

Triumphant Titans Williams, Hamilton new state HS champions.

Alexandria City High School senior Wisdom Williams claimed the state championship with a new record in the women's shot put at the Virginia High School League Class 6 State Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 26 at the Virginia Beach Sports Center.

Williams' record-setting throw of 48-01.75 easily eclipsed runners up Morgan Glass (41-04.50) of Freedom High School in Loudoun County and Lucia Herold (38-07.25) of Colonial Forge.

Other ACHS standouts during the meet included Akira Hamilton, who claimed the women's state championship with a 7.11 run in the 55-meter, and pole vaulters Maddie Crowe and Jamison Taylor. Crowe cleared 10-feet for third place in the women's event while Taylor cleared 12-6 for third place in the men's division.

- JEANNE THEISMANN



ACHS senior Wisdom Williams, left, stands next to a display of her 48-01.75 throw in the women's shot put, setting a new state record at the Feb. 26 Virginia High School League Class 6 State Indoor Track & Field Championships at the Virginia Beach Sports Center.



ACHS track and field athletes Jamison Taylor, Maddie Crowe, Wisdom Williams and Akira Hamilton show off their medals at the Virginia High School League Class 6 State Indoor Track & Field Championships Feb. 26 at the Virginia Beach Sports Center.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



IMAGE COURTESY R&R STUDIOS/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

The public art display "I Love You" will be unveiled March 25 in Waterfront Park.

Pretty in Pink Public art installation set for March 25.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria waterfront will be transformed March 25 with the installation of "I Love You," the fourth in the city's "Site See: New Views in Old Town"

public art series.

The temporary installation at Waterfront Park is designed by Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt of R&R STUDIOS in Miami and will be on display through the end of November.

"I Love You" provides physical

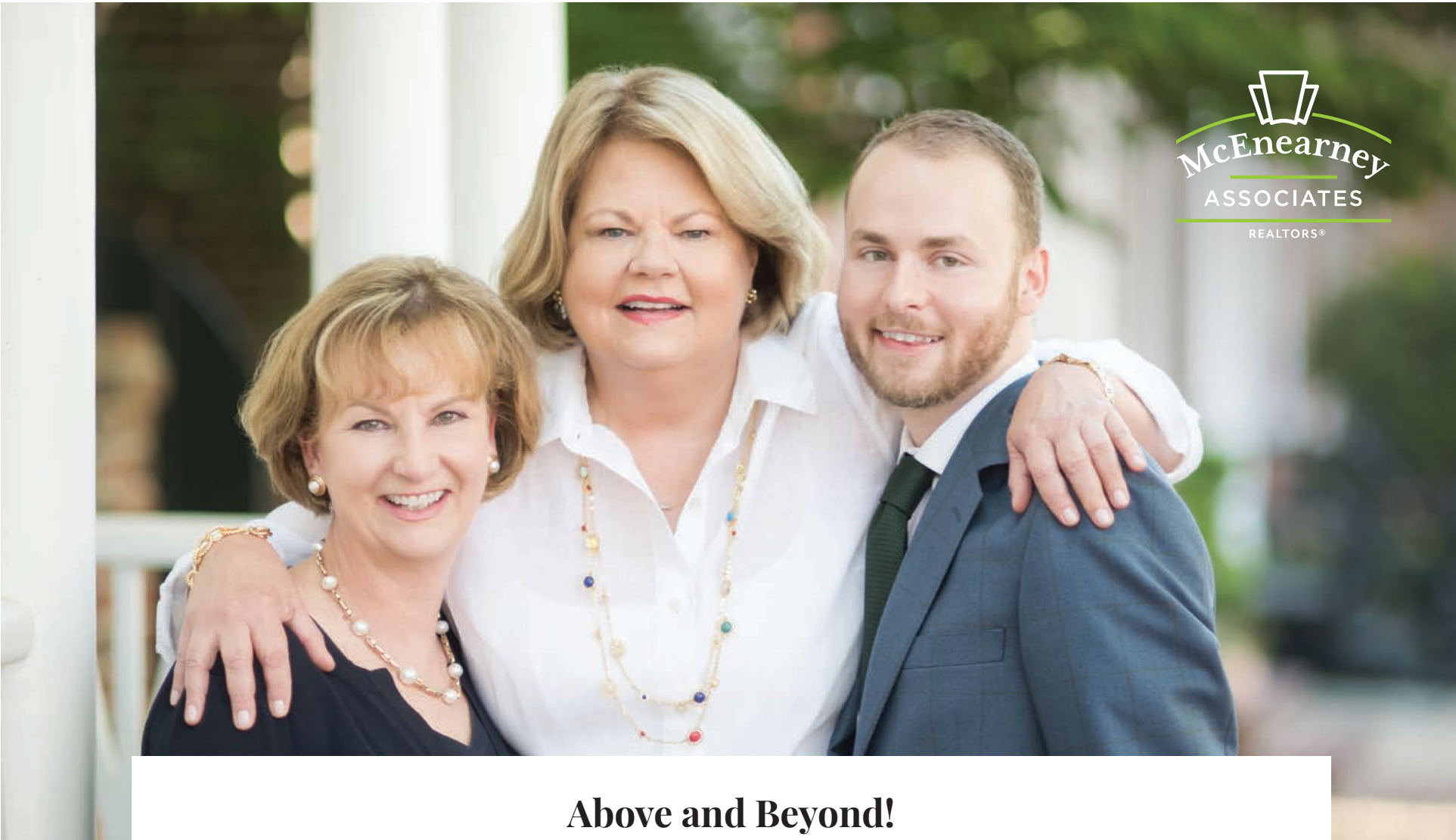
evidence of the possibility of the fantastic as part of everyday life," according to R&R STUDIOS. "It is an instant landmark that brings people together with a simultaneously universal and personal message."

SEE PRETTY IN PINK, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY MARK ALLEN

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE – A Ukrainian flag flies outside the Queen Street property of local attorney Mark Allen in support of the eastern European nation currently under siege from Russia. The flag was made on site at the Alexandria-based National Capital Flag Company on South Quaker Lane. The company is ramping up production to keep up with the demand as dozens of residents and business owners have begun displaying the Ukrainian flag.



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News



Alfasene Alipia enjoys a traditional drink of Kava at the Tonga Tsunami Relief fundraiser March 5 at Galactic Panther Gallery on King Street.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Lipo Saipaia, right, teaches the traditional Haka dance at the Tonga Tsunami Relief Benefit March 5 at Galactic Panther Gallery on King Street.

Polynesian Partners Local businesses raise funds for Tonga tsunami relief.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The sounds of Polynesia rang out on King Street as the Old Town shops of ESP Tea and Coffee and Galactic Panther Gallery joined together March 5 to host the Tonga Tsunami Relief Benefit.

In collaboration with the non-profit Friends of Tonga and the Tongan Community DMV, the event celebrated the heritage and diversity of Tongan and Polynesian cultures while raising funds to rebuild schools that were destroyed on the island nation during the Jan. 15 tsunami.

"The Tongan communities of the DMV area have come together to raise money to rebuild some of the infrastructure that was destroyed by the volcanic eruptions and subsequent tsunami in Tonga," said Alfasene Alipia, who participated in the cultural demonstrations.

Traditional Polynesian dance forms of Haka, Hula and Maullulu were performed along with live music and other Tongan and fire dances. The Gallery highlighted Tongan art that culminated with a live auction at the end of the evening.

Attendees were able to observe and participate in a Kava ceremony, a drink traditionally consumed for its calming effects throughout the Pacific Ocean cultures of Hawaii, Vanuatu, Melanesia and parts of Micronesia. "Traditional Polynesian gatherings always include Kava," added Alipia. "This is an integral part of Tongan culture."

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Lipo Saipaia demonstrates the traditional Haka dance at the Tonga Tsunami Relief Benefit March 5 at Galactic Panther Gallery on King Street.

Officially known as The Kingdom of Tonga, the Polynesian nation is composed of an archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific Ocean. The Jan. 15 eruption of the submarine volcanic Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai in Tonga caused

tsunamis that impacted nations as far away as New Zealand, Japan, the United States, the Russian Far East, Chile and Peru.

"Today's event was a way to connect with the community," said Erik Muendel, owner of ESP Tea



Attendees gather at Galactic Panther Gallery March 5 for the Tonga Tsunami Relief Benefit.

and Coffee and The Galactic Panther Gallery. "ESP Tea and Coffee regularly hosts Kava nights on the weekend to help educate, strengthen and form new bonds of friendship with the Tongan community."

Muendel estimates that more

than \$5,000 was raised during the event for the nonprofit Friends of Tonga, a charitable organization that supports educational and developmental opportunities in the Kingdom of Tonga.

www.friendsoftonga.org

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ MARCH 10-16, 2022 ♦ 3

Food on the Stove

Nonprofit focuses on firefighter health.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Kevin McRae, a colleague of DC firefighter Jonathan Tate, collapsed and died after making several rescues at the scene of a fire in 2015, a spark ignited inside him to do all he could to help promote a healthier lifestyle for firefighters.

Son of a DC fire chief, Tate has made improving health and wellness in the fire service his personal mission.

“I noticed that the culture of health in the fire service is a struggle and I wanted to do something to change that.”

— Food on the Stove founder Jonathan Tate

“In nine years of retirement, my dad had three heart attacks and cancer,” Tate said. “He never really got to enjoy his retirement after 32 years on the job. I saw the strongest man I knew go to the weakest man that I knew. Between him and Lieutenant McRae, it really drove me to try to make an impact in health and wellness in the fire service because it’s definitely needed.” Tate’s father worked for DC Fire and EMS from 1956 to 1989.

“I noticed that the culture of health in the fire service is a struggle and I wanted to do something to change that,” said Tate. “So I started Food on the Stove to serve firefighters and to change the culture of health and wellness in the fire service.”

In the fall of 2018, Tate launched the initiative Food on the Stove.

“It’s a double entendre,” Tate explained. “It’s something we hear on a daily basis, the reason for the majority of calls we receive, but we really need to also pay attention to the food that we have on our stove in the firehouse.”



Firefighter and Food on the Stove founder Johnathan Tate speaks to firefighters about the importance of healthy eating and exercise Feb. 17 at Station 203 on Cameron Mills Road.

Food on the Stove executive chef Brazil Murphy puts the finishing touches on a meal for firefighters Feb. 17 at Station 203 on Cameron Mills Road. The nonprofit seeks to educate firefighters on the importance of healthy eating and exercise.

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Executive chef Brazil Murphy of Food on the Stove grills a meal for firefighters outside Fire Station 203.



Food on the Stove executive chef Brazil Murphy prepares the first course salad with just two tablespoons of dressing.



Food on the Stove executive chef Brazil Murphy checks on the main course.



Firefighters enjoy the first course salad prepared by Food on the Stove Feb 17 at Station 203.



Battalion Chief Gregory Cook and Captain Jason Wehmeyer stand aside the Food on the Stove truck Feb. 17 at Station 203 on Cameron Mills Road.

On Feb. 17, Tate and Food on the Stove executive chef Brazil Murphy brought their skills to Alexandria Fire Station 203 on Cameron Mills Road. Firefighters were given a presentation on healthy eating preparation and skills and were served a special meal prepared by Murphy.

“The mission of Food on the Stove is to provide tools and resources to help firefighters live a healthier lifestyle through enhanced nutrition and exercise,” Tate said. “We will return as much as the city would like to have us. We are looking forward to partnering with Alexandria to share the vision of Food on the Stove and to also change the heart and health of firefighters one meal at a time.”

Classical Movements

Classical Movements' first March offerings in its Secret Garden Concert Series feature two special events reflecting world events. This Thursday, March 10, "Flamenco Meets Tabla," a cross cultural collaboration features a recently arrived Afghan refugee musician. On Tuesday, March 22, musicians from the National Symphony and Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestras are featured in a Concert for Ukraine.

711 Princess Street,
Alexandria, VA 22314
ClassicalMovements.com
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March 10:

"Flamenco Guitar Meets Tabla"

On March 10, Afghan tabla-player Hamid Raouf Habib Zada makes his debut in the Secret

Garden Concert Series collaborative, cross-cultural musical exchange with flamenco guitarist and vocalist Wadih Ettabbakh. In August 2021, Habib Zada made a narrow escape with his family from the persecution against musicians threatened by the return of the Taliban. In the United States, he has been able to pursue his career as a performer on the tabla, the hand drums popular in India and throughout South Asia.

Habib Zada's own Hindustani classical musical tradition will intersect with Wadih Ettabbakh's own fusion of flamenco and Moroccan styles, a musical journey from Spain to Afghanistan, from Morocco to India – com-

plemented by a glass of Spanish wine.

This is the first installment in Classical Movements' "A Little Good Night Music," a new series of informal evening concerts presented in the glass-enclosed Atrium of The Rectory.

March 22:

"A Concert for Ukraine"

In response to the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, Classical Movements dedicates its 100th concert, the Spring Season Opening Concert on Tuesday, March 22, in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, featuring musicians from the National Symphony and the Washington National Opera/Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Concert for Ukraine will feature Ukrainian violinist Zino Bogachek and violinist Natasha Bogachek, violist Eric De-Waardt, and cellist Loewi Lin. Repertoire will include Bedřich Smetana's String Quartet No. 1, "From My Life," a powerful autobiographical work that reflects the personal and political tribulations that shaped the composer's life, as well as works by Ukrainian composers, including Myroslav Skoryk's heartbreakingly beautiful "A Melody." A portion of proceeds from ticket sales and the entirety of additional donations will be donated to Doctors Without Borders in support of their relief efforts in Ukraine.

Both "A Little Good Night Music" and "A Concert for Ukraine" will be presented in the Atrium at the Rectory on Princess Street.

Tickets and additional details about both programs can be found at: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

Pretty in Pink

FROM PAGE 1

The centerpiece of the installation are the words "I Love You" illuminated in pink neon lights. The 15-foot-high scripted letters will sit above a hand-painted pink and white ground mural simulating a carpet. The intent is to define the space as a room open to everyone.

"The unexpected and luminous social space will invite visitors to get lost for a few moments in this fictional realm," said the city in a press release.

The husband and wife team of Behar and Marquardt were commissioned to create an original installation for the location with a focus on the community-building role of public art.

According to the city, "I Love You" captures the public's imagination in a celebration of friendship and camaraderie in the heart of Alexandria.

R&R STUDIOS was selected to create the site-specific artwork by a community task force with approval from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. The

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award-winning firm is known for creating public social sculptures around the world, including All together Now in downtown Denver, the biggest M in the world in Miami, The Living Room, their iconic Miami home turned inside out, Public Squares in Mexico City and Copenhagen and Besame Mucho at Coachella Music and Arts Festival.

The "Site See: New Views in Old Town" temporary public art series highlights Waterfront Park as a civic space. This installation follows Mark Reigelman's 2021 "Groundswell," Olalekan Jeyifous' 2020 "Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies," and SOFT-lab's 2019 "Mirror Mirror."

Installation of "I Love You" will begin March 9. The city will also work with regional artists for public space activations that respond to "I Love You" later this year. Once installed, the attraction will be accessible from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Visit alexandriava.gov/PublicArt for more information about the "I Love You" public art installation and the Site See public art series.



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.

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OPINION

What Happens to the Bills that Die?

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

When session adjourns sine die on March 12th, every member will return to their district with a winnowed legislative agenda. This is always the case, but it is particularly true in a year with split party control of the legislative chambers. Often at this time of the year, I get asked, "What happens next? Does this bill have any future?" Understandably, some constituents are disappointed when hard-fought legislation falters. Some are fired up and ready to continue their advocacy. Regardless, the afterlife of legislation plants the seeds for future bills. We don't let hard work go to waste.

Of my original twenty-five bills, thirteen will not advance to the Governor's desk. Each faced unique challenges, and for those interested in the debate on each bill, the Senate and House archive all videos of the Committee and Subcommittee hearings where the bills were heard. Three bills were passed by in order to study the problem they sought to address before next year's legislative session. These include my bill to provide pay parity for public defenders compared to their counterparts in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices (SB282), legislation to reduce negative interactions during traffic stops and improve data on racial profiling (SB277), and a bill seeking to establish privacy for individuals' genetic data, such as that collected by services like 23andme (SB419).

The work of our public defenders is a cornerstone to the fairness of our justice system, and I look forward to the results of the study examining their compensation. Addressing the potentially tense moments of traffic stops remains a priority of mine as does codifying consumer protections for personal information in the



growing field of direct-to-consumer genetic testing. Based on the results of the study and work groups established this session, I may develop new legislation next year to address these concerns.

Two bills were continued to next year, meaning that committees can review them in the interim if they

choose, but they will likely need to be brought back in a different form next session. One was my bill aiming to address eviction defenses (SB284) and the other was my major continued effort to establish a legal-adult-use market for cannabis (SB391). This legislation would have comprehensively stood up a legal adult-use sales market, created health and safety regulations to ensure public health and effectively banned youth access to the product. It also would have reformed our criminal justice system, expanded expungements and allowed for resentencing for those with prior cannabis convictions, was the product of two year's hard work, two studies by the nonpartisan Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, and intense review by the Cannabis Oversight Commission, which I chair. House of Delegates Republicans, though promising to take action to create an adult-use marketplace that would cut down the growing illicit market and create an avenue for burgeoning Virginia small business, killed the bill with minimal debate on a party line vote. Lack of action on this topic means another year of proliferating synthesized cannabis (like "delta-8") in gas stations and convenience stores and illicit trade which will drown out the legal marketplace without swift action. The House's inaction this year was an abject failure for Virginians and public safety.

Five of my bills were killed outright, including my two measures aiming to address gun

violence (SB643 and SB310) and my constitutional amendment affirming the right to marry (SJ5). The Republican House killed the amendment in an early morning subcommittee meeting. In doing so they denied voters the right to decide whether or not to repeal a stain on our state constitution — an inoperable provision denying the right to marriage to same-sex couples and replacing it with an affirming right to marry regardless of gender or sex. I will continue to fight both to defend and affirm the rights of LGBTQ Virginians, as well as to protect our communities from gun violence caused by the proliferation of firearms and unaddressed criminal loopholes.

My bill repealing a cumbersome and unnecessary triennial audit requirement for home care organizations was rolled into SB580, introduced by Senator McDougale (R-Hanover) and I'm pleased to report this bill passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature to become law.

Though it does not always turn out as we hope or worked for, the legislation that dies does not disappear. Rather, it lays the foundation for what comes after we all leave Richmond and return home. We will refer to it, build upon it, or modify it as we move ahead. Throughout the year, I will be connecting with constituents, speaking to community members, organizations, and businesses about their ideas for how we can improve legislation and what new bills may be needed. This will help inform what we start drafting for next year.

It is an honor to serve you in Richmond. I look forward to reporting on the successful bills we pass soon.

P.S. If you are a member of a civic group that would like me to provide a post-session legislative update in the late spring or early summer, please email my office at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

The Rundown Major action on many bills.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, Week 7 of the 2022 Regular General Assembly Session, brought major action on many bills. This coming week, no committees can meet after Monday and the session is scheduled to end on Saturday, March 12.

The House of Delegates killed seven of my 25 remaining bills. First, SB246 required law enforcement officers to advise a driver why they were stopped before asking for their driver's license and vehicle registration. I introduced this bill after a constituent from Kingstowne ended up in the local news after she was stopped and charged with driving while intoxicated and after she asked why she was stopped. She blew a 0.00% breath alcohol concentration and her case dismissed, but the entire

situation was avoidable. This policy is consistent with Virginia law enforcement accreditation standards, Virginia State Police and Fairfax County Police policies, but the Virginia Sheriffs Association opposed it and a House committee voted the bill down on a party-line vote.

The same constituent was also encouraged to file a police complaint, which she did, but when her case became public the law enforcement agency claimed she had not filed anything. A second bill required law enforcement agencies to provide a written confirmation of all complaints, a practice also consistent with accreditation. The state's Sheriffs opposed this bill too and a House committee defeated it on a party-line vote.

Next, we passed Sen. Adam Ebbin's legislation last session that decriminalized the possession of

small amounts of marijuana by adults. This session, I introduced legislation allowing anyone currently incarcerated for marijuana distribution to seek a resentencing

proceeding and all people whose sentences were enhanced due to a prior marijuana-related conviction to see a review of their sentence by

SEE SUROVELL, PAGE 13

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NEWS

Property Tax Ceiling: \$1.115/\$100

On March 8, the Alexandria City Council voted unanimously to consider a 2022 calendar year real estate tax rate of up to \$1.115 per \$100 of assessed value. If the City Council adopts the real estate tax rate in the proposed budget of \$1.11 for 2022, then the average residential tax bill would increase \$445, or 6.5%, when compared to 2021 residential tax bills.

The real estate tax rate that City Council eventually adopts could be either lower than or equal to the current rate of \$1.11; however, it cannot be higher than the maximum tax rate that is advertised. No increase will be considered for the tax rates on personal property (vehicles) or business-tangible property.

On Feb. 15, City Manager James Parajon proposed a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Operating Budget that funds 100% of City government and Alexandria City Public Schools

operating costs at the current tax rate of \$1.11, with no proposed tax rate increase. By advertising the \$1.115 rate, City Council created flexibility in the tax rate setting decision. The Council may also consider those operating budget and capital investment priorities that are not funded in the City Manager's proposed budget.

The proposed budget did not include a real estate tax rate change, so this increase occurs primarily in response to increases in residential real property assessed values. If City Council adopts the maximum real estate tax rate of \$1.115 for 2022, then the average residential tax bill would increase \$477, or 7.0%.

City Council will adopt final rates in conjunction with adoption of the FY 2023 budget on May 4. A virtual public hearing on the ordinance establishing the real estate tax rate will be held on Saturday, April 23, at 9:30 a.m.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden executive director Amanda Roper, second from left, shares the history of African Americans that lived at the property during the Feb. 12 program, "Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Workers at Lee-Fendall."

'Under the Same Roof'

Lee-Fendall program shares stories of the enslaved.

The Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden marked Black History month with a program Feb. 12 titled "Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Workers at Lee-Fendall."

Attendees of the outdoor event learned about the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home, both before and after the Civil War. Stories were shared of the experiences of the enslaved and their contributions to the site and its history.

The home dates back to 1785 and served as a residence for several generations of the family of Henry

"Light Horse Harry" Lee until 1903. Both enslaved and free African Americans lived and worked on the property with this period of residency only interrupted during the Civil War when the Union Army turned the property into a hospital for wounded soldiers.

A video of some of the stories shared during the Under the Roof program is available at www.leefendall-house.org.

- JEANNE THEISMANN



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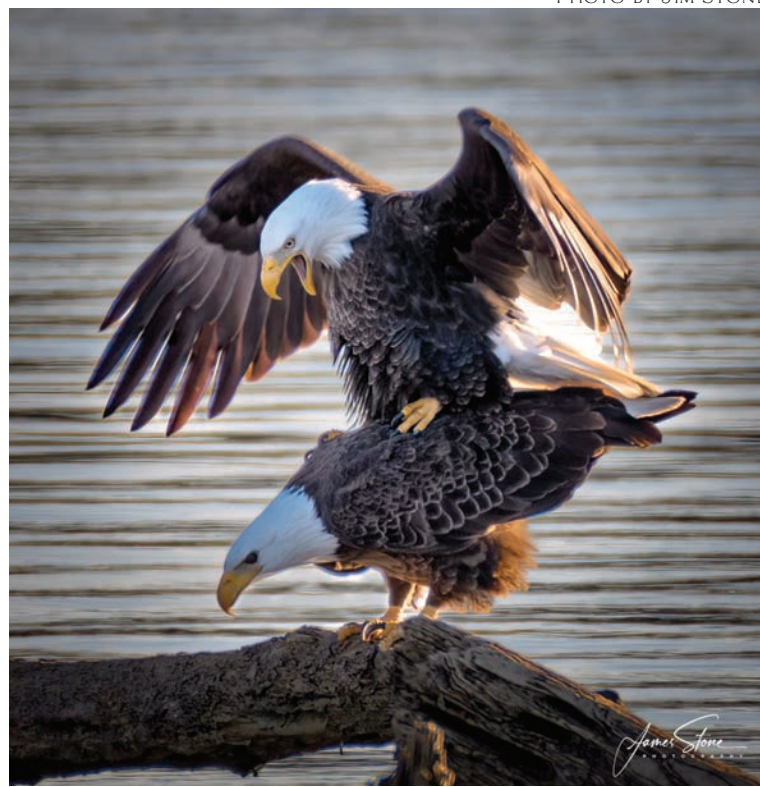
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Bald eagle nest in Dyke Marsh.



Bald eagles mating.

Bald Eagles Are Thriving but Face Challenges

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
GAZETTE PACKET

“Virginia’s tidal rivers are just loaded with bald eagles,” Jeff Cooper told 210 people attending the March 2 meeting of the Friends of Dyke Marsh. These large raptors with an 80-inch wingspan regularly breed, nest, forage and migrate on and near rivers like the Potomac. People see bald eagles frequently at Dyke Marsh, Mason Neck and Fort Belvoir. Cooper is wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and has worked with birds for over 30 years and co-authored 17 papers.

In and around Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck, there are nests every half mile or so because there’s so much food available, he said. In recent years, Dyke Marsh has had three active bald eagle nests.

Bald eagles feed mainly on fish which they catch with their sharp yellow talons. “They make their living with their feet. Virginia is rich in aquatic resources,” Cooper said. When an eagle pair raises their young, they forage near their nest, so eaglets’ success is highly contingent on habitat quality, Cooper said. Bald eagles are highly territorial and mate for life.

The Potomac and James Rivers consistently see high use by migrant and “local” eagles, breeding pairs, offspring and all age classes. From Dyke Marsh south to where route 301 crosses the Rappahannock River is what wildlife biologists call a “bald eagle concentration area.” The area also

has non-paired, adult bald eagles called “floaters,” birds constantly roaming the landscape trying to find mates. Floater numbers are increasing because the area is so saturated with breeding pairs.

The Chesapeake Bay is the epicenter of eagle conservation, having the densest breeding population in the lower 48 states and a critical stop on the Atlantic flyway, and northern and southern populations rely on the Bay for winter or summer habitat.

“What happens in the Bay has an impact,” Cooper said.

Belle View resident Carolyn Gamble commented, “Jeff Cooper’s talk opened my eyes to how much bald eagles depend on our stretch of the Potomac River as well as the entire Bay area. I enjoyed learning from someone with many years of ‘hands-on’ experience and have a greater appreciation for the DWR’s research.”

Tagging and Tracking Eagles

Cooper and his colleagues tag bald eagles in Virginia’s coastal plain, generally east of Interstate 95. In 2007, they started tagging with cellular transmitters to trace the birds’ movements. He has tagged over 130 bald eagles and over 40 golden eagles. Golden eagles are found in mountainous regions. Adults are dark brown all over with a golden sheen on their neck and head visible from some angles. Like bald eagles, they have a powerful beak and talons.

To capture an eagle, Cooper puts out road-kill deer and he hides; when the eagle feeds on the bait, Cooper shoots a 40-by-



Jeff Cooper holding a bald eagle at Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.



Jeff Cooper measures eagles’ beaks. Here, Sandy Spencer holds the eagle, caught at Virginia’s Rappahannock River National Wildlife Refuge.

60-foot, rocket-powered net over the birds. He also uses a bow net with a leather trigger and at times to snare an eagle, puts foam in a gizzard shad to make the fish float. For most eagles, he takes measurements and blood samples, bands them and attaches a transmitter on the eagle’s back.

The process takes from 35 minutes to one hour.

To count nestlings and check their health, he climbs trees like an arborist. “I was put in the emergency room a few times because of eagle claws,” he snickered.

Challenges

Lead levels in both eagle species are a serious threat today. Cooper cited a February paper by Vince Slabe and others with Conservation Science Global which found that nearly half of bald and golden eagles tested between 2010 and 2018 in the U. S. show signs of chronic lead poisoning. This was the first study to sample eagles across the entire country. Eagles scavenge and ingest spent lead ammunition from carcasses and gut piles left by hunters. “Chronic poisoning suggests repeated expo-

sure to lead over the long term,” the authors wrote. Lead poisoning can make birds weak, emaciated and uncoordinated, thus less able to evade predators and dangers. The study, published in Science, is at <https://www.science.org/stoken/author-tokens/ST-344/full>.

Collisions with both civilian and military aircraft are another threat. Cooper called Virginia and Florida “hotspots” for eagle-aircraft strikes. Most airports are located in prime eagle habitats because they are near water. Eagles are “big

SEE BALD EAGLES, PAGE 10

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HISTORY



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Ground-level view of antenna array at Hybla Valley Field Station, 1958. Today, this is the central wetland at Huntley Meadows Park.



HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK, FCPA

Aerial view of Naval Research Laboratory antenna array. The road leading to the antenna is the hike and bike trail located at the South Kings Highway entrance to Huntley Meadows Park.



Brady, "Mrs. Morris" Washington.

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CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The mysterious Ada Hewitt; AKA Mrs. Morris; AKA Mrs. Mason.

Spies, Sputnik and Other Secrets In Huntley Meadows Park

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
GAZETTE PACKET

At Huntley Meadows Park, the raccoons, snakes and skinks hide undercover to avoid detection. The park has a hidden human side too, Cheryl Repetti told a group on a Feb. 28 walk on the park's west side. Repetti is the Historical Interpreter and Site Coordinator for Historic Huntley.

Northern Virginia's proximity to the nation's capital has attracted foreign and domestic spies over the years, starting with George Washington's Revolutionary War espionage network. In a Mount Vernon Museum video, an actor portraying a post-war Brit says that the Americans did not "outfight us, they outspied us," Repetti recalled.

During the Civil War, Augusta Heath, also known as Ada Hewitt,

SEE HUNTLEY MEADOWS, PAGE 10



Wires bundled in rubber tubes protrude from the forest floor today, left by the communications work and research.

The trail on the west side of the park. Cheryl Repetti said that the forest is "young," that most of the trees were not present when the communications, satellite and road work were done in the park.



Cheryl Repetti shows a photo of the paved oval, the site of asphalt testing.



Huntley Meadows Park's Cheryl Repetti described women spies of the Civil War, including the mysterious "Mrs. Morris."



Huntley Meadows Park's Cheryl Repetti led a walk exploring the park's "hidden history." A small piece of masking tape on the park sign is one way spies signaled they had made a drop.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Huntley Meadows Park

FROM PAGE 9

a woman who called herself “Mrs. Morris,” mentioned “Huntly” in her letters from prison after she was arrested for alleged espionage against the United States. This was a reference to today’s Historic Huntley, the 15-room country house, acquired in 1820 by Alexandria’s mayor, Thomson Francis Mason, grandson of Gunston Hall’s George Mason IV. The Masons likely retreated to their villa to decompress from city life and enjoy the hilltop breezes and view of their 800-plus acres.

The Surreptitious “Mrs. Morris”

Mrs. Morris claimed she had married Thomson and Betsey Mason’s son, John Francis “Frank” Mason, and had a child with him in Paris. In prison, Mrs. Morris confessed to being a Confederate spy and in her letters to Frank, hinted that her mother-in-law was a Union sympathizer. Alexandria and that part of Fairfax County were then under Union occupation. She wrote, “Huntly has not been touched. All this goes to prove your mother’s position is very well understood here by the Lincoln Government.”

While no one has documented that the ever-resourceful Mrs. Morris visited Huntley, records show she met Confederate President Jefferson Davis. An 1872 letter by “X” to the Alexandria Gazette lauded her mastery in covert operations. “Of her powers of fascination there can be no question, statesmen and warriors having surrendered at discretion to her charms of form and intellect,” X penned. With her duplicitous wiles, she obtained Union General Irvin McDowell’s plans for the 1861 march on Manassas Junction, wrote the plans in code, wrapped the document in black silk and hid it in her hair bun, said Repetti. Her accomplice slipped the plans to Confederate General Pierre G. T. Beauregard.

In 1872, Mrs. Morris testified in the U.S. Senate when some alleged that an unauthorized sale of U. S. arms to France violated U.S. neutrality in the Franco-Prussian War. She was also connected to an insurrection in Cuba.

Anti-Aircraft Defense

During World War II, three damaged U.S. B29 bombers were forced to land in Soviet territory. Stalin ordered his underlings to dismantle and copy them. This generated anxiety among high-level U.S. officials, so to strengthen U.S. defenses, the Army built anti-aircraft sites armed with guns near major cities. The Virginia National Guard Battery D had 134 men who staffed a site at today’s Huntley Meadows and operated four 90- and 120-millimeter, anti-aircraft guns. Today, the facility’s sidewalks and other concrete remnants peek out from the forest floor.

In the 1950s, as Cold War tensions mounted between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, new surface-to-air missile defense systems made anti-aircraft guns obsolete and the Navy decommissioned the Huntley site. The Pentagon then circled Washington, D.C., with 13 Nike anti-aircraft missile complexes. Fairfax County had three, one near Lorton today which has a historic marker declaring, “This was the only Nike complex in Fairfax County containing missiles armed with nuclear warheads.”

Tracking Enemy Submarines and Sputnik

Birds chirp in the park today. For 20 years, hush-hush technology chirped. Wires poking out of the ground today were left by the Naval Research Laboratory’s (NRL) Hybla Valley Research Station, which from 1958 to 1971 conducted classified radio communication research and built top-secret antenna arrays organized in two circular fields to track signals from

Soviet submarines off the Atlantic coast.

The site of a former circular antenna array is today’s central wetland, created in 1978 when beavers built a dam. Severe droughts in the wetland can expose metal pieces and parch marks showing ground disturbance.

In 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik I, a beach-ball-size, artificial satellite that orbited the Earth in about 98 minutes, beating the U.S. in that era’s “space race” and sending shock waves across America. Hybla Valley NRL radio employees tracked Sputnik’s orbits. Many say that Sputnik led to the U.S. space program.

In the early 1960s, today’s park was also the site for a Naval Research Laboratory command and control station for the U.S. government’s GRAB (Galactic Radiation and Background) satellite, a signals intelligence satellite first launched in 1961, shortly after the loss of the U-2 spy plane flown by Gary Powers in 1960. Powers was performing photographic aerial reconnaissance in Soviet territory. According to the National Security Agency’s website, GRAB’s unclassified mission was to collect solar radiation data. Its secret mission was to gather “radar pulses within a specific bandwidth from Soviet equipment,” data ultimately sent to the Strategic Air Command and NSA.

The Naval Research Laboratory’s work on GRAB eventually led to the Global Positioning System (GPS) today found in most cell phones.

From 1943 to 1953, the then federal Bureau of Public Roads tested asphalt to determine its capacity to support heavy vehicles. This work may have been security related, for example, to develop pavement to support tanks. Parts of the oval track, still there, are now in the park’s maintenance area and closed to the public.

Green Spring Park

Today’s Green Spring Park and mansion near Anandale were the former farm of Michael Straight who while working for the Franklin Roosevelt administration spied for the Soviets’ security agency, until 1991, the KGB. He had joined the Communist Party as a student at England’s Cambridge University. The Straight family donated Green Spring Farm to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Straight’s second memoir, *On Green Spring Farm: The Life and Times of One Family in Fairfax County, Va., 1942 to 1966* was published posthumously.

Almost Perfect for Covert Operations

Parks have been favorite drop-off sites for clandestine operations. The county’s sign for Foxstone Park is in Washington, D.C.’s, International Spy Museum.

Robert Hanssen worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1976 to 2001 and for most of that time, also worked for the Russians as “Ramon Garcia.” He left papers and cash at dead drop sites in Fairfax and Arlington parks, including Eakin, Idylwood, Canterbury Woods, Lewinsville, Wolftrap and Foxstone.

Hanssen gave each park a code name and signaled drops with inconspicuous materials like adhesive tape, thumbtacks and colored chalk. He made his last drop at Foxstone near his Vienna home in 2001 as FBI agents watched him tape classified material packaged in black garbage bag to the underside of a footbridge over Wolftrap Creek. Reportedly, he said, “What took you so long?”

Most of the Huntley Meadows Park sites are accessible today from the trail at 6901 South Kings Highway. Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, is near the park’s Lockheed Boulevard entrance.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Jeff Cooper releasing the bald eagle.

Bald Eagles Are Thriving But Face Challenges

FROM PAGE 8

Cooper said, and have crashed through cockpits. In the Chesapeake Bay region, there were seven airstrikes between 1990 to 2009, 18 from 2010 to 2015, and some are not reported. Cooper is working with Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, where between 2013 to 2020, he tagged over 130 eagles with cellular transmitters for an aircraft strike study.

Back from the Brink

Haliaeetus leucocephalus, the bald eagle, was once headed for extinction in the lower 48 states. In 1963, only 417 nesting pairs were documented. Scientists attribute their decline to DDT and other compounds in pesticides that moved up the food chain and made eggshells so thin that chicks failed to hatch. In 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) put the bald eagle on the endangered species list. In 1972, Congress banned DDT and bald eagle population numbers started to rise.

In 2007, FWS removed bald eagles from the endangered species list. Since 1977, Virginia’s breeding population has increased ten-fold, says William and Mary’s Center for Conservation Biology website.

Mount Vernonite Greg Cridler promoted the talk among his friends and neighbors and found it “very informative and interesting. Apparently, the characteristics of our area are the most attractive on the east coast which is why we are seeing more bald eagles,” he said.

You can view the presentation at www.fodm.org. Cosponsors of the meeting were the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, the Northern Virginia Bird Club, the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Mason Neck State Park.

Several live cameras monitor bald eagle nests, including nests at the National Arboretum, <https://naeaglecam.org>, and the Dulles Greenway, <http://www.dullesgreenway.com/eagle-cam/>.

Community Resources for Older Adults

BY MARGARET SHETLER
NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Margaret Shetler

As an Age-Friendly Community, the City of Alexandria has a commitment to its older adults, with various programs supporting the well-being, safety, and independence of older Alexandrians. Access to these critical services makes it possible for older adults to remain in the community and age with dignity. To learn about what Alexandria has to offer, register for Senior Services of Alexandria's (SSA) March 17 Workshop on Community Resources for Older Adults to stay home and live independently.

The workshop will cover SSA's life-sustaining nutrition programs and other services, including Meals on Wheels, Groceries-to-Go, and the Friendly Visitor program.

There will also be a discussion about the Commission on Aging's Age Friendly plan, which is being updated to reflect the current and future needs of older adults in the community. The Age Friendly plan (2019-2021) was created in 2018 after Alexandria became the first community in Virginia to be accepted

to the AARP/World Health Organization's Network of Age Friendly Communities.

The plan focuses on the needs of older Alexandrians, with a wider goal to create a livable community for all ages. Topics covered in the plan include social inclusion, housing, transportation, health and community services, and civic participation and employment. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to give their input and share perspectives on what would make Alexandria a more Age Friendly community.

The "Community Resources for Older Adults" workshop will be held virtually via zoom on Thursday, March 17th at 10 am. Don't miss this informative event and the opportunity to join an important discussion on the needs of older adults, and how they can be supported by the community. To register go to www.seniorservice-salex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

This workshop is part of SSA's Senior Living in Alexandria Speaker Series, an educational and informative program where experts and speakers share their expertise on different topics relevant to older adults.

**Senior Services of Alexandria
March 17 Workshop
10 am via Zoom**

CALENDAR

SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria is seeking applications for grants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofits in Northern Virginia that provide services in the areas of Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency. Application deadline is April 28. Contact communitygrant@wpc-alex.org or follow this link <https://wpc-alex.org/westminster-community-grant/>

MARCH 2-31

Woodlawn's 2022 Needlework Show, Common Threads: Connecting People, Families, and Communities, Past and Present, in person. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The 59th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show's theme "Common Threads" focuses on the threads in life that connect us as a community and the commonalities that exist among all people, as demonstrated through the pursuit of craft. Every day except Tuesdays. For more information on the theme and submitting work, www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. Call 703-780-4000 or email woodlawn@savingplaces.org

MARCH 4-26

Flora & Fauna Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores the interdependence of plants and animals, combining art with science. Exhibit is open at Noon, Thursdays - Sundays, from Friday, March 4 to Saturday, March 26. It closes at 6:00 pm, except Saturdays it is open until 9 p.m. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/2022/01/flora-fauna/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Spanish Guitar Music. 7-8 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Sip Spanish wine as you journey from



The Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango concert will be held on Saturday, March 19 in Alexandria.

Saturday/March 19

Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango. 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, present an evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi and Piazzolla in the intimate setting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Hear Baroque renditions with principals from the ASO featured as soloists. Cost: \$45. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/brandenburg/>

Southern Spain, through North Africa, all the way to Afghanistan. Join them in the Atrium for a pre-season display of improvisation, virtuosity, and an unforgettable exchange between cultures. Guitarist Wadih Ettabbakh returns after opening our autumn season with his distinctive blend of flamenco and Moroccan music, joined by newly arrived Afghan musician Hamid Habib Zada playing the tabla, the ancient hand drums central to musical traditions across South Asia. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Grand Opening Event. 6-8 p.m. At Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, in Fort Hunt, Alexandria. Named after the Greek term for "a place of no sorrow," Nepenthe Gallery will be the first of its kind in Alexandria - a vibrant artistic oasis that gallery owners and Alexandria natives Jim and Carrie Garland hope will also serve as a community gathering spot. Every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 p.m., Nepenthe will host an art, wine and cheese

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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Newspapers & Online

Mount Vernon Gazette
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CENTRE VIEW

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Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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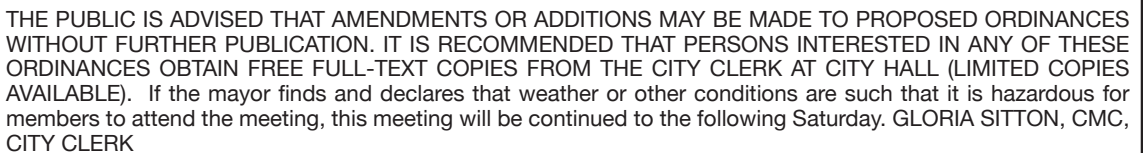
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4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
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THE CONNECTION **Alexandria Gazette Packet** **Mount Vernon Gazette** **Potomac ALMANAC**



Irish Hooley. 2-4 p.m. At Saint Mary's School, 400 Green Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Basilica of Saint Mary will host the annual Saint Patrick's Day Hooley. All proceeds from ticket sales benefit Christ House in Alexandria. There will be Irish food and drink catered by Murphy's, Irish dancers, music by Pat Garvey, bagpipes, a silent auction and a raffle. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for children and may be purchased

Brandenburg, Vivaldi & Tango. 7:30
p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria
Symphony Orchestra, led by Music
Director James Ross, present an
evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi
and Piazzolla in the intimate
setting of St. Paul's Episcopal
Church. Hear Baroque renditions
with principals from the ASO
featured as soloists. Cost: \$45. Visit
the website: [https://alexsym.org/
performance/brandenburg/](https://alexsym.org/performance/brandenburg/)

OPINION

The Rundown

FROM PAGE 6

the Parole Board. A House committee killed the bill on a party-line vote.

Fourth, the COVID-19 Pandemic spotlighted the sacrifice and vulnerability of our front-line health-care, grocery store and other workers who kept working and because of the nature of their jobs, could not work from home. I carried SB352 with Del. Candi King which would have required most health-care and grocery store employers to provide 30 hours of sick leave per year to these heroes who also lost many colleagues. Front-line workers should not have to choose between going to work sick where they can spread illness and their paycheck. It died in committee on a party-line vote.

In 1969, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision that allows police officers to lie to suspects in an effort to obtain a confession. However, multiple studies show that juveniles do not have the sophistication of adults, are more susceptible to deception, are more deferential to authority than adults, which can result in false confessions and wrongful convictions. I carried legislation similar to a bill introduced by Del. Sally Hudson to heighten the government's burden in such cases, but it died on a party-line vote in a House committee.

Finally, I also carried legislation to clean up and clarify some inconsistencies in our rules relating to the sealing of convictions and expungement of acquittals in connection with the landmark legislation I passed with Del. Charniele Herring last year. A House committee rejected it on a party-line vote with little discussion.

Nearly all of my other bills are awaiting the Governor's signature. A few will go into a conference committee for negotiation and final resolution. The House and Senate budget negotiators have started meeting, but when the available revenues are \$3 billion apart, it is virtually impossible to negotiate. We may need a special session to resolve the differences.

Over 250 constituents have completed my constituent survey. Thus far, 91% support extending the Yellow Line to Woodbridge, 87% would like to see Fairfax County match our state funds to provide teachers a 5% pay raise, 76% support underground utilities on U.S. 1, and funding priorities should be secondary education, mental health care and transportation, while the top issue is climate change. Please provide your opinions on the Commanders football stadium, reproductive choice, firearm violence prevention and marijuana legalization. You can complete your version at www.scottsuovell.org/survey

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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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NEWS

Free St. Patrick's Day Lyft Rides Offered

Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly two-thirds (63%) of nighttime U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization says free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this month's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) and operate until 4:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 on www.SoberRide.com.

During the 2019 St. Patrick's Day campaign (COVID-19 eliminated the 2020 campaign and limited last year's offering), nearly 700 (697) people in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired — the second highest level of ridership for St. Patrick's Day in SoberRide's 31-year history. The charity also of-

fers its SoberRide® program on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's Eve.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2022 Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 81,645 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Inova Announces \$1 Million For Nonprofits to Address Health Equity

Inova Health System is calling for applicants for its 2022 Health Equity Grant program. This year, the Health Equity Grants program will award \$1 million in funding – the largest level of funding to date for the program – to nonprofit organizations that provide services to address health needs for the under-resourced and promote equity for all.

In 2021, Inova awarded \$240,000 to 14 nonprofit organizations in Northern Virginia through the (then named) Community Health Fund. With the healthcare inequities experienced by many in our community exacerbated by the global pandemic, Inova nearly quadrupled its grant funds to \$1 million and refocused the program to specifically address health equity locally.

"Meeting the healthcare needs of the Northern Virginia community is a priority for Inova, and our community partners are

instrumental in helping us identify effective ways to support under-resourced groups," said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO of Inova Health System. "Improving the health of our community is about more than direct healthcare, and we are proud to offer these grants to the wonderful organizations who provide the resources our residents need to thrive."

Inova seeks to harness the collective power of community partners, agencies, and organizations to create positive social impact. Special considerations will be given to those eligible organizations owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Applications are due April 6, 2022. Past awardees include: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, The Campagna Center, Loudoun Literacy Council and La Cocina VA.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

March

Thu. Mar. 10: The Oak Ridge Boys \$65.00
Fri. Mar. 11: Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions presents The Voices of Motown. \$35.00
Sat. Mar. 12: An Evening with Tom Rush, accompanied by Matt Nakoa \$45.00
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Annette Hinaman 571.216.4411
www.AnnetteHinaman.com



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Eisenhower Square | \$1,015,000

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Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
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Old Town | \$2,995,000

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Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
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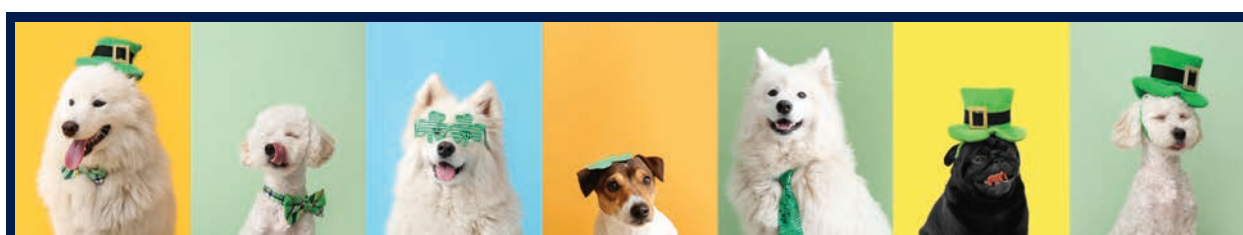
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For 40 years the **Fun Dog Show** was the kick-off event at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Old Town, raising money for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, but restrictions over the last couple years led to event cancellations.

This year, you can still join us in support of the AWLA. Through March 16, 2022, McEneaney Associates will match donations up to \$5,000!

To add to the pot o' gold, follow these simple steps:

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