

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Marijuana Legalization Fails

Decriminalization proposals by Herring and Ebbin advance.

BY MAIA STANLEY
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

RICHMOND, Va. — Going into the 2020 legislative session, advocates say Democratic leaders had an ambitious marijuana reform agenda. By crossover day, several decriminalization bills passed their respective chambers, but hopes of legalization went up in smoke. Lawmakers, who say that the state isn't ready for legalization yet, advanced decriminalization bills, incorporated a bulk of the measures and continued legalization measures to 2021.

House Bill 972, introduced by House Majority Leader Charniele Herring, D-Alexandria, will decriminalize simple possession of marijuana, replacing the current punishment of a maximum \$500 fine and 30 days in jail with a \$25 maximum fine and no criminal charges or jail time.

Substance abuse screening and loss of driving privileges for marijuana possession would be enacted for juveniles. Opponents say the bill unfairly punishes juveniles more than adults. Herring's bill incorporates three other decriminalization and possession bills. Police would handle the possession charge much like a summons for motor vehicle law violations, and no court costs would be incurred. The bill also mandates that previ



Herring



Ebbin

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 13



Brian Hilton and Kari LaBell as George and Martha Washington wave to spectators during the Feb. 17 George Washington Birthday Parade.

GW Parade

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted thousands of visitors to Old Town as Alexandria celebrated the 288th anniversary of the birth of George Washington on Feb. 17 with the annual parade honoring America's founding father.

Billed as the nation's largest George Washington Birthday Parade, the Presidents Day weekend of events kicked off with a Birthnight Ball Feb. 15 at Gadsby's Tavern. Parade day events included a breakfast hosted by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, a scavenger hunt and

the laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Grand marshal for this year's parade was retired Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker, a naval aviator who spent eight years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Shumaker, the second POW captured in Vietnam, coined the nickname "Hanoi Hilton" and was involved in the creation of a tapping code which allowed POWs to communicate through their cells.

The theme of this year's parade was "selfless service to country" and was dedicated to Kathleen Kelly, a 30-year volunteer for Historic Alexandria who died in 2019.



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

Parade participants



Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker



A patriotic parade participant

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Equal Housing Opportunity

Bloomberg Finds Support and Opposition in Virginia

BY CONOR LOBB
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
RICHMOND, VA.

Roughly two weeks before Super Tuesday, former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.

The day after Valentine's Day, the Democratic presidential candidate campaigned around the city, stopping first for an afternoon speech at Hardywood Park Craft Brewery. The event attracted about 900 people, according to his campaign staff. In the evening, Bloomberg attended the Blue Commonwealth Gala at Main Street Station in downtown Richmond. The gala is an annual fundraiser hosted by the Democratic Party of Virginia.

"This is the event that keeps the lights on," said Andrew Whitley, executive director of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Bloomberg also campaigned in Arlington earlier in the week, appearing with D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. Bowser also appeared for Bloomberg at an event and straw poll at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Former U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) spoke for former Vice President Joe Biden at the Mount Vernon event. Bloomberg's campaign garnered 63 votes to win the straw poll there at the gala sponsored by the Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee. Amy Klobuchar was second with 24 votes, and Pete Buttigieg third with 22. Other votes were: Elizabeth Warren, 18; Bernie Sanders, 14; Joe Biden, 12.

During the Hardywood and Blue Commonwealth Gala events, Bloomberg apologized for the controversial stop-and-frisk policy in place when he was New York's mayor. He said the policy disproportionately affected young men of color. Stop and frisk is a procedure where a police officer stops a person on the street they believe might be armed and pats them down to search for weapons. In 2011, during Bloomberg's ninth year as mayor, the New York City Police Department stopped over 685,000 people under the stop-and-frisk policy, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union. A majority of those searches were performed on Black or Lantinx people (87%). The NYCLU said that 88 percent of people stopped were innocent.

"I defended it for too long, I think, because I didn't understand the unintended pain it caused to young black and brown kids and to their families," Bloomberg said. "And for that, I have apologized."

Bloomberg pledged that if elected, he'd prioritize dismantling systems of bias and oppression. He did not elaborate what those systems were or how he would change them.

The Virginia Citizens Defense League, a gun rights advocacy group, protested at both of Bloomberg's Richmond events. VCDL protesters, who are opposed to



PHOTO BY CONOR LOBB/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Presidential candidate and former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg was in Richmond at Hardywood looking for support from voters and from many of the lawmakers whose campaigns he helped fund.



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer was master of ceremonies at a Mt Vernon District Democratic Committee (MVDDC) straw poll and Mardi Gras fundraiser Sunday. MVDDC chair Maritza Zermeno joins him on stage.

Bloomberg's gun control policy, entered Hardywood brewery and called Bloomberg a fascist while he was speaking. They were removed from the brewery by Bloomberg supporters and staff and resumed their post outside. They did not enter Main Street Station but lined the street outside, where other anti-Bloomberg protesters were gathered.

Anti-Bloomberg sentiment was also visible inside the gala. Jasmine Leeward, a board member of Richmond For All, approached the podium while Bloomberg was speaking and attached a sign that read: "He protects racist systems, will you?" It was

quickly taken down and Leeward was escorted away from the stage. Richmond For All is a coalition that fights for housing, education, environmental rights and racial justice.

Leeward explained the sign, saying that Bloomberg protects racist systems by only offering an apology and "not actually repaying for the harms that were caused by his stop-and-frisk policies."

"I saw a lot of politicians, both at the city and state level, kind of forgiving or not being truthful and honest about how dangerous he would be as a president," Leeward said. "And so I did what I felt like I needed

to do, which was to talk to the people who have the power to get him elected and ask them if they support racist systems and protect them, as I feel Mike Bloomberg does."

After the sign was removed, Bloomberg said, "It's always nice to be welcomed."

At the gala, six Democratic candidates for president were represented by surrogates, influential people who campaign for candidates at events, but Bloomberg was the only candidate who appeared. Virginia's key leaders were in attendance, including Gov. Ralph Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Attorney General Mark Herring, and Virginia Congresswomen Elaine Luria, Abigail Spanberger and Jennifer Wexton.

Bloomberg received support from Filler-Corn during her speech at the gala.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue," Filler-Corn said.

Bloomberg said winning in Virginia is a key part of his electoral strategy.

"I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for helping to turn Virginia blue."

— House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn

Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy group largely funded by Bloomberg, has spent \$3.8 million since 2017 to help usher in Democratic legislators. After the 2019 elections, the Democrats gained a majority in Virginia's executive and legislative branches for the first time since the early '90s.

Bloomberg said that defeating President Donald Trump is one of the main reasons he entered the race.

Charles Bissett, an Army veteran who is leaning toward voting for Bloomberg, said that he thinks that Bloomberg will have the best chance of implementing Democratic policy. In particular, Bissett supports how Bloomberg handled education reform as mayor of New York.

Under Bloomberg's administration, the graduation rate for high school students went from less than half to nearly two-thirds, according to a 2013 article by *The Atlantic*. Bloomberg also said he raised teacher salaries in New York by 43 percent.

Bloomberg ranks third in an average of national polls for the Democratic presidential nomination, according to polling data from RealClearPolitics that also has Sen. Elizabeth Warren closely trailing him.

End of an Era

Judge Moore steps down after 22 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The laughs were long and loud as legal dignitaries from across the state joined local judges and attorneys in celebrating the retirement of General District Court Chief Judge Becky J. Moore, who stepped down Feb. 1 following 22 years on the bench.

Held Jan. 31 at Belle Haven Country Club, the retirement luncheon was part sentimental send-off and part comedic roast as several speakers recounted anecdotes from Moore's legal career that included tales of "fake pet debris," smashed birthday cakes and a leopard print dress.

Moore's former law partner, Drew Carroll, served as emcee and stand-up comic and was followed by several speakers who showed a similar flair for comedy, including Judge Constance Frugale, who titled her remarks "laughing all the way."

"I have never laughed harder or had more fun than with my friend Beck," said Frugale, who introduced Moore to her husband Bob Coulter and is godmother to Moore's daughters Katie and Christie. "We have been together in Alexandria as friends, as practicing attorneys then later as judges. We always helped each other in everything in life."

Other speakers included Virginia State Bar president Marni Byrum, Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter, Hon. Donald Haddock Jr., and Moore's daughter Katie Coulter.

"I can attest that mom is just as peppy at home as she is at the office," Coulter said. "Mom has had a fantastic career. She's a wonderful mother and was a wonderful judge and I am so excited for what comes next for her."

Moore's husband, Bob Coulter, was a bit more restrained in his comments.

"I'm a little worried that Becky is going to sit home and make to-do lists for me," he joked. "So I'm a little bit anxious about the whole thing."

Moore, a graduate of the University of Richmond School of Law, was the last to speak and began by thanking her team of fellow judges and clerks.



Judge Becky Moore at her investiture ceremony in 1998.



Judge Becky Moore, center, with former law partner Drew Carroll and District Court Judge Constance



An avid runner, Judge Becky Moore ran the 2012 Army Ten Miler in memory of U.S. Army Pfc David H. Sharrett II, the nephew of a Greenville, Va., circuit court judge who was killed in Iraq in 2008.

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

District Court Judge Becky Moore, center, is presented a photo by General District Court clerks Marion Jackson and Hope Mayfield at Moore's retirement luncheon Jan. 31 at Belle Haven Country Club.

"We are lucky to live in Alexandria, where we have such great lawyers and law enforcement officials," Moore said. "We are all part of a team and I am so lucky to have worked with you."

Moore went on to thank Frugale, her best friend, who "makes even the mundane a Seinfeldian adventure," before ending on a serious note.

"I worked everyday to be fair and respectful to every person coming into the courtroom," Moore said. "I am so very grateful for the career I have had and am humbled by the lifelong friendships I have gained."



Judge Becky Moore, second from left, with daughters Katie and Christie Coulter, and husband Bob Coulter.



OPTIMIST CLUB ESSAY WINNER — Kaifi Abdullah, first place winner of the Optimist Club essay contest, stands with his father, Haroun Abdullah and Optimist Club essay chair Carolyn Miller at the presentation ceremony Feb. 12 Belle Haven Country Club. Abdullah, a student at T.C. Williams High School, won \$500 for his essay with the contest theme "How is optimism the key to the dreams you imagine."

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Hearing for Pocket Parks

Improvement Plan. 7 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Rec Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing to receive recommendations from the public on the Pocket Parks Improvement Plan. Public comment is welcomed and will precede the Park and Recreation Commission's consideration for endorsement of the Plan.

The Plan examines the City's 25 pocket parks, which are defined as being municipally owned parks that measure less than half an acre. The Plan is a study of each park's history, existing conditions and future needs. Through the Plan, strategies are identified and prioritized to achieve short- and long-term incremental improvements for these parks. View the plan at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=65170#PocketParkPlanning> and send comments for the Park and Recreation Commission to Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner, at ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov.

PARTICIPATE IN 2020 CENSUS

Councilman Canek Aguirre is encouraging residents to participate in Census volunteer efforts to raise awareness about the 2020 Census and reach Alexandria's hard-to-count populations. Aguirre serves as Chair of the City of Alexandria's Complete Count Committee. A list

of upcoming volunteer opportunities can be found below:

- ❖ 2020 Census Ambassador Training - Saturday, Feb. 22, 12 p.m., William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Avenue, Alexandria.
 - ❖ St. Patrick's Day Parade - Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m., Old Town, Alexandria.
 - ❖ 2020 Census Ambassador Training - Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m., James Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria.
- In March and April, Councilman Aguirre and City staff will participate in panel discussions at city libraries to discuss the importance of the Census.
- ❖ 2020 Census Information Session - Saturday, March 28, 3 p.m., Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria.
 - ❖ 2020 Census Information Session - Monday, March 30, 7 p.m., Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria.
 - ❖ 2020 Census Information Session - Saturday, April 11, 11 a.m., Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria.

"FOREST" CONCEPT SELECTED

The School Board has voted to move forward with the "Forest" concept for the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School building, citing its alignment with the community's desire to have a strong connection between the school and nature. The chosen concept — unanimously approved by the Board on Thursday evening — fulfills a desire heard throughout the design process for a building and site that convey a community feel with plenty of open space for children to play both inside and outside school hours. The community also wanted a school that capitalized on the wooded area to the back of the school and brought the sense of nature into the building.



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OPINION

Equal Rights For Women

BY U.S. REP. DON BEYER (D)

Last month the Virginia General Assembly, under new barrier-breaking leadership, took the long-awaited step of voting to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

The Equal Rights Amendment is a very simple amendment to the Constitution. It is just a few words: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Those few words could have a powerful legal impact, however.

Embedding the text of the ERA in our Constitution would give women in the United States a legal tool to fight everyday discrimination women face. That would include pay discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, and domestic violence. It would provide one national standard to protect against sex discrimination across America.

The move was exciting, not only



One of the advocates who worked long for the passage of the ERA, Lisa Sales, was U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's guest at the State of the Union address.

because of how long Virginia advocates had fought for ratification, but because Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. That put the ERA over the three-fourths threshold required for national ratification.

One of the advocates who worked long for the passage of the ERA, Lisa Sales, was my guest earlier this month for the State of the

Union Address.

Some of you may have heard Lisa speak on the panel discussion about the struggle to get equal pay, and reduce the wage gap (including the ERA) at my Annual Women's Conference and Forum in Arlington last year. A key point Lisa made that sticks with me: "the Equal Rights Amendment can strengthen protections for women who are survivors of sexual vio-

lence."

The ERA enjoys enormous support across the Commonwealth and the country, but unfortunately, opponents in the Trump Administration recently released a legal memo arguing that the passage of a deadline for ratification proposed in the original legislative text invalidates the national adoption of the amendment.

Virginia's Attorney General Mark Herring is fighting that determination in court, but in the meantime, the House of Representatives just took action by passing legislation to remove the deadline in question. I gave remarks on the House floor during debate, which was presided over by Virginia Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, before voting for the bill.

There are still hurdles ahead, but I will continue to do everything I can to secure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

It's long past time to enact this Amendment to guarantee equal rights for women.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

Black Women's Suffrage Movement and Mary E. Dorsey

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

The 19th Amendment became law in 1919 giving women the right to vote in the 1920 November elections. For women in Virginia, the General Assembly withheld its ratification until 1952.

Many African American women in Alexandria took advantage of the 19th Amendment and registered to vote. Those women who registered in 1920 made history. They were part of a movement that was labeled "Women's Suffrage Movement." Although this period was during the height of the segregation era, the African American women had their own Women's Suffrage Movement to address their own needs within the movement.

Mary E. Dorsey along with her sister and mother were women who were independent in their own career paths. These women became politically involved in women's rights. She was a beautician and sometimes a domestic worker who was educated during the school segregation era. She was a businessperson who often engaged in political exchanges at her beauty shop.

Mary registered to vote on Sept. 23, 1920 at third District - Fire



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAYRENE LYLES-RICHARDSON



Mary E. Dorsey in the 20th Century.

Mary E. Dorsey at the end of the 19th Century.

Engine House and the 4th District - Friendship's location. Mary's sister, Laura M. Dorsey was a well-known 19th and 20th Century teacher in Alexandria at the Hallowell School for colored girls and at Parker-Gray School. Laura registered to vote on Sept. 22, 1920 at the third and fourth Districts. Mary and Laura's mother Hannah V. Lyles Caldwell also registered to vote on Sept. 30, 1920 at the fourth District. All three women lived at 622 South Columbus Street.

In the mid-1920s, Mary's second

job was a domestic. Her employer died and left her a large sum of money. The Dorsey sisters combined their finances and purchased land on Dec. 29, 1927. They built their house and moved in on Jan. 17, 1928 at 319 North Alfred Street.

They were very sociable, giving parties and hosting political figures of the day. They traveled to their summer homes in New Jersey and visited relatives throughout the east coast. They were independent women that attended intellectual events with their close

circle of friends. The three women were members of Roberts Chapel Methodist Church. At Roberts, they participated in political debates with many political figures of their time.

Mary and Laura never married and they were very close to their mother, Hannah. The women always lived together but on June 29, 1934, Hannah V. Lyles-Dorsey Caldwell died. She was the daughter of the late Reverend Richard H. Lyles and Mary Elizabeth Beckley. Mary E. Dorsey and her sister continued to live together until Mary took ill and died on May 17, 1958.

Laura M. Dorsey was left alone for the first time in her life without her mother or sister. She continued to be active in her church until she moved into a nursing facility in Washington, DC. She died at the age of 89 in 1968.

Once again, mother and daughters were together, they were all buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Alexandria where their names appear on one large headstone.

These three women were born in the 19th century and lived to see important events unfold in their lifetime. Those women witnessed major civil rights achieve

SEE THE OTHER, PAGE 18



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LETTERS

Why I love the New Seminary Road

As someone who lives on a small cul-de-sac off of Seminary Road, I am a daily user of Seminary Road. I use the road several times every day as either a driver, walker, cyclist, or simply as a resident.

The new Seminary Road is beneficial to me and to my neighborhood. We are able to live with greater safety no matter how we use the road. We are people who live here - not just drive through to some other location.

I am very thankful for the new configuration for many reasons. Here are just a few:

❖ As a driver, I am able to turn off my street and onto Seminary with greater visibility. When I drive home in the evening during rush hour traffic, I use the center turn-lane and safely turn off of Seminary. Traffic flows freely in the right lane and there is no risk of being rear-ended.

❖ As a pedestrian, I am able to enjoy quieter and much safer conditions as

I am no longer walking right against the traffic. The bicycle

lanes provide a buffer from the traffic that previously far exceeded the posted speed limit. I make use of the crosswalk to safely cross Seminary Road. The pedestrian refuge island provides a brief waiting spot that is safe until the cross-traffic stops. An added benefit is the reduced noise (as a result of traffic actually going 25 mph) makes it possible to have a conversation with those along whom I walk.

❖ As a cyclist, I feel safe cycling on Seminary Road. I connect to Janney's Lane and Howard/Braddock - depending on where I am heading. These new lanes enable access to places such as Old Town and Four Mile Run and W&OD trails. While not all "dedicated" cycling lanes, each segment builds and connects to other segments.

Prior to the reconfiguration, even as an experienced cyclist, I was extremely afraid of distracted drivers and speeding drivers, when I cycled on Seminary. I would have avoided Seminary altogether if I had a choice, however given where I live, this was not an option. I am looking forward to longer days and warmer weather when I will make even greater use of these lanes.

❖ As a resident, this reconfiguration has made my neighborhood feel more like community and less of a thoroughfare. Even just doing work outside is more enjoyable as the noise level from Seminary Road has significantly reduced.

On a daily basis I see and hear emergency vehicles using Seminary Road — they are able to safely and efficiently get through any traffic. While I recognize this statement is anecdotal in nature, we haven't seen any evidence from AFD or Inova that states issues with emergency vehicle access on Seminary. Furthermore, I have yet to see any significant delays or traffic jams as a result of the new configuration. While I have personally had slight delays when turning left onto Seminary during rush hour, this has been a small price to pay for the increased safety and benefits mentioned above.

Most importantly - nearly all of this goodness derives from the fact that traffic on Seminary is now moving close to the posted 25 mph speed limit. With traffic flowing at 25 mph, it is safe to drive, walk, and cycle on Seminary. A reconfiguration of the road

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Why a Regional Wage?

Effort to raise minimum wage hits snag on Senate floor, leading to regional approach.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

It's shortly after 7 p.m. on a Tuesday night, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is working the Senate chamber to save the minimum wage increase. This particular Tuesday isn't just any day of the week. It's the final deadline for Senate bills to cross over to the House, so the pressure is building as the clock winds down. Senators are tired and cranky, and they will be working past midnight.

Surovell is skipping from senator to senator, engaged in one-on-one conversations as he tries to cobble together a majority. The effort to raise the minimum wage is perilously close to failing, a development that could have been a disaster for the new Democratic majority who got elected, in part, to make this happen. A handful of senators are holding out for a regional approach to the minimum wage, one that would recognize the income disparity between Northern Virginia and the rest of the commonwealth. The leader of that bloc is Sen. David Marsden (D-37), who tried and failed to create a regional approach to the minimum wage during a meeting of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust," Marsden explained during the committee meeting. "I'm very concerned this will have a huge impact on the state budget, and it'll have a huge impact on Virginia's economy."

Now Marsden has an opportunity to revive that approach. His idea may have failed in committee. But at the last minute before the final deadline, it's making a comeback on the Senate floor. Without the handful of senators holding out for a regional approach, Democrats won't have the votes to make the increase happen. The bill to increase the minimum wage was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, an indication of how important it is to the agenda of the new majority. The amendment creating a regional approach was introduced by Surovell, who acknowledges it was crafted to cobble together a majority.

"There's some members of my caucus that didn't feel comfortable going to \$15 across the commonwealth," says Surovell. "We had to structure a bill that would get 21 votes, and that's what we did."

A REGIONAL APPROACH to raising the minimum wage is prohibited under current law, which establishes on minimum wage across Virginia. But the bill that emerged out of the Senate last week pegs it to the median household income, which is about \$120,000 in Northern Virginia but only \$62,000 in Hampton Roads.

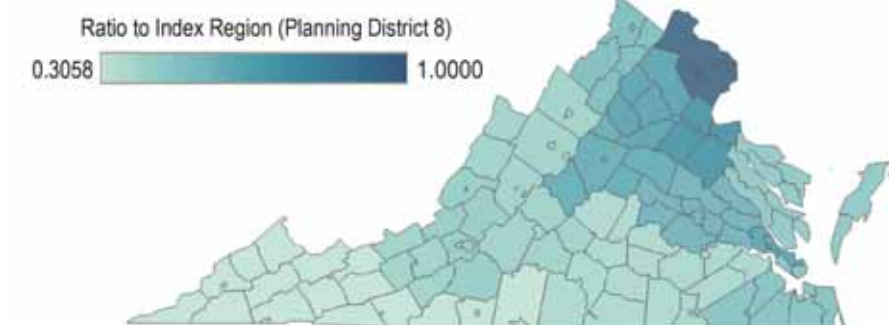
The Commonwealth Institute calls the regional approach adopted by the Virginia Senate "one of the most complicated and inequitable minimum wage laws in the country," accelerating inequality rather than alleviating it.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), right, introduced an amendment on the Senate floor to take a regional approach to the minimum wage. That's an idea originally proposed by Sen. David Marsden (D-37), whose vote Surovell was trying to get by introducing the amendment.

Falling Farther Behind: Lower Median Household Income Will Mean Smaller Raises

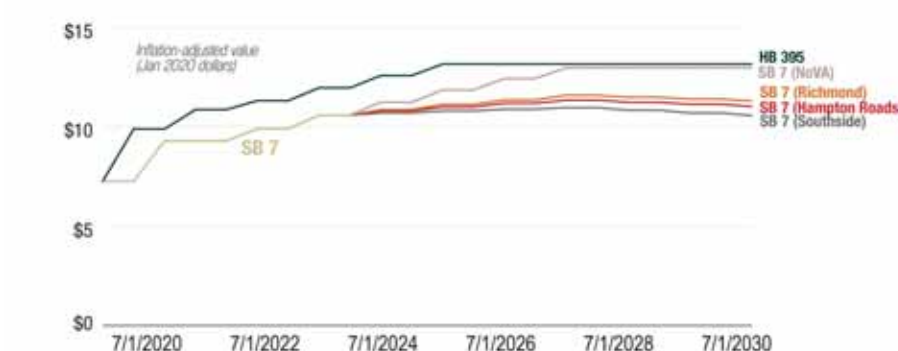


Source: TCI analysis of American Community Survey 2018 median household income by region and proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020. SB7 allows the Commissioner to establish the regions; TCI selected regions for this map based on data availability (PUMAs) and Virginia's economic landscape.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

SB 7 as Amended Leaves Most of Virginia Behind



Note: Northern Virginia includes Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Fairfax City, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William. Richmond includes Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, Powhatan, and Richmond City. Hampton Roads includes Chesapeake, Franklin City, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Southside includes Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Emporia, Greenville, Hopewell, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex.

Source: TCI analysis of proposed legislation as of 2/12/2020 assuming 2.4% inflation per year and current income ratios compared to Northern Virginia.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL ANALYSIS

"For every dollar increase in the minimum wage in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads would receive only 51 cents," says Laura

Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute. "As a result, low-wage workers in Hampton Roads would not see

\$15 until 2034 or even later."

Under Senate Bill 7, Virginia's minimum wage would increase to \$11.50 across Virginia by 2023. Then Virginia's Commissioner of Labor and Industry would create a series of "regions," and set different minimum wage rates based on median household income. The region with the highest minimum wage would receive \$1 annual increases to the minimum wage until it gets to \$15 an hour. Other regions would receive less. Richmond and Hampton Roads would take the biggest hit, being stuck with a lower wage for years to come.

"I just want to slow this down a bit and give the business community an opportunity to adjust."

— Sen. David Marsden (D-37)

"The regional approach is needlessly complex and unpredictable for businesses," said David Broder, president of SEIU Virginia 512. "This bill that aims to help alleviate economic inequality is actually going to bake it in even more."

HOUSE DEMOCRATS took a more straightforward approach, increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour across Virginia by 2025. Senators are now considering the House version, although it'll face the same group of Democratic senators who are concerned about the business community. Meanwhile, over in the House, momentum is heading in the other direction. Instead of making the bill more friendly to big business, House Democrats took action to shed a vestige of slavery by removing the exemption for farm workers.

"It's common knowledge many of Virginia's exemptions to the minimum wage law were rooted in race," Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31), who introduced a bill to remove the exemption "It's past time we give these workers the same protection as everyone else."

The Senate also voted to end some discriminatory exclusions, including ones for domestic workers and piece workers. But critics of the regional approach fear that black workers could once again be left behind because many of them live in communities with low median household incomes. That means Senate Democrats are feeling a pull in two separate directions, one in favor of low-income minorities and the other big business and their allies.

"Working people have been leading the fight to raise the minimum wage in Virginia for years now. They have taken this fight to the streets, to the ballot box and now to the legislature," said Broder. "They helped elect Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate, and it's time for legislators to deliver for working families."



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PEOPLE

HONORARY PROMOTION — Retired firefighter Gerald Wanzer, second from right, stands by an earlier photo of himself with Lt. Randolph Woodson, Fire Chief Corey Smedley and Lt. Sandra Mason at an honorary promotion ceremony Feb. 13 at Fire Station 209. A graduate of Parker-Gray High School and a military veteran, Wanzer was the second African American firefighter hired in Alexandria and became the first president of the Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax Chapter of the Black Firefighters International Association – now known as the Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria.

PHOTO BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Lillian Moraski, center, holds a proclamation declaring Feb. 13 “Lillian Moraski Day” in recognition of Moraski’s 100th birthday. Moraski celebrated the milestone Feb. 9 at Goodwin House Alexandria with Councilwoman Amy Jackson, Mayor Justin Wilson, and Joan and John Renner.

Celebrating a Century

Lillian Moraski turns 100.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Lillian Moraski, born Feb. 13, 1920, celebrated her 100th birthday Feb. 9 at Goodwin House Alexandria with Mayor Justin Wilson presenting the centenarian with a proclamation marking Feb. 13 as “Lillian Moraski Day.”

Moraski, a resident of Alexandria for more than 70 years, was married to Joseph Moraski for 65 years prior to his death in 2010. Together they were members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and raised three children. Moraski has three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

A veteran of World War II, Moraski served as a Woman Marine Corps Sergeant and was the sixth

Moraski family member to serve at the same time in the armed forces. She supported the U.S. Department of Defense as a recruiter and secretary at the Pentagon and at Cameron Station. She holds the distinction of being the most senior Marine at Goodwin House.

Since moving to Goodwin House 22 years ago, Moraski took up painting and utilized her considerable skills as a seamstress to create ballet costumes for the Virginia Ballet.

According to Moraski’s daughter, Joan Renner, longevity runs in the Moraski family with Renner recalling the 100th birthday celebration for Lillian’s mother, who lived to be 101.

The family welcomes friends and acquaintances to send birthday wishes to Lillian Moraski in care of Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Beauregard Street, Alexandria, Va. 22311.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

HEART OF DEL RAY — Preeti Patel, fourth from left, is presented the Heart of Del Ray Award by members of the Del Ray Business Association Feb. 13 after Patel’s 7-Eleven on Mount Vernon Avenue received the most votes in the annual community contest. A native of Gujarat, India, Patel moved to the U.S. 20 years ago and purchased the 7-Eleven 10 years ago.



Lillian Moraski, center, celebrates her 100th birthday with Goodwin House Alexandria chaplain Bruce Stewart and daughter Joan Renner on Feb. 9.

COMMUNITY

Alexandrians Do Have Big Hearts

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Frank Fannon stands beside the fire he had built earlier in the cold morning on Saturday in the former Coal yard parking lot on S. Henry Street. He has set up a table with hot coffee, donuts and cupcakes. Fannon has organized his 12th annual "Alexandrians Have a Heart" clothing and canned food drive. Frank's cousin, Michael Fannon, is nearby helping with the event.

Fannon says he started this event 12 years ago because "basically there are a lot of people in need in Alexandria. It's a great way to get the community to get together." Fannon continues, "Alexandria is a community of haves and have nots, and it is getting worse." He adds that 65 percent of the school kids in Alexandria qualify for reduced price or free school lunches.

Fannon explains today's event will benefit three organizations: Christ House, ALIVE ! Food Bank and Carpenter's Shelter. "This morning a couple of suits were donated. They really like those at Christ House for the men to use in job interviews."

He points to the pick up truck sitting in the parking lot. "We usually get three pickup trucks full of food and clothing. This one is almost full. We're right on pace since it's 11:15." The drive is scheduled to end at 3:00 p.m.

"This year we got something unusual." He pulls out an envelope full of checks. "This is \$2,500 in donations from the Commonwealth Republican

SEE ALEXANDRIANS, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Former City Councilman Frank Fannon accepts donations from Debbie Burns at his 12th annual Alexandrians Have a Heart clothing and canned food drive.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Commonwealth Republican Women's Club of Alexandria donates over \$2,500 in checks for the three organizations supported by the food and clothing drive: Christ House, Carpenter's Shelter and ALIVE!

Alexandrians Do Have Big Hearts

FROM PAGE 11

Women's Club of Alexandria. Wow. Look at this; it's a check for \$500 for Carpenter's Shelter."

Debbie Burns pulls up in the parking lot and heads to the truck with her large paper sack. She says it contains a North Face vest and Amy's soups and pasta. "I work right over there so I come every year when I work on Saturday. I

always like contributing to these events for the community, and I always support anything Frank does." Burns has brought along her own thermos of coffee but says, "I'll take a donut."

Russell Southard drops off his donation. "I live over there. I come every year."

Sunny O'Malley has been donating "whatever needs to go" for 12

years. "There is always something. Today it is shoes, shorts, shorts, casual clothes. I always have in the back of my head 'we'll save it for Frank.'" O'Malley heads for the donut table and picks out the last glazed donut in the box. "I only eat one of these a year." As O'Malley gets back into her car, she calls back, "Don't worry Frank, we'll be back next year."



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Frank Fannon and his cousin Michael Fannon warm up on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the annual clothing and canned food drive.

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General Assembly Snuffs Marijuana Legalization

FROM PAGE 1

ous simple possession convictions, charges and arrest records would be sealed.

“To legalize it now would not be good, but this hopefully would take us one step closer to reducing the arrest and jailing of people for simple possession,” Herring said during the third reading of the bill. The legislation passed with a 64-34 vote, garnering Republican support.

Senate Bill 2, introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin, D-Alexandria, also passed this week. Ebbin’s bill would decriminalize simple possession, providing a penalty of no more than \$50 or five hours of community service.

SB 1015, sponsored by Sen. David Marsden, D-Fairfax, would allow a person prescribed cannabidiol oil to avoid possession charges passed the Senate and is currently in a House committee.

The Senate also approved a study to explore how Virginia should go about legalizing and regulating the growth, sale and

possession of marijuana by July 1, 2022.

Advocates were most disappointed by the measures continued to the 2021 session. HB 87 and HB 269 proposed eliminating penalties for marijuana possession for persons over the age of 21 and decriminalizing for people under age 21.

Those bills also tackled the regulation of marijuana retail.

Chelsea Higgs Wise, co-founder and executive director of Marijuana Justice, is disappointed that the General Assembly only advanced decriminalization measures,

wishing that they had opted instead for HB 1507, which would make it illegal to possess a controlled substance other than marijuana unless the substance was prescribed. That bill, introduced by Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy, D-Prince William, was continued to the 2021 session.

Higgs Wise believes that arrests may decrease, but people of color will continue to disproportionately suffer from penalties and

fines.

“We know that these penalties will be enforced more heavily on black and brown people and looking across the nation, decriminalization has only called for an increase in racial disparities,” Higgs Wise said.

Herring said her bill will not eliminate racial disparities surrounding marijuana. The bill aims to prevent low-level offenders from receiving jail time for simple possession as the commonwealth moves toward legalization.

“This is an important step in improving the criminal justice system,” Herring said in a statement released after the bill passed. “While marijuana arrests across the nation have decreased, arrests in Virginia have increased.”

The Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has frequently pressed for legalization, and spoken out against decriminalization measures, saying that communities of color across the commonwealth are more than three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people, despite similar usage rates.

“Lawmakers cannot claim progress on marijuana reform while still knowing that

this legislation will only lead to greater racial disparities,” said Ashna Khanna, legislative director of the state chapter.

Decriminalization has gained traction in the commonwealth since Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring voiced their support. Northam’s criminal justice reform included a proposal to clear the records of individuals previously convicted of simple marijuana possession.

According to the state attorney general’s office, arrests for marijuana possession have increased from 9,000 in 1999 to 29,000 in 2018, with marijuana criminal enforcement costing the commonwealth over \$81 million every year.

Attorney General Mark Herring believes that passing decriminalization bills is an important first step to moving Virginia toward legalized and regulated use.

“We must keep going because the work is not done,” the attorney general said in a statement after the bills advanced. “For too long, Virginia’s approach to cannabis has needlessly saddled Virginians, especially African Americans and people of color, with criminal records but with these votes that is finally coming to an end.”

“To legalize it now would not be good.”

— House Majority Leader Charniele Herring

“Lawmakers cannot claim progress on marijuana reform while still knowing that this legislation will only lead to greater racial disparities.”

— Ashna Khanna, ACLU of Virginia




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ENTERTAINMENT

Lift a Stein for Village Brauhaus' First Year

BY HOPE NELSON

Every 1-year-old deserves a birthday party – but most of them don't celebrate with beer on tap. Village Brauhaus' chronological age may keep it under the legal drinking age, but no matter; on Saturday, the German-style beer hall is bucking that trend, celebrating its first year in business with a party that could rival Oktoberfest. From live music to lots of food, Jagermeister shots and even the tapping of a new Vienna lager, the Old Town restaurant is ready to lift a glass indeed.

"People are already expressing a lot of interest," said Bill Gross who with his wife, Chelsea, owns Village Brauhaus. "We've gotten over 200 phone calls and messages regarding times and things like that."

The festivities start when the restaurant opens at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, and as the

day rolls on, the music picks up and the fun really begins. The Johnny Koenig Band will play first at 3 p.m., followed by Love Music Again at 9 p.m. And the food and drink will be served up plentifully all day.

Village Brauhaus' bread and butter – so to speak – is its array of sausages and schnitzels, and both will be in great supply throughout the celebration. Jagermeister will be on hand with giveaways and swag – think shirts, hats and shots – to help patrons wash everything down.

At about 4 p.m., one of the day's crowning moments begins: The debut of a new beer straight from the Motherland.

"We are looking to premiere a brand-new beer – the beer is called Ottakringer – based in Vienna (Austria), and it will be the first time a Vienna lager is going to be released in the United States that's actually from Vienna," Gross said.

Ottakringer's approval just passed the Virginia ABC this week, and the beer is en

IF YOU GO

Village Brauhaus' anniversary celebration

Where: 710 King St., Alexandria

When: Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

Pro Tip: Get there early. While the restaurant is taking limited reservations, "it's going to be more of a first-come, first-served basis," co-owner Bill Gross said.

route for Saturday's event.

"We put out invitations to the Austrian Embassy in D.C.," Gross added.

The past year has brought its share of challenges alongside the triumphs, Gross said, from its successful launch just before last year's Irish Parade through the Metro shutdown and out the other side.

"We've had tough moments; last summer with the Metro shutdown, being a new business and opening, we basically got two months of regular business before the Metro shutdown and we did notice a decline over the summer," Gross said.

But the Metro reopened, the patrons came

back, and before long, Oktoberfest was in sight. Then came the holidays, and then the new year ... and just like that, Village Brauhaus has hit the year mark.

And it's not stopping with this weekend's anniversary party. Up next, from Feb. 23-25, is Fasching, the German-Austrian Mardi Gras celebration, complete with German-style Hurricanes and traditional German Berliner doughnuts made in-house. Then comes another visit from the Irish parade – the beer hall will be taking on an Irish flair for that – and then Starkbierfest, a celebration of Germany's best dark beers that begins on March 13 and extends through April.

But before that comes Saturday, when patrons can say a hearty "Prost!" and lift a glass to Village Brauhaus' first year.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

"The King's Shadow." Now thru April 19. 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs February 13 - April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 - April 19, 2020. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

Life Drawing Sessions. Now thru Dec. 9. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Looking for a chance to hone your figure drawing skills? Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for just this purpose. Just drop in for the session and bring your supplies to draw or paint the live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/life-drawing

Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit. March 6-29. Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-9 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Student Art Exhibit. Now thru March 28. At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns Feb. 7 – March 28 for its fifth



The Tell Me a Story Art Exhibit runs from March 6-29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

Tell Me a Story

March 6-29, Opening reception Friday, March 6 from 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Have you ever looked at a piece of art and your imagination immediately starts to wander? Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing story or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. A picture is worth a thousand words; Tell Me a Story will take you on an imaginative journey. Gallery hours are: Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays 12-9pm, and Sundays 12-6pm. The gallery is free, open to the public, and accessible. For more information, please visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits or contact the curator Lesley Hall (lesley.ruthless@gmail.com) or Director of Curating Brittany Gabel (Curating@DelRayArtisans.org).

year. 2020's experience will feature 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Reception: Friday, Feb. 21 from 7 – 9 p.m.

Architecture in Fiber. Now thru March 15. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Here, in Alexandria, we are surrounded by beautiful and exciting buildings, bridges, parks, and monuments. Both our local and worldwide architecture serve as

inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Alexandria PTAC Camp Fair. 5:30-8 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, Cafeteria, 3330 King Street, Alexandria. Alexandria PTA Council (PTAC) to host summer camp fair. Over 40 camps will be represented, all types. Free to attend. Pizza for sale. Printed directory for all attendees. Free. Email: AlexandriaPTACCampFair@gmail.com
Blues Night with Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince



The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns thru March 28.

Student Art Exhibit

Now thru March 28, At the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns now thru March 28 for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning over 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School.

Artists Reception: Friday, February 21st 2020. 7 – 9 p.m.

Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$10. Meigs Hodge explores delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions.

Lecture on George Washington. 7-8:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. During this lecture, Professor Peter Henriques will examine how George Washington, despite his limited experience and numerous mistakes, overcame obstacles to win independence for the new country he committed himself to without reserve. Henriques will touch on Washington's view of a professional army, the need to win over the general populace and the necessity of civilian control of the military, as well as how Washington saved the American cause with his actions at Trenton and Princeton. Tickets are \$12/\$10. Visit Alexandriava.gov/Shop or call 703-746-4242.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

George Washington's 288th Birthday. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, Southern end of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Free admission. All day: Experience the Revolutionary War in 4-D with Mount Vernon's new revamped theater and step into Washington's shoes in the new interactive "Be Washington" theater.
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: General Washington greets his guests in the historic area.
11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Punch & Judy Puppet Show.
11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Behind-the-Scenes of the Punch & Judy Puppet Show.
12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Punch & Judy Puppet Show.
1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.: Select readings and performance from Washington's Favorite Play, Cato.
2 p.m.: Birthday Cake with General Washington! Enjoy a free piece of birthday cake, while supplies last.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

2:30 p.m.: United States Air Force Strings perform in Robert H. Smith Auditorium.

Winter Witch Hazel Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Celebrate Green Spring's 50th anniversary with a garden tour featuring the park's signature shrub. This docent-led tour will showcase Green Spring Gardens' nationally-accredited witch hazel collection featuring more than 200 specimens that bloom from fall through March. After the tour, warm up in the Historic House with hot drinks. Cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

A Complicated Hospitality. 10 a.m. to noon. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$15 per person; \$12 GTMS/Volunteer. Through the stories, experiences, and archival traces of those enslaved by John Gadsby, consider how the nuances of urban slavery expand our understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Purchase tickets at alexandriava.gov/shop.

From Slavery to Concert Hall. 12:30 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Learn about how former enslaved people inspired the world through music, theater, art and dance.

George Washington Symposium. 1-4 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The theme of the 2020 George Washington Symposium is "George Washington's Construction of the United States Capitol." The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free. Visit www.GWMemorial.org.

Alexandria's Big Band Winter Bash. 4-5 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Hear hits by the biggest stars of the last 100 years in Alexandria's Free Roaring 2020 Big Band Winter Bash. You'll enjoy "Crocodile Rock," "Proud Mary," "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "Hoop-Dee-Do," plus songs from The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Glenn Miller, Andy Williams, and The Osborne Brothers. Performing will be the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band. Bring the whole family for a fun afternoon. Free tickets available at: <https://bigbandbash.eventbrite.com>

Hunt for Flying Squirrels. 4:30-6 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. At the "Family Woodcock Walk" at Huntley Meadows Park, listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his amazing courtship display and flight. Be ready for an approximately 1.5-mile walk on uneven terrain, and don't forget to bring a flashlight. This event is designed for family members age 6 to adult; cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows

Annual Washington's Birthday Gala. 5-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit www.GWMemorial.org or call 703-683-2007.



John McCrary conducts the Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra.

Blessed Sacrament Festival

Friday/Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. At Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform Beethoven's stirring Mass in C and Mozart's cantata, Davide Penitente. Soloists are members of the Washington National Opera and San Francisco Opera. Reception at intermission. Free-will offering at the door. For more information, contact parish music director John McCrary, Call 703-998-6100 ext. 103.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Royal Manners Lecture and Tea. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Hear about codes of diplomatic decorum and dictates of British royal protocol, past and present. Learn the complex rules of etiquette to follow when in the presence of royalty and the surprising rules the royals must follow as well. The cost is \$36 for the program and tea; \$15 for the program only. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

George Washington's Alexandria Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. At 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This 90-minute guided walking tour will explore sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, including John Fitzgerald's warehouse, Captain's Row, Gentry Row, the Apothecary shop, Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, and Washington's townhouse. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance, in front of Vola's Dockside Grill. Free. No reservations required. Offered by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Contact 703-599-4010 or suej020924@gmail.com.

Walking with Washington Tour. 2:15 - 4:15 p.m. At Christ Church portico entrance, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Led by an old-line Virginian with family stories about Washington, our 18c. action hero, this tour in his chosen hometown focuses on his character and values, and significant people and events in his life and American history where they occurred. Stops at Christ Church, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, Bank of Alexandria, Carlyle House and Market Square. Reservations not required. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and above. Contact: WalkingwithWashington@hotmail.com

"Deej" Film. 4 p.m. At Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Beth El Hebrew and Agudas Achim Congregations are co-sponsoring a presentation of the acclaimed film "Deej" as part of the 2020 ReelAbilities Film Festival of Northern Virginia, which is powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. This inspiring documentary tells the story of a nonverbal young man on the autism spectrum, his transition from high school to college, and the obstacles to inclusion that he confronts. RSVP at

Brown Paper Tickets: <https://deej.bpt.me>

Vote Common Good. 7-8:30 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Local Vote Common Good Rallies are part of the Faith, Hope, & Love for a Change on Election Day National Bus Tour. A blend of rally, revival, party, and political meeting our events are designed for people of all ages, political leanings, and faith interests. The merry band of musicians, poets, speakers, activists, candidates, and other common-do-gooders invite you to join us. Visit the website: votecommongood.com

MONDAY/FEB. 24

Walk on the Spy Side. 2-3:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Stroll the less-visited side of Huntley Meadows Park to uncover a history of spies and espionage. Learn how the Cold War struggle between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union shaped Huntley and the Fairfax County we know today. The "Secrets, Spies, Sputniks and Huntley" program includes a 2.4-mile walk over flat terrain. Cost is \$9 per person. Meet at the park's South Kings Highway entrance. Call 703-768-2525.

Spring Lawn Care. 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Learn what you can do now to improve and manage your lawn to make it a more environmentally friendly, less resource intensive part of your home garden. They will discuss the best types of grasses for the area, specific springtime turf management practices, nutrient management and soil testing, and basic pest and disease management. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com

Historic Beulah Baptist Church. 7:15 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Beulah's pastor, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, will share the deep and rich history of this important Alexandrian institution.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Hidden in Stars: Celebrating Women in Science. 3:30 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Help celebrate the opening of Women's History Month. They're taking to the stars and talking about



PHOTO BY KEVIN DOOLEY

Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward will take place Feb. 22 at Fort Ward Museum in Alexandria.

Outfitting the Men of Fort Ward

Saturday/Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Museum interpreters in Union uniform will present on-going talks about the clothing, military accessories and equipment typical of the Federal units who were stationed at Fort Ward throughout the Civil War. Hands-on reproduction items, intricately detailed model soldiers, and original objects on exhibit will be featured. For more information, call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.



Boating Safety Classes will begin Saturday, Feb. 22 in Alexandria.

Boating Safety Classes

Saturday/Feb. 22, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. The one-day class will be taught by experienced Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon) instructors with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Future classes are March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, and July 18. To enroll in a class contact Ted Caliga at johnbielli2@gmail.com. Newcomers and experienced boaters alike are also encouraged to explore the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "Welcome to the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Web Site" (<http://wow.uscgaux.info>) to obtain free boating safety tools and materials.

the achievements of women in engineering and space.

Life Drawing Session. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Open Life Drawing Session with a long pose. Nude models. 3-hour sessions. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.

"Our Beloved" — Tribute to Toni Morrison. 7 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Through song, spoken word and music, Liberated Muse Arts Group gives tribute to the legendary genius of master writer Toni Morrison.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

SCSC & RSVP. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Shepherd's Center of South County, SCSC and Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, RSVP will host a seminar on volunteer opportunities in South County. Join us to learn about fun, convenient and meaningful ways to contribute to your community. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.scscva.org/>

Family Movie Night. 6:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Wonder tells the heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, going to elementary school for the first time. Rated PG.

Struggles of African-American Soldiers. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, the Proprietor of Manumission Tour Company, John Chapman, will lead a conversation on the struggles of African-American soldiers as they fought for their rights to be buried in the soldier's cemetery. When the Alexandria National Cemetery was begun in 1862, only white soldiers were eligible to be buried there, even though it was yards away from L'Ouverture Hospital, a Civil War hospital for African-American soldiers. By the end of the Civil War, there were over 200 graves of U.S. Colored Troops that had integrated into the cemetery.

CAC-GALA. 7-10 p.m. At Old Dominion

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT



Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence presents "The King's Shadow" now through April 19.

"The King's Shadow"

Now thru April 19, 8 p.m. At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. In this season, Shakespeare's Histories: "The King's Shadow" runs January 2nd - April 19th, 2020; "Richard the Second" runs January 2 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 1" runs January 30 - April 18, 2020; "Henry the Fourth, Part 2" runs now thru April 19, 2020; and "Henry the Fifth" runs March 12 - April 19, 2020. These plays follow the troubled passing of the English crown from the philosopher King Richard II, to the conqueror King Henry IV, to his rogue son, Prince Hal. With his father's deeds looming over him, Hal indulges in a reckless adolescence that tarnishes his reputation. But when the time comes to rule, Hal must take control of how history will remember him, unite his country, and become the legendary King Henry V. Tickets are \$35. Contact boxoffice@bravespiritstheatre.com or www.bravespiritstheatre.com.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, Alexandria. The 11th Annual CAC GALA benefits the Center for Alexandria's Children, the City's one safe place for the prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse. Its Learn & PlayGroups for children ages 0-5 years utilizes a curriculum designed to circumvent abuse by helping parents, children and caregivers build connections within the community. The Center supports abused children on their path to healing, while promoting strong, stable families. It serves more than 1,000 children and families annually. Honorees include Mary Hale, Inova Health System FACT Director, who will receive The Outstanding Dedication to Alexandria's Children Award for her commitment to the safety and well-being of Alexandria's children and Brooke Sydnor Curran, Founder and CEO of RunningBrooke, who will receive The Champion for Children Award for her dedication to the empowerment and wellness of Alexandria's children and families. Tickets are \$175/person. Visit the website: <http://bit.ly/34nQlsJ> For more information, go to www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org

NOVA Children's Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Road, Alexandria. The NOVA Alexandria Music Department presents its free Annual Children's Concert featuring the NOVA band and students from local elementary and middle schools. Program selections will include: March of the Resistance from Star Wars: The Force Awakens by John Williams, Excursions for Trumpet and Band by Bruce Broughton, Concerto for Clarinet by Artie Shaw and the world premiere of Le'oria, the City of Music by NOVA student Nathan Pereda. Visit the website: blogs.nvcc.edu/almusic/

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Beau Soir Ensemble Concert. 7



Arts on the Horizon presents "By the Seashore" from March 20 to April 4.

"By the Seashore"

March 20 to April 4, Wednesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. At the Convergence Main Building, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. "By the Seashore" takes us on a magical journey to a place children love to visit — the beach! Young audience members are invited to explore all the amazing things we find on the shore, in the ocean, and in the sky; from birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers.

Tickets are \$8. Discounts for groups and active duty military families are available. Purchase tickets here: <http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2020> or call 571-549-1270.

p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Tickets \$15. Known for their exciting performance style and diverse programming, their concert will feature "Serenade" by

Ludwig Beethoven in honor of his 250th birthday. The Beau Soir Ensemble will also play a Trio Sonata by J.S. Bach and some Irish music.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30.4' street light pole with a new 37.5' street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 40.8' at 238 South West St, Alexandria, VA (20200086). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Obituary



Leroy (Lee) Fleming Smith Jr., 84, died January 29, 2020 in St. Petersburg, FL after a life well-lived.

Lee was born and raised in Savannah, GA and spent summers with his grandmother, sister and cousins in Furman, SC. He was the son of Leroy Fleming Smith, Sr. and Helen Tuten Smith. He thrived in the rural farm life running barefoot through the fields, riding his bicycle, fishing in Joan Pen and reading the entire bible with his maternal grandmother. He worked hard in school and was an ROTC graduate at 16 years old from Savannah High School. He received a scholarship to King University in Bristol, TN and continued his education at Medical College of Georgia receiving an MD degree. Lee married Elizabeth in July of 1959. They moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for his internship at Harrisburg Hospital. After his internship, Lee enlisted in the US Air Force as a Captain and flight surgeon. They moved to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico where he proudly served his Country, the test pilots on base and their families. After his service was complete, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio where Lee completed his residency at the Cleveland Clinic as Chief Resident. He spent several years on the staff at the clinic until deciding to fulfill his life-long dream of having his own medical practice.

Lee had a thriving practice for over 45 years in Hematology, Oncology, Nuclear and Internal Medicine in Alexandria, Virginia. He was known for his handlebar mustache and his dedication to his beloved patients. He participated in and helped fund a free health clinic in Alexandria along with other doctors in the community. Lee was chosen to represent the United States on a People-to-People Doctors Exchange mission to the Soviet Union and East Germany during the Cold War in the late 1970s. He served on the boards of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Inova Health System and was President of the medical staff of Fair Oaks Hospital.

Lee was an avid fisherman and bird hunter spending the summers with his family on the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay fishing for spot and croaker. He spent winters hunting geese on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and pheas-

ant in the corn fields of South Dakota. He was an accomplished golfer and could often be found playing a round or participating in a tournament at Belle Haven Country Club where he was a member. He also traveled annually with other physicians to Pinehurst to play golf at numerous courses.

Lee was a life-long Washington Redskins fan and enjoyed bus trips to RFK stadium with family and friends. He always tried to make the home games and even flew the family out to San Diego for Superbowl XXII where the Redskins whipped the Denver Broncos 42-10!

Lee and his wife Beth had a passion for travel and particularly enjoyed taking the family to Europe. Lee mastered driving on the wrong side of the road and had a fondness for visiting every church he could find. One of his favorite trips was when the family stayed in a castle in Ireland and went skeet shooting on the castle grounds.

If you caught him at home, it is likely he would either be grilling a nice juicy steak, eating crab cakes or sitting in his recliner eating pistachios, doing a crossword puzzle or watching prize fights or the Golf channel. He would always have either a full vegetable garden or some tomato plants in the yard for his own fresh produce.

Lee Smith lived a full life and didn't waste a moment of his 84 years. He dedicated his life to his family, his hundreds of patients and to his Country.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth Smith of St. Petersburg, FL; sister Barbara Austin (Bill) of Tallahassee, FL; children, Leslie Smith of Annapolis, MD, Powell Smith (Ellen) of Pine Mountain, GA, Edward Smith (Jennifer) of Waycross, GA, Abigail Miller (Brad) of St. Petersburg, FL; niece, Renee Erickson (Jeff) of Tallahassee, FL; grandchildren, Virginia Smith, Mamie Smith, Asa Smith, Emma Smith, Henry Smith, Miles Smith, Charles Miller and Elizabeth Miller. A graveside service will be held at the Greenwich section of Bonaventure cemetery in Savannah, GA at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society at <https://www.cancer.org/>

Condolences can be posted online at Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors <https://foxandweeks.com/Obituaries>

Obituary

ERA NELL HENSON ("DIT" GRIMES)

Born in Daleville, AL on July 10, 1929, went to be with the Lord at age 90 on February 14, 2020 in Hiram, GA.

The 6th of 7 children, she was a beautiful child who grew up to be a gorgeous, wise, graceful, Christian woman. The family moved to Wauchula, FL when she was in 4th grade. She was chosen to be cheerleader in Wauchula High School, memories of fun, which she cherished. At 15, she started pre-fighting airplanes in Avon Park, FL. After high school graduation, with the savings she earned, she moved to Washington, DC, with her sister, Elna Moore and family. While working in DC on White House Stationary Embossing, she met and married Carl C. Henson, Jr in 1950. They raised their family in the Mt Vernon area of Alexandria, VA. Nell went on to work as a Sales Associate at a Department Store in the Jewelry department, a Legal Secretary, a public school Cafeteria "Lunch Lady", helped to run a joint-family fishing/camping business in TN, and last, after moving to Panama City, FL, a Caregiver for babies at Lynn Haven Daycare. Stricken with Crohn's Disease for the last 60 years, which led to many illnesses, she fought a courageous fight. Kidney Disease ultimately took her life since dialysis wasn't an option. She stayed strong until the end, never using a cane or walker. She always told us, "I can do it myself". And she did. Her love of our Lord Jesus Christ, all Birds and Flowers, was apparent to all who knew her. She founded "The Women's Christian Circle" and hungered for The Word, as she studied in depth. A keeper of traditions, passing down family recipes, and starting her own traditions, our family will continue to honor them, in her name.

Era Nell Henson is survived by her 3 children, Melinda (Nelson) Lackey, Sandy Henson, Chris Henson. Also survived by 5 grandchildren, Tiana (Gary) Wise, Katrina (Daniel) Quackenbush, Melina (Jay) Washington, Whitney (Anthony) Lackey, George Lackey, 6 Great Grandchildren, Austin, Elijah, Cayden, Jaxon, Sarah Marie, EraNell, Ethan (deceased). Survived by 1 sister, Faye Hanusch. Predeceased by her parents, Otto B. Grimes and Julia B. Grimes, her husband Carl C. Henson Jr., siblings Kathryn Grimes, Elna Moore, Fred Grimes, Ray Grimes and Murry Grimes. Survived by 5 Nieces, Gail, Brenda, Patty, Beverly, Deborah and Lisa Marie. 8 Nephews, Gary M., Lance, Bob, Gary H., Michael, David, Tom, Rick, Kendall, Keith, Patrick and Andrew. A viewing will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellen Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315, Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 10AM until time of service at 11AM. Interment immediately following at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, 6600 S. Kings Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Obituary

Obituary

Robert Curt Weigl September 10, 1944-February 1, 2020



Clinical psychologist Robert Curt Weigl died of leukemia at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, February 1, 2020. Son of George and Lois Peck Weigl of Chappaqua, NY, he attended local schools there until enrolling in the Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut for high school. As an English-Speaking Union exchange student, he studied at Wellington School, Somerset, England for a gap year, before attending Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He met his wife Gail while a graduate student at the University of Michigan, where she volunteered at a service program he co-founded and directed called Ozone House, an oasis for runaway and drug dependent youth, one of many innovations Bob helped to found and sustain during a long career. Very committed to the development of community mental health, he served as Training Director for ten years (1976-88) at the Mt. Vernon Center for Community Mental Health, then devoted 32 years to building a private psychotherapy clinic, the Franklin Center, in the city of Alexandria. He served as mental health consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia for 25 years.

Bob was very involved in work to enhance intercultural skills and to assist recently arrived immigrants. He co-created a program to assist Latino immigrants to manage their new political and social environs in the United States. From 2005-2008, he worked with Boat People SOS, where he supervised the Mental Health team formed for their Victims of Torture Assistance project. He trained 60 Peer Companion volunteers from the Vietnamese American community to provide emotional support to seniors and survivors of torture; prepared disability waiver applications for Vietnamese survivors of torture to become US citizens; and developed a disability assessment for survivors of Vietnamese communist "re-education" camps.

Bob also enjoyed a long career as a community volunteer. An active member of the ecumenical service organization Ventures in Community, he was asked and declined the honor to serve as its president. He subsequently was invited to lead CHAPA (The Coalition of Hispanic Agencies and Professionals), a regional consortium of persons serving Latino residents of northern Virginia. He was Spanish speaking. In 1998, he was selected as Volunteer of the Year at United Community Ministries of Alexandria, and in 2018 was recognized with the Impact Award from Northern Virginia Family Services, where he created a training model for the Healthy Families program.

A concurrent professional commitment was intercultural education. Bob taught cross-culturally related courses for the universities of Pittsburgh, Georgetown, George Mason and George Washington. He served as psychology faculty and psychotherapy counselor on four voyages of Semester at Sea and became deeply involved in the globe-circling shipboard program for college students from throughout the United States and abroad.

Bob is survived by his wife Gail (Capitol), son Ted (Jenny Bosben) and grandchildren Grace and Jack Weigl of Madison, WI, son Seth of Alexandria, VA, brother Peter (Anne) and sister Nina Weigl of Winston Salem, NC, sister Nancy Sprague of Blue Hill, ME, brother-in-law the Reverend George Westerberg of Fryberg, ME, and many loving friends and colleagues.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., April 4, 2020 at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22307.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Capital Caring Hospice, 5845 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303, or Northern Virginia Family Services, 10455 White Granite Drive, Oakton, VA 22124.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Obituary

Mary Lou Hoffman

On February 17, 2020 passed away in Alexandria, VA. Wife of the late Harry Clay Hoffman III. Mary Lou is survived by her children Jane Ann Hoffman, Debra Hoffman-Pahl (Richard), Patricia Hoffman, Harry "Mike" Clay Hoffman IV, and Barbara Hoffman Nolte (Robert), 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, her sister Elizabeth Ann Boyer, and her brother Allen U. Nuss (Jeanne).

A memorial service will be held on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 1pm at Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA. Interment will occur at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Employment

PART TIME POSITION

Local Old Town political advertising firm looking for a part-time person to assist in the finance department. Bookkeeping and some work in Quick Books. Job will run March through November. Weekly hours will vary from 15 to 30 hours a week.

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One Step Forward, Hopefully Not Two Steps Backward

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And so, what happens next? There's calm and then there's an eventual storm. The storm to which I refer is what will happen after the March 2nd meeting with my endocrinologist when she will assess and determine the next step in my post-thyroidectomy treatment. Presumably, in conjunction with my oncologist, a coordinated plan will be implemented for treating my two cancers. I can't imagine however, that being treated for two cancers, simultaneously, will be easier than being treated for one. And I doubt, although I don't know, that one medicine will be recommended for the treatment of both my non-small cell lung cancer and my thyroid cancer. We'll know soon enough.

In the interim, I intend to acknowledge and appreciate how easy these next few weeks will be. No appointments with doctors, no diagnostic scans, no procedures, no medicine - and no side effects, and no lab work other than as needed, to measure my calcium and magnesium levels and any other thyroid-related effects. Moreover, I am free to come and go as I please. And it does please me. Because I've earned it. I deserve it and I'm going to bask in it. You think being a cancer patient under constant treatment - for nearly 11 years is in any way amusing? Hardly. I make fun of it to make light of it. Otherwise, the weight of it would crush me. And even though my father always said I had broad shoulders, I'm always fearful that the next result will be the straw that finally breaks this camel's back. After all, I'm only human.

But for now, February 9, as I sit and write, I am three weeks and one day to my next reckoning. And since it's early days yet to know what life will be like after that March 2nd appointment (radiation and/or chemotherapy possibly), I will try to be blissfully ignorant and not think too much how easy and unencumbered my life is at the present. As a cancer patient, ceding control where you can and securing it where you thought you couldn't are keys to managing expectations and minimizing aggravation. Unfortunately, there is no one key that unlocks all doors. And there are plenty of doors, and plenty of doctors too, and plenty of fear waiting for one of your doctors to walk through any of these doors to deliver the results from your most recent cancer-related whatever.

None of which concerns me right now, or rather it shouldn't. And if there's any port in this storm where I can offload some anxiety and get in a little R&R, literally, figuratively, hypothetically, magically, unexpectedly, I should jump at the chance. I am reminded of a conversation I had with my oncologist years ago when I experienced a similar interval between treatment. The medicine I was on had stopped working so we needed to start another, another with unknown benefits and side effects. My oncologist suggested that since I felt good, perhaps we should delay the beginning of the next infusion and that I should take that trip I had always dreamed of because I might never feel this good again. I didn't then and I won't now. When I jump however, I can barely get off the ground.

I haven't exactly been presented this time, with this kind of do-before-you-die opportunity, but there is an eerie familiarity to my circumstances. And though I've been down this road trying-to-find out before, I can't be at all certain to what kind of twists and turns await. The last thing a cancer diagnosis provides is a guarantee. Actually, that's wrong. A cancer diagnosis does provide a guarantee: that there are no guarantees. And so, as I prepare for the next phase of my life, the one that begins 11 years after being diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and being given a 13 month to two-year prognosis to boot, I will quote the late, great Satchel Paige: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."

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

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OPINION

The Other Alexandria

FROM PAGE 6

ment for women in general.

This year marks the 100th year anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We should stop and think about the many women who fought to get this Amendment passed so all women can have the right to vote.

For the Dorsey women, their descendants still live in the area among the Lyles, Beckley and Dorsey families.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

may not have been necessary had drivers complied with the 25 mph speed limit.

Unfortunately the previous design (two through lanes in each direction) did not naturally encourage driving at the posted speed.

The new Seminary Road configuration creates the conditions for drivers to comply with the speed limit. As such it makes it a much safer and more enjoyable road to drive, walk, cycle and live on.

Eileen Boettcher
 Alexandria

Too Imperious

After reading city manager Jinks justification of the process whereby city agencies planned and executed the alteration of Seminary Road, I was again reminded that we need a new city manager. For whatever reason, he's become too imperious and defensive to serve in that capacity any longer.

It was easy to dismiss his long article published in this newspaper last week defending his administration's handling of the costly Seminary Road alterations. ... What I took away from it is that he's tone deaf.

He is comporting himself as a Dear Leader who tells us what we need and then spends our money to gold-plate it. He is not responding to what we want. He has forgotten that he's the public servant; we're the public he serves. He does what we want him to do; not the other way 'round.

Hopefully, the next city manager will ensure city employees are responding to a public need before seeking council approval to spend our money. Maybe they might deign to return phone calls from concerned citizens. Or not be frightened to tell the truth (e.g., Karig matter). Or force citizens to seek legal redress (e.g., Justice Black house). Or stop placing developers' needs above ours (e.g., spending years and millions of our tax dollars to obtain Federal approval to destroy a wetland with a metro station to allow the optimal site — a nearby dryland — to be developed).

Replacing Jinks and his deputy, and establishing a Ward form of government would greatly enable the ability of our public servants to stop surprising us with what they are doing with our money and, instead, first learn what we want.

Jimm Roberts
 Alexandria

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