

# The Arlington Connection

Bernadette Zenzano on her rounds Sunday morning in Clarendon.

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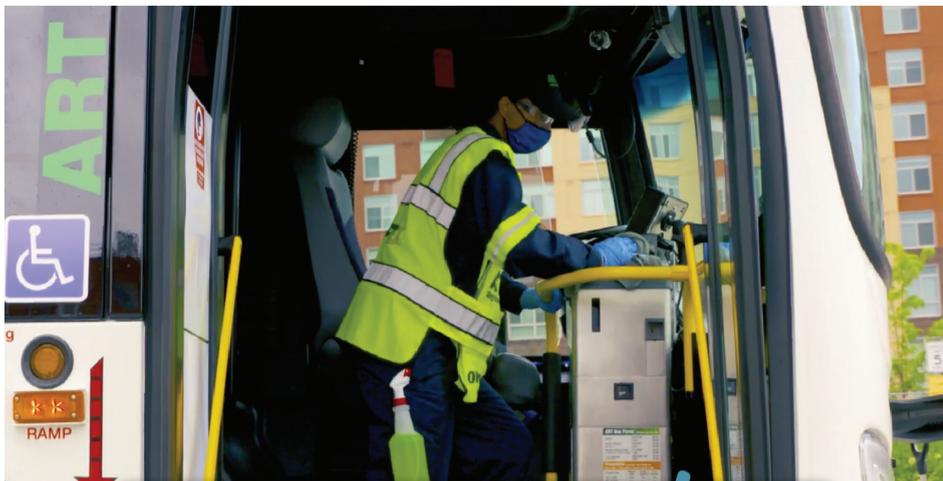
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## ARpETS: GUINEA PIGS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY AW/LA

Can you guess which guinea pig is Neapolitan and which is Coffee?

### ArPets: Neapolitan and Coffee Found Their Forever Home

But more guinea pigs wait at the shelter.

BY JOAN BRADY  
 ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Getting a guinea pig was pretty exciting for 6-year-old Will Piper of Vienna. Piper, now 18, remembers Buddy fondly as a great pet who would squeak every morning for his breakfast. It's worth pointing out that Buddy's favorite breakfast of three blueberries made Buddy much cheaper to feed than say, my beagle.

Little Buddy brought lots of fun and laughs into the Pipers' lives. No one in the family is likely to forget the time when Buddy crawled up the shorts of Will's older brother, apparently "until he could go no further." I'll leave the rest of that little scene to your imagination.

Piper recommends guinea pigs as great pets for kids. But they also make great pets for adults. They are beloved for their perfect size and cuddliness. They purr a bit

like cats when content and guinea pigs are smart. They can be taught to come when called, stand on command, push a ball, jump through hoops and more.

They like to interact with their humans and generally don't see playtime as an opportunity to head off on their own adventures. You can even teach them to use a cat litter box to take care of business, which can provide a welcome option to keeping things clean.

All that is pretty great, but honestly, I think the coolest thing about guinea pigs is that when they are super happy, they do a little dance move called "popcorn-ing." It's really not describable, so if you are unfamiliar, as I was, it's worth googling. But beware, you may fall down the same rabbit hole of hilarious guinea pig videos that I did.

Originally planned for this week, as you might have surmised were two guinea pigs; Neapolitan and Coffee. They had had a pretty crummy deal so far. The pandemic has been difficult for many families. Their first family dropped them at a friend's house for what

SEE NEAPOLITAN, PAGE 7



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# Limiting Neck Restraints

Lawmakers negotiate behind closed doors on how to curb police use of chokeholds.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

When lawmakers began their special session on criminal justice reform in August, hopes were high that the General Assembly would send the governor a bill that banned police from using chokeholds. At the time, protesters across the country were demanding change in the wake of the death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died when a Minneapolis police officer kept his knee on his neck for 8 minutes and 15 seconds.

But now that the protesters have gone home and the lawmakers have moved behind closed doors to negotiate in a secret closed-door conference committee, advocates for criminal-justice reform are worried about what will emerge in the conference report that will be presented to the House and Senate.

At issue is how chokeholds will be limited, and lawmakers are divided over what approach to take. The House approach is to outlaw the use of chokeholds by law enforcement officials, sending a policy statement that police officers and sheriff's deputies are not allowed to use neck restraints. The Senate approach would prohibit the use of

chokeholds by removing the lawful force defense, allowing officers to be prosecuted for strangulation while also avoiding adding a new felony offense that would apply specifically to law enforcement officials.

"We like the House version better," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia. "It's very clean. It just says you can't use a neck restraint in carrying out your official duties. Period. End of sentence. It's a felony."

While the House version creates a new felony offense for law-enforcement officers who use a neck restraint while on duty, the Senate version would allow police officers and sheriff's deputies to use chokeholds if they are "immediately necessary to protect the law-enforcement officer or another person."

Gastanaga says she's worried that proving law-enforcement officers are guilty of strangulation in court would be more complicated

**"I don't think that police reform needs to be signed off on by the police."**

— Andy Elders,  
deputy public defender in Fairfax County

and require more proof. Senators say their version avoids cluttering up the code by adding a separate



The Black Lives Matter movement began using 'I can't breathe' in 2014 to honor Eric Garner, an unarmed Black man who was killed in a chokehold by police in New York City.

felony offense singling out law-enforcement officers with additional liability that would not apply to anybody else.

"The Senate bill says law enforcement officials get treated like everybody else when it comes to felony strangulation," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who is overseeing policing reform in the Senate. "Not only does it institute a chokehold ban, where an officer could be decertified or fired or demoted, but it also creates the possibility they could be charged with a Class 6 felony."

House members are pushing for a separate criminal penalty for police officers and sheriff's deputies who use chokeholds. They disagree with the Senate approach, which they worry would be limited to decertification or termination of officers who use neck restraints. But they're also entering the conference committee negotiations with a group of senators who have already drawn a red line that they will not allow the creation of a separate felony offense for chokeholds. Some House members see that approach as inconsistent with other actions taken during the special session.

"They allowed a new felony for officers who have carnal knowledge of a person in their custody," said Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2). "So they'll make it a felony offense for an officer who has sex with a person who may be in their custody, but not an officer who performs a chokehold on an individual? That's kind of where we are unfortunately."

THE DEBATE OVER CHOKEHOLDS comes at a time when lawmakers are sending a flurry of bills to the governor, everything from the civilian oversight of police officers to sensitivity training. For some Republicans, it's too much too soon. During a debate about policing reform last week, several senators vented their frustration with the pace of reform happening in the General Assembly.

"I'm quite convinced that perhaps the Senate needs some sensitivity training," said Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-12). "There's an inherent bias that I'm hearing, using some of the language we've heard, toward our police force."

Here in Alexandria, Black people are 23 percent of the population and yet most arrests in the city are of African Americans. Most cases when police use force are against Black people. Most drug arrests are of Black people. And almost half of the inmates at the Alexandria jail are Black people. Demo-

SEE LIMITING NECK, PAGE 7

## Elegant French Lady Picks up Your Trash in Arlington

**Self-appointed litter collector hopes for less litter.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Sometimes, Arlington is a wonderful international village. You might be running into the Northside Social to grab coffee when an elegant French lady comes down the street armed to the teeth with a nabber-reacher tool, looking very determined. She uses it to grab a piece of plastic trash from the once grassy median and shove it into a bag she carries in her other hand. Dressed in a sun hat, mask, long trousers, European sandals, and spotless blouse, she says she comes every Sunday to pick up trash along the median where the parking meters are — an area which for some

reason is always full of broken glass, beer six pack cartons, and plastic bags. There are other areas she polices as well, but this one is always ... well ... trashy.

Bernadette Zenzano grew up in France at the end of and after World War II. She had seen the country slowly rebuild, and then the turmoil of 1968, as students revolted. She came to this country in 1968 for the briefest of visits, a young woman in her early twenties. She met Juan Zenzano, fell in love,

**"If you write about me, please tell people to stop dropping their used face masks on the ground! I have seen a huge increase in the number of these things discarded around this area and it's very unhealthy as these masks could be contaminated."**

— Bernadette Zenzano, longtime Clarendon resident

accepted a proposal of marriage, gulped when he said he wanted them to make their home in Washington, this side of the Atlantic, and has been here ever since.

Zenzano, well-masked (but you can't hide elegance) is conversational, but driven: she can't easily be distracted from her mission, even when it's time for a photo. She says, in a very French way, that it's not a cultural thing, litter, it's a matter of courtesy.

Vive la propreté! Vive l'elegance.



Bernadette Zenzano on her rounds Sunday morning in Clarendon.

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

# Homestretch Virtual 5K is Keeping Arlington in Shape

Running a 5K on your own or just donating improves morale.

By EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

There's power in numbers. Three local homeless outreach and community organizations, Community Lodgings, Bridges to Independence, and Homestretch, are hosting their Third Annual 5K Home Run for the Homeless to raise support for Northern Virginia homeless families.

Rather than running on the Washington & Old Dominion trail together as in the past, this event will take place virtually, giving runners the ability to run when and where they would like between last Saturday, Oct. 10, World Homeless Day, and Saturday, Oct. 31.

Additionally, Amazon will sponsor 60 runners for the event, 20 each from the three partner organizations, including families,

volunteers, staff, and board members. To combat homelessness, all three organizations are combining efforts to raise funding to support and empower homeless parents and children to achieve self-sufficiency. The organizations also offer a variety of services including mentoring, case management, job readiness, and financial literacy.

"By partnering with other local non-profit organizations that want to end homelessness, we expand our reach and show how the entire community can be involved in ending homelessness," said Lynn Thomas, Executive Director of Community Lodgings. "There's power in numbers. It's easy to assume that homelessness doesn't exist in these wealthy communities but it does."

A study of urban poverty in Northern Virginia from 2017 found an overwhelmingly high concen-

tration of individuals of color living in poorer neighborhoods, and that these neighborhoods, despite their proximity to resources and wealth, shape residents' health and education outcomes. Sam Kelly, CEO of Bridges to Independence, added, "The 'independence' in Bridges to Independence is about breaking the cycle of poverty that this study identifies. Your support helps families of color improve their socioeconomic conditions."

Many individuals who receive support from Community Lodgings, Bridges to Independence and Homestretch are employed but cannot afford to pay for basic necessities such as rent, food, gas, and water. To combat this, the host organizations run programs designed to provide individuals with tools and resources to gain financial freedom. "At each of our organizations, we're focused on

combating the root causes of homelessness and empowering those in need in our communities with the all-encompassing support that will help them ultimately achieve self-sufficiency for the long-term," said Homestretch Executive Director Christopher Fay. "In the wake of covid-19 this support is more critical than ever, and we're glad that today's event was another great example of the community coming together to support those in need."

Additional event sponsors include: John Moriarty & Associates, United Bank, Griffin Owens Insurance Group, The Golleher Group LLC, Cigna, Sotheby's, Association Excellence, LLC, Patrick King and Arlington Turkey Trot.

The "race" will also mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

To register to walk/run in the 5K between now and Oct. 31, visit <https://bit.ly/2FqytpO>.

## Dialogues On Race And Equity

Amid the national conversation on race, Arlington County is calling on its collective community to participate in steps towards true justice and equity

Today, Arlington County launched a new effort to address racial equity and disparities in our community. Called Dialogues on Race and Equity (DRE), the effort is part of the County's broader commitment to racial equity and follows the County Board's 2019 equity resolution.

VIDEO: Watch this kick-off clip to learn more about DRE.

Dialogues on Race and Equity will include a series of virtual community conversations with individuals, nonprofit organizations, civic associations, faith organizations, and businesses to learn about and address the ways in which Arlington can be a more equitable place for all residents and businesses.

In addition, Arlingtonians across the County are invited and encouraged to share their perspectives in a Countywide assessment, as Arlington recognizes that everyone has different experiences, backgrounds, insights, opinions, and beliefs about race and equity. Our community wide assessment is a short online questionnaire to help our community understand potential areas of opportunities for advancing race and equity and the related systemic issues in our community.

"This is a necessary and overdue opportunity for our entire community to have direct dialogue with each other on racial equity issues and to have all voices heard by community leaders, businesses and policymakers," said Libby Garvey, Chair of the Arlington County Board. "We have reached an inflection point in our country and our community's history on race and on the injustices that have been with us from the very beginning. Many

SEE DIALOGUES, PAGE 6

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## HOMELIFESTYLE

# Home Library Design

Designers offer ideas for spaces with style and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Once thought of as space for academics to smoke cigars and sip whiskey, the era of covid-19 has transformed home libraries into now cozy places of refuge. Those who've grown tired of Netflix and election coverage might find solace in curling up with a book. From a reading nook with a small chaise to a grand room with a fireplace and soaring ceilings, five local designers offer inspiration for creating a home library.

### Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design

Whether ornate or minimalist, design ideas for accommodating one's personal taste abound, says Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design in McLean. "When it comes to home libraries, the customization options are endless," she said. "Some of my favorite things

**"When it comes to creating a space that feels relaxing, while still put together, it's always best to keep it simple."**

— Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design in McLean, Virginia.

er, it's always best to keep it simple," she said. "Use soft pillows and throws, textured fabrics on upholstery, and be sure to include a soft rug."

Even for those with a vast collection of tomes, Morris believes in leaving a few open spaces on the shelves to display accessories, like picture frames or bookends. "Completely filled shelves can be overwhelming," she said. "Balancing it with other accessories will make it look stylish, yet relaxed. I like to break up the shelves by including some books turned horizontally with a decorative object resting on top."

One of Morris' most memorable home libraries was at once stately and serene. "We opted for a completely wood-filled space with rich leathers," she said. "Since the space was filled with darker wood tones, we used large windows for added brightness. We also had the mullions of the windows faux painted to match the wood for a seamless look."

Doubling as a home office, the space includes a fireplace focal point. "We used swivel chairs that can pivot towards the fireplace in the room or towards the desk, plus putting an ottoman in between provides a soft place to kick up your feet," she said.

### Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean,

Determining homeowners reading style and the way the room's overall purpose, is the way that Rebecca Penno, Penno Interiors in McLean, Va. approaches each home library design. "Some home libraries



A fireplace, leather chairs and large windows combine to make this wood-filled home library by Tracy Morris both stately and comfortable.

PHOTO BY GREG POWERS



Large windows add additional lighting to this wood paneled library and home office by Rebecca Penno.

PHOTO BY ANGELA NEWTON ROY

function as a work space, others as more of a den," she said. "This is always a struggle with homeowners when styling their built-ins. "Many homeowners have a true book collection that they do not want to let go of. Other homeowners have books with no attachment. If possible, we always eliminate all paperback books."

An expansive library with multiple functions, says Penno included a desk, fireplace and television. She designed the room to serve as library, home office and a space to relax. "In order for the homeowner to be able to use all three of these focal points, we used comfortable lounge chairs on a swivel base to provide flexibility," she said. "The starting point was the oak paneling. It provided a masculine backdrop with the deep wood tones and strong grain. From there, we layered patterns of all brown tones paired with brass accents."

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**NEWS**

**Dialogues on Race and Equity**

FROM PAGE 4

effects of that history are baked into our systems and laws.

It will take the entire community working together to make sure we understand these effects and can make Arlington a more just and equitable society for people of all backgrounds. This initiative, while it's just one step, is an important one for our community.”

Over the next few months, Arlington will host various dialogues with three focus areas:

**Dialogues on Race and Equity in Your Community** – We encourage Arlington residents to sign up for small interactive virtual conversations with neighbors to learn and discuss race and equity in Arlington County.

**Dialogues on Race and Equity Together** – We are inviting partners, including Arlington nonprofits, civic associations, faith organizations, and businesses to join us in hosting interactive conversations within their own networks and with other organizations. DRE Partners will receive facilitator training and dialogue resources. Sign up now to be a partner.

**Dialogues on Race and Equity in Your Neighborhood** – Launching later this year, provides for neighbor-to-neighbor facilitated conversations in the community.

Arlington is partnering with Challenging Racism to facilitate the dialogues for Arlingtonians to learn from each other, provide input and participate in a collective conversation critical to the growth and equity within the community. The organization also is conducting the assessment on perspectives on race and equity in Arlington.

“Arlington deeply values open community opinion

and perspective. By launching DRE, we hope to encourage community participation across the County on addressing and advancing issues of racial injustice and inequity.

The assessment will help us understand where Arlingtonians are on the journey and the dialogues will help us begin to normalize conversations on race and equity to know where and how we want to grow and evolve as a community” said Samia Byrd, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County.

Racial inequity affects not only the present-day lives of Arlingtonians but also future opportunities for residents and businesses alike. From economic mobility, housing, and land use policy to access to education, location of public facilities and infrastructure, and gaps in healthcare — as the pandemic has further exposed. The impetus for this effort is a recognition that it will take all Arlingtonians to create positive change.

“Arlington has always prided itself on the shared community value of inclusion, yet we understand that there are systems that remain in place that prevent true equity and justice from being realized,” said Arlington County Board Member Christian Dorsey. “We are committed to moving our community forward into a new era—where our values are reflected in the experiences and opportunities of everyone who calls Arlington home.”

For more information and to learn how you can participate in the Perspectives on Race and Equity Assessment, join DRE in Your Community conversations, or become a DRE Together partner visit the Arlington County Dialogues on Racial Equity webpage. <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/equity/dre/>

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# Limiting Neck Restraints

FROM PAGE 3

crats say the death of George Floyd and the protest movement that emerged in its aftermath have created a moment to take action against systemic racism and police brutality.

"We're here wanting to talk about issues of equality. We're here because we're interested in talking about issues of justice," said Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2), who introduced the policing reform bill in the Senate. "I'm concerned that there's a lack of sensitivity on the part of some of our colleagues here on the floor because we're here to talk about those particular issues."

On the issue of chokeholds, organizations that advocate on behalf of police agencies stand in opposition to the House approach of creating a separate felony offense that would apply specifically to law-enforcement officials. They warn that limiting the way police officers and sheriff's deputies go about their work would be a dangerous move. During hearings on Carroll Foy's bill, they testified her approach would create confusion and cause hesitation.

"We don't use neck restraints, and we don't advocate for them," said Wayne Huggins, executive director of the Virginia State

Police Association. "But there needs to be an exemption for those life-and-death situations where no other alternative is reasonably available."

Although interest groups representing law-enforcement agencies stand in opposition to the House approach, they worked with senators in crafting an omnibus approach to policing reform that has their support.

That support gives senators more leverage in their closed-door conference committee negotiations with House members, but it also creates suspicion among advocates who are concerned that law-enforcement interest groups are calling the shots on reforming law enforcement.

"I don't think that police reform needs to be signed off on by the police," said Andy Elders, deputy public defender in Fairfax County. "During this special session, I've heard people say you don't want to second guess police officers and you don't want to tie their hands. But if we're going to preserve the rights of the people who come into contact with the police every day, you have to second guess the police sometimes and you have to tie their hands."



Before there was Buddy, there were a couple of stuffed guinea pigs, with Will Piper.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PIPER FAMILY

# Neapolitan and Coffee Found Their Forever Home

FROM PAGE 2

they said was a temporary visit and never returned. Adorable as they are, that family's cat did not enjoy the company of the pigs. And that meant another transition for these two little bundles of joy and a drop off at the Arlington Animal Welfare League shelter.

Every day, Neapolitan and Coffee were lonely and desperate for someone to recognize how cute, friendly and fun they are and come to take them home. They hoped for a nice person, couple or family who will lavish them with love, attention and snacks and who will teach them all kinds of tricks.

Well I just love it when there is good news. Between writing and just before publication, Neapolitan and Coffee found their forever family! So cute as they are, they are no longer available. However, there are two adorable little bonded brothers who just came on the scene and ARE available.

Slick and Grizzly are at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (awla.org). You

can schedule a date to meet them by going to: [adoptionsbyappointment.youcanbook.me](http://adoptionsbyappointment.youcanbook.me). The AWLA schedules exactly 24 hours in advance, so they recommend going to the scheduling page 24 hours ahead of the time you would like to have your meet and greet, to book. If they are gone by the time you get your chance, no doubt more guinea pigs will turn up soon.

If these sweet guinea pigs are not a good fit for your household, please share their story and help them to find their forever home.

ArPets is a weekly feature for highlighting the well-loved pets of Arlington as well as animals who are available for adoption. If you or your dog, cat, iguana, bunny, rat or any other pet, has an interesting pet story to tell, email me at [joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com).

Joan is an award-winning Connection Newspapers columnist and local photographer specializing in pets, children and families and contemporary business portraits.

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## "And Awaay We Go!"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As Jackie Gleason would say as he segued from his monologue into the sketch comedy that followed on his Saturday night entertainment hour on CBS. So too does my entertainment - or lack thereof, continue. Six weeks or so after my treatment for thyroid cancer (three pills a day) began, per doctor's orders, we have put a halt to the proceedings. Due to increasing values in my bi-weekly lab work (monitored exactly for this purpose), specifically my kidney and liver functions, I am standing down and standing by. We will retest this coming Thursday and then wait for further instructions (smaller dose, intermittent dose, no dose?). In addition, some of the side effects that I am experiencing (fatigue, shortness of breath, a little depression/a little malaise) also encouraged my oncologist to pause the treatment. Hopefully, it's the pause that refreshes as Bud Collins the long time tennis commentator for NBC once said to describe female tennis star, Amanda Paz.

The lab work is the first line of defense and indicator, along with side effects as to what might be going on inside. A scan would be useful as well but due to the radiation exposure, the doctors try to keep its use to an absolute minimum. And since I'm not scheduled to be scanned for another month (every two months), my status is best determined by how I feel and what the lab work shows. In the interim, I will ride the roller coaster of emotions and fear and try to enjoy the reduction in the side effects (which I can do. I'm good that way). I just have to hope that the values in my next lab work go back down or I may very well go off the rails and onto some other ride that might not be so manageable.

All that remains is 'all that remains.' Nothing in my life/cancer routine is likely to change much. Again, what I have I've been told is that what I have incurable: stage IV papillary thyroid cancer, the kind that doesn't respond to radio iodine therapy, so every minute of every day will be spent hoping, praying, wondering and waiting to see if the end is near or thankfully not near at all, like a mirage, almost. Just another day in my cancer conundrum. As Tom Branson said on an episode during the final season of Downtown Abbey about something completely unrelated: "What a palaver!" But that's really what being a cancer patient is all about: Confusion, lack of clarity, few guarantees and changes in your attitude along with your latitude if Jimmy Buffet were writing this column. If my wife were, it would be about going with the flow. However, since I'm writing it, it's about changes, constant change; sometimes more of the same, something completely different. and being prepared, always, to go up and down and all around and everything in between. It's highs, it's lows and its all-overs, too. It may not sound like a great way to make a living, but I can assure you, it sure beats the alternative.

As my mother used to say: "enjoy poor health," especially since isn't seem likely I'll be changing horses anytime soon. But I can do it, I'm a Red Sox fan. I've lived with disappointment and determination my whole life - and thankfully, I've lived to see some World Championships, too. The goal is to try and keep moving forward and remain positive. Like my old friend Ray use to say: "my attitude is my blood type: B+." What's another blip on the cancer radar? I've been on it so long now, Feb., 2009 that it would be abnormal not to appear. And since the experts have been telling me that it's unlikely I won't be off the grid until it's too there's either a new grid or a new drug, I am happy to take a break in the short term if it helps in the long term. Because the goal is to finish, not to falter.

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

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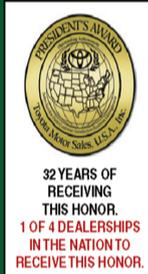
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