

Great Falls CONNECTION

Celebrating 100

PAGE 3

Family portrait at
100th Birthday
Celebration: Front
Row, Richard
Russell and Jean
Miller; Middle Row,
Brent Miller and
Giulia Miller; Back
Row, Amy Miller,
Evelyn Miller.

Up in Smoke

PAGE 5

Warm Coats to Share

PAGE 11

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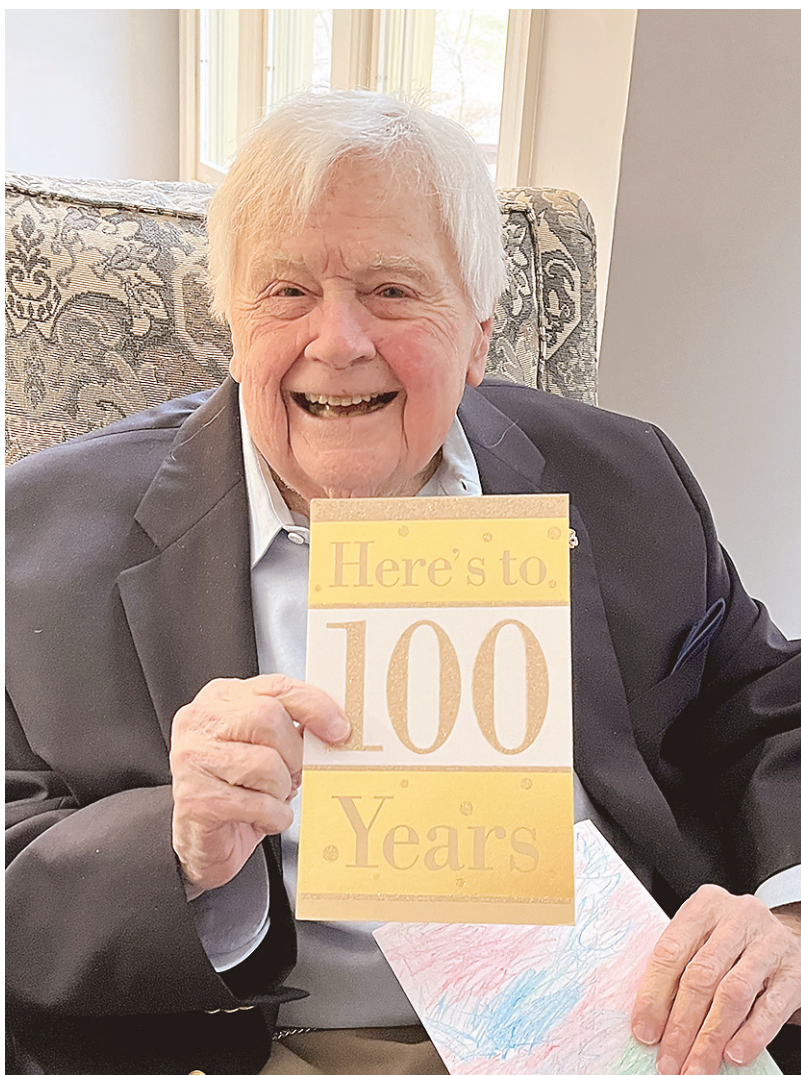
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NEWS

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



TSGT Richard T. "Dick" Russell Jr., of Great Falls, World War II United States Army Air Force (1943-1945) veteran, celebrated his 100th birthday on Sunday, March 6.



From left, Richard T. "Dick" Russell Jr., of Great Falls receives The American Legion Certificate of Honor from Christine Cutler, Post Adjutant of The Wayne M. Kidwell Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Happy 100th Birthday to WWII Veteran Richard "Dick" Russell Jr.

Greatest Generation vet reminisces.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Richard T. "Dick" Russell Jr., of Great Falls, a Purple Heart recipient and World War II U.S. Army Air Force, 5th Air Force veteran, celebrated his 100th birthday on Sunday, March 6. Russell is a member of the Greatest Generation, a group of people born between the years 1900 and 1927 who grew up in a time of economic depression and later served in the Second World War. Of the 16 million U.S. veterans who fought in World War II, approximately 240,000 remain alive, according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs in a report dated Jan. 5, 2022.

Russell's birthday party, held at the home of friend Amy Miller and marked by the presence of loved ones and acquaintances both old and new, did indeed commemorate Russell's chronological age of 100 years. It was also celebrated that Russell had made

the most of the years he had been gifted and that his service years helped mold the man he became. Russell epitomizes and demonstrates characteristics of the Greatest Generation: personal responsibility, duty, honor, and humility.

The Greatest Generation acquired its name from a book of the same name authored by Tom Brokaw, a journalist for NBC. As Brokaw says in his book, the men and women of this generation did not fight for fame and recognition but fought because it was the right thing to do.

Centered in prominence on the fireplace mantel and placed in sequential order, framed photos told Russell's life story from childhood, to enlistment, to his marriage to Florine Curtin Bealland, and more. Russell's trademark grin, which crinkles the corners of his eyes and flexes his cheeks upward, can be seen in each photograph, a physical trait that has remained unchanged even at the age of 100. Russell's framed Army Air Force medals, patches, and pins took center stage.

His daughter Karen Russell said that from 1943 to 1945, her father served in the US Army Air Force (USAFF), 5th Air Force as part of the 43rd Bombardment Group of the



Photo of Richard T. "Dick" Russell Jr., (circa 1943-1945) and his medals, patches and wings.



5th Air Force (USAFF) and flew B-24 "Liberators" in the South Pacific. He flew 43 missions in a variety of roles, including radio operator, rear tail gunner, and bombardier — whatever was required given the high

casualty rate. He was promoted to TSGT (Technical Sgt.). Russell was a member of Ken's Men and was involved in significant engagements in Balikpapan and Borneo.

SEE GREATEST GENERATION VET, PAGE 7
GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 9-15, 2022 ♦ 3

Inherently Divisive Concepts

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Governor Glenn Youngkin started "day one" of his term by issuing Executive Order Number One within minutes of his inauguration, "Ending the use of inherently divisive concepts, including Critical Race Theory, and restoring excellence in K-12 public education in the Commonwealth." With my graduate degree in education and 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator, I have been anxiously waiting to learn more about "inherently divisive concepts" and "Critical Race Theory" and how it would affect education policy in the new administration. Last week my questions were answered in part when the Governor released the "Superintendent of Public Instruction's Interim Report on Inherently Divisive Policies, Programs, Training and Curricula." I do not find the answer to be satisfactory for public schools that must educate all children.

The State Superintendent defines "inherently divisive concepts" as advancing any ideas in vi-



olation of Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that codified the principles of equal protection and nondiscrimination found in the 14th Amendment. There is a convoluted logic in the State Superintendent's report that suggests that laws that were passed to eliminate discrimination can be used to justify discrimination. Providing early intervention and remediation for children with special needs would be considered unlawful discrimination under the report's definition.

For example the report recommends rescinding the Department of Education's Culturally Responsive Website with an explanation that it "generally promotes academic equity of outcomes versus equity of opportunities for all learners." The report sounds like the responsibility of government as viewed by the writer is to offer opportunity, but without a responsibility to ensure that all can achieve.

In the recommendation to rescind the Navigating EdEquityVA website, the explanation is that it contains "Resources that permit and

advance policies, programs, and activities that promote equitable outcomes for students versus opportunities." Once again, the report seems to suggest that the obligation of government is to offer opportunities without a responsibility to see that all students can achieve under it. The elimination of these two websites that provide resources for teachers is the electronic equivalent of book burning.

A shocker for me is the recommendation that the Virginia Mathematics Pathways Initiative be rescinded. The program was designed to give more students access to higher math, and it is unclear why it is being rescinded. It looks like anything that deviates from schooling of the 1950s is likely to be sacked in the new administration.

I encourage anyone concerned that I might be too harsh in my criticism of the report to review it for yourself at https://www.doe.virginia.gov/statistics_reports/interim-30-day-report-on-inherently-divisive-concepts.pdf and let me know your reaction at kenplum@aol.com. You can also let the Governor know your reaction to the report at his tip line helpeducation@governor.virginia.gov.

Last Marijuana Reform Bill of Virginia's Legislative Session Dies in Committee

SB 745 would have ensured automatic resentencing hearings for current felony marijuana convicts.

Yesterday, the Virginia House of Delegates Appropriations Committee voted to kill Sen. Scott Surovell's bill to grant resentencing hearings for individuals incarcerated for marijuana distribution and parole hearings for individuals serving sentences enhanced by prior marijuana-related convictions on a party-line vote. The bill, SB 745, was the last marijuana-related bill of the legislative session awaiting committee action.

"Yesterday, the House appropriations committee decided to kill a bill with bipartisan support which would have ensured the punishment fit the crime for past felony marijuana convictions," Surovell said. "The attitude of the majority of Virginians towards marijuana use has changed dramatically since many of these individuals were originally sentenced, and to refuse to acknowledge the draconian nature of these sentences is an injustice."

Gracie Burger, State Policy Director for The Last Prisoner

Project and an early partner on the bill, said the following: "SB 745 by Sens. Surovell and Lucas provided an urgently-needed solution to the problem of cannabis prisoners left behind bars since the Commonwealth legalized adult-use marijuana last year. Public interest has shifted on the criminalization of cannabis and we must provide a pathway for that shifted position to be reflected in the punishments our state continues to uphold. Virginians sentenced under outdated laws deserve the opportunity to have their sentence reconsidered, as a matter of both fairness and fiscal responsibility, and SB 745 would have provided that opportunity. Continuing incarceration for these individuals is a waste of limited public safety resources that should be prioritized elsewhere".

Sen. Louise Lucas served as the bill's Chief Co-Patron. The legislation also received support from Justice Forward Virginia and the ACLU of Virginia.

Passed Senate (22-Y 18-N) on Feb. 15; in the House, failed to report (defeated) in Appropriations (10-Y 12-N).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Built-in Fan Base for Speed

To the editor:

There is a lot of discussion around the Commanders stadium being in Northern Virginia. I propose that we bring it to Great Falls - but not for the football. You may not have heard, but NASCAR built a track and raced in the L.A. Coliseum this year. It was a huge event. Besides the additional business for the area, the driving I have observed during my commute to

school leads me to believe that we have a built-in local fan base who likes fast driving. The closest tracks are almost 100 miles away in Richmond and Dover. If the Clash at the coliseum was so good for the people in L.A. then it might just work in Northern Virginia. It would also create a venue for weekday race commuters to prove their skills on the track!

Thomas Gillis, age 14
Cooper Middle School
8th grade

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NEWS Up in Smoke

Black market to remain underground for now as lawmakers reject licensing scheme.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Virginia's black market for marijuana will remain underground for now. Earlier this week, a House subcommittee rejected a bill introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) that would have created a way for the newly created Cannabis Control Authority to issue licenses to sell recreational weed.

"I'm very disappointed," said Ebbin shortly after the vote. "Years of work on establishing a regulated adult use market for cannabis has been dispatched by the House Republican majority without giving it thoughtful consideration."

Republicans started the session saying that ending the stranglehold on the black market was a priority. But the effort stalled when the GOP caucus was divided on the issue. Several House Republicans offered their version of what a marketplace could look like, but none of those bills passed. Now the delay will offer all of the many businesses wanting to do business in Virginia an opportunity to make campaign contributions in an election cycle where all 140 members of the General Assembly will be on the ballot.

"We have folks who are still trying to grapple with the differences between CBD, the terms hemp, cannabis, delta 8, delta 9," said Del. Emily Brewer (R-64), chairwoman of the subcommittee that killed the bill. "There's a lot of confusion. So I really truly think for us to get to a regulated market, all the stakeholders need to get together."

Ebbin says the stakeholders are together, and he dismisses the idea that lawmakers are confused about a topic they've been debating for years.

"It's hard to read their minds, but I'd say they're unprepared to govern in this area and

afraid of their base," said Ebbin. "I think they're afraid of cannabis, which the General Assembly has already made a public policy decision to legalize. And they didn't do their homework."

SOCIAL EQUITY LICENSES became one of the major flashpoints during the debate as Republicans pushed back on the idea that people convicted of misdemeanor crimes should get first dibs on getting a license to sell marijuana. Ebbin's bill also had preferential licenses for family members of people convicted of marijuana misdemeanors. Republicans campaigned against social equity licenses last year during the campaign, and now they feel they have a mandate to reject them.

"I'm opposed to taxpayer-funded money going to criminals to start businesses because they broke the law," said Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) on the campaign trail last year.

Republicans were also opposed to the idea that jurisdictions have been disproportionately policed. The Ebbin bill created a process for the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census data to determine which jurisdictions experienced disproportionate arrests and convictions during the failed war on drugs. Del. Michael Webert (R-18) introduced a bill that would have ditched this approach.

"You can have some wealthy areas that have been targeted by a cocaine bust," said Webert.

HELPING ECONOMICALLY disadvantaged areas emerged as a rare point of agreement during the debate. Ebbin's bill included language directing the board of directors of the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census tract data to identify areas that are "economically distressed." Republicans were also hoping to add preferential licenses for women- and minority-owned businesses.

"I don't think Republicans necessarily hate the idea of equity licenses," said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)., "Maybe they hate the word equity. I mean it seems like it's a verboten word these days. But they want to do the same thing that we want to do, and that's right the wrongs of the past."

"I'm very disappointed."
— Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

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Fill Us In!

In-Person Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2024 Programs

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The governing board and staff of the McLean Community Center seek **input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2024 (which runs July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024).

This is an opportunity for residents to suggest class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, youth events and teen activities that are meaningful to the community.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You may also submit comments to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Members of the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club, Grey Ghost Chapter rides to wish WWII Veteran Richard "Dick" Russell, Jr. a happy 100th birthday.



Greatest Generation Vet Reminisces

FROM PAGE 3

Reminiscing about his military service, Russell's smile faded. He said that the majority of his time was in combat. "There weren't many happy memories. We were losing a lot of people, friends. It was tough," he said. "I was on a B-24. We were a 10 man crew. Some things made me very sad. I was wounded. Four members of my crew were wounded. So, five members were Purple Heart members. One of those Purple Heart members paid the severe price. He was killed, blown apart."

Russell said one of his saddest moments was when they landed at a secondary base,

and he saw his close friend's remains being taken off the aircraft. "He was a navigator; I was on the radio. And we compared notes on where we were when we flew. It just hurts to see somebody killed right in front of me," Russell said.

"When I was discharged and starting my life over again. I was 23," Russell said, remembering the time he was the happiest. Russell shifted his gaze over to his daughter, Karen. "I've got my little daughter over there. Seventy-two now, and that makes me a few years older."

Russell said what he values the most are those who fought during World War II, what



Members of America Motorcycle Club (MC), Grey Ghost Chapter toast veteran Richard "Dick" Russell Jr.



Members of The Wayne M. Kidwell Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston Christine Cutler, Post Adjutant and Michael Cutler, 2nd Vice Commander introduce themselves to veteran Richard "Dick" Russell Jr.

they did, and what they endured. "They gave us the freedom we got today because it was a fight. If we didn't defeat Hitler, we would be having hobnail boots up our rear-end right now."

A few moments later, Christine Cutler, Post Adjutant of The Wayne M. Kidwell Legion Post 184 Herndon-Reston, presented Russell with a Certificate of Honor signed by David Womack, CDR, Post 184. It stated in part: "In recognition and grateful appreciation for serving in the United States Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater in World War II in the name of freedom and democracy, and for allegiance to God and country in courageously protecting our liberty and intendantance." She also presented a Certificate of Initiation to Post No. 184 and other gifts. Russell graciously accepted them and Cutler's congratulations on the notable occasion of his birthday.

Russell made his way outdoors to the front porch. He and others stood and watched while the Virginia Chapter of the

Nam Knights, an American Military Veteran and Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club led by Jorge "Norton" Miranda, president, cruised the cul-de-sac. They rode in a side-by-side formation to commemorate Russell's birthday and pay tribute to his service.

Invited indoors for a presentation, Miranda told Russell that besides coming to wish him a "very, very happy 100th birthday," they also wanted to thank him for his service. "And I want to thank you for your wife's service as well. I understand she was a Marine," Miranda said. "I understand that your father was a Marine as well, in World War I." Russell told Miranda that his mother served in the Navy.

"You've got quite the lineage of military service to the nation," Miranda said.

On behalf of the Nam Knights, Miranda presented Russell with a flag in recognition of his service, as well as a coin to wish him a happy birthday.



Jorge "Norton" Miranda, president of the America Motorcycle Club, Grey Ghost Chapter introduces himself and wishes WWII Veteran Richard "Dick" Russell Jr. a happy 100th birthday.



Youth Pollinator Garden Grant

As part of the Great Falls Garden Club's 80th anniversary celebration, the Garden Club is sponsoring a \$150.00 Youth Pollinator Garden Grant to be awarded to a child ages 9 - 14 who lives in the 22066 Zip Code.

Currently the Great Falls Garden Club maintains two garden sites at the Great Falls Library and one garden, The Blue Star Memorial Garden, at the Village Center in Great Falls. One garden at the library lines the walkway along the library's path and the other is the Meadow visible from Georgetown Pike. Beyond their aesthetics, the gardens serve to attract many pollinators when in bloom.

To further the idea of planting gardens for pollinators like birds, bees and butterflies, the Garden Club

hopes to encourage the idea of creating these kinds of gardens by offering a \$150 Grant to a Great Falls youth between the ages of 9-14 to create their own Pollinator Garden.

All interested individuals can find information about the Grant by visiting the Great Falls Library where there is a display with lots of helpful resources. In addition, the Grant Application and additional information can be found on the Club's website www.gfgardenclub.org

The Grant Application must be completed by April 15, 2022. All applications should be sent to the following address:

Great Falls Garden Club/Youth Grant Chair
PO Box 1412
Great Falls, VA 22066

Historic Great Falls Grange Public-Private Partnership Signing

Supervisor John Foust and Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole plus leaders of the non-profit Great Falls Grange Foundation (GFGF) will hold an outdoor signing ceremony in front of the Great Falls Grange on March 12 at 1 pm; the public is encouraged to attend. Seating will be provided and refreshments will follow. With inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the Grange. Registration is not required. This is an in-person only event.

Great Falls Grange Foundation co-presidents Jorge Adeler and Gary Pan, with Great Falls Rotary Club, as well as other founding board member representatives

from the Great Falls Citizens Association and Great Falls Optimist Club, will participate. GFGF leaders will sign an agreement with the Fairfax County Park Authority to operate the Grange and adjacent historic Schoolhouse for private and community events, investing the proceeds into internal building improvements and new landscaping.

This public-private partnership between FCPA and GFGF is seen as a prototype for countywide application that will eventually be a self-supporting community center for Great Falls. For updates and other details about the meeting, go to <https://gfgrange.org> and <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2022/z-ir025>

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Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
HENRICO	9657	0	LAKESIDE AVENUE	NORTH RUN	2/17/2022
FRANKLIN	7825	606	PRILLIMANSWICH/ROUTE 606	BRANCH OF TOWN CREEK	2/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18840	11	LEE HIGHWAY	GREENWAY CREEK	2/15/2022
CARROLL	4791	922	HIDDENVALLEY RD/ROUTE 922	SNAKE CREEK #1	2/15/2022
GILES	8436	635	BIG STONY CK RD/ROUTE 635	LAUREL BRANCH	2/11/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/ROUTE 1605	MAGGODEE CREEK	2/8/2022
LOUDOUN	11375	792	THOMAS AVENUE	SUGARLAND RUN	2/7/2022
NOTTOWAY	12852	610	SPAINVILLE RD	SWEATHOUSE CREEK	2/5/2022
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	2/4/2022
BLAND	3072	608	SKYDUSKY RD	BIG WALKER CREEK #1	2/3/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	2/3/2022
ROCKBRIDGE	15653	712	WADES RD/ROUTE 712	CEDAR GROVE BRANCH	2/2/2022
DICKENSON	5887	685	BRIDGE STREET	RUSSELL FORK RV @ HAYSI	2/1/2022
GRAYSON	8915	741	HOMESTEAD RD	BIG FOX CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	11003	880	RED FLETCHER RD	DRY CREEK	2/1/2022
LEE	10908	672	ROUTE 672	MARTIN CREEK	2/1/2022
RUSSELL	16341	71	NORTH 71	COPPER CREEK	2/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse



**5th & 6th Grader Party
St. Patty's Party**
Friday, March 11, 7-9:30 p.m.
\$35/\$25 OFC Members.
Preregistration recommended.

Presented by The Alden



2022 Spring Youth Production
Sat. and Sun., March 12-13, 2 p.m.
Free; registration required.

Presented by The Alden



Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show (Virtual)
Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m.
Free; registration required.

MCC Governing Board



Public Hearing for FY2024 Programs + Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.
Open to all.

The Old Firehouse



Dinner & Movie
Friday, March 25, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$50/\$40 OFC members.

Presented by The Alden



**Sponsored by The Alden
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CALENDAR



IONA will be featured at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"The Phlebotomist." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU MARCH 13

"Every Brilliant Thing." At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Guided by an unnamed narrator, the audience is drawn into the story of a young boy who tries to cure his mother's depression by creating a list of all the most wonderful things in the world. At times humorous and at others gut-wrenching, this extraordinary, interactive play brings the actor and audience along together on a unique journey of shared discovery and catharsis. Visit www.NextStopTheatre.org.

NOW THRU MARCH 30

Fiber Optics. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Textile Gallery, 6819 Elm Street, McLean. Philadelphia printmaker Fay Stanford will show her fabulist banners. Stanford creates wry fairy tales about suburban family life – especially death, disease and aging. Visit the website: mcleantextilegallery.org.

MARCH 1 TO APRIL 30

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park invite the public to participate in its 2022 photo contest. Help celebrate all that is special about the farm with the second "Focus on the Farm" fundraiser. Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, capture the beauty and farm life at Frying Pan Farm Park. The categories include nature, landscape and scenery, and farm animals. Photos must be taken, and entries submitted between March 1 and April 30, 2022. You can enter up to 10 photos. The fee is \$7 per entry for adults, and \$5 per entry for children up to age 16. The fees will directly support the park and care and feeding of the animals at the farm. Go to the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park website for detailed instructions and submission information; or email the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park at friends@fryingpanpark.org. Frying Pan Park

is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-9101.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party. 7-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Old Firehouse 5th and 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Free catered food and beverages will be distributed to participants. Parties feature a DJ, an open dance floor and a variety of activities. Preregistration is recommended. Parents who wish to volunteer for parties must submit an email request to Aaron Greene at oldfirehouse@mcleancenter.org. Website: <https://mcleancenter.org/calendar/icalrepeat-detail/2022/03/11/12985/-/st-patty-s-party>

MARCH 11-13

"Fiddler on the Roof." Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Director Bartlett Sher brings his fresh take on a beloved masterpiece to life as "Fiddler on the Roof" begins a North American tour direct from Broadway. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family. Visit the website: capitalonehall.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Model Train Open House. 1-5 p.m. At Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna. Stop by the Historic Vienna Train Station where you can see and hear HO scale model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young-at-heart. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. See www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Irish Dance Performance. 3-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy a performance by the renowned young dancers of Foley Academy of

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Irish Dance in celebration of the St. Patrick's Day season. No registration necessary.

MARCH 12, 13, AND 19, 20

Dionysian Play Festival. At Traveling Players Studio, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, in Tysons Corner. Ariadne's Thread – 11 a.m.; The Odyssey – 3 p.m. and Hecuba – 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available for Traveling Players' Dionysian Play Festival, which runs weekends March 12-20 at their Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Performed by Traveling Players' students, the festival will travel back in time to the beginning of Western Theatre, in ancient Greece, with three modern twists on classic myths.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Family Orchestra Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colt's Neck Road, Reston. The spring program during which the RCO traditionally spotlights talented youth from our area, is loosely modeled after a popular radio game show. The soloist, 18-year-old violinist George Pekarsky, and the orchestra will perform the music without divulging titles, so you can say, "Wait! Don't Tell Me!" Cost: \$25 adults, \$18 seniors (60+), Free, youth, military, first responders. Visit the website: www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 and

6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA: pan Celtic peregrinations from Asturias to Apalachia, with fiddle, vocals in all the Celtic tongues, flute, bouzouki, bass. Visit www.IonaMusic.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

Pi Day. 3:14 to 5 p.m. At Historic Sully Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, in Chantilly. Real pie may not go on forever, but it does have a very long history as a classic food made at Sully in the 1800s. Visit the 1794 kitchen and see an interpreter bake a traditional recipe over an open-hearth fire and sample a piece as you learn about this historically delicious food. The program cost is \$3.14. Call 703-437-1794; or visit Sully Historic Site.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

Unruly Theatre Project Improv Show. 7 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. The area's hottest professional teen improv troupe brings you a hilarious night of comedy. Come help spread some joy while being wildly entertained by these young performers.

MARCH 18-20

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Friday, March 18 – 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 19 – 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, March 20 – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$15; Children aged 4-12; \$10, age 3 and under, free

tickets: www.superpetexpo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Behind Herndon Police Station, 397 Herndon Parkway at the Sugarland Run Trail Stream, Herndon. Join this annual tradition at Sugarland Run Trail behind the Herndon Police Station, where the stream will be stocked with Rainbow Trout just for this event. Limited fishing poles and bait will be available for use. Trout Unlimited will be on site to help clean and store your catch. Teens and adults, age 16 & up, must have a valid Virginia State Fishing License to fish if they wish to fish after the event (12:00 p.m.). Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation or call 703-787-7300.

MAY 21-22

Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person, 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2022 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION



Want to be a community leader?

Run for a seat on our governing board!

We're looking for residents of Small District 1A—Dranesville, who wish to serve their community by playing a lead role in helping to carry out MCC's mission.

Candidate Petition Packets may be picked up at the Center. Deadline for returning the completed Candidate Petition to MCC: **Friday, March 11 by 5 p.m.**

Visit the Center at: 1234 INGLESIDE AVE., MCLEAN, VA 22101

Call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 Email: ELECTIONS@MCLEANCENTER.ORG

Visit: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/MCLEAN-CENTER-ELECTION](https://tinyurl.com/mclean-center-election)



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3/2/2022.....Wellbeing
3/9/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
3/16/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2022.....Senior Living
3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

APRIL

4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
4/13/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Going Green - Sustainable Swaps.
1-2:30 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Single-use plastics and papers are pervasive in every aspect of our modern life from zip bags to paper towels. So much time, energy, money, and resources goes into creating something that is destined for the landfill. What a waste! Join them as they take a deeper look at what we throw away and learn simple ways to minimize your individual impact. Cost is \$9.

YOUTH POLLINATOR GARDEN GRANTS

As part of the Great Falls Garden Club's 80th Anniversary Celebration, the Garden Club is sponsoring a \$150 Youth Pollinator Garden Grant to be awarded to a child ages 9-14 who lives in the 22066 Zip Code. Currently the Great Falls Garden Club maintains two garden sites at the Great Falls Library and one garden, The Blue Star Memorial Garden, at the Village Center in Great Falls. One garden at the library lines the walkway along the library's path and the other is the Meadow visible from Georgetown Pike. Beyond their aesthetics, the gardens serve to attract many pollinators when in bloom. To further the idea of planting gardens for pollinators like birds, bees and butterflies, the Garden Club hopes to encourage the idea of creating these kinds of gardens by offering a \$150 Grant to a Great Falls youth between the ages of 9-14 to create their own Pollinator Garden. All interested individuals can find information about the Grant by visiting the Great Falls Library where there is a display with lots of helpful resources. In addition, the Grant Application and additional information can be found on the Club's website: www.gfgardenclub.org. The Grant Application must be completed by April 15, 2022.

CHO NEEDS NEW SPACE

For the last 10 years, CHO (the Committee for Helping Others) has housed its food and clothes closets in space graciously provided for free by Vienna Presbyterian Church. Through circumstances out of VPC's control, the complex where the space is located is going to be redeveloped, and CHO will need to move before the end of October 2022. CHO is hoping to find another organization that would be willing to host our food and clothes pantry. If your church or business has 950 square feet of space they could use for free or substantially below market rates, or if you have any suggestions that might help them in their search, email facility@cho-va.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 15

Digital Passover Cookbook. 8:30-12 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Spice up your Passover with Temple Rodef Shalom's digital Passover Cookbook with 120+ recipes. Sample Seder menus, guide to setting the Passover table, and beautiful stories about holiday celebrations make this a wonderful resource, keepsake, and gift. Sale proceeds go to charity. Questions? Bernice at PassoverCookbook@templerodefshalom.org. Download copy for \$10 at <https://www.templerodefshalom.org/wotspassovercookbook/>

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Nicki Watts holds up an insulated jacket, one of over 30 coats and jackets, and other cold-weather gear donated to Share of McLean for community neighbors in need by the Eddie Bauer clothing store Tysons.

Warm Winter Coats Shared with McLean Neighbors Who Have Less

Share of McLean receives donations from local retailer.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Winter is not done with us yet, and a local business and others are helping to keep McLean neighbors warm. Share Inc. of McLean has traditionally received donated coats from local businesses and shops. Some companies have given once, while others have given annually. Traditionally, the Eddie Bauer store in Tysons Corner provides jackets through their “One Warm Coat” drive. Following the drive’s success this year, SHARE was notified that the Eddie Bauer store had additional outerwear, primarily coats and jackets, to donate, according to Catherine M. DelPrete of Share Inc.

Volunteers from the charity group collected four large bags containing over 30 new

and like-new insulated Sherpa lined jackets, down vests, long coats, other items, and plush fleece-lined leggings, hats, and shirts. According to DelPrete, most of the coats are adult sizes, although there are some youth coats too. “We are grateful for the generosity of Eddie Bauer and the other local businesses who host these winter coat drives,” DelPrete said. “This is a heart-warming example of national retailers using their resources to directly help the local community.”

The Share of McLean Food Pantry and Clothing Room is located at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Share, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit run by volunteers. Founded in 1969, it provides non-discriminatory help to community neighbors in need. It presently requires over 1000 volunteer hours each month to administer the program, and it is always looking for more. SHARE reports that they provided services to about 1,500 families last year, including 4,000 household members, most of whom are children.



The Share of McLean Food Pantry and Clothing Room is located at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. It is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

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Now We Wait



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which in this column’s context implies news of consequence, and semi unexpectedly at that? Although in the cancer-patient world it’s all consequential, until it’s not. Still, I didn’t anticipate, given what little I know about medical diagnostic procedures/tests, that the upper endoscopy I had on Thursday might involve a post-procedure ‘wait.’ I figured the little scope they slithered down my throat would determine definitively why I’ve had difficulty swallowing food these last few months. And it sort of did, however ...

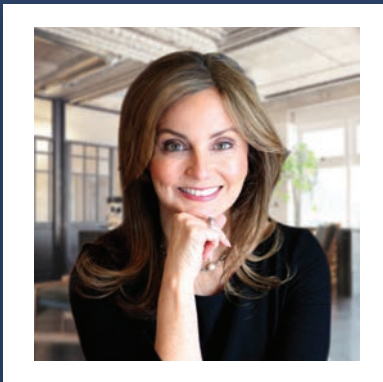
As I learned from the gastroenterologist while lying on a gurney in recovery, she took two tissue samples to be biopsied. Though she had good news in that there were no blockages, tumors, or problems with my esophagus – opening or closing, nevertheless; she did feel the need to retrieve some tissue for a pathologist to exam more scientifically. I was told those results would be back in five to seven days. Ergo, the title of this column.

Let me be clear, in and of itself, waiting is not the problem. As a cancer patient, I’m always waiting – for something. And unless one integrates/assimilates that into their method of operation/process of elimination, the anxiety and stress of it will make Kenny a very dull boy – for which I need no provocation, according to my wife, Dina. No, the problem here is that I’m waiting when I didn’t think I’d be waiting. I figured, incorrectly, that after the scoping was complete, the analysis/diagnosis would be complete. As Linda Ronstadt sang: “Poor, Poor Pitiful Me.” It appears, considering the lack of evidence from the procedure to explain away my swallowing difficulties, there are now two more diagnostic procedures scheduled, neither of which sound very pleasant, to find an answer.

Here I thought as Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) thought in “Godfather: Part 3:”Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in,” that every malady/medical situation afflicting me might not have a cancer risk, I was a bit surprised to learn that as a cancer patient, it all matters, it all could be related, and I’ll never be out of the woods, even if I can see the forest save for the trees. I’m sort of disappointed in myself thinking that any medical procedure that I have is somehow (A) not complicated by the fact that I have cancer, and (B) very possibly, directly/indirectly related to my pre-existing cancer diagnosis. Either it’s a cause or an effect. On the face of it, this is no way to live. On the other hand, it’s a miracle I’m still alive and I’m thankful and grateful every day that I am.

So, what’s a little waiting? It’s all I’ve ever done since Jan. 1st, 2009 when I first went to the Emergency Room with symptoms. I should have remembered the mantra bedeviling all cancer patients since time immemorial: it’s always something.

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



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