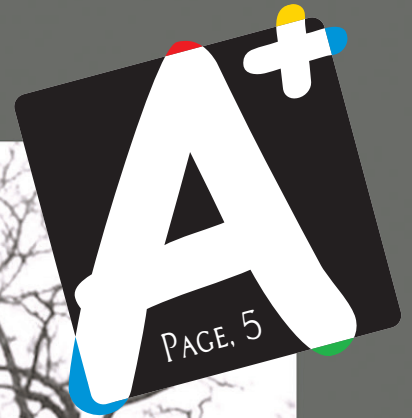


Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Luca Cordaro, 9, stands beside the wreath he placed on a veteran's grave at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon. With Luca is his father, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cordaro, US Army. "We are here to honor servicemen and women of the past and pay our respects," he said.

Wreaths Across America Honors Area Veterans

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OBITUARY

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(Henderson)
Greene



Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene

Joyce Ella (Henderson) Greene of Fairfax passed away at Alexandria Inova Hospital on Dec. 13, 2018 after a short illness. She was born in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 26, 1938 to the late Henry Williams and Rebecca Harris Henderson and raised in San Mateo, Calif. and Kansas City, Mo. She studied nursing Holy Ghost Hospital in Boston, Mass. and practiced nursing before she married Robert Ewell Greene, Sr, an Army officer, on July 4, 1959 in Kansas City, Mo. As an Army wife, she moved around the world and the country, including Germany that she loved so much.

She was later a teacher at PALs Day Care Center in Reston, where she was adored by the parents and children in her care. She

will be missed by many for whom her life brought laughter and smiles.

A loving mother, wife, friend and aunt, she is survived by her loving son, David Arthur Greene of Alexandria and sister Rebecca Henderson Smith of Kansas City, Mo. She was predeceased by her son, Robert Ewell Greene Jr. and siblings Carlene Henderson Eason, Carl Henderson, and Hezzie Henderson. She has numerous nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Friends and family may visit on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 6-8 pm at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston, followed by a mass of Christian burial at St. John Neumann on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.

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MAP COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

The 33rd Senate District stretches from Herndon and Dulles into Lansdowne and Leesburg.

Democratic Insurgent Versus Republican Moderate

January special election to fill seat vacated by Jennifer Wexton features two familiar faces.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

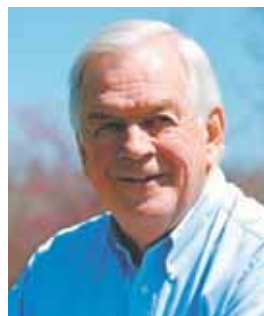
The first election of 2019 might end up being a harbinger of things to come for Republicans, who have seen their presence all but evaporate in Northern Virginia. It could also test the limits of the blue wave that washed over Virginia since Donald Trump was elected president. The special election for state Senate District 33 features an insurgent House Democrat who is often at odds with her own party's leadership and a moderate Republican who lost his House seat in a primary five years ago after a challenge from the right. Voting will happen in the dead of winter, and turnout is expected to be very low.

"Special elections are a different kind of beast for campaign, especially ones that have to be run around the holiday," said Quentin Kidd, political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "It's hard to reach voters and hard to motivate them to pay attention and turn out to vote."

The 33rd Senate District stretches from Herndon and Dulles into Lansdowne and Leesburg, wealthy parts of Fairfax and Loudoun counties where voters have steadily been shifting from red to blue over the last decade. A dozen years ago the district was represented by Republican Bill Mims, who opposed same-sex marriage and supported homeschooling. When Republican Bob McDonnell ran for governor in 2009, he won this district with a commanding 59 percent of the vote. A few weeks after that election, Mims resigned the seat to work in the McDonnell administration, and the seat has been in Democratic hands ever since. Republican Ed Gillespie won seven



Jennifer Boysko



Joe May

precincts here during his 2014 campaign for U.S. Senate. But he was only able to prevail in two precincts a few years later during his campaign for governor.

"Joe May Republicans are conducting a test of sorts," says Kidd. "If he can win or come close in the 33rd it will tell Virginia Republicans a lot about what kind of candidate will help them become competitive again in the suburban and exurban regions of the Commonwealth that have been fleeing their brand of candidate in the last decade."

JENNIFER BOYSKO, 52, has been working in politics and government for decades. A native of Pine Bluff, Ark., she was raised in Hot Springs, Ark., before attending high school in Montgomery, Ala. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and French at Hollins College (now Hollins University) in Roanoke. After that, she launched a career in government service, working for U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby when he was a Democrat and later for Dranesville Supervisor John Foust. After she was elected to the House of Delegates in 2015, she made a name for herself by refusing to play by the unwritten rules of the General Assembly — calling a press conference to slam a powerful Republican committee chairman for failing to hear her bills. Last summer, she launched an ill-fated campaign to unseat the House Democratic Leader.

SEE SPECIAL ELECTION, PAGE 6

Luca Cordaro, 9, stands beside the wreath he placed at a veteran's grave at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon. With Luca is his father, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cordaro, US Army. "We are here to honor servicemen and women of the past and pay our respects," he said.

PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



Wreaths Across America Honors Area Veterans

'Each wreath is a gift of appreciation,' said Carol Wright, Speaker, Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Across the country at more than a reported 1,640 memorial sites like the one at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the Town of Herndon, people gathered as one nation, one community to show their gratitude and respect during the National Day of Remembrance Ceremony for Wreaths Across America, said Speaker Carol Wright Herndon Woman's Club, at the Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 event.

Before the start of the ceremony, the Hennessy family of Reston, parents Zach, Alex and son Nolan, 3 stood in the rain. "It's an honor to be here, to remember those who served. And to teach my son the importance of giving back," said Zach Hennessy. "Frank and Kathy Deffer are Nolan's grandparents; they served in the Army."

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP within the Reston Chorale, the Bobby Pins, sang as hundreds and hundreds of individuals from the surrounding communities of Herndon, Reston, Sterling, Great Falls and more, some very young, some very old and some alone stood huddled together, silent under a sea of umbrellas in the driving rain.

"Eight hundred and twenty-three veterans are buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery," said Carol Wright, Guest Speaker and member of the Herndon Woman's Club. Men and women who "gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. ... We are here to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom. We shall not forget. We shall remember."

As the rain pelted down during the ceremony, the Color Guard of Boy Scout Troop 1577 presented Arms. Wright named the wreath presenters representing each branch of the Armed Forces, as well as the presenter for those taken prisoners of war and missing in action. She called out: Major Thomas Lane, US Army, Hqs. Department of Army G-8; Gunnery Sergeant Bernard Collins, US Marine Corps; Commander Gregory Vitorelli, Retired US Navy; Colonel Craig Bernhard, US Air Force Retired; Bill Wright, US Coast Guard, Base NCR; Lee Davis, United States Merchant Marines and Sergeant First Class Josh Smith, US Army Retired and his service dog, Shelby who Wright noted, "Will lay a remembrance

SEE WREATHS, PAGE 6

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Crazy 8s Club. Through December at Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, where you build stuff, run and jump, make music and make a mess. Grades K-2. This STEM program will run on Mondays at 5 p.m. beginning Monday, Oct. 19. Register for each session separately, two weeks in advance, beginning Oct. 1. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ or call 703-689-2700.

Gingerbread Village. Through Jan. 3 at Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston Town Center. Visit the hotel lobby to see the annual Gingerbread Village display. Call 703-709-1234 or visit reston.hyatt.com.

Photography Exhibit: "National Parks and National Treasures." Through Jan. 5, gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Photographer Jim Schlett, selected as the Artist-In-Resident (AIR) at four locations of the National Park Service in 2018, will be having a solo exhibition called "National Parks and National Treasures." Visit artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

Winter Wonderland Ice Skating. Public skating every day and extended hours for all Holidays, through March 10, hours vary at Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion. Special events throughout the weekend, join in: Thursdays for College Night, \$2 off admission with a valid ID; Fridays for Rock the Rink with a live DJ; and Saturdays for Cartoon Skate, glide around the ice with The Grinch and Scooby Doo. Visit restontowncenter.com/amenities/ice-skating.

Trivia Night at Crafthouse. Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. at Crafthouse, 1888 Explorer St., Reston. Call 571-926-9931 or visit crafthouseusa.com.

Karaoke at Crafthouse. Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. at Crafthouse, 1888 Explorer St., Reston. Call 571-926-9931 or visit crafthouseusa.com.

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Meet Me at the Movies – Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. (doors open 9:15 a.m.) at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston. Reston Association presents the feature film "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Call 703-435-6577 or visit reston.org.

Reading Nook by Valerianne. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Arts Herndon celebrates the Literary Arts with Snowmen All Year by Caralyn Buehner with a Snowman project. The Reading Nook Events reading activities and crafts are appropriate for children up to 5 years old. \$10 per family. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Girl Power! Book Club. 7 p.m. at at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Middle grade readers (ages 10-13) gather to discuss and review favorite books that are written by or about women and girls. Authors, special events, and activities are part of every meeting, and new members are always welcome. Visit



Cast of "[title of the show]" - Clockwise from top: Katie McManus, John Loughney, Jennifer Redford, and Bobby Libby.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
NEXTSTOP THEATRE COMPANY

Witty, Charming Musical...

... with an unusual name.
NextStop Theatre presents
"[title of the show]"

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

As the calendar changes to January, NextStop Theatre has an anecdote for the long, cold nights with a sharp-witted, upbeat, lively musical. It's a musical with an unusual name, one that is even surrounded by brackets; "[title of the show]."

Under the artistic leadership of Evan Hoffmann, NextStop even has a radical concept for its productions of the musical about the lives of millennial aged friends who want to break into show business.

"At its core, '[title of show]' is about artists being true to their own voices and letting no one interrupt or distort their creative expression," said Hoffmann, Producing Artistic Director, NextStop. The production will have no single director to oversee its development.

"I am so excited that NextStop is able to give four remarkable artists and the production's music director the opportunity to express themselves in such a clear and unfiltered way," added Hoffmann.

The musical, "[title of the show]" is about four close friends, two men and two women, who consider

themselves "nobodies" in the competitive New York musical theater world. Joined together, they set out to create a musical for an upcoming theater festival.

Over the course of the production, NextStop audiences will get to know the four friends as they develop more than a dozen original musical numbers disclosing their personal lives. The musical numbers include songs about insecurities called "vampires," serious writer's block, the sharp competitive natures of the four friends and how to create "buzz" when everyone is unknown. The reason for the unusual show title "[name of the show]" is made clear.

NextStop cast members include Bobby Libby, John Loughney, Katie McManus and Jennifer Redford with music director Elisa Rosman. They are all veterans of the area vibrant theater scene.

As a group the NextStop cast described "[title of the show]" as about self-aware people with plenty of self-doubts, but bursting with personality." Since the cast will also be taking on the responsibilities of the traditional director, the actors "can be more authentic about their characters who so love

musical theater."

As for the musical numbers, "they are like clever, witty dialogue set to music" noted music director Rosman.

Seeking a pick me up after the Holidays, "[title of the show]" aims to be a loving homage to the musical. There is even this lyric as an enticement: "When you least expect, opportunity walks through the door, you suddenly connect."

www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111 for the book.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Holiday Performance at The Promenade. 1-3 p.m. at Reston Town Center. Zee, keyboard and vocals, presented by Reston Community Center. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Fantastic Films: You've Got Mail. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Warm up with hot cocoa and a literary movie: You've Got Mail, set in wintertime NYC and starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks (1998, PG). Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or

visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. departures on Market Street near Clyde's at Reston Town Center. Presented by Reston Town Center to benefit local charities. \$5 per person. Children under 5 ride free. Visit restontowncenter.com/holidays.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

INOVA Blood Drive. 1-6 p.m. beside the Pavilion at Reston Town Center. Schedule Bloodmobile appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration available.
Holiday Concert. 6-7:30 at The John

F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Reston. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral program for singers 55+, will present the combined talents of more than 250 Encore Chorales and Encore ROCKS singers in concert. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Call 301-261-5747 or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Bobby Cadabra Magic Show. 11-11:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park,

Visitor Center auditorium, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Put some magic in the holiday season with the "Bobby Cadabra Magic Show," a magic show full of laughs, audience participation and live animals that will entertain audience members age 2-adult. Reserve a spot; \$5 per person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park or call 703-437-9101.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. (shotgun start) at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. \$60 per player. Entry deadline Dec. 21. Call 703-471-5769 or visit www.herndongolf.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 2

First Hike Fairfax 2019. Visit any Fairfax County Park Authority trail on Jan. 1, 2019. Take lots of photos. Pick a favorite photo to enter into the Fairfax County Park Authority's First Hike Photo Contest by Jan. 2. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. Limit one photo entry per person. Visit the First Hike Fairfax at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/first-hike.

SATURDAY/JAN. 5

RECenter Swim Classes Start. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers youth swim instruction for babies to teens at nine RECenters throughout the county. Adults join their children in the pool in the early years. Kids go solo and advance through different instruction levels as they get older. For more information about the Park Authority's swim programs, call 703-222-4664 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/swimming.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Open Mic Poetry. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Join ArtSpace Herndon for their open mic series on the first Friday of each month. The first hour is devoted to featured poets and the second hour is open to anyone. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

Creative Printmaking. 6-8 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Learn how to carve and create your own prints from handmade plates, carved blocks and more with Meaghan Busch. Four classes, Wednesdays in January. \$160, 8 students max. Email to register and questions to Meag.Busch@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Basic Fundamentals of Figure Drawing. 2:30-4:30 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Basic Fundamentals of Drawing will be taught and demonstrated, to include the principal application of contour line, gesture and shade while performing exercises in drawing from life. With John Koeber. \$175 for eight-week session. Call 703-956-6590 or visit artspaceherndon.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15-MARCH 5

FuzzieTales with Amanda Jasper. 4:45-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. FuzzieTales is a read-aloud book club for 5-7 year olds exploring high quality, age-appropriate stories through hands-on activities. \$150 for the eight-week session. Call 703-956-6590 or visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Asking questions in class is advice that David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College would offer new students.

Advice from Professors

Sharing things they wish they could tell their prospective students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Many high school seniors will spend their holiday break working on college applications or making visits to perspective university campuses. As the excitement builds over the new collegiate experience that lies ahead, local professors offer advice on the things they wish they could share with new college students.

Avoid seeing college as simply a means to end or a pathway to a career and instead take advantage of the multitude of learning experiences available to students.

From football games and art exhibitions to student debates and faculty recitals, there are opportunities gain a vast amount of knowledge in four years.

Use that time to discover one's interests, says Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history at Montgomery College. "Do not come to college simply for financial gain," he said. "Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love. The jobs will be there."

In an effort to encourage students to move outside of their comfort zone, Linda Gulyn suggests that they, "Learn, have new experiences, but do well academically," she said. "Socialize and engage in activities across your major or regular crowd."

"Do not come to college simply for financial gain. Study what you are most passionate about. Study what you love."

— Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., professor of history, Montgomery College.

"Read and always do your homework," said David S. Torain II, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and statistics at Montgomery College.

"If you read slowly, don't sweat it, just read," he said. "If you get bored, break your reading in to short sessions, but come back to it. If you can't make sense of it all, make sense of as much of it as you can, then talk to a classmate and ask a question in class."

Use college as an opportunity to build skills that will be necessary after college, says Jerome Short, Ph. D. "Students should choose courses and experiences to build their oral and written communication skills to better express themselves persuasively and concisely," he said.

Practice self-care and recognize stress and anxiety that a new college experience might bring. When those feelings arise, avoid negative coping mechanisms and instead focus on those which are healthy, advises Short.

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain," he said. "Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

For some professors, one of the best parts of their job is getting to know and share knowledge with their students even on subjects that are not related to the course, says Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

"Get to know your professors, and make sure they get to know you," she said. "Visit your professors during office hours and use the time to ask questions about the course and even chat about topics interesting to you."

"College is a time to dramatically grow your brain. Scientific research shows that exercise grows brain cells, learning connects cells, and sleep consolidates memories in cells. Do plenty of each of them every day."

— Jerome Short, Ph. D.

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NEWS



Hundreds and hundreds of people gather under a sea of umbrellas to participate in the Wreaths Across America National Day of Remembrance Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon on Dec. 15, 2018.

Wreaths

FROM PAGE 3

wreath in honor of the United States servicemen and women from all branches of the service whose last known status was either Prisoner of War or Missing in Action."

FOLLOWING TAPS, Wright gave instructions to the crowd. She reminded them to securely place the wreath given to them, one per person, on the stake in front of the veteran's gravesite. "Say the veteran's name aloud and thank that veteran for their service. Remember we are not here to decorate graves. We are to remember, not their deaths but their lives."

Suzy Ledgerwood, Herndon Woman's Club confirmed via a database, veterans laid to rest at Chestnut Grove, had lived in Herndon and Reston and "from surrounding communities such as Sterling, Fairfax, Leesburg, Ashburn, Centreville, Arlington,

Special Election

FROM PAGE 3

"I didn't run to just keep a seat warm," said Boysko. "Going along to get along doesn't get you anywhere. Sometimes you've got to be willing to make yourself uncomfortable if you believe in what you're doing."

If elected, Boysko says she would push for in-state tuition for immigrants who arrived as children. She says she would also advocate to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. She plans on continuing her fight to eliminate the sales tax on feminine hygiene products, an effort state officials say would cost about \$8 million a year. One issue she wants to focus on in the upcoming General Assembly session is making sure undocumented immigrants and refugees are able to receive a driver's license from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Democrats have long argued that allowing these people access to the roads allows them to keep jobs and raise families, although Republicans have resisted the idea as aiding and abetting people who are violating immigration law.

"It's a safety issue for me," said Boysko. "We want people to know how to drive and be safe on the roads. It would also be good for the DMV."

JOE MAY, 81, is chairman of the board at EIT, a Leesburg-based electronic engineering and manufacturing firm with facilities in Danville and New Hampshire. A native of Broadway, Va., May has a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech. He was first elected to the House of Delegates in 1993, representing parts of Loudoun, Frederick and Clarke in the 33rd House District. In



With rain dripping off his hat, Gunnery Sergeant Bernard Collins, US Marine Corps places a memorial wreath on its stand to represent Marine service members who serve and have served, and the sacrifices each made. Major Thomas Lane, US Army, looks ahead.

and many others."

Sergeant Smith, US Army Retired, the serviceman who presented the wreath for POWs and MIAs said in an interview, "I'm glad to be here. It's good to give back."

On a hill, Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cordaro, US Army stood with his son Luca, 9, who prepared to lay a wreath. "We are here to honor servicemen and women of the past, and pay our respects," Lieutenant Colonel Cordaro said.

Richmond, he made a name for himself as a moderate Republican, supporting increasing the felony threshold and even tax increases to fund transportation projects. That last position led to his defeat in a primary in 2013, when Republican Dave LaRock campaigned as an arch-conservative who opposed all tax increases — even the transportation deal May helped craft as chairman of the Transportation Committee.

"I never said public service was entirely painless," May said with a chuckle when asked about the 2013 primary. "But I'm truly interested in getting back involved in Northern Virginia transportation funding."

In many ways, May would be out of place in the Republican caucus. He supports universal background checks for firearms and he says he would vote in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment. He also says he would oppose Republican efforts to finance Metro improvements with \$50 million from the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, a move Democrats say would deplete a fund that could be used for other things. On some issues, though, May would fall in line with fiscal conservatives — opposing Boysko's effort to get rid of the sales tax on feminine hygiene products, for example. He's also against raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. One part of his platform comes from his time as chairman of the House Transportation Committee, where he came up with a plan for Virginia to purchase the Dulles Greenway in an effort to reduce tolls.

"I started investigating that two years before I left the General Assembly, and I want to pick up on that again," says May. "The state of Virginia can purchase the greenway and secure it with 4 percent bonds, which cuts in half the toll requirement."

BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room. Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

DONATION REQUEST

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit. The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6th, 2019. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation.

WEBINAR

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 20

Collaborative IEP Meetings: Parents as Partners. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Workshop for parents of children receiving special education services. Highlights include: the IEP process and its components, the parent's role in the IEP meeting, responsibilities of the IEP team members and planning for a child's IEP meeting. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. Discuss "The truth about your future" by Ric Edelman. Free and open to the public. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 19

Workshop Series: Mind in the Making. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs by Ellen Galinsky, encompasses an evidence-based list of life skills that are essential for children to succeed socially, emotionally and intellectually in the short and long term. Participants may register for one or all of the workshops and do not need to attend the previous class. Registration is limited. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

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Stepping Back From the Precipice



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not so bad, even though it's been nearly 10 years on the cancer trail – and two columns, recently, courting my imminent demise.

The appointment with the otolaryngologist to assess the presumptive damage/my decline was instead wonderfully uplifting: "nothing worrisome in the throat." What symptoms I was experiencing (basically seasonal-type cold and flu to go along with a scratchy and extremely hoarse voice) had nothing to do with cancer and more so to do with the time of the year.

Meaning I wasn't going to die as a result; just sneeze, cough and so forth like everyone else, which as I've been told, repeatedly, I'm not.

Cancer patients might not have the benefit of doubt or delay like the rest of you. Time may not be of the essence, but one never knows. Cancer cells sort of have a mind/process of their own.

It's not so much a lesson learned as it has been a lesson reminded.

My oncologist has frequently advised me that should a new symptom appear and persist for two to three weeks, I should email him and alert him to my status/situation. I might have been a week or so late this time, but fortunately not too many dollars short.

My oncologist responded immediately as did my primary care physician. Each doctor making arrangements for me within a matter of hours: a face-to-face appointment with my internal medicine doctor – which led to the referral for the otolaryngologist (who called to schedule an appointment before I even got a chance to); and a referral as well by my oncologist for a CT scan of my neck.

Having now been examined and results interpreted, I am glad to report that as scared as I have been for the past two columns, my symptoms were not indicative of my lung cancer progressing. Rather it was more indicative of a cancer patient being stupid and stubborn.

Not wanting to ever believe that my life hangs in the balance and could be severely endangered by my neglect, I tend to go about my health-related business as I would guess the rest of you who are healthy and not cancer-diagnosed: I wait out the symptoms and try not to go negative.

As has been said recently – to me, nothing could be less appropriate given my stage IV, lung cancer. Being negative might actually save my life.

The reality is: I am compromised and subject to risks and complications many of you are not. My immune system has likely been weakened by this most recent every-three-week infusion interval recommended to shrink a relatively new tumor – and in so treating, hopefully will not have allowed any existing cancer cells to trigger and mutate and cause even more trouble.

After all, cancer is likely in control here and giving them an inch, so to speak, has never been part of our plan.

Even though my cancer had already metastasized in 2009, its movement seems to have been confined to my lungs and amazingly has remained there ever since. Still, if I've finally learned anything with this most recent scare, it is that I can't turn a blind eye or a deaf ear, metaphorically writing, to common sense or doctor's orders.

I'm not supposed to wait for the ambulance, if you know what I mean? I'm supposed to be smarter than that and act like my life matters: making arrangements much sooner rather than way later. Denying, pretending and hoping that new symptoms are benign because many other people experience them is, for a cancer patient, as foolish as it gets.

The last, and I mean the absolute last thing a cancer patient should think is that they are like everybody else. They are not. We are not. I am not.

You get it, Kenny?

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

OPINION

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection Newspapers (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving by tractor-pulled hayride, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Daughter’s Appeal: Vote for May

To the Editor:

Joe May, my father, is very experienced at working with and leading people to accomplish goals that benefit many. With 20 years of experience in the Virginia House of Delegates, he hopes to return to the Virginia state legislature, to continue improving the quality of life for Fairfax and Loudoun County residents. He is a well respected and pragmatic businessman, electrical engineer,

and community leader. Though what matters most to him, is helping people live better lives. This is why he is running as the Republican candidate in the special Virginia state Senate election on Jan. 8.

Joe’s ability to collaborate with others, and formulate and deliver inventive, practical solutions to help people, is what makes him such a successful legislator and leader. The broad scope of his con-

tributions includes :

- ❖ joining forces with both Republicans and Democrats, as House Transportation committee chairman, to develop innovative ways to deliver desperately needed transportation funding to Northern Virginia;

- ❖ guiding efforts of the Loudoun Laurels Foundation and George Marshall International Center to provide exchange programs and scholarships for college students;

- ❖ coordinating the work of engineers, pilots and the Federal

Aviation Administration, to develop and implement improved aircraft safety electronics.

Special election turnouts are small, so your vote is important. Show your support for an experienced, effective problem solver, who will continue to improve the quality of life in Leesburg, Herndon and Sterling, as a Virginia state senator. Please vote for Joe May on Jan. 8.

Beth May
Minneapolis



Sharing Holiday Spirit

Santa is escorted by an entourage of his paddleboard elves as he prepares to dock at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston for Jingle on the Lake on Dec. 1, 2018. The pages of the Connection Newspapers have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving.

PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GEARY/
[HTTPS://CHARLOTTEGEARY.COM](https://charlottegeary.com)

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO LET US SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Editor’s Note About the Rest of 2018

This is our last regular edition of 2018. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children’s Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. You’ll be able to find this online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> Scroll down to Children’s.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 2-3, 2019, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 28 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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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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