

# Fairfax CONNECTION

HOMELIFESTYLE

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# Celebrating Women's History Month 2020

Fairfax County Commission for Women honors "Valiant Women of the Vote."

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

In concert with their Women's History Month 2020 Celebration, the Fairfax County Commission for Women honored three "Valiant Women of the Vote," Jane Barker of Clifton, Cypriana McCray of Reston and Laura McKie formerly of West Springfield at a presentation and reception held in the forum of the Fairfax County Government Building on March 10 immediately preceding the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting. Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jeff McKay (D), Vice Chairman Penny Gross (D-Mason), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill), Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) attended the celebration.

"2020 will not only go down in history as the 100-year Anniversary for the constitutional guarantee of women's right to vote but also as...ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," said Lisa Sales, Chair of the Fairfax County Commission for Women to the crowd of approximately 75 viewers seated in the forum rotunda and gazing down from upper walkways. "We (Virginians) are the final in 38 states. And we have a lot to celebrate...The Commission has chosen to recognize three women who have strong ties to winning the right to vote and who have personally dedicated themselves over many years to preserve and tell the suffrage story," she said.

Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, stepped to the podium. In his remarks, McKay referenced a recent conversation he had with his daughter as they viewed the Lisa Burns Museum to, as he said, "See it with her own two eyes and not take for granted, any of the rights we have and the fight we put in to get to this point." McKay said that he wanted his daughter "...to feel empowered by that, to use what others have done for them to make the world a better place and step up and demand equality...As I always tell her, Virginia is finally embracing Fairfax County's values." McKay committed to making the Suffragist Memorial happen. "I will step up and ensure that happens," he said.

**IN RECOGNIZING** the three 2020 award honorees, McKay said, "What a year to be recognized...Looking back on history, to be able to...say this was the year that so many great things happened, and the year we got awarded for all the efforts that we've done to get us to this point."



Honoree Laura McKie formerly of West Springfield and Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon)

**"2020 will not only go down in history as the 100-year Anniversary for the constitutional guarantee of women's right to vote but also as...ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment."**

**Lisa Sales,  
Chair of the Fairfax County  
Commission for Women**

McKay described the first honoree of the Fairfax County Commission for Women Jane Barker, as a "valiant woman of the vote." He said that through her leadership, Barker led the creation of the National Turning Point Suffragist Memorial to honor those suffragists, who worked for over 72 years to win the legal right to vote for women.

Honoree Barker said, "As we learned the story, it became apparent that the little wall that we had planned at Occoquan Regional Park would not be enough...We needed to do it right...We have broken ground. We are building a memorial to these brave suffrages." Later, she added: "The entire story of woman's suffrage is one of the greatest secrets of American history...First, we must teach."

McKay described the second honoree Cypriana McCray as a "valiant woman of



Cypriana McCray of Reston displays her award.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Jane Barker of Clifton thanks the members of the Fairfax County Commission for Women.



Lisa Sales, Chair of the Fairfax County Commission for Women

the vote." McKay said that as President of the Reston-Dulles Section of the National Council of Negro Women, McCray led the Council that had as one of its members (Mary McLeod Bethune, who served as president) of the National Association of Colored Women, a leading suffragist organization.

Honoree McCray said she wanted to be sure to leave a legacy of doing something right, "right now." "I think we are in a time where we as women are empowered to make a difference in all our communities. One difference is to change societies'

view of the power of women."

McKay introduced Fairfax Commission for Women's third awardee, Laura McKie. McKay described McKie as a "valiant woman of the vote." According to McKay, McKie was the central leader in the development of the Lucy Burns Suffragist Museum in Lorton that opened Jan. 25, 2020. The museum engages visitors in an exploration of the 91 years of prison history at the Lorton Correctional facilities from 1910-2001. It displays artifacts and pivotal moments in women's history, critically important to understanding what women endured for the right to vote and led to a turning point in the Women's Suffrage Movement.

According to honoree McKie, after she retired, she looked around for something to do. "And what did I discover, there was a museum to build," she said. One with an enormously important story to tell, of the women willing to give their lives for the vote.

**GUEST JOHN HOUSER**, retired Park Manager at Occoquan and current Board Member of Turning Point Suffrage Memorial Association Commission for Women, said, "You can drive into D.C. and see monuments and memorials to men who did nothing more than lead the charge up a hill, yet there is no memorial to the women who were arrested, tortured and force-fed to obtain the right to vote for 27 million Americans."

## Fairfax Couple Presumed Positive for COVID-19

County, state, health professionals provide answers, advice.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A** Fairfax City man in his 80s and his wife have both tested presumptive positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). Both were infected as a result of international travel, and the husband – who contracted it first – appears to have transmitted the virus to his wife.

“We know the risk of coronavirus disease increases among close contacts of infected persons,” said Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu on Monday. “Based on the results of our investigation to date, the [couple] had limited contact with others outside the home while ill, so the risk to the general Fairfax community remains low.”

Out of privacy concerns, their names are not being revealed, but health officials say the couple traveled on a similar, Nile River cruise as other positive coronavirus patients elsewhere. The husband began developing symptoms of respiratory illness on Feb. 28, was hospitalized last Thursday, March 5, and is currently in stable condition.

According to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), when he was tested, his wife was asked to self-quarantine at home and she complied. When she developed minor respiratory-illness symptoms herself, specimens were collected from her and sent to the Virginia state laboratory, Sunday, March 8. She, too, is doing well, but was hospitalized during her tests.

Meanwhile, Fairfax City Manager Rob Stalzer has confirmed that six members of the City’s Fire Department were also potentially exposed to the disease when they responded to the couple’s home, the afternoon of Feb. 28, and are now under quarantine.

“Based on the recommendation of the county Health Department and the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], they’ll be ‘furloughed’ for 14 days in their homes, in an abundance of caution,” said Stalzer. “And the Fairfax County Health Department has already made contact with them.”

**STATE AND LOCAL** public-health leaders held a press conference, Sunday afternoon, March 8, at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax, sharing what information they could. They also advised people to take normal precautions to remain healthy, while reassuring them there’s no reason to panic.

Ironically, the Sherwood Center was scheduled to host the City Fire Department’s annual awards ceremony, Sunday afternoon. But it was postponed to a later date, said Stalzer, “out of respect for the firefighters and their families.” In addition,



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Listening to Dr. Ben Schwartz speak are (from left) Dr. Lilian Peake, Dr. Norm Oliver, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Jeff McKay, Dr. Denise Toney, Dr. Alison Ansher, David Meyer and John Silcox.



**Fairfax County Health Director, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, discusses the coronavirus at Fairfax City press conference, while Jeff McKay listens.**



**Dr. Ben Schwartz**



**State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norm Oliver, talks while Jeff McKay listens.**

Mayor David Meyer had planned to hold his re-election-campaign kickoff that same afternoon, but postponed it, as well.

According to State Health Commissioner, Dr. Norm Oliver, “A coordinated, health response is already underway to identify people who had contact with the [ones] infected and may be at risk, themselves.”

State Epidemiologist, Dr. Lilian Peake said the Fairfax man’s test was also done in Richmond at Virginia’s public-health lab and would be confirmed by the CDC in a few days. Until then, his positive result – which came back Saturday, March 7 – is considered presumptive. The same is true of his wife, who received her positive result Monday, March 9 – the day after the press conference.

On Sunday, Peake said, “By 9 a.m. this morning, 44 Virginians have been tested. Thirty-six have come back negative so far, and we’re awaiting the rest of the results.” She also noted that the Commonwealth wasted no time springing into action in response to this worldwide threat.

“The Virginia Department of Health [VDH] has been working on this since Janu-

ary,” she said. “It set up a Website that’s continually updated, plus an information line.” The Website is [www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/) and the information phone number is 1-877-ASK-VDH3. And, she added, “If anyone has symptoms including a light fever, cough and difficulty breathing – especially if they’ve traveled out of the country recently – please call your healthcare provider.”

Dr. Ben Schwartz, director of epidemiology with the county Health Department, said the Fairfax City man was hospitalized March 5 with a fever, cough, fatigue and shortness of breath. “If other people are found to have been exposed [to the virus through him], we’ll guide them on what to do and monitor them closely,” said Schwartz.

He also said the public need not take any additional precautions at this time beyond the normal things anyone would do to prevent the spread of a virus. “Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds,” said Schwartz. “Cover coughs and sneezes, stay away from people who are sick, and stay home if you’re sick, yourself.”

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay addressed the crowd, as well. “There’s a lot of misinformation out there,” he said. “So I implore you to come to Fairfax County as a trusted source of information.” The county’s Website and information line are: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus) and 703-267-3511.

“Fairfax County has sophisticated plans to deal with this kind of event, and they’ve been in place for over a decade,” continued McKay. “So no one should panic as this situation evolves. We’ll constantly message out information to the community.”

**“By 9 a.m. this morning (Sunday), 44 Virginians have been tested. Thirty-six have come back negative so far, and we’re awaiting the rest of the results.”**

**—State Epidemiologist, Dr. Lilian Peake**

Regarding children, he said, “If your child is having symptoms, don’t send them to school. But at this time, there’s absolutely no reason to close the schools – and they’re closely monitoring the situation. I also encourage all parents to sign up for messages from FCPS directly.”

Schwartz said the county is currently investigating whether the Fairfax man came into contact with any school-aged children or anyone else in a hospital setting. “We’re not releasing the name of the hospital he’s in, but he’s not in intensive care,” said Schwartz. “And to our knowledge, [he was on] a different boat than the other [Nile cruise] cases have been on.” Furthermore, he said, “We aren’t recommending any events be canceled or venues shut down.”

Like McKay, Peake said, “Stay tuned to what’s going on and get your information from a trusted source like the VDH, CDC or Fairfax County. And take measures to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases.”

Also speaking was Dr. Denise Toney, director of the Department of General Service’s Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services – the state’s public-health lab in Richmond. “Virginia has two test kits in house, and we hope to have several more next week,” she said. “Each kit can test 150-200 patients. We have the capac-

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 5

# OPINION

## 2020 General Assembly: 39 Surovell Bills Passed

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The 2020 General Assembly finished work on all legislation this past Sunday, except we did not pass a final state budget or elect new judges to fill vacancies. We will return to Richmond on Thursday, March 13, to complete that work and adjourn for this year.

This was my most successful session in passing bills in my eleven years in the General Assembly. The legislature sent 39 of my bills to Governor Ralph Northam. We carried over nine bills and referred them to study commissions. The legislature also carried over my legislation to abolish the death penalty to be potentially considered over the summer.

I will highlight some of the other major bills we passed and discuss more bills and the budget in future columns.

I carried a bill with Norfolk Delegate Jay Jones to authorize Virginia to join 20 other states that allow community net metering for electricity. This bill, which passed both chambers with large bipartisan majorities, opens the door to solar energy for Virginians who live in communities with heavy tree cover, apartments, condominiums or for businesses that do not own their roofs. It will enable them to purchase solar power and net the energy against their home meters, while reducing car-

bon-generated energy usage and purchasing a share of the energy generated by a solar project.

Both bodies sent my bill banning hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for natural gas east of Interstate 95 to Governor Northam for signature. Both chambers also finalized my legislation requiring each state agency to designate an energy manager and energy reduction goals to help coordinate a reduction in energy usage by state agencies. Thank you to my constituent Elizabeth Beardsley with the Green Buildings Council for the concept.

The House also passed my bill to authorize the State Corporation Commission to approve 2,700 megawatts of energy storage, enough to power 2.7 million homes. As we transition to a clean energy economy, we must also develop technology for night-time storage of energy generated during the day. This requires significant advances in energy storage. My legislation is a first step.

Virginia will become the seventeenth state plus the District of Columbia to authorize temporary driver privilege cards for undocumented immigrants. The legislation I carried with Senator Jennifer Boysko and Delegate Kathy Tran passed with a bipartisan vote in both chambers. It will pay for itself and likely generate significant long-term benefits for taxpayers, in addition to simply fostering a better quality of life for our newest Virginians and their families. This legislation is projected to help about 240,000 drivers plus their children.

The Majority Leader asked me to help negotiate the final minimum wage legislation with Mount Vernon Delegate Paul Krizek as mem-

bers of the joint, six-person conference committee. The final bill raises Virginia’s minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour effective January 1 and up to \$12.50 by January 1, 2023 in annual \$1/hr steps. The wage can rise to \$15.00 per hour in 2026 with an additional vote, narrows exemptions for disabled individuals while preserving exemptions for high school and seasonal workers. The bill also requires various agencies to conduct a study to determine whether Virginia should enact regional minimum wage rates before moving wages to \$15/hour. A \$15-per-hour wage would be nearly 90 percent of median family income in nearly two dozen Virginia localities.

My legislation to authorize Fairfax and Arlington Counties to adopt ordinances to address retailers who fail to control their shopping carts passed both bodies with bipartisan majorities. I have now removed over 230 shopping carts from Little Hunting Creek itself since 2014. Residents in Springfield and Crystal City also reached out to me about their ongoing challenges when they heard of our problems in Hybla Valley. Local governments will now be able to act.

The House approved my bill to allow people to expunge public records relating to dismissed evictions. There are over 200,000 dismissed eviction cases in Virginia each year. Since most tenant application screenings are now done by automation and most algorithms do not distinguish between dismissed evictions and actual evictions, this will help potential tenants to clear their records.

I encourage you to email me at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org) with your comments.

### COMMENTARY

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Supporting \$15 Minimum Wage

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled, “Opinion: We Both Deserve \$15. Why Don’t Our Senators Think So?”, published in your newspaper on February 28, 2020. I agree with that the minimum hourly wage in Virginia should be

raised to \$15/hour. Northern Virginia is an expensive area to live and the wage you receive often determines the choices you are able to make.

Oftentimes, people are constrained by their education in what job they are able to acquire. Raising the minimum wage will help

those who may start out further behind everyone else due to socioeconomic status. If we take a step back from individuals, and look at our community as a whole, we will see that amongst many well-off families, there are some families

in poverty. Raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour, will allow families in lower socioeconomic statuses to “catch up” to other people in their community.

**Hannah Johnson**  
Centreville

## Deserve \$15?

Nick Riviere’s and Tony Hedgepeth’s op-ed insisting that all Virginia workers deserve a \$15/hour minimum wage, regardless of cost-of-living in their locale, fails to factor in economic reality. In high-cost locales such as ours, employers should be able to afford \$15, but in low cost ones, such a minimum wage might put too many out of business. The final minimum wage, once it is fully phased in, not only should be inflation-adjusted, but should be based on cost-of-living in the locale where the job is located. This would be a proper model for the federal government to consider.

The \$15/hour minimum wage’s advocates fail to fully understand the drawbacks. The \$15/hour

minimum wage is really a “living wage” designed to lift full-time workers out of poverty, different in concept from the traditional minimum wage which was a wage floor that put a moral limit on how little an employer could pay and still maintain a worker’s dignity. \$15/hour minimum wage advocates are engaging in a bit of deception in that they are trying to change the underlying understanding of what minimum wage means. In this respect, the \$15/hour minimum wage is a radical notion which moderate Democrats rightly would insist be phased in more carefully than advocates desire.

Even moderate Democrats are engaging in abuse of language

when they call doubling minimum wage in barely a decade “gradual” when it is really radical. That it is not radical enough for some could create a backlash even redistricting (thought to add four House of Delegate seats to blue Northern Virginia) cannot overcome. Because ten percent is sometimes

considered the limit of de minimis, smaller annual increases of 50-70 cents per year would make more sense. This would take even high-cost Northern Virginia until 2032 to reach the “living wage” threshold.

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, civility, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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# NEWS

## Coronavirus Update

FROM PAGE 3

ity to handle the volume of patients we have now, and we anticipate access to testing to increase each day.”

**AT THE END**, Mayor Meyer thanked all the health professionals for coming to the City. “I hope their presence here today will give you confidence that the health officials in state and local government are staying on top of this,” he told the audience. “The City and county are one entity when it comes to health management. We contract with the county for our comprehensive, public-health services, so our City residents can be assured that they’re receiving the best, public-health services available.”

As for the six, quarantined, City firefighters, Addo-Ayensu said the county Health Department is “monitoring them daily to see how they’re doing and to advise them what they should look for, going forward. In conjunction with the other symptoms, a fever of at least 100 or 101 is especially the critical symptom, because fever is a hallmark of this disease. And we always do other tests to rule out

anything else.”

“It’s a new virus, but the approaches we take are tried and tested and are things we do every day,” she continued. For now, said Addo-Ayensu, the elderly – and especially those with underlying medical conditions – seem to be the most vulnerable. And while there’s no indication so far that coronavirus affects children, she acknowledged that “We’re still learning about it.”

She also noted that COVID-19 doesn’t spread through brief, casual contact. Rather, it’s mainly contracted via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Afterward, City Councilman Sang Yi said he, too – as a Councilman, parent and City resident – is keeping a close eye on the virus’ potential spread here. “The City of Fairfax is a tightknit community, and I’m praying that our resident who tested presumptively positive makes a full and speedy recovery. The safety and health of our fellow neighbors and residents is our top priority. It’s important we all take appropriate precautions and follow health-safety guidelines outlined by the CDC.”



## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
 Sunday School 10:10 AM  
 Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
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## TWO POOR TEACHERS

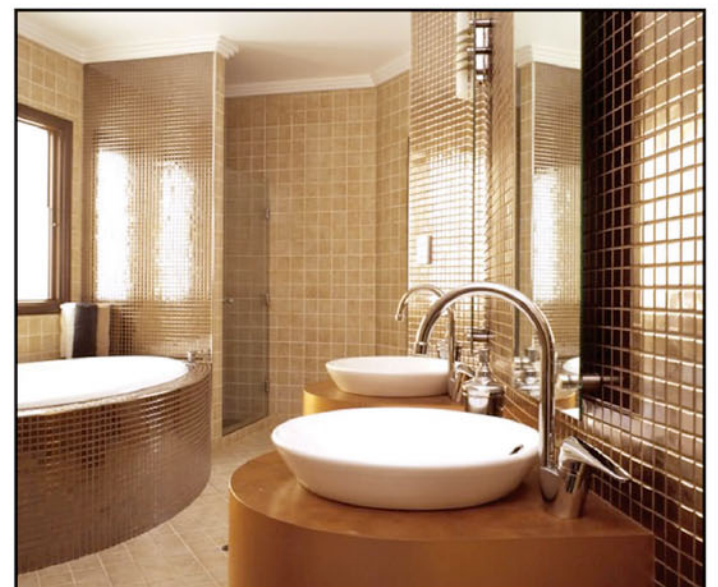
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# Generational Divide

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Democrats won both chambers of the General Assembly in November, hopes were high that the new majorities in the House and Senate would move forward with a progressive agenda that had been rejected when Republicans were in power. Labor groups were particularly excited about the prospect of passing a \$15 minimum wage, collective bargaining for public employees and a requirement that all employers offer five paid sick days. But the General Assembly session ended this week without fully accomplishing these goals.

Standing in the way: a trio of conservative Democratic senators from Fairfax County.

Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) who blocked collective bargaining for state workers. Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) blocked a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. And Sen. Chap Petersen (D-35) blocked guaranteed paid sick days. Saslaw, Marsden and Petersen are some of the most senior Democrats in the Senate, and their approach to labor issues offers a stark contrast with the approach taken by the more progressive and younger members of the House of Delegates.

"In many ways, I think we're talking about a generational change," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "If you're looking at the vision of what a Democrat was in the days of Mark Warner, and you're looking at the vision of what a Democrat is today, you see significant changes and significant differences."

Saslaw was first elected to the House in 1975 then was elected to the Senate in 1979. He is the longest serving senator in the chamber, and he's already announced that he does not plan to run for reelection in 2023. Petersen was first elected to the House in 2001 then was elected to the Senate in 2007. He is the eighth longest serving Democrat in the Senate. Marsden was elected to the Senate in 2009. He is the tenth longest Democrat in the Senate.

"The three of them, although from the political party and region of Virginia from which much of the populist energy has come in recent times, are also from an earlier era of Virginia Democratic Party politics when Virginia Democrats were by and large more business friendly," said Quentin Kidd, political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "We not only have partisan differences on things like collective bargaining and minimum wage, but we also have generational differences within the Democratic Party itself."

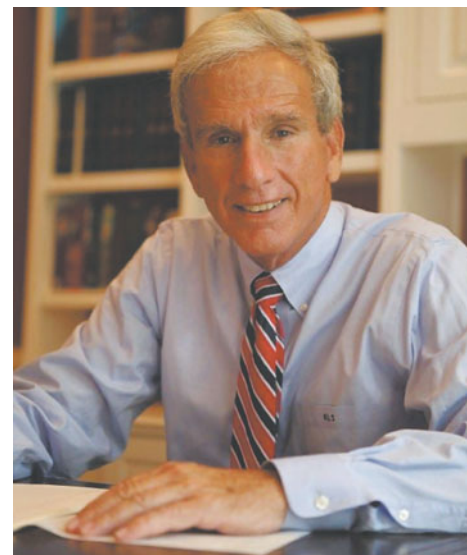
**RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE** was one of the major agenda items for Democrats when they arrived in Richmond for the opening of the General Assembly session in January. When the bill was consid-



Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)



Sen. Chap Petersen (D-35)



Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35)

ered in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, Marsden unsuccessfully tried to create a regional variation. When the bill made its way to the Senate floor, Marsden held out for regional variation, and enough conservative Democrats joined him that the bill was only able to pass by delaying \$15 an hour until 2023 in Hampton Roads.

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

The House held out for \$15 an hour across Virginia, although the Senate version retained that regional variation. That sent the bill into a secret closed-door conference committee, where lawmakers hashed out a deal shielded from public view. They emerged with a plan that would raise the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2023 then pause to study how a regional minimum wage might work. It also carved out exemptions for young people and farmworkers.

"Virginians across the Commonwealth work hard and deserve a raise," said Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia. "We will keep working to make sure that all families in our communities, regardless of what kind of work they do, make \$15 an hour and have the ability to raise their families with dignity."

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING** for public employees was another top-tier issue for Democrats as they arrived in Richmond this year for the General Assembly session. Virginia is one of only three states that prohibits public service workers the right to negotiate together for fair wages and safe working conditions. Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) passed a bill out of the House that allowed collective bargaining for local government employees and state employees.

**Trio of senior conservative Democratic senators from Fairfax undermines parts of progressive agenda.**

**"We not only have partisan differences on things like collective bargaining and minimum wage, but we also have generational differences within the Democratic Party itself."**

— Quentin Kidd, political science professor at Christopher Newport University

Her bill also gave workers the ability to decide to unionize rather than the leaders of the local government.

"My bill will empower workers like teachers, firefighters, social workers, police officers to have a seat at the table during the decision making process," said Guzman. "And it is my belief that if we are going to take care of a group of public employees, we have to take care of all of them, and that include state employees. They also deserve to have a voice at the table and advocate for better resources, better equipment and better salaries."

Across the hall in the Senate, Saslaw was working on a much more conservative approach. His bill allowed collective bargaining for employees of local governments but not state workers. His bill also took the decision to unionize out of the hands of workers and put it instead into the hands of the local government leaders. If members of a county board of supervisors decide they don't want to deal with a union, they'll be able to block their workers from collective bargaining under Saslaw's version of the bill. When asked by a reporter what's wrong with allowing state workers to unionize, Saslaw said it wasn't going to happen.

"We don't have the votes," he said, ducking into a closed-door caucus meeting. "There's nothing more to say. We don't have the votes."

Part of the reason the Senate didn't have the votes was that Saslaw didn't support it, which is why it ended in a closed-door conference committee where a final version of the bill was crafted in secret. Saslaw's version of the bill is what emerged from that secret process, and that's the version now

on the governor's desk.

**PAID SICK DAYS** have suddenly become a major political issue because of the coronavirus. But even as lawmakers arrived in Richmond earlier this year, many progressive Democrats were hopeful about a bill that would

have required employers offer five paid sick days. The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy initially wanted this to apply to businesses that had five employees or more. Gov. Ralph Northam suggested that the mandate should apply to businesses that have 25 employees or more, a threshold advocates worried would exempt 90 percent of businesses in Virginia.

"Employers who are employing 25 individuals or more are already offering five paid sick days to their employees," said Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31). "So we're perplexed because we don't believe that many employers would be affected by the governor's bill."

Lawmakers started by compromising at mandating five paid sick days for businesses that have 15 employees or more. Northam declined to answer questions about whether he would amend the bill to exclude 90 percent of businesses in Virginia. But he never got the chance. In the closing hours of the General Assembly session, Petersen killed the bill by making a case on the Senate floor that part-time workers didn't deserve paid sick days.

"So once they have vested, and once they have accumulated the 30 hours and they work for me eight hours a week and the other 160 hours are their free time and they need to take a child to the doctors office or what have you, they can use the eight hours they're working for me to run that errand as opposed to the 160 hours they have of their own free time," said Petersen.

The bill died in an unrecorded vote to delay the bill, which had the effect of killing the bill for the year because lawmakers were on the verge of closing the session and leaving town.



## ASPIRE HOUSE McLEAN DESIGNER SHOW HOUSE

To Benefit  
CANCER SUPPORT  
COMMUNITY

Aspire Design Home in McLean will be open to the public from May 9 through June 7.

## Local Designers Donate Talent for a Cause

### A home in McLean Gets a Makeover to Benefit Can- cer Support Community.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Some local interior design gurus are joining tastemakers from around the country to re-vamp the Aspire Design Home in McLean, Virginia, as part of an effort to raise money for charity.

The effort will give visitors a chance to see the latest trends in home design while supporting the Cancer Support Community, the largest professionally led, nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide dedicated to providing emotional support and navigation for individuals impacted by cancer, including their families and friends.

"I have had the enormous privilege of working with many of the talented creatives whose submissions and design work were selected to complete the interiors of this remarkable house," said Mary Douglas Drysdale, design chair of the McLean 2020 Design House.

"The final show house will be exceptional."

The makeover event has drawn 31 designers from around the world and local designers including Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling in Bethesda, MD and Falls Church, VA, Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build in Falls Church, Maria Galiani of Galiani McLean, Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors in Reston, Jonas Carnemark of Konst Siematic in Bethesda, MD, Paul Lobkovich of Lobkovich in Tysons, Federica Asack of Masseria Chic in McLean, and Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, Va.

The home itself is described as an innovative marriage of classical Monticello elements and on-trend materials and design techniques. Among those materials is a whimsical green hue, cheetah pattern wall covering created by Allie Mann of Case of Design/Remodeling for the upper level bathroom.

"Bathrooms in general are these little gems that

can be both public and private where great design can live," she said. "In this show house bathroom, the tile is the biggest part of the space where I'll incorporate materials that are a little edgier or unexpected in terms of color or saturation and that will really create a dramatic space. I also love the different play with the pattern of the tile."

It was a personal connection that influenced the upper level bedroom created by Josh Hildreth of Josh Hildreth Interiors.

"Our bedroom is dedicated to my inspiring mother and all of those who fight or have fought the brave fight against cancer," he said. "This enchanted aerie creates a quiet respite that exists for relaxation and renewal inside of a large and sprawling home."

He says that his design process is often instigated by the discovery of what he describes as animating objects. "For instance, in January I traveled to Paris and uncovered some wonderful items from some favorite sources," said Hildreth. "Our retreat reflects a love for the beauty of France and artfully mixes French and other design elements across the centuries into a jewel box space that delights the eye and promises hope for a better tomorrow."

While guest bedrooms often accommodate one's in-laws, Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design says that the space she is re-imagining doesn't fit that mold. "This isn't 'granny chic,' she said. "It's 'uncle chic, with masculine furnishings paired with traditionally feminine elements to create a warm and inviting retreat."

Wallpaper made of subtle pink grasscloth encompasses masculine, modern elements such as the quasi-industrial étagère, which has tiny brass rivets on metal strapping and a black-caned bench at the foot of the bed, says Elliott. "The bed is canopied, but in Cowtan & Tout's Rutland – a sophisticated woodland scene in browns, greens, and blues – to counter the sweetness of the pink walls," she said. "We repeat the fabric on the drapes, layering it over woven wood shades for depth and texture. The room is a mix of vintage, and vintage-look furnishings.

### To Go

The designer show house will open with a Preview Gala on May 8, 2020 and remain open to the public from May 9 through June 7, 2020. May 9-June 7, 2020, Wed.-Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$35 and the proceeds benefit the Cancer Support Community. For more information, visit [www.aspireshowhouse.com/mclean](http://www.aspireshowhouse.com/mclean).



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# ENTERTAINMENT

**Editor's Note:** Be aware that many events could be cancelled as precaution to the spread of COVID-19. Please check before heading to events.

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Monday Exercise Classes.** Now thru March 30. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information.

**Wednesday Exercise Classes.** Now thru May 27. 9-10 a.m. At The Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information. (20 weeks @\$2.50/class = \$50)

**The Color Green.** Now thru March 29. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of an early spring and St. Patrick's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of nature's most ubiquitous colors, green.

**Friday Exercise Classes.** Now thru April 3. 9:30-10:30 a.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers exercise classes for older adults designed to build strength and improve balance and flexibility. All levels of ability are welcome. Call the SCFB office, 703-426-2824, for class information. (8 weeks, \$20).

**Lines and Pauses.** Now thru April 5. At Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. "Lines and Pauses" is the culmination of the works of Marc Pachon captured over the last years with local and international dancers and models, tied together with a common thread of fabric moving from one shot to the next, interspersed with his freeze-frame captures of moments in time that disappeared as soon as the photograph was taken. Free. Visit the website: [www.beyondhelp.com](http://www.beyondhelp.com)

## MARCH 13, 14, 20, 21 & 22

**"Anything Goes."** At The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Tickets: \$10/\$15. The Good Shepherd Players and the Church of the Good Shepherd present "Anything Goes."

## SATURDAY/MARCH 14

**Archaeology Symposium.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. This year's theme is History in Transit. Learn more about recent archaeological developments and discover what is happening in the region from archaeology professionals. Participate in discussions and even learn how you can be more involved in local preservation. This event is in partnership with Friends of Fairfax Archaeology. Cost is \$45; \$35 for members of Gunston Hall & Friends of Fairfax Archaeology. Visit the website: [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org)

**Peace and Justice Conference.** At Nativity Catholic Church, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. 5 p.m. Mass; 6:15 p.m. Dinner; 7 p.m. Keynote; 7:45 p.m. Panel and Q&A with Archbishop Gregory and Bishop Burbidge, and the diocesan parishioners responding. Named the 2020 Peace and Justice Conference – Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love. Panelists include: Emelda August, parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City; Alexandra Luevano, Program Director, Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic; Jose Aguto, Associate Director of the Catholic Climate Covenant in D.C. To register for the conference, provide your first and last name in an email to [peace@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:peace@arlingtondiocese.org). Visit [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org).

**Metro School of the Arts Company Project: Upgrade.** 7-9 p.m. At Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Upgrade under the artistic direction of Sara Hart, Charles Renato, and Roxanne King features innovative choreography by



**The Color Green will be on display from now thru March 29 at The Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic in Fairfax.**

## The Color Green

Now thru March 29, at Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of an early spring and St. Patrick's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of nature's most ubiquitous colors, green. In its newest exhibit simply titled, Green, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its various artists' interpretations of the color. Torpedo Factory artists are chosen through a rigorous jurying process and enjoy a high degree of acclaim, both locally and nationally. Savvy shoppers know Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic as a place not only to enjoy fine art but also as a great place to purchase art at affordable price.

Metropolitan faculty, students, alumnus, and renowned guest artists. Join the pre-professional dance companies, iMPulse, MYTE, and dynaMYTE along with special guest performers, as they explore the peaks and valleys of life, discover the strengths and weaknesses of each other, and challenge us all to an upgrade. Upgrade will be an evening of electrifying performances featuring some of the area's most incredible youth dancers in tap, jazz, contemporary, music theater, and hip hop. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <http://metropolitanarts.org>

**Beethoven at 250 "Soulmates."** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. Featuring the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Christopher Zimmerman, conductor, and Philippe Bianconi of France on piano. The program features Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2 and Beethoven "Symphony of Symphonies." Hear the stories behind the music with music director Christopher Zimmerman and special guests before the concert at 7 p.m. Visit the website: <http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/fairfax-symphony-orchestra-beethoven-at-250-soulmates>

## SUNDAY/MARCH 15

**NTRAK Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission: museum members, free; adults 13 and over, \$5; children 5-12, \$3; under 4, free. Seniors (65+ and military (active & retired), \$4. Call 703-425-9225 or visit the website: [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Capitol Steps Perform.** Dessert Reception: 3:30 p.m.; the Show: 4:30-6 p.m. At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Benefit for the Shepherd's Center Serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon. Folks at the Shepherd's Center serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon are gearing up for another sell-out crowd for this event featuring the comedy troupe Capitol Steps. No matter who or what is in the

headlines, you can bet the Capitol Steps will tackle both sides of the political spectrum and all things equally foolish. Tickets: \$35; day of: \$40 cash/credit only. Student (18 and under) Tickets: \$15 Day of: \$20 cash/credit only. Groups of 10 or more: \$30. To purchase tickets: <https://www.scov.org/capstepstickets> or call the hotline at 703-281-0601.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

**Talk on Cyber Security.** 7:30-8:30 a.m. At Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. "Cyber Security: It's Importance to the Nation and the Economy" is the subject of a talk that Joel Scharlat, Director of Operations of the Cyber Bytes Foundation, will give to the Rotary Club of West Springfield [www.rotaryofwestspringfield.org](http://www.rotaryofwestspringfield.org) To attend, email [rotarywestspring@yahoo.com](mailto:rotarywestspring@yahoo.com) no later than Monday, March 16.

**Education Recruitment Day.** 9:30-11 a.m. At Dewberry Hall, Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This annual recruitment event is a career fair for jobs and internships in the field of education! Network with recruiters from the D.C. Metro area and surrounding regions seeking candidates for a wide range of education roles. Free. Visit the website: [https://mason360.gmu.edu/Career/rsvp\\_boot?id=682099](https://mason360.gmu.edu/Career/rsvp_boot?id=682099)

**Talking to Strangers: An Evening with Malcolm Gladwell.** 6 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. Join GMU's Department of Criminology, Law and Society and esteemed guest Malcolm Gladwell for "Talking to Strangers: An Evening with Malcolm Gladwell. Robinson Professor of Public Affairs Steven Pearlstein and Criminology, Law, and Society Distinguished Professor David Weisburd will be in conversation with bestselling author, journalist, and speaker Malcolm Gladwell on his new book "Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know."

## THURSDAY/MARCH 19

**Lunch N' Life.** Noon to 2 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road,

Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Jim Radigan, U.S. Navy Retired will discuss his experiences as the Commanding Officer, U.S. Navy Antarctica Squadron. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730, by March 13. The cost is \$10.; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org).

**The Chieftains.** 8 p.m. At The GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax. Irish music legends, The Chieftains, return to the Center for a thrilling night of their signature blend of traditional Celtic and contemporary. Features guest performers including: Retired NASA Astronaut Cady Coleman, the Mason University Singers, dancers from the O'Neill James School of Irish Dance, and the Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band. Cost is \$75, \$60, \$45.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 20

**GAMEmason.** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. At GMU, Fairfax Campus, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Battle against friends in a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament for a chance to find yourself on the big stage for the finals. Relive childhood fun with an expanded arcade filled with favorites like Pinball, Donkey Kong, and many more. Experience AR/VR demonstrations, attend education panels, Q&A sessions, and keynote sessions and meet and greets with major power players in the gaming industry including Tara Stong (Canadian-American actress and voice actor for Rikku in both Final Fantasy X and the popular "Kingdom Hearts" video game series) and Angela Hession (Head of XBOX Safety at Microsoft, who has helped launch more than 100 games on Xbox 360 and Kinect). Visit: <https://si.gmu.edu/gamemason>. Admission General Public: \$25 general admission.

## MARCH 20-APRIL 19

**"The Mystery of Edwin Drood."** At The Workhouse Theatre, Building W3, Lorton. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$35 Based on Charles Dickens' final unfinished novel, this hilarious whodunit invites the audience to solve its mystery by choosing the identity of the murderer. Musical numbers include "Perfect Strangers," "Don't Quit While You're Ahead," "Off To The Races" and "Moonfall". Visit <http://www.workhousearts.org/event/the-mystery-of-edwin-drood/2020-03-20/>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 21

**Children's Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Shop for all types of infant and children's clothing, toys, furniture and maternity items at affordable prices. Cash and in-state personal checks only. Email: [preschool@gracepresby.org](mailto:preschool@gracepresby.org).

**Children's Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax City. Thousands of gently read books and non-book media organized by categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, chapter books, young adult, etc. Check or cash only. Free. Sponsored by Friends of Fairfax City Library. Call 703-293-2132.

**Women as Changemakers.** 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Luncheon, silent auction, and guest speaker Joan Michelson, speaking on "Women as Changemakers". Sponsored by the Springfield-Annandale branch of AAUW. All are welcome. Reservation required by March 14. Cost is \$45/person. To make a reservation, e-mail [SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com). Call 703-560-1760.

**Fantasy and Fun.** 1 p.m. At Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Featuring The Great Zucchini and the Da Capo and Lyric Youth Chorus of the Fairfax Choral Society. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$5/students; children 13 and under free.

**Artists' Reception.** 1-5 p.m. At the Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill Street, Historic Occoquan. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery in Historic Occoquan presents "Spring's Palette". This exhibit features Paintings and Ribbon Embroidery by Tatiana Harr of Fairfax Station, and Salt-Fired Pottery by Marianne Cordyack of Reston. The exhibit runs March 3 through April 6. The gallery is open 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. Contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at [info@artistsundertaking.com](mailto:info@artistsundertaking.com).

# Uniquely Female Storytelling Coming to Fairfax

## Better Said Than Done's Women's Storytelling Festival.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**rtful live storytelling is flourishing with Better Said Than Done's upcoming Women's Storytelling Festival. The first of its kind, the two-day festival will feature storytellers performing a range of true, folk, and historical stories. Each storyteller will be solo on stage.

"Storytelling is a performance, an art, a form of entertainment, and, from our mouths," said Jessica Robinson, founder of Better Said Than Done and creator of the special 2-day Festival. Fairfax's Robinson has gathered together nearly two dozen women storytellers who will perform stories not just meant for women.

"We put together an amazing show with some of the best storytellers in the country," said Robinson. "I think that the beauty of storytelling is that it is inclusive. By hav-



**Giselle Ruzany, Better Said Than Done, Women's Storytelling Festival.**

ing women only performers, we are in no way saying we should have an all-female audience.

"The whole point of this festival is to give voice to women, but the stories we will be sharing are for everyone's ears. I would say to men and women alike, come to the festival. Laugh, cry, learn and listen to an amazing cast of storytellers sharing fascinating stories of all aspects of life," added Robinson.

"The audience should leave thinking



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTER SAID THAN DONE

**Jessica Robinson, Better Said Than Done founder, and creator of Women's Storytelling Festival.**

they've experienced a great festival, heard some wonderful stories, and spent two days in Fairfax having a fantastic show going experience," said Robinson. "There is no hidden agenda. We're not trying to take a stance or make any particular point. This is a storytelling festival. The audience will be entertained."

Giselle Ruzany (Falls Church) will be one of the Festival's emcees. "I think stories from women are stories of being daughters, being sisters, being mothers, being girlfriends,

## Where and When

Better Said Than Done presents the Women's Storytelling Festival. Event at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, on Friday, March 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. Event on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Note: The story's content is not geared for those under 12 years old. Early Bird ticket pricing for the Women's Storytelling Festival: For Friday, March 13 tickets are \$20. For Saturday, March 14, 2020 tickets are \$50. For those attending both Friday and Saturday, tickets are \$60. Ticket prices will increase after Feb. 28, 2020. For detailed information about The Festival and tickets go to [www.bettersaidthandone.com](http://www.bettersaidthandone.com).

being wives, being tomboys, being pioneers, being courageous, being rebellious, being lost, and being found. Stories of women are stories of wonder, as we are all wonder women when it comes to storytelling."

Audiences can expect stories that have been crafted for a spoken word performance; and with distinct ways of looking at culture and personal matters.

"The City of Fairfax is so excited to host the Women's Storytelling Festival. Through sharing stories, we learn more about ourselves, our differences and similarities," said Megan DuBois, Cultural Arts Manager, City of Fairfax.

# 'I No Longer Feel Like I Can Trust Anyone'

## Judge, victim's family, unhappy about suspended sentence.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hanks to a plea agreement between the prosecutor and defense attorney, Abelardo Daniel Medianero Salazar was sentenced for perpetrating two misdemeanors against a minor, instead of the felonies with which he was originally charged. The victim and her family went along with it – but it wasn't easy for them.

During his sentencing, last Thursday, March 5, in Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, the victim's mother read a statement her daughter wrote to him. "I trusted you," she said. "I no longer feel like I can trust anyone again because you took advantage of me. What happened left me angry, frustrated, confused, disgusted and outraged."

Police arrested Medianero Salazar, 32, of Falls Church, on May 23, 2019, charging him with several sex crimes. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau's Sex Crimes Squad had received a complaint of a sex offense involving a juvenile. They then charged Medianero Salazar with three counts of solicitation of a minor using a communication device and two counts of indecent liberties with a minor.

However, in court last week, the so-

licitation charges were dropped. And the indecent-liberties offenses – both Class 6 felonies punishable by as much as five years in prison – were amended to Class 1 misdemeanors of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, punishable by no more than a year behind bars.

### THE OFFICIAL WORDING

of these misdemeanors was: "Willfully contributing to any act rendering [the victim] delinquent, in need of services, supervision, or abused and neglected." Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathryn Humphrey said the first such offense happened between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2018, and the second one transpired from Jan. 1 until May 14, 2019.

Medianero Salazar pleaded guilty to both charges, and then Humphrey explained what the prosecution's case would have been had it gone to trial. "Both he and the victim worked at the Chick-fil-A at Fair Oaks Mall," she said. "He was her manager and she was 16 and, later, 17, when these incidents occurred."

"He asked her to go to his house for sex or send him pictures of her body," continued Humphrey. She then described in graphic detail how Medianero Salazar sexu-



**Medianero Salazar**

ally assaulted the teen and the pleasure he derived from it.

Afterward, Humphrey said the terms of the plea agreement were that Medianero Salazar would be sentenced to 360 days in jail on each charge, with the sentences running consecutively – but that all this time would be suspended. He is also to serve two years of active probation, undergo a psychosexual evaluation – and

obtain any recommended, follow-up treatment – and have no contact with the victim for two years.

It was then that the victim's mother read her daughter's statement about the impact Medianero Salazar's actions have had upon her life. "I don't know what made me a target," she wrote. "Was it because I was young and vulnerable? I felt guilt, but I know that what you did wasn't right. You ruined my life. I forgive you – but I will never forget."

Judge Thomas Sotelo then asked if the plea was a recommendation or an agreement, and Humphrey said it was an agreement. But it was obvious that Sotelo was disgusted by the defendant's behavior.

He noted that Medianero Salazar was almost twice the teen's age "when he engaged in these acts. And he was in a custodial position as her manager." Therefore, the

judge remarked, if the victim had refused him, she ran the risk of getting fired. And, said Sotelo, "If she's not working, she's not getting money."

Humphrey said that, by Medianero Salazar pleading guilty to the two misdemeanors, the victim was spared the ordeal of having to testify about such intimate details in open court. And, she added, "He gets two convictions and has to have a psychosexual evaluation, plus no contact with her for two years."

**THE VICTIM** and her parents were sitting in the courtroom's front row. And at that point, her father – who was also not happy with the outcome – spoke up to the judge. "My daughter's been through a whole lot, and a trial would make it a lot worse," he said. "But this also affected her education; she used to be an honor student, and now she's struggling – and he's not paying for it."

Sotelo said he'd accept the plea agreement and then addressed Medianero Salazar directly. "No one has the right to take advantage of another person," he said. "And I'm pretty sure you wouldn't want someone to take advantage of you."

Then, raising his voice, Sotelo asked the defendant, "So what makes it acceptable for you to do this to someone almost half your age, whose brain isn't yet fully developed? And in a supervisory

SEE VICTIM, PAGE 11

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**SPORTS**



**Centreville's Mekhai Washington #20 led all scorers with 37 points in the state semi-final win over Lake Braddock.**



**David Solomon #22 powers his way to the basket for Lake Braddock.**

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

**Centreville Wildcats Beat Bruins,  
Advance to State's Round 2**

The Centreville Wildcats (19-5) and Lake Braddock Bruins (21-6) caught up in an energy filled environment at Westfield HS in Chantilly on March 6 for a first round Class 6 State Championship basketball game.

Holding a narrow 58-56 lead heading into quarter number 4, Centreville was again able to outscore Lake Braddock, 24-23 for a 82-79 win.

Now, Centreville was a step closer to a Virginia

Class 6 basketball title. In addition to Mekhai Washington's 37 points, John Hunter scored 16 and Avery Ford scored 15. Washington and Ford also had 10 rebounds each.. Centreville will take on Western Branch, who were winners over Potomac School 66-56. Lake Braddock had 5 players score in double figures, led by Robert Seigles's 17, David Solomon's 16, Jamie Kaiser's 15, Jamie Anderson's 13, and Quincy Via's 12.

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Employment

**Anywhere it can rain, it can flood.**



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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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## Toastmasters to Host an 'Open House'

Toastmasters is hosting an "Open House" where you can come and observe a meeting to see how to improve communication and leadership skills, time management, impromptu speaking, and listening skills within a friendly and safe environment.

Everyone is welcome. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020 at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. A light supper will be served. Call 702-755-1139 or email:

guests-1129368@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 12

**CASA Info Session.** 7-8 p.m. At Fairfax CASA Office, 4103 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 200, Fairfax. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) provides volunteer advocates to abused and neglected children referred by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The first step to becoming a CASA volunteer is to attend an information session. RSVP to [sgoldberg@casafairfax.org](mailto:sgoldberg@casafairfax.org) as space is limited.

### SUNDAY/MAY 17

**Psychic Fair.** 9-5 p.m. At Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. Psychic Fair for both those who are serious and for those who are just curious. Event can be a life-changing experience or just a fun time. Many of the best psychics, mediums, healers, and readers of all types, along with related arts and crafts vendors from Virginia and the surrounding areas. Note: 75% of tables offer some type of readings, 25% of tables offer related arts, crafts, books, oils, crystals, sage, herbs, information, jewelry, etc. There will be 44 vendors. All under one roof, all in one room, indoor event, free parking. Cost: \$5 in advance \$10 at the door. Visit the website: <https://va-psychic-fair-2020.eventbrite.com>

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## Victim, Family Unhappy with Suspended Sentence

FROM PAGE 9

role that has, as its worst outcome, a loss of income? How dare you?"

Finally, the judge gave Medianero Salazar a warning. "I remember all my cases and their facts and heartburn," he said. "And I guarantee you this: If you come back to me, you are going to receive jail time."

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## Now Where Was I Again?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And here I was thinking I was such a big shot, a thyroidectomy patient with nary a blemish on his body 30 days out from surgery. Metabolic balance? Ha! What metabolic balance! I was having none of it. A month into my post-surgical recovery and all I had to show for my troubles was one extra lab visit to measure/adjust my calcium and magnesium levels. Other than that, as Brooks said in "Shawshank Redemption" to Andy DuFresne about delivering library books to their fellow inmates: "Easy peasy." No fuss, with no muss whatsoever. Famous last words, or in my case, infamous first words.

It all began innocently enough with some bilateral shaking of my arms and some associated dropsies: items seemed to just slip from my grasp with no apparent reason - or awareness on my part. Then I began experiencing some "wicked," as we say in New England, pain in my lower back by my kidneys. Next came some forgetfulness and bouts of confusion. I knew who I was and I knew where I was but I definitely knew something had happened to me. I just didn't know if I was simply a victim of my own circumstances, so to speak, or had something more insidious taken root. I mean, I am a cancer patient with two types of cancer now.

I decided to email some of my doctors and share these new symptoms. My oncologist, in conjunction with my otolaryngologist responded. He arranged for me to see a neurologist which I did so the next day. The neurologist gave me the once over twice and ordered some additional lab work which I completed the next day after a 12-hour fast. Later that same day, Friday, Feb. 28, I received a call from my oncology nurse. She had received my lab results and after discussing them with my oncologist, advised me to go to Urgent Care immediately as I was at risk of a possible heart attack. My calcium levels, a previously well balanced component of a functioning thyroid gland had levels nearly off the chart, literally, 40% above normal. And since we couldn't exactly put my thyroid back in, off to Urgent care I went.

After excusing myself to the front of the waiting line, I was led back to an examining room where I was treated pending transportation - or not, to somewhere else. After spending an awkward night on site, I was eventually transported by ambulance to a local hospital where I would spend the next four and a half days trying to wean my body off its own elevated calcium. Finally, on Tuesday, I was pronounced fit enough to be released. My ordeal seemed nearly over. By late Tuesday afternoon, I arrived back home where I collapsed in my own bed for the first time in nearly a week and began to recover once again. The rest of the story consists of bits and pieces, fragments of recollections and words-to-the-wise in an attempt to prevent a recurrence.

I can't really say that I've learned my lesson because I did nothing wrong. I was simply following doctor's orders. Adjusting one's calcium and magnesium levels is a proactive part of life without a thyroid gland, though it's hardly a matter of routine, and I have no doubt there's still some tinkering yet to occur. Nevertheless, onward and upward I go. with hopes that future episodes will be met with similar vigilance.

Now, back to the previous cancer-themed column. I'm meeting with the endocrinologist on Tuesday to determine a course of action to eliminate the remaining 10% or so thyroid cancer embedded under my collarbone. Once we get that process straightened out then we can get back to treating my underlying non small cell lung cancer.

I imagine I'll live to write about it, but I'd be lying if I didn't admit to being a bit scared. When one treatment is delayed due to the treatment of another, I can't help thinking there should be penalty called for piling on. I don't mind carrying my share but two cancers is hardly share and share alike. Too much of a bad thing is just plain bad.

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

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