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Springfield CONNECTION

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“Be confident. Speak Up. Make eye contact – and research and practice!” That was just some of the advice that Monica Jackson, owner of Jackson Child Care in Springfield, offered in her “Do’s and Don’ts of Interviewing” workshop. Students paired up and did some interviewing role-play during the session.

Teens Explore First Jobs

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Shopping Center
Set for a Facelift

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Trafficking in
Our Backyard

NEWS, PAGE 4

MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2019

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2019-20 school year. Find registration forms in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Call 703-322-8500 or email lrmill@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Monday, April 1, 4-5 p.m.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Building Resiliency in the Faith Community. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; registration and breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. at Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Network with local faith leaders and public safety officials; learn what resources and assistance are available and how to access them; understand the current status of hate crimes in Fairfax County, their causes and the effect they have on the faith community at large; hear new ideas for creating both a welcoming and secure environment at a place of worship – both during and outside of religious times; and learn to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies. Lunch will be provided. Free; space is limited; register at www.eventbrite.com/e/building-resiliency-in-the-faith-community-conference-tickets-56336207112.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

State of Children's Health

Legislative Update Breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Medical Education Campus, Springfield. Join the MCCC Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and at the Federal level. Meet with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates to discuss current news and updates from experts in the field. \$25-\$35. Visit mccpfoundation.org/event/legislative-update-breakfast-march-29-2019/ to register.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. This workshop presented by Dr. Kathryn DeLonga, PsyD, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Mood Brain and Development Unit Psychological Treatment Program at the National Institute for Mental Health, will highlight the prevalence of major depressive disorder and how to identify depression in teenagers. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration. Immersion lottery registration will close on March 29 for kindergarten. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Dozens of exhibits and workshops

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Megan Marhanka talks with Amanda Loudin and John Donovan with NV Pools. Donovan, a West Springfield graduate and the company's director of personnel, started with NV when he was only 15, so he makes a good case for joining the group that provides lifeguards for many area pools.



Here to help! Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity, co-founder of the Teen Job Fairs and still its dedicated sponsor since 2015, and his army of volunteers at the ready to help young jobseekers sign in and get going.

Teens Explore First Jobs

Teen Job Fair held in West Springfield High, three more to follow at area schools.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The second of the five scheduled 2019 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs was held on Saturday, March 23, back where it all started at West Springfield High School, when Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and Pat Malone of Alexandria came up with the idea to bring young job seekers and employers together in one place at one time.

This edition of the fair was co-hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Fairfax County Government, FC Public Schools and the Connection Newspapers sponsor all of the events.

Herrity is a graduate of West Springfield, and these days he calls the West Springfield Government Center, less than half-mile from the school, one of his official homes. West Springfield was the launchpad for the teen job fair program that only increases in size and popularity since its inception in 2015.

"The fair started as an event at one school, once a year," said Herrity from his greeter's post in the high school's hallway, just outside the cafeteria. "I couldn't be more pleased at how it's grown. This gives the kids an opportunity to job search in a safe, relaxed, environment among their peers."

THAT SAFETY FACTOR, and the ability for the kids to seek jobs without "wandering door to door" is a big part of the job fairs' success, says Susan Jones, who has been a volunteer for the events from the very beginning.

"For many of the youngsters, they are looking for that first job," Jones added.

Upcoming Teen Job Fairs

2019 Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Resume Building Workshops.

First jobs are important and these events help connect teens and employers face to face and prepare our youth for the workforce.

These events will focus on student job seekers (approximately ages 16 to 18) looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Volunteer opportunities and resume building workshops will be available for younger students looking to begin to build their resume.

Teens and employers should visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> for registration and more information.

"This event makes sense. The employers here are looking to hire, they have experience with employees of this age group, and the parents can be present to keep an eye on things and guide them if needed."

With the addition of workshops like "The Do's and Don'ts of Interviewing," "Networking," and "Resume Writing," to the job fairs, the youngsters also get some practical advice on enhancing their chances in their job search.

Jared Johnson, 17, who attends Hayfield Secondary School, took in the "Do's and Don'ts" session. He's got an eye on a future in biomedical engineering, but hasn't held a paying job to date and wanted to see "what was out there" and definitely felt he needed some tips from real world experts, like session facilitator Monica Jackson. The 2014 Lady Fairfax honoree, Jackson has experience in several industries. Today, she uses her Early Childhood Development degree as the owner of Jackson Child Care in

Friday, April 5

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chantilly High School

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Intellectual Point

Saturday, April 6

10 a.m. to 12 Noon

South County High School

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County High School

Saturday, April 27

10 a.m. - 12 Noon

Mount Vernon High School

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, and Mount Vernon High School

Springfield and as chair of the Fairfax County Child Care Advisory Council.

So, what did Jared learn from the hour-long workshop? "Be prepared. Practice. This will help you with your confidence."

Developing and projecting confidence was a theme in the session, as were the critical elements of research and practice.

"Treat the interview like an important exam," advised Jackson. "Know about the job and think beforehand about ways you are the best for the position."

Meanwhile, back in the cafeteria, hundreds of youth – and quite a few parents – were making the rounds, checking out summer jobs, internships, year-round part-time positions, and even volunteer opportunities.

Large-scale employers, one-offs, summer camps, government departments and agencies and nonprofits alike had representatives on hand to interact with the jobseekers, and in some cases, accept applications and even hire on the spot.

Wegmans and Greenspring senior living facility are just two of the larger organizations that have hired significant numbers from the talented youth pool. More than forty vendors registered to set up shop with a recruiting station at the fair.

"That's one of the things I like about this event," said Stephen Kohlberg, a 16-year-old from Falls Church. "There are so many different kinds of jobs in so many kinds of businesses. I didn't know about a lot of them and here you can talk to people about them, not just read about it on the internet."

That variety, and the large attendance, appealed to Sunil Nabesan, as well, who had brought his son Sujay Sunil to the fair.

"I want him to see what's out there," he said, but also to get an understanding of how many others are out there looking for those same jobs." By attending the workshops, the interested father also thinks this is a good way for his Justice High School son to learn from others' mistakes and how to avoid them in his own job searches.

Some of the jobs just looked like fun. One attraction for employment with NV Pools is the ability to work with your friends, pitched the company's director of personnel, John Donovan.

Donovan, also a West Springfield graduate, started with the lifeguard-providing company when he was just fifteen.

"It turned into a career," but with his years of experience with NV, Donovan makes a credible recruiter for applicants like Megan Marhanka, who stopped by to check things out with her mom, Beth. Megan has worked with Greenspring before and enjoyed the experience. Now she wants to explore other

SEE TEEN JOB FAIR, PAGE 5

Trafficking in Our Backyard

Citizens Advisory Group learns more about human trafficking.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Human trafficking does take place in Fairfax County. As Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity wrote in an op-ed for The Connection during January's Human Trafficking Awareness Month, "with cases involving all 26 high schools in Fairfax County, we cannot fall into the mind-set that it could never happen to us, never to our kid."

There are statistics. Fairfax County Police Department reports on calls to investigate trafficking both for sex and for labor. The National Human Trafficking Hotline tallies 179 victims identified in Virginia in 2017, with 96 traffickers and 87 trafficking businesses identified in the Commonwealth during that same year, but even the experts are sceptical of those numbers.

"Trafficking is such an under-reported crime that even 'official' website data has to be questioned," attorney Alexandra Lydon with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) warned the audience at the McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee March meeting.

Lydon joined her colleague Alina Launchbaugh, an Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Fellow with LSNV, and attorney Lourdes Venes for a presentation to the committee on the subject. Venes, a native of Peru and a McLean resident, is a member of the Advisory Committee and volunteers for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force.

TOGETHER, the three women brought a wealth of current information, resources, and compassion to the panel.

"We are grateful to have you all here," said Patrick Smaldore, the Advisory Committee's chair. "We know that trafficking often goes unnoticed because people don't know what to look for or how to respond, so we are pleased to have this opportunity to learn more and do more."

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, human trafficking is on track to surpass drug trafficking to move from its second place on the criminal tier to the top spot.

Organizations like McLean-based "Just Ask," the National Human Trafficking Center, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and Polaris Project say the problem is growing, as traffickers refine their methods.

Virginia as a whole has seen more trafficking evidence than ever. In Northern Virginia, "we are a prime location," said Lydon. Situated within a major metropolitan region with millions of potential victims, millions



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Attorneys Lourdes Venes, Alina Launchbaugh, and Alexandra Lydon formed the panel to discuss Human Trafficking at the McLean District Station Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on March 21.

of residents in which to hide or find clients, and as many, or more, visitors from around the globe, NoVa is part of the 95 corridor that allows easy access from north to south, with plenty of room for traffickers to work their trade and move away quickly when they suspect they are attracting law enforcement attention.

In today's often anti-immigrant climate, non-citizens, regardless of their legal status, are also more vulnerable than ever to both sex trafficking and forced labor, so their population has experienced increased victimization into what Lydon describes as "modern day slavery."

This enslavement can be as sudden as an abduction, either locally or from abroad. But it is often the result of gradual manipulation and gentle persuasion, sometimes with gifts or flattery or just the attention that a youngster may be seeking.

The slavery can occur in the physical sense, with victims literally being held captive, but is often an enslavement based on psychological or physical abuse, or even blackmail.

Lydon described a situation in which a victim was invited to a party by an online "boyfriend." At the party, the victim was drugged and raped and the assault was filmed. The trafficker used the threat of blackmail, threatening to release the film widely on social media, if the victim does not comply by "agreeing" to further sexual exploitation.

Frequently, younger victims don't know what's happening or how deeply they have been caught in the trafficker's web until the trafficker will coerce compliance with

threats to the victim or their loved ones, or with verbal or physical abuse, if the victim has not fully "bonded" to their trafficker.

"And that does happen," noted both Lydon and Launchbaugh, where the victim becomes emotionally dependent on the trafficker and is unwilling to testify or even speak out against them when the situation is brought to light.

The speakers also brought up another long-term and devastating side effect suffered by survivors of human trafficking, in addition to the actual abuse.

MANY VICTIMS are forced to commit crimes, like shoplifting or burglary, and those who are made to solicit sex publicly can often be arrested for prostitution.

Most states, including Virginia, do not have a means by which trafficking survivors can expunge their criminal records, so they carry that extra burden when trying to re-establish themselves.

The protocols surrounding Lydon's and Launchbaugh's work prevent them from lobbying or advocating for legal change, but they are able to inform their audiences that a survivor's inability to clear criminal records often means exclusion from schools, jobs, financial assistance and more.

The experts and those involved in aiding the victims all agree;

breaking this trafficking cycle starts with information – getting the word out about the existence of the problem in our own backyard, and what to look for in potential victims and those already enslaved.

Some things to look for or that should

arouse suspicion both for potential sex or labor trafficking recruitment attempts:

- ❖ Someone who attempts to control, exhibits unusual jealousy, or encourages resentment of parents, friends, and family. Uses threats or violence to ensure compliance.

- ❖ Promises things that seem too good to be true, like easy work for high wages or work that doesn't require "papers."

- ❖ Someone who won't make terms of employment clear or tell you what your rights are.

- ❖ Someone who seeks to isolate you from family and friends or actively denies such contact.

- ❖ Keeps you from your money. Won't let you have your cell phone when you are alone.

- ❖ Constantly checks on you.

- ❖ Asks that you "do them a favor" – to engage in activities that make you uncomfortable or are illegal

"Trafficking is such an under-reported crime that even 'official' website data has to be questioned."

— Attorney Alexandra Lydon, Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Some indicators that someone may be a victim of trafficking:

- ❖ Shows signs of physical abuse or malnourishment.

- ❖ Unable to speak freely – may be accompanied by a controlling person.

- ❖ Reluctant to explain injuries.

- ❖ Their story seems scripted, something doesn't add up.

- ❖ Doesn't have money or identification and can't explain why not.

- ❖ Unaware of their current location, possibly even the date and the time.

If there is any way to safely ask the suspected victim about their status or their need for assistance, do so, but the experts warn that traffickers are dangerous and have a lot to lose. If you suspect trafficking, the best recourse might be to contact your local police or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733 (BEFREE) for advice and to report your suspicions.

"Doing nothing is not the answer," say Venes, Lydon and Launchbaugh. Get even more informed on the issue, inform others, and consider volunteering with an organization that works to prevent human trafficking and assist its victims once they have been freed from their enslavement.

Teen Job Fair Held at West Springfield High

FROM PAGE 3

opportunities, like NV Pools, “I’m also looking at the Fire and Rescue and EMT possibilities,” she said.

Jessica Lopez’s soon-to-open Code Ninjas franchise for game-based coding education in Burke, was another booth attracting a lot of attention – from young and not-so-young.

“We will need people for our summer camps, but also a few for year-round work,” said Lopez, and they are willing to train people with the aptitude for the work “who are willing to work patiently with kids aged 7-14, teaching, but also mentoring and making the experience fun. I bet our employees will be having just as much fun.”

Vishal Green from Irving Middle School, Ben McGarry from West Springfield and Amshala Bharathan from Herndon High School all looked interested in the coding job prospect.

While the emphasis is mostly on first-time and part-time jobs, some of the employers, like PAE are of-



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Mom Jamie Patton watches as her son Joseph, an almost-16-year-old attending Hayfield Secondary School, fills out an application for employment at the Teen Job Fair. “I’m excited, but nervous, too,” said the first-time jobseeker.

fering entry-level positions that can turn into long-term careers, or springboards for advancement at PAE or other companies.

“We train for intelligence community security monitoring,” said recruiter Kamari Janneskari. “We handle the process for our hires to get their security clearance –

something that will benefit them greatly, especially in today’s job market, and certainly in this region.”

IF YOU MISSED this chance to job search and learn ways to stand out from the crowd, there are still a few more teen job fair opportu-



Mr. Johnson and his 17-year-old son Jared who attends Hayfield Secondary, both said they learned a lot from Monica Jackson’s interviewing workshop, especially on being prepared.

nities to get in on the action in other parts of the county, since “we all work together for our kids,” says Herrity. “We are one community.”

Interested students – and employers – can go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs for more

information and to register. The other fairs will be held at Chantilly High School on April 5, co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, April 6 at South County High School, co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, and Mount Vernon High School on April 27, also co-sponsored by Storck.

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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OPINION

Every Year Is Election Year; in 2019 Twice

Primary Election Day, June 11, will determine the outcome of many races in Fairfax County.

First, go to vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation and check that you are registered at your current address. Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, May 20, 2019.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Primary Election Day for party candidates in Virginia, there will be an astonishing array of candidates on the ballot in Fairfax County. One reason is that many incumbents in local offices are retiring, and that causes a domino effect because incumbents in other offices will step down to run for something different. Change is coming. Voters must pay attention in the primary, so much will be determined.

On the ballot: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Sharon Bulova is retiring and there are four candidates in the Democratic primary. (We will miss Bulova, but that is a discussion for another day.)

EDITORIAL

All nine members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot, and in addition to Bulova, Cathy Hudgins, John Cook and Linda Smyth will be stepping down, and Jeff McKay will give up his seat as he is running for chairman. That is guaranteed change for five of nine seats, and more is possible.

All 12 members of Fairfax County School Board are on the ballot, three at-large and nine District members. Several school board mem-

bers will give up their seats to run for other offices. (4-year term)

All 40 seats in the Virginia Senate (4-year term) are on the ballot, nine in Fairfax County.

All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates (2-year term) are on the ballot, 17 seats in Fairfax County.

There is a rare challenge to the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney on the primary ballot. (4-year term)

Fairfax County Sheriff is also on the ballot. (4-year term)

Parties control information on primary candidates. See Fairfax County Republican Committee at <https://fairfaxgop.org/voter-toolkit/>; Fairfax County Democratic Committee at <https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/2019/01/14/candidates-running-for-office-in-2019/>.

— MARY KIMM

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Budget Equity

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

Increases in budget revenues as a result of federal tax changes and the ability to tax sales on goods purchased on the internet put Virginia in an unusual position to increase its budgeted funds mid-year of a biennial budget while at the same time providing many taxpayers with refunds.

As the fall elections approach the actions on the state budget will receive many different "spins." Certainly taxpayers like getting money refunded. At the same time they recognize when programs to meet needs are underfunded, they may over a period of time become even more underfunded. It is more than mathematics and accounting to approve a budget when revenues have increased—it is also very much an expression of values on the part of decision makers.

An example of values affecting budgetary decisions came during the Great Recession of 2008. State revenues dipped at the greatest rate in modern times just as many businesses faltered and failed. A great bail-out went to businesses from the federal government as did



Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

COMMENTARY

major funding to state government. The feds did not match the private losses, but they did provide relief for some greater cuts for programs like education. Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of

education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

Beyond simply funding programs and services with more money next year than last year are the equity issues involved in distributing money across programs. My trip to Prince Edward County as I described in my column last week reminded me just how inequitable funding can be. There was no pretense of equity among black and white schools. The whites went to a brick school that was modern for its time; the black children went to school in a tar-paper shanty. With many federal court decisions we have gotten beyond the inequities of segregated services and programs, but inequities still exist.

The budget presented to the General Assem-

bly by Governor Ralph Northam represented the greatest attempt at resolving equity issues that I have seen. Funding for schools was increased but with those who had the greatest needs receiving the most money. Programs for students with special needs were enhanced as was funding for historically black institutions of higher education. The Governor found himself with a major problem pushing his agenda as he got himself in political hot water for his behavior many years ago. Whatever way that situation is resolved, it need not take attention from the basic problem of increasing equity among school divisions, mental health programs and criminal justice programs.

There is ample evidence gleaned from numerous studies that document inequities that exist in the state's budget. These facts will be manipulated among candidates this election season to gain advantage, but candidates need to acknowledge that inequities exist and must be dealt with fairly. I understand that most regions feel that they do not get a fair shake. There are metrics that can be used to find the inequities; once resolved the state will be stronger because of it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Welcome 'Green New Deal'

To the Editor:

As we look back on the recently concluded General Assembly session in Richmond, there is not much to mark as progress on environmental issues.

Only because they are a very visible and present danger, did coal ash pits get dealt with. We are left to rely on vetoes from Gover-

nor Northam in order for any regional coordination efforts on reducing greenhouse gases to have a chance to proceed.

Sensible solar bills? Common sense community controlled single-use plastics legislation? A moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure? Good things were proposed, but we got nothing through our representation in Richmond.

Which is why the timing of some good news from our Virginia delegation in Congress on climate and related social justice issues is so welcome.

Rep. Gerry Connolly co-sponsored the 'Green New Deal' House Resolution - an aspirational set of goals for sure, but he has now followed it up with co-sponsorship of a piece of detailed climate legislation - the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). Following all the dire climate projections, global experts concur that pricing carbon (CO2) is the best first step to address emissions causing climate instability. Returning all net revenues, in form of a monthly dividend, protects families and ensures support for the

transition to renewables at the household level. Border adjustments ensure an equal playing field for international trade. Thank you, Rep. Connolly, and may the rest of the Virginia delegation pick up the call.

While the climate threat is not so visible and measurable as that from a coal ash pit, nor the solution so engineerable, it must be treated at an emergency scale of effort and urgency.

Meredith Haines
Vienna

Springfield
CONNECTION

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NEWS

Shopping Center Set for a Facelift

'New and improved' will be the mantra for the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Shoppers at the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center in West Springfield are seeing signs of change as the center is getting a face lift. The project started March 18 and will continue into the late fall this year. New features will include upgraded seating areas outside Starbucks and the Mezeh restaurant, a double-sided stone fireplace, new signage and landscaping. Federal Realty, long-term owners of the center, are collaborating with ARTSFAIRFAX to include an interactive component at the center as well.

"Federal Realty continually invests to enhance our properties to best meet the desires of the customers and community it serves," said Sarah North, director of marketing at Federal Realty in Charlottesville.

There is a local group that meets for coffee at Starbucks in the mornings, and they usually sit outside, even in the colder months, so for now they are looking for other options. The project is fast tracking a spot for outdoor diners though in front of Starbucks, and it is expected to be open in May, said North.

"This space will remain active throughout the construction period providing customers a place to gather and enjoy takeout food while the outdoor cafes are under renovation," she said.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has been in talks with Federal Realty about the renovation and is happy with the plans. "I'm excited about the improvements being made, from the signing and façade changes to the new gathering spaces for our residents," Herrity said.

Bailey Dawn at Honest Soul Yoga has a fence partially obscuring her entrance, but said it isn't in the way. Yogis are known adjust easily. "The final plans seem beautiful and we're excited for the finished project," she said.

Parking may get challenging throughout the project. The lot is big, but it may require walking a longer distance though. Springfield resident Jan Speerstra wasn't too concerned as she walked to her car, pointing at the dated shopping center across Rolling Road. "The other side would have been better for renovations," she said. That shopping center is in the Braddock District and got some new restaurants and stores in the recent past, but no renovations as of now.

Exiting from the center to northbound Rolling Road continues to be a challenge due to the side road and steep ramp onto Rolling Road, but that fix isn't part of this project. Cars will continue to navigate this on the side of Whole Foods and down a steep ramp, occasionally scraping the bumper to get out on this main road.



ARTIST RENDERING/COURTESY OF FEDERAL REALTY.

The two-sided fireplace that is planned for the center will be convenient in the fall when the Old Keene Mill Shopping Center facelift project is complete.



Under the roofs, the atmosphere will be more inviting then it is now.

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

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lostdogandcatrescue.org



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Patriot Pawsabilities Opens in Fairfax

NOVA's first cat lounge opens with a bang and a cause.

BY NATALIA MEGAS
THE CONNECTION

“Patriot Pawsabilities,” Northern Virginia’s first cat lounge opened in Fairfax to eager customers waiting to hang out with 35 adoptable cats and kittens living cage-free in a 2,450 square foot space until they find a home.

“I love it. It’s amazing,” said Bekka Fontanilla from Centreville on opening day.

Furnished with couches, study tables, café style chairs, and hammocks for the humans and catwalks and cubbies for the cats, Patriot Pawsabilities is a relaxed, sleek, and inviting place that allows customers to see the personality of cats. Honey, for example, is normally quiet but at the cat lounge, can be seen often zipping around.

“We were always focused on dogs and then this came up,” said Starr Averitt from Clifton at opening day.

Her son Bryce, 12, was excited to be there. “It’s absolutely adorable,” he said about the cat lounge.

The concept of the cat lounge is very much like the concept of cat cafés: a place to go to

for a cat experience, whether someone is looking to adopt but can’t decide or who misses hanging out with felines. The cat lounge is a location that allows customers to interact with a variety of cats and kittens, a supervised indoor pet rental, some say.

THE BRIGHTLY-LIT LOUNGE has a glass enclosed room, referred to as the “fishbowl,” where the kittens zipped around and purred for attention as a line of customers quickly formed on opening day. In the center of the lounge is a floor-to-ceiling leafy wooden tree that allows cats to “go up it like it’s nobody’s business,” says owner Monique (Mo) Ryan, a retired Army veteran.

“I’m so thrilled by the response on our Facebook page. It’s so great,” she said.

The cat lounge works with two rescues, Fancy Cats and HART, that take care of the adoption applications and fees which go directly to the rescues (Ryan doesn’t receive any fees). The lounge requires an entry fee of \$15 per hour, a fee that Ryan said is necessary to keep the lounge operating. All profits are donated to organizations that work to reduce feral cat populations.

Ryan said it took two years for her dream

to become a reality, especially working with Virginia’s strict health regulations. Ryan isn’t allowed to serve customers food but they can bring food in from University Mall.

On a trip through West Virginia one day, Ryan said it was literally a sign on the side of the road that motivated her to pursue opening a cat café/lounge. It was a billboard advertising the opening of a cat adoption café in 2017.

“I was immediately drawn to the idea,” she said. The rest is history.

But cat cafes weren’t a new concept to Ryan. She first encountered them when she and her family were stationed in Daegu, South Korea where the booming industry first began. And animals were always a passion for her growing up.

“We were the house that everyone brought injured animals to,” she said. They had monkeys, ferrets, and chickens. One year, a big cat came injured on their doorstep.

She opened the cat lounge for various reasons, said Ryan, including her desire to help animals and wounded warriors. Ryan said she wants to help cats find good homes, help veterans heal from the wounds not always visible, and in the process, find some peace



Sofia and Sampson snuggle at the cat lounge.

for herself. “That’s what I found here,” she said.

A Dutch immigrant who served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and now lives in Manassas with her husband and two children, Ryan moved from Helmond, Netherlands at the age of 22 to Colorado Springs, Colo. with her first husband, a college degree in Liberal Arts, and plenty of hopes and dreams. But her move to the U.S. wasn’t without

challenges. She eventually divorced and lived with a friend for a while. With no family, job, or roof over her head in the U.S., Ryan soon joined the military.

“It was absolutely out of desperation,” she said. But Ryan, who learned English by watching shows like “Dallas” and “Dynasty” with Dutch subtitles and who speaks five languages including French, German, Italian, English, and Dutch, found a home and

family in the military where she rose through the ranks.

After spending her military career jumping out of planes, Ryan retired in 2006 with a lot of head injuries, as well as injuries to her knees, back and neck. The pain took a toll on her body and psyche.

“Now I can’t run. I can’t lift anything. I can barely ride a stationary bike. I can’t stand for long periods of time without hurting. I can’t sit for long periods of time without hurting,” she said. “Having a normal job is challenging.”

Because of this, Ryan relates to veterans struggling to transition into civilian life. It’s why she wants to eventually start veterans outreach programs at the lounge. “Once you get out, nobody really understands where you’re coming from,” she says. “Soldiers get out without adequate medical care. Soldiers get out without any structure to catch them when they fall.”

“I know it was [hard] for me and I didn’t have nearly as much a traumatic experience as most veterans did,” she said. “One of the reasons I did this cat lounge is because I was getting depressed... I wanted to find my identity again. Something that would get me off the couch, re-motivate me, something that was worthwhile.”



Mowgli on the tree leaf. Mowgli was recently adopted.

EVERY NOW AND THEN, Ryan’s cat “Able Whiskey,” named in honor of Sergeant First Class, Matt Kahler who was killed in 2008 in Afghanistan and “Bulldog 6,” named in honor of her friend Major Tom Bostick killed on July 27, 2006, can be seen relaxing in the middle of room.

Ryan hopes for everyone passing through: “Be happy for a while and don’t worry about stuff,” she said.

Ryan offers 10 percent off to first responders, teachers, students, veterans and 65 and

older. She is scheduling cat yoga and cat pilates, movie nights, painting classes, morning coffee with cats, and more.

There are some age restrictions. See the Facebook page for more information. The lounge is located at 10687 Braddock Rd. in University Mall across George Mason University in Fairfax.

To make appointments, call 703-259-0174 and visit www.facebook.com/Patriot-Pawsabilities-a-Cat-Lounge-498840403855968/ for available time slots.

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Sampson in the picture frame.

“One of the reasons I did this cat lounge is because I was getting depressed... I wanted to find my identity again. Something that would get me off the couch, re-motivate me, something that was worthwhile.”

— Cat lounge owner Monique (Mo) Ryan

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Domestic Violence Shelter Opens in South County

County leaders, community members celebrate Grand Opening of Artemis House Region 1.

On Monday, March 25, Supervisors Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) and Jeff McKay (D-Lee District), with other local leaders and community advocates celebrated the grand opening of Artemis House Region 1. This long awaited center in South Fairfax County will provide refuge and support to those escaping from domestic violence, without having to drive long distances from their communities, schools and support networks when already in a stressful situation.

"I became aware of the need for an area domestic violence shelter during my first days in office," said Supervisor Storck. "I immediately reached out to the County Executive and others to challenge them to eliminate this critical need and gap in services. Domestic violence support was added at the Gerry Hyland (South County) Government Center soon thereafter. I recruited three strong women, Mattie Palmore, Lisa Sales and Karen Stone, to spearhead getting a new shelter here. They were

fierce advocates, calling themselves the 'three musketeers' and working tirelessly with County staff to get our new area shelter opened. We are very thankful to now be able to truly support our residents during their greatest need."

Supervisor McKay said: "Three years ago, I approached Fairfax County's Redevelopment and Housing Authority about the possibility of incorporating a Domestic Violence Shelter into their strategic plans for the County because I knew far too many victims were in desperate need of resources in our area ... Three years later, I'm proud to say this idea, in coordination with Supervisor Dan Storck, and the tremendous work of Mattie Palmore, Lisa Sales, Karen Stone, and Kari Wright Warren has come to fruition. For far too long, Fairfax County has been limited in helping those escape from horrible domestic situations. A second domestic violence shelter in South County falls right in line with Fairfax County's One Fairfax policy and initiatives; it



'The Three Musketeers' who led the effort to get a new shelter for victims of domestic violence - Lisa Sales, Mattie Palmore and Karen Stone, with Supervisors Dan Storck (left) and Jeff McKay (right).

means that a family will no longer be faced with barriers (such as traveling) in escaping difficult situations and beginning a new life. This is a huge milestone, and I'm honored to live in a County where

staff, nonprofits, elected officials, and community members alike come together to help their neighbors. We are so blessed to have this opportunity to take care of our residents, no matter the obstacles

they face."

Previously, there were only two domestic violence shelters in Fairfax County: Artemis House in northern Fairfax County and Bethany House. These undisclosed locations offer temporary shelter to domestic violence victims in a safe and secure environment while they figure out next steps and make longer-term living arrangements. It also provides a safe location to begin recovery from trauma. Artemis House accepts men, women, people who identify as transgender and children. Residents at Artemis House have access to case management services and counseling for adults and children. Case management can help residents access child care, immigration assistance, victim advocacy, legal assistance and employment resources, as well as help develop a housing plan for after the exit from Artemis House. In addition, residents at Artemis House receive assistance with transportation and can be provided emergency food and clothing.

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WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Detectives Asking for Public's Help After Shooting in Springfield

Detectives are investigating after two people were shot March 22 in the parking lot of Brookfield Plaza Shopping Center. Officers were called to the 7000 block of Brookfield Plaza shortly after 11 p.m. for a man who had been shot multiple times.

An officer near the shopping center also heard the gunshots and requested immediate help. When the first officers arrived they found a chaotic scene, with approximately 300 people in the parking lot. Additional officers from three surrounding district stations and Virginia State Police responded to contain the incident and disperse the crowds.

Preliminarily, it appears a fight broke out inside one of the businesses that was hosting a private event. The fight moved into the parking lot, where shots were fired. The first victim was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were considered life-threatening. He is still receiving medical treatment. Around 4:15 in the morning, a juvenile victim showed up at a local hospital with a gunshot wound to the leg. Detectives determined his injuries also stemmed from the shooting at Brookfield Plaza.

Detectives continue to canvass the businesses and conduct interviews, and are asking for anybody with information about this event to contact the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-691-2131.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org>, or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES (274637). Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

ENTERTAINMENT

Comedy-drama on Family Matters

Providence Players presents
“August: Osage County.”

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With plenty of wit and toughness, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize and multiple Tony Awards including Best Play, “August: Osage County” may be one of the best American plays of our time,” said David Whitehead, Providence Players board. “Its portrayal of the collapse of the nuclear family brings to the fore societal changes that have happened over time and across cultures.”

Written by Tracy Letts, “August: Osage County” centers on a missing father, a mother with a pill habit and three sisters with their own share of little secrets. When the larger family has to unexpectedly reunite after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead becomes a place full of tumult, unsettling mysteries with plenty of scathingly acidic and uproarious dialogue.

“August: Osage County” is about “a family and all of the complex relationships and secrets that lurk beneath told with a sense of dark humor,” said director Michael Donahue. “I love to direct theatrically challenging and complex plays ... to bring to life these characters with all of their flaws so that the audience will have empathy for these people while laughing at the dark humor.”

The Providence Players cast includes sea-



PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

Providence Players in rehearsal for “August: Osage County” (from left): David S. Rawlings as Steve Heidebrecht, Mary Zuzik Andrechik as Karen Weston, and Nora Rice as Jean Fordham.

soned Providence Players members and new talent. The age spectrum runs from 14 years of age to actors in their late 60s.

“We all know a family, group of people that are what we consider a ‘trainwreck,’ but we fail to realize that those ‘trainwrecks’

are fully functioning families with ups and downs, with good and bad times, just like everyone else,” said David S. Rawlings who plays Steve Heidebrecht.

“I wanted the opportunity to dig deep and find the crevices of my character Barbara

Where and When

Providence Players presents “August: Osage County” at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: March 29 to April 13, 2019. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees March 31 and April 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$20 Seniors (62+)/Students \$17. All seating reserved. Call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org

Fordham, the joys, the struggles, the pain, what twists and turns she emotionally encounters and how she prevails,” said Beth Gilles Whitehead.

“This show will engage you. You will see your own family in many ways, and in many other ways, you will be grateful to note the differences! You will be thoroughly entertained,” said Mary Zuzik Andrechik who plays Karen Weston.

“For a play that can be quite serious at times, it is also hilarious. A lot of the humor in the show comes from the same place: identifying with, or at least recognizing, these characters in our own families and ourselves,” added Andra Whitt who plays Ivy Weston.

Providence Players presents “August: Osage County” at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: March 29 to April 13, 2019.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

The Explorer's Club. Through March 31, Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. London, 1879. The prestigious Explorers Club is in crisis: their acting president wants to admit a woman, and their bartender is terrible. True, this female candidate is brilliant, beautiful, and has discovered a legendary Lost City, but the decision to let in a woman could shake the very foundation of the British Empire, and how does one make such a decision without a decent drink? This is the area premier of The Explorer's Club by Nell Benjamin, directed by Frank Shutts. \$20-\$30. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Art Exhibit: Spring Marches On. Through April 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street in Historic Occoquan. "Spring Marches On" features paintings by Jeanne and David Pacheco of Springfield. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at info@artistsundertaking.com.

Fine Arts Enrichment Camps. The Youth Arts Camp & Education Outreach (ages 13-17) programs at the Workhouse provide rich experiences in fine arts year-round. Campers work alongside professional artists and professional educators to excel in different mediums, learning various techniques, and creating quality artwork with every visit. Find upcoming camps at reservations.workhousearts.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 28-30

Our Country's Good. Thursday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday 2 and 8 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. In June 1789 in an Australian penal colony, a marine lieutenant puts on a play to celebrate the king's birthday, using the camp's English convicts as his cast of characters. Contains language that some may find offensive. \$15-\$30. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/our-country-39-s-good.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 29-30

Mason Dance Company Gala. 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall on GMU's Fairfax Campus. The Gala Concert is Mason Dance Company's crowning season event featuring a program of works by contemporary professional choreographers. \$28 adults, \$15 students and seniors, \$10 groups. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-dance-company-gala-at-the-center-for-the-arts.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 29-31

August: Osage County. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling mysteries. This play contains strong language and adult content. \$17-\$20. Email tickets@providenceplayers.org, call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org.

Bye Bye Birdie. Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Church of the



Good Shepherd (in the Grand Hall), 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. A musical comedy for the whole family. \$15 adult, \$10 student (18 or younger). Purchase tickets at www.goodshepherdplayers.com or call 703-323-5400.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; find tickets and schedule at novateenbookfestival.com.

Spring Fling Features Alice McDermott. At the Springfield Golf and Country Club. Alice McDermott, winner of the National Book Award for Charming Billy, will be the featured speaker at the AAUW's annual Spring Fling. This fundraiser, which includes a luncheon and silent

auction, supports AAUW programs such as fellowships, leadership development, lifelong education for women, the Legal Advocacy Fund and other similar projects. \$40; reservation deadline is March 22. Email Absauberman@aol.com with questions or SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com to make a reservation.

Chili Cookoff. 1 p.m. at Hopsfrog Grille, 6030 Burke Commons Road, Burke. Hopsfrog Grille's annual Chili Cookoff benefiting the Fort Belvoir Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org) features chili tasting and raffle. Contestant pre-registration by March 17; \$10 per chili entry. Chili tasters: \$10 and a vote for best chili. Call 703-239-9324.

Faulty Artist Series: Julianna Nickel & James Nickel. 4 p.m. in the Harris Theatre on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Free and open to the public. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/faculty-artist-series-julianna-nickel-flute-amp-james-nickel-horn.

The Mason Dance Fête. 5:30 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building

on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Held prior to the March 30 Dance Gala Concert, The Mason Dance Fête is an intimate benefit reception featuring a Q&A with Lucinda Childs and student showcases exploring the featured dances. Proceeds from The Mason Dance Fête go towards School of Dance scholarship funds. \$95 for reception and performance. Visit dance.gmu.edu/mason-dance-fete.

Live Music: Lesson Zero. 8 p.m.-midnight at The Mixing Bowl (formerly J W and Friends), 6531 Backlick Road, Springfield. Free. Visit www.jwandfriends.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 30-31

Children's Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-3 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media organized by categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, chapter books, young adult, etc. \$0.50-\$2. Some specials \$3-\$4. Check or cash only.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Plenty of free parking in library garage. Free admission. Email FriendsOfFairfaxCityLibrary@cox.net. **Marvel Universe Live.** At EagleBank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Marvel Universe LIVE is performing at EagleBank Arena. \$20. Show times are Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 31 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Visit www.marveluniverselive.com/tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Book Launch: City of Peace. 11:15 a.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. A launch party for City of Peace by Henry G. Brinton will take place as part of a "Morning of Music and Mystery" and will begin in the church's Fellowship Hall with a short talk and several readings. The event will end with a book-signing. Copies of City of Peace will be available for purchase. Visit www.henrygbrinton.com for details.

Bunny Meditation. Noon. Liberty Lorton, the former prison turned new development, is hosting a series of events that includes barnyard yoga, outdoor movie nights, and the second annual Turkey Trot. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty alike. Visit thelibertylife.com.

Learn about the "Tender Cars" on Trains. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the "Tender Cars" a type of railroad car on trains. Story boards and a craft will begin the series of activities to learn about the different types of cars on trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Author Event: John A. Wasowicz. 2-5 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. John A. Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of his legal thriller, "Daingerfield Island." Wasowicz resides in Mt. Vernon; he practiced law for 10 years in Fairfax County and is a former president of the Fairfax Bar Association. Free. Email AlendronLLC@aol.com.

Faculty Artist Series: Dr. Dorotea Racz, Cello. 3 p.m. in the Harris Theatre on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Croatian cellist Dorotea Racz has concertized throughout Europe, United States, Central, and South America as a soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. Free and open to the public. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/faculty-artist-series-dr-dorotea-racz-cello.

Story of Ravensworth. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn about the largest landgrant in Colonial Fairfax County, covering part of present-day Burke. Beginning with William Fitzhugh in 1685, the story covers many generations and fascinating characters. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Matsiko Choir Concert. 5-6:30 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join Franconia UMC for a concert by the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. Matsiko has performed at sports events, the Rose Bowl, Disneyland, and Mount Rushmore. All are welcome to this free concert. Visit franconiaumc.org or call 703-971-5151.

"Unplugged." 6 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. "Unplugged" will feature performances by youth dancers in tap, jazz, contemporary, music theater, and hip hop. Pre-Performance reception sponsored by Burton's Grill & Bar. \$20. Visit

Book Signing

John A. Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of his legal thriller, "Daingerfield Island." Wasowicz resides in Mt. Vernon; he practiced law for 10 years in Fairfax County and is a former president of the Fairfax Bar Association. Sunday, March 31, 2-5 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Free. Email AlendronLLC@aol.com for more.

Aquila Theatre: A Midsummer Night's Dream. 7 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, Fairfax Campus. Aquila Theatre returns with a magical and witty production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. \$44, \$37, \$26. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/aquila-theatre-a-midsummer-night-39-s-dream for tickets.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Big Band Showdown. 8 p.m. at the Concert Hall on GMU's Fairfax Campus. George Mason University, Jazz Studies Department is proud to present the Big Band Showdown 2019. The Mason Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jim Carroll, offers opportunities for improvisation, performance, recording, writing, leadership and service. \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/big-band-showdown for tickets.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Researching Historic Cemeteries. 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Mary Lipsey of the Burke Historical Society and the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association will speak on how to locate, study, and care for local historic cemeteries. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

APRIL 2-MAY 6

Art Exhibit: "Simply Spring." 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery presents "Simply Spring," an exhibit featuring photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield, fiber work by Lauren Jacobs and jewelry by Tyler Kulenguski. A Meet the Artists Reception will be held on Sunday, April 14, 1-5 p.m. Call 703-494-0584 or email info@artistsundertaking.com.

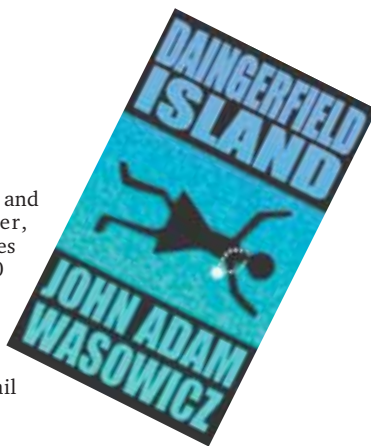
THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 4-7

August: Osage County. Thursday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoma family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling mysteries. This play contains strong language and adult content. \$17-\$20. Email tickets@providenceplayers.org, call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

GAMEmason. 11:15 a.m.-9:30 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall and throughout the Music Theater building on GMU's Fairfax Campus. GAMEmason (Gaming, Appearances, Meet and Greet and Experiences) is an all-day gaming convention. The

www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.



event also includes bring-your-own communal gameplay opportunities and food trucks throughout the day. \$20-\$40. Find tickets and information at si.gmu.edu/gamemason.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 5-6

Genealogy Conference/Expo. Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Fairfax Genealogical Society's two-day spring conference and expo. Lectures, workshops, individual consultations, vendors with items/services of interest to family researchers. FxGS member, \$100; non-member, \$120. Details at www.fxgs.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Ballet Performance: Cinderella. 2 and 7:30 p.m. at NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performers from Classical Ballet Theatre will tell the story of a young girl who discovers her prince with a little help from her fairy godmother. \$15. Visit www.cbntva.org/cinderella or call 703-573-0182.

Fundraiser: Wine Dinner. 5:30-10 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bite Me Cancer, presents its annual Wine Dinner fundraiser. All proceeds from the event will benefit Teen Cancer Support Bags and other teen-related programs which help teenage patients in more than 115 hospitals in 46 states and the District of Columbia. \$150. Visit bitemecancer.networkforgood.com/events/9464-6th-annual-bite-me-cancer-wine-dinner.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Author Event: Missy Sheldrake. Noon-2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes. Missy Sheldrake, of Centreville, is the author/illustrator of the "Keepers of the Wellsprings" young adult fantasy series and will be signing books. Visit www.missysheldrake.com.

A Turning Point in Women's History. 1-3 p.m. at Temple B'nai Shalom, 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Come hear Pat Wirth, of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, give an in-depth look at a critical time in the history of women in our country. Open to all. Free. Suggested contribution of \$10 at the door. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-turning-point-in-womens-history-wrj-mid-atlantic-district-area-day-tickets-57807894970.

Burke Historical Society April Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Dr. Cindy Gueli speaks on her book Lipstick Brigade, telling the stories of the 100,000+ women from across the country who went to work in Washington during WWII. Free. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

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News



Dr. Brad Hudson of Hudson Orthodontics in Springfield surprises Nathan and family with free braces.

Hudson Orthodontics Awards Child with Free Braces

Dr. Brad Hudson, of Hudson Orthodontics in Springfield, is on a mission to spread smiles through his #GiveBackSmileBack community initiative. Dr. Hudson and team recently surprised sixth grader Nathan with a gift of a happy, healthy smile. As a child, Nathan had some medical setbacks and has had to overcome a variety of challenges. "He is a great kid, with a great family, and we are honored to be able to make a positive impact on his life," said Dr. Hudson.

The program #GiveBackSmileBack is a spin on the famous quote "Smile And The World Will Smile

Back." Dr. Hudson believes this quote perfectly illustrates Hudson Orthodontics' mission to spread smiles and give back to the communities the practice serves.

"It is important to our practice to participate in philanthropy that makes a difference, and we believe providing a deserving individual with a brand new smile does just that. We have a committee designated to hand select our #GiveBackSmileBack winners," said Dr. Hudson.

You can find out more information on the next #GiveBackSmileBack opportunity by visiting Hudson Orthodontics at www.bhorthodontics.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smilesbyhudson.

Legals

Public Notice: Five-Year Review completed for environmental cleanup sites at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County, Virginia.

The US Army has completed the five-year review (FYR) of the environmental remedies undertaken at sites FTBL-68 and FTBL-69 (second FYR) located on the Fort Belvoir North Area, 7501 Heller Road, Springfield, Fairfax County, Virginia and at the Tracy Road Range (FTBL-014-R-01; first FYR) located on the southern Main Post at the intersection of Tracy Loop and Theote Road, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The remedies selected consist of soil removal with applied land use controls (LUCs) for FTBL-68, LUCs for FTBL-69, and Institutional Controls focused on reducing human exposure to lead in the soil by managing intrusive activities on the site for FTBL-014-R-01. Because hazardous substances remain onsite above risk based levels that prevent unrestricted use and exposure, the Army is required to evaluate the protectiveness of the remedy at least every five years in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Protectiveness of remedy cannot be made at FTBL-68. Further action and information is required and will take approximately 2-3 years to complete and obtain, at which time a protectiveness determination will be made. This includes adding the site to the preliminary assessment (PA) to assess site history for evidence of use of fire suppressants containing perfluorooctanoic acid/perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOA/PFOS), and conduct a Site Inspection at locations identified by the PA to determine if PFOA/PFOS was released. The remedy at FTBL-69 currently protects human health and the environment. LUCs, including a prohibition on well installation for potable use, limitations on use of groundwater for potable purposes, and a restriction on any activities that could disturb the groundwater in these areas, prevent exposure. Long-term protectiveness of the remedy is dependent on the resuming of groundwater monitoring until it can be demonstrated that cleanup levels have been attained. The FYR found that the remedy at FTBL-014-R-01 is protective of human health and the environment. LUCs ensure that there is no unacceptable exposure to site-related contaminants. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality agrees with the protectiveness of the remedies. The next FYR will be due 04 October 2022. The FYR report will be available no later than 30 April 2019 at the following information repository locations:

Directorate of Public Works 9430 Jackson Loop Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116	Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Highway Lorton, VA 22079	Kingstowne Library 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive Alexandria, VA 22315
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If you would like to provide input on the FYR, the selected remedies or would like additional information, please contact: Felix M. Mariani at 703-806-3193, or via email at: usarmy.belvoir.incom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil

Legals

ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Doug Murphy, 5821 Brookview Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310 - 202-439-3122.
Description of watercraft:
Bayliner, 20', 2004, Blue/White, Hull ID USHD42CTE404, Boat# VA2530BF.
Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication.

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Bull Run Civil War Roundtable in Centreville, Va., a 501 (3)c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides in Fairfax, City of Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park, or Prince William County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2019. Information and application instructions can be found at bullrunwrt.org.

“Pardon Our Dust” Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center (Community Room), 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the office of Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity will hold a “Pardon Our Dust” meeting on a pedestrian improvement project located along Center Road from West Springfield High School to Garden Road. Owners of potentially affected properties and other interested parties are invited to review and discuss the project with county staff.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia has opened its scholarship applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The scholarships are open to graduating high school seniors in Northern Virginia. The applications managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia are due by April 2. Additional scholarships are available, with deadlines throughout the spring. Visit www.cfnova.org/ scholarships to review the list of scholarships available and apply.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is inviting the public to attend a second round of public meetings on the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study, and provide feedback to help further refine potential improvements to the corridor. The meetings will begin with a formal presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. For residents who cannot attend the public meetings, FCDOT will upload the meeting presentation to the study webpage by April 4 and invite feedback via an online survey. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Sibshops. 9 a.m.-noon at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. The Sibshop workshops are for children in grades 2-5 who have siblings with special needs enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. Meet other siblings in a fun, recreational setting; celebrate siblings; share sibling experiences and receive peer support; play games and more. A snack will be provided. Registration is free, donations will be accepted to support the cost of materials and food. Visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center or call the FCPS Parent Resource Center at 703-204-3941 to register.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

2019 Special Education Conference. 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. FCPS will hold its 14th Annual Special Education Conference with a focus on building inclusive and post-secondary practices to support the development of 21st Century skills and Portrait of a Graduate (POG) attributes. Visit www.fcps.edu/spedconference2019 for details, a list of workshops, exhibitor information and to register.

Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at South County High School. It is open to all teens in Fairfax County looking for employment or wanting tips to build their resume. Full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teen-job-fair-student-registration

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Weight For It ... Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive course of action – or inaction on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I've recently been added to – without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.'s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasingly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight – which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn't eating. Eventually, that lost weight – and more – was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider; not my doctor, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location – in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" nearly became in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncensored non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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

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print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads,
inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire
condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**

**BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 3/31/19.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

\$45.00 OFF when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$400.00 or more

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AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

FREE

BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **2/19, 3/19,**
or **4/19**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

FREE

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**