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Smiles all around in Kingstowne: Jess Judkins is spreading a positive vibe with the hand-made coffee sleeves.



Proclamations and Resolutions, Board Matters and Votes

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Teen Job Fairs for 2020

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Crochet Coffee Sleeves Spread Positive Vibe

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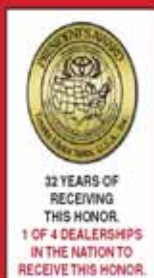
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Proclamations and Resolutions, Board Matters and Votes

It's Day One; Take action for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

SCREENSHOTS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY WEBSITE

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A new chapter of government began for citizens in Fairfax County when the 2020 Board of Supervisors convened for the first time Tuesday morning, Jan. 14. Led by Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, the agenda kicked off with multiple presentations, among them a proclamation to designate January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Fairfax County.

McKay and Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) introduced the request. "I can't think of a crime worse than to hold someone in captivity and make them do awful things... I think raising awareness is critical to ending this crime," said Herrity.

Next on the agenda, the Board completed numerous housekeeping tasks beginning with the appointment of board members to various Inter-jurisdictional Committees and Intra-Governmental Boards and Committees. "I'm excited as we move forward to have every member of this board

play a significant role both internally and externally as a region, as we move forward," said Chairman McKay. Unlike the naming of committee members, the position of vice-chairman required a vote by colleagues on the Board. Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) nominated Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) Vice Chairman of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

MOVING INTO ACTION ITEMS, the Board approved the resolution adopting a meeting schedule for calendar year 2020 and authorizing the chairman to reschedule in an emergency. The Board then approved a motion by Herrity for a fence height modification for the Police Heliport Project in the Springfield District. The fence would surround the secured police operations area of the Police Heliport.

McKay moved on an Information Item, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services board fee schedule. He said while this item did not require a motion, he asked if there were any questions for staff. There were none.

During Board Matters, before McKay presented his first resolution of the year, one with Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock), he turned the gavel over to Vice-



Supervisor Daniel Storck (D-Mount Vernon District)



Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jeffrey C. McKay



Vice Chairman of the Board Penny Gross (D-Mason)



Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully)



Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock)



Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D-Providence)



Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)



Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)



Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee District)



Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)

Chair Gross.

McKay said that the local tax structure in Virginia had become outdated, with limitations on the ability of counties to raise revenues from diverse sources. That resulted in an over-reliance on property taxes to fund core local government programs and services. Under the Code of Virginia, county government had less authority to raise revenues and meet responsibilities than did cities and towns, including meals, cigarette and transient occupancy and such. "This is true even though county governments have the same responsibilities as cities for funding core services such as K-12 education, public safety, social services and public health. ... Support for equal taxing authority between cities and counties has long been included in the County's legislative program for an appropriate mix of revenue sources to meet local needs..."

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) has made support for equal taxing authority a top priority for the 2020

General Assembly Session that began last week," said McKay. He urged the Board to approve the resolution calling on the state to provide equal tax authority for counties and cities and direct staff to transmit the resolution to the Fairfax County General Assembly.

Herrity disagreed.

He said while there was support in "a lot of areas," he did not believe there was support in the Springfield District. "I think what we have is a spending problem more than a revenue problem. In the last five years, our budget has gone up 20 percent. That's more per year than wages ... that's more a year than the cost of inflation ... I think what this means is Fairfax County is looking at the potential for a meals tax without a referendum, and that's something that our voters overwhelmingly rejected back in 2016 during a presidential election, so I'm going to be voting no," Supervisor Herrity said.

Walkinshaw concurred with McKay. He

said that over the last year in Braddock District, there was much concern about over-reliance on the real estate tax to fund all of core services.

"We need to broaden the tax base, and that is a once in a generation opportunity that we have." The motion carried 9-1 with Herrity, sole Republican, voting nay.

McKay's next resolution, jointly co-sponsored with Vice Chair Gross, dealt with the importance of regionalism and the need to work alongside area localities. "Critical to achieving goals and planning for the future of Fairfax," said Chairman McKay. It also urged other jurisdictions in the national capital region to adopt similar resolutions. The motion carried.

Another of McKay's board matters dealt with supplementary notices for the 2020 Census. "Every member of this Board is getting an email today from my office asking you to appoint a staff member to work with the committee on the specific outreach issues in your district. This is really important, not only for political representation, but the estimates are for each uncounted person. We could be losing \$1,200 a year in the potential federal funding," for each uncounted person, he said.

"I can't think of a crime worse than to hold someone in captivity and make them do awful things..."

— Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)

SEE BOARD, PAGE 11

OPINION

Virginia Legislature Moves Quickly on Equal Rights, Gun Violence Prevention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

The second week of the General Assembly Session put us at the center of American history. We moved several long-delayed, legislative priorities.

On Wednesday, both the Senate and the House passed resolutions to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to make Virginia the 38th and final state to ratify the Constitutional amendment. The Senate has passed the resolution at least six times in past years, but the House of Delegates has never approved it. Ratification will hopefully bring equal rights to 160 million women in America and attention will now shift to the U. S. Congress.

Congress can abolish or extend the 1982 ratification deadline they previously set. I was proud to carry this legislation every year since 2012 and even during years when few people were paying attention. Virginia is finally on the right side of history for the first time in about 150 years.

On Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, had its first meeting and we immediately addressed firearm violence prevention. We considered, modified and passed four bills, three of which the full Senate passed later in the week and one of which was continued for final vote this Tuesday.

The Senate passed legislation reinstating Virginia's one handgun per month law. This became law in 1993 and Virginia became the primary source for most guns confiscated from



criminal activity in New York City. The legislature repealed it in 2012 after a sustained campaign by the National Rifle Association. Under the current bill, people who possess Virginia concealed weapons permits would be exempt from the law.

We also passed legislation requiring the seller of all firearms to undergo a criminal background check. Today, people making all purchases from federally-licensed firearm dealers must undergo these checks, but individuals who are unable to purchase or possess firearms, such as felons or people convicted of domestic assault can illegally purchase firearms by purchasing them from private individuals. The original legislation also applied to firearms transfers with some exceptions, but several members of our caucus were concerned we would unintentionally criminalize some hunting activities so we removed that provision.

The Senate also approved my bill to give local governments more authority over firearms and combined it with four other bills. The final bill would allow local governments to prohibit firearms in public buildings, public parks and at locally-permitted events if restrictions are properly posted. This was a major priority for me after the violent events in Charlottesville and men carrying AR-15 rifles at the Alexandria Farmers Market "to educate the public about their Second Amendment rights." Virginia already authorizes localities to regulate firearms in some circumstances, so I did not see this as a major extension of existing law.

The Judiciary Committee passed so-called "red flag" legislation. The bill that the Senate will vote on on Thursday will allow a magistrate to enter an order requiring people to surrender their guns if it is shown that they are a threat to themselves or other persons because of their firearms. No order can be issued without a law enforcement investigation and individuals must be given a chance to voluntarily surrender their weapons before law enforcement can involuntarily seize them. The law also provides for a second hearing for the person to contest the allegation after full discovery. I expect the Senate to pass this bill soon.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed my legislation prohibiting duck hunting blinds on Little Hunting Creek, Great Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek.

My bill to create a Public Defender's Office in Prince William County passed out of committee unanimously.

The Senate Health and Education Committee approved my bill to prohibit providing "conversion therapy" to minors, along with my bill to eliminate the terms "husband" and "wife" from our divorce law to be replaced with the word "spouse."

I have posted my 2020 Constituent Survey online at <http://scottsuovell.org/2020-constituent-survey/>. Please complete it so I can hear from you about important issues this session, my legislation or anything else you would like to communicate.

You can also reach me at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Springfield
CONNECTION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Eyesores That Cheapen Area Appearance

To the Editor:

In addition to overdevelopment, helicopter noise, and traffic volume that is too great for the current road network, the Burke area suffers from eyesores, such as the new sign at Burke Lake Road and Braddock Road, garbage thrown into easements along roadways, and obscured traffic and street signs.

The new sign may be entirely legal, but aesthetically it cheapens that area's appearance. Given trees ability to sequester carbon, it would have made more sense to plant several more trees there.

Roadside garbage is now visible to those using the sidewalks because leaves are falling, so the accumulated detritus is no longer hidden from view. Vermin breed in these areas, especially rats. To spare your sensibilities, I have not



included animal carcass photos, but roadkill collects in easements, too.

Finally, the Civilian Action Corps still works to clear overgrowth

from signs. The Boothe Avenue sign took a while, as it was entirely covered over. VDOT doesn't do all the work that is needed.

Our community requires constant



vigilance, if it is to avoid the corrosive effects of excessive growth.

Jim Sanders
Burke

NEWS

Teen Job Fairs for 2020

Five Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops to be held in March.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has issued the following announcement: "My office and Connection Newspapers, along with a variety of Supervisors' offices, businesses, and community organizations, have hosted very successful teen job fairs and career-building workshops for the past few years. These events focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. The fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. This year I am once again teaming up with Connection Newspapers,



Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

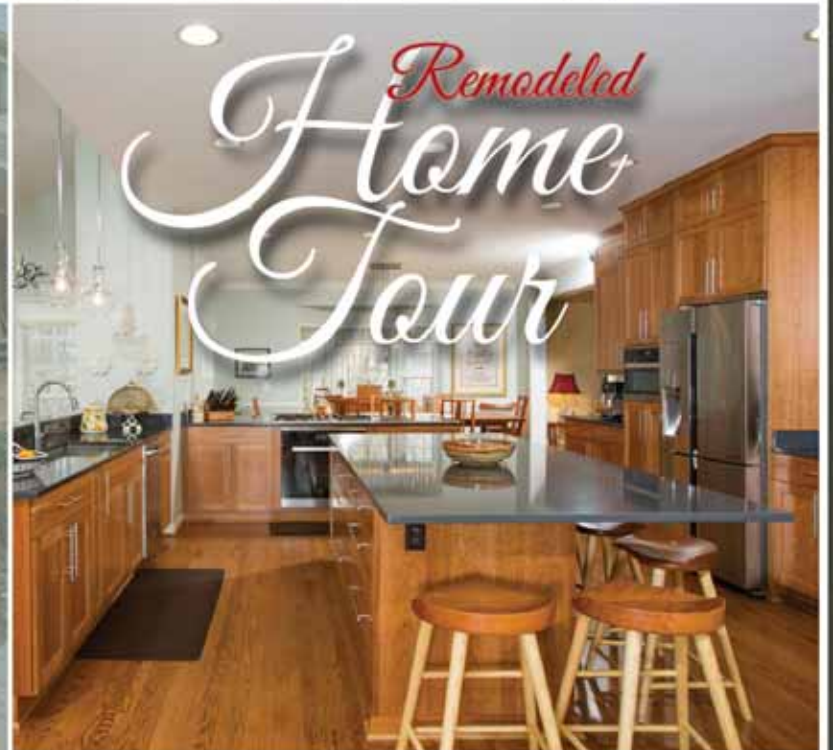
Fairfax County Government, Fairfax County Public Schools, Chairman McKay, and Supervisors Palchik, Smith, Storck, Lusk, and Walkinshaw to bring our community five Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops. They will be open to all teens in

Fairfax County looking for employment, or tips on career-building skills like networking, building a resume or LinkedIn profile, and interviewing. Free booth space will be provided to any business or organization to advertise their available positions. Both teenagers and businesses or organizations may register to attend by visiting the following link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> First jobs are important, and these events

SEE TEEN JOB FAIR, PAGE 7

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The ABCs of Kids and Money

Teaching children how to budget, save and manage finances.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 THE CONNECTION

In an age when paying one's mortgage can be done from a smartphone, money smarts is an important part of navigating life. From saving to buy the latest video game to learning how to budget an allowance, financial literacy is one of the most important lessons for children, say financial experts.

"It's very important to teach tweens and teens about money," said Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the School of Business at George Mason University. "For many kids, this is the first time they are making independent financial decisions, such as whether to save a birthday gift or spend it on a video game."

In fact, Patti Senft, Manager of Program Engagement at Junior Achievement of Greater Washington in Fairfax, Virginia says that one of her organization's goals is to teach financial literacy to children. "Junior Achievement has determined that teaching the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit should begin with middle school students in 7th and 8th grade," she said.

"The knowledge that the students learn through the Junior Achievement gives students the skills they need to manage their expenses and budget wisely for a successful future," she said.

Helping children set financial goals, delay gratification, earn money and save it toward achieving those goals is one of the first steps that parents can take to teach smart money practices, said Pilloff. "The habits, and even more critically, the decision-making process children develop early on will influence the way they approach financial matters throughout their lives," he said.

Students should be taught to make choices with the amount of money they have, suggests Senft. "It's important to teach children to distinguish between what you need versus what you want," she said. "It's important to teach children of all ages about money. It's never too soon to talk about the importance of savings."

"It's important because in any modern society, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

The Junior Achievement students at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Mount Vernon are learning the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit.

one thing that people do almost every day is make money decisions, so knowing how to do it well is something that is going to be useful to every single one of us," added Laura Levine, president and CEO of the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. "Knowing how to manage money is something that all consumers need to do so it's important that we teach that to our kids."

In fact, learning to manage a budget is one of the basic skills that Levine encourages parents to teach.

"Years ago, finance was basic, but today there are so many options and financial decisions that have to be made," she said. "Money is more self-directed than ever before. Finances are more complicated than ever before, so we need skills to manage it."

When it comes to managing money, one of the best ways to teach is leading by example, says Levine. "Like with anything else, kids learn by what they see at home," she said. "Even parents who haven't made the best financial decisions in the past can resolve to do it now in the New Year."

While some parents might find starting a dialog daunting, it's vital that parents have those conversations with their children, said Levine.

"Talk to your kids about money," she said. "It's important to distinguish between talk and teach. Parents who don't know about money can freak out when they're asked to teach their children about money. Instead, talk to them and say, 'Let's learn about this together.'"

THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online Special Edition: PET Connection

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BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Chairman McKay's Reception. 5-7 p.m. At the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Join the new Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, for the annual New Year Reception. Bring food donations for Stuff the Bus and pet supplies for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Town Hall Meeting. 1 p.m. At 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Sen. Scott Surovell and fellow legislators will host town halls throughout the 36th District in January and February. The legislators will discuss their legislative agendas and take questions from the audience. Some topics will include: Transportation, Education Funding and Reform, The State Budget and Tax Reform, Redistricting, Medicaid Expansion, Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Rights, Firearm Violence Prevention, Civil/Criminal Justice Reforms, Consumer Protection/Predatory Lending, Investing in Green Energy, Reproductive Choice Issues, Protecting Environmental Interests.

Teen Job Fairs

FROM PAGE 5

help connect teens with employers face to face and prepare our youth for the workforce. Please view the Fairfax County Teen Job Fair schedule below:

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Woodson High School

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Dalia Palchik, James Walkinshaw, Woodson High School, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Connection Newspapers.

Saturday, March 7, 2 to 4 p.m. at South County High School

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Rodney Lusk, Dan Storck, Chairman Jeff McKay, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Connection Newspapers, Mount Vernon Gazette and Mount Vernon High School

Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Chantilly High School

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, Connection Newspapers, and the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, Connection Newspapers, and South County High School

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at West Springfield High School

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, James Walkinshaw, West Springfield HS Student Government Association, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Connection Newspapers.

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ONGOING

Funday Monday. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays now thru March. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Play, paint, sing and dance at Funday Monday in the City of Fairfax. This season they are bringing back My Gym to help everyone move and play together, Oh Susannah! with her guitar to sing some old songs and have just as much fun with new ones, and Good Gollie it's Mollie will be coming 'round with more games and playtime fun. They would like to welcome some new friends as well like Drew Blue Shoes, a magician whose magic will leave you mystified and a kids' nature puppet show will come to teach us about the jungle in our backyard. This season they have the local animal shelter and local Spanish emersion group Mi Chu Chu Train coming with specially made programs. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

All You Need is Love. Now thru Feb. 16. At Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. In celebration of Valentine's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of society's most complex human emotions — Love. In its newest exhibit titled All You Need is &e, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its artists' interpretations of love. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

St. James Intramural High School Basketball League. Now thru March 10. At the St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, 6805 Industrial Road, Springfield. The St. James invites you to participate in its Middle School Basketball League for Boys & Girls (8th to 12th grade), Jan. 10- March 10, in the new 33,000 square foot Basketball Courthouse on four high school regulation sized courts. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball League registration fee is \$250 per player and \$600 per team. All games are officiated and statistics provided. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball league also includes a Playoff round where top teams in the league will meet. Visit <https://www.thestjames.com/sports/basketball/sessions/8/courses/tsj-basketball-winter-team> or contact Alpha or Pele with any questions at 703-239-6841.

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

ESL Registration. 7-8 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church's two locations: 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, and 13421 Twinlakes Dr., Clifton. Register for ESL classes in Fairfax or Clifton/Centreville on Jan. 23. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., January 28-April 2. Cost is \$40 for student text book. Visit the website: www.lordoflifeva.org

JAN. 24-25

Children's Concert. Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 12 p.m. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Annual Children's Concert presented by the Lake Braddock Choral department. A magical show full of well-known songs performed by your favorite characters. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes if they choose. Concessions will be available for purchase. Autographs and photos with characters following the performances. Cost: \$5 suggested donation or a new toy for Inova Children's Hospital. Visit the website: lbchorus.org

JAN. 24 AND FEB. 2

DanceFest 2020. At George Mason University, Harris Theatre, Fairfax. The DanceFest 2020 Gala is a celebration of dance in Northern Virginia, with companies from the Virginia Dance Coalition (VADC). A fascinating collection of different genres ranging from ballet to classical Indian, to contemporary are being performed. Featured professional companies include Kista Tucker Dance, DanceArtTheater and Dancin Unlimited, along with the Fairfax Ballet and the Ballet Arts Ensemble. The event kicks off with a Gala Performance of member companies on Friday, Jan. 24 at GMU Harris Theatre, and continues on Sunday, Feb. 2 with an all-day workshop of master classes and a Festival performance.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 – 7:30 pm/ Gala Performance* of member companies - Tickets: \$25;

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm/ Full-day Workshop with Master; Classes in Modern, Jazz, Indian Dance and Step. Workshop held at the GMU DeLaski Performing Arts Building;

PLUS: Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 5:00 pm/ Afternoon Festival Performance* of Emerging Companies - Tickets: \$10.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Polar Plunge Festival. 1 p.m. At Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Join in the Polar Plunge Festival at the Mosaic District in Fairfax, where you can show your best cannonball into an icy pool for a great cause. Bring your friends and family out for live music and chance to claim the title as the best-dressed plunger. It's \$100 to take the Plunge, but the more you raise, the cooler the prizes. Visit <https://polarplunge.com/mosaic-district/>



Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel will be presented Jan. 26 at GMU Center for the Arts.

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique “concerts with commentary” format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100th anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75th of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy's Clair de Lune and Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor as well as colorful Preludes by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

Alonzo King LINES Ballet. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Since 1982, visionary choreographer Alonzo King has been redefining contemporary ballet by creating daring new works that marry the science of artistic movement with the beauty of other art forms. In his latest collaboration, Figures of Speech, King addresses the fact that languages of the world are vanishing at an alarming rate, and draws on the research of poet and activist Bob Holman, pioneer in the slam poetry movement and co-founder of the Endangered Language Alliance. His expressive choreography takes inspiration from a soundtrack of poetry recited by native speakers of languages nearing extinction and music played on traditional instruments. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Game Day Activities. 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. There will be train-related games for all ages and you can win a prize if you play. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and active or retired Military, \$4. Visit the website: www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Steam Day. 3-5 p.m. At Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Tinker, experiment, create, and explore with Gesher JDS and PJ Library. Join in a free afternoon of around-the-world family fun. Your child's curiosity will take them to new and far-away places when they experience science, technology, engineering, art, math with hands-on projects for kids aged 3-8 and their parents. Free. RSVP at: <https://www.gesher-jds.org/steam-day/>

BHS General Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. View a film on the history of Burke's Lee Chapel, with some accompanying remarks by Rev. Katie Carson Phillips and Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana. Free. Visit the website: www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



MARIA BARANOVA PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” official world premiere at the Center for the Arts, Feb. 1, 2020.

Singular Opportunity Awaits

World premiere Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Center for the Arts

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

“Once in a lifetime opportunity to see one of the most creative minds develop and work in a premiere right here in Northern Virginia awaits audiences,” said Adrienne Bryant Godwin, Director of Programming, Center for the Arts. She was speaking about renowned choreographer Bill T. Jones, a major influencer in the performing arts for decades.

With the inaugural Mason Artists-in-Residence program, “we are trying something very new. With ‘What Problem?’ audiences will be able to see something no one has seen before, right on the Center for the Arts stage,” added Bryant Godwin. It is the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?”

Jones has been and continues as a powerful innovator of expressive dance exploring social issues. As a groundbreaking leader in modern dance for decades, Bill T. Jones is the recipient of prestigious awards including the National Medal of Arts, MacArthur Genius Award, The Kennedy Center Honors Award, and multiple Tony Awards.

“What Problem?” will be “beyond modern dance,” noted Bryant Godwin. It is set to spoken word and original live music by Nick Hallett and sung by the Mason University Singers. The dance performance aims to spotlight identity; what it means to belong to a community yet

Center for the Arts at George Mason University presents the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Concert Hall, 4111 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Feb. 1, 2020 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29, \$41 and \$48. There are special discounts for youth tickets available through grade 12. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu Note: A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. “What Problem?” is co-commissioned by the Center for the Arts, George Mason University. Support for the creation of “What Problem?” provided by the Mason Artist-in-Residence program, which is funded, in part, by the George Mason University Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Impact and ARTSFAIRFAX.

have feelings of isolation especially during divisive times.

“What Problem?” has three sections: there is Jones in solo performance; Jones alongside members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; and then in a unique concluding segment, Jones and the company onstage with 30 participants from the Northern Virginia community. The community members will represent the diversity that is the region. The content for the community members' section will be developed specifically for Northern Virginia.

Bill T. Jones described “What Problem?” as an “experimental work that is asking questions.” It is a work of “healing; to find cultural unity...while seeking truth.” The dance will also ask,

SEE WORLD PREMIERE.
PAGE 10

PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Smiles all around in Kingstowne: Jess Judkins is spreading a positive vibe with the handmade coffee sleeves.

Crochet Coffee Sleeves Spread Positive Vibe

Fairfax mother and her children act inspire others with the handmade items.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



The word had gotten out that Jess Judkins, a self-proclaimed “Crochet encourager,” was going to be at the Kingstowne Starbucks on Saturday morning last week, handing out her crochet coffee sleeves to cheer up the local coffee crowd. All they had to do in return was to pass on the positivity. She showed up with her children Judah and Magnolia, and their handmade sleeves, and the store was full of positivity that flowed into the surrounding community.

This “pay it forward,” activity started when they were in line getting coffee one time and her child Judah started handing out flowers to cheer people up. It’s not uncommon to be wearing a numb expression in the morning while waiting for coffee, but the flowers did the trick that morning. The flowers turned into handmade coffee sleeves that they handed out at other Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts in the Burke and Fairfax area and one spot in Washington, D.C. to cheer people up. “So far my kids, Judah, Magnolia and I have handed out over 1,085 sleeves to encourage strangers,” Judkins said.

She mostly uses social media to spread the word of upcoming giveaways, and the recipients from the Kingstowne event responded. Sarah Michelle wrote, “You are the sweetest, thank you so much for

A Washington Nationals coffee sleeve may be just what it takes to turn a gray day into something positive.

what you do. We love our sleeves God bless.” April Devan wrote “today was fun thank you for coming out.” The comments were splattered with emojis of hearts and smiley faces, and good feelings.

Creativity with the Crochet Needle

It’s not just an average coffee sleeve either. Each has a design on them that’s reflective of today’s icons. “So far I’ve designed Harry Potter, Bob Ross, Frida Kahlo, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Ironman, unicorns, Mr Rogers, Baby Yoda, Cow, Dogs, Cats, other animals, floral sleeves, Anna, Elsa, Olaf, Minnie and Mickey, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, R2D2, Ewok, Stormtrooper, Lisa Simpson, The Washington Nationals, Pokémon, Minions, Monsters Inc., Mario, Batman, Spider-Man, Superman, TARDIS, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, rainbows, donuts and dinosaurs,” she said. It seems she can do anything on a coffee sleeve.

“Our sole purpose is to encourage people unconditionally in hopes that they would go out and show kindness to others,” she said. For the Judkins, it’s a fun way to improve people’s outlooks and turn those frowns into smiles.



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique "concerts with commentary" format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100th anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75th of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy's Clair de Lune and Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor as well as colorful Preludes by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

Troop Open House. 7-8:30 p.m. At Wood Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Scouts BSA Troop 1345G will host an Open House for young women (ages 11-17) interested in learning more about Scouting and its focus on outdoor adventure, leadership development, and citizenship skills. Free. Visit the website: <http://www.troop1345.org>



PHOTO BY KRISTIN MATUS-KELSO

Children's Concert

Lake Braddock Secondary School Chorus students perform songs and dances dressed as your favorite children's movie characters singing well-known songs. Jan. 24-25

Children's Concert. Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 12 p.m. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Annual Children's Concert presented by the Lake Braddock Choral department. A magical show full of well-known songs performed by your favorite characters. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes if they choose. Concessions will be available for purchase. Autographs and photos with characters following the performances. Cost: \$5 suggested donation or a new toy for Inova Children's Hospital. Visit the website: lbchorus.org

World Premiere

FROM PAGE 8

"Is there a we?" in divisive times. The performance is one of "a beautiful design; for the eyes, the heart and the mind," added

Jones. During its development and rehearsal, "What Problem?" aims for the "community to discover who are they and what they might think while in a pleasurable experience."

The Company's weeklong residency goes-beyond on-stage perfor-

mance. There will be rehearsals with the community members and the Mason University Singers; as well as teaching masterclasses with the Mason School of Dance and with Fairfax County Public Schools' Fairfax Academy dance students.

Announcements

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Board of Supervisors Reconvenes

FROM PAGE 3

Supervisor Dalia Palchik (D- Providence) said that since this was the first time the census was being done online, she appreciated the outreach efforts, especially for communities that have historically been under-represented. She mentioned increases in other outreach efforts such as through faith-based communities and physicians, members trusted by the community.

Tony Castrilli, Director of Public Affairs Fairfax County, encouraged Palchik to visit the site, Census 2020 Complete Count Committee Members at fairfax.gov/topics/census-2020. "It is a very diverse group of community leaders in different areas, including the hard to reach communities and faith-based leaders throughout the region."

Supervisor Walter Alcorn presented a motion to amend the Reston Comprehensive Plan that would focus, among other things, on projected population thresholds for Reston and land use in the village centers, "I am looking at 12-18 months from start to finish," Supervisor Alcorn said. The motion carried.

PALCHIK brought forward her first board matter relating to the Holmes Run Acres. "Over 70 percent of residents of the neighborhood have expressed interest in consideration of the establishment of a Historic Overlay District for Holmes Run Acres," she said. The district was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2007. The motion carried.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D- Lee) requested confirmation of appointments to the Burgundy Village Community Center Operations Board after residents and homeowners in the community elected the candidates through a preference poll. Motion carried.

Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville) - in reference to the Cinder Bed Road Bus Garage in Lorton - requested that Metro share the agreement that "supposedly" provides bus transit service in the County. "It has been 80 days. This Board has made numerous requests...Metro has a contract with Transdev. It has not been apparent they have exercised any rights under that contract to bring Transdev to resolve this ... I don't know how someone can take \$159M from us and not share with us the agreement. I renew my request, and I expect Metro to fulfill and respond in a very timely manner." The motion carried. The workers voted to end the strike last week.

Supervisor Daniel G. Storck (D-Mount Vernon District) - in a board matter with McKay and Herrity, brought forward a resolution to recognize the South County Football team as State Champions. "They entered the championship game with a record of 14-0." The motion carried.

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Treat One, Get Two.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sure you regular readers are waiting with bated breath for the confirmation of my updated health status. Unfortunately, for the moment anyway, we'll all have to wait a bit longer. Though the needle biopsy of my "Adam's Apple" tumor did indeed confirm thyroid cancer, stage 2, no such confirmation or clarification as to its origin was made, or whether it's been thyroid cancer that I've been living with all these years, instead of non small cell lung cancer, stage 4 or not. However, there is a path forward. Surgery to remove my thyroid gland, along with my "Adam's Apple" tumor, and possibly a lymph node is in the planning stage. As such, scheduled for next Friday is an appointment with a head and neck surgeon to determine my fitness for surgery. All we've been told so far is that the surgery is usually outpatient, arrive in the morning and leave that afternoon (maybe I'll bring along my dry cleaning). Apparently, this is the next step "on the road to find out" (Cat Stevens).

If I am indeed home that same evening, I've been told by my endocrinologist that the recovery period is approximately two weeks. At present I don't have any details of what "recovery" exactly means/entails. If all goes according to the pre-surgical-actually-discussing-the-procedure-with-the-surgeon conversation, a month or so after the procedure, I will revisit my endocrinologist to have radioisotopes administered somehow. Once inside my body, I will be scanned by a machine looking exclusively for thyroid cancer. This will confirm, if I understand the process correctly, whether the tumors in my lungs are thyroid or lung cancer.

In the interim, I am to continue with my immunotherapy ("I. O.") and with any other appointments, scans, etc. I recall something that my oncologist said about my lung cancer tumors during his "exciting" phone call. He said that my tumors never really acted the way he anticipated, as if they weren't non small cell lung cancer at all. And sure enough, some of them, as confirmed by the first of my recent two biopsies were thyroid cancer. As I've been joking, this is what my oncologist gets excited about as opposed to what yours truly would get excited about: a World Series Championship. And also, as he said, thyroid tumors are more treatable, with more choices and better outcomes - which is exciting for me.

OKAY. So I have thyroid cancer and it's more treatable. Wonderful news. But do I still have lung cancer? If so, where's the future in that? Is it somehow no longer a "terminal" disease because I've outlived my original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Will I now be treated for thyroid cancer only to die of lung cancer? Moreover, am I now going to get treated twice, in two medical suites, one for each cancer? Have these multiple biopsies simply determined that the doctors were actually right - both times and I'm just the unfortunate patient to be so wronged?

For 10 or so years, until last January, I was treated for lung cancer - with chemotherapy. However, this past January, the Adam's Apple" tumor appeared and we switched to immunotherapy. The reason for the change: the lung cancer had spread, according to my oncologist. Now, a year later, the story/diagnosis has changed, thanks to my most recent biopsy. The tumor wasn't lung cancer that had spread, it was thyroid cancer that had spread. I didn't even know I had thyroid cancer. Now you're telling me it's spread? How lucky am I? Two cancers for the price of one. I guess this will make health insurance more affordable, sort of like buying in bulk at Costco.

The big question: did my lung cancer treatment inadvertently prevent my thyroid cancer from manifesting/metastasizing or did its non-diagnosis allow it to grow unimpeded and now present this quite unexpected/unanticipated complication? Explain though it may to my oncologist why I haven't succumbed to my original disease, it doesn't quite explain to me what the hell's been going on and why.

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



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