Krissia Ceron Pacas-5th grade, Fort Hunt Elementary

Children's & Teens' Gazette 2019
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About This

Dear Readers:

This week, the Mount Vernon Gazette turns over its pages to the youth and students. We asked children and teens from the area to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's & Teens' Issue. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We’d also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2020 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year’s Children’s & Teens’ Gazette. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

This student issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Gazette welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly news pages.

Our next print edition will come out on Jan. 8, 2020. Happy New Year!

Reach us at editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Mary Kimm
Mount Vernon Gazette
Editor and Publisher

Holy Family by the Owls class at Washington Street United Methodist Church Preschool.

“Chilling Out” by Olivia Webster - Age 8, Grade 2, Stratford Landing Elementary School

“Dutch Landscape” by Sophia Webster - Age 14, Grade 8, Carl Sandburg Middle School

“Sweet Christmas” by Benjamin Webster - Age 10, Grade 4, Stratford Landing Middle School

3rd grade, St. Thomas More school in Arlington, teacher Ms. Veronica Fernandez.
-Drawing: Box Jellyfish

5th grade, St. Thomas More school in Arlington, teacher Ms. Stephanie Pacheco.
-Drawing: The Season of Friendship

TWENTY-FOUR DAYS

Twenty-four days, twenty-four days!
Counting the days are making a maze!
Christmas is coming, this I know,
but maybe this year it will come and then go?

Days and nights, skies and snow,
Christmas will come, but eventually go.
Time is ticking, clocks are clicking,
time is racing by.
And then finally! Christmas is nigh.

It seems like I had some patience,
but maybe I let it go.
Perhaps I’ll remember it and then I’ll never know.
Christmas will come some other time,
but for now I feel like the world is mine.

Poem:
24 Days (Advent)
By Mason Choi,
Alexandria.
Age 9
Children's & Teens' Gazette

Sadia Hussain, 2nd Grade, Age 7

Caroline Lehman, 4th Grade, Age 10

Ryan Kremer, 1st Grade, Age 6

Ellie Harris, 2nd Grade, Age 8

Evelyn Bryan, 2nd Grade, Age 7

Zethan Hazel, 4th Grade, Age 10

Alexandria Country Day School

Seneca Baytosh, 7th Grade, Age 12

See Alexandria Country Day School, Page 5

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Season’s Greetings

During the Holiday Season, I find myself reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped us shape our business. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Season and a New Year filled with Peace and Prosperity

Rex and Doris Reiley, Liz Reiley, Kelly Palmer, and Jay Hutton

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Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Painting

T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard Campus

Acrylic paintings from the Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Painting unit. The students are 9th graders in Art I from T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard. Anna Davila, Visual Arts Teacher

Michelle Hernandez Yanez
Daniel Ackah
Cindy Alvarado
Maryum Ramzan

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Fort Hunt Elementary
Curated by Andrew Green, Fort Hunt Elementary Art Teacher
5th Grade

Charles Campbell-5th grade
Kaya Canizalez-5th grade
Kip Bryant-5th grade
Kristina Canizalez-5th grade
Mena Martinez-6th grade
Jeremy Lacey-Kline-6th
Erika Reistad-4th grade
Petra Adonteng-4th grade
Lilah Good-3rd grade
Kyana Canizalez-3rd grade
Maisy Nealy-3rd grade
Timothy Childers-3rd grade
Daisy Linden-3rd grade
Isla Nolton-2nd grade
Lochlan Edwards-3rd grade
Lilah Good-3rd grade
Anna Buckler-3rd grade
Daisy Linden-3rd grade
Leyla Blu-2nd grade
Leyla Blu-2nd grade

4th Grade

Ainsle Schielke-4th grade
Ally Cabell-4th grade
Sophy Cutto-Felizzola-5th grade
Parker Schroeder-5th grade
Kip Bryant-5th grade

Kindergarten

Marie Puck-Kindergarten
Braely Lewis-Kindergarten
Nicole Quarles-1st grade
Caleb Kamara-1st grade
Mila Sales-1st grade
Bethany Sutton-2nd grade

2nd & 3rd Grade

Bethany Sutton-2nd grade
Anna Buckler-3rd grade

5th Grade

Charles Campbell-5th grade
Kaya Canizalez-5th grade
Kip Bryant-5th grade
Kristina Canizalez-5th grade
Mena Martinez-6th grade
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Children’s & Teens’ Gazette

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Daisy Linden-3rd grade
Isla Nolton-2nd grade
Lochlan Edwards-3rd grade
Leyla Blu-2nd grade
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1/8/2020.................................Wellbeing
1/15/2020.................................HomeLifeStyle
1/22/2020.................................A+ Camps & Schools
1/29/2020.................................Senior Living

FEBRUARY
2/5/2020.................................Wellbeing
2/5/2020.................................Valentine's Dining & Gifts
2/12/2020.................................HomeLifeStyle
2/19/2020.................................A+ Camps & Schools
2/26/2020.................................Senior Living / Connection Families - Pet Connection

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Children’s & Teens’ Gazette

Ella Rae Beckner Grade 3

Charlie Douglas Grade 3

Pendleton Fraley
Grade 2

Ellie Minor Grade 9

Brady Hendy Grade 2

Nat Johnson Grade 11

Zach Gunn Grade 11

Sophie Atkisson Grade 9

St. Stephen’s and
St. Agnes School
Sunshine

Why am I the only raincloud?
The only raincloud in the room?
Thunder roars and lightning burns.
And my wish is that the table turns.

Why am I the only sunshine?
The only sunshine in the room?
The thunder roars and lightning does call.
But I'm the only one to stall.

Why am I the only raincloud?
The only raincloud in the room?
Someone told me there is always light.
But all the storm will do is fight.

Why am I the only sunshine?
The only sunshine in the room?
I see a boy all lonely and sad?
Maybe I can spread my sunshine, make him glad.

Why am I the only raincloud?
The only raincloud in the room?
There's a girl, walking by.
I really wonder why she'd try.

Why am I the only sunshine?
The only sunshine in the room?
I walk to the boy.
Hoping to spread my joy.

Why am I the only raincloud?
The only raincloud in the room?
The girl smiles and so do I.
And all of a sudden there goes my urge to cry.

Why am I the only sunshine?
The only sunshine in the room?
I spread my joy to one.
And the kindness will never be done.

Why am I the second sunshine?
One of two in the room?
Time to spread the kind.
To those who are happy-blind.
Stratford Landing Elementary School

Mrs. Sharon Burke – Art Teacher

Elena Paschalis - Kindergarten

Giana Storelli - Kindergarten

Shanzah Mumtaz - Kindergarten

Max Goozit - Kindergarten

Grace Toohey – 3rd Grade

Garrett Chang – 3rd Grade

Eliana Mellon – 3rd Grade

Kaitlyn Hoewing – 3rd Grade

George Howell – 3rd Grade

Norah Crowley #1 – 4th Grade

Norah Crowley #2 – 4th Grade

Reese Myers – 4th Grade
Children's Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Painting

T.C. Williams High School
Minnie Howard Campus

Acrylic paintings from the Day of the Dead Sugar Skull Painting unit. The students are 9th graders in Art I from T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard. Anna Davila, Visual Arts Teacher

Leila Abarca
Kathryn Rutherford
Evelyn Ipsen
Frank Agama Perez

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Notice of Availability and Public Hearing
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE DECOMMISSIONING AND DISENTMENTLEMENT OF THE DECOMMISSIONED SM-1 NUCLEAR REACTOR FACILITY

Proposed Action: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USEC), Baltimore District proposes to fully decommission and dismantle the Decommissioned Storage Medium Power Plant 1 (SM-1) Reactor Facility on Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. A standard that allows for release of the site for unrestricted use (proposed action). Under the proposed action, USEC would implement an environmental impact statement (EIS) that supports the site’s decommissioning, transport, and disposal of remaining structures, equipment, and media from the Decommissioned SM-1 site. Site conditions meet achievable cleanup standards; restore the site to a vegetated condition; and return the site to Fort Belvoir for future use. Through analysis and evaluation of the proposed action’s potential environmental impacts, USEC concludes that there would be no significant adverse impacts on the physical, cultural, and natural environment.

Public Notice. Interested parties are hereby notified that USEC has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) regarding the proposed action. Notice is also made for a Draft Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FNPA), prepared by USEC to comply with Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management.

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508), and Army NEPA regulations (22 CFR Parts 601–608).

Public Review. In accordance with 32 CFR Part 601.14, the Draft EA, Draft FONSI, and Draft FNPA will be available for a six-week public review and comment period starting December 20, 2020, and ending on January 31, 2021. The public may submit comments on these documents during this time.

Printed copies of the Draft EA, Draft FONSI, and Draft FNPA are available for review at the following locations:

Fort Belvoir Library
Kingstowne Library

900 Belvoir Rd, Bldg 300
6800 Landmark Center
6329 Richmond Highway

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Alexandria, VA 22315-5301

Comments. Written comments on the Draft EA, Draft FONSI, and Draft FNPA, or requests for additional information about the proposed action and environmental review, should be sent to USEC at the email or postal mail addresses noted above.

Public Meetings. USEC invites interested parties and the local community to attend public meetings for the Draft EA to learn more about the proposed action and environmental review. The public meetings will be held on January 7 and 8, 2021. Each meeting will be conducted in an open house format to include a short presentation followed by questions and answers from the audience. In accordance with NEPA, the participation of military personnel, federal, state, and local agencies, federally recognized tribes, organizations, and individuals with an interest in the proposed action is strongly encouraged.

The public meeting schedule will be:

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 (On-Post)
Thurman Hall, Building 217, 210 Glen Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
(“Due to Fort Belvoir security requirements, attendance at the on-post meetings is limited to Department of Defense military and civilian personnel, Fort Belvoir residents, and Fort Belvoir contractors/licensed employees.”)

• Afternoon Meeting: Open House/Poster Session: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
• Evening Meeting: Open House/Poster Session: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 (Off-Post – Open to the General Public)
Farah’s South County Office, Room 221, 8208 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22303

• Open House/Poster Session: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM (Poster Presentation and Audience Questions: 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM)

Interested parties are encouraged to provide written or oral comments at the meetings. Should you require special assistance due to a disability, have limited English proficiency, or have other questions or concerns about the public meeting, please contact the USEC Corporate Communication team at 410-963-3808 in advance of the event. Please note that presentations at different sessions will be the same and will be shared online following the meeting.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The doctor told me that I’ll probably receive results from today’s biopsy in five to seven days. The pathologist will send the results to my oncologist who presumably will email them to me. Now whether that new information will cause a change in my treatment, I certainly don’t know. However, I would imagine that knowing the genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the process rocket science. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA’s approval of more drugs for the treatment of lung cancer in the last three years than in the previous three decades, according to LUNGevity.

The genetic mutation/biomarker would cause an immediate change. We’re not exactly waiting for Godot here. And neither is the process rocket science. It’s medicine. It’s research. It’s years of clinical trials. All of which has led to the FDA’s approval of more drugs for the treatment of lung cancer in the last three years than in the previous three decades, according to LUNGevity.

One reason I’m still alive is the Team Lourie philosophy: hoping Kenny can stay alive until research catches up — or even passes you by — which then enables you to take advantage of the next big thing/new drug. Over the last 11 years, I’ve benefited from the research that has provided drugs which allowed me to live years beyond my original “1 month to two years” prognosis because that’s what my oncologist said. Now I hope to be the beneficiary once again of the latest and greatest treatment: Targeted Therapy. If so, another 11 years would suit me just fine.

To say I’m excited would not exactly describe my state of mind. Hopeful, of course. Anxious, for sure, because I think my oncologist, per our last meeting, was anticipating my future a bit and was talking about switching from my present opdivo immunotherapy to something brand new (or a new combination of medicines) seemed timely to him. Ergo, my needle biopsy today at the Interventional radiologist. I guess you could say “I’m pleased as punch,” though, to quote Hubert Horatio Humphrey Jr., the 38th Vice President of the United States, that I had this procedure. It opens us up to new treatment possibilities which for a nearly 11-year cancer survivor is likely way more important than I realize. After all, my oncologist did characterize my non-small-cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis as “terminal.” A disease for which my oncologist also said that he “could treat, but that he couldn’t cure.” Well, I don’t suppose he can cure me now with whatever targeted therapy matches my tumor’s biomarker so I’m counting on these new drugs being able to treat me some more. I could live with that.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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Mount Vernon Gazette Children's & Teens' Connection 2019-2020 15

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