.” Thursday-Saturday, April 5-8, 8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8, 2 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$30 general admission; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Call 703-993-8888 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

University Harris Theatre, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail” by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee imagines circumstances surrounding 19th Century writer Henry David Thoreau's imprisonment for his refusal to pay a poll tax designed to support an unpopular war. \$30 general admission; \$15 students, staff, seniors and groups. Call 703-993-8888 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

ECHO Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-noon in the Gymnasium of St. Bernadette Catholic Church and School, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Join the hunt for treasures at ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. Toys, fashion accessories, collectibles, and more. Proceeds benefit Ecumenical Community Helping Others in Springfield. Free admission. Email cefrazee@verizon.net.

Spring Forward Family Fun Day in Fairfax. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In this celebration of families formed by foster care adoption, and kinship care, children will enjoy a morning of games and activities while parents, caregivers, and older youth participate in workshops. Keynote address “Trauma to Resiliency: Building Stronger Families and Communities.” by Dr. Elizabeth Meeker. To register for this event, www.FormedFamiliesForward.org or call 703-539-2904.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

T-TRAK Scale Model Train Show.

1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge T-TRAK model train show. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Photos courtesy of Hub Theatre



Matt Bassett appearing in the Hub’s production of “The Pavilion.”



Helen Murray appearing in the Hub’s production of “The Pavilion.”

A Play Full of Joy And Regret

The Hub explores with “The Pavilion.” Is winning back who you left behind possible?

By David Siegel
The Connection

Celebrating its 10th season, the Hub Theatre will be re-mounting “The Pavilion,” its inaugural production. “It is so heart-warming to return to where we started with Craig Wright’s ‘The Pavilion,’ a play about community and healing,” said Helen Murray, the Hub’s Artistic Director. “As the Hub has grown we have continually honed our aesthetic. And I get to share the stage with friends and collaborators.”

“The Pavilion” features Hub veteran Nora Achraati, as well as Hub’s associate artistic director Matt Bassett and Helen Murray. It is directed by Kelsey Mesa known to Hub

audiences for directing “The Magi” and “Wish List.” Mesa is associated with The Kennedy Center’s American College Theater Festival. Playwright Craig Wright is also a television producer and writer. Some of his television credits include “Six Feet Under” and “Lost.”

“The Pavilion” has a simple premise that flows into much more including our connections to the universe and love. It is specifically about Peter who returns to his hometown for his twenty-year high-school reunion. He has dreams of winning back Kari, the girl he left

behind, under less than good reasons. As the reunion night progresses, both Peter and Kari are led, through their interactions with a host of characters all played by a virtuosic Narrator. The two come to face the outcomes of their choices from long ago as they try to start back into life with newfound strength and bittersweet determination.

“‘The Pavilion’ is a special re-mount for our tenth Hub season. And I have the chance to challenge myself in a role as a

romantic lead; although, it’s not that simple,” said Bassett.

His character as Peter has a “yearning for the past, and his hope for a brighter future. That present some great acting challenges. Peter is hoping for the best while having to

face his own worst actions,” added Bassett. “Peter is coming back to his hometown to try regain something he gave up a long time ago. He has lived his adult life in professional success as a psychologist, but this occasion has led him to reevaluate the last twenty years and, in his mind, those years have come up short.”

Can Peter and Kari find a way to put things right after so many years? The Hub audience gets to witness what happens in “The Pavilion,” a play full of joy and regret told through beautiful language to savor.

News

Orange Hunt Elementary Hosts STEAM Olympics

By Donna M. Jones

What students learn about science, technology, engineering, art, and math during their K-12 schooling shapes their intellectual development, opportunities for future study and work, choices of career, as well as their capacity to make informed decisions about political and civic issues and about their own lives (NRC, 2011). Research supports that now is the time that education needs to undergo a paradigm shift to keep pace with the 21st Century learner. A STEAM approach offers the new learner the connectedness they are already familiar with via technology and helps them make sense of real world applications (Framework, 2012).

Orange Hunt Elementary School delivered on this at its third biennial STEAM Olympics event by providing an opportunity for students, community, and businesses to come together for an evening of hands on, creative learning. These experiences were shaped by intentional, collaborative efforts on the part of the OHES staff, parents, PTA, students, custodial crew and through networking with local affiliates, NOVA SYSTEMic, and Apple. Featuring experimentation with Glacier and Ice melting, Fractal Designs, Pendulum Art, Computer Robotics, and Coding to the engineering of ski jumps and halfpipes, the winter Olympic themed "Icy Slopes and Isotopes" STEAM event brought fun, excitement, and engaged learning for the whole family. With more than 400 guests attending, the event proved a great success.

— Donna M. Jones is Math Lead/STEAM Coordinator/German Immersion at Orange Hunt Elementary.



Photos contributed

STEAM Olympics event provided an opportunity for students, community, and businesses to come together for an evening of hands on, creative learning.



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Lifetime of Helping Others

Gary Parks and Joan Wamsley receive The President's Volunteer Service Award.

Greenspring's Gray Parks and Joan Wamsley are 2018 recipients of The President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. They were honored for contributing more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime. The President's Volunteer Service Award is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is administered by Points of Light. Through a shared mission of inspiring more to answer the call to service, the President's Volunteer Service Award celebrates the impact people can make in bettering communities and the world.

❖ Parks uses his musical talents to give back to other Greenspring residents. Six years ago he started doing a weekly show on the community's closed circuit GSV-TV station, singing songs and playing guitar. He preps new songs each week that are usually framed around an artist's birthday. Gray also co-leads an activity group called the "Greenspring Troubadours" where residents get together and play instruments and sing songs. When Gray isn't serenading the residents of Greenspring, he is working as a member of the Resident Council. Gray also spends a lot of time volunteering at GSV-TV studio by running the camera.

❖ Wamsley uses her talents of knitting to help



Photo contributed

Gray Parks and Joan Wamsley are pictured with Kelly Lukschander (center), Volunteer Programs Coordinator at Greenspring.

others at Greenspring. Joan spends hours a day knitting different things like socks that are sold to others in the community. The money from those sales goes to the community's philanthropic funds. She also works at the community's Treasure Chest Furniture Store. The Treasure Chest is Greenspring's second-hand store filled with donated items and sold back to staff and residents. All the money from Treasure Chest sales goes to Greenspring philanthropic funds. Joan is also an active volunteer with her church.

The Making of a Brigadier General

U.S. Army Col. James P. Bienlien comes from five generations of military men and grew up in Springfield.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

The product of five generations in the U.S. military, Col. James P. Bienlien, 49, of Newington Forest in Springfield, was promoted to Brigadier General on Friday, March 23, 2018 in a ceremony held at Patton Hall in Ft. Meyer, Va.

"It's probably the most humbling experience of my life," said Bienlien. "It was completely unexpected and certainly appreciated."

His current job is the Director, Joint and Integration (DJI) HQDA G-8, with responsibility across the U.S. Army for material requirements, approval, and integration across the Joint and ODS Enterprise delivering modernized equipment to U.S. soldiers in support of Army and national objectives. According to his boss, Maj. Gen. John George: "Col. Jay Bienlien's past performance, in a range of challenging and difficult assignments, has been nothing short of spectacular."

But what makes him uniquely qualified for promotion to Brigadier General is his capacity and potential to serve in more strategic, complex, and challenging situations. He epitomizes what the Army needs during a time when we are focusing on new modernization priorities and building a more lethal Army."

New U.S. Army Brigadier General James P. Bienlien (right) receives his promotion order from U.S. Army Lieutenant General Mike Murray on March 23 at Patton Hall in Ft. Meyer, Va.



Photo courtesy of Marla J. Hurtado

His Deputy Brian Joyce, who has worked with him for three years, added: "During this period, I have been impressed with Col. Bienlien's ability to think strategically. He quickly understands complex issues and how they affect organizations, resources, and personnel; is able to review competing courses of action to develop sound recommendations; and executes all missions flawlessly," he said. "Most importantly, he focuses on the people he works with to ensure they receive the guidance necessary, resources, and opportunity to excel; that they understand their tasks and why they must be accomplished; and enables a working environment which allows its people to learn, grow, and make mistakes."

Regarding his leadership style, Bienlien says he lives a values-based life that is focused more on giving than receiving while never losing sight of what's important – family and friends. He strives to wake up every

day expecting nothing and appreciating everything, striving to be humble, kind and always say, "thank you."

Having moved 13 times, he said career highlights include his service in the Iraq War mission as the Armor Program Manager in support of the rebuilding capacity, as well as the Chief of Force Management in the U.S. Army Pacific. He cites working with Army Gen. Vincent Brooks in advancing U.S. objectives in the Asia Pacific. Brooks, who is from Northern Virginia, is now the commander of United States Forces Korea.

What he enjoys most about his job is "being able to serve, for one; it's a service-oriented profession, and to work with amazing soldiers, civilians, and contractors." His favorite post was Fort Hood, Texas, where his daughter Erika was born.

Bienlien comes from five generations in the U.S. military. His great-great grandfather Michael Bienlien was in the Union

Army from Missouri during the Civil War. His grandfather Walter Bienlien was an Army Corporal during World War I in France. His Uncle, William and father Daniel Bienlien served in Vietnam; his dad did three tours. He and his brother Tim served in Iraq – Tim as a Naval aviator. His son Patrick is a graduate of JMU and a First Lieutenant in the Texas National Guard as a Field Artillery officer; daughter Erika is a graduate of VCU and an active duty MP Second Lieutenant stationed in Washington state; nephew Daniel is a Lieutenant JG in the U.S. Coast Guard; and nephew Stephen is a cadet in the U.S. Air Force Academy. His parents Dan and Pat have lived in Springfield since 1977.

His wife Cdr. Andrea Ragusa is a U.S. Naval helicopter pilot based in Norfolk. She is an executive officer of HM15, an aviation helicopter squadron; they met eight years ago while serving in a NATO assignment in Norfolk.

He graduated from Hayfield Secondary in 1986 and Radford University in 1990, where he studied criminal justice and played baseball and football. He joined the Virginia National Guard and was designated a Combat Infantryman, serving for four years. In 1990, he received his active duty commission from Radford University.

With 27 years of experience, he held command and staff assignments in the 5th Infantry Division, Fort Polk; 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood; 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks; 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg; Human Resources Command; NATO Supreme Allied Command Transformation; United States Army Pacific; Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Headquarters Department of the Army, The Pentagon. He completed a tour with industry as a research fellow at the Logistics Management Institute, Washington, D.C. He also holds a Master's in Public Policy from Troy State University in 2008, and a Master's in National Security Strategy from the National War College in 2011 in Washington, D.C.

New Vision

From Page 2

corridor to support a bus rapid transit (BRT) system, from the Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir, and ultimately a Yellow Line Metrorail extension," said Storck. The Woodlawn hub includes historic sites, such as Mount Vernon, Washington's Grist Mill, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, and would be a cultural corridor and tourist hub, including a hotel and conference center near the BRT station. The plan also emphasizes important environmental resources.

ADVOCATES WANT to ensure details in the plan, such as underground utilities and affordable housing and attention to common areas and green spaces. "We just want to make sure that the



Storck



McKay



Bulova

people who work and live in it maintain the diverse ethnic and economic nature of our community. We're very proud of that," said Paden. "I'm proud that I live in a house and on one side is a U.S. citizen from Ghana, on the other side, I have soldiers who work at Fort Belvoir, and next to them is a family from Bolivia. I think it's a great strength of

our area and we don't want to lose it, we don't want to get gentrified."

Chairman Sharon Bulova and the board gave unanimous support for the project.

"This truly is a transformative project and truly is exciting," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herryty

"It's a wonderful, wonderful corridor, it's

a corridor full of environmental treasures and a corridor especially full of historic treasures," said Bulova. "And Embark recognizes that and incorporates all those things into the plan. I think this is exciting, I congratulate you both," she said to Storck and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

"If you take anything away from this, take the solidarity of the people that testified," said McKay. "This has been a robust effort with a huge amount of community input." "The number one thing I say we need is action, we need to secure money and we need to get money," said McKay. "Too many times, I've seen communities focus on a perfect plan and lose the opportunity right in front of them. We're not going to let that happen with Route 1."

News

Blood Donation Opportunities

From Page 7

Burke
4/2/2018: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Rd
Fairfax
3/30/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
3/31/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/1/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/2/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/3/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/4/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/5/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/6/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/7/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/8/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/9/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/10/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/11/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/12/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/13/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/14/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/15/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

Volunteers Needed

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross is to become a volunteer transportation specialist and deliver lifesaving blood products to local area hospitals. Volunteer transportation specialists play a very important role in ensuring an ample blood supply for patients in need by transporting blood and blood products. For more information and to apply for a volunteer transportation specialist position, visit rdcrss.org/driver.

For more information, visit RedCross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

Girls on the Run Announces Three New Board Members

Girls on the Run of NOVA announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors. Joining the Board are Shruti Buckley, Felicia Faragasso, and Robert Hargreaves.

"All three of our new Board members embody the spirit of our Girls on the Run mission as well as bring a wealth of talent, expertise and energy to the table. We are very fortunate to have them by our side as we continue to inspire all girls

across the Northern Virginia region to be joyful, healthy, and confident," says Katey Comerford, GOTR NOVA's Executive Director.

Shruti Buckley is with Hilton as Senior Vice President and Global Head, Hampton by Hilton. She has more than 25 years of experience in the areas of global business management, brand strategy and analysis, consumer marketing and public relations.

She has seen the impact on the girls and wants to contribute to Girls on the Run of NOVA's future

growth.

Felicia Faragasso comes with passion for the GOTR NOVA mission and legal expertise as the Senior Legal/Contracts Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Ethics Officer with Exostar. An athlete growing up, Faragasso is a runner today and believes in the empowerment of girls and women.

Robert Hargreaves is with Discovery Communications as Director, Global Content Reporting and Analytics. He comes to the board with strong management and stra-

tegic planning skills. "When my daughter participated in GOTR NOVA, I found the lessons in self-confidence were so unique and so powerful for girls at that stage that I wanted to help the organization extend its service, and I am honored by this opportunity to serve on the Board," says Hargreaves.

Last year, GOTR NOVA served 4,903 girls with 921 volunteer coaches in 8 school districts across the Northern Virginia region.

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Photos courtesy of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

One goal of the workshop was to teach participants how to become a better handler and helper for the working dog.

K9 Teams Hold Workshop, Training

Recently, multiple local agencies with K9 teams from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue (VA-TF1), Fairfax County Police Department (PD), Prince William PD, and George Mason PD came together to train at the K9 Drive Building Workshop. The workshop was taught by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief (ret) Garrett Dyer at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.

One goal of the workshop was to teach participants how to become a better handler and helper for the working dog. First half of day consisted of lecture and discussion. The rest of the day involved field work with the K9 and handler to help enhance the K9's desire to detect their target odor.

There were also teams from out of the area including K9's from Massachusetts and Virginia Beach. It was a fantastic learning experience for all involved.

—Technician Trish
Danula/Fairfax County
Fire and Rescue



The workshop was held at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.

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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.

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 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Holy Week Worship at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. 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.kofk.org or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

Holy Week at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit www.pohick.org.

- Maundy Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.
- Good Friday, March 30: Good Friday Observance from noon-3 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 1: Lighting of the Paschal Candle at 5:30 a.m., Festival Holy Eucharist at 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Sunday Celebration. 10:30-noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite 205, Springfield. Special youth activities including an Easter egg hunt. Visit unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com.

Easter Sunday Service. 6:30 a.m. at Lee Chapel Cemetery (Intersection of Ffx County Pkwy & Lee Chapel Road), Burke. This is an outdoor worship sunrise service. Dress appropriately for the weather. From 1871 to 1951, Lee Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was the home of worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and remembrance for the people of Burke. The ground remains sacred space. All are welcome. Visit www.leechapelburke.org.

Easter Sunrise Service. 7-7:45 a.m. at The Circle at George Washington Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings, director of Youth Ministries, Aldersgate UMC presents "When Morning Meets Our Eyes." Hosted by the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon assisted by Boy Scout Troop 993. Bring a lawn chair. All are welcome. Free. Email mikej1013@verizon.net for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 2

Scholarship Deadline. Scholarship for research of local Civil War history — The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville, a 501 (3) c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides either in Fairfax County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. Information and application instructions can be found at bullruncwrt.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

Public Meeting: Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria. Join a third public information meeting hosted by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about plans to widen Richmond Highway from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. A brief presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Visit www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Public Meeting: Painting and Restriping. 7 p.m. in the Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, West Springfield. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a public meeting on 2018 paving and restriping efforts in the Springfield District. Information will be on display in an open house format, with a presentation at 7:15 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping.

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The Daze Continue To Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get bust dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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

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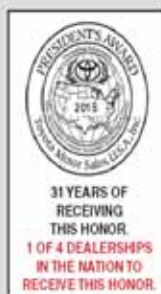
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