

Great Falls

Weingast/The Connection

by Bria

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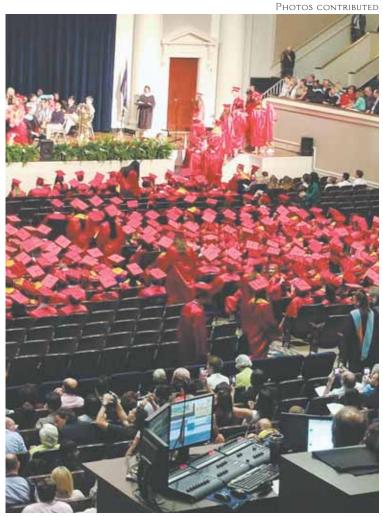
Langley High graduates toss their caps in the air at the conclusion of Langley High School Graduation Ceremony 2018 at the Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

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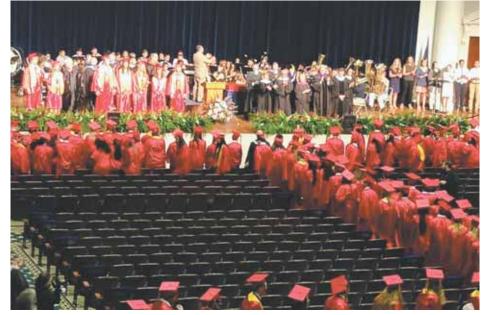
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McLean High School Graduation Ceremony 2018 was held Friday, June 8, at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



McLean Madrigals with Director Linda Martin and McLean Band with Director Chris Weise performed "Star Spangled Banner."

Graduating from McLean High



Following the commencement ceremony, it was time for family pictures. Here - McLean High graduate Marika Bak with (from left) Victor and Pat Kimm, Marika's grandparents, and Vicky and Bill Bak, Marika's parents.



Did You Know?

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Covanta wishes to express our sincere gratitude to our neighbors, Fairfax County and the Fire and Rescue Department for their cooperation while we worked to repair damage from a 2017 fire. We have successfully implemented new, state-of-the-art technologies to enhance fire prevention and response capabilities and look forward to serving the community for many years to come.

Please visit covanta.com/fairfax to learn more.



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Rexford Tugwell walks across the stage with diploma and fellow graduates at the Langley High School graduation 2018 ceremony.



Alum Bendan Shapiro addresses Langley High graduates as guest speaker.

Langley Graduates Encouraged to Conquer Challenges of Life

By Brian Weingast The Connection

or the class of 2018 and guest speaker Brendan Shapiro, gradu ating from Langley High School is not the only thing they have in common, they are both survivors. While the recent graduates of Langley High School endured four years of school construction, the alum from the class of 1995 faced the elements of Fiji as a contestant on the T.V. Show "Survivor."

In the packed auditorium of Constitution Hall on the Friday evening that many would later be celebrating the Washington Capitals Stanley Cup victory, Langley's class of 2018 had something to celebrate first, their own graduation. With friends and family in attendance, the graduates commemorated their time at Langley High School by acknowledging their achievements but also giving advice for their future.

SHAPIRO offered optimistic guidance for the young adults moving into the next chapter of their lives. After trying out and failing to become a contestant on "Survivor" 14 times, Shapiro was eventually chosen, becoming one of the oldest competitors in the show's history. At 41 years old he was 15 years older than the next closest contestant. As a gym teacher at Herndon, Shapiro explained how he never gave up hope, trying time after time to fulfill his dream of competing on the nationally televised show.

More people will summit Mount Everest this year than there has been contestant on "Survivor," Shapiro told the crowd. He encouraged the graduates to "take that risk" for they never know what may come from it. "Embrace uncertainty when it comes with a life well lived," he said.

Though he only lasted 11 days on the island, the experiences and friendships he

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Langley High Principal Fred Amico gives final speech to class of 2018.



land, the experiences and friendships he Langley High graduates toss their caps in the air.

"In life, I wish you are not devoid of challenges,for I know you can conquer them all." —Langley High Principal Fred Amico

made were well worth the 14 years of preparation, he said. Just as he did, Shapiro told the graduates to develop their resilience, as it will carry them places beyond their own expectations. For his last piece of advice Shapiro warned the graduates to "never let the fear of failure hinder where you're going."

Following Shapiro's speech, Langley Student Mallory Langpaul took to the podium to address her fellow graduates. Langpaul began by thanking the teachers and staff and recognizing the achievements of this special senior class. From golf state titles to Model U.N. awards, Langpaul listed the numerous accomplishment the class had achieved this past year.

Later on in her speech Langpaul told her peers to "enjoy the little things in life" as they go about creating their own path. "Commit to the journey not the outcome" she said, and you will be better off for it. In her parting words of wisdom for her classmates, Langpaul instructed the graduates to experience life and "enjoy the ride."

FOR THE FINAL SPEECH before the graduates received their diplomas, Principal Fred Amico imparted his words of wisdom for the last time, as he is retiring following this school year. "In life, I wish you are not devoid of challenges," he said to the seniors, "for I know you can conquer them all." Later quoting Robert Kennedy as he addressed the nation following the death of Martin Luther King, Amico told his students that "even in our sleep, pain which we cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God."

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FATHER'S DAY PHOTOS



Melodee Boos of Great Falls and her father Archie Rader fishing at Rehoboth Beach.



Rose and Gloria Boos, of Great Falls, both 14 and rising ninth graders at Langley High, and their grandfather Archie Rader getting ready to watch a scary movie, at a theater at Rehoboth Beach.

George Koklanaris and daughter Athena Koklanaris live in Great Falls. The photo to the left was taken May 2013, two weeks after Athena was born. Her daddy Col. 1 Koklanaris was deployed with the US Army to the Middle **East for Operation Enduring** Freedom in June 2013. The photo to the right was when he was reunited with her seven months later in November 2013 the night before Thanksgiving.





This picture was taken on a family vacation in March 2018 in Marco Island, Fla. Pictured — Granddaughter Eleni Kalka, 7; Grandfather David Whelan; Granddaughter Payton Whelan, 2; Granddaughter Parker Whelan, 5; Grandson, Thomas Kalka, 10. The family lives in Great Falls, in the FoxVale Farm subdivision.



'The Best Thing' in Dad's Life For Father's Day 2018, Ollie Gallardo of Herndon knows he is one lucky man as the dad of three daughters, Avalon, 11, Fiona, 7, and Lillian, 4. Gallardo says, "Watching them grow up as little people is the best thing in my life. I love being a dad!" Gallardo is frequently seen in downtown Herndon taking his girls out on their scooters and even bringing Bane, the family dog along for the fun.

Nancy Crotty's fourth grade class who are trying to help save Claude Moore Farm.



Fourth Graders Campaign to Save the Farm Photos by Brian Weingast/The Connection

A hands-on experience in civic activism at Forestville Elementary.

> BY BRIAN WEINGAST The Connection

fter learning about the functions of gov ernment in social studies, the fourth grade students at Forestville Elementary are now applying their lessons outside the classroom. Lead by their teacher Nancy Crotty, these young students are exercising their rights as they campaign to save the local historical site, Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

Once a thriving tobacco farm in the 1770s, the land off Georgetown Pike is now a living museum. Located directly adjacent to the CIA headquarters, the colonial farm served as a highway dumping ground before it was restored by the National Park Service in the 1970s. The site was operated by the NPS until Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm incorporated to operate the park in the early 1980s and secured a 30-year lease agreement.

Though the colonial farm has been host to more than 2 million visitors since then, the long term agreement has now expired and negotiations with the NPS have stalled, according to the Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, leading the park service to force the closure of Claude Moore Farm this December.

"The National Park Service then communicated that it will close

the Claude Moore Colonial Farm on December 21, 2018," the friends group announced on its website, quoting the Park Service as saying: "On that date, the Friends of Claude Moore Colonial Farm's opera- rallies to draw attention to the issue however the tions at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm will conclude, and the entire site will be closed to the public, staff and volunteers."

These plans however have faced sharp resistance from the community, including from U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock.

After reading about the park's closure in the news-

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Forestville Elementary fourth graders Jack Cleveland, Evan Troy and Kriesh Tivare show the poster they made to help save the colonial farm.

paper, Forestville social studies teacher Nancy Crotty gave her fourth grade classes the project-based learning assignment to help save the farm. Conducting their own research about the farm's history, operations, and events the students grouped together to make posters advocating against the NPS's decision.

While completing the assignment the students learned about the importance of the colonial farm and its value as an educational resource. "The farm helps you see what it was like back then in your own eyes," said Daisy Whaley, a student in Crotty's

"The farm helps you see what it was like back then in your own eyes." -Daisy Whaley, Fourth grader at Forestville Elementary

homeroom class. When asked why they wanted to save the farm, another student Sophia Ojo explained that it gives a real perspective of how people lived back then. "I won't take things for granted," she said, "They had lived without air conditioning, appliances, or even bathrooms."

In addition to their posters, the fourth grade students have writ-

ten letters to both the NPS and representative Comstock in support of her proposed legislation to save farm.

The management of Claude Moore Farm has held future of this cherished community site is still uncertain. As the worried fourth grader, Kriesh Tivare explained, if Claude Moore closes, "there won't be any more farms in the area to provide the same experience".

To learn more about the farm and how to get involved visit www.1771.org/savethefarm.



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OPINION Medicaid Expansion Will Save Lives

Almost too many benefits to count that will help all Virginians, including economic stimulus.

he benefits are huge. The Virginia General Assembly, finally motivated by the huge change in the House of Delegates wrought by energized voters last November, passed a budget that included expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that finally accepting the available federal money to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act could stimulate the creation of 30,000 jobs.

Just including the expansion in the Editorial budget made hundreds of millions of extra dollars available for other priorities.

It will make all of us who live and work in Virginia healthier via "herd immunity." Ensuring that our fellow residents have access to healthcare, to medications to treat contagious illnesses, to vaccinations, to preventive and acute care protects all of us. We don't want the people who shop with us, ride with us on the Metro or wait in line at motor vehicles to be sick without a reasonable way to be treated. We want the people around us to be healthy. It makes everyone healthier.

In Northern Virginia, tens of thousands of people who are living without health insurance

LETTERS What About Park Service?

To the Editor:

So there is an argument between those who operate Claude Moore Colonial Farm and the National Park Service. Most of us understand what the operators want, but no one, including The Connection, has said what the Park Service wants or its view of how the park should be operated.

> **Betty Stacey** McLean

Pride of Being Americans

To the Editor:

I recently spent 6 days in Arlington Hospital. I talked to staff members from at least 14 countries, including Bangladesh and Somalia. Each took pride in his or her job and in the hospital team. Most noticeable greatest country in the world.

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will be eligible. Hundreds of thousands of people across the state will gain access.

Virginia has bypassed about \$10 billion by not having expanded Medicaid since it was

possible. It's not perfect, but now it is done. "Health care is not a privilege: It is a right,"

said state Sen. Dick Saslaw, highlighting the importance. "A lot of us here have had a lot of breaks in our lives, but there are many others out there who do not get these breaks. They work hard, but for one reason or another things don't turn out right for them. These people need our help, and we have done that."

Other perspectives on the benefits: "As a mother of an Autistic child, I know just how important Medicaid is

for many things here in Virginia. Medicaid helps fund not just our schools but also our Special Education programs here in Virginia," said Monica Hutchinson, organizer for New Virginia Majority. "This expansion will have a ripple effect. Not only will hundreds of thousands of Virginians receive the care they deserve, but our schools will also receive extra money in their annual budgets.'

"Now, nearly 400,000 Virginians can see a doctor without fear of financial ruin," Del. Kathy Tran said. "Last election, voters made it clear that increasing access to healthcare is the top issue for our Commonwealth."

"As fewer and fewer people have employerpaid health coverage for themselves, much less their families, elections have consequences that can mean the difference between life and death," said Jaime Contreras, a vice president at 32BJ SEIU.

"The budget's inclusion of a bipartisan compromise plan to drawdown available federal funds to help hundreds of thousands of hardworking, uninsured Virginians gain health care coverage will promote public health improvements, job growth, economic vitality, and strengthen our health delivery system," said Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton.

"We are especially thrilled that some 7,000 Arlingtonians now will have healthcare coverage - this legislative action will improve outcomes for their health and welfare, strengthen our workforce, and help our community and the Commonwealth," said Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board chair.

AARP Virginia State Director Jim Dau said the bipartisan effort increases access to health care for 400,000 Virginians, including 95,000 people over 50 who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

"We have been fighting to expand Medicaid for years and I'm so proud to have been a part of the team that finally got it done. This achievement will dramatically improve the lives of real people in communities across the Commonwealth, including over 5,600 people in the 49th district," said Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49)

Taking the Summer Off

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

s a teacher for a few years I was often chided by friends as hav ing a "cushy" job getting all summer off from work. Other teachers get the same reaction from those who know little about the profession and certainly have no experience being in the classroom.

In many jobs if you are having an off day, not feeling well, or just need a break it is possible to let some of the requirements of work slide until the next day. Not so with teaching: every day in the classroom you have to be on-ready to face eager students and the challenges and opportunities they present. I continue to be impressed by teachers who can be enthusiastic and understanding early in the morning through afternoon five days a week from fall through spring. That's why that summer break is so important. And furthermore, you need the summer to take that additional course or workshop for updating your credentials, work that second or third job to balance the family budget, or recharge your mental and emotional batteries. For anyone with a was the pride all had in being Ameri- different opinion about the challenges teachers face, cans. These are the new citizens who visit some classrooms or better still teach for a while will continue to make America the or substitute. You will soon learn why teachers are among the people I most admire.

My current "job" of being a legislator may get the Jack K Tarr same reaction from some who are not aware that McLean the regular session of a couple of months of time



spent in the State Capitol is just part of the job. Members of the General Assembly are considered citizen legislators with other responsibilities and are paid as part-time workers. Actually, the position can take as much time as a legislator can devote to it and the voters are willing to tolerate. Having retired from my full-time job in 1996 I happily devote full time to my legislative duties. Every two years I have to reapply to vot-

ers to keep my job, and with a two-year term some time every other year is devoted to campaigning.

During every year there are study committees and commissions that meet when the legislature is not in session. This week I participated in a meeting of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) of which I am a member. We provide oversight to the operation of state government including financial and management audit, reviews of the performance of state agencies and conducting studies on topics as requested by the legislature. I also serve on the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) that has meetings in the interim to consider future legislation and emerging science and technology issues. There are many other groups that work between legislative sessions.

Having a break for the summer from going to work as a teacher, legislator or other worker does not mean you are not working. We all need some mini-vacation times of long weekends or a real vacation to recharge our mental batteries. We can do a better job as a result.



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses. Published by

Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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BULLETIN BOARD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a

volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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

search McLean CBC.

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

> **Public Safety Program.** 7:30 p.m. at McLean Governmental Center Community Rooms, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The June McLean Citizens Association Public Safety Program will focus on the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor. The Auditor, Richard G. Schott, will provide a presentation to explain his responsibilities and to answer questions. Visit mcleancitizens.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 16

FCCPTA Leadership Training Summit. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. The Spring 2018 PTA Leadership Training Summit will provide training and leadership development for PTA officers, committee chairs and leaders in preparation for the 2018-19 school year. Visit www.fccpta.org. **Examined Life Workshop.** 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road,

Oakton. Twenty-one steps of self-inquiry and growth for those who have found themselves at a crossroads in their lives will be the topic of a workshop by Jungian analyst and author James Hollis, Ph.D. The half-day workshop is based on Hollis' book, Living An Examined Life: Wisdom for the Second Half of the Journey. Suggested donation is \$20. To register, visit unityoffairfax.org/events. Call 703-281-1767 or visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 17

Mozart's Mass in C Major KV220. 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown

See Bulletin, Page 15



Let us know about an upcoming event

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

Adopt Donate Volunteer

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.





kindergarten programs are full-day and located

webpage or contact the school directly for

kindergarten-registration.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

specific enrollment information and dates of

Community Workshop. 7-9 p.m. in the McLean High School cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road,

McLean. The study focuses on the 230-acre area

that's called the McLean Community Business

More commonly called downtown McLean. this

is the area centered around the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Old Dominion Drive.

This workshop will focus on planning, design

and placemaking. Residents who plan to attend are encouraged to RSVP, visit eventbrite.com,

Center in the county's Comprehensive Plan.

orientationor visit www.fcps.edu/registration/

in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's

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Lake Fairfax Pa

HomeLifeStyle

Preparing Home for Summer

From finding spaces for wet swimsuits and school papers to adding new throw pillows, small touches can add a warm-weather feel.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

hen school ends and summer begins, a home's functionality can change. From backpacks overflowing with a school year's worth of school papers and art projects that need a home to bedrooms that call for a warm weather refresh, local designers suggest small tweaks to interior spaces that can yield a big impact.

From breezy white sheets to beach-themed accessories, summer calls for a lightening up of home decor, advises interior designer Anne Madden of Mount Vernon. "I always encourage clients to refresh their home decor during warmer months," she said. "Remove heavy bed linens that were meant to keep you cozy and replace them with light and airy linens in neutral or cool colors. This is also a good time to swap out throw pillows made from heavy fabrics like wool and incorporate pillows made from lighter fabrics like linen into your home's design."

In addition to changing bedroom accessories, summer is also good time to breathe new life into bathroom decor. "Take an inventory of your linen closet and replace towels that are worn and frayed with thick, fluffy ones," said Madden. "Make sure your shower curtain and liner are fresh and free of mildew. If they aren't, replace those too,"

Corralling pool necessities into a designated space is a key to maintaining an organized home during the summer, advises professional organizer Susan Unger of Clutter SOS. "When preparing to head to the pool with your children, it's a real time saver to have an area in the laundry room, entry or garage where all the necessary items are kept and they don't

need to gathered up each time," she said. "Keep a beach bag loaded with sunscreen, towels, snacks, toys and clothes. Perhaps each child could even have their own beach bag. Have a designated area in your home for wet towels and suits to be hung up to dry when returning home."

Create a space that is dedicated to summer crafts in a way that doesn't overtake a home's aesthetic, suggests Unger. "Having a



to dry when

returning home."

Adding throw pillows in light, airy colors like the one is the room by Annie Elliott Interiors, can make a space appear ready for summer.

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Adding new towels and shower curtain in light and airy colors, like those in the bathroom by Annie Elliott Interiors, can add a touch of summer to a bathroom.

separate crafts table for children is great or if space is an issue covering the kitchen table with a plastic tablecloth will work also," she said. "It also helpful to have a separate cart with plastic drawers or a small shelving unit with plastic bins to house craft items. I like plastic because it is washable."

Each drawer or bin can house items like paint,

marker, crayons, coloring books or construction paper, continued "Have a designated Unger. "Put a printed label on each drawer or bin," she said. "I like to area in your home add a picture of the item as well for wet towels and which encourages younger children to start developing reading suits to be hung up skills. They are then also able to match the item to the container when it comes to putting away the supplies. It is never to early to encourage cleaning after themselves. - Susan Unger, Clutter SOS

The beginning of summer is a great time to sort through school papers and art projects collected

thought out the year, says Unger. "As the parent, it will make it easier for your child if you do a presort and get rid of all the schedules, notices and worksheets before involving your child in the process," she said. "Then you both can decide on the special items to keep. I like to use a plastic file bin for each child and put each year's items in a hanging file with the grade on the file tab. This also creates a limited amount of space for the selected items to keep.

If you haven't already done so, schedule a maintenance service appointment for your HVAC system, suggests Maden. "It's better to spend the money now to make sure it's in good working order than to wait until breaks down during a heatwave and be at the mercy of overbooked repair companies," she said.





Publishes: July 25, 2018 · Ads close: July 19, 2018

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on July 25, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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The Next Theatrical Generation Takes the Stage

The 19th Annual 2018 **Cappies Award Gala** honors area high school talent.

> By Andrea Worker The Connection

hile the current crop of Broadway luminaries were receiving their Tony awards in New York on Sunday, June 10, the next generation of theatrical stars were being equally feted ----and showcasing their many talents — at the 19th Annual Cappies Awards Gala in the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"Lead Players" Erich DeCinzo, Phil Reid, and Diane Poirier, together with hosts and Cappies Governing Board members -Judy Bowns and Janie Strauss kept things moving along with abundant witty repartee throughout the three-hour event. With musical numbers and dramatic scenes performed by cast members from some of the Cappies nominated shows, audience enthusiasm never waned, from the opening number "Come On, Get Cappies," (sung to the tune of "Get Happy," written by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler, and adapted by Judy Garland as one of her signature songs) to the show-stopping finale, featuring a number composed by long-time Cappies musical director, Chris Johnston, who teaches musical composition at the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts, when not conducting the Annandale Northern Virginia Community College Symphony Orchestra.

AWARDS were presented in 39 categories, ranging from actors/actresses in lead and supporting roles in plays and musicals, vocalists, costumes, choreography, orchestra, technical arts such as Lighting, Sets and Sounds and many more.

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the District took home the prizes for Best Play ("The Rimers of Eldritch") and for Best Actor and Actress in that production, but there were plenty of students and performances from Northern Virginia, from Alexandria to Leesburg, that won the votes of the 436 student critics who had reviewed five or more shows to become eligible Cappies Awards voters.

Kyle Dalsimer from Annandale High School was named best in the Lead Actor in a Musical category for his performance in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The Oakton HS "Titanic Band" was tops in Orchestra.

Olympia Hatzilambrou must have wowed as the Female Vocalist in Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's "Mary Poppins."

John Henry Stamper from Westfield High School in Chantilly took the top Male Vo-

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Abby Comey's performance in McLean High School's production of "9-5: The Musical" won her the top prize for a Comic Actress in a Musical.



Katherine Kelly from McLean High School received the Maryland **Theatre Guide Returning Critic** Award.

calist honors as the "Phantom of the Opera."

And the award for Musical of the Year went to Robinson Secondary School for their production of "Monty Python's Spamalot." The audience was treated to the song "Knights of the Round Table" by the Robinson crew early in the program.

THE LIST of talented young winners in the region goes on - and can be found on the Cappies website www.cappies.com/nca.

The Cappies were established in the wake of the Columbine High School massacre in 1997. The vision of the late William Strauss, co-founder of the Capitol Steps political satire review, and brought to life with his partnership with Judy Bowns, the Cappies began as an effort to "bring positive attention to teenagers engaged in creative pursuits."

Their mission has expanded to include opportunities for constructive critical feedback for the theatrical activities of those youth, to honor the advisors, mentors, and teachers, as well as the students, and to provide a truly unique collaborative learning experience for high school theatre students.



The Critics Team Award went to the participants from McLean High School. From left, Helen Ganley, Rachel Kulp. Emily Lachow, Kristen Waagner, Katherine Kelly, and Mary Kate Ganley.



From left, Ashley Winegarden and Kristen Waagner. The duo won for their choreography for the McLean High School's production of "9-5: The Musical."

The nonprofit organization has also expanded outside of the immediate area in around the country, and an additional three June 16 at www.fcps.edu/tv.

WINNERS

Category, Winner, Show Name, School Name Andy Mays Rising Critic, Sarah Bourgeois, Westfield High School

Maryland Theatre Guide Returning Critic, Katherine Kelly, McLean High School

Special Effects and or Technology, Jack Griggs, Diego Maldonado, JD Mayer, Titanic, Oakton

High School Sound, Victoria de Dios & Emma Clark, Dogfight,

West Potomac High School Props, Lily Shirley, The Odd Couple, H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program

Lighting, Kayla Claussen, Jessica Steadman, and WPHS Lighting team, Dogfight, West Potomac High School

Orchestra, The Titanic Band, Titanic, Oakton High School

Choreography Kristen Waagner, Ashley Winegarden, 9 to 5 the Musical, McLean High

School Ensemble in a Musical, Jarheads, Dogfight, West Potomac High School

in Canada.

The telecast of the 2018 Cappies Gala can those nineteen years, adding nine chapters be viewed online beginning on Saturday,

- Female Vocalist, Olympia Hatzilambrou, Mary Poppins, Thomas Jefferson High School for Sci/
- Tech Male Vocalist, John Henry Stamper, The Phantom of the Opera, Westfield High School
- Comic Actress in a Play, Annie Silva, Pride and Prejudice, Chantilly High School
- Comic Actress in a Musical, Abby Comey, 9 to 5 the Musical, McLean High School
- Comic Actor in a Musical, Xavier Molina, The Drowsy Chaperone, Wakefield High School Supporting Actress in a Musical, Mely Megahed,
- Phantom, South Lakes High School Supporting Actor in a Musical, Nico Ochoa, Monty Python's Spamalot, Robinson Secondary School
- Lead Actor in a Musical, Kyle Dalsimer, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Annandale High
- School Song, Some Kind of Time, Dogfight, West Potomac High School
- Critic Team, McLean High School Musical, Monty Python's Spamalot, Robinson

Secondary School

Sports

Great Falls and Reston Soccer Merge

Coach Radovan Pletka talks about his experience, vision.

> By Samuel Nicol The Connection

he Reston Soccer Association and Great Falls Soccer Club merged in March of this year, combining to form one club of around 2,600 players. The merger has been a subject of discussion for years now, but only recently came to fruition after careful coordination between members of the Reston and Great Falls Boards of Directors.

Radovan Pletka worked as a coach for both the Reston and Great Falls clubs since 2008 before becoming the Technical Director at GFSC in 2015. On a Tuesday night practice, parents dropping their kids off for practice, praised "Coach Rado's" work ethic and dedication. The girls on his team would call out to him before showing off a trick or taking a shot, and when they were successful he would go over and give them a high five before pretending to shine their cleats. He was happy to discuss the merger, his time in the world of soccer, and where he sees youth soccer in Northern Virginia heading in the coming years.In interview, both in person and in exchange of e-mails, Pletka shared his life story.

"If there was a song written about my background, it will go something like this: An African kid, born in the Czech Republic, adopted by a tall, blonde, blue eyed Czech guy who married my mother, shipped off immediately to Ghana, and found myself in a boarding school from age 9, where most of my friends were refugees from other war torn African countries. At 15, I met my real mom, step father who is the only father I have known and my half-brother and sister when I moved to Burke, Virginia. Three years later, I left for college, a person torn between his birth mother and mother that raised him, who was semi-adopted by a Jewish family and one of his best friends is Libyan. Francis Marion College gave me a full scholarship for soccer. I had a good two



Coach Radovan Pletka, on the right, directing his team through their drills.



Great Pans-Reston girls 015 warming up

years there but I was often injured so I transferred to play and finish my final two years at George Mason University. Upon graduating, I moved to Greece to play profession-

ally but I never had luck with injuries. After two years I moved back to Northern Virginia where I settled and became involved in Youth Soccer in 2005. I first started as a

Photos by Samuel Nicol/The Connection

trainer before becoming a coach and ultimately the Technical Director of Great Falls-Reston Soccer. I needed a warrior's mentality because I have essentially been on my own since age 9. If the option is fight or flight, I don't think twice about it, I fight because it's the only way I know how to survive."

COMPARING THE SOCCER when he played it and now, Pletka said:

"There is more talent now than when I played but more people made it to a higher level then than now. I see several players who are more technical and with more ability at age 14 than I had at age 16."

Discussing the merger of the Great Falls and Reston soccer clubs, his role in that and the community reaction, Pletka said:

"I used to coach in both Reston and Great Falls. When I was coaching in Reston, I used to talk to Rich Shelton, who is now the Executive Director and my direct boss in the newly merged GFR, about a merger a lot. We used to say that it makes sense for both these clubs to merge in order to be stronger, offer better and more programs, and be able to compete against the bigger clubs. So when I left Reston to become the Technical Director at Great Falls, Rich and I continued the discussions. We also had very good people on both boards who supported and worked selflessly to make it happen.

"I am excited about the direction of GFR because we really have a good vision and mission in place. I really believe that in the years to follow, we will be one of the few clubs of choice in the area and hopefully the best. I have good bosses, and a great coaching staff helping set the club in the direction we want to go. I am also glad to mention that there are several people in other clubs with the right mindset and intentions to improve youth soccer so I am optimistic.

"My new goal after the merger is to ensure that starting 2020, we will be able to produce 20 college players each year."

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the merger, Great Falls Reston Soccer created a fact sheet that is available online at www.greatfallssoccer.com



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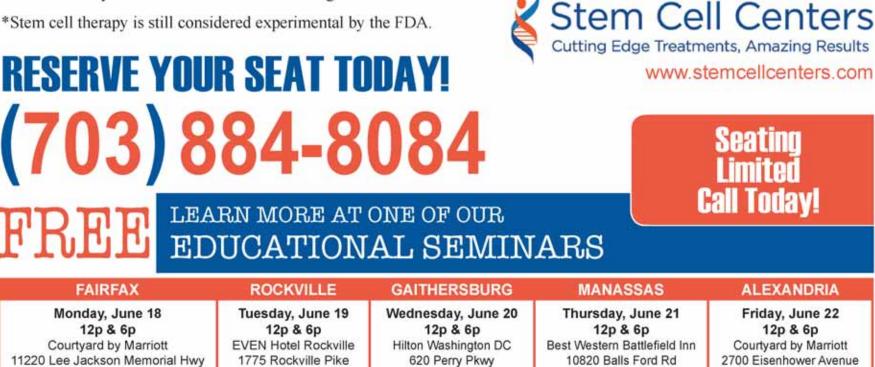
Stem Cell Centers is a national network of surgeons and top doctors who all collaborate on important research studies on numerous conditions. The results from these ongoing studies help us to determine the best protocols to use to treat patients throughout our network. Our doctors are trained to utilize all the available types of stem cells currently allowed for clinical use in this country. Research indicates that different types of stem cells may have better success in treating different conditions.

*Stem cell therapy is still considered experimental by the FDA.





NEUROPATHY



CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Swimming with Whales." Through June 24, Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. This world premiere production invites audiences into a world of healing, compassion, and renewal. While Visiting his family's secluded cottage on the shores of the Atlantic ocean, Owen, a typically urban 15-year-old boy, and his fisherman father clash until an unlikely and healing communion with an injured whale awakens in Owen a forgotten boyhood and connection with the sea. General admission, \$33; senior (65+), \$30; student and military, \$15. Closed captions and audio description will be offered for select performances. Purchase tickets at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

Photography Exhibit: "Nature's Palette." Through June 30, at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Cindy Dibbs takes every opportunity to enjoy and photograph nature whether hiking in Great Falls National Park, Glacier National Park or strolling along the beach. Her photos reflect the beauty of nature and she hopes the images will inspire others to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature. Visit www.cindydibbs.com.

Vienna Art Society Exhibition. Through late June at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Visit viennaartssociety.org.

- Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.noon, Saturdays, through Nov. 3 at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Farmers Market, hosted by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, has more than 30 vendors from across the region, the Vienna Farmers Market provides locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and homemade eats. Throughout the year, great music will be featured to accompany your shopping. Visit www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/
- for more. Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Yearround weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit communityfoodworks.org. Great Falls Farmers Market.
- Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grassfed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.
- Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.
- The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc org
- Historicviennainc.org Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire



Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/ bingo.html.

- Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.
- The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.
 Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily,
- www.goldengins.org. **Colvin Run Mill** open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.
- Fishing Rod Rentals. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during Visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/ reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/riverbend-park/.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13 Summer on the Green:

Rocknocerous. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Sponsored by Vienna Moms, Inc. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAYTHURSDAY/JUNE 13-14

Studio Ghibli: Princess Mononoke. Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the

'Exploring Colors & Textures'

A solo painting exhibition by Ramin Abrahim. An opening reception is planned for Friday, June 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Exhibit runs June 22-July 31, gallery hours at IACC, Pars Place, 2236-C Gallows Road, Vienna. Email info@iacommunitycenter.org or call 703-314-7240 gallery hours.

By Ramin Abrahim

celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 14

Opening Reception: "Too Much of Too Much." 7-9 p.m. in the Bullock | Hitt Gallery at MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Project for the Arts will open "Too Much of Too Much: Overstimulated, Overexposed, and Overextended," featuring works by mid-Atlantic artists whose works explore the ideas of overstimulation, excessiveness and bombardment, be it through too much information, activity, expectation, or by any other means. The exhibit runs June 14-Aug. 18. RSVP for reception at mpaart.org.

JUNE 14-AUG. 18

Art Exhibit: "Too Much of Too Much." Gallery hours in the Bullock | Hitt Gallery at MPA@ChainBridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Project for the Arts will open "Too Much of Too Much: Overstimulated, Overexposed, and Overextended," featuring works by mid-Atlantic artists whose works explore the ideas of overstimulation, excessiveness and bombardment, be it through too much information, activity, expectation, or by any other means. Visit mpaart.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 15

- Read for Fun. Fairfax County Public Library helps make reading fun by providing tools, access and incentives during its Summer Reading Adventure. The Summer Reading Adventure runs June 15-Sept. 1 and invites all children and teens – birth through high school – to read for fun over the summer. The theme in 2018 is "Reading Takes You Everywhere." Visit research.fairfaxcounty.gov/ summer-reading for more.
- Chillin' on Church with The Rockits. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Sons Concert Series: Ryan Cabrera. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/ events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 17

Concerts on the Green: Wes Tucker and The Skillets. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 19

Kids on the Green: Mr. Gabe. 10 a.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Fun, interactive, and entertaining series of programs tailored for the younger ones. The free performances each Tuesday through July 24. Call 703-255-7842 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

Summer Stories, Songs, and Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the lawn of the Freeman Store, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Young children and families are invited to listen to a story, tune into some favorite songs, then have a little casual fun with water sprinklers at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, June 20-Aug. 8 (except July 4). Free and appropriate for all ages. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

- Shoot the Moon. 2-3 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. In "Intro to Astronomical Photography," students will study photographic techniques for capturing images of the sun and moon. Discover how to shoot the moon in daylight and safe methods for capturing images of the sun. Designed for participants age 10 to adult. Bring a digital camera with a telephoto lens. \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ turner-farm for more.
- Learn Why the Sky is Blue. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Come to Observatory Park for "Rainbows, Haloes & Glories" to learn about these and other open sky phenomena. The program will cover sunrise and sunset phenomena, too, such as the green flash and purple light. Also discover why the sky is blue and sunsets are orange. For participants age 6 to adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ turner-farm for more.

WEDNESDAYTHURSDAY/JUNE 20-21 Studio Ghibli: Nausicaa.

Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Japanese with English subtitles); Thursday, 11 a.m. (English dubbed) at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. The Angelika Mosaic will feature animated films from the celebrated Studio Ghibli praised for their originality, stunning animation, and ambitious storytelling. All tickets are regular admission. Visit www.AngleikaFilmCenter.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 21

Live Music: Ciaran Lavery. 7 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Jammin Java presents local, regional and nationally touring acts seven nights a week in an intimate, enjoyable setting. \$12 advance, \$15 day of. Visit ciaranlaverymusic.com or www.jamminjava.com for more.

JUNE 21-OCT. 31

Row by Row Junior. Local quilt shop proprietors like Jinny Beyer Studio in Great Falls are welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial support and activities online by visiting www.rowbyrowexperience.com or jinnybeyer.com for local quilting.

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

- **Tysons Concert Series: Mandisa.** 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/ events/SummerConcertSeries2018.
- Summer on the Green: Wayne Tympanick Trio. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.
- **Opening Reception: "Exploring Colors & Textures.**" 6:30-9:30 p.m. at IACC, Pars Place, 2236-C Gallows Road, Vienna. A solo painting exhibition by Ramin Abrahim. Adults only. Email info@iacommunitycenter.org or call 703-314-7240 for more.

JUNE 22-JULY 31

Art Exhibit: "Exploring Colors & Textures." Gallery hours at IACC, Pars Place, 2236-C Gallows Road, Vienna. A solo painting exhibition by Ramin Abrahim. Email info@iacommunitycenter.org or call 703-314-7240 gallery hours.

SATURDAY/JUNE 23

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent books will be accepted. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions: aauwbookfair@ gmail.com or 703-527-4206.

SUNDAY/JUNE 24

- Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. At Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Focus will be on garden diseases. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.
- Alden Summer Concerts: Tim Kubart and the Space Cadets. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. The Alden's 2018 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park expand this year to include a "welcome, summer" concert, and then seven concerts from July 1 through Aug. 12. Visit www.aldentheatre.org for more. Concerts on the Green: The Alan Scott Band. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Sundays throughout the summer, bring a picnic and chairs for an evening of
- free, live music. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

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14 Screat Falls Connection SJune 13-18, 2018

BULLETIN

From Page 7

Pike, McLean. St. John's Episcopal Church choir will sing Mozart's Mass in C Major KV220 during the service of Holy Eucharist. The choir will be accompanied by violins, trumpets, and organ. All are welcome. No tickets are required. Call 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 14

Design Public Hearing. 7-9 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. VDOT will hold a design public hearing on plans to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity in the Tysons area. Improvements include a new 10-foot shared-use pathfrom near Tysons One Place and Fashion Boulevard to Route 123 and Old Meadow Road via a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-495. A presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. Provide comments at the meeting, or send them to VDOT by June 29, 2018. Email or mail comments to Mr. Abi Lerner, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Visit www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/ bike-ped_improvements.asp for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 19

- I-CARE Seminar. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard St. NW, Vienna. I-CARE Healthy Living Seminar, part of a series of events designed to aid seniors' longevity, health and enjoyment. This one will be a two-hour, hands-on workshop on how to cook vegan food at home. Free and open to the public. Register at the door. Visit icareabouthealth.net for more.
- **Extended Care Planning.** 6:45-7:45 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. What would you do if you required extended care? How would you pay for care? How would your loved ones be affected? Learn about planning and funding a plan. Limited seating. Confirm attendance at karyl@ltccinc.com or 703-346-6601.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

- Keeping Your Loved One Safe. 1-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Fairfax. As the brain changes, abilities change too. Learn about potential safety issues, balancing safety with independence, and ways to keep a loved one safe at home and away. This program is a part of Insight's Classes for Caregivers series. Free Respite care may be available by request; please call to make arrangements. Register online, or call 703-204-4664 or email lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.
- 4664 or email lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org. **2018 Annual Meeting.** 7 p.m. at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean. Highlights will feature reports on the financial condition of the Tysons McLean Orchestra, a summary of artistic achievements, administrative developments, challenges addressed and those faced, and a vision for the future. The agenda will include election of Officers and Trustees and recognition of those who have provided vital support. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by June 18, at info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or 703-893-8646.

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

Bike to Market Week. 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Fairfax County Farmers Markets will be celebrating Bike to Market Week at select locations in collaboration with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. Bring family and friends along and receive a free bike map and giveaways. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets or call 703-642-0128.

SATURDAY/JUNE 23

Women's Summit 2018. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Network NoVA presents their second Women's Summit to continue the grassroots momentum of building coalitions across the state to flip Virginia's Congressional delegation blue in November. This weekend event for women and men will feature speakers, workshops, an advocacy fair, congressional row, and most importantly, network opportunities. \$65. Visit networknova.org for more.





By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Usually I'm able to write my column because something is on my mind, or at least percolating in there somewhere. At the moment, nothing is on my mind or even remotely percolating. The reason for this lack of percolation is that as of Saturday, eight days after my last chemotherapy infusion, I still haven't been able to think clearly in my mind – or out of it, because I've spent the past week wallowing in it.

The post-chemotherapy experience to which I vaguely refer is the primary side effect of the drug with which I am infused. For the week or so following my treatment, I am not quite myself (nor am I anybody else for that matter). I am dull and void.

I am not interested in most tasks and less inclined to concern myself with trivialities and/or any responsibilities related or not. I am simply biding time, usually lying on the bed, fully dressed but minimally engaged. Sights and sounds don't bother me but neither do they motivate me in the slightest.

I am not exactly a shell of my former self, but the chemotherapy has definitely hollowed out a place for itself. Eating and drinking is very challenging. Consequently, I have difficulty swallowing the 60-odd pills that I take every day. If I'm not careful I will become less medicated and more constipated. As a direct result, I will sleep throughout the day – and night. Furthermore, I risk becoming dehydrated and vitamin and nutrient deficient.

Let me be clear: this column is not about me dying, or the feelings that I have during this post-chemotherapy "weak" thinking that I am. Hardly. It's more an attempt to explain – and perhaps justify, the minimal creative thinking I've engaged in this past week preparing to write this column. It reminds me of a particular Seinfeld episode when George explained to Jerry why he was unable to lie his way out of dinner with J. Peterman: "I dug down and there was nothing there."

All of the previous paragraphs being written, compared to myriad complications I could be experiencing – and am not, as well as the premature death "prognosed" by my oncologist: "13 months to two years" back in late February 2009, I am quite the opposite of a victim of my circumstances. I am a survivor. Nine-plus years. Though still an active patient and one never characterized as a N.E.D. ("no evidence of disease"), I continue to look forward not backward. My life is ahead of me, not behind. To invoke an old reference: "It beats Bermuda off-season."

When "Team Lourie" asked my oncologist back in early '09 if I could possibly live beyond my prognosis, he was not particularly encouraging. I remember him saying: "Could you be the one? Sure." ("One" being the operative word.)

And in the context of all that he was explaining/outlining, hardly was it offered up with any enthusiasm. It was more a verbal life preserver (no pun intended). Something for us to grasp as we continued to discuss and then ultimately decided to begin chemotherapy infusions six days later on the following Wednesday.

And here I still am, June 9, 2018, "Chronic Ken," as I've previously "monikered" myself.

I'm living proof of one of the recent goals of lung cancer research: to change a previously terminal diagnosis from a death sentence into a life sentence. And I can live with that, hopefully for many years. I have no doubt that research/ clinical studies will make it all a reality.

New drugs/treatment protocols are being approved almost daily it seems, by the F.D.A. In fact, as many drugs have been approved in the past few years as had been approved in the previous decade. I have treatment choices now that I've never had before, immunotherapy is but one example.

As far as the subject matter for this week's column, this is all I could muster. I hope you don't mind.

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

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