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Great Falls

CONNECTION

Faustina DuFrain, 5, lifts a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch of Krop's Crops in Great Falls during the Halloween Outing on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018.

Autumn Fun At Krop's Crops

NEWS, PAGE 4

**Forget the Polls:
Follow the Money**

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Contamination
Clean Up Completed**

NEWS, PAGE 3

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ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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BULLETIN

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

FOOD DRIVES

Food Drive. Through Nov. 9. Drop-off canned goods at Sheehy INFINITI of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive to benefit food banks serving each community. Benefiting food banks include the Oxon Hill Food Pantry, ECHO, Manna Food Center, Central Virginia Food Bank, Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES), Fauquier Food Bank, House of Mercy, Emmaus Center, Samaritan Project, The Light House, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Perry Hall United Methodist Church, SERVE,

Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank and Food for Others.

Scouting for Food. Starting Nov. 3, Scouts will post reminder flyers to homes throughout area, then return to collect non-perishable food items that will nourish the area's hungry on Nov. 10. Scouting for Food is held every fall prior to Thanksgiving. Local food banks rely on it to stock their shelves for the upcoming holiday months, when food demands are the greatest. Items in highest demand include: canned protein (tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter); soups and stews (beef stew, chili, meat-based soups); 100 percent fruit juices (all sizes); grains (pasta, whole grain pasta, rice, brown rice, boxed macaroni and cheese); cereals

(multi-grain, low sugar cereals, oatmeal); canned vegetables; canned fruits; condiments; and hygiene products (diapers, toilet paper, tissues, soap, toothpaste). Visit www.ncacbsa.org for more.

Food for Fines. Nov. 1-30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called "Food for Fines." Canned goods and other non-perishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation that serves Fairfax County. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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CALENDAR

			1	2	3
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10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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about an
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ORGANIC VEGETABLES

For more than ten years, Wild Ginger in Great Falls has been serving quality, warm, and loving meals to our community. With our new menu, we offer a unique spin on classical Thai and Chinese cuisine. Wild Ginger is also the only restaurant in the area serving organic vegetables, little oil, premium ingredients, and absolutely nothing canned. Family-owned and operated, the laid-back, comfortable atmosphere is perfect for gatherings, great experiences, and more. Our caring staff will do our best to satisfy all.

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(It is not combinable
with other offers.)

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(It is not combinable
with other offers.)



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• Sunday: 2:00 pm - 9:30 pm • Monday - Saturday: Closed 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

wildgingergreatfalls.net

752 Walker Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066 (Across from Wells Fargo Bank)
TEL.: 703-759-5040



Forget the Polls: Follow the Money

October financial disclosures highlight key differences in Comstock-Wexton fundraising and outside spending.

BY VICTORIA ROSS

Incumbent Rep. Barbara Comstock (R) continues to be a formidable fundraiser as she tries to maintain the only Republican congressional seat in the D.C. metropolitan area.

But for the first time, Comstock faces an opponent who is nearly as well-funded as she is in the battle for Virginia's 10th Congressional District seat: state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D).

The most recent financial filings, through Oct. 17, show that Wexton has raised nearly \$5.4 million, overwhelmingly from individual contributors, while Comstock has played her strong advantage with Political Action Committee (PAC) contributors to hold onto a financial lead with almost \$5.8 million raised.

Wexton's haul is nearly double that of Comstock's last opponent, Democrat LuAnn Bennett, who raised a total of \$2.8 million in the 2016 campaign. Wexton has nearly double the cash remaining as Comstock heading into the final weeks of the campaign, as Comstock's campaign spent early and often on television advertising.

Newly filed reports with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) also revealed that "outside spending" in Virginia soared in 2018 by groups seeking to influence mid-term U.S. House elections.

According to the FEC's "Independent Ex-



Barbara Comstock



Jennifer Wexton

penditures" report, non-candidate spending in all Virginia Congressional districts rose to a record \$9.2 million through September of this year.

When Comstock launched her first bid for Virginia's 10th Congressional district in 2014, the race became a spending battleground by non-candidate groups, including the Republican and Democratic national committees.

The term "outside spending," or "non-candidate spending" refers to political expenditures made by groups or individuals to advocate for the election or defeat of a candidate without coordination with the candidates' committees.

Large outside spenders include so-called "SuperPACs," officially called "independent-expenditure only committees," which arose after the U.S. Supreme Court decision known as Citizens United v. F.E.C., and the related Circuit Court decision

SpeechNOW.org v. F.E.C., which held certain parts of the McCain-Feingold Act limits on campaign contributions to be unconstitutional.

Unlike conventional PACs, SuperPACs are not allowed to contribute directly to candidates' campaigns, or coordinate with the campaigns. But they can accept unlimited contributions and spend an unlimited amount supporting or opposing federal election candidates independently.

Outside spending is breaking in favor of Wexton, with more than \$5.5 million spent either in support of Wexton or against Comstock, compared to approximately \$4.8 million spent favoring Comstock or opposing Wexton.

That's a change from 2016, where outside spending was \$7.9 million on the Republican side and \$6.8 million for her then-opponent Bennett. Total outside spending in 2016 was nearly \$15 million vs. less than \$10.5 million in 2018.

Money Talks

Campaign Contributions: Under Federal law, individuals may contribute up to \$2,700 to a campaign; PACs who support multiple candidates may contribute up to \$5,000.

❖ Comstock has received almost \$1.4 million more from PACs than Wexton.

❖ PACs comprise more than 30 percent

of Comstock's contributions, whereas Wexton has received only slightly more than seven percent from PACs.

❖ Wexton has received \$1.5 million more from individual contributors than Comstock, which comprise 93 percent of Wexton's total to date.

Outside Spending: Groups in this category range from the conventional party committees to the more controversial SuperPACs and 501(c) "dark money" organizations, according to The Center for Responsive Politics.

The top three outside spenders supporting Comstock or opposing Wexton have been:

The National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), \$4,352,686 (slightly more than the \$4,069,986 the NRCC spent in 2016); U.S. Chamber of Commerce, \$350,000, and Defending Main Street, \$50,000.

The top three outside spenders supporting Wexton or opposing Comstock have been:

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), \$2,804,872 (significantly less than the \$4,069,986 the DCCC spent in 2016); the Independence USA SuperPAC (created by former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg), \$1,579,330; and Giffords SuperPAC (created by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords and her astronaut husband Mike Kelly), \$996,994.

SOURCES:

THE CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS; VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT; FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION; BALLOTEDIA

Contamination Clean Up Completed

A leak from area underground gasoline tanks no longer a threat to the private wells.

BY ADRIENNE WEST
THE CONNECTION

After years of working with multiple local agencies to clean up the groundwater contamination from the former Exxon station (where TD Bank now resides, on the west side of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike), the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) reports that residents are safe from Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) in their wells.

Bill Canis, the President of GFCA, said, "For the past five years we have been working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to clean up a major leak from area underground gasoline tanks. So much of Great Falls is on well water that the MTBE chemical released into the bedrock posed a threat

to parts of this community. The civic group that led the effort locally is just now submitting a final report as the clean up wraps up."

Glen Sjoblom, a resident for 46 years and former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employee, co-chaired that civic group called the Special Committee on Groundwater Contamination, formed by the GFCA. They recently submitted their final report to the GFCA board and all elected representatives.

"This contamination by MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) no longer represents a threat to the private wells in the immediate vicinity. We had a very good working relationship with the Northern Division of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, particularly Alexander Wardle, the project manager for this case, and Mark Steele of Kleinfelder, the environmental



FILE PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION
Some of the equipment in use in Spring of 2016 to address groundwater contamination at a former gas station. Great Falls Citizens Association closely monitored the cleanup, and now agree that there is no ongoing threat to groundwater.

company working for Fairfax Petroleum, the owner of the [former Exxon Station]," Sjoblom reported.

But how clean is "clean enough" since it's not possible to get it all out? DEQ has a policy that cleanup won't stop if there's detectable MTBE found in wells. Through a risk analysis, they derived end points in 2014 to test. End points were checked once a month and Kleinfelder, the company responsible for the actual clean up, issued reports every three months. The last monitoring report was less than 1/100th of the end point, well within the safe levels for water usage. There is post cleanup monitoring that will go on for the next two years as an extra precaution.

Alex Wardle said, "working with the GFCA was a positive process ... the onsite system is closed down. There will be continued closure monitoring, and residents

SEE CLEAN UP, PAGE 11

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse Teacher Work Day Trip



Massanutten Waterpark
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Teacher Work Day Trip



iFly and Movie, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$100/\$90 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Intro to Djembe Drumming and Drum Circle
7-8:30 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents
Includes admission and drum rental.



Learn How Sound Effects Are Made!



Family Fun with Foley Workshop
Saturday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



A Recent Cutbacks Production
"Hold on to Your Butts"



Saturday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$19/\$14 MCC district residents



The McLean Community Center
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Visitors enjoy the pumpkin patch at Krop's Crops in Great Falls.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



Autumn Fun at Krop's Crops

22-acre farm in Great Falls offers hayrides, pumpkins, night-time campfires and Christmas trees.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Krop's Crops, a 22-acre farm located at 11110 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, held a Halloween Outing on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, for about 30 kids with pumpkin carving, hayrides around the farm, s'mores, and a chance to play in the corn bin and see live chickens.

Larry Krop, the owner of Krop's Crops, said his primary business is as a Christmas tree farm since 1976. In addition to growing their own trees, they also import them from North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Oregon. Krop's also sells local produce like tomatoes, fall squash and gourds, harvest and Halloween decorations, and apple cider from Stephen's City near Winchester.

He said his family started buying

their property from Jack Crippen whose family owned a farm on both sides of Dranesville Road. Through the years, they accumulated five different parcels.

Krop's also provides night-time campfires for groups, which require a reservation. This week, a group of 220 people from McLean Presbyterian Church attended a campfire with dinner.

Preschoolers visit, get a hayride, a small pumpkin and the chance to play in the corn bin, which has 6,000 pounds of corn from Poolesville, Md. Krop got the idea from his grandparents who grew corn in Kansas. "I used to play in the corn bins and I remembered that when I was a kid — and that's what prompted me to do this," he said. Now it's gotten bigger and bigger every year.

He added: "We want it to be simple; we don't want it to be big. I like what I'm doing. ... I've got enough to do."

Leading the pumpkin carving, s'mores and a little fire station was SafeSpot, a children's advocacy center in Fairfax County, whose goal is to provide a safe place for children who have been abused.

According to Brett Burnette, SafeSpot junior board member, "[SafeSpot] is the one centralized location so they can come and bring in all the resources to help support them after an event so doctors, police

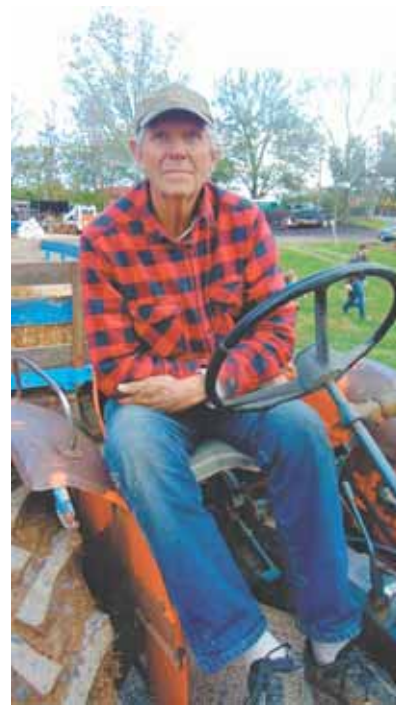
officers, therapists can all come to one centralized location in Fairfax City so they don't have to go around to different areas and tell their story multiple times. There's someone who is assigned to their case that helps them through the process and gives them support along the way as well."

He added: "We try to do two to three fund-raising events per year and we tailor them towards young adults, some towards children, some towards adults in different areas in the region with the goal of trying to get the word out about SafeSpot's mission as well as just having a good time with the kids."

For more on Krop's Crops or to make a reservation, visit www.kropscrops.com or email lkrop@hotmail.com. For more on SafeSpot, visit www.safespotfairfax.org or call 703-385-5437.



Elijah Gibson, 11 of Springfield, carves a pumpkin.



Larry Krop, owner of Krop's Crops of Great Falls, drives a tractor for the hayride.

News



Lauren Sachrison, a volunteer with SafeSpot, carves a pumpkin with Jessie Gibson, 7 of Springfield.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Larry Krop, owner of Krop's Crops leads the hayride through his 22-acre property in Great Falls.



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The Retina Group of Washington (RGW), the country's largest provider of retinal and macular care, has added yet another subspecialty to better serve the eye-related needs of people throughout Northern Virginia.

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We hope our current patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Do sometime soon. And for anyone who requires the expertise of the area's only Uveitis specialist, he is ready and available whenever you need him.

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WWW.RGW.COM

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— Vincent Van Gogh —

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selfless
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WHETHER IT'S THE ONE YOU GET or the one you choose, your family can make a grey day bright or a sunny day sunnier. It is a bringer of joy, a courier of love and a haven of comfort.

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OPINION

Most Important Election, So Far?

Make a plan to vote with friends and family.

As others have said, the election Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, may be the most important in our lifetime. But there is no reason to wait until Tuesday.

More than 50,000 Fairfax County residents have already voted, and you can join them between now and Saturday, Nov. 3, if you qualify for one of 20 reasons.

Absentee voting continues to be very busy.

Last Saturday, Oct. 27, alone, 3,746 in-person voters voted at one of 10 absentee in-person voting locations.

EDITORIAL If you can't vote early, make a specific plan about what time you will vote, who you will go with or meet at the polls. Don't let the end of the day sneak up on you.

Polls are open on Election Day, Nov. 6, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If you are in line by 7 p.m., you have the right to vote, no matter how long it takes.

Vote early, in-person absentee, by appearing in person by 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3

If you qualify for any of about 20 reasons to vote absentee, there is no reason to wait until Election Day Nov. 6 to vote.

One of the 20 reasons is if you might be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day, which could be most of us on a bad traffic day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>

Early Voting Locations, Dates and Hours

Through Saturday, Nov. 3 at the government center and satellite locations.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference

Room 2/3, Fairfax, VA, 22035
Through-Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Satellite Locations Are Open Until Saturday, Nov. 3

Weekdays: Thru Friday, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
❖ Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310
❖ Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079
❖ Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003
❖ McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101
❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190
❖ Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031
❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151
❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152

Virginia Voter Id Required

You must show identification to vote. Acceptable forms of valid identification: Virginia driver's license, Virginia DMV-issued photo ID, United States passport, Employer-issued photo ID, Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia, Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID, Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID, or Virginia Voter Photo ID card

Need a photo ID? If you don't have an ID, go to your voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day. You will be required to complete an photo ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

Forgot your ID on Election Day? If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. Ask for it

and instructions on what to do so your vote can count. A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Fairfax County Office of Elections
12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323
Fairfax, VA, 22035
Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711
Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725
Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711
For 24-hour recorded information call 703-324-4700

On Constitutional Birthright to Citizenship

For all its snarkiness and grandstanding, this still may be of interest to our readers:

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), vice ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, sent the following message, along with a copy of the U.S. Constitution, to President Trump in response to his unconstitutional proposal to end birthright citizenship.

"Mr. President, your new Executive Order ending citizenship for children born in the U.S. is patently unconstitutional. I am sending you a copy of the Constitution. Knowing your aversion to reading, I have highlighted the 14th amendment for your convenience. We abide by this sacred text in America."

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voting for Comstock

To the Editor:

Northern Virginia Voters have a clear choice for the Virginia 10th Congressional District. Cast your vote for our incumbent Barbara Comstock.

If you want lower taxes, vote for Barbara. If you want less government interference in your lives and less interference for small business, vote for Barbara. ...

If you want to clamp down on gangs like MS-13 and better background checks of immigrants, vote for Barbara.

Vote for Barbara so she can continue as she has, to fight for bipartisan issues, like stopping human trafficking and online predators, reducing gun violence in

schools through school safety programs, more school resource officers, better mental health treatment, prevention, training and crisis intervention teams. Vote for Barbara if you want her to continue efforts at the national and local levels to reduce addiction to heroin and opioids in our neighborhoods, as she is the recognized leader in these efforts. She just recently joined the President in the oval office for the signing of the landmark HR-6 legislation to combat opioid addiction.

Barbara has continued her effective voice on all these issues since she was your Virginia State Delegate and since elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. Barbara also stood up to the President against freezing salaries of Federal Employees, but supports the President's plans to further reduce

taxes on middle class Americans. In Summary continue to support your Congresswoman and mine, as you vote on Nov. 6.

Glen Sjoblom
Great Falls

Comstock Has Not Delivered on Transportation Funding

To the Editor:

It is time Northern Virginia gets its fair share of federal transportation funding. Decades of GOP representation has left us short on federal funding for Metro, I-66 and more. Our incumbent Barbara Comstock has now served two

terms on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure but has not advanced a comprehensive infrastructure bill. Through their inaction, she and her party have worked against our transportation needs in Northern Virginia.

If we elect Jennifer Wexton to Congress, we will have a chance for major changes in transportation spending. Jennifer has focused on transportation solutions as a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and has worked to bring resources to her district to relieve congestion, fix problems with Metro, and advocated for smart growth in Loudoun and Fairfax counties. She has introduced legislation to give localities more control over, and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Great Falls CONNECTION

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OPINION

Reduce Methane to Avert Catastrophe

Ken Plum's climate change blind spot: pipelines.

BY JON SOKOLOW

In two recent columns, Delegate Ken Plum noted that climate change warnings are too dire to ignore. He called for an end to coal subsidies, intensive green job development, a carbon tax and more renewable energy. For all of that, Plum should be commended.

Unfortunately, Plum was silent on two massive fracked methane elephants in the room: Dominion Energy's 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline and EQT Corporation's 300-mile Mountain Valley Pipeline. These projects, with an estimated price tag of \$11 billion that will be paid for by consumers, were approved by the Trump controlled Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in a process so shoddy that federal courts have voided multiple permits. As Sen. Tim Kaine has noted, two FERC commissioners concluded that there is no demonstrated public need for either pipeline.

Early pipeline construction activities have devastated the water and land resources of rural communities in Southwest Virginia, which, like the rest of Appalachia, has served as a sacrifice zone for corporate greed for more than a century. A pipeline resistance movement has developed statewide and is growing every day.

Despite all of that, Gov. Ralph Northam refuses to stop these pipelines. And too many politicians seem to have a climate change blind spot when it comes to fracked methane.

Plum correctly observes that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently issued a scathing report calling for drastic action to avoid climate disaster. But Plum omits the fact that the IPCC specifically targeted methane, stating that we must reduce methane production by 35 percent from 2010 levels to avert catastrophe.

The reasons are clear. Methane is far more effective in trapping heat than carbon dioxide, making it 84 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. The proposed pipelines would spew greenhouse gases equivalent to 46 coal fired plants.

In effect, politicians who fail to oppose these pipelines are climate deniers. Those are the inconvenient truths.

Another inconvenient truth: Dominion Energy is by far the largest campaign contributor to politicians in Virginia – including to Ken Plum's own campaigns.

Virginia should join the 25 states that ban contributions from publicly related utilities. And politicians who profess to care about climate change need to stop feeding from the fossil fuel trough. They need to lose their blind spot when it comes to fracked gas. Our children deserve no less.

Jon Sokolow is an attorney, writer and activist who has lived in Reston for 25 years.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Visit the Working Artists Studios at the monthly Art Walk in Great Falls Village Centre.

Community Welcome for Art Walk on Nov. 2

Come to the First Friday Art Walk this Friday, Nov. 2, 6-8 p.m., in Great Falls Village Centre. Visit the working studios to meet the artists and see several galleries for this free, family friendly community event. Stroll through the Village Green and enjoy a special exhibit by the NOVA Plein Air Artists in The Arts of Great Falls Gallery. Check out the Petite Gallery at TD Bank (6-7 p.m.) and the newest gallery in Great Falls Physical Therapy in the Village Centre Shops. Start the tour at The Artists' Loft (766 Walker Rd.), Great Falls Physical Therapy (766-B Walker Road), Artists' Atelier and The Arts of Great Falls Gallery (756 Walker Rd.) or TD Bank (9101 Georgetown Pike). Details at www.greatfallsart.org/ArtWalk. Sponsored by The Arts of Great Falls.

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News

Juniors and Seniors fill the Langley auditorium to listen to Andrew Forsthoefer's first speech. "I think Walking To Listen was relevant to a lot of us, seniors who are deciding where we want to go, and what we want to do. It's reassuring to know that you'll always figure it out as you go," senior Michelle Ascrizzi said.



PHOTO BY MAIA SPOTO/ THE CONNECTION

Bestselling Novelist Comes to Langley High

Andrew Forsthoefer, author of Langley's summer reading selection *Walking to Listen*, shared lessons encouraging personal connection.

BY MAIA SPOTO AND CARA CASTAGNA
THE CONNECTION

Andrew Forsthoefer, author of the novel "Walking to Listen," told hundreds of upperclassmen in the Langley High School auditorium that they were beautiful during his visit on Oct. 11.

Juniors and seniors read his work, the designated Langley Read novel last summer. "Walking to Listen" is the ninth annual Read, but this is the first year for one of the program's authors to speak with Langley students in person. Forsthoefer's novel collects stories from his 2011 walk across the country, from Pennsylvania to California. While trekking through highways, rural roads and cities, Forsthoefer recorded life lessons, anecdotes and encouragement from the people he listened to along the way, and came to realize the importance of personal understanding as a catalyst for peace.

At the beginning of his day at



PHOTO BY CARA CASTAGNA

Andrew Forsthoefer, author of the Langley Read *Walking to Listen*, at Langley's library. "It's odd that being personal is odd," Forsthoefer said.

Langley, Forsthoefer told juniors and seniors in two, thirty-minute speeches that they do not need to walk to start listening.

"The world is more beautiful when you can slow down and actually look at someone ... Don't wait to graduate before you can start seeing yourself and the world in this way," Forsthoefer said.



MAIA SPOTO/THE CONNECTION

Senior Valerie Templin holds up her newly signed copy of *Walking to Listen*. "I'm starting college apps, so it was inspiring to hear advice about being an adult. Andrew was inspiring, interested, and excited to meet his fans," Templin said.

SENIOR Tanya Punater expected Forsthoefer to recount specific events from his journey and remain within the confines of his novel. "I was pleasantly surprised that he took a more personal direction, tried to connect with us," Punater said. "Breaking through our walls, not keeping everything close to yourself, bridging the gap with other people; that's a message that Langley needs to hear."

After he addressed the upper-classman community as a whole, Forsthoefer conducted four

SEE AUTHOR, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Author Comes to Langley High

FROM PAGE 8

breakout sessions in Langley's library. Small classes sat in a circle as Forsthoefel interacted with them on a more personal level, to practice the art of human connection. In his first session he asked each member of a class to name the individual for whom they walked.

AP Psychology teacher Allison Herzig said she has grown accustomed to seeing her students as students. "Hearing who they walk for emphasizes that they're other things, too. It's a deeply personal experience, to hear someone as a brother, or a sister," Herzig said.

It's only possible to care for someone, Forsthoefel said, when one truly understands another person, beyond initial perceptions.

"To me, in those sessions, we got a little glimpse of what's possible when we start listening to each other. ... It was beginning to hear: 'Oh my gosh, right. Every one of



MAIA SPOTO/ THE CONNECTION

Langley students listen to each other's personal questions. In one breakout session, Forsthoefel stressed the importance of sharing and receiving questions and asked students to show up "with eyes of beauty" to hear their peers.

us has a story, a history, a family, people we care about, people we are worried about. It's so easy to forget that," Forsthoefel said.

ENGLISH TEACHER Vivian Jewell was instrumental in selecting "Walking to Listen" as last summer's read, and she organized Forsthoefel's visit.

"I was hoping that, by bringing in this writer who is alive, rather than the many we read who are dead, it might get the students engaged with reading. ... I had a very limited goal. My goal was al-

"Breaking through our walls, not keeping everything close to yourself, bridging the gap with other people; that's a message that Langley needs to hear."

— **Tanya Punater, Langley Senior**

ways about the Langley read. What Andrew gave the community was a lot more," Jewell said. "I've noticed even today, the day after Andrew's been here, my conversations with my colleagues are lasting a little longer. They are a little more meaningful. I think Andrew has made the staff re-think being kind and taking time to really listen to people as a priority."

Senior Nina Talwar said, "Sitting down to see another person as another person, not just as 'someone who's not your friend' or 'someone who's in another friend group' is something that high schoolers could really benefit from."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Pet Parade. 4-4:45 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring a pet on a leash dressed up in its favorite costume with prizes for special categories. Rain or shine. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/upcoming-events/.

Halloween Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Trick or Treat on the Village Green – children up to age 12 are encouraged to wear a costume, experience the Haunted House and enjoy trick or treating with local merchants. Dare to enter the Haunted House sponsored and created by Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 55. And stop by the Adeler Jewelers Spooky Porch. Music provided by the Langley HS Band. Rain or shine. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/upcoming-events/.

Hitchcocktober: Psycho (1954). 7 p.m. at Angelika Film Center – Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Every Thursday night in October a classic film by Sir Alfred Hitchcock will be featured with a bonus screening of PSYCHO on Halloween. \$10. Visit angelikafilmcenter.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

Submission Deadline. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax will be accepting work for its next open art exhibit in December of 2018. This artwork will illustrate *Mystery and Solstice* - the theme for worship at UUCF in the month of December. All types of media qualifies, including painting, photography, mixed-media, and the written word. Email artspeaks@uucf.org to request a submission form.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-4

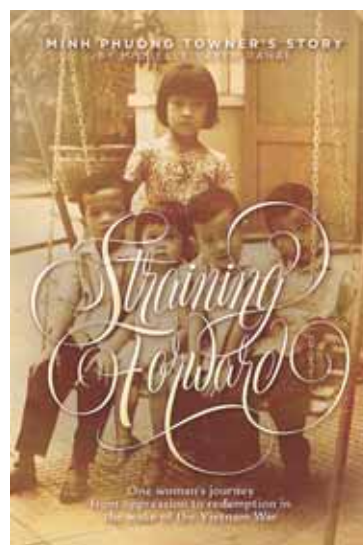
“The Story of Hansel and Gretel.” Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. At The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Cost is \$10. Delight over this sweet and charming musical adaptation. Sent into the woods, Hansel and Gretel meet up with a number of peculiar characters. Purchase tickets at bit.ly/oshanselgretel. Visit the website www.oakcrest.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Bulb Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at Town of Vienna Farmers Market, on the grounds of the Vienna Community Center. The Ayr Hill Garden Club presents its annual bulb sale supporting the community gardening efforts of the Ayr Hill Garden Club. Email emilielarson@rcn.com.

Know Your Muslim Neighbors. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Meet new friends, celebrate diversity, and taste international delicacies. We will have a poster exhibit on Muslim-American history, discussions, calligraphy, and henna. All ages. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4210521.

Great Gatsby Night. Cocktails and dinner, 6 p.m.; performance, 7:30 p.m. at Vinson Hall Community Ballroom, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. The Tysons McLean Orchestra will feature Pianist Thomas Pandolfi performing Rachmaninoff and other selections from the 1920s and '30s. Dinner and performance, \$200 per person. Call 703-893-8646 or email info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org.



Book Signing

Straining Forward is the true story of Minh Phuong Towner's life, her escape from Vietnam by boat, and her perseverance to overcome PTSD and become a pastor. Meet Minh and author, Michelle Layer Rahal. Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Free. Visit keepstrainingforward.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 2-3

“Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight.” 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Kathleen Barth makes her Vienna Theatre Company directorial debut when “Emilie: La Marquise Du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight.” Tickets are \$14. Advance tickets may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the community center; if available, tickets may be purchased at the door.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 2-4

Starvin' Artists Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Idylwood Presbyterian Church, 7617 Idylwood Road, McLean. The McLean Art Society is sponsoring a Starvin' Artists Sale with original artwork priced at \$99 or less. There will be a full range of subject matter in various mediums by artists who have won awards in many local shows. There is a reception Friday night from 5-8 p.m. with refreshments served. Contact Lori at 703-532-5357.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Newcomers Coffee. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean. McLean Newcomers and Neighbors will host a coffee for members and for non-members who might be interested in joining. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 8-10

“Noises Off.” 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 8-10; and 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 10. At James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. MAD Drama at James Madison High School invites you to their upcoming production of “Noises Off,” a comedic farce about a hilariously bad theater company. Tickets are \$10 online at www.madisondrama.com and \$12 at the door. Visit the website: www.madisondrama.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 9-10

Ronnie and the Ronettes. At The Barns of Wolf Trap. Ronnie and the Ronettes are back on the road for a U.S. and European tour, including

headlining several festivals – marking the first appearances of the ‘Ultimate Girl Group’ since the 1970s. Fans can expect “Be My Baby,” “Walking In The Rain,” and “Baby I Love You.” Visit www.wolftrap.org/tickets/calendar/performance/1819barns/1109show18.aspx. Also visit www.ronniespector.com/shows.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Pottery Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Town of Vienna's Bowman House, 211 Center St. S., Vienna. Get a head start on holiday gift list at the Town of Vienna's Bowman House Pottery sale with one-of-a-kind pieces crafted by parks and recreation pottery students and teachers will be available for purchase. Visit www.viennava.gov.

Icelandic Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Icelandic arts and crafts, live music, Icelandic licorice and chocolates, famous Icelandic hot dogs, open faced sandwiches and crepes. Free admission. Visit www.icelanddc.com.

Fall Bazaar and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, 400 Center Street, South, Vienna. Admission is free. Offered for sale will be crafts, holiday decorations, items for your home, clothing and gifts for that special someone. Lunch and a homemade baked goods table available. Call Carol at 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com.

Holiday Bazaar. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The Vienna Women's Club will hold its 55th annual holiday bazaar at the Vienna Community Center. Admission is \$3, with funds raised supporting the club's scholarship programs. Visit www.viennawomansclub.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 11

Traditional Celtic Music. 5 and 7 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Maggie Sansone, Sharon Knowles, Karen Ashbrook, Paul Oorts and Linda Rice-Johnston in concert. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com - \$18 general admission/\$12 children. Visit oldbrogue.com or call 703-759-3309.

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY/NOV 11-28

Chanukah Bazaar. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Ready, Set, Go to Chanukah Bazaar. Choose from a large assortment of menorahs, Safed and beeswax candles, dreidels, books, crafts and toys, party goods and nut-free gelt. Chanukah socks and slippers plus fun children's menorahs have been restocked. Sun., Nov 11, 18 and Dec. 2, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tues., Nov 13, 20, 27, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 14 and 28, 4:15-6:30 p.m. Email treasures@templerodefshalom.org.

SUNDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 11-DEC. 2

Holiday Gift Shopping. At Judy's Place, Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Judy's Place, a Temple Rodef Shalom tradition for 20 years, provides a non-denominational and convenient shopping experience for children ages 2-13 with the help of volunteers. Gift items ranging in price from \$1 to \$15 to surprise parents, siblings, grandparents and pets. Sun., Nov. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tues., Nov. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m.; Wed., Nov. 14, 12 to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 18, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sun., Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email jackie.rockman@gmail.com.

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

are no fines accrued. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

Introduction to Special Education. 10 a.m.-noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring; Entrance 1 - Room 100. Workshop that will serve as an orientation for parents new to Special Education. The workshop will outline the special education process and resources will be shared. Knowledgeable staff will be able to answer your questions. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center to register.

THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Medicare 101. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Dar Al-Hijrah, 3159 Row St., Falls Church. Learn the facts about health insurance for older adults. Registration required, call 703-531-2905, TTY 711. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Insurance Counseling-VICAP.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

funding for transportation projects in their jurisdictions. She opposed tolls on I-66 and repeatedly carried legislation to reduce tolls on the Dulles Greenway.

Further, Jennifer is a strong advocate for rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure. She supports full-scale investment in new green infrastructure that will create good paying jobs here in Virginia. She will work to update and expand our roads, bridges, public transit, airports, and rail lines. She believes Congress should also invest in infrastructure that will help build a clean energy future, expand the availability of high-speed broadband, and fix and modernize our electric grid and water system. If you want to see this happen, support Wexton for Congress

J. Jay Volkert, PhD
Vienna

Clean Up

FROM PAGE 3

can go to the DEQ website to access those monitoring reports.” Link: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/LandProtectionRevitalization/PetroleumProgram/Clean-upActivities/GreatFalls.aspx>.

Matt Tonkin, an independent scientist who advised GFCA on the cleanup plan, agreed. “It is unfortunate for all parties when a release of gasoline impacts the environment ... Local communities that educate and inform themselves can play a critical role in this process by communicating directly with regulating agencies and responsible parties. The GFCA is the ideal local community organization for such participation and oversight, and I am happy to read in the Final Report of the GFCA Groundwater Contamination Committee that in this case, a mutually acceptable level of protection and groundwater cleanup was achieved.”

Mark Steele and the Kleinfelder company were unavailable for comment.

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As It So Happens



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and attempt to write next week's column, I do so on Saturday, Oct. 27. Aside from being my close friend, Cheryl's, birthday, and the day before my brother, Richard's, birthday, it is a date (the 27th), to invoke our 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, that "will live in infamy." It is the date that Team Lourie, such as it is: my wife, Dina; my brother, Richard; and yours truly, met my oncologist for the first time to learn what my previous week's "malignant" biopsy actually meant.

What it meant was that I was officially a cancer patient. Specifically, a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, patient, and one given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis to boot, at age 54 and a half. Not a guarantee, mind you, but definitely a kick in the stomach. Not literally of course, but hearing such terrible, unexpected news, it certainly took our breath away.

After we all regained our composure, we tried to sort out what we had just heard and ask some intelligent questions (quite a challenge at that moment, I have to admit).

It was difficult because cancer was a subject with which Team Lourie had zero personal experience, having had no immediate family history other than my mother's very treatable skin cancer. As such, in talking with the oncologist, we were all at a disadvantage. In addition to never having met, neither did we know exactly what we were to be discussing until we sat in the doctor's office.

Talk about ill-prepared (pun intended).

Throw in the shock value of what we were hearing – for the first time (akin to that of a neutron bomb since we were still standing; sitting, actually), we were very nearly blown away and having difficulty processing what we were hearing: "13 months to two years," out of the blue, basically.

We might have understood "the macro," to steal one of my brother's favorite expressions, but we were having a little trouble grasping "the micro" – meaning me.

Certainly we were clear that my life going forward was going to be different, but we had no idea, really, what we were all in for, collectively. Though a sort of handbook called "The Five Questions" was provided to us, it was hardly a GPS that guided you step by step. At that point, you stumble and stammer and don't exactly know what to ask next.

Nowadays, a new professional certification has evolved called a "nurse navigator." This person is assigned to help you maneuver through the cancer/twilight zone of tests, treatments and appointments that you have just entered: labs, scans, infusion schedule, and oncology appointments; plus miscellaneous other secondary-type activities/appointments/procedures (aromatherapist, acupuncturist, nutritionist, pulmonologist, nephrologist, internal medicine doctor, thoracic surgeon, ophthalmologist, urologist, dermatologist, psychologist, pharmacist) and a few others that "chemo-brain" – a recently confirmed side effect of chemotherapy – has likely caused me to forget.

It's no wonder new cancer patients begin to melt down even before the first beam of radiation has been focused and/or the first dose of chemotherapy has been infused.

And not that I need reminding, but the 27th does seem to focus a "confinement beam" ("Star Trek") of sorts on what I've been doing and why and how much longer I'm likely to be doing it. And that, of course, is the rub, because in the cancer business, there are very few guarantees, any of which is constantly rubbing you in various directions. Directions which cause you to ebb and flow and bob and weave and try to hang on for dear life. Because so far as most of us know, this life is pretty dear and we kind of think we want to hang on to it for awhile.

And I'm one of the lucky ones, a survivor, that is. Many of my fellow "diagnosees" have not been nearly as fortunate as I have been. Ten years, come Feb. 20, 2019, the anniversary of the actual date when my Internal Medicine doctor called me to tell me the results of the previous week's biopsy. I remember where I was and what I was doing when I received that call.

That I'll never forget.

That was my Dec. 7, 1941.

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

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