

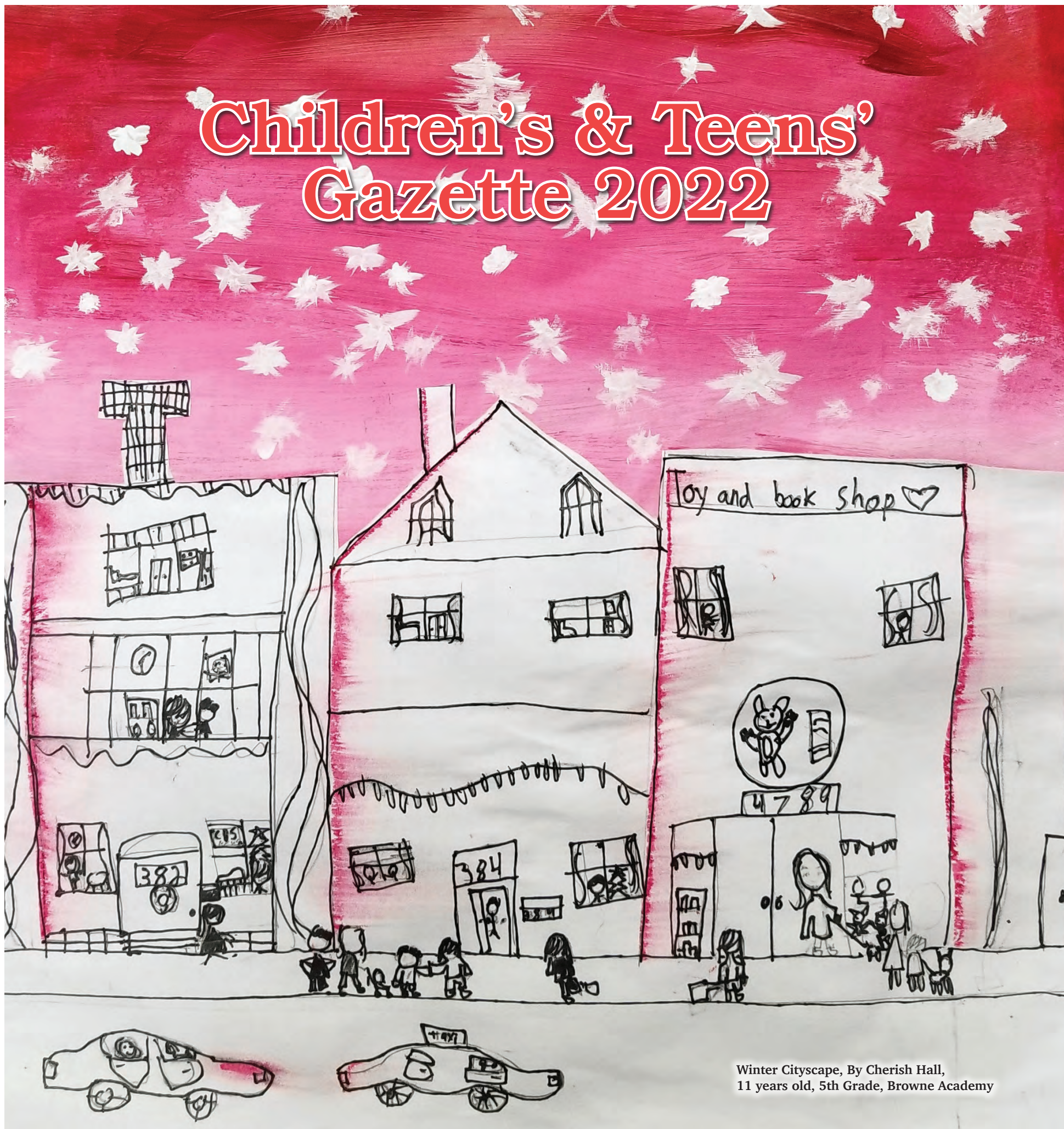
Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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DECEMBER 15, 2022

Children's & Teens' Gazette 2022



Winter Cityscape, By Cherish Hall,
11 years old, 5th Grade, Browne Academy



2022 – Selling Real Estate All Over the Place!

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BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2022

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE, 2022



Margaret Gangi grade 7.

St. Stephen's &
St. Agnes School

NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE

Connor Pencek grade 7.



Emerson Dufault grade 10.



Parker Carrington grade 2.



Dempsey McGill 6th grade.



Jacob Wills grade 4.



Lily Gibbons grade 4



Brian Wangel
grade 9.



Willa Johnson grade 8.



Jake Welter grade 10.



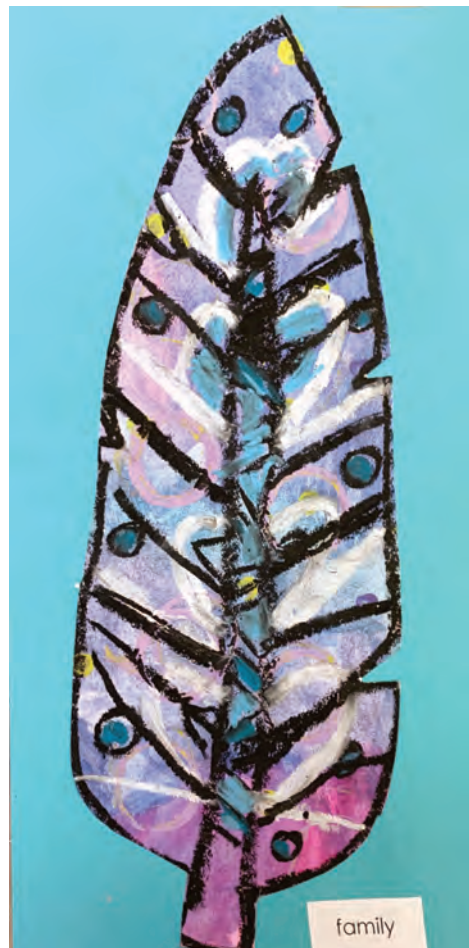
Ella Joshi grade 10.



Will Strickland grade 2.



Noah Zeaya Age 8
Charles Barrett Elementary, 3rd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Julianne West Age 7
Charles Barrett Elementary, 2nd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Jill Davis Age 10
Charles Barrett Elementary, 5th Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Blaise Stewart Age 10
Charles Barrett Elementary, 5th Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Harper Sykes Age 7
Charles Barrett Elementary, 2nd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Otilie Lakshas Age 7
Charles Barrett Elementary, 2nd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Chloe Zelaya Rafailan Age 7
Charles Barrett Elementary, 2nd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Sam Feser Age 5
Charles Barrett Elementary
Kindergarten



Lauren Medema Age 6
Charles Barrett Elementary, 1st Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Allison Del CID Hercules Age 6
Charles Barrett Elementary, 1st Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Aldair Sanchez Delgado Age 6
Charles Barrett Elementary, 1st Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE



Self Portrait, Sylvie Wetzel
9 years old, 4th grade, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

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www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SANTA STAMPEDE – The Santa Stampede Holiday Bar Crawl in Carlyle returns Dec. 17 from 2-6 p.m. as a fundraiser for ALIVE! New this year are free photos for attendees in the SnapStream, a retro 1962 Airstream Bambi converted into a mobile photo booth, which will be parked in front of Sweet Fire Donna's Restaurant. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. A King Street Trolley will shuttle attendees between restaurants.

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CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE, 2022



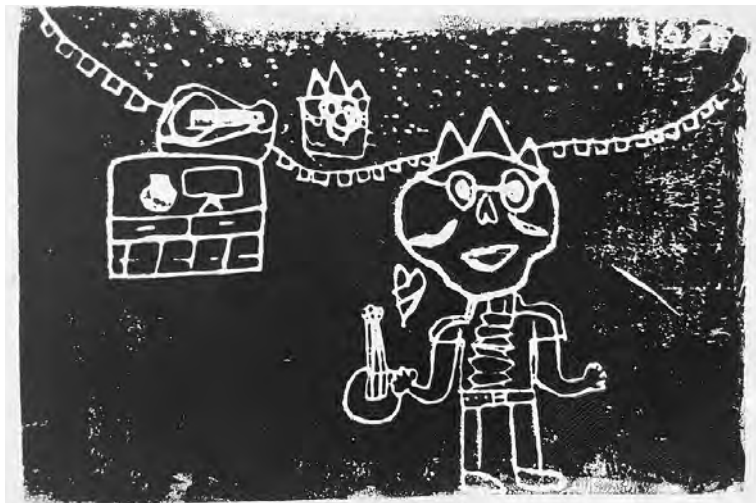
Jordyn, 3rd grade, James K. Polk Elementary School



Gisela Orozco-Barrios, 3rd Grade,
James K. Polk Elementary School



Andrea Perez Aguilar, 4th Grade, James K. Polk Elementary School



Alexis Ayala, 4th Grade, James K. Polk Elementary School



Ethan Kapelski, 2ndGrade,
James K. Polk Elementary School



Eber Carranza Lopez, 2nd Grade,
James K. Polk Elementary School

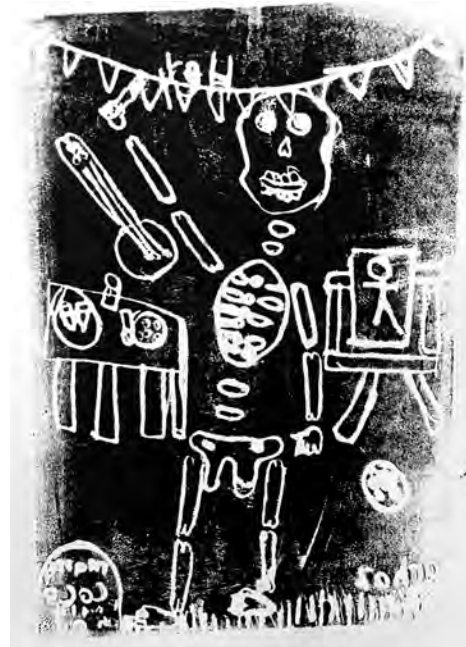


Ayah, 2nd Grade,
James K. Polk
Elementary School

Zahra Safi, 4th Grade,
James K. Polk
Elementary School

James Polk Elementary

ABIGAIL DILLINGHAM,
ART TEACHER,
JAMES K. POLK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Carrigan Morrissey, 2nd Grade, James K. Polk Elementary School



Amanda F Diaz, 4th Grade,
James K. Polk Elementary School



Tanwirullah Wahid, 4th Grade, James
K. Polk Elementary School

Brown Academy Poetry

POETRY FROM BROWN ACADEMY, TEACHER DANIELLE GERBER

Ava McCarley, 13

Bowie, Md.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Glows Under The Moon

Moon covers the sun
Water rushing
The ocean glowing
Night Approaching

Yellow and Red fades to black
Darkness Clouding the sky
Stars appear
The world falls silent
But this silence is one that is replaced by the sweet sounds of the ocean

Water reacts to the glowing sphere
Ocean burns blue
Trees sing a song in unison
Eyes like cameras flash with life
Unreal this feels
Unreal this seems
Once in a lifetime you get to see the moon beam.

How could the Ocean glow so bright?
How does the ocean deepen as you walk through this endless path?
How do the waves never fail to crash in a way that calms me?

My toes sink into the sand
water runs back and forth
Waves bigger than you can Fathom

The water engulfs me
I am dry but
The water engulfs me
Present but
The water engulfs me

Divyaa Srikanth

Springfield, Va,
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Water Still

Bright
afternoon sun with
Clear skies
Clear water
still.
Kids play catch
Shade under the generous trees and huts and
Water rushing
And angry waves crashing and
Birds chirping.
Still.
Reggae plays proudly
in the background
There is a shine
in the smile of this moment
The laughing from the daughter
who's father picked her up,
tossed her in the air,
and caught her.
Water, why are you so clear?
Bird, why do you sing?
Daughter, what if he didn't catch you?

SEE BROWN ACADEMY POETRY, PAGE 9



Virginia Department of Transportation

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.

County	Structure Number	Weight Limit (kips)	Structure Name	Effective Date
FRANKLIN	7795	220	V H GOODE HWY/RTE 220	11/28/2022
MONTGOMERY	12112	11	ROANOKE RD NBL/RTE 11	11/28/2022
ROANOKE	15031	632	CRESCENT BLVD/RTE 632	11/28/2022
DINWIDDIE	5909	1	BOYDTON PLANK SBL	11/23/2022
HANOVER	9501	626	ELMONT RD	11/21/2022
HANOVER	9478	606	OLD CHURCH RD	11/21/2022
MECKLENBURG	11848	4	BUGGS ISLAND RD	11/21/2022
FRANKLIN	7931	722	BEULAH RD /RTE 722	11/21/2022
FLOYD	7513	221	FLOYD HWY/RTE 221 N.	11/18/2022
FRANKLIN	7746	40	FRANKLIN ST /RTE 40	11/18/2022
BEDFORD	2770	654	FELDSPAR RD/RTE 654	11/17/2022
BEDFORD	2816	691	SHEPERDS ST RD/RTE 691	11/17/2022
CARROLL	4530	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	11/17/2022
ROANOKE	15070	677	WILLOW BR RD/RTE 677	11/17/2022
MECKLENBURG	11984	640	E. ORGANSVILLE RD	11/16/2022
CARROLL	4529	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	11/16/2022
CRAIG	5510	617	RTE 617	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8026	961	HEDGEWOOD RD/RTE 961	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	7972	767	PRILLIMAN SWCH/RTE 767	11/16/2022
FRANKLIN	8031	1605	WHSPRNG CK RD/RTE 1605	11/16/2022
WASHINGTON	18988	604	MILL CREEK RD	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	11981	636	BRIDGE RD	11/15/2022
MECKLENBURG	12004	662	WIGHTMAN RD	11/15/2022
NEW KENT	12738	629	BOULEVARD RD	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2819	692	COOL SPRINGS RD/RTE 692	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2879	746	DICKERSON MILL RD/RTE 746	11/15/2022
BEDFORD	2830	698	VILLAMONT RD /RTE 698	11/15/2022
CARROLL	4609	100	SYLVATUS HGWY/RTE 100	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	15104	758	CARSON RD/RTE 758	11/14/2022
ROANOKE	14980	609	E. RURITAN RD/RTE 609	11/10/2022
ROANOKE	15109	777	FT LEWIS CHURCH RD/RTE 777	11/10/2022
BEDFORD	2713	628	BISHOPS CR RD/RTE 628	11/4/2022
BEDFORD	2730	639	HURRICANE DR /RTE 639	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14592	658	DELTON RD/RTE 658	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14535	605	LITTLE RIVER DAM RD/RTE 605	11/4/2022
PULASKI	14580	648	SNIDER LANE/RTE 648	11/4/2022
FRANKLIN	7869	641	CALLAWAY RD/RTE 641	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/RTE 739	11/3/2022
FRANKLIN	8011	865	TIMBER LINE RD/RTE 865	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH RD/RTE 726	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12286	657	MERRIMAC RD/RTE 657	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12315	708	NORRIS RUN RD/RTE 708	11/3/2022
MONTGOMERY	12301	675	SPLIT RAIL RD/RTE 675	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13365	687	MICROFILM ROAD/RTE 687	11/3/2022
PATRICK	13273	623	UNION BRIDGE	11/3/2022
CULPEPER	5578	15	REMINGTON RD	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2861	731	CHESTNUT FORK RD/RTE 731	11/2/2022
BEDFORD	2680	607	MTN VIEW ROAD/RTE 607	11/2/2022
FLOYD	7590	705	BEAVER CRK RD/RTE 705	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13276	626	ABRAM PENN HWY/RTE 626	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13293	635	GOBLINTOWN CRK/RTE 635	11/2/2022
PATRICK	13252	610	HELMS RD/RTE 610	11/2/2022
WISE	19343	83	CLINTWOOD HWY	11/1/2022
WISE	19495	1135	LITTLE LEAGUE RD	11/1/2022
BEDFORD	2829	698	VILLAMONT RD/RTE 698	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4527	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	11/1/2022
CARROLL	4528	52	POPULAR CAMP RD/RTE 52	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7922	715	CHESTNUT MTN RD/RTE 715	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7936	731	DUGWELL RD/RTE 731	11/1/2022
FRANKLIN	7848	629	HATCHETT RD/RTE 629	11/1/2022
GILES	8502	730	EGGLESTON RD/RTE 730	11/1/2022
GILES	8495	724	OLD WOLF CR RD/RTE 724	11/1/2022

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.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION, 2022

Alexandria Country Day School



Libby Maglaughlin, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Finn Empey, 7th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Jack Moffat, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Kaden Campbell, 3rd grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Kathryn Easton, 8th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Elijah Schneider, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



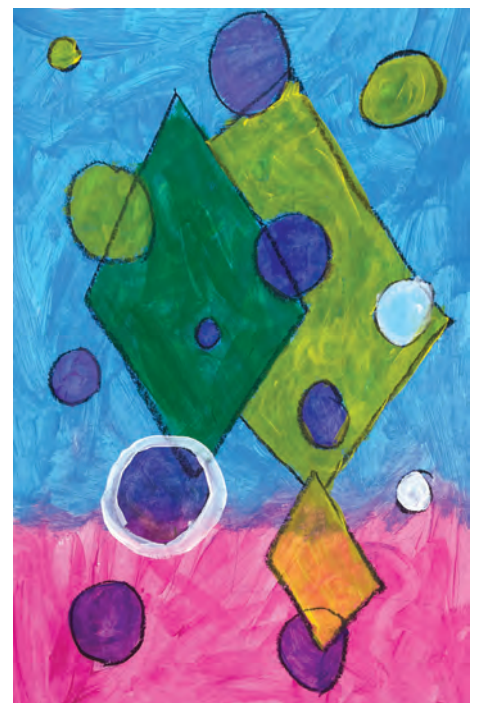
Emmy Cawthorne-Bobadilla, 5th grade, Alexandria Country Day School.



Ruhi Gala, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Max Ringel, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Lily Guder, 2nd grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Vivi Wayland, 7th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Sarah Danshaw, 6th grade, Alexandria Country Day.



Chloe Campbell, 8th Grade, Alexandria Country Day School.

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE, 2022

Brown Academy Poetry

POETRY FROM BROWN ACADEMY, TEACHER DANIELLE GERBER

FROM PAGE 7

Will he catch you the next time?
The water takes me under
The music
ashamed while I am under water
It is quiet
I swim back up and the water is still clear
the daughter is still laughing
and the birds are still chirping
Still chirping
Still

I had but a few bites of my meal,
It still waits upon my tongue,
Amid my annoyance,

The sun is going,
Further away every time,
Every time I look away,
Another inch disappears,

The last birds stop their songs,
They seem done with their mission,

Or perhaps just tired,

Do you think the things of nature tire,
Not of energy,
But the monotony of life?
Do they wish to run away and do something else?

My time to enjoy the world is over,
The sun has almost completely left,
Soon my thoughts will have no light for company,
And I have lived in my mind for long enough to
know that isn't wise.

Kayla Bridges

Alexandria, Va.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Puerto Rico

I watch as the sunrise slowly approaches in the sky
Subtle ocean waves crashing
I hear the sound of Spanish speakers conversing outside
The wind sways in the morning air
As the beach starts gaining more and more individuals

I hear the morning birds chirping
I look out my hotel deck window
And see the clear skies
The waves crashing onto shore
So many people are enjoying the fresh air.

As I walk outside, I see the clear sky
The trees sway and dance
The sound of waves crashing onto my feet
Crash, crash, crash

My ears fill with the uplifting Caribbean music,
Kids yelling,
And the colorful birds chirping
The waterfall slowly spilling into the mini pool.

Oh, Puerto Rico, why do you rain so much?
Oh, Puerto Rico, why does it get so dark here?
I wonder as I stare into the Puerto Rican abyss.

The rain hitting my head
Like a drum
The rain hitting my head
As I walk outside
The rain hitting my head
As I continue to sit on the deck enjoying the Puerto Rican galore.

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Sam Biggins

Alexandria, Va.
7th Grade, Ms. Gerber

Thumps of Water Amid Fields of Gold

Why do the waves move so predictably?
A thump on the side of the ship,
A slow simple rock of the ship,
Thump, one... two... thump,

The field of reeds is gold in the sunset,
The sun and field so well met upon the eye,
I lean on a rail that holds me still,
Thump, one... two... thump,

I channel out the sounds of the dinner not yet done,

DEL RAY ARTISANS
HOLIDAY MARKET



2022



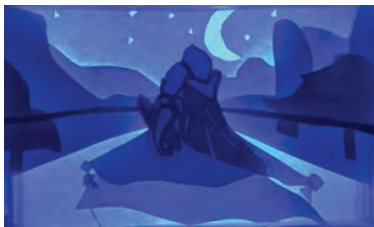
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Masks Recommended
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Del Ray Artisans Gallery
2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market



Devika Srikanth, 14, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Grace Laha, 13, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



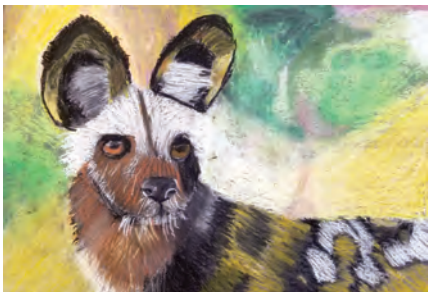
Irene Ecarma, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Lucas Pellerito, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Peyton Nash, 7, 2nd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Amelia Welch, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Danya Ousman, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Colton Doll, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



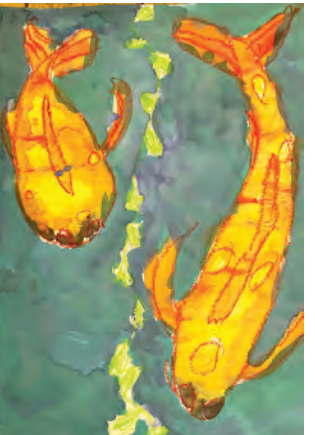
Hunter Dent, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Lauren Apriceno, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Henry Wachter, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Luna El Sheikh Ali, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Dudley Greene, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Max Kraemer, 6, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Kailey Lubisco, 6, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Autumn Ecarma, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Lincoln Burke, 12, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Cassidy Platt, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Christian daSilva-Thompson, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Ryland Babcock, 9, 4th grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Nicholas Apriceno, 10, 4th grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



McKenzie Magee, 10, 4th grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Connor King, 10, 4th grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Tristan Taylor, 10, 5th grade,



Sasha Grey, 10, 5th grade



Samantha Metcalf, 10, 5th grade



Chase Montaque, 10, 5th grade



Usra Abdulrahman, 13, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Sam Biggins, 12, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Cherish Hall, 11, 5th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Leela Kharkar, 10, 5th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Maddox Schutter, 10, 5th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Lillian Greene, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Victoria Taylor, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Beckett Siraguse, 7, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



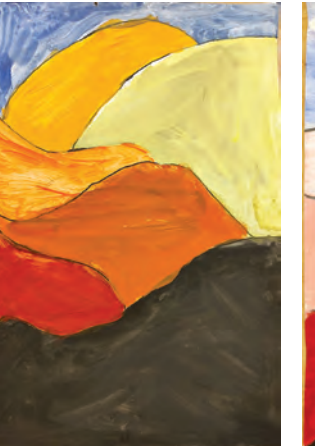
Tanner Jules, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Prince Owusu, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Leo Morado, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Solana Szymanski, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Olivia Song, 8, 3rd grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Lexi Benenson, 6, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Bryson Barnett, 5, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Lottie Kucab, 5, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Max Kraemer, 5, kindergarten, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



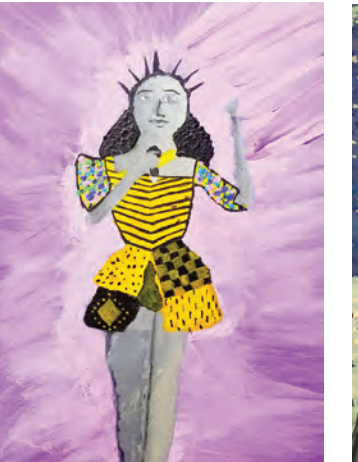
Chance Maxwell, 13, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Khalid Ousman, 13, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



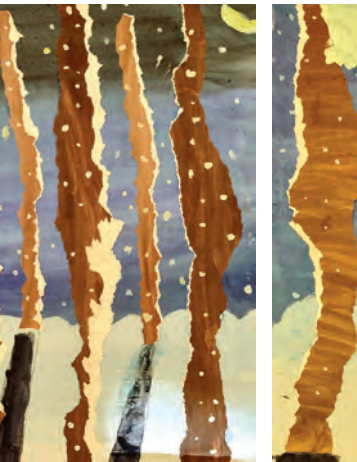
Nate Benites, 13, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Sammie Weinstein, 14, 8th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Ryan Kaskela, 7, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Victoria Chen, 7, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



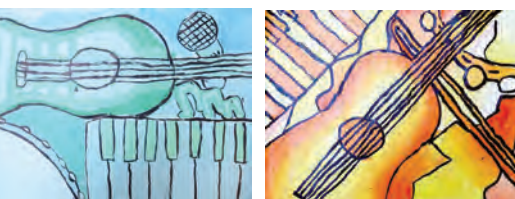
Ruby Spannagel, 6, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



Kennedy Jackson-Moody, 7, 1st grade, Teacher Tietjen Alvarez



William Bader, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Michael Landry, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Leila Thompson, 11, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Alex Thompson, 12, 6th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Divyaa Srikanth, 12, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam



Ava McCauley, 13, 7th grade, Teacher Polly Beam

Douglas MacArthur Elementary



Apple Print Person
Kamora Crockett, Kindergarten



Apple Print Person
James Fitzpatrick, Kindergarten



Apple Print Person
Desmond Micklewright, Kindergarten



My Bedroom inspired by Vincent Van Gogh
Ellis Partee, 1st Grade



My Bedroom inspired by Vincent Van Gogh
Phoebe Humphries, 1st Grade



My Bedroom inspired by Vincent Van Gogh
David McArdle, 1st Grade



Cityscapes inspired by Jim Rizzi
Poppy Wolfe, 2nd Grade



Cityscapes inspired by Jim Rizzi
Beauford Bullard, 2nd Grade



Cityscapes inspired by Jim Rizzi
Aaron Ramos Baten, 2nd Grade

Douglas MacArthur Elementary

SEAN MURPHY, TEACHER



Quadrilateral Cityscapes
Lucas Xu, 3rd Grade



Quadrilateral Cityscapes
Faith Ashby, 3rd Grade



Quadrilateral Cityscapes
Melany Lopez Alberto, 3rd Grade



2 Point Perspective Store
Jamir Galo Ibarra, 4th Grade



2 Point Perspective Store
Stella Williams, 4th Grade



2 Point Perspective Store
Diego Flores Felix, 4th Grade



Design inspired by Sugar Skulls
Zander West, 5th Grade



Design inspired by Sugar Skulls
Cate Parks, 5th Grade



Design inspired by Sugar Skulls
Addie Wolfe, 5th Grade

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE, 2022



Scarlett Margarita Age 8, Charles Barrett Elementary, 3rd Grade, Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Corinne Swearingen Age 8, Charles Barrett Elementary, 3rd Grade, Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Rhys Devlin Age 9, Charles Barrett Elementary, 4th Grade, Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Drew Kacamburas Age 10, Charles Barrett Elementary, 4th Grade, Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Mary Alyce Derbes Age 11, Charles Barrett Elementary, 5th Grade, Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher

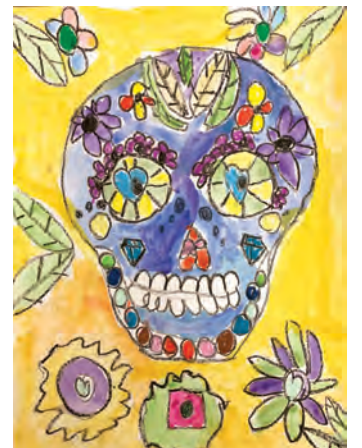


**Charles
Barrett
Elementary
School**

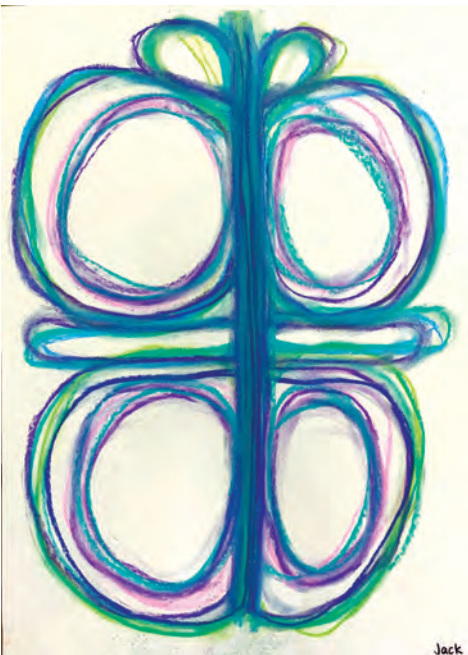
Charlie Long Age 5
Charles Barrett Elementary
Kindergarten
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Helen Cruz Age 5
Charles Barrett Elementary
Kindergarten
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Phoebe Allers Age 7
Charles Barrett Elementary
2nd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



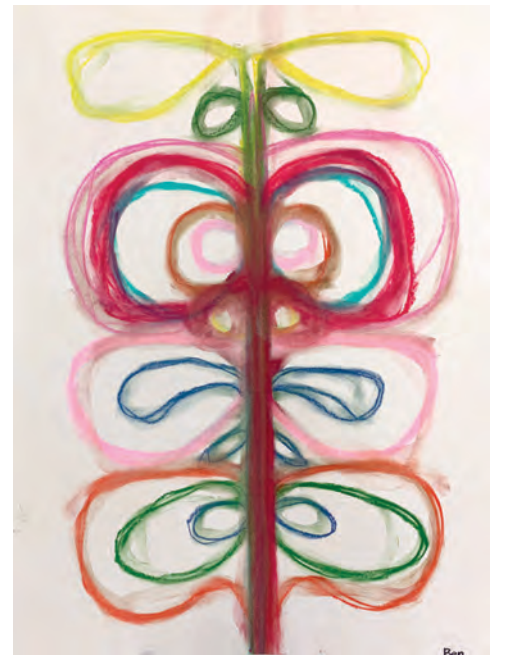
Jack Lewis Age 10
Charles Barrett Elementary, 5th Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Charlotte Cornish Age 9
Charles Barrett Elementary, 4th Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Charlotte Cato Age 8
Charles Barrett Elementary, 3rd Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher



Ben Owens Age 9
Charles Barrett Elementary, 4th Grade
Ms Ellen Pattisall, Art Teacher

Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School

ART TEACHER, LUISA TIO



Arielle Dunston, 8 years old, 3rd Grade



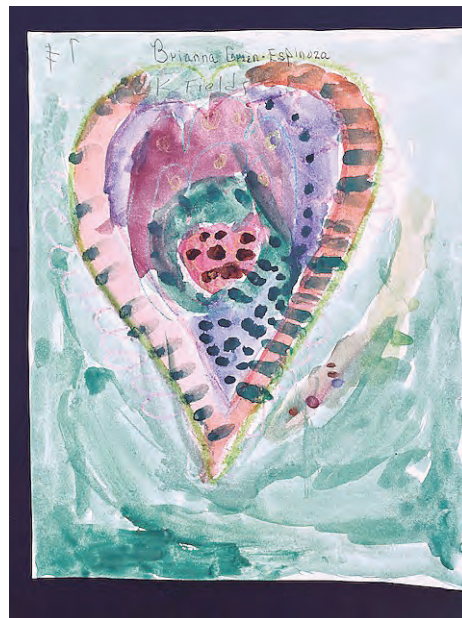
Allie Mulligan, 8 years old, 3rd Grade



Jack Lutz, 10 years old, 5th Grade



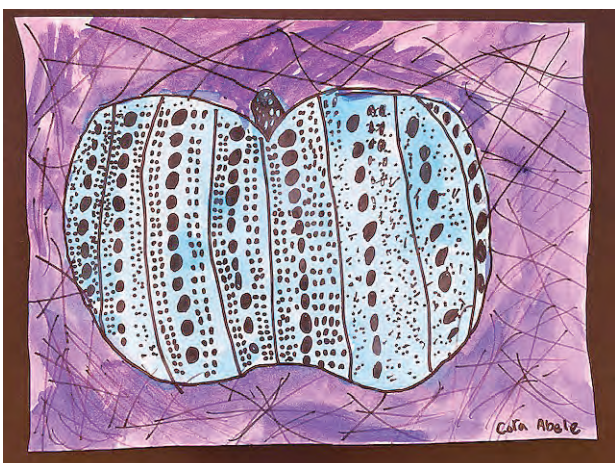
Blake Moore, 7 years old, 1st Grade



Brianna Espinoza-Green, 5 years old, Kindergarten



Bodie Knutson, 5 years old, Kindergarten



Cora Abele, 6 years old, 1st Grade



Iqra Sultani, 10 years old, 5th Grade



Jane Garcia, 7 years old, 2nd Grade



Kristopher Green, 7 years old, 2nd Grade
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Lauren Johnson, 6 years old, 1st Grade



Michael Enkossa, 8 years old, 3rd Grade

Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School

ART TEACHER, LUISA TIO



Ny_Zaylah Patterson, 9 years old, 4th Grade



Olivia Millsap, 6 years old, 1st Grade



Samajay Basil, 10 years old, 5th Grade



Simon Macek, 9 years old, 4th Grade



Phoebe Zager, 9 years old, 4th Grade



Tanaz Zamir, 6 years old, 1st Grade



Zainab Alimi, 10 years old, 5th Grade



Zoe Carr, 8 years old, 3rd Grade

CHILDREN'S AND TEENS' GAZETTE, 2022



Bonded seniors Sophie and Joey are getting into the “pawliday” spirit while seeking a new family.



Adoptable Joey is happy to show her silly side to her future family.



Serious Sophie hopes to spend this holiday season in a loving home.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DESILVA STUDIOS

Senior Pair of Bonded Dogs Seeking a Home for the Pawlidays

Joey and Sophie Are Available Now for Adoption or Fostering.

Twelve-year-old bonded canine sisters Sophie and Joey might be considered senior, but they are better described as sweet, social, snow-faced and maybe just a bit sassy.

After spending their whole lives living with the same pet parent, they are currently seeking a new home this holiday season from the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA).

When their devoted senior owner found herself unable to care for Joey and Sophie any longer, her one wish was that these two

dogs, who had lived together their entire lives, not be separated from each other as well as leaving the only home they have ever known. The staff at the AWLA immediately recognized that the only way these sweet girls would be able to join a new family was together.

“Even on the first day they came to us, you could tell that they didn’t want to be apart, not even for a moment,” said Elena Carver, the AWLA’s Veterinary & Foster Care Manager. “But when they were together, they completely opened up. Suddenly this new place

wasn’t as scary to them.”

The AWLA wants to help every animal find a loving home this holiday season. In the case of Joey and Sophie, that home needs to be big enough for two charming senior canines. That’s why, as part of the AWLA’s Home for the Pawlidays event, running through the end of December, adoption fees have been paid by Priority Automotive for all adult animals, including Sophie and Joey.

“Every animal deserves a loving family, regardless of their age,” said AWLA Executive Director Stella Hanly. “Sophie and Joey have

given so much love in their lives and they have so much more to give. Wouldn’t it be the most wonderful present for them to be in a safe, warm and caring home this holiday season?”

Joey and Sophie are currently available for adoption or for temporary foster. To schedule time to meet them for adoption, email Adopt@AlexandriaAnimals.org. To learn more about providing them with a shelter break by fostering them in your home, email Foster@AlexandriaAnimals.org

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.

ADOPT A WARRIOR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

So many of our Military families today find themselves in financial crisis, now more than ever. This will be especially true during this Holiday Season. To give back, Able Forces Foundation (AFF) is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Warrior Family Christmas program. As in years past, Able Forces Foundation will adopt families from each of the five Military Service branches. All adopted families are identified by military Advocates on military bases or military Recovery programs in the Washington, DC Metro area. These families have been vetted and referred to AFF. Based on need, financial support will ensure each

family will have: • A Christmas Tree • Complete Christmas Dinner (for up to 8) • Stocking Stuffers • the ability to provide up to 5 gifts per child 100% of all donations go directly to support this program. There are no administrative or overhead fees taken out of donations. All donations contributed between Oct. 25 and Christmas will go directly to support this program. If you can help, go to: www.ableforces.org/adopt to make a contribution.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention

Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralalexandria.org/ALIVE>

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.

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental

health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services’ BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors 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 (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children’s area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralalexandria.org/ for more.

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CALENDAR



Take a Holiday Candlelight Tour of Mount Vernon Estate Dec. 18.

NOW THRU DEC. 29

An Eye for Nature Exhibition. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography. The exhibit may be seen from 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Tuesdays and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays except for Thanksgiving. To schedule other hours contact ninat@ninatisara.com.

NOW THRU JAN. 8, 2023

The Botanical Gourmet. Presented by the Botanical Arts Society of the National Capital Region. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. For eons, animals ranging from massive leaf-eating dinosaurs to minuscule nectar sipping insects have been attuned to the healthful benefits of a plant-based diet. For their part, plants have enlisted the help of animals by attracting them with visual and other cues for purposes of reproduction. These interactions, while necessary, are purely transactional. They lack the aesthetic spirit. That's where botanical artists step in. Botanical art is neither scientific illustration nor decorative floral composition, but an engaging combination of the two. Like blue jays or cabbage moths, botanical artists are drawn to shiny red berries and bright yellow flowers, but unlike other creatures, they have the means to depict their attraction. The works in this exhibit focus specifically on plants that have health-giving nutritional properties for people.

DEC. 2-18

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2023 wall calendars to support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Market is Dec. 9-11, Dec. 16-18. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

DEC. 16 AND 17

Christmas Illuminations. At Historic Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Celebrate the holidays with friends and family during an enchanted evening that includes illuminations, fireworks on the Potomac, Christmas

carolers, 18th-century wares and crafts, Aladdin the Camel, and season's greetings by General Washington.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

West Potomac High School Lady Wolverine Youth Night. West Potomac girls basketball swings into action on Friday, Dec. 16 at its Wolverdome gym. Play between West Potomac and South County will include three games: Freshmen Game - 4:30 p.m. Junior Varsity Game - 5:45 p.m. Varsity Game - 7:30 p.m. All youth enter free (with a paying adult) and can enjoy games and prizes at half time of every game. Plus, there will be an autograph session after the varsity game.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Holiday Candlelight Tour. At Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Experience the holidays like George and Martha Washington. Meet Mrs. Washington and 18th-century Mount Vernon residents during a 45-minute candlelit estate tour, see the themed Christmas trees, and shop for holiday gifts.

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.

DECEMBER

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Fri. 16: Carbon Leaf \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 17: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$49.50
Sun. 18: LUTHER RE-LIVES Holiday Concert featuring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$45.00
Tue. 20: Samara Joy "A Joyful Holiday" \$39.50 SOLD OUT!
Wed. 21: A John Waters Christmas \$59.50
Thu. 22: MAYSA - A Very MAYSA Christmas! \$69.50
Fri. 23: Charles Esten w/ N'est Pas \$59.50
Thu. 29: Bela Dona Band \$35.00
Fri. 30: 25th Annual HANK WILLIAMS Tribute with Robin & Linda Williams, Daryl Davis, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Patrick McAvinue, & Alex Lacquement \$35.00
Sat. 31: New Years Eve with The Seldom Scene, Eastman String Band, & Wicked Sycamore 8pm- \$49.50

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

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.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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 ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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Twenty-Five Years Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I submitted my first column for publication in early Dec. 2009 after having been hired for an advertising sales position 10 months earlier. Previously, I had been in the insurance business for almost 20 years. I always had a writing urge beginning with a story I wrote in first grade about the day I was born, to a Junior High School experience I had writing a last will and testament-type of compilation for the graduating ninth-graders (myself included) to a series of sports columns for my High School newspaper (the Denebola) and finally to a nearly two-year stint writing a column for the "diamondback," the weekly college newspaper for The University of Maryland. Upon graduation, I submitted writing samples around town and was offered a job at a local paper in Prince Georges County. However, upon my acceptance and return from Massachusetts to fill the position, I was devastated to learn the position had vanished due to weak advertising sales (little did I realize how much of a precursor that difficulty would turn out to be) which caused the publisher to reduce the number of pages it printed and with that page reduction went my column.

My columns written then were a preview to what my columns would become years later. The major difference between then and now, other than age, wisdom, and experience, were the curse words, in college anyway. They came naturally to me then and appeared regularly in my content. The editor never censored me. These columns were not spewing hate or anything, more about a college undergraduate trying to navigate the demands and challenges of college life.

Substance/content-wise, my columns are similar to what they were about then: "Everything in general about nothing in particular." There wasn't much information in my columns. Nor do I suppose there was much journalistic substance to what/how I write either. Nevertheless, I developed my own style which continues to this day. In addition to commenting on the minutiae in life we all must endure; I try to work through the trivialities of the day with a wink and a nod to the hope that what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger. As an example: I handwrite these columns with no fatigue in my arm. And for a man of my age/experience, being able to do anything non-stop for an hour is worth mentioning.

Seriously though, this writing thing must be in my DNA. I don't have to think too much about what I'm doing (it shows, right?). I'm able to, as my brother once said: "Churn out the drive!" without much further ado. And I thank our Editor-in-Chief Mary Kimm for giving me the space/opportunity to explore my passion every week; it was her idea to add a picture.

In my writing career at Connection Newspapers (which was the avocation to my full-time advertising sales vocation), I have won multiple writing awards from the various Press Associations that make up the "DMV," (Maryland, Washington, DC, and Delaware) for my weekly editorial columns. Unfortunately, I've never received a literary call-up to the Majors, so to speak. Occasionally I had a column appear in other print media, but the overwhelming exposure came in The Connection. And though I may have toiled in relative obscurity as a result, I loved being able to express myself so personally. As I have so often said, it's not so important that it's me writing about it, rather it's important that it's being written about. Write on.

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

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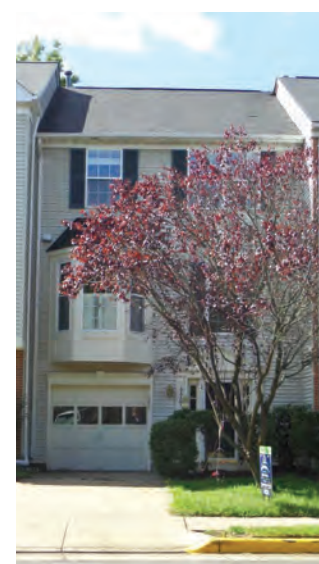
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