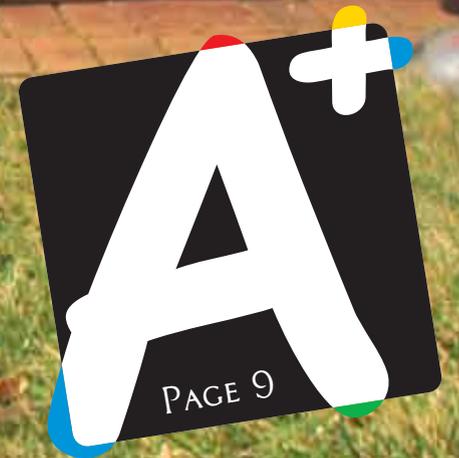


A dapper young man carries his bounty in an oversized Easter basket at Freeman House.

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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Fun Things To Do on Spring Break

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Marshall Academy
Wins Culinary Challenge

NEWS, PAGE 2

Mission: Promoting Peace

NEWS, PAGE 3

Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge

11 teams of middle and high school students compete in school food competition.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Eleven teams of middle and high school students competed in the fourth annual Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge on Saturday, March 12 at Robinson Secondary School. Students from six middle schools, four culinary academies, and one high school competed by preparing the most nutritious and delicious school snacks, breakfast and lunch menu items.

The event included six expert-led workshops on food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning and school gardening. There was also a breakfast discussion that addressed the future of school food by Rodney Taylor, the new Food and Nutrition Services director (FNS) in Fairfax County and a pioneer in the farm-to-school movement, and Loudoun County's FNS director Dr. Becky Bays, who also served as judges.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The winner of the first place award in the culinary challenge went to Marshall Academy in Falls Church/McLean. Each student received a \$200 scholarship.

It also included celebrity judges Marjorie Meek Bradley, a Top Chef finalist; Aviva Goldfarb of "Six O'Clock Scramble" books; chef Kate Sherwood of the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and Bonnie Benwick, deputy food edi-

tor of The Washington Post, who focused on "Food is Hot." Scoring for the students was broken down by 20 percent presentation; 40 percent taste; 30 percent adaptability to school lunches; and 10 percent team organization.

"Today is such an exciting event because it demonstrates our community commitment to providing healthy food to every child," said Megan McLaughlin, Braddock School Board representative. "I am so proud of the Real Food for Kids

organization for their leadership and advocacy in this area. Their powerful voice has inspired our school system to make real and substantive improvements to our school meals."

"The whole point of it is to encourage kids to participate in healthier cooking and foods that are in school. We're trying to encourage kids to help change school food and to live a more active lifestyle," said Diana Nash, Real Food for Kids event coordinator.

"This year we decided to open it up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. I'm really impressed with the level of skill and preparation of the teams today," said Jenny Hein, executive director of Real Food for Kids.

An awards ceremony at the end included \$200 scholarships, \$50 gift cards to Sur La Table, a \$500 raffle award to Williams-Sonoma, gift certificate to Earl's Kitchen & Bar for six people, cookbooks and a Veggetti Spiralizer, among other gifts. All participating students left with their own gift bags.

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Please RSVP by March 18.

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Student Peace Award recipients pose after the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY
REEM NADEEM/
THE CONNECTION

Mission: Promoting Peace

22 receive Student Peace Awards for efforts to promote peace.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

With causes ranging from anti-bullying efforts to human trafficking awareness to interfaith dialogue, students in Fairfax County were recognized for their peacemaking efforts at the 11th Annual Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 13.

Students and student groups in any of 29 Fairfax County Public high schools, as well as three private high schools, were eligible for nomination. This year, 22 students or student groups received the Student Peace Award, for their efforts to promote peace.

"As one of their counselors said, these are people who not only looked for opportunities to do good things, they went out and created the opportunities. So many, many of these students have gone and created their own organizations and their own clubs to help whatever the issue is they wanted to work on," organizer Margaret Fisher said.

Mason Professor Al Furtés, who travels to areas affected by war and natural disaster, spoke at the ceremony. Furtés congratulated the recipients and spoke about his personal and professional experiences with fostering peace. Students received awards for a variety of peacemaking activities, however.

"As long as a student's contribution is something for peacemaking or nonviolent resolution of conflict, the schools could decide for themselves what that meant, because we didn't want to limit their thinking, and there's just millions of ways you can make peace either in your life, or in your school, or the greater community or the world as a whole," Fisher said.

EACH HIGH SCHOOL is responsible for selecting students to receive the recognition. Club leaders or counselors make recommendations and some schools allow students to self-select. Recipients of the award were informed in December so that they could include the recognition on college applications.

Because the awards are given to high school

juniors and seniors, the Student Peace Awards program aims to give students another achievement to strive for, in addition to academics and athletics.

"What we want to do is find a way to promote peace, that's the only goal of this is to promote peace. We thought that encouraging young people to find projects that do that would be worth doing and we wanted to get the word peace into the conversation in schools," Fisher said.

In addition to rewarding good student behavior, The Awards also aim to promote nonviolent solutions within the community, which in turn can spread globally, according to planner Paul Murphy.

"We need to reward positive behaviors. And to get people thinking in problem solving modes, not just whenever there's a problem in the world, to think that it requires a military solution, but beginning with our communities, expanding nationwide and then internationally," Murphy said. "I think it's very important for people to see that there are alternatives to violence, and these kids are beginning to show it at a very young age and we want to encourage them."

Once nominated for the award, recipients were guided through the process by representatives. Nancy James, who has served as a representative for several years, said she was assigned to work with senior Laith Abuhajja of the Islamic Saudi Academy, who was recognized for his interfaith efforts and volunteer work.

As the award program has grown, so has its importance to families of nominees. Luis Urbina drove from North Carolina to attend the ceremony for his daughter and award recipient, Renata Urbina Dela Flor, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We talked and she mentioned some stuff, but it's good to see that it's a lot more than what she said. You know, she's very humble so it's nice to see something like an award," Urbina said.

RECIPIENTS were awarded \$250 as well as \$100 to be donated to an organization of their choice. However, according to organizer Nancy Davis, the monetary reward is certainly not the most valuable gift.

"I love to see the families' expressions," Davis said. "The families are just so happy to see their children recognized for this type of work. It's not the athletic field - which is important too - and the monetary gift isn't great but I think it's wonderful seeing the parents so proud."

VIEWPOINTS

What Did You Do to Win Peace Award; What Inspired You to Get Involved?

—REEM NADEEM

Kenzie Hines, senior, James Madison High School

"I'm the president of Amnesty International and Girls Learn International at my school. Mostly through Amnesty, we try to involve the student population in mostly Socratic discussions about tolerance, things that are happening around the world. And since we live in such a diverse area, how we affect that, how we feel about it because in this bubble nothing really seems real. So it's a lot of trying to educate the student population, my friends and people around me on how different the world is and how to accept that. Education breeds tolerance.

When I was an underclassman, I knew a bunch of seniors who were really in-



involved in Amnesty and the Amnesty club at my school is extremely welcoming, we do a lot of events that are a lot of fun and I wanted to be a part of that, so now I lead it."

Senior Drew Dean, Anti-Bullying Committee, Cedar Lane School

"We are accepting the Fairfax County Peace Awards for our anti-bullying work on the Anti-Bullying Committee at our school. Some other things we do on our committee, we try to unify the school more with activities through team building, just sort of to get everybody together, work together, settle differences, stuff like that.

With me, I've been bullied throughout a lot of my childhood and teen years so I just sort of wanted to give back to the community."



Arnaz Carter-Newman, Drew Dean, Jake Geyer, Seniors - Cedar Lane School

Doreen Ndizeye, senior, George C. Marshall High School

"I was nominated to be the recipient for Marshall High School for the Student Peace Award. I filled out the application after knowing that I fit a majority of the requirements and the things that they were looking for.

I'm very service oriented, so I like to do things that help out the community or help out my siblings because I'm an older sister. So I like to focus on things that help out younger generations. A lot of the things that I do in my spare time



are all to assist the younger generations and what they're going to do with their futures, so everything that I do is more of a mentorship program."

Scottie Tran, Britney Phan, juniors, and Yenni Tran, sophomore, of the Stepping Stones Club at Oakton High School

Phan: "We're here for our club, Oakton Stepping Stones, we're a sex trafficking awareness club, and we host awareness weeks and we just reach out, educate the school."

Tran: "I had a friend who was interested in starting this club, and we just basically came up with this idea because we were really passionate about this topic, we watched a documentary on sex trafficking, and it just really affected us. That's why we started this club.

Phan: One of the local Fairfax County detectives talked to us about this issue and I think all of the members and all officers were really affected by the issue when we heard him talk to us.



Scottie Tran, Junior, Britney Phan, Junior, Yenni Tran, Sophomore - Oakton High School

OPINION

Homelessness on Its Way Out in Fairfax

Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring;
776 fewer homeless individuals in 2016 than in 2008.

Homelessness is down in Fairfax County in every major category, a fact confirmed on Jan. 28, 2016, the annual Point in Time Count.

There were 145 fewer individuals homeless than the Point In Time Count a year earlier, 138 of those in families, and seven fewer homeless individuals. There also were no families in overflow motels, and no families were unsheltered in the 2016 count.

Sixty-four percent of the 577 family members who were literally homeless on Jan. 28, 2016 were in transitional housing, with the rest in emergency shelter. There were vacancies in emergency shelters for families and in domestic violence shelters; no families were unsheltered.

"This trend is beautiful," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The things we're doing are making a difference."

In 2008, the Fairfax County established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness with a plan to end homelessness within 10 years.

"Seeing the numbers decrease in so many different areas is encouraging after working on the 10 year plan," said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Since 2008, the number of people who are literally homeless on the day of the Point in Time Count has decreased by 776 individuals. "Since 2008 there has been a 42 percent reduction in the number of people counted as homeless, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,059 in 2016,"

EDITORIAL

Klein reported to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 14.

Julie Maltzman, manager of Continuum of Care, reported the details to the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness on Monday afternoon.

A coordinated effort among partners, more housing options and flexible funding helped to get formerly homeless families into more viable housing with appropriate services, said Joe Meyer, executive director of Shelter House. More public awareness around homelessness is also making a difference, Meyer said.

Still, 341 children under the age of 18 were among those literally homeless in this year's Point in Time Count, 32 percent of all homeless.

Eighty percent (190 people) of the adults in homeless families were female; 66 percent of adults (155) in homeless families were employed; a slight increase from 62 percent in 2015. Twelve percent (21) of families were considered "youth households," with all family members under 25 years old.

Single adults made up 46 percent of all homeless people counted, a total of 482. Forty-two percent (202 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a 13 percent decrease from last year. Many had chronic health problems and/or physical disabilities as well.

Thirty percent (146 people) were experienc-

ing chronic homelessness. This is a significant decrease from last year when 42 percent (203 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Among the factors helping to reduce homelessness, Maltzman said: the adoption of a Housing First approach; increased homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts; prioritizing housing for individuals with the longest history of homelessness and highest vulnerability; additional permanent supportive housing for singles experiencing chronic homelessness; focus on housing veterans including use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers; new permanent housing opportunities for families with children.

To find out more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

Support the effort to end homelessness by contributing to the Build a Village campaign found there as well.

Support the nonprofit partners working to end homelessness, including FACETS, Cornerstones, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, Good Shepherd Housing, Alternative House, Homestretch, Pathways Homes and others.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

A Circus Show

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Ironically Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus moved into the Richmond Coliseum for its annual stand at the same time last week that a few blocks away the General Assembly concluded its annual meeting and members packed up and went home. Circus promoters need to come up with a new theme each year to keep its patrons returning; this year's theme was "Extreme." Reviewers are likely to come up with very different assessments of the General Assembly session. It was not as extreme as some sessions, but as always there were some really good things that happened and some not so good.

Legislative sessions tend to be ponderous—nothing as exciting as a flying trapeze or person being shot out of a cannon. Progress in changing laws is made mostly in small, incremental steps. This session I am pleased that small steps were taken to reduce the flow of students going from the classroom to the courtroom. More emphasis will start to be given to providing alternatives for youth who misbehave but who should not be treated like criminals. Very small steps were made in gun safety

by facilitating background checks for those not required to have one to purchase a gun but who volunteer to do so. My bill to require background checks for all purchases at gun shows was defeated. A new law will deny gun ownership for those against whom a permanent protective order has been issued. Persons who receive protection from the court through such an order will find an easier path to getting a concealed weapon permit, an idea I did not support.

School reform continues at a slow pace, but there seems to be a clear recognition that there is too much standardized testing. School systems struggling with their budgets will receive more state aid but still at a level below 2006. Economic development funds are increased which should help the super salesman Governor McAuliffe attract more businesses to the Commonwealth.

For the first time in history the legislature removed a Supreme Court Justice from office. The refusal to confirm Governor

McAuliffe's appointee had nothing to do with the credentials of the justice who was acknowledged by all to be eminently qualified but had to do with personalities and struggles between the legislative and executive branches. A one-day discussion of the possible nomination of former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli brought a public outcry. The legislature in the end confirmed a new justice (without my vote) who is as ideologically conservative as Cuccinelli but not a political activist.

The biennial budget brought good news to many programs as the economic recovery has produced more revenue than in the past. Unfortunately, my bill to expand Medicaid coverage was not approved.

The purpose of the legislative session is serious business and not entertainment like the circus. There are times, however, that it may be difficult to tell the difference.

Information about legislative results from this session is at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>.

The purpose of the legislative session is serious business and not entertainment like the circus. There are times, however, that it may be difficult to tell the difference.

Vienna & Oakton
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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Children compare their egg-filled treasures at the Easter egg roll and hunt sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. and the Town of Vienna.

Fun Things To Do in the Area on Spring Break

You don't have to fly to have fun.

DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Not everyone wants to get on an aircraft during one of the busiest travel weeks of the year. Fortunately, if you live in the Vienna area, there are lots of fun things to do that other Americans pay to do (hint: no hotels, no flights).

EASTER EGG HUNTS — FREE: Town of Vienna Flashlight Egg Hunt Glyndon Park, Friday, March 18, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Families search for eggs and prizes in the dark. Bring a flashlight to look for hidden eggs.

The Town offers an inflatable obstacle and a visit with the Easter Bunny.

The egg hunt begins at dark. The cost is \$3 per family member, babies free. A maximum of six tickets can be purchased per household. You can purchase tickets online or in person. Tickets went on sale Feb. 22. Rain or shine.

Historic Vienna, Inc. and

the Town of Vienna Old-fashioned Easter Egg Roll, Saturday, March 19, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., lawn of Historic Freeman House.

Egg hunt, egg roll, activities, and appearance by Easter Bunny who poses for photos with kids.

Historic Freeman House, 131 Church Street S. For more information call 703-938-5187.

FEE:

Easter Egg Hunt at Colvin Run Mill, Saturday, March 19. Timed based on children's ages: Register for egg hunts spaced 45 minutes apart, starting from 10 a.m. Last hunt starts at 12:45 p.m. \$6 per child, County residents. For children 2 to 12 years old, hunts grouped by age.

Children will hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures on the grounds of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. Separate hunts by age group. Before the hunt, participants will make crafts to take home. Participants bring their own baskets.

Meadowlark Botanical Garden's Easter Egg Hunt, March 24, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Egg hunt, games, crafts, light

SEE FUN THINGS TO DO, PAGE 7

HOPE
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 sung by the St. John's Choir
 with organ, harp and timpani

March 26 - Easter Vigil
8:00 pm THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

March 27 - Easter Day
7:30, 9:00, 11:15 am HOLY EUCHARIST
 Music with brass and timpani accompaniment

7:30 pm GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AND MUSIC
Christus (An Unfinished Oratorio)
 by Felix Mendelssohn
 sung by the St. John's Choir
 with organ and string quartet

For more information:
www.stjohnsmclean.org
 or 703-356-4902

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Rehoboth Beach, DE, May 9-13\$659
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IRELAND, May 22-June 1\$3199
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 for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the
McLean Community Center's
FY 2018 Programs

Please Note Date Change
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2018, which runs July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas on considerations for class offerings, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities during the renovation period.

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

The McLean Community Center
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
 703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Time Traveler Tuesdays. 4:30 p.m. March 29-June 7. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This weekly series will take participants on an interactive journey through time, focusing on a different period in Virginia history each week. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centerville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullrunwrt.org>.

Pignments of My Imagination. Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

Margaret Newton Original Oils. Through March 31. Modern History Collection, 8100 F Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Great Falls original oil paintings. Opening reception with artist, Thursday, April 7 from 6-8 p.m. 703-942-6507.

"Witness: Close Encounters of the Painting Kind." March 1-31. Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks' solo exhibit of backyards, bars, beaches and other scenes keenly captured. JillBanks.com.

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, a free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

"Wishes and Dreams" Exhibit. March 1-April 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. viennartassociation.org. 703-319-3971.

Goldstein Artist Showcase. March 1-23. Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Gallery will feature the pastels and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. www.broadwaygallery.net. 703-450-8005.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Cabi clothing stylist, Allison Bateman, will speak, providing us with all the latest spring trends for 2016. \$24. RSVP by March 11 to Susie Osser at ssosser@verizon.net. McLeanNewcomers.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rescheduled performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest" will be at The Alden Theatre on Wednesday, March 30.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Spanish Storytime featuring CommuniKids. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Give your child the love of language at a fun, engaging Storytime in Spanish. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Game Night: Splendor. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

St. Patrick's Day Chef's Table. 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Taste the talents of executive chefs, Edwin Amaya and Moreno Espinoza, as they prepare and personally present a custom four-course menu with optional beer pairings. \$40-\$55 per person. To reserve, call 703-442-9110.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

Flashlight Egg Hunt. 7 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Enjoy a family evening searching for eggs and prizes in the dark! Please bring a flashlight so you can find the eggs. Jump like a bunny in the moon bounce and visit the Easter Bunny. 703-255-6360.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Linda Maldonado, a painter who uses mixed media and creative collage, will be the presenting artist. Guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Easter Egg Hunt at Colvin Run Mill. Starting at 10 a.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures of the grounds of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. Separate hunts by age group. Before the hunt, make egg-celent crafts to take home. Bring your own basket; program will be held rain or shine. Ages 2-9. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Freeman House, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. 703-938-5187.

Mr. Jon and Friends. 10:30 a.m. Jammmin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. This energetic family music is all about fun, movement, and laughter. Mr. Jon & Friends makes music for kids and their families that inspire fun, laughter, and dancing. \$25. Family pack available. <http://jammminjava.com/event/1032603>.

Author Reading and Signing. 2 p.m.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED/NEALE ECKSTEIN

Ellis Paul performs at Jammmin' Java on Saturday, April 9.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Game Night: Codenames. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Rodin Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join Jeffrey Allison, Paul Mellon Collection Educator and Manager, Statewide Programs and Exhibitions, as he explores the life and work of Auguste Rodin, the greatest sculptor of the 19th- and early 20th-centuries. mpaart.org. 703-790-1953.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Meet Biscuit. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Special Storytime with one of the most beloved children's book characters of all time - Biscuit! A brief Meet and Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. Free. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Easter Egg Hunt. Starts 9:30 a.m. Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Bring own basket and hunt for candy and eggs filled with treats. Ages 1-9. \$10 per child. Cash only. Information call 703-324-8566.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

"The Importance of Being Earnest." 7 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Wit and style, brilliant and wicked comic masterpiece. 35/\$20. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Springfest. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Spring Fest is a special event that includes self-guided arts and crafts projects, entertainment and the opportunity for children to get a professional-quality photo with "Bunny." \$5, Free to children up to 36 months. mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0123.

Bring Back Bluebirds. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. Build your own bluebird box and learn how to monitor for success. \$10 paid to instructor at class for each box. Meet at the Nature Center. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Campers at Culnaria Cooking School get to be creative while learning cooking skills.

Fun Things To Do

FROM PAGE 5

refreshments and photos with the Easter Bunny.

Open to children 2-11 years old. Cost is \$10 per child in advance, \$12 per child walk-in. Accompanying adults are free. Call 703-255-3631 for information. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna.

BE A "TOURIST" FOR A DAY.

For the price of Metro rail or gas, you, too, can be a national capital area tourist for the day. Fairfax County spring breaks falls during the Washington, D.C. cherry blossom festival. Walk around the Tidal Basin or stop by Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna to view spectacular pink decorative cherry trees in-bloom.

Visit Mount Vernon, national museums (free) including the zoo, or the Udvar-Hazy arm of the space museum outside Dulles International Airport.

GET IN-TUNE WITH NATURE AND ANIMAL LIFE.

Fairfax County is home to public nature reserves such as Frying Pan Park, and the up-close animal park in Reston, the Reston Zoo.

COOKING CLASSES FOR KIDS AND TEENS at Culnaria Cooking School.

Culnaria Cooking School runs a series of workshops - both mornings and afternoon sessions - on March 22 and 23 for kids and for teens. The final spring break cooking class is scheduled for Monday, March 28, the last day of Fairfax County Public Schools' spring break. From Asian flavor and Harry Potter-inspired fantasy foods to eclectic burgers and food truck classics, there's diversity in the classes.

For details and to register, go to <http://www.culnariacookingschool.com/2016/03/kidsteens-spring-break/>.

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SPORTS

Oakton Girls' Basketball Upset by Langley in State Semis

Cougars fall short at VCU for second straight season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Langley girls' basketball team played Oakton tough during the region semifinals on Feb. 26, but falling behind early threw a wrench in the Saxons' plans of knocking off the undefeated Cougars.

Eleven days later, Langley got a second shot at Oakton and this time the Saxons didn't wait to get going.

Langley jumped out to an 11-2 lead and never trailed during a 47-38 victory over Oakton in the 6A state semifinals on March 8 at VCU.

After limiting the Cougars to 44 points during their region tournament matchup — a three-point Oakton victory — the Saxons were even stingier this time, holding Oakton to a season-low 38. The Cougars, who entered the game averaging 61 points per contest, had 18 through three quarters.

"I think we started the game the best way we possibly could have started — extremely aggressive, looking to score, getting them on their heels early," Langley head coach Amanda Baker said, "and then we just kept it going the entire game."

OAKTON'S SEASON ended with a loss in the state semifinals for the second straight year.

"Our kids played hard," Oakton head coach Fred Priester said. "I thought we played better in the second half. Couldn't get any shots to drop, couldn't hit a free throw, kind of just one of those days."

Led by junior forwards Maddie Royle (6 feet 1) and Delaney Connolly (6 feet), and senior guard Alex Marquis, Oakton spent much of the season dominating opponents. In the state semifinals, Langley was able to limit the trio to 24 points.

Connolly totaled 12 points and 12 rebounds and Royle finished with four points on 1-for-7 shooting.

"We put a lot of prep into making sure we could defend them properly, especially [since] they have a really good high-low game, and we went through a lot of drills making sure we could get that right," Langley senior Stephanie Sipple said about defending Oakton's standout forwards. "It just took a lot of hard work in getting around them because they're very skilled players and they really know how to get a body up against you. It was amazing what we could do as long as we were talking."

Marquis scored eight points on 3-for-12 shooting.

"I thought [Langley] played an excellent game," Priester said. "They were able to



Oakton senior Alex Marquis scored eight points in her final game for the Cougars — a loss to Langley in the 6A state semifinals on March 8 at VCU.



Maddie Royle and the Oakton girls' basketball team won Conference 5 and 6A North region titles this season, but fell short in the state tournament.

Oakton's Delaney Connolly finished with a double-double — 12 points and 12 rebounds — against Langley in the state semifinals on March 8.



PHOTOS BY
WILL PALENSCAR

stick to their game plan very, very well and cause us some difficulties, so they definitely deserved to win the game. We just got outplayed today. We felt like we were in pretty good shape coming in. It's tough to go undefeated all year. It's just a lot of pressure."

Junior guard Kailyn Fee scored 10 points for Oakton on 3-for-10 shooting.

Oakton shot 14-for-47 from the floor, including 3-for-12 from 3-point range and made just 7 of 16 free-throw attempts.

Langley didn't shoot the ball well, either, making just 12 of 44 field goal attempts, but the Saxons made up for it with timely

buckets and solid foul shooting. Langley shot 20-for-28 from the free-throw line, led by sophomore guard Jordyn Callaghan, who made 12 of 13 attempts.

Langley senior Lizzy Shamloo knocked down a 3-pointer with 3:02 remaining in the third quarter, giving the Saxons a 26-16 advantage. Langley led by at least nine for the remainder of the contest.

Junior guard Ari Aulisi's 3-pointer with 5:18 remaining in the fourth quarter gave Langley a 34-18 lead; its largest of the game.

"They control the tempo in such a way [that] when we fell behind it was very, very

difficult to come [back]," Priester said. "When we played them last time, we never fell behind."

Callaghan led Langley with 14 points. Paige Galiani, Co-Conference 6 Player of the Year, scored eight points on 1-for-11 shooting. Shamloo finished with eight points and seven rebounds, Sipple totaled six points and 10 rebounds, and Aulisi had six points and seven rebounds.

"We knew that they've never been in that situation — they've never been down," Callaghan said about the Cougars, who entered Tuesday's contest with a 29-0 record. "On the other hand, we've been down; we've been in close games, so we know how to grind it out. We knew ... if we just keep scoring points and not letting them score points then they'd just slowly get down on themselves and then we'll rise up."

Marquis, asked to give advice after playing in her final high school game, said the Cougars are used to things going their way.

"I just think that we always have to play as a team and we can't get down on ourselves," Marquis said. "I think that the shots in the beginning that we're used to falling and getting us ahead, kind of getting our momentum going, just weren't falling today, so we realized

we kind of had to resort to other things and we're not used to that. We're used to our shots falling and everything kind of working in our favor. We just can't get down on ourselves and we have to find a new way to do it."

OAKTON ENTERED the state tournament undefeated for the third time in the last eight seasons. In 2009, the Cougars won 30 straight before losing to Princess Anne in the AAA championship game, 71-61. Oakton won the AAA state title in 2012, finishing 31-0 after beating Princess Anne 58-39. This year, after 29 straight victories, including Conference 5 and 6A North region championships, the Cougars fell in the 6A state semifinals.

"We feel bad," Priester said. "Everybody we beat before this felt bad. Two sides to the same coin."

Oakton will lose three seniors to graduation: Marquis and guards Christin Butters and Makenzie Brooks. Marquis was a four-year starter at point guard for the Cougars and scored more than 1,000 points in her career.

While Marquis will be difficult to replace, the Cougars would likely have another strong team next year with Royle, Connolly and Fee returning.

"It's just been a great season," Marquis said. "All these girls are my family. It's tough to end the season this way but we played hard all season long so I can't ask for anything more."

‘Do You Keep a Gun in Your Home?’

Starting conversations about gun safety can help prevent play date tragedies.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Starting the conversation felt awkward. After all, she didn't want to offend another parent. It also felt necessary, because putting her 5-year-old son in harm's way was not an option. After procrastinating, role-playing and even discussing it with a therapist, Sara Hayes finally initiated the dialogue. Before scheduling a play date, she wanted to know if the families of her son's friends owned guns.

"My son had started making friends in kindergarten and of course I wanted him to have playmates and go on play dates," said Hayes. "But I had this fear of him being in someone's house where there was a gun that he could get his hands on."

Statistics from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in-

dicating that one out of three homes in the United States with children have guns and almost 1.7 million children live in a home with a gun that is unlocked and loaded. Child development experts say that because many children are naturally curious, the odds of a child finding and playing with a gun that is relatively accessible are high. Even if a parent has never thought to ask about guns in a home or finds the topic too uncomfortable to raise, the conversation is vital to helping parents make decisions about safety, because simply telling a child to stay away from a gun is not enough to change that child's behavior.

"Each family needs to decide what information they would like to know. Parents should be aware that children's judgment alone is not a reliable security measure," said Bethesda, Md.-based child psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. "Way too often curiosity wins over judgment."

A study by a researcher at Eckerd College showed that educating preschool children about the potential dangers of guns didn't prevent them from playing with guns. In writing about her findings, Marjorie Hardy, Ph.D., explained, "... We brought a police officer to a class of 60 children and he told them: 'Don't touch guns — they're dangerous. If you see a gun, leave the area. Go tell an adult.'"

After the officer's presentation, the children could repeat what they'd been taught to do when they saw a gun. "But when we left them alone with disarmed guns, they picked them up and shot everything in sight," she wrote.

Officer Roger Henriquez of the Fairfax County Police Department, Franconia District Station says that parents might consider asking a parent before a play date: "How many guns do you own, and how do you keep them stored? 'Do you have a lock box or other safety features ... like trigger locks?' 'Do you take your kids to a firing range?'"

Such questions will help parents gather information to determine whether their child's playmates' parents share their views on gun

Tips

The Center to Prevent Youth Violence has created a resource for parents who want to inquire if there are firearms where their children play. They offer these tips, which might make it easier to open a dialogue:

❖ **Ask with other questions.** Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone's house — such as seat

belts, animals, or allergies.

❖ **Use the facts.** Over one-third of homes with children have a gun. Many of those guns are left unlocked and loaded. That is why you are asking — you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

❖ **Don't be confrontational.** Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is in a safe environment.

For more information, visit: <https://askingsaveskids.org>

safety and storage, since parenting philosophies run the gamut from lax to strict where guns are concerned. "Some parents take their kids to a firing range and other kids are told nothing except 'Stay away from this box,'" said Henriquez.

Starting such conversations can be fraught with anxiety, and many parents are reticent to broach the subject, especially with friends. "It's uncomfortable to talk honestly with other parents about issues such as guns because they are so politically divisive," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "It's also difficult to ask other parents questions that may be taken as a judgment on [their] parenting."

To increase the chance of a smooth and amicable conversation, Best suggests that bringing up questions about possible firearms and their storage should happen

well before a play date, rather than when a child is dropped off at a friend's house.

"A parent can begin with letting the hosting parent know if your child has any allergies," said Best. "This can be followed by 'I just wanted to make sure if you have guns at home, they are secured in a lock box.'"

A straightforward approach is an essential part of initiating these conversations. "It is important to be honest about your concerns," said Isenberg. "Parents can tell the other family that prior to a play date at a new home, they always inquire as to the presence of guns."

The statistics, say child researchers, bear out the importance of overcoming initial discomfort about a potentially controversial conversation. "I think most parents support firearm safety, if that means keeping children safe," said Best.

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"I Have Cancer"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Hardly a news flash, as you regular readers know. But when I said it the other day in response to some general conversation, I almost couldn't get the words out. It was peculiar, since I'm not usually uncomfortable discussing cancer or any of the associated experiences, and I certainly spend enough time writing about it. But when I said these words, I almost shook with anxiety or fear or something. And it scared me because it was a reaction/sensation I had never felt before; well, hadn't felt in a long time, anyway.

And it's not as if I spend a majority of my time denying my affliction. I wouldn't say I embrace it, but neither do I shrink from the responsibility of living with it and trying to overcome it. Nor do I mind being asked questions about cancer or my feelings before, during and throughout any and all ongoing treatments, scans, appointments and lab work and how it all relates and impacts. I'm open and honest and try to be "self-effacingly" positive in the midst of/against terrible odds. Generally speaking, not much bothers me. In fact, I've found a little humor goes a long way, and a lot of humor can mask a multitude of negative/unproductive emotions. (As you might imagine, there's no shortage of these.)

So it was odd - to me, when I went unexpectedly negative, experiencing an almost physical reaction to words (which aren't supposed to hurt me; after all, they're not "sticks and stones"). Words which I must have said in some context hundreds of times since I was diagnosed seven years ago, and rarely if ever shuddering - literally, at the mention of them. But shudder I did. I thought I had become accustomed to acknowledging them. Perhaps not?

But this is what cancer does; it sneaks up on you and takes control, physically and emotionally. And not merely when you least expect it, but when you thought you had passed the point of expecting it because you felt you had been there and doing it long enough that you were resistant to its ravages. Well, I was reminded quite clearly by this recent conversation that I will likely never get out from underneath its influence and effect. And here I thought I was Mister Well-Adjusted/Cancer Cool. Not so much, apparently. I'm just another cog in the cancer machine. Granted, I have my moments where I'm Charles and in charge, but this past week has shaken me to the core.

Not that I'm rethinking my approach to being a cancer patient/survivor; more that I've gained newfound respect for my adversary. You know, all things considered, I've had an amazingly easy time of it since I was diagnosed in late February, 2009, and perhaps I've misjudged/miscalculated/totally misinterpreted that amazing good fortune, thinking that somehow I was immune to cancer's insidious nature. Well, if I wasn't convinced before, I'm definitely convinced now. I don't suppose cancer schemes, but now I sort of feel like a pawn in a chess match and all I am is the timer.

But it is Spring Training (baseball) when all things are possible and hope is eternal. And though I have admitted some of my deepest and darkest fears, nothing is inevitable. My original prognosis was "13 months to two years" SEVEN YEARS AGO, so I'm not easily swayed. Presumably, in the future, there will be blips on my health radar, but it's nothing I can't handle. This recent experience actually confirmed it. It made me rethink some of my situational self-assessments and encouraged me in a way. I'm not exactly sure how or why but strangely enough, I sort of feel stronger and more capable going forward. On the whole, an excellent result.

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

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GINIA DEPARTMENT OF AL-
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TROL (ABC) for a Wine &
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SATURDAY/MARCH 19
Library Forum. 10-11:30 a.m. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-324-8319.

TUESDAY/MARCH 22
Virginia's Offshore Energy. 7-8:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sierra Club/Great Falls Group will host a presentation about the federal government's plan to allow offshore drilling off the coast of Virginia and the energy alternative of offshore wind. Free. sweltz@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23
Public Hearing on Programs. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Residents of the Center's tax district who attend the meeting can voice their opinions on current Center offerings and make suggestions for improving current programs and/or adding new initiatives. mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0124.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3
Richmond Wrap-Up. 2-4 p.m. Virginia International Conference Room, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Learn what your area legislator did during the Virginia General Assembly. Hear from state legislators. Bring your questions. Join the discussion. For more information go to sa-l-t.org/ or call 703-591-7042 ext. 352.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY/APRIL 5, 7
ESL Registration. 7-8 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road Vienna. \$25 for classes, \$10 for conversation. Cash only. Classes from April 12-June 9, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9:30 p.m. 703-502-9433.

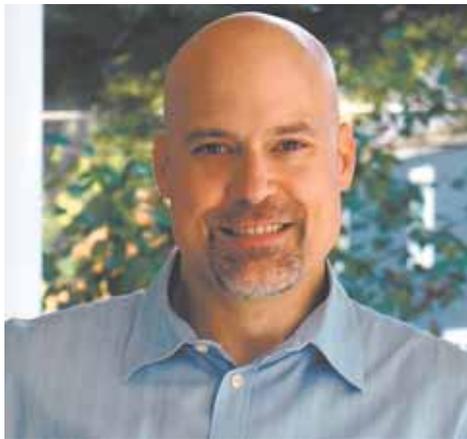
SATURDAY/APRIL 9
Bereavement Volunteer Training. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, 9770 Vale Road, Vienna. Education regarding childhood grief, and prepares volunteers to take part in our camp programs. Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit organization that provides free therapeutic grief programs for young people ages 5-25 who have experienced the death of a parent, guardian, or sibling. www.comfortzonecamp.org. jtensley@comfortzonecamp.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 12
Library Forum. 7-8:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-324-8319.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14
Library Forum. 7:30-9 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. fairfaxcounty.gov/library. 703-324-8319.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29
Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

ONGOING
Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID PRIESS



David Priess, a former CIA analyst, has written an authoritative and entertaining history of the President's Daily Brief, the most sensitive document in the federal government.

Author David Priess, right, delivered the President's Daily Brief to Attorney General John Ashcroft, shown here, and FBI Director Robert Mueller during the first George W. Bush administration.

Presidential Must-Read

Vienna resident publishes 'The President's Book of Secrets.'

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE CONNECTION

If praise from a former U.S. president, and a Foreword by another is any evidence, local author David Priess has hit the target with his first book. Published on March 1, the title explains Priess' connections to White House residents—"The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents from Kennedy to Obama."

The heart of the book is devoted to the history of the President's Daily Brief, or PDB in acronym-speak. Since 1964, the CIA has delivered the document to the president every day but Sunday. Only a few others designated by the president see this extraordinarily sensitive summary. Priess, a Vienna resident, now makes the details of its production and customers available to the public.

George H. W. Bush wrote the book's Foreword, and in a letter to Priess spoke fondly of the PDB. "When I was president, one of my favorite times of the day was when I would sit down with a briefer and read through the PDB." As a former director of the CIA, Bush was the most ardent consumer of intelligence among modern presidents. Eight years after leaving the White House, Bush wanted to make sure his son respected the PDB's value to the presidency. He offered direct advice on the document through Andy Card, George W. Bush's prospective chief of staff. "Make sure he reads the PDB every day."

The younger President Bush heeded that suggestion and became the second most avid and interactive reader of the highly classified document. In a note to Priess two weeks ago, he wrote, "Congratulations on its publication. Laura and I send our best wishes." He added a handwritten postscript, "Good read, David! Keep writing."

Armed with a doctorate in international relations from Duke University, Priess joined

The President's Book of Secrets by David Priess (Public Affairs, 384 pages, \$29.95)

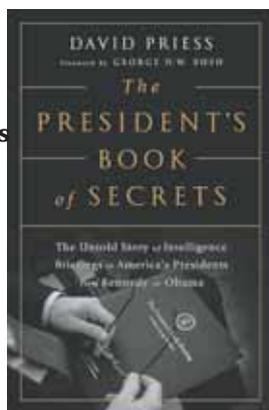


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NEW YORK

the CIA in early 1998 and became a Middle East and counterterrorism analyst. He soon began contributing articles to the PDB in addition to his other work. Early in the Bush administration, Priess became the daily PDB briefer for Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller. He left the agency in 2004, and is currently director of Analytic Services for Analytic Advantage, Inc. in Reston. He and his family are long-time Vienna residents.

For the book, Priess interviewed every living former president and vice president, eleven national security advisers, almost every CIA director and director of national intelligence, and dozens of CIA and White House staffers. He introduces the reader to the PDB's successes in forecasting major international events—the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and the 1991 coup attempt against the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, for example. Priess also digs into examples of the PDB's predictive failures—the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and the infamous article five weeks before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, "Bin Laden Determined To Strike in US."

"I wanted to write a 'no-kidding' history about a daily institution in every recent president's life," Priess said in a recent interview. "For fifty years, the PDB has been a rare constant in a city defined by change, especially every four or eight years."

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ST LOUIS RD, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Private & peaceful, with convenient location on hardtop road. Main-level BR with 3 more upstairs. Big windows w/views onto tall hardwoods & large flat yard. Horse-friendly w/barn and big open paddock. Brick floors in kitchen and mudroom; wide-plank wood elsewhere. Stone FP. **\$875,000**

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O ST W, PURCELLVILLE, VA - 4BR, 2BA farmhouse in historic downtown. Walking distance to restaurants, shops, and bike trail. Located on a nearly 1/4acre, fenced backyard w/ garden. Mature trees, landscaping, front porch w/ swing and screened back porch. Refinished hardwood floors, newly painted, bright kitchen. **\$349,000**

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MADRILLON, VIENNA, VA, RENTAL - Beautiful house, hardwood floors throughout the house, house shows well. Great location right in Tysons and close to major highways. House backs to the woods and very private. Newer refrigerator in the kitchen, second refrigerator in the garage. 75 gallon water heater. **\$4,500/MO**

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