

CONNECTION

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Quarantine Self Portrait,
graphite and colored
pencil on paper, by Abbie
Turpin, Grade 6 at Terra
Centre Elementary, Burke.



Children's & Teens' Connection 2020

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY



Travel Poster, by Yumi Perez, 14, Grade 8, Lake Braddock Secondary, Teacher: Victoria McGrath



LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY

Untitled, by Olivia Baumgarnder, 16, Grade 11, Lake Braddock Secondary, Burke

Pointillism Rocks!, by Yumi Perez, 14, Grade 8, Lake Braddock Secondary, Teacher: Victoria McGrath



Escalating, by Sydney Cha, 17, Lake Braddock Secondary, Burke, Grade 12

The Green Bright Summer Tree, by Sophia Lee, 13, of Burke, Grade 7, Lake Braddock Secondary, Teacher: Victoria McGrath.



Lukewarm, by Yumin Choi, 17, Grade 12, Lake Braddock Secondary, Burke

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) are usually full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. While in this, the year of COVID, the year 2020, a year like no other, the holidays have been muted in so many ways. Still we have celebrated help for the needy whose numbers have expanded with the pandemic; collecting toys and warm coats for children who might not otherwise receive them; holiday celebrations, concerts and performances via Zoom; socially distanced Santa, tree lightings; stories of giving; the Virtual Nutcracker; and more.

And still, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption. In this holiday of 2020, like no other as we keep saying, we need the Christmas story in whatever way we can access it.

Christmas is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you. These teachings have deep meaning and consequence for us right now.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Whether you embrace the Christmas story literally or in spirit, it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

TERRA CENTRE ELEMENTARY
Artwork submitted by Kristin Bauersfeld, Art Teacher, Terra Centre Elementary in Burke



Pumpkin Faces, crayon on paper, by Lila Breeden, Age 7, first grader at Terra Centre Elementary, Burke



Family Portrait, crayon on pape, by rDylan Daniel, Age 6, first grader at Terra Centre Elementary, Burke



Quarantine Self Portrait, graphite and colored pencil on paper, by Abbie Turpin, Grade 6 at Terra Centre Elementary, Burke



Charlotte Moore, Shenandoah Mountains at Sunset, watercolor on paper, Grade 6, Terra Centre Elementary, Burke

Holidays Greetings, by Lily Swanson, 9, of Lorton, Grade 4 at Springfield Estates Elementary, Teacher: Mr. Stephens.

CONNECTION
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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

By Harrison Lee, 7, of Fairfax,
Grade 2, Fairhill Elementary,
Teacher: Mrs. Morgan Carter



A drawing of a fish,
Cat-Linh Anh Tran, 12,
Fairfax, Grade 6,
Fairhill Elementary,
Teacher: Mrs. Swanson



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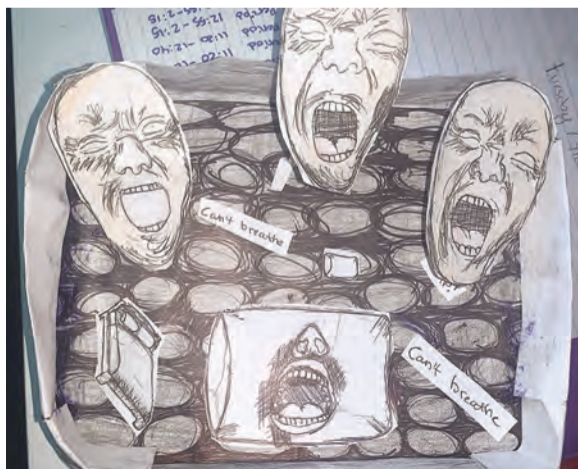
Doodle ,by Catherine Williamson, 13, Taught by Leah Dubray, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax



Doodle, by Illiyana Strickland, 13, Taught by Mari Condley, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax



Fears and Phobias,by Avery Adler, 14, Taught by Leah Dubray, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax



Fears and Phobias, by Dania Fiengo, Taught by Leah Dubray, Lanier Middle School, Fairfax

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

ORANGE HUNT ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Maureen Kieffer, Art Specialist, Orange Hunt Elementary School



Hailey Kabiri - Grade



Rania Tukhi - Grade 6



Social Distancing, by Caroline Ogden, 12, sixth grader, Orange Hunt ES, Springfield, Teacher: Brenda Patrick

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

By Samantha Kluger, Cherry Run Elementary, Burke



By Autumn L. Bordeaux, Grade 3, Cherry Run E.S. Burke



By Chloe Trupo, 10, Grade 5, Cherry Run Elementary, Burke

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

KEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Artwork submitted by teacher Justin Gaudenzi, Key Middle School, Springfield.



By Mahirah Tayeeba, Age: 13, Grade: 8, Key Middle School.



By Huzaifa Mahmud, Age: 12, Grade: 7, Key Middle School.



By Kirubel Mekonnen, Age: 13, Grade: 7, Key Middle School.

FORESTDALE ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Jean Barrett, Art teacher at Forestdale Elementary in Springfield.



By Alexis Hite, Age 12, Grade 6, Forestdale Elementary



By Mortaza Kiani, Age 10, Grade 5, Forestdale Elementary



Identity Dreamscape, by Genesee Chinn, Grade 6, Mantua Elementary School

KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Keene Mill Elementary Art Teachers Deborah Ehlers and Kelly Fergus.



By Julia Hines, Grade 6, Keene Mill ES, Springfield, Art Teacher: Deborah Ehlers



By Safia Aineb, Grade 6, Keene Mill ES, Springfield, Art Teacher: Deborah Ehlers.



Who Am I? Timeline book Collage, by Carly Devore of Burke, 12, Grade 6, Keene Mill Elementary, Springfield



Who Am I? Timeline book Collage, by Tatum Pinkard, Age 11, Grade 6, Keene Mill Elementary School, Springfield

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

MANTUA ELEMENTARY - FAIRFAX

Artwork submitted by Nathalie Shirley, Art Specialist, Mantua Elementary



Identity Dreamscape, by Genesee Chinn, Grade 6, Mantua Elementary School



By Samantha Jutte, Kindergarten



By Jonathan Hofstatter, Grade 3



By Yixin "Karri" Hu, Grade 1



Nitish Siva, Grade 3 from Mantua ES



By Riya Gonzales, Grade 6

COLUMBIA ELEMENTARY

By Aaron Chilton, Age 10, grade 5, Columbia Elementary, Annandale, Teacher: Mrs. Steib



By Ruby Connelly, Age: 11, Grade: 5, Columbia Elementary, Annandale, Teacher: Ms. Stone



By Christian Artero Grandy, Age: 8, Grade: 3, Columbia Elementary, Annandale, Teacher: Ms. O'Connell



By Sophia Mulhearn, Age: 8, Grade: 3, Columbia Elementary, Annandale, Teacher: Ms. Hiltabidle



By Erin McClintock, Age: 7, Grade: 3, Columbia Elementary, Annandale, Teacher: Ms. Hueber

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION

GARFIELD ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Melissa Dovey (Garfield Elementary School - Springfield).



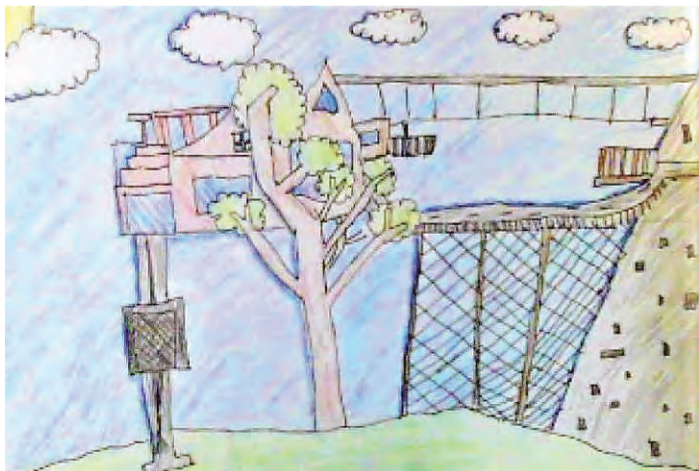
Theresa, Enchanted Forest Drawing



Michael, 3rd Grade



Mohammad 2nd Grade



Shishir 5th Grade 2

NORTH SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY

By Mia Brown Grade 4, North Springfield Elementary, Art Teacher: Teryl Pomeroy



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Obituary

Obituary

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Clayton W. Covey, 65, of Ruskin, FL (formerly of Springfield, VA) passed away unexpectedly Dec 4, 2020. He had just started fighting a battle against kidney cancer. Born in South Haven, MI he was the son of James (Donnie) Covey of Benton Harbor, MI and the late Frances (Felder) Covey. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jane Corbett. He is survived by his siblings Deb Chamberlin of Grand Junction, MI, Laura Maxie of Kissimmee, FL, Donna (Steve) Lawson of Beech Grove, IN, and James Jr. (Kelly) Covey of Shepherd, MI, Pam Bradford of Grand Rapids, MI and several nieces and nephews.

He joined the Army after high school, earning his bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of MD while stationed overseas in Italy and Germany. After separating from over 6 years of active duty, he remained with the Dept. of the Army as a finance specialist civilian, stationed in Heidelberg Germany before returning to the US in 1986. He became a budget analyst working at Army Material Command for 4 years, transferring to Headquarters Pentagon in 1990 working under the Program Analysis & Evaluation division. He earned his master's degree in Information Systems from The George Washington University in 1999, then became a systems analyst before retiring in 2010. He continued as a consultant for the Dept. of the Army working on a Web-based ERP system called GFEBBS, replacing more than 80 legacy accounting and asset management processes and transactional input across the Army.

Clayton had a talent for negotiating and event planning and was a wizard at raising money for the National MS Society's cycling tours and his annual military golf tournament for Wounded Warriors. He was a sports enthusiast, loved playing golf, fishing with his dad, poker night with the guys, target shooting with his wife, followed the Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals baseball, and loved Michigan & Pittsburgh Steelers football.

A celebration of his life will be planned for a future date. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the National Kidney Foundation, the National MS Society, Wounded Warriors or a charity of your choice in Clayton's name.

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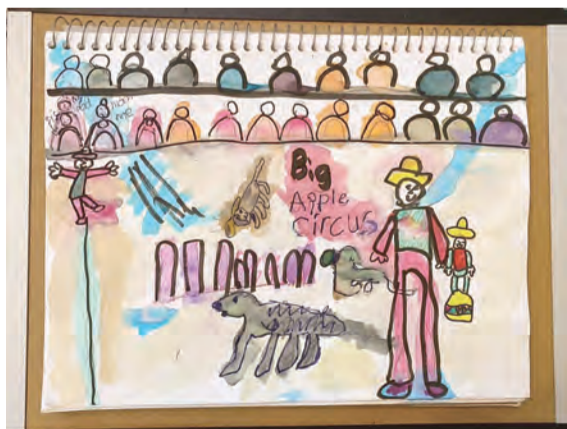
CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION



By Eli DeLong, 7, of Springfield, Grade 1, Cardinal Forest Elementary, Teacher: Mrs. Williams



Farm, by Ryker Wessmiller, 7, from Springfield, Cardinal Forest Elementary, Ms. Maahs' first grade class.



Watching Big Apple Circus Show in 2019, by Nathan Paing, 9, of Springfield, Grade 4, Saratoga Elementary, Teacher: Heather Simpson



Happy Halloween, by Kowkab Mahboobi, Age: 3, of Clifton, Art teacher: Yanshun Sui

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Trip, and Hopefully Not a Fall



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently returned from a driving sojourn through the south with stops and stays in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida visiting four sets of friends in those three states, I can say with certainty that wearing masks, social distancing and common sense consideration for your fellow citizen were not nearly so accepted as we had hoped. Though we didn't exactly mingle with the masses, we were, nonetheless, in uncharted territory. As such, my wife and I will be getting covid tests after a week or so of being at home. Though still symptom free, it seems prudent under the very unique circumstances in which the world finds itself that we not wait too much longer. Time is very likely of the essence.

As a precaution - and courtesy to our southern hosts, we both got tested before our trip and with negative results, off we drove with one less concern. Now we could say with certainty that we had acted respectfully and with other people's prospective health in mind. Nevertheless, it was hardly a guarantee that we would remain covid free. After all, it was only a test. It was not an inoculation. Speaking of which, as a cancer patient with a compromised immune system, I imagine I'm likely to get my two shots sooner rather than later. But what about my wife, Dina. She raised an interesting question. Though she's not in any of the categories of early shot recipients, she is however living with someone who is me. Moreover, I don't suppose it would be to my advantage living in the same household/sleeping in the same bed/caring for a covid-positive person: my wife, even after receiving my shot. Data for that situation likely doesn't exist yet. I don't imagine it's akin to playing with fire - for me, more likely like playing with embers. Still, there seems to exist a risk, perhaps one that's been considered in the hierarchy/schedule of "inoculees." In summary, will family members of high-risk covid 19 recipients receive their vaccinations earlier on in the schedule than they might otherwise have been eligible? Or is the demand too great, given the worldwide pandemic, which I imagine it is.

If the plan is to minimize the risk for those most at risk, how do you accomplish that while leaving those closest (literally and figuratively) to them unprotected? I'm not asking for special treatment or dispensation from the Pope (has he gotten his shot?), I'm just wondering. Granted, there's not an unlimited supply - on or off the shelves, of vaccines, but there does seem to be nearly unlimited numbers of people who need to be vaccinated to accomplish a sort of worldwide herd-type immunity. That being said, if other people living in the home of an individual qualified/fortunate to receive a shot or two, are not inoculated as well, will it in fact enable the virus to move on, so to speak and find some other host susceptible enough to keep the virus straining? Will the proximity of other non-inoculated people defeat the purpose of getting the tier ones and twos inoculated? (I sound like Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) from "Sex and the City" sounding out one of her columns.)

I don't mean to be paranoid; I'm just wondering/theorizing if my fear is at all founded in reality or am I just cruising for a verbal bruising? I'm also curious if there's any discretion in the recipient process. Presumably, there are lots of circumstances/patients like me where the cancer patients' health and welfare - to varying degrees, are dependent on the health of people (family, friends or caregivers) entrusted to care for them. Giving the vaccine to the patient but denying it for the people responsible for their wellbeing seems counterproductive - or short sighted. I may very well be inoculated against covid in the not too distant future, but if I don't receive the care and feeding I need, I may survive covid but still die from my underlying disease: cancer. I understand there's no perfect solution at present. But it's the future I'm worried about.

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

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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20.

BRAKE SPECIAL
\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE
10% OFF YOUR FIRST SERVICE
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Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER
\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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NEW HOURS SPECIAL!
DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE 12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150

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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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