

CONNECTION McLean ♦ and Oakton Vienna

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PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

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NEWS

Arrest in Shooting Death

On March 14, 2022, at approximately 1 p.m., the Vienna Police Department arrested Andrew Gordiyenko and charged him with the June 10, 2021, shooting death of Matthew Chadwick. Mr. Gordiyenko was charged with three felonies, including Involuntary Manslaughter, Reckless Handling of a Firearm, and Unlawful Firing in an Occupied Dwelling. He is currently being held on no bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.



Andrew Gordiyenko

On June 10, 2021, in the early morning hours, Vienna Police Officers were dispatched to an unknown situation in the 100 block of Patrick St. SE. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a male victim inside an apartment was suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. The victim was transported to the hospital in a life-threatening condition. There were several witnesses on the scene being interviewed by Vienna Police Detectives. Fairfax County Police Crime Scene Section assisted with processing the scene and provided additional resources..

If anyone has information that might assist detectives in the investigation, they are asked to contact the Vienna Police Department at 703-255-6366.

Woman Dead After McLean Crash

A 62-year-old woman died Sunday from injuries sustained in a crash that occurred last week. Officers responded to a crash around 3 p.m. on March 9 in the 8800 block of Georgetown Pike that involved three cars. The driver of a 2020 Audi A5 was traveling west on Georgetown Pike. The driver of a 2005 Nissan Sentra and the driver of a 1991 Toyota MR5 were both traveling east on Georgetown Pike. The driver of the Audi lost control of his car, crossed the double yellow line, and hit the Nissan head-on. The Audi then spun into the path of the Toyota, resulting in the Toyota rear-ending the Audi.

The driver of the Audi was treated for injuries at the scene. The driver of the Toyota was taken to the hospital for injuries not considered life-threatening. The driver of the Nissan, Karla Boggess, 62 of Berryville, was taken to the hospital and succumbed to her injuries four days after the crash.

Detectives continue to investigate to determine if speed or alcohol were factors in the crash. The investigation remains active, and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for review.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the first non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2022.

Year to date, in 2021 there was one non-pedestrian related fatality.


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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.

2022 TEEN JOB FAIR

A Teen Job Fair will be held at Chantilly High School on March 19, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is hosted by Supervisor Pat Herrity's office, Connection Newspapers and

Fairfax County Public Schools. It includes a career-building workshop which focuses on students and young job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, sea-

sonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT COLIN POWELL

Now Thru May 31, 2022. 8 a.m. to 4

p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville has begun kindergarten

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

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4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
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 4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
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NEWS



CONCEPT DRAWINGS VIA FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING
Renderings for possible design of streets, lighting, and public areas in front of buildings in the McLean Commercial Revitalization District.

Virtual Community Workshop for McLean Business Center

How to envision sidewalks and public spaces?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Any new streetscape design must be a collaborative effort including community members who live and work there. This opportunity will be available on Wednesday, March 23, from 6-8 p.m. when Fairfax County staff offer a virtual interactive Community Workshop for Volume II: McLean Design Guidelines.

Volume II is a companion document to "Volume I: Urban Design Guidelines for Fairfax County Revitalization Districts and Areas." It will provide textual and visual concepts for the design of streets, lighting, and public areas in front of buildings in the McLean Commercial Revitalization District.

The new design standards are being developed to enhance the aesthetics of the McLean Commercial Revitalization District. A healthy, vibrant streetscape connected to its sidewalks and public areas, as well as the way buildings interact with the streets, draws people. In other cities and communities, they have become places people go to, not necessarily places one just passes through.

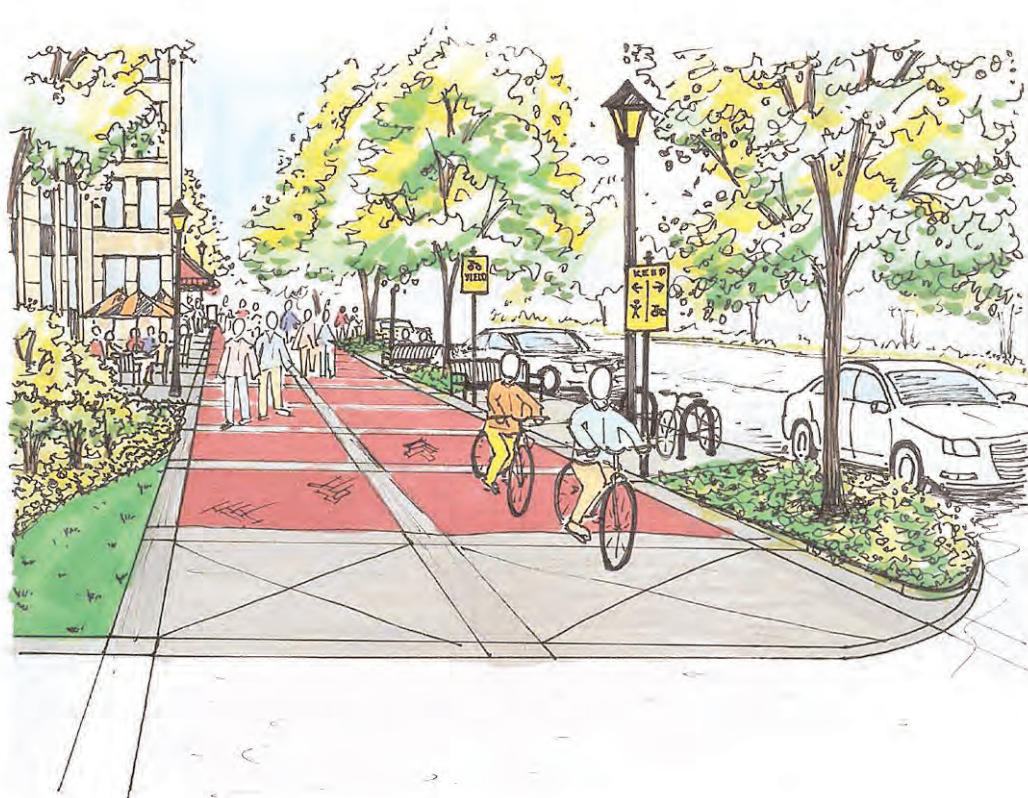
Individuals from McLean are encouraged to participate by sharing their thoughts and concerns about the look of their community's public spaces. Streets, sidewalks, and the areas in front of buildings and their illumination all contribute to the strength or weakness of the connection between people and their shared spaces.

According to an announcement in Supervisor John Foust's Dranesville Dispatch, "The guidelines will be used by owners, developers, citizens, and Fairfax County staff, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors when proposing, designing, or reviewing development projects."

Developers will be urged to observe the guidelines regardless of whether their project needs zoning permission, site plan approval, or is constructed by-right. According to Foust, this will aid in implementing McLean's community vision.

A welcoming pedestrian environment can draw people in and, in doing so, boost business. Streets, sidewalks, and the spaces in front of buildings and their lighting may contribute to a community's economic health by improving the link between people and the places they share.

On Wednesday, March 23, attendees may express their design preferences in break-



out rooms and polls as part of the interactive workshop. For example, participants might be asked what they enjoy about specific street visuals in break-out groups or what they would alter about McLean's streets.

To fully participate and collaborate throughout the workshop, it is recommend-

ed that registered attendees use a desktop or laptop computer, an iPad, or other large-screen device. Download the free MS Teams app before tuning in to the meeting.

To view the agenda and register for the meeting, visit the McLean Design Guidelines website <https://www.fcrevite.org/mclean/design-guidelines> by March 20.



Katie Koshuta #44 drives to the basket for Madison in their 38-29 state championship game with Osbourn Park.

Madison Three-Peat State Champions

BY WILL PALENSCAR
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Madison Warhawks headed to Richmond to the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University to take on the Osbourn Park Yellowjackets on March 11, 2022 for the VHSL Class 6 State Basketball Championship. Osbourn Park came into the game with one loss on the season, to Madison on Dec. 30; 53-35. Madison came in with two losses to

Georgetown Visitation Prep and St. Paul VI. Madison would open the first quarter with an early 8-5 advantage, making just over 27% of their field goal attempts while holding Osbourn Park to just over 22%. In the 2nd quarter Madison would hold Osbourn Park to 1 of their 6 field goal attempts while making 25% and taking a 15-8 halftime advantage. In the 3rd quarter Madison held the Yellowjackets to just over 28% shooting while making half of their attempts, to take a 29-15 lead with a quarter to play. Osbourn

Park would outscore Madison 12-9 in the final quarter, but were unable to mount a come-from-behind victory and prevent Madison's 3rd consecutive Girls Virginia Class 6 State Championship. With the 38-29 win, Madison was led by

Grace Arnolie with 11 points, Mia Chapman with 10 points, and Sarah Link with 8 points. Additionally, Kiera Kohler and Mia Chapman each had 3 blocks, while Alayna

SEE MADISON, PAGE 5



Mia Chapman scored 10 points, 5 rebounds and had 3 blocks in the Girls Virginia Class 6 State Championship game.



Kiera Kohler has her sights on a Warhawk basket.



The Madison Warhawks won their 3rd consecutive girls Virginia State Championship, defeating Osbourn Park at the Siegel Center in Richmond Virginia

SPORTS



Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin presents the Madison Warhawks the Virginia Class 6 Championship Trophy.

Madison Three-Peat State Champions

FROM PAGE 4

Arnolie added 2 blocks. Osbourn Park was led by Hailey Kellog who tallied 15 points to lead all scorers.

After the game, Coach Kirsten Stone and players Kiera Kohler, Mia Chapman, Grace and Alayna Arnolie all described how they focus on defense and let the offense come from steals, rebounds and blocks. While Madison has many talented shooters, they take pride in the fundamentals of basketball with pressure defense, steals and solid passing, everything that makes for a championship team. Even with the loss of 9 players to graduation this year, Madison will likely contend once again for another run to a state championship.

Grace Arnolie led Madison with 11 points, winning the state championship game with Osbourn Park.



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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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Stand and Deliver: Protesting New Virginia Policies

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Durann Thompson wonders why she keeps on coming back to teach school in Fairfax County. “I am tired of having to work nights and weekends. It’s a job that in no way matches the compensation. But I left twice and came back twice. I taught summer camp. I even coached. So what’s wrong with me?” she laughs. “Because I am still brought to tears when I remember my students.”

Recently, Thompson got a letter from a student she had taught in the third grade. “She told me she was always in trouble. She thought I must have viewed her as the worst student I could ever have. She told me she got kicked out of two schools. But she wanted me to know that after all that, she went to nursing school, and was about to become a nurse, all because of her third grade teacher.” Thompson said, “Teachers do so much more than teach our students academics. We see a future for them when they don’t see it for themselves.”

TEACHERS, STUDENTS and parents in Fairfax and Arlington stood in the cold on Sunday, March 13, 2022 to protest the new governor’s campaign to control content in schools. The kick-off rally for “Stand and Deliver Virginia” was emceed by Pat Hynes, a classroom

“I fail to understand how it is harmful to students to talk about the past. Students will learn about our painful past, whether it is taught in schools or not.”

—Sophia Lander,
Arlington Career Center student

teacher and former Fairfax County School Board member, and Micaela Pond, an Arlington teacher. The event gave voice to the many Arlington and Fairfax county parents, students, and teachers who have been made deeply uncomfortable by the first executive order issued by Governor Youngkin, which prohibits the teaching of “inherently divisive concepts,” including critical race theory, an academic concept which examines the ongoing effects of racism in American policies and institutions.

The executive order was followed by the state rescinding a wide range of policies, memos and programs established to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in schools. Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow said she was rescinding equity policies in obedience to the executive order from Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

Adele McClure, Executive Director of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, and a candidate for the House of Delegates (in the new District Two) in Arlington, spoke out against the tip line, which the governor installed to allow parents and students to complain anonymously about teachers who talked about race, gender, or any issue that could be perceived as divisive. McClure was even more concerned about the removal of equity policies from public schools. “This was done without input from the schools,” she said. In addition, she decried the possibility of public dollars being taken away from public schools to fund private schools.

Sophia Lander got up to speak. The Arlington high school student told the crowd, playing off the governor’s pledge to return excellence to the schools, “I can assure you excellence was in full display when our gym teacher taught us from her hospital bed when she was about to give birth, that’s how dedicated she was.” She zeroed in on the issue of teaching about racial and gender discrimination, “I fail to understand how it is harmful to students to talk about the past. Students will learn about our painful past, whether it is taught in schools or not. And I think we can all agree it’s better to learn from teachers than from Instagram.” Lander continued, “The governor has placed the blame on teachers for bringing up ‘difficult or upsetting’ topics. I



Adele McClure, daughter of an early childhood educator and a Filipino immigrant who served in the U.S. Army, is running for delegate in the newly formed District Two in Arlington. She would be the first Black person and the first Asian person to represent Arlington in the Virginia General Assembly. As executive director of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, she decried the loss of equity programs in schools and the spending of public dollars on private schools.

understand that some things can be upsetting but should I not apply for college because it frightens or upsets me?”

Kyungsup Hwang and her twin brother Theodore Hwang made reference to the “Don’t Say Gay” policy in Florida and noted that efforts to quash discussion of LGBTQ issues threatened Virginia students. They had organized a successful walk-out over the Florida policy at

their school, and experienced harassment and name-calling in the process of standing up for the rights of transgender and gay students. Were they upset about the slurs being hurled at them by some students? “The students weren’t born knowing these words,” Kyungsup Hwang said. “They learned them.” The siblings stressed the importance of schools in teaching the origin of slurs that harm the LGBTQ community, the history of discrimination, and other lessons of tolerance. “Educators need to help us face issues head on.”

Luisa Boyarski of the Virginia Grassroots Coalition said as a professor at Georgetown University, she teaches the importance of public policy being formed with inputs from those affected. The new policy banning “equity” as part of the school program wasn’t broached with the superintendents. That is why a letter from all VASS (Virginia Association of Superintendents of Schools) and the Virginia Parent Teacher Association asked the governor for equity programs to be reinstated. “We need our opinions heard in important policy decisions,” Boyarski said.

Speakers queried: “We wonder as teachers what will be legal to teach in Virginia?” “How do you define divisive? What if it’s divisive for some but not for others?”

“How did teachers become a threat?” “Why would we continue to teach in Virginia with these kinds of policies making our already difficult jobs unbearable?” “I LEFT LAW practice to teach,” Monte Jourbailly told the crowd. “My goal is to teach my students opposing views and let them decide what they believe. I ask my students to examine, for instance,

“Inherently divisive concepts, like critical race theory and its progeny, instruct students to only view life through the lens of race and presume that some students are consciously or unconsciously racist, sexist, or oppressive, and that other students are victims.”

—Glenn Youngkin, Governor of Virginia

the demographics of our representation in the U.S. Congress over the years, and decide whether the shortage of women representatives would have led to legislation that was less favorable to women. This might lead my students to conclude that women have been discriminated against in our country: what am I to do? I’ve just broken a rule?”

Former teacher Ethan Fayne said he was talked down to as a black student in the county, and then as a teacher in the county. As a kid, when he moved to a new school which was primarily white, he was called the “N” word and the teacher did nothing.

In the seventh grade, he was in honors history. “I had a teacher who besides constantly asking me if I belonged in honors history, one day told our class that the KKK wasn’t all that bad. They were actually a social group that did nice things for the community, and they even let some black people join.”

Fayne said he got tired of being treated poorly in the Arlington Public Schools system and opted out of teaching to get his doctorate in psychology. He no longer felt safe being a teacher.

To learn more about Stand and Deliver Virginia, see on Twitter, @Stand_DeliverVA.

VIENNA/OAKTON / McLEAN CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 16-22, 2022 ♦ 7



Monte Bourjaily, a teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, teaches his students to look at facts and make a judgment. He doesn’t teach Critical Race Theory, he teaches critical thinking.



One sign at the protest. The event brought together almost 200 parents, students, and teachers. Teachers’ consistent theme: educators care for all students; teachers are not threats but part of the support structure kids need.



Patty Barbour, a veteran of the US Army and the Fairfax County Public Schools, was at the protest to show her support for teachers. Barbour retired recently from teaching but still works as a substitute teacher because she wants to be there for the students.



Sophia Lander spoke to the crowd. Her main point was that teachers help students process difficult concepts in a world that can feel overwhelming for young people. Should we leave it up to social media to educate students or applaud teachers for the job they do?



Kyungsup Hwang and her twin brother Theodore Hwang organized a school walk-out over the Florida policy of “Don’t Say Gay,” and view new Virginia policies as threatening to LGBTQ teachers and students.



Former Special Education teacher Ethan Fayne left the Arlington County school where he taught because he no longer felt safe. He is now a doctoral student in Psychology.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Not Quite Finished

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM

The General Assembly adjourned its regular session last Saturday afternoon after sixty calendar days of deliberations on more than 2,500 bills and resolutions including a biennial budget. Its work was not quite finished, however, and legislators will need to return to the Capitol to complete work on the budget and nearly two dozen bills for which the differences between the House and Senate had not been resolved. While the Constitution provides that sessions may be lengthened, there has been a reluctance to do so in a state that prides itself on limited government and where a longer legislative session may be viewed as a failure. Special sessions may be called by the Governor and by a super majority of legislators to deal with exceptional needs for which a budget to keep the government running after June 30 would qualify.

The approximate \$158 billion budgets pro-



posed by the Republican House of Delegates and the Democratic-controlled Senate have major differences and were the major reason for the legislative work not being completed. With the higher-than-expected revenue levels of cash in hand and projected for the next two years, the task has been more difficult than usual. The Governor and Republicans want to return more monies to individuals through tax cuts and rebates. While the Democrats support those changes, to a much lesser degree, they seek to increase funding for public schools, programs for mental health and the disabled among others. There will be taxpayer relief for sure, such as eliminating the tax on food and personal hygiene products, but there also will be some relief to cash-starved schools and human service programs.

Republican lawmakers introduced many bills that would have rolled back reforms made by Democrats during the previous two years that they controlled the governorship and both houses of the General Assembly. Most all of

these proposals passed the House of Delegates on a party-line vote 52 to 48 and were defeated in the Senate on a party-line vote of 21 to 19. Republicans sought to repeal voting laws that Democrats had passed to make voting more accessible and easier to a time when it was harder to vote. Ironically Republicans won the governorship and control of the House of Delegates under the reformed laws that they then wanted to repeal. The Senate defeated this effort. The Senate also defeated Republican measures that would have made many abortions criminal and that would have capped the minimum wage. The Governor's various schemes for school choice with charter schools were defeated although laboratory schools associated with colleges were approved with details and funding to be worked out. A Senate committee defeated legislation that would have rolled back the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act which commits Virginia to 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. There is a proposal still being considered in a conference committee to use tax incentives to attract a football stadium to Northern Virginia which I adamantly oppose.

To review the fate of legislation you may have been following, go to <https://lis.virginia.gov/>.

Local Students React to Crisis in Ukraine

Raising awareness and praying for peace are among the ways they're showing support.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

At schools across the region, students are encouraging peace, raising awareness and offering support to Ukrainians as they defend themselves against the Russian invasion.

Students at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria aids an orphanage in Romania that has had an influx of Ukrainian orphans since the conflict began, says Rev. Elizabeth Rees, Upper School Religion Teacher and Chaplain.

"That has been a big focus of our support," she said. "It's been interesting to see how engaged the teenagers are in learning about what is happening. We had an optional forum during lunch led by our history faculty and it was really well-attended."

The crisis has also allowed students to practice their faith. "Episcopal Relief and Development has been very focused on Ukraine," said Rees. "It's hard to know what to do other than raise money and offer prayers."

Students who are members of

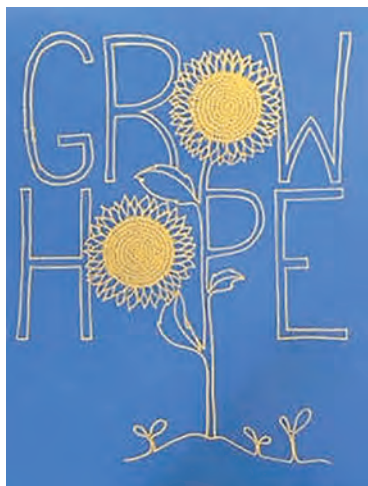


PHOTO COURTESY OF GROW HOPE

Jenna Fournel created this piece of art for the Grow Hope effort to support victims of the conflict in Ukraine.

the Good Samaritans Service Club at The Heights in Potomac, Md. are working to craft a plan to support the war-torn country, said Linda Maher, a spokeswoman for the school.

The creators of the Alexandria-based organization, Grow Hope are hosting a making, growing, gathering and peace event this weekend. Parents and their children will learn how to combine art

and gardening to encourage peace while raising awareness and funds for victims of the crisis in Ukraine. Organizers Lisa Delmonico, Jenna Fournel and Kathryn Coneway, say that their goal is to give families an opportunity to help those in the war-torn country.

"We are suggesting visitors make a donation to an organization working to help the people of Ukraine," said Fournel, who is hosting the event at her Alexandria home.

These who attend will be taught how to make peace bombs, which are balls of clay and soil that are infused with flower seeds. "When they dry, you can throw them in

unexpected patches of soil where they'll grow into a beautiful surprise," said Fournel.

They will also learn to make plantable sunflower pots with newspaper. "We have lots of sunflower seeds and plenty of potting soil so you can plant seeds and take your pots home to germinate," said Delmonico. "Ukraine's sunflower has been a symbol of peace resistance."

Delmonico, Fournel and Coneway will be on hand to teach event-goers the art of silk screening. "Bring a t-shirt or some other fabric you'd like to print the Grow

SEE CRISIS IN UKRAINE, PAGE 11

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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CALENDAR

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.

NOW THRU 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.

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. Cool Zoo, an interactive and educational wildlife travel exhibit, which features hands-on encounters with exotic animals, will be featured. Their exhibit features a variety of activities like learning about rescued Hermit Crabs, strolling through a Butterfly Exhibit, interacting with a giant tortoise, and watching an educational exotic bird 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. Visit: <http://coolzoo.org/> Tickets: www.superpetexpo.com.



The Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby will take place Saturday, March 19, 2022 in Herndon.

[com](http://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.

MARCH 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 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 20

Lunasa. 3 and 7 p.m. At Reston Community Theater's CenterStage. Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Cost is \$25 Reston/\$35 Non-Reston. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

MARCH 25-27

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Spring Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Friday, March

25: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, March 26: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday, March 27: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CapitalArtAndCraftFestivals.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Spectacular Falls, A Slippery Solo Musical. 8 p.m. Featuring Anita Hollander. At Reston Community Theater's CenterStage. Come share a humorous, edgy, moving and somewhat slippery exploration of how we all fall, how the world can fall apart and how we rise again. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Chatham Rabbits Concert. 7 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. NC Bluegrass + Americana husband/wife duo Chatham Rabbits will perform a concert of their original material and share stories from the stage. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: <https://www.jamminjava.com/shows/chatham-rabbits/>

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

The Judy Carmichael Trio. 2 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Maybe you know her from 20 years on National Public Radio's “Jazz Inspired” or as one of the world's best stride pianists. But until you experience her brilliant combo of musicianship on the Great American Songbook, sultry vocals, comedic stories and interplay with her saxophonist/ guitarist, you don't really know Judy Carmichael. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

registration for the 2022 -2023 school year. Children must be 5 years of age by September 30, 2022, to qualify for enrollment. Parents may call or email the registrar at 571-522-6008 / RJJohnson2@fcps.edu for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Forms and other information are available online at: <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration>.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT UNION MILL

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2022-23 school year. If your child will reach his or her 5th birthday on or before September 30, 2022, he or she is eligible to attend kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public School that serves your address. Follow the following steps to

1. register your child:
Find your neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>
2. Complete a packet of registration forms on the Union Mill Elementary School website or by calling Union Mill's registrar at 703 322 8500.
3. Gather your supporting documents—proof of residence in the Union Mill boundary, a certified copy of your child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school.
4. Save the date for our virtual Kindergarten Orientation on Tuesday evening, March 1st. We will also have an open house, by invitation only, on March 3rd. Reach out to the school for more information on both. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

SEEKING SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the website www.goldengirls.org or call Marilyn at 571-261-9163.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

ONGOING

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaledge@aol.com. Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The men-

tors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

FROM PAGE 9

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

Exercise for Parkinson's. Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. parkinsonfoundation.org. Call Natalie McCall nmccall@onelifitness.com 703-904-7600 for more.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for players. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Email skeduman@aol.com for more.

Hypothermia Prevention: An Emergency Program for People Experiencing Homelessness Fairfax County provides overnight shelter with a "no turn-away" policy at all emergency homeless shelters during freezing weather. Through the coldest months of the winter, the Hypothermia Prevention Program is in place, a countywide community network of 45 overnight shelters. Through this program last winter, nonprofit and faith-based community partners served almost 1,000 men and women with a safe, warm place to sleep. If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and you think could be at risk of hypothermia, call the county's non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

Passages DivorceCare. For those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church offers Passages DivorceCare. This 15-week program offers a path toward healing. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register, call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

The Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/.

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McLean-area all-girls robotic team wins Virginia competition.

All-Girls 7th Grade Robotics Team wins Virginia State Competition

An All-Girls VEX Robotics Team of six 7th grade students from our area have won the Virginia State Championships on March 5, 2022, which qualifies them for the World Championship on May 8-10, 2022. The Capital Robotics Team 999A includes:

Helena Zhai, Nysmith School for the Gifted
Renee Shi, Cooper Middle School
Zoe Pak, Cooper Middle School
Samantha Li, Nysmith School for the Gifted

Kristen Han, Cooper Middle School
Mindy Bao, Cooper Middle School
Coach Yun Li

The 2022 VEX Robotics World Championship presented by Northrop Grumman Foundation, celebrates STEM excellence where student-led teams showcase their game strategy, engineering design, programming knowledge, and teamwork skills to be crowned champions at this global event.

The All-Girls Team 999A began in August 2019 with Coach Yun Li when the girls were just starting 5th grade. They qualified for the World competition in their first year, but it was canceled due to Covid. Now, two years later they are ready to compete on the global stage. Coach Li has tirelessly devoted

his time and effort guiding the girls through successful competitions since the beginning, culminating in their 1st place position at the Virginia State Competition in Doswell, Va. on March 5, 2022.

It's exciting to see an All-Girls team doing so well in a robotics competition. Team 999A earned two of the highest awards, the Team Challenge Award providing a positive, respectful, and ethical Team behavior, and the Design Award which demonstrated their ability to implement the most effective and efficient robot.

VEX Robotics attracts hundreds of thousands of students across the globe in building, driving, and programming robotics in a fast-paced game of collaboration and competition. At its most basic level, the students build a robot to achieve a specific goal. At its most complex level, students invent, engineer, and program an electronic robot, strategizing with another team to maximize their productivity within 60 second competitions. And at the World level, students will do this with other students from around the world, most of whom do not speak English.

See the Capital Robotics Team website <http://capitalroboticsclub.com/> (VEX-IQ999A) for more information.

Crisis in Ukraine

FROM PAGE 8

Hope logo on and we'll help you screen print your own Grow Hope image," said Coneway.

College students across the region are also giving and receiving support. Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Ph.D., president of Montgomery College, is reaching out to the school's Ukrainian students to make them aware of the assistance, guidance and counseling services that are available to them.

"Several dozen of our students hold visas from Ukraine and nations that sur-

round it," he said. "Being far from home when conditions turn violent can undoubtedly be a frightening experience."

The staff at Marymount University's Office of Ministry and Spiritual Life is planning a prayer service and vigil for peace this Thursday, said Jasmine Pelaez of the school's communications office.

A myriad of mental health counseling services are available to students at George Mason University. The school established the Ukraine Crisis Support Fund to help students who might have lost monetary support that they receive in their home country.

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Nothing Sensational Here

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Can I admit to a lack of sensation? It might sound a bit odd, but I don't feel like I have cancer. Furthermore, when I go to a medical facility to have one thing or another done, I never feel as if I'm on a slippery slope, health wise. Naively or not, what I most think and feel about whatever procedure or diagnostic scan I'm having or prescription drug I'm ordering, is that I'm at a certain age, over age 65, where some of the parts don't work as well as they used to, and a tune-up, so to speak, is merely the cost of doing business, if you know what I mean? The older one gets, the more difficulties there are getting from here to there - and everywhere in between; with varying hurdles at almost every step (more so if there's a bend-over involved). For some inexplicable reason, I don't see the cancer issue as the extremely serious and complicated problem that it is. I just see it as another day alive and in semi paradise (especially considering my original two-year prognosis).

And though I joke when referring to being in paradise, compared to the "terminal" diagnosis I was initially given by my oncologist, specifically: "13 months to two years," in late February 2009, it's impossible for me to consider any blip on my health radar now as anything but amazing good fortune that I'm still even blipping. As in I'm still alive being able to experience any blips/symptoms. (The presumption being that one doesn't feel symptoms when they're dead, so my thinking is, if I'm still feeling; then I'm still in the game, and it's a game I very much want to continue to play.) Honestly though, none of it really bothers me, too much.

For a while, back in early 2009 when Team Lourie was trying to assimilate the "terminal" diagnosis I received: (stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer), it was difficult to see a future. Heck, it was difficult to see a present - which by the way, had just been taken away. But my attitude then, as it remains so today, is a kind of blissful ignorance while respecting and adhering to the many medical steps I regularly take. I mean it's serious, of course, very serious. Still, I do my best to compartmentalize the bad and try to live my good life going forward; as if nothing has been taken away.

Thinking back, thirteen years ago, when I was initially diagnosed, seems like an eternity, another lifetime, one might say. Considering I'm now living in year 14 after being told I might not make it to year two, and perhaps you can appreciate how little - and even some big things, don't bother me nearly as much as one might imagine. Having dodged a bullet (a hail of bullets, actually), I don't feel as if I'm on shaky ground. Quite the contrary. I feel like I'm on hallowed ground. I've not been to the mountain top or seen a burning bush, but I have lived a life I had no expectation of living.

I may not be "The Iron Horse" (Lou Gehrig), but I feel very fortunate, nonetheless. Life has gone on. Amazing.

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



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