

It's National Library Week

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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The Polizzi family of McLean. From left, Nick Polizzi, his daughters, Elizabeth, 10, and Katherine, 9, and his father, Jerry of Cleveland, make a Saturday afternoon visit to McLean's Dolley Madison Library.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2022

Beloved Cancel Culture

Toni Morrison novel prompts legislation that has critics worried about book bans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Toni Morrison's Pulitzer-prize winning book "Beloved" prompted such outrage in one Fairfax County parent in 2013 that she tried to have the book banned from her son's AP English class. Laura Murphy said the book gave her teenage son nightmares, and she urged school officials to do something about it. She took the fight all the way to the Fairfax County School Board, which voted six to two to keep the book in the AP English curriculum.

Inspired by the criticism over "Beloved," former Del. Steve Landes (R-25) introduced a bill in 2016 that would have required schools to notify parents if they expected to provide instructional material that had "sexually explicit instructional material." The bill passed a Republican-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate, although it received a veto from Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill."

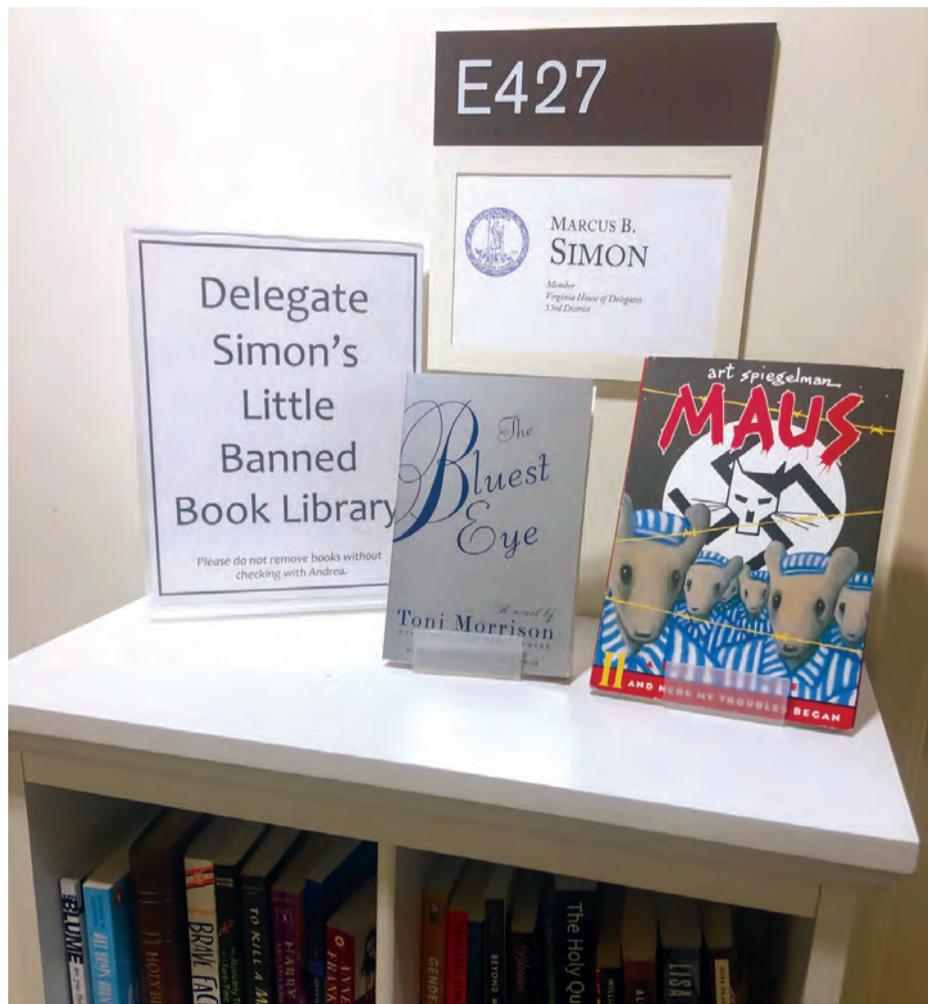
— School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz

That veto ended up being perhaps the most significant issue of the campaign for governor last year. Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin said he would have signed the bill if he were governor, and he used the issue as a wedge against the former governor who was attempting to return to the Executive Mansion. During a heated debate between McAuliffe and Youngkin at the Schlesinger Center in Alexandria, Youngkin repeatedly needled the former governor until McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth.

"I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach," said McAuliffe in a moment that was endlessly repeated in Republican campaign commercials.

FLASH FORWARD to 2022. Youngkin is now governor, and he's poised to sign Senate Bill 656, which was introduced by Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-12) as a sort of sequel to the Beloved Bill. Like the previous incarnation, it requires schools to notify parents when they plan on teaching "sexually explicit content." This time, two Senate Democrats crossed party lines to vote with the Republicans and send the bill to the governor's desk: Sen. Lynwood Lewis (D-6) and Sen. Monty Mason (D-1).

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During the General Assembly debate over the Beloved Bill, Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) put together a Little Banned Book Library outside his office in the Pocahontas Building.

"This bill is something we can all embrace," said Dunnivant. "It's about actually making sure tough conversations happen and parents interact with their children on those things."

The legislation was communicated to the governor on March 9, which means that Youngkin has until April 11 to make a final determination. That means the governor is poised to deliver on his campaign promise of signing the bill that McAuliffe vetoed. That has raised alarm bells for people who worry that notifying parents of "sexually explicit content" would have a chilling effect among teachers who might avoid teaching "Beloved" in favor of something more anodyne.

"I think there are some racist undertones to the conversations about her novel, and that concerns me," said Alexandria School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton. "We have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, efforts to ban books from school libraries have intensified in recent years. A Texas lawmaker identified 850 books last year he fears "might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex." Here in Virginia, a Chesterfield parent worked with Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11) to advocate against books celebrating LGTB relationships or examining drug use, specifically "Eleanor and Park" by Rainbow Rowell, "Dope Sick" by Walter Dean Myers and "Tyrell" by Coe Booth.

"We have this wonderful Pulitzer-prize winning fabulous Black female writer who has received her accolades for obvious reasons. I can't help but wonder what the real concern is about."

— School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton

"Most parents, if they actually read excerpts, would have grave concerns," Chase told the Chesterfield Observer. "As a parent, that's not something that I want my kids reading."

In several cases, school boards across

Virginia have taken quick action only to reverse course later. The Spotsylvania County School Board was forced to reverse its decision to remove a list of sexually explicit books from its schools after intense push-back from the community. And the Fairfax County School Board removed two books from its library shelves then put them back after hearing concerns about censorship and suppression. The Alexandria School Board has not yet had a similar controversy erupt, but some are concerned the Beloved Bill has similarities to a bill in Florida outlawing discussions about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary schools.

"I think that our bill is a slippery slope and is not too far away from Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill," said School Board member Kelly Carmichael Booz. "I'm concerned about that for the respect for each of our children who live in Alexandria, and I want them to feel valued regardless of their race or their gender identity or anything else."

EFFORTS TO BAN BOOKS are almost as old as books themselves, and Northern Virginia school boards have wrestled with this issue for decades. In 2003, a group of concerned parents formed a group known as Parents Against Bad Books in Schools and started challenging titles like "The Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett and "Daughters of Eve" by Lois Duncan. The group identified 55 books its members said were "extreme" and compiled a list of 700 books that had been challenged across the country.

"In recent years, our schools are becoming a minefield of vulgar, sexually explicit, graphically violent and controversially themed books in the curriculum, classroom collections and libraries," said PABBIS leader Kathy Stohr at the time. "The term minefield is especially appropriate because the student is not aware until the material is right in his face, and then it is too late."

Mychele Brickner, Fairfax County School Board chairwoman at the time, hoped the issue of controversial books would be a springboard to higher office, and she launched a campaign for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The chairmanship was open in 2013, and Brickner hoped concerns

over inappropriate books in schools might provide a path to victory. But her campaign fizzled out when her opponent, Supervisor Gerry Connolly, turned the issue against her and was elected with a huge margin of victory.

"I can show you sections of the Bible that ought to be banned in schools," said Connolly during the campaign. "I just don't think government ought to be in the business of telling you or me what we should read or what our children should read."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

The Devilish Details of Tax Cutting

DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM

Cutting taxes is either the theme or a promise of most every political campaign. States that are doing well should give some of the taxpayers' money back to them. States that are struggling should cut taxes to stimulate the economy. Whatever the promise it is important to look behind the numbers to fully understand the impact of cutting taxes.



tax holiday for small businesses.

During the campaign, then-candidate Glenn Youngkin floated the idea of eliminating the income tax. To his credit when he learned that it would wipe out around 70% of the state's general fund and bankrupt state government he quietly dropped that proposal. It's one of those details that must be considered when discussing tax policy and which voters need to carefully examine when they hear a "too good to be

true" promise.

The General Assembly has not been able to agree to a final budget for the next biennium with the issue of taxes being the main hang-up and the Governor not being able to justify his proposals against the details of taxes and where the money goes. Everyone I know opposes a tax on groceries, and that is why the General Assembly cut the grocery tax with the exception of one and a half cents for education and transportation. For many rural areas with a limited tax base, groceries and gasoline were about the only items that could be taxed to provide some

funding for their schools and roads. If the decision is made to cut the gas tax the responsible thing to do is to make up the losses to the small localities with state general funds that are currently going to other programs.

Another detail about the proposed gasoline tax that must be considered is the analysis of the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (<https://itep.org/>) that shows that 30% of the projected savings would likely flow to oil producers rather than motorists. Less than 30% the analysis found would go to Virginia residents, with the remainder going to trucking companies that buy a lot of gas in the state and out-of-state tourists who visit the Commonwealth.

The same organization looked at the proposal to double the standard deduction on the income tax and found that it would not help many Virginia families whose income is already too low to be taxed. Only high-income earners who have the least need for a tax break would benefit from this proposal.

The devil is in the details as is the case in many proposals, and the Governor needs to consider those details and give the General Assembly the opportunity to pass a responsible budget.



U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) said he intends to support Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court.



On Monday, April 4, Sen. Tim Kaine met with President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who would be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court if confirmed.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Meet with Judge Jackson

On Monday, Virginia's U.S. Senators meet separately with President Joe Biden's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

"I'm really excited to meet the Judge. I have voted for her twice, but a Supreme Court matter is different than any other, and it's the most serious of any of the nominations that we vote for," said Kaine. "What a wonderful opportunity to have a great discussion, and I'm really looking forward to it."

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) said he intends to support

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court.

"Judge Jackson is a trailblazer and a highly-qualified jurist. Her wide-ranging endorsements – from conservative jurists, civil rights organizations, law enforcement groups, and through her previous bipartisan Senate confirmations – speak to her sterling credentials," Warner said. "Her confirmation would also take a long overdue step toward making the composition of the Supreme Court better reflect the people it represents by finally including a Black woman."



Let Us Know Your View
Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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NEWS

Oakton Man Dead After Single-vehicle Crash

A 78-year-old man has died from injuries sustained in a single-vehicle crash that occurred at 2:01 p.m. on March 30 in Oakton. Thomas Perego of Alexandria was driving eastbound on Lawyers Road near Kedge Drive when his 2014 Toyota Tacoma drifted off the roadway to the right, striking a tree head on. Perego was taken to a hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. Preliminarily, speed and

alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone -1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This is the second non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2022

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

VIENNA TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert joined other Northern Virginia elected leaders at the Fairfax County Government Center last week to help launch a multi-jurisdictional relief effort to support Ukrainian refugees. Beginning now through April 15, residents who wish to help may drop off the following relief supplies at the Vienna Community Center:

- New or gently used coats
- New blankets
- New pairs of heavy socks or sweat socks
- New pairs of gloves.

Once the drive concludes, the donated items will be picked up and shipped to Poland for distribution to Ukrainian refugees there. The regional aid drive was organized by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The Vienna Community Center is located at 120 Cherry St. SE. Donations may be dropped off at the Community Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday from 12-6 p.m. For more drop-off locations visit www.helpukrainenova.org.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

Dr. Whyte's

New Book

Released March 8, 2022

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Virginia Room is Fairfax Library System's Research Lab

Many family historical mysteries are uncovered here.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There was a Russian defector that wrote a book about his journey to the United States, and a local archivist found his book at a thrift store, spurring an investigation that led to the Virginia Room in the main library. She uncovered more about the man. "He died in Springfield, a really bizarre story," said Chris Barbuschak, a research librarian in the Virginia Room who helped uncover the mystery. It was just one of the many historical gems unearthed in this important source on this region's history. "We drill a little deeper," Barbuschak said.

More recently, a woman came in to find information on her Revolutionary War ancestor, and it was a success. "We were able to find the pension record from 1814," Barbuschak said. "We get all kinds of stories like that."

All this local history is stored in one form or another in Fairfax County Public Library's Virginia Room, where the county maintains a collection of regional history and genealogy, as well as local and state government information and legal resources. Staff collect the historical records of the people, associations, events and places of Fairfax County, Virginia. There are maps, an extensive photographic archive, manuscript collections, local newspapers, and rare books. Recently they were able to digitize a newspaper called "The Fairfax Herald," and now have issues on microfilm from 1886-1964.

The Virginia Room is an open, second floor room in the library that looks kind of like a loft due



Ean Eschenburg researches family cemeteries for a documentary film.



A view from the front desk shows the overhead directional signs.

to the fact that it is open to the first floor. There are sections for periodicals, microfilm and historical books. The room is decorated by historical signs hanging on the walls to give a real historic feel for the place, including Thelma's Ice Cream from Great Falls.

Although there is much that the user can access by themselves, going to the front desk and asking a specialist is usually the first step.

"Each one of us has our own expertise," Barbuschak said.

Much of the material is on the shelves, but they do have a rare book room, temperature controlled for fragile materials.

On an inquiry about family cemetery records, for instance, reference material had to be retrieved from the back room. "More of our special collection," Barbuschak said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Restoring the Fairfax Herald is one of the more recent projects.



The first set of files in this drawer is "Myths and Legends," like the Bunyan Bridge for example.

The Virginia Room is on the second floor of The City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street Fairfax, VA, 22030-2514 703-293-6227 option 6 TTY: 711 Send an email to va_room@fairfaxcounty.gov



Any copies needed require a credit card.



The authentic signs set the mood for historical research.

Read and Feed

For several years, Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) has hosted a "Food for Fines" drive each fall as a way of facilitating food donations to our partner organization, Food for Others, which offers library cardholders a reduction on their fines.

As of Jan. 1, FCPL no longer charges overdue fines on most materials. To continue its partnership with Food for Others, FCPL is now hosting "Read and Feed" in April. Those who wish to give may simply drop off donations at any FCPL branch during its regular hours throughout the month of April.

Most needed items include: Oil; Cereal; Canned tomato products (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.), 4 oz. - 1 lb.; Canned meat (chicken, turkey, or seafood), 2 oz. - 15 oz.; Rice, 16 oz. packages; Spaghetti sauce, 14 oz. - 1 lb. (ideally in cans instead of glass); Canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup) 11 oz. - 20 oz.; Dried or canned beans (black, kidney, pinto, etc.); Pasta; Fruit juice (100% juice) 32 oz. - 64 oz.; New or clean reusable grocery bags; Can openers.

Food for Others is unable to accept donations of items that are expired, opened items, food that is not labeled, homemade items, cooked food, or toiletries



The day before the start of National Library Week, Sunday, April 3 through Saturday, April 9, families flock to the Reston Regional Library for its Friends of the Reston Regional Library 2022 Spring Kids, Young Adults, and Educators Sale.



"I bring my family to Reston Regional Library so we can all read different things while we're here. The family can be together as well, and we're able to pick out our books. My three children are 12 years old, and then I have twins. They are five." — Keith L. Scott of Reston outside of Reston Regional Library



"I like to come here (to the Reston Regional Library). I did not know a lot about books. So, I came here and discovered many books, and that's how I got interested in reading. Now I'm passing that on to my daughter Kia. She is three. Today, we got some Dr. Seuss and some Curious George books at the book sale." — Karishma Singh and her daughter Kyra, 3



"I'm one of the ESL (English as a Second Language) volunteers (at Reston Regional Library). I enjoy it even though now we are doing it virtually. I'm here to check out a book and DVDs. I tried to interest my ESL students by taking out books with audio to practice their language skills, listening to reading, and comprehending. It's not working quite so well yet." — Rob Myhre of Reston as he enters Reston Regional Library

Celebrating National Library Week

Twenty-three FCPL branches build connections; one is in Reston.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

National Library Week 2022 began on Sunday, April 3, and ends on Saturday, April 9. The theme for this year is "Connect with Your Library." The Fairfax County Public Library

(FCPL) system has recognized that its libraries are places to "Imagine. Discover. Connect." Those three words have served as its tagline and continue to do so today.

According to Molly Shannon, the 2022 National Library Week Honorary Chair, "Libraries are places where communities connect... But

most importantly, libraries join us."

This year's National Library Week focuses on the many offers of libraries that go beyond printed books such as e-books, movies, video games, internet, computers, and activities like storytime, English as Second Language courses, and, in the Fairfax County Public Library

system, even pet palace building for small animals.

With this year's core theme of connection accomplished via library services, Connection writers visited several of the area's libraries on Saturday, April 2, and asked patrons, "What library services are you connecting to today?"

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



The Powers family of Great Falls, Josh, Jane, Krishna, and Caleb, visit the Great Falls Library the day before National Library Week.



"Everything is the community here. The patrons are just wonderful. You have a lot of regulars who come in, people we see every week and get to know." — Shelly Wheeler, Library Aide FCPL



"My favorite books are fiction and nonfiction. My favorite book is Peg + Cat." — Krishna Powers



"My favorite books are Star Wars. Those are cool (with the lightsabers and spaceships)." — Caleb Powers



"It has been such a treasure living here in McLean to be able to come to the Dolley Madison Library. My girls have been coming since they were four months old. We've been getting more complex books progressively as their reading has developed. It is a wonderful experience to check a book out, read it, and bring it back. Is it like a little adventure-what am I going to do next?" — Nick Polizzi



"These geniuses are my granddaughters. I'm visiting from Cleveland; that's Cuyahoga County. I have to brag that the Cuyahoga County Public Library is the best library system in the United States." [For the 12th consecutive year, the Cuyahoga County Public Library earned the highest overall score among its national peers in the Library Journal's annual rankings Dec. 2021.] — Jerry Polizzi of Cleveland



The day before the start of National Library Week, Sunday, April 3 through Saturday, April 9, families stop by the Great Falls Library. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Families stop by Dolley Madison Library. (File photo)



"We got DVDs because we are going to Tennessee. I picked the Mysterious Benedict, The Thief Lord. I'm reading 'The Hunger Games.' I'm halfway through..." — Elizabeth Polizzi, 10, of McLean



"I like to go to the library because there are things you can jump on outside (the big book). Right now, there's the 'Three Little Piggies' re-enactment inside. They have felt things, and we get to vote. I voted koalas." — Katherine Polizzi, 9, of McLean

McLean Man Sentenced for Sexually Exploiting Minors

A McLean man was sentenced today to 18 years in prison and a lifetime of supervised release for producing, receiving, and possessing child sexual abuse material.

According to court documents, Zackary Ellis Sanders, 27, was convicted on Oct. 27, 2021 by a federal jury of five counts of production of child pornography, six counts of receipt of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography, after law enforcement found that he engaged in sexually explicit online conversations with at least six different minors between 2017 and 2020.

The evidence presented at trial established that Sanders, who ran a concessions business that provided food and beverage services for local schools, met these minors on various mobile applications and an online forum. Sanders exchanged hundreds of messages with the minors, in which he instructed and induced them to engage in sexually explicit and self-harming conduct, record themselves doing so, and send the resulting videos to him. He also received videos of a sixth minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Sanders also discussed meeting some of these minors in person and engaging in sexual acts with them and threatened to distribute a video depicting one of these minors to others at the minor's high school if the minor did not comply with his instructions.

Additional forensic evidence recovered from multiple laptops and thumb drives found in Sanders's bedroom pursuant to a court-authorized search established that he possessed different images and videos depicting the sexual abuse of other children, including videos depicting the sexual abuse of a toddler and prepubescent children being sexually abused and subjected to sadistic acts. Sanders told law enforcement that he obtained such images from Darkweb websites, the sole purpose of which were to share and facilitate the viewing of such material.

Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Wayne A. Jacobs, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office's Criminal Division, made the announcement after sentencing by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III.

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney William G. Clayman and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jay V. Prabhu and Seth M. Schlessinger prosecuted the case.

In 2021, EDVA launched "UnMasked," a community-based educational outreach and prevention program in Virginia dedicated to raising awareness and educating the community about the prevalence of online sexual exploitation involving children and young adults. UnMasked is a multi-disciplinary partnership of local, state, federal, and non-profit stakeholders. The core curriculum is provided by the National Center

for Missing and Exploited Children's (NC-MEC) NetSmartz program.

To report an incident involving online sexual exploitation, call 1-800-843-5678 or submit a report at report.cybertip.org.

To request an UnMasked event at your school or organization, contact EDVA's Community Outreach Coordinator at USA-VAE-UnMasked@usdoj.gov.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

This case was investigated by the FBI Washington Field Office's Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force is composed of FBI agents, along with other federal agents and detectives from northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. The task force is charged with investigating and bringing federal charges against individuals engaged in the exploitation of children and those engaged in human trafficking

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET OPENS

The Great Falls Community Farmers Market reopened on Saturday, April 2. Stop by for fresh bagels, coffee, produce, seafood, flowers, baked goods, sweets, pet treats, live music, and more. The Farmers Market is located in the Village Centre Parking Lot, 754-C Walker Road, Great Falls. (Across from Safeway and Wells Fargo). Open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SPRING CLASSES

The Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia will hold Spring classes from April 21 to June 9, 2022. All Classes will be held virtually on Zoom and in person at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Registration: April 4-19, 2022. The Spring 2022 semester schedule includes 40-plus classes with a wide range of subjects -- from a Health and Wellness series to National and World Affairs.

The following classes are but a few of the classes to choose from:

- April 28 – "Sorting Fact from Fiction" – Larry Lipman, AARP
 - May 5 – "Monarch Butterflies – Life Cycle and Migration" – Scott Schroth
 - May 19 – "Whale Watching in Baja" – Paul Wormeli
 - May 26 – "Vienna African American Trailblazers and Liberty Amendments – Gloria Runyon/Sylvia/DeeDee
- Students may attend one or all of the all spring classes for a \$55 fee and are encouraged to create their own sched-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER
2022 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

Early Voting

Now through Wednesday, May 18

Residents of Dranesville Small District 1A are encouraged to vote for members of the MCC Governing Board.

TWO WAYS TO VOTE: 1. in person (fill out a ballot at McLean Community Center) or 2. by mail. If you prefer to vote by mail, simply phone, send an e-mail, or fill out an online request form to request ballots for members of your household. The requested ballots will be mailed to your home.

DEADLINE: Completed ballots must be received at MCC by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18.

McLean Community Center
The Center of It All
1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, Va. 22101

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU APRIL 28

A collection of paintings by Layla Gray and Coty Dickson entitled "The Four Seasons" is on display at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. The public can view this collection of favorite seasonal paintings in the library's large meeting room from now through Thursday, April 28, 2022 during regular library hours. Contact Coty Dickson at cotyandickson@gmail.com for additional information.

NOW THRU APRIL 16

Photos with the Easter Bunny. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean, Fashion Court, Level 1 near Nordstrom. Tysons Corner Center welcomes the Easter Bunny back on March 18th. Visit the Bunny for an unforgettable family photo experience. The option to pre-book your appointment is available and recommended to reduce wait time. Visitors can choose from a selection of photo packages as well as choose between a socially distanced experience or sitting with the Bunny, if permitted per local mandate. The Bunny will be available Monday - Saturday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

NOW THRU APRIL 30

The Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park invite the public to participate in its 2022 photo contest. Help celebrate all that is special about the farm with the second "Focus on the Farm" fundraiser. Open to photographers of all ages and abilities, capture the beauty and farm life at Frying Pan Farm Park. The categories include nature, landscape and scenery, and farm animals. Photos must be taken, and entries submitted between March 1 and April 30, 2022. You can enter up to 10 photos. The fee is \$7 per entry for adults, and \$5 per entry for children up to age 16. The fees will directly support the park and care and feeding of the animals at the farm. Go to the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park website for detailed instructions and submission information; or email the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park at friends@fryingpanpark.org. Frying Pan Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-9101.

APRIL 1-17

"Nat Turner in Jerusalem." Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. This powerful play delves into an important moment in American history, which has continued to shake the conscience of the nation for almost two centuries. Through powerful performances, audiences are invited to take part in a deep exploration of human morality and the grim reality of the past. Visit the website: <https://www.nextstoptheatre.org/nat-turner-in-jerusalem>

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

Class: The Carla Perlo Story. 8 p.m. At Reston Community Theater's CenterStage. Experience a documentary film, interspersed with live performance, about dancer and choreographer Carla Perlo and her influence on her students, the field of dance, the communities in which she worked and her advocacy for property ownership by artists over the course of 48 years. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

Foreign Language Movie. 1 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. By popular demand, the foreign language movie series is back. Curated by Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern Treff, with more than a little help from Alden patrons, the series will pick up where it was so rudely interrupted in 2020, with a few surprises thrown in. All screenings are free, but advance registration is required. Schedule subject to change.

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

National Burrito Day. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At 1470 North Point Village Center, Reston. With the purchase of any burrito or burrito bowl, five lucky grand prize winners will win - free

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Kevin Thorne stars in "Nat Turner in Jerusalem," which will be presented at NextStop Theatre Company in Herndon from April 1-17, 2022.

California tortilla burritos for a year. Visit the website: <https://californiatortilla.com/>

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

IN Series: Two World-Premiere Operas. 7:30 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. Join The Alden for the world premieres of Brian Arreola and Anna Deeny Morales' new opera, "Zavala-Zavala," and an IN Series commission setting the poems of Gabriela Mistral in her original Spanish, as well as in the luminescent English translations by Langston Hughes. "Zavala-Zavala" tells a story of family separation and survival at the U.S.-Mexican border—inspired by true events—with artists Elizabeth Mondragon, Judy Yannini and Alex Albuquerque. Angel-Gil Ordóñez leads the orchestras of Georgetown University and members of the PostClassical Ensemble.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Two Operas. 7:30 p.m. At The Alden, McLean Community Center, McLean. "Zavala-Zavala" by Composer Brian Arreola and Librettist Anna Deeny Morales, tells a story of family separation and survival at the U.S.-Mexican border—inspired by true events. The second opera, "Our Queer Mother, Gabriela," is an IN Series commission that sets the poems of Gabriela Mistral in her original Spanish, as well as in the luminescent English translations by Langston Hughes. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for McLean Community Center (MCC) district residents. The theater is located inside MCC at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

123 Andrés. 3 p.m. At Reston Community Theater's CenterStage, Reston. 123 Andrés is the award-winning duo of Andrés and Christina, who entertain with catchy songs and a high-energy show that gets kids and families singing and dancing in Spanish and English. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, South Vienna. The Auxiliary to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department will hold their popular Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. Offered for sale will be crafts, holiday decorations, items for your home, clothing and gifts for that special someone. A delicious lunch menu is planned, as well as a bountiful homemade baked goods table. Looking for a unique find? Come shop at Vera's Attic table. Fire Department T shirts will be available for purchase. For information, or to reserve a space and request an application, call Carol at 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com, or Lisa at 703-981-4504 or email lisae-merson3@verizon.net. Admission is free.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Presented by The Alden



Foreign Language Movie
Thursday, April 7, 1 p.m.
Free; registration required

Presented by The Alden



IN Series: Two World-Premiere Operas
Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.
\$25/\$15 MCC district residents

Community Stage



Apply to perform at McLean Day!
Deadline: Friday, April 8
Including but not limited to:
music, theater, dance and poetry

Presented by The Alden



Performing Arts Documentaries
Thursday, April 14, 1 p.m.
Free; registration required

Make a Difference



American Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, April 15, 1-6 p.m.
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MCC Adult Board Candidate
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Legals

ABC LICENSE

Kusshi Pike 7 LLC trading as Kusshi Ko, 8365 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia 22182. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises and Keg license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tone Chow, Member. Date notice posted at establishment: April 9, 2022. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

Legals

American Towers LLC is proposing to construct a 140-foot monopole telecommunications tower at Old Dominion Drive, McLean, Fairfax County, VA, in the public ROW. The new tower structure will not be lit and the facility will include a 42-ft by 100-ft lease area and associated easements, along with a 30ft buffer surrounding the lease area. American Towers LLC seeks comments from all interested persons on any potential significant impact the proposed action could have on the quality of the human environment pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1307, including potential impacts to historic or cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Interested persons may review the project application pending with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Form 854 File No. A1175186. Interested persons may comment or raise environmental impact concerns about the proposed action by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the FCC. The FCC strongly encourages all interested parties to make such filings online, following the instructions found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Paper filings can be sent to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. The Request must also be sent to American Towers LLC, by e-mailing a copy to enviro.services@americantower.com or mailing a copy to: American Tower, 10 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801 ATTN: Environmental Compliance. Requests or comments should be limited to environmental and historic/cultural resource impact concerns and must be received on or before 5/6/2022. This invitation to comment is separate from any local planning/zoning process that may apply to this project.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

All-Day Family Fun. 4 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Celebrate the anniversary of Reston's founding with the Reston Historic Trust and Museum, RCC and Public Art Reston. The free event features a public art walk, a multilingual birthday party, family activities and family-friendly performances, including an appearance by award-winning duo 123 Andrés. Featuring the Underwater Egg Hunt, Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center at RCC Hunters Woods, 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. (\$4 Reston/\$8 Non-Reston). The Easter Bunny is missing hundreds of eggs, and they have been found floating in the RCC pools. Come splash, swim and hunt - each child will receive a goody bag upon the competition the event. For more information and to register your child by age group, visit myRCC. Featuring 123 Andrés at the CenterStage, 3 p.m. (\$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston). 123 Andrés, a high-energy children's duo, will get kids and families singing and dancing in English and Spanish. Don't miss the fun at this Professional Touring Artist Series performance. Tickets are available at the RCC Box Office or online.

APRIL 9-10

Native Plant Sale. The Friends of Riverbend Park's Native Plant Sale this year will be held to coincide with Riverbend Park's Bluebell Festival. To order native plants online, go to the FORB website at www.forb.wildapricot.org and click on the "2022 Native Plant Sale" tab. Twenty-eight different species of native plants are available for purchase at \$11 per quart-sized plant and \$13 per gallon-sized plant. All plants ordered and paid for online must be picked up at the Riverbend Park Educational Pavilion on Potomac Hills Street on April 9th or 10th between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Additional Bluebells will also be available for sale by cash, check or credit card at the Visitor Center during the Bluebell Festival. If there are any questions, contact Hugh Morrow at hughmorrowiii@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Mah Jongg. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Mah Jongg Fun Day with brunch and raffle (cash or checks). Questions? Iva at wotrs@templerofofshalom.org. Registration by March 25th, <https://adobe.ly/3mY7eWr>

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Clifton Easter Egg Hunt. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Fun and games, bake sale, craft sale, and ice cream. Main Street Pub - The Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner is outstanding! Corned Beef brisket layered atop a wedge of cabbage and finished with sides of red skinned potatoes and carrots (available only in the month of March).

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Spring Community Parking Lot Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At MCC Parking Lot, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Featuring up to 50 adult and youth sellers, shoppers can find bargains

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

galore at one of the area's biggest community sales of the spring season. The sale offers a wide variety of gently used household goods, electronics, furniture, clothes, appliances and other items. The Kids' Row is a special area of the sale where children ages three to 15 can use their math and entrepreneurial skills while selling toys, clothes, games and other items. Got stuff? A limited number of selling spaces are available. Residents selling household items are welcome as are commercial vendors or flea market dealers. To sell at the sale, register online at www.mcleancenter.org, in person or by phone by contacting the MCC Registrar at 703-744-9365, TTY: 711.

APRIL 14-MAY 8

The Mamalogues. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. In this satirical comedy, three friends share the joys, challenges, and anxieties of being middle class single Black mothers in predominantly white suburbs. The story celebrates motherhood and community while exploring racial profiling on the playground and supporting your kid who is perpetually the Only Black Child (OBC). Follow their journey as they lean in and steer their children from pampers to college while navigating their own road toward retirement. Visit www.1ststage.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

ule – attend classes all day or attend only one class. For a complete listing of classes or to register, visit the AIL page on the SCNOVA website at SCNOVAAdventures.inLearningSpring2022.org or call the office at 703-281-0538. Visit www.scnova.org or contact the Office at 703-281-0538.

TOWN OF VIENNA NAMES NEW PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR

After a nationwide search and receiving applications from candidates from 10 states, the Town of Vienna has selected David Levy to serve as its next Planning & Zoning Director. Levy has extensive experience both in government and the private sector, serving for the last 16 years, first as the Chief of Long-Range Planning and then as the Assistant Director for Planning and Business Improvement for the City of Rockville, Maryland. Levy has also worked for the Baltimore City Government, and Fairfax-based ICF International.

Prior to his work in Rockville, Levy served as Assistant Commissioner, Land Resources for the Baltimore City of Housing & Community Development, where he worked on several initiatives to redevelop or rehabilitate sections of the city. He has also served as a project manager of ICF International, a Fairfax-based, global consulting and technology services company. Levy will begin working for the Town of Vienna on May 9, 2022.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Acelevents.

The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Clifton Lions Club Family Pancake Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Cost is \$10 per adult; \$5 per child. Proceeds go to charity.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Celebrate Pilates Day. At RTR Pilates, 9849 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Register for one of three free trial reformer classes at RTRPilates.com/PilatesDay. Check out the studio, shop great retail, sip champagne and meet our community.

MAY 21-22

Girls on the Run Spring Registration. GOTR NOVA will be offering an in-person, 10-week curriculum for the Spring 2022 season. Two in-person 5Ks presented by Cigna will be held on May 21st and 22nd in Sterling and Ballston, respectively. Teams will continue to be school and community-based to further our outreach efforts in being accessible to every girl across Northern Virginia. Currently, 105 teams throughout Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William are open for Spring 2022 registration through March 1, 2022. For more information about spring registration and sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit www.gotrnova.org.

of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables.

Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at www.warner.senate.gov. You may email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On April 30, 2022, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department temporary facility located at 301 Center Street, South, Vienna, Virginia 22180 (The former Faith Baptist Church).

Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing it and disposing of it directly into the collection box. If an original container is used, the individual should consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original container to prevent leakage.

12 DRANESVILLE DISTRICT RESIDENTS QUALIFY TO RUN ON MCC GOVERNING BOARD

McLean Community Center has certified 12 Dranesville Small District 1A residents, nine adults and three teens, to run for seats on the McLean Community Center Governing Board. The all-volunteer board sets the goals and aligns strategies for MCC programs and facilities, including the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

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Cause for Concern?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you've read any of my columns, you might be able to guess the answer. In my mind, it's not so much cause for concern as it is a topic for conversation. The topic being the side effects of cancer medicine/treatment. I remember hearing/reading that as it relates to cancer patients, sometimes the side effects of the medicine so severe/so debilitating that the patient must stop the treatment (which I never have). And in stopping what's managing – so to speak, the tumors, the tumors start growing and the cancer starts spreading and then shortening your life. In the past when I've asked my oncologist what would happen to my stable tumors if I were to stop treatment, he unequivocally stated: "I know what will happen. The tumors will grow." And as you might imagine, tumors growing has been my greatest fear.

Per my last series of diagnostic scans in late Dec. and early March, tumors are stable, and life goes on. I had been anxious about these scans because previously we had reduced the dosage of my thyroid cancer medicine down to 10 mg from the initial 24 mg. We had to do this because the side effects from the medicine was adversely affecting my ability to perform my activities of daily living. Walking upstairs or even a modest incline would take my breath away; as would bending over or even standing over the commode. However, this original maximum dose was keeping the tumors stable. Why risk that just so I can breathe easier?

In talking with my oncologist over the years, I've learned – and experienced, that cancer medicine is constantly adjusted and changed your body reacts negatively. The goal, according to my oncologist is to try and find that "sweet spot" as I call it. That's the spot where the minimum amount of medicine tolerated by the patient is doing the maximum good, and of course, when the side effects are the least impactful. Which is where I've been for the past six months or so: reduced dose, less side effects, while still having "stable" results on my quarterly scans.

Recently however, my breathing has become more labored, even while performing less arduous tasks. My wife, Dina, asked me today, after she saw me pull over in the house and sit down to catch my breath, if I thought I should contact my oncologist and tell him of my recent difficulties because it's new-ish and any new symptoms need to be reported to the doctor.

But lowering my dose yet again really scares me. At some point/dosage, the medicine stops being effective. And I'm not sure if one can experiment with a lower dose and if there are complications/disappointments, simply revert to the higher dose and return to the previous abnormal? My oncologist has also said that he can try to keep me from going down, but once down, he can't likely bring me back up. Ergo, my dilemma.

Obviously, it's prudent to keep the oncologist in my loop; he does kind of have my life in the speaker of his stethoscope and should be apprised of all changes in my health. Nevertheless, a reduction in my medicine could be a turning point in the wrong direction, and one quite frankly from which I might never recover.

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



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