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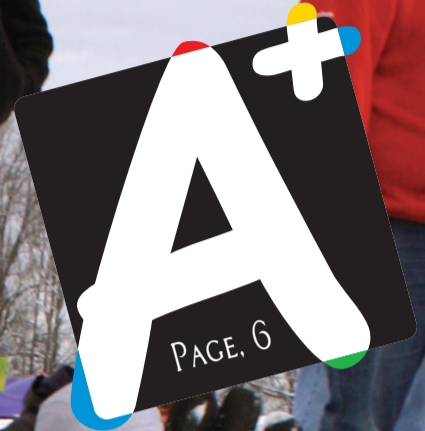
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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington



Shayna and Daisy Dixon from Springfield start out on a ride that took them across the creek, nearly to Old Keene Mill Road. The hill at Keene Mill Elementary is a favorite for the local sledding crowd.

Sledding Day at Keene Mill

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World Lands a
Couple in Alexandria

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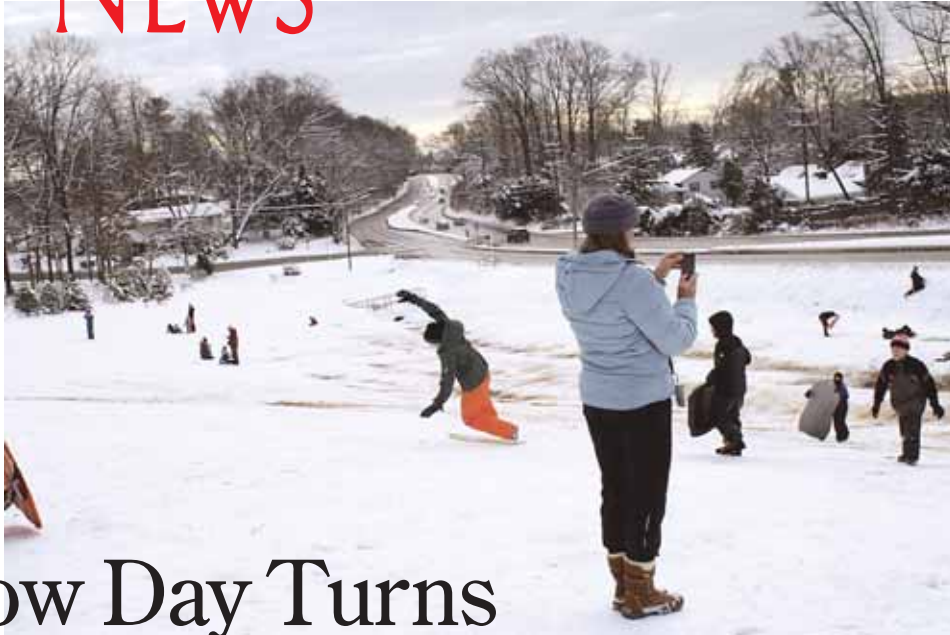
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The photo ops were endless during the sledding day Monday at the hill at Keene Mill Elementary.



Shayna and Daisy Dixon from Springfield start out on a ride that took them across the creek, nearly to Old Keene Mill Road. The hill at Keene Mill Elementary is a favorite for the local sledding crowd in the Springfield-Burke area.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

A Snow Day Turns Into a Sledding Day

The hill at Keene Mill Elementary is a favorite for the local sledding crowd in the Springfield-Burke area.



Dylan Lavinder, 10, of Springfield, gets aerial on a jump.



Snowboards are gaining in popularity on the hill.



Ashley, 8, and Makenzie Dixon, 10, of Burke try out the snowboards at the hill at Keene Mill Elementary.

Faculty Members Lobby Legislators on Higher Education

Focus on reform, plus money for salary increases, boosting tuition assistance and increasing student access to higher education.

BY EMILY HOLTER
AND MADISON MANSKE
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Faculty members from colleges and universities across Virginia converged on the Capitol on Thursday, Jan. 10, urging legislators to provide more funding for higher education and ensure affordable college degrees for future generations of students.

Higher Education Advocacy Day drew professors like Brian Turner who chairs the political science department at Randolph-Macon College. He noted that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia has developed a plan to guide the colleges and universities in the commonwealth.

"The Virginia Plan for Higher Education's goal for Virginia is to be the best-educated state by 2030," Turner said.

To make that a reality, faculty members asked members of the General Assembly to allocate money for salary increases, boost tuition assistance and increase student access to higher education.

In December, Gov. Ralph Northam proposed amending the state budget by giving \$1 billion to higher education, including increasing tuition aid. Many public institutions in Virginia are hoping that with higher salaries, they will be able to offer a higher-quality education to students.

Low salaries make it hard to compete for prominent faculty members with other well-known institutions, Turner said.

As a group, Virginia's college and university faculty members said they support a bill by Del. David Bulova, (D-Fairfax) to increase transparency and ensure gifts that public institutions receive are subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Turner said House Bill 2386 would help ensure that donations enhance the

curriculum and provide more accountability on how institutions spend their money.

Speaking with delegates and senators, some faculty members also expressed their concerns over Title IX policies. Some have questions about legislation sponsored by Del. Joseph Lindsey, D-Norfolk, pertaining to accusations of sexual violence on campus.

Lindsey has introduced two bills (HB 1830 and HB 1831) that would allow students to have attorneys present at any campus disciplinary hearing or sexual assault hearing.

Another higher education issue is a bill proposed by Del. Lashrecse Aird, D-Petersburg, that would prohibit public colleges and universities from asking student applicants about their criminal history. Under HB 2471, schools could not "deny admission to any applicant on the basis of any criminal history information."

"Your criminal history should not be deterring you from being able to pursue education. And in my bill, there's a line that says this is really about the application," Aird said. "If they do get admitted and let's say, for some instance, you have a student that wants to live in on-campus housing, the institution can then request their criminal history."

In making the rounds at Capitol Square, participants in Higher Education Advocacy Day spoke with Sen. Richard Stuart, R-Fredericksburg, about his bill to give students a voice on tuition increases.

Under SB 1204, "No increase of undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees approved by a governing board of a public institution of higher education shall take effect unless such increase receives an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of undergraduate students enrolled in such institution."

Faculty members fear that would make it impossible to raise tuition.

"I don't think you could round up two-thirds of the student body to vote for free beer," Turner said.

Pay Attention, State Legislature Not Gridlocked

Thousands of bills considered over 45 days could have a big impact on your life, for better or for worse.

A week is already completed in the short (45-day) session of the Virginia General Assembly, and so many important things are in the works, in danger of happening or not happening, that no one can have a clear view of it all.

An example: The Senate Courts of Justice Committee voted for a bill 8-6 that would bar the execution of people with serious mental illnesses. Possibly you didn't realize that it is legal to execute someone with serious mental illness, because it makes no sense. But this bill failed last year.

Another success for the moment: increasing the minimum wage to \$15 over several years also cleared Senate committee.

Do you know who your Virginia delegate and senator are? Every resident of Virginia gets one of each. Enter your address here: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> to find out all of your representatives, plus contact information. Call and tell them, or leave a message, about what matters to you. Send an email. Connect to them on Facebook and watch for live Q&A sessions.

Here you can search legislation by bill number or keyword, find video and streaming: <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

Last week's editorial, a long legislative wish list, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2019/jan/08/opinion-editorial-wish-list-things-session-general/> still omitted many important actions, despite its length. One in particular made it into some editions and not others: To establish equal rights for LGBT Virgin-

ians, especially in housing and public employment.

Here are a few more important items:

The Virginia State Conference NAACP Criminal Justice Committee supports the passage of the following bills that are up for debate in this legislative session:

❖ HB 1651 - Raises grand larceny limit from \$500 to \$750 (Del Hayes)

❖ HB 1642 - Increases data collection on use of solitary confinement (Del Hope)

❖ SB 1013 - Repeals suspension of drivers licences for not paying fines (Sen Stanley; Del Kory)

❖ SB 1053 and HB 1745 - Makes juvenile offenders sentenced to life automatically eligible for parole after serving 25 years. (Sen Marsden; Del Lindsey)

❖ HB 2616 - Raises the minimum age a child can be tried as an adult from 14 to 16 (Del Guzman) (And this is still far too low.)

❖ SB 1551, HB 1685, HB 1873 and HB 1688 - Limits the scope of what School Resource Officers can get involved, prohibits students from being charged with disorderly conduct, and mandates data collection of use of force against students. (Sen Surovell, Del Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, Del Bourne; Del Mullin)

❖ SB 997 - Decriminalizes simple marijuana possession. (Sen Ebbin)

❖ SB 1008 - Bans mechanical devices designed to increase rate of bullets firing. (Sen Ebbin)

❖ SB 1013 - Repeals the requirement that the driver's license of a person convicted of

any violation of the law who fails or refuses to provide payment of fines be suspended. (Sen Stanley)

❖ SB 1034 - Prohibits any person who is not a licensed firearms dealer from purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period. (Sen Locke)

❖ HB 1991 - Labels violent hate groups as domestic terrorists (Del Price)

❖ HB 2472 - Adds gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense. (Del. Kenneth R. Plum)

House Courts of Justice members: Robert B. Bell (chairman), Leftwich (vice chair), Kilgore, Gilbert, L.R. Adams, J.L. Campbell, Collins, Miyares, Ransone, R.R. Campbell, Watts, Toscano, Herring, Hope, Mullin, Bourne, Simon, Carroll Foy.

Senate Courts of Justice members:

Obenshain (chairman), Saslaw, Norment, Howell, Lucas, Edwards, McDougale, Stuart, Stanley, Reeves, Chafin, Deeds, Sturtevant, Petersen, and Peake.

Find contact information <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

See our website www.ConnectionNewspapers.com for many stories from the General Assembly from the Capital News Service, written by journalism students from VCU.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

General Assembly Agenda

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

In a recent social media post, I indicated that the annual General Assembly session would be underway very soon. AutoCorrect changed the text to be "underwater very soon." My son alerted me to the change, and I made what I thought was a correction. As the General Assembly session has gotten underway I am starting to wonder if AutoCorrect knew something that I am now coming to realize: The General Assembly may well be underwater! The session is scheduled to go until Feb. 22. Meeting five days a week means 38 actual days for work on more than 2,000 bills and resolutions. While I have highlighted big issues like redistricting reform, preventing gun violence and ERA ratification, there are many more issues large and small that make up the agenda for the session.

Virginia has always conformed its income tax policies to the federal system. With the massive changes that have been made in federal tax law, the General Assembly will wrestle with what we will do in Virginia. There will

be an effort to resolve the issue early in the session to accommodate taxpayers who want to file their returns early. Part of the tax policy debate will be making the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refundable as promoted by the Governor in a bill that I have introduced. The purpose would be to allow persons of low income to keep more of the money they earn and be more self-supporting.

As a Dillon Rule State meaning local governments have only the powers granted to them by the state, dozens of bills, called local bills, are introduced to extend powers some of which are very minor to a particular locality. Another group of bills is called housekeeping to make corrections or clarifications to legislation that passed in previous sessions. All these bills are important but add to the workload of a session.

Challenging environmental issues will be coming before the legislature many of which relate to energy. There are proposals to increase

the required uses of alternative and renewable fuels. Cleaning up from the past use of fossils fuels and the resulting growth in coal ash ponds will be taken up.

There is strong need to deal with the degradation of water quality in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Tidewater area is subject to recurrent flooding coming about with climate change that needs addressing now rather than later.

There are many bills dealing with criminal justice reform including bills intended to reduce the school to prison pipeline. The Governor has announced his support of decriminalizing possession of small quantities of marijuana. A bill that has been introduced would allow casino and sports gambling.

There will be a number of dog and cat bills that include high levels of emotion from interested parties. Being able to limit dogs running across the properties of land owners is a big concern in rural areas.

To review all the bills on the agenda of the General Assembly go to <http://lis.virginia.gov>

If you have not done so already, let me know your positions on issues by going to my website (www.kenplum.com). Click on Legislative Session Survey.

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NEWS

Virginians Are Split on Arming Teachers

Reflecting geographic differences.

BY SAFFEYA AHMED
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Virginians are divided on whether they would support legislation to train school teachers and administrators to be armed on school grounds, according to a poll conducted at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"It was almost split right down the middle," said Robyn McDougle, director for the Center for Public Policy in VCU's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, which conducted the study.

The 2018-19 Winter Public Policy Poll asked a random sample of 805 adult Virginians: "Would you favor or oppose a state law allowing localities to train teachers and administrators to be armed in schools?"

About 47 percent of Virginians are strongly or somewhat in favor of such training while 49 percent are strongly or somewhat opposed, the poll found. The survey's margin of error was 3.45 percentage points.

Republicans were far more likely than Democrats to favor the legislation. A little more than half of white people responded that they would support training teachers and administrators to carry weapons, compared with 34 percent of minorities. Residents of western Virginia supported arming teachers more than any other region in the state, with 63 percent strongly or somewhat favoring the proposed legislation.

McDougle said the results show that "the commonwealth is still very much a split state around the importance of Second Amendment rights." She said Virginia is "not a state where we're one side or the other — it's still a hotly debated topic."

The idea of arming school teachers most recently circulated after the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The shooting killed 17 and injured 17 others. In 2018 alone, there were at least 24 school shootings resulting in 113 deaths, according to research conducted by Education Week.

Arming teachers and administrative staff at schools is not an idea unknown to Virginia. In August, Lee County, in southwestern Virginia, approved a plan to arm teachers in an effort to increase security. Attorney General Mark Herring denounced Lee County's plan as illegal.

"But when Parkland happened ... the coach was shot while he was trying to protect his students," Brian Austin, superintendent of Lee County Public Schools, told NPR. "We had the incident in Indiana, where the young teacher was trying to defend his students and got shot. And some school boards started issuing buckets of rocks and bats. And we thought we could do better than that."

In addition to arming teachers, the poll also asked Virginians if they supported people carrying firearms at large public assemblies — such as concerts, protests or festivals. Sixty-two percent said they would favor maintaining public safety, even if it meant restricting people from carrying guns.



PHOTO BY BEN ZUHL

Dozens protest in front of the NRA headquarters in Fairfax on Monday, Jan. 14.

Dozens Brave Snow, Ice to Protest Gun Violence

Forty hearty souls and two snowmen protested in front of the NRA headquarters in Fairfax on Monday, Jan. 14. Neither snow, rain, heat nor ice has stopped this monthly vigil which began seven years ago immediately following the massacre at Sandy Hook, Dec 14, 2012. The vigil is held the 14th of each month in memory of the victims of Sandy Hook and of all the victims of gun violence. It will continue until there are

common sense changes like universal background checks, banning bump stocks and keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

Next vigil—Valentines Day, Feb. 14, 2019. Sponsored by: Reston Herndon Alliance to End Gun Violence, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, Brady Campaign Northern Virginia, Virginia Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

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E-cigarettes come in a variety of forms.

How to Talk About Vaping

Approaching conversation about dangers of e-cigarettes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jessica DeBoer's 13-year-old son just returned to school after a six-day suspension because he was caught vaping in the boys bathroom of his elite private school. Until she received a call from one of the school's administrators, DeBoer was not familiar with the practice and never dreamed her son would partake in it.

"Now I feel like I might have been naive considering how widespread it seems to be," she said. "My son told me that many of the kids in his school have tried vaping and some even do it regularly."

Vaping is the use of e-cigarettes to inhale and exhale an aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The term is used because e-cigarettes produce an aerosol that consists of fine particles, many of which contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals.

For parents like Deboer, keeping the line of communication open is a key weapon in keeping kids away from e-cigarettes, says therapist Lisa Baguio, LCSW. "Before talking with your teen about vaping, or any sensitive issue for that matter, educate yourself and make sure you know what you're talking about," she said. "Kids know more than we give them credit for. Be prepared with unfutable facts and scientific evidence because you can guarantee yourself that your kids will have their own set of facts, which are often false."

Once you have those facts, be prepared to share them during a conversation with your teen. "It's important that parents are open and honest with their

children," said child psychologist Laurie Jones, Psy.D. "You first have to tell them your expectations. For example, 'In our family, we have zero tolerance for e-cigarette or tobacco use of any kind.' You then should explain the dangers and risks involved and make sure that your teen knows that this is not your just opinion, but proven hazards."

A teen might be less likely to engage in vaping if they can connect it to negative consequences that affect them personally, advised marriage and family counselor Joyce McCarry, M.A. "One thing that teens value is their image among their peer group," she said. "If vaping a substance causes bad breath, that will deter a teen from using it. If getting caught vaping means that they are kicked off a sports team, that will be a deterrent."

A parent's best tactic is creating an environment where one's teen feels comfortable sharing information about vaping and working with them collaboratively to find ways to avoid it, says McCarry. "You want your child to let you know if they're vaping or have friends who are doing it," she said. "You can also let them know that if they're ever in a situation where they're being offered an e-cigarette, real cigarettes or drugs or anything dangerous, that they can call you and you will pick them up immediately with no questions asked."

"You also want you to give your child a way to get out of a risky social situation without feeling embarrassed," continued McCarry. "I have a patient whose parents tell him to text them a numerical code whenever he's in a precarious situation with friends. The parents know to call his cell phone and tell him that there's a family emergency and he needs to come home right away. This gives the child an excuse to leave without feeling embarrassed or like he'll be ridiculed for not engaging in risky behavior."

"You also want you to give your child a way to get out of a risky social situation without feeling embarrassed."

— Joyce McCarry, M.A.

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PEOPLE



Shannon and Sergio babysitting pets in Canada.



Shannon and Sergio Morales in Egypt.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Backpacking the World Landed a Couple in Alexandria

House-sitting and laptop computer jobs became their way of life.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Shannon and Sergio Morales are a California couple that got rid of everything, including their office jobs, and now live out of their backpacks, house-sitting their way around the world in pursuit of the happiness that this kind of freedom brings. They are now housesitting in Alexandria, working computer contracting jobs on their laptops and taking care of the homeowner's two cats until the end of February, when they'll be off to their next stop in this whirlwind lifestyle. "We couldn't see ourselves settling down," said Shannon.

They've taken their lifestyle discussion to the web, and have a website, "Screw the Average, be an outlier," full of pictures, a blog, and an explanation.

"We've been called frugal, minimalists, environmentalists, and adventurers. We like to think of ourselves as different, as outliers," their explanation reads on their website "Screwtheaverage.com." An "outlier," is defined as "a person whose residence and place of business are at a distance." The name of their website might seem to be snubbing their noses at a conventional lifestyle, but they insist that's not the case. "Why be average when we can push it a little further?" Shannon asked. The website photo album shows them in various places

in this country as well as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, Belgium, Italy, Morocco and more. They've house sat in downtown Vienna, Austria, and Athens, Greece "three or four blocks from the palace," said Sergio. Shannon often finds herself at Starbucks with her laptop, working for various computer companies she's gotten contracts to support. "I've been to Starbucks all over the world," she said. Kingstowne Starbucks is within walking distance to their current residence, although it is over a mile. Walking is part of the plan as well.

IN EARLY 2016, they had this lifestyle on their radar screen and worked towards the day when they gave up their apartment, and sold their car in fall of 2016 and left the United States in November. At that point, their plan was to housesit in Europe, but that extended into Asia and Africa too before they came back in 2017 and landed in Boise, Idaho before getting another housesitting gig in Portland. "It's crazy doing taxes," said Shannon, referring to all the out-of-state type forms they use.

The travel life with a laptop computer and no permanent roots is the topic of "Vegabonding Life," a travel blog that George Rodgers has been part since he adopted this lifestyle. He's been traveling around the world for the past 12 years being a "digital nomad," on a laptop, like the Morales's are doing. "That location-independent lifestyle is very common in the places I travel," he said, naming far-away places he calls "digital nomad hubs," such as Chiang Mai in Thailand, Tulum in Mexico, and Bali. "All offer warm climates, inexpensive living, and networking with other travelers and online entrepreneurs," he said. "I did one of those housesitting gigs

myself for two months down in Mexico, simultaneously working with my laptop," Rodgers said.

Although the Morales's goal is to be happy, another roundabout goal goes by the acronym of FIRE – Financially Independent, Retire Early. The Morales's got further involved when they were in Colorado where they met the "NoCo Mustachians," community. The guru of this financial freedom meetup was a character called "Mr. Money Moustache." While the FIRE people are working long hours to get to that point, the Morales's want their happiness to be the main focus.

"We both put in our time," said Shannon,

"for us it isn't working the 9-5 job." Travel is a motivator for them, but the FIRE concept is still a long-term goal.

THIS LIFESTYLE is not all about sitting on a sun-drenched beach with a laptop and frozen cocktail, like some of the ads portray. At each house, there is usually pets that need taking care of, and they walk a lot since they have no car. For work, they scour the job boards, and frequently log on to trustedhousesitters.com to find their next stay. At this point in January, they don't have anything set up for the end of February when the current homeowners will return, but they're not concerned.

For Shannon and Sergio Morales, Kingstowne is walkable from their temporary home.

PHOTO BY
MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



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ONGOING

Founding Artists Exhibition.

Through Feb. 3 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Muse Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center presents a group exhibition highlighting Studio and Arches artists that have been a part of the organization for its 10-year span. In honor of their dedication and support, the exhibition will survey their works in various mediums including painting, sculpture, fiber, glass, precious metals, and mixed media. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Exhibit: Purchased Lives. Through Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Purchased Lives is a traveling exhibition from the Historic New Orleans Collection. The exhibit examines a complex and divisive period of American history and educating about the far-reaching economic and heartbreaking personal impact of the domestic slave trade. Look for The Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement March 3-31. Call 703-385-8414.

FRIDAY/JAN. 11

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

Bonita Lestina Performance Series.

8 p.m. in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Performer to be announced. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-352-ARTS.

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Family Movie Night: “Paddington 2.”

Lights go down at 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a free, family friendly (movies are PG) movie night. Participants may bring their own snacks. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. Britepaths will accept donations of non-perishable food until 9 p.m. Call 703-385-7858.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet.

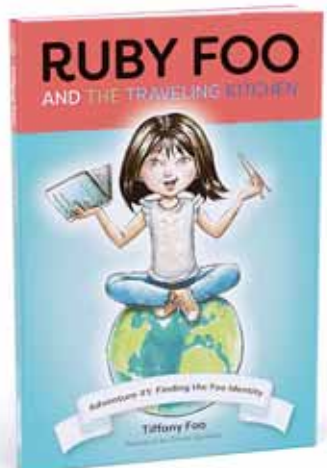
Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Accotink Universalist Unitarian Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members

Oval Peek by Joan Ulrich, 2014, Salt Fired Stone-ware



Founding Artists Exhibition

Workhouse Arts Center presents a group exhibition highlighting Studio and Arches artists that have been a part of the organization for its 10-year span. In honor of their dedication and support, the exhibition will survey their works in various mediums including painting, sculpture, fiber, glass, precious metals, and mixed media. Through Feb. 3 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Muse Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more.



\$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 20

Garden Gauge (G Scale) Model Train Show.

1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia, and Maryland Garden Railway Society will hold their annual Garden Gauge Model Train Show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Big Band Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The White House Band All-Stars will present a traditional Big Band, Bebop, Fusion, Swing and Latin concert. The group is made up of Service Band musicians who have performed at the White House. Free admission. Childcare provided. Reception to follow. Free. Call 703-455-2500 or visit www.standrews.net.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

Bonita Lestina Performance Series.

8 p.m. in Old Town Hall,

3999 University Drive. With IONA Celtic Fusion. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-352-ARTS.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Learn from History Lectures.

2 p.m. at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Journals of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865. Call 703-591-0560.

Reminiscences. 7-8 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. After winning first prize at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Music Competition and making his debut performance at Carnegie Hall, concert pianist Mark Irchai returns to the DC-metro area. He will offer “Reminiscences” – a solo piano recital of music written by composers in reflection on their pasts. Free. Visit markirchai.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

Reading Circle and Craft Day.

1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. “My Little Book of Trains” will be featured in a reading circle. Train locomotives and tenders will be explored during the activities that day. Participants may make their own ongoing journal for the year’s reading circles and information learned about trains and railroading. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Burke Historical Society. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. BHS President Jon Vrana will give a



PHOTO BY D. DeLOOSE

Burke Historical Society

Local authors, Mary Lipsey and Cindy Bennett, will share their experiences and tips on the process of researching, writing, and publishing a historical book. Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

presentation called “If These Walls Could Talk,” examining the 19th-century history of Woodbury—also known as the Silas Burke House. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 29

Fairfax Gratefulness Gathering.

7-8:30 p.m. at Richard Byrd Public Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. A program of Gratefulness.org Bring gratitude to life in the community, be present to opportunities always available; opportunities to learn and grow and extend oneself with care and compassion. Free. Email joanne.spahnrd@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Adults’ BYOG Night. 7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. BYOG = Bring your Own Game – come to the library with your favorite board game or card game to share. Adults only. Free. Call 703-978-5600 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4741919.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Dog Park Grand Opening. 9 a.m. at the Fairfax City Dog Park, 11000 Berry St., Fairfax. City residents, both two-legged and four-legged, are invited to the grand opening ceremony for the Fairfax City dog park on the former Westmore Elementary School site. The new dog park will be open daily from dawn to dusk. All dogs with current licenses are welcome. The park will include a fenced exercise/run area (fence is a gift from Affectionate Pet Care), park benches, and trash and recycling receptacles. Waste bags and a receptacle will be provided at the dog

park. Call 703-385-7858.
Chinese New Year Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The 12th Annual Chinese New Year Festival hosted by the Asian Community Service Center featuring live performances, including Dragon and Lion dances, Han Costume Fashion show, Asian food, the writing of Chinese names, language, craft and business booths, children world, and also a lunar new year dragon parade. Free admission. Visit www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Author Event: Tiffany Foo-Garcia.

Noon-3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble-Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Tiffany Foo-Garcia will be holding a reading and signing for the first book of her new middle grade culinary adventure series, “Ruby Foo and the Travelling Kitchen: Finding the Foo Identity.” Visit rubyfookitchen.com.

Make a Valentine Card Craft. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a Valentine’s Day Make and Take event. Visitors will create their own Valentine’s cards to take home with them. The cost of supplies is included with admission.. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Burke Historical Society.

7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Local authors, Mary Lipsey and Cindy Bennett, will share their experiences and tips on the process of researching, writing, and publishing a historical book. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

TUESDAYS/FEB. 5-26

Try Girl Scouts. 6-7 p.m. at West Springfield Elementary School, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. Make new friends, learn about Girl Scouts, and meet the requirements for two new cybersecurity badges. \$25 for four weeks. Email cosborne@gscnc.org or call 703-372-4341.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Animal Sweetheart’s Dance. 2-4 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Dance, laugh, and learn at the social event of the winter season. Space limited, register online (tinyurl.com/y9nz9q48) or call 703-451-9588 to save a spot. \$9. Email casey.riley@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-451-9588.

Winter Wonderland Family Dance. 5-8 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring the whole family for an evening of magic and wonder with dinner, special guest characters, crafts, dancing and more. All families are welcome. \$30 per adult, \$20 per child. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

DINING



The centrally-located bar features wrap-around stools that are reminiscent of a 1960s design.



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE MCFLY'S

The front will face the Springfield Hilton and Loisdale Road.

Local Goods on the Menu at Springfield Town Center

Freshness and locally sourced foods to highlight menu at new restaurant Maggie McFly's.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In February, diners at Springfield Town Center will have another entrée on their list of dining choices when Maggie McFly's opens. The Connecticut-based restaurant specializes in a teriyaki bowl, pot roast, jambalaya and fresh turkey with a side of house-made apple stuffing, made with locally-grown ingredients.

"We're huge on local and fresh," said Carrie Koscal, the marketing manager. They use Suite Sophia, honey from Lake Ridge, cupcakes from Soul Cakes, in Woodbridge, beer from Port City, in Alexandria and coffee from Servantes, in Springfield, among a list of other locally sourced products.

Maggie McFly's opened its first bar and restaurant in 1993 in Middlebury, Conn. It currently has five Connecticut locations and one in Virginia Beach. They picked Springfield to "expand the brand in the direction we're looking to go," said Koscal. The Springfield

location will be a 6,800 square feet space, that seats 217 inside and 52 on the patio.

Although they have one location in Brookfield, Conn. with a backroom golf-themed facility that has a computer interactive aspect, the Springfield restaurant will be very much like the Virginia Beach location, with a central bar, booths, lots of glass and green neon lettering out front. Construction is finishing up at their location between LA Fitness and Zinburger on the Loisdale Road side. Like some other restaurants at the town center, it will only be accessed from the outside, not the shopping interior.

Although Virginia Beach is known for the summer vacation crowd, Maggie McFly's is located in Lynnhaven Mall there and caters to the locals. "It's super military heavy," Koscal said of the clientele, and noted their location in proximity to Naval Air Station Oceana. There's an aviation theme that will be present at Springfield as well.

Mike Jay works out at LA Fitness

and has watched the restaurant construction as he comes and goes. He grew up in Philadelphia and goes to Maggiano's at the town center a lot, but feels Maggie McFly's will attract diners on restaurant row in Springfield. "It fits

the destination mode," he said.

The founder, Ray Harper, looks to be part of the community as well, working with charities and donations. "In Connecticut, we do a lot of soup kitchens," said Koscal.

Don Cordeiro will be the new

manager, and he got his start at the Virginia Beach location, as did some of the others on the new staff. They are hiring as well, looking for "amazing people that could contribute something great to the team," Koscal said.



Booths are on the outer rim with industrial ceilings throughout.

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Corps of Engineers announces public information session for Decommissioning of Deactivated SM-1 Former Nuclear Power Plant at Fort Belvoir

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) is currently in the planning phase for the decommissioning and dismantling of the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir, Va.

As part of that decommissioning planning, USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment evaluating potential ecological, cultural, water, public health and safety, and waste management effects associated with the decommissioning of the SM-1 facility at Fort Belvoir.

USACE is also seeking consultation from members of the public (in addition to the state historic groups) to determine the cultural impacts of the decommissioning project and to mitigate any adverse effects identified in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

To aid in both of these aspects of the ongoing decommissioning planning for the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant and to gather feedback from the public, USACE is hosting a public information session on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at the Fairfax County's South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Va.). The session will consist of an open house period with information posters where the public can meet and interact with USACE and Fort Belvoir personnel working on the project from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, which will be followed by a formal presentation about the SM-1's history and ongoing decommissioning planning and a subsequent question and answer session and additional poster availability from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

SM-1 Background: Completed in 1957, the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir was the first nuclear power facility in the United States to be connected to a public utility grid. Over several years it provided power primarily to Fort Belvoir and served as a training facility for nuclear technicians from all military branches before being partially decommissioned in the early 1970s.

The initial dismantlement and decommissioning involved the removal of a majority of the radioactivity from the site, including the removal of the nuclear fuel and control rods, decontamination work around the facility, radioactive waste removal, and the sealing of the Reactor Containment Vessel which hold the Reactor Pressure Vessel and other reactor components.

USACE is working to develop and finalize the various planning documents for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the facility. More information can be found on the SM-1 project web site: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/SM-1/

Those wishing to provide written comments or questions regarding the SM-1 former nuclear power plant decommissioning can do so by e-mailing CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil or sending written comments to the following mailing address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Corporate Communication Office, 10-F-23, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD. 21201. Comments and feedback received at this time will inform the ongoing decommissioning planning efforts.



You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

News

Advocates Seek Laws to Help Immigrants Drive, Study

BY SAFFEYA AHMED
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Immigrant rights advocates urged legislators Wednesday, Jan. 9, to provide driving privileges, wage theft protection and in-state tuition to immigrants who reside in Virginia without documentation.

The Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights — composed of more than 20 immigrant justice organizations — laid out its legislative agenda on behalf of the state's estimated 270,000 residents without legal permission to live in the U.S.

Some advocates, including Haziel Andrade of the Virginia Intercollegiate Immigrant Alliance, shared personal stories about why issues such as college tuition and the ability to drive affect Virginia's immigrant communities.

"As I share part of my story," Andrade said, "I'd like anyone listening to look at me as a human being, not by my immigration status."

Andrade arrived in the U.S. from Colombia at 3 years old. Currently a temporary resident under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, she studies computer science at Virginia Commonwealth University. Andrade asked legislators to let Virginians lacking proper documentation pay in-state tuition rates.

"Now more than ever, I'm being targeted because of my immigration status. And I feel as though no one cares about my education," Andrade said. "What makes my education any different from any other Virginian student?"

Of the 270,000 Virginians residing in the U.S. without permission, at least 12,000 were minors who qualified for DACA in 2017, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. But not everyone believes DACA recipients should receive in-state tuition.



PHOTO BY SAFFEYA AHMED

Steve Yoo, campaign coordinator for The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, spoke about his experiences as an immigrant illegally residing in the U.S.

Ira Mehlman, media director with the Federation for American Immigration Reform, called subsidizing tuition for those living in the U.S. illegally a "zero-sum game."

"Money that is given to subsidize college educations for people who are in the country illegally is money that is not given to someone else," Mehlman said. He said the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights wants "to allocate scarce public resources to benefit a group of people who are in the country illegally, and it's coming at the expense of other people who need those benefits."

BESIDES IN-STATE TUITION, members of the coalition discussed the need for legal permission to drive a motor vehicle. Elena Camacho told her story in Spanish, translated by VACIR Executive Director Monica Sarmiento.

"The first example I'll list is an undocumented friend I have who has a special needs son," Camacho said. "She needs to drive her son to and from the doctor's office. ... She has this daily need, but she isn't able to fulfill it."

But Mehlman said driving privileges are just that — a privilege.

"The idea that you are in the country illegally — you have no legal right to be here — [and] you should be awarded the privilege of driving ... it simply doesn't make much sense," Mehlman said. "The state of Virginia should not be facilitating people violating federal immigration law."

Camacho described driving as a need, not a want.

"The ability to have driving privileges is absolutely essential," Sarmiento translated. "Some people see a basic necessity as being able to have food, to have health care. Driving privileges should be seen in that particular way because it is an access to all those avenues."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Prescription Drug Take Back Box Program. Fairfax County announced the expansion of the Prescription Drug Take Back Box Program Countywide. The boxes are available 24/7/365 at each district police station for any person to anonymously and safely dispose of their prescription medications 24/7/365 - no questions asked. It is important to get unused medicines, especially opioids, out of your medicine cabinets to prevent accidental or illicit use. Several Fairfax County pharmacies also take back unused prescription drugs. For a current list, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/4-ways-to-safely-dispose-of-](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/4-ways-to-safely-dispose-of-unused-medications/)

unused-medications/.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in local Civil War or Railroad History? Consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. The Museum is also seeking an individual to coordinate the scheduling of the volunteer staff. Training will be provided for all positions. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 for opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke needs volunteer drivers for trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the

South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun Wall at recruiter@scfbva.org or call 703-323-4788.

INPUT SOUGHT

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program. Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents. Each of six public information meetings will include a static display of unmanned aircraft followed by a presentation outlining the program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. The formal presentation will begin at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

News

Free Meals for Furloughed Workers

To help furloughed workers having a difficult time making ends meet, Christ Church is providing free, Wednesday night dinners for them and their families until the furlough is lifted. The next one will be Jan. 23 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Christ Church is at 7600 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information, contact Associate Pastor Ryan LaRock at rlarock@christchurchva.org or call 703-425-3580.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

- 7 p.m. To find out more about the UAS program go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas. Send feedback or questions to uas@fairfaxcounty.gov or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019, to be included in the official public record.
- Wednesday, Jan. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at South County Governmental Center (Room 221C), 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.
 - Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at McLean District Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean.
 - Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly.
 - Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center – Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road.
 - Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall – Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

TUESDAYS THROUGH 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.
- Tuesday, Jan. 22 – Communicating (part 3)
 - Tuesday, Jan. 29 – Making Connections (part 4)
 - Tuesday, Feb. 5 – Critical Thinking (part 5)
 - Tuesday, Feb. 12 – Taking on Challenges (part 6)
 - Tuesday, Feb. 19 – Self-Directed, Engaged Learning (part 7)

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

Park Fees, Public Comment Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority has scheduled its annual public comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herry Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites.

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Conversation with Kerry Hannon. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. "A Conversation with Kerry Hannon: Empower Yourself Personally, Professionally and Financially." Richard Byrd Library is partnering with the Life Planning Network to present Hannon, a best selling author and an expert on career transitions, personal finance, entrepreneurship and retirement. Free. Call 703-451-8055 for more.

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What To Right About



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Today, Jan. 12, 2019 is National Glazed Donut Day and the day after my most recent post-scan appointment with my oncologist. A day when, if I'm lucky – as I have been for the past 10 years – my world will change for the better (donut consumption notwithstanding). However, the 'world' to which I refer is one fraught with danger and offers no more guarantees than I've been accustomed to.

To invoke the late, great Rod Serling: I am now entering "The Immunotherapy Zone."

Yes, a brand new – for me – treatment protocol: new drug, new side effects, new frequency, new lifestyle/fewer hassles (potentially), and most importantly: shrinkage (possibly), of my tumors, especially my "Adams Apple" tumor, as I've come to nickname the mass just below my Adams Apple (which is sort of bothering me, if you want to know the truth).

The nature of cancer treatment as I've experienced it – and learned from my oncologist is – if the drug is working, you continue it until it isn't (sounds simple I know). When it stops working, you change as the cancer has figured out the drug's intent. (Cancer cells are smart that way.)

Generally speaking, the cancer drug doesn't start working (shrinking, stabilizing) after it has stopped working (growth). Over my nearly 10 years, I have switched drugs upwards of a dozen times.

Now, I am switching again: to Opdivo, an immunotherapy drug, a class of drugs that didn't even exist a decade or so ago when I was first diagnosed, and one that has only been approved for the treatment of lung cancer since 2015. A drug that, to quote the television advertisement: "offers a chance at longer life."

And so, Team Lourie, two-thirds of it anyway, made the decision to switch and fight. Starting this Friday, I will be infused into the great unknown.

From what my oncologist explained yesterday, aside from the possible benefits, Opdivo has some potentially unpleasant side effects. However, continuing with my present infusion drug, Alimta, now that there's been some growth, is also likely to produce some unpleasant side effects: growth and movement.

And more growth/movement is the worst side effect, relatively and comparatively speaking. So we chose a definite over a maybe. If we continue with Alimta, there will be growth – definitely (that's how cancer works). If we opt for Opdivo, maybe there won't be growth, and maybe there might even be some shrinkage (the good kind).

As for lifestyle changes, there are, according to my oncologist, some quality of life improvements as well, or at least, more weeks in the month when potentially I'll be less impacted by my disease/treatment. Which along with my quality of life has always been a concern of my oncologist.

And, without getting into the details, I'm ready for a change.

Combined with the possibility of tumor shrinkage and fewer/different side effects (some patients report few side effects from Opdivo), I wouldn't say switching to an immunotherapy drug was enticing/a "no-brainer," but it does offer an alternative of sorts. And given where I've been treated from and where I'll be treated now, I am ready for something different.

Changing drugs is always a risk though; it could improve my life or it could make matters worse, a 'worse' from which quite frankly I might not recover (do you remember my yo-yo down-the-stairs visual from a few columns ago?). And I am familiar, unfortunately, with some less-than-encouraging accounts of patients not faring so well.

I just hope there's not a hole in my thinking. Oh wait. That's a hole in my donut. No worries. I'm happy to buy the donut and I never complain about the hole. That's the trade-off. I'm hoping, given the potential benefit of Opdivo, I can likewise live/trade-off with side effects.

My philosophy has always been to take the good with the bad – and vice versa, and after almost 10 years of rolling with the punches, I see no reason to change now.

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

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