



Never Forget Honoring the fallen on Memorial Day.



PHOTO BY MCARTHUR MYERS

Members of Special Forces Association Chapter XI, who assisted in the May 30 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, gather for a group photograph at the statue of Rocky Versace.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria paid tribute to its fallen veterans May 30 with Memorial Day ceremonies at Alexandria National Cemetery and the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray.

In Del Ray, the names of Alexandria's 68 fallen and missing in action service members from Vietnam were read aloud as part of the annual ceremony at the site named for Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam POW Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace.

"The Friends of Rocky Versace are grateful for the support of both the Del Ray and greater Alexandria communities for the

wonderful turn-out on a bright, hot morning," said master of ceremonies Kevin Rue, a representative of the organization that hosts the ceremony. "It is wonderful to see Alexandria's 68 Vietnam War fallen heroes remembered by those who took time out of their long weekend to attend the ceremony."

The ceremony included a wreath laying by nine members of Versace's West Point class of 1959 and was attended by several Gold Star family members. Two Gold Star widows of Alexandria's fallen, Reba Bayliss, widow of Capt. Paul M. Bayliss, and Bette Spengler Meuleners, widow of Capt. Henry Spengler, took part in the Ceremony, reading their Fallen Heroes' names during the Reading of the Names portion of the Ceremony.

SEE HONORING, PAGE 6



JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

American flags adorn the headstones in Alexandria National Cemetery May 30 in remembrance of Memorial Day.

16-Year-Old Arrested for Murder

On June 1, the Alexandria Police Department made an arrest in connection to the stabbing death of 18-year-old Luis Hernandez that occurred on May 24, 2022. Hernandez was a senior at Alexandria City High School.

A 16-year-old juvenile male City of Alexandria resident was arrested and charged with murder. He is currently being held in the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center.

According to police, the initial call for service was received at approximately 12:26 p.m. for a large

group fight in the 3600 block of King Street. It appeared that more than 30 young people, including some students from Alexandria City High School, were involved in the fight at Bradlee Shopping Center. During the fight, Hernandez was critically injured and transported to the hospital where he

later died.

"Yesterday, Luis Mejia Hernandez's parents lost their son. For as long as they will live, nothing else will ever matter," said Mayor Justin Wilson. "We grieve with the friends and family who knew Luis well and hope that at some point they will have some peace."

Wilson said when he first heard about the fight and stabbing, he verified that his son was in school and not the shopping center. "That was my reaction as a parent," he said on Facebook.

The first class after chang-
SEE 16-YEAR-OLD, PAGE 7

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Patrick Henry Elementary School principal Ingrid Bynum and Olympians Keyshawn Davis and Troy Isley address a school assembly May 4.

Hometown Heroes

Olympians Isley, Davis inspire Patrick Henry students.

Olympics and was a bronze medalist at both the 2017 World Championships and 2019 Pan

American Games.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hometown Olympic boxer Troy Isley and Tokyo silver medalist Keyshawn Davis paid a visit to Patrick Henry Elementary School May 4 following their White House visit with President Joe Biden earlier that same day.

Students filled the school cafeteria as the duo talked about their road to the elite of the boxing world.

"I am from the projects on Madison Street and used to get in fights after school every day," said Isley, who attended Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy and is a 2017 graduate of the former T.C. Williams High School. "One day I got in a fight at Charles Houston rec center and a staff member walked me into the gym and said to a trainer, 'This kid is always getting into a fight. Can you do something with him?'"

Isley represented the U.S. in the Tokyo

"Boxing has always felt natural to me," Isley said. "Growing up a lot of people didn't have the same type of dreams that I had -- a lot of people who almost got there but never fulfilled their dream. But I want to let kids know there is another way out. If you dream big you can get there."

Davis, whose sister Shanice Davis is a teacher at Patrick Henry, was a silver medalist in lightweight boxing at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I started boxing at 9 years old but got serious when I was 14," Davis told the students. "But when I was your age there was a lot of temptation, a lot of things around me. I could have easily followed my friends in gangs but I'm telling you now don't let your friends or anything else take you down that path."

Both Davis and Isley said they hoped to inspire the school students.

"You all know what is right and wrong, what is good and bad," Davis said. "If I had gone down the same path some of my



Patrick Henry Elementary School principal Ingrid Bynum, center, is flanked by Olympic boxers Keyshawn Davis and Troy Isley and school students during a special appearance May 4 by the elite athletes.



Olympic boxers Keyshawn Davis and Troy Isley at Patrick Henry Elementary School May 4.

"I want to let kids know there is another way out. If you dream big you can get there."
— Tokyo Olympic boxer Troy Isley

you need to be when you become a man." Both boxers stressed the importance of discipline and to stick with their dreams no matter what others think.

"I never gave up," Isley said. "I always kept the hope that I would make it, that I would be an Olympian from Alexandria. So remember to always be you. God will bless you for you."

friends did I wouldn't be here today talking to you all. A lot of times school is boring but at the end of the day it will get you to where

Play Ball! DRBA tops Old Town 21-11 in softball rematch.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Del Ray Business Association and the Old Town Business Association faced off for the coveted John Porter Cup in the 4th annual Del Ray vs. Old Town softball battle May 26 at Simpson Park in Del Ray.

Led by Bill Blackburn of the HomeGrown Restaurant Group, DRBA trounced Chadwick's owner Trae Lamond's Old Town team 21-11 in the cross-town battle to even the overall record at 2-2.

"We are thrilled to bring the John Porter Cup back to Del Ray, safe from coastal flooding at Chadwick's," said Blackburn of the victory and return of the trophy named

for longtime Alexandria educator and Living Legend John Porter.

Mayor Justin Wilson threw out the first pitch with Josie Lawson, granddaughter of the late Vola Lawson, at home plate. Home plate umpire was the Hon. Dana Lawhorne with Sheriff Sean Casey and City Manager Jim Parajon as on-field officials.

"Huge kudos to Michelle Millben for singing the National Anthem and then playing for Old Town," Blackburn added.

Bill Butcher of Port City Brewing Company sponsored the event with Ben Correia winning the Alexandria Little League Scholarship raffle of \$1,200 with \$4,000 raised overall.

MORE PHOTOS PLAY BALL. PAGE 9



PHOTO BY "MANGO" MIKE ANDERSON

Members of the Del Ray Business Association softball team pose for photo following their 21-11 victory over the Old Town Business Association May 26 at Simpson Park.



ALIVE!'s first brick and mortar pantry opens at 501-F S. Van Dorn Street



Mayor Justin Wilson and other city officials cut the ribbon to open the new ALIVE! Food Hub West End pantry May 26.

ALIVE! Opens First Brick and Mortar Food Hub

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Walk into the new ALIVE! brick and mortar pantry in the West End and you don't know where to look first. The bright welcoming space has been designed by The Oasis Alliance, and the shelves are stocked with food in the choose-your-own model. Jenn Ayers, Executive Director of ALIVE!, says this is the first brick and mortar pantry ALIVE! has opened, and they chose a spot close to a lot of people in an area of need.

A ribbon cutting on May 26 served as the official opening of the Food Hub. ALIVE! Board members gathered with Mayor Justin Wilson, city staff and faith leaders to celebrate the event.

Ayers says, "We want to be everywhere but we had to start somewhere, and this is a good location. It is close to transit, and we expect at least 400 families a month." Ayers says the advantage of this pantry is that it is open at hours convenient to families, and it uses the choice model, a market-like experience, instead of handing the family a bag of prepackaged groceries, which was necessary during COVID. "This way people can choose what they want and what their families will eat. And also some families have allergies."

ALIVE! explains that this food pantry will



Benay L. Walker from The Oasis Alliance has created joyful designs to make the ALIVE! space a welcoming place. www.theoasisalliance.org/

not replace their current monthly food distribution as well as neighborhood pop-up groceries and distribution of food to other food pantries. ALIVE! Currently has week-end food distributions, both drive-through and walk-up at several locations around

Alexandria including Cora Kelly Elementary School, William Ramsay Recreation Center, NVCC Alexandria campus as well as pop up food distributions Thursday-Saturday for two hours at different times of the day.

Food offerings may differ by location due to different needs and preferences. For instance, in Arlandria, families want masa. In Old Town, Ayers explains, residents tend to be older and they want more traditional food like mac and cheese, with more halal and fresh produce on the West End. Over time she says ALIVE! Is becoming more culturally sensitive, and they do purchase some halal meat. They plan cooking demonstrations over time to tell how to use what is in the Food Hub.

To be eligible for the food pantry, a person must be a resident of Alexandria. Ayers says almost anything can be used as proof such as a water bill or driver's license. "We don't want to make this hard for them." Ayers says the pantry will also connect Alexandrians with available support services such as SNAP benefits, legal services, eviction and rental assistance advice, health and access to reduced price and free school lunches in the fall. "We are arranging to have representatives from the various agencies on a schedule for the pantry. It will offer one-stop shopping."

Ayers says a lot of the food for the pantry comes from local sources such as meat and

dairy coming from Wegmann's, Giant and Amazon Fresh, bread from Great Harvest and Trader Joe's and vegetables gleaned from the farmer's market at Del Ray as well as local grocery stores. She says they get non-perishable food from the Capital Area Food Bank and receive donations from local citizens. They also offer basic toiletry and household items such as shampoo and soap and laundry detergent.

DONATE: Food may be dropped off at the ALIVE! Food Warehouse at 801 S. Payne Street Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday. For a list of most needed items: <https://www.alive-inc.org/food-program-in-alexandria-virginia/> Ayers says right now, of course, baby formula is a top priority. Ayers add that individual donors also make a lot possible such as the refrigeration and drywall.

Karl Bach, ALIVE! Director of Social Media, says The Oasis Alliance designed a mural with ALIVE! in Arabic transitioning into a heart. Oasis designs personalized space that encourages recovery, growth and mental well being. They believe that personalized space reaffirms humanity. Bach says, "It took the space to a whole new level—bright and welcoming."

SEE ALIVE! FOOD HUB, PAGE 14

School, Hygiene Supplies For Hammond Students

On Wednesday, May 18th, United Way of the National Capital Area celebrated two milestones: the 10th annual Do More 24 – a social movement that brings together charities, private companies, and donors committed to making a difference in the community – as well as its partnership with Enterprise Holdings. Enterprise has partnered with United Way NCA for the fifth consecutive year, delivering over 1,300 bags of critical school and hygiene supplies to Hammond Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia

Enterprise Holdings employees presented the drawstring bags of school and hygiene supplies to Hammond Middle School Principal Pierrette P. Finney, Alexandria Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Hutchings, Enterprise volunteers also participated in a kit packing event that day that provided students with fun yet educational materials to enjoy over the summer break.

SEE SCHOOL, HYGIENE SUPPLIES, PAGE 14



L to R: Ian Gordon, Vice President, Community Impact and Engagement, United Way of the National Capital Area; Coe Bockmier, General Manager, Enterprise Holdings Group; Dr. Pierrette Finney, Principal, Francis C. Hammond Middle School; Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent, Alexandria Public Schools; Cindy Kowal, Director of Operations, Communities in Schools; Madelyn Giblin, Community School Coordinator.

OPINION

Bipartisan Budget; Mixed Bag

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

On Wednesday of this week, I cleared my trial calendar and headed to Richmond to vote for the bipartisan conference report on our \$188 billion state budget. The compromise was a mixed bag. This week, I will write about some local priorities in the budget. Next week, I will write about the coming tax cuts and some of the broader investments that benefit the entire Commonwealth.

First, the Commonwealth's current fiscal picture appears healthy but I have serious concerns that our excess revenues are largely driven by \$5 Trillion of federal stimulus monies that have been pumped into our economy instead of solid underlying economic fundamentals. It is very dangerous to reset tax rates assuming revenues that could vanish when the stream of borrowed money fizzles out.

The budget appropriates an additional \$214 million for Fairfax County Public Schools, \$219 million for Prince William County Public Schools, and \$78 million for Stafford County Public Schools. The state is now sending Fairfax County \$468 million more per year than the first budget that was adopted when I was elected in 2010. These funds will go a long way to ensure our teachers are paid fairly as long as localities match the state funding consistent with progressive Virginia policy.

Last year, Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Paul Krizek, Del. Mark Sickles and I secured \$2 million in the state budget to help defray the cost of purchasing River Farm which was under threat of development. Now that the threat has been eliminated, I proposed budget language to repurpose that money to provide public access improvements, education opportunities, viewing platforms and shoreline stabilization which was included in the final budget. It would not have happened without a team effort and will pay dividends for decades.

Water service to the Town of Quantico has been a long standing battle between the Town and Marine Corps Base Quantico. My proposal to use \$17 million of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) to connect the Town to the Prince William County Public Service Authority water system was included. The amendments also restored many water quality priorities I secured in the Governor's



and Senate's budget including \$3 million for stormwater mitigation in the Town of Dumfries and \$300,000 of stormwater remediation in the Town of Occoquan which will help clean the Potomac River.

Del. Krizek, Del. Sickles, Sen. Ebbin and I also secured \$400,000 of ongoing funding for Good Shepherd Housing's to continue to provide housing, emergency services, children's services, budgeting, counseling and other resources for low-income families. Good Shepherd has found this additional funding to be crucial – even in our raging economy where our recovery has been uneven.

I was also able to pass and secure nearly \$400,000 of funding to conduct a bipartisan autopsy of the Commonwealth's pandemic response. This pandemic was (hopefully) a once-in-a-century opportunity to test Virginia's emergency and pandemic response systems. There are many lessons to be learned about not just the pandemic but also our way of life. We all received a crash course in remote meetings, vaccine distribution, vaccine mitigation and other practices that can pay us long-term dividends. We tested our stockpiles and state of emergency statutes, and learned exactly which workers are essential and must continue working no matter how risky it is. We need to continue our discussions in a post-pandemic environment.

While the budget has some important local priorities, it also contained major tax cuts and investments. Next week, I will discuss that along with funding I did not support along with major missed opportunities. As The Rolling Stones sang, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try, sometimes you get what you need."

I voted "yes" to reach a bipartisan compromise.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. If you have any feedback, you can reach me at scott@scottsurovell.org.



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Honoring the Fallen on Memorial Day



Rev. Christopher Christensen, center, poses for a photo with members of the St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial May 30 in Del Ray.

PHOTOS BY MCARTHUR MYERS



JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

A wreath bearing the symbol of the American Legion rests against the headstone of Turner J. Anderson, a past American Legion Commander 1939, May 30 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



Members of the West Point Class of 1959 and classmates of Humbert "Rocky" Versace prepare to place a wreath at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial May 30 in Del Ray.

FROM PAGE 1

Also attending were Rocky Versace's sister-in-law, Curtis Versace, a Gold Star widow, Clare Ericson Barkovic, whose late husband, 1LT William Ericson, was a West Point classmate of Spengler as well as one of Spengler's brothers, James Spengler, Chief, Alexandria's Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Department.

M. Christopher Williamson of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency gave an update on the ongoing search for the four Alexandria veterans still missing in action: Capt. Rocky Versace, Maj. Morgan Donahue, 1LT Larry Lilly and SFC Douglas Blodgett. The remains of Spengler and Capt. Barry Lockhart, formerly MIA, were recovered in 1989.

Carolyn Weinroth, former Miss Northern Virginia, opened the ceremony with the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by members of the St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381. Bugler Lt. Col Steve Tracy (ret.) closed the ceremony with Taps.

American Legion Post 24 led the ceremony at Alexandria National Cemetery, which included remarks from Ronald E. Walters, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

American flags were placed at each of the headstones in the cemetery with six wreaths bearing the



Former Mayor Allison Silberberg, center, with Vietnam veteran Darrell Katsovich and Col. Al Phillips (ret.), a West Point classmate of Rocky Versace.

American Legion insignia marking the site of past Post 24 Legion commanders.

"Every Memorial Day we honor our past Commanders who are buried in this cemetery," said Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton. "We also place a wreath at the site of the Unknown Union Soldier Memorial."

F. Clinton Knight is one of the past Legion Commanders buried in the cemetery.

"F. Clinton Knight was commander in 1925 and 1926 and was instrumental in saving the Gadsby's Tavern building," Dorton said. "At the time there was a huge controversy about saving the building or funding a memorial to local World

War I veterans but Clinton felt that the connection to our Founding Fathers was more important and worked to save Gadsby's."

Alexandria National Cemetery is one of the country's original national cemeteries established in 1862. By 1864, it was close to capacity, leading to the development of Arlington National Cemetery.

"I am thankful that we were able to be back at our usual site for Memorial Day for the first time in two years," Dorton added. "The American Legion has a long history of our Memorial Day observance there and I am happy with the turnout and respectful public support."



Marine Col. Christopher Lowe salutes during the May 30 Memorial Day ceremony in Del Ray.

16-Year-Old Arrested for Murder

FROM PAGE 1

ing the name of the high school, the class of 2022, will graduate on Saturday. They will do so without Luis.

“A class that has seen tumult and disruption throughout their high school years is ready to go out into the world and change it for the better. This class is accomplished and they are resilient,” Wilson said.

School communities across the nation are still reeling from the murder of 21 people in the Robb school in Uvalde, Texas. For the students, staff and families of Alexandria City High School, the pain is compounded by the violent death of Luis Hernandez.

“My heart goes out to all Titan students, staff and families as we traverse this incredibly painful time together. This year has been far from normal. And, it is important that we do not try to normalize it,” said Principal Peter Balas in a letter to families.

Balas decided that most students would participate in asynchronous virtual learning for the the week, ex-



cept for students who need to complete graduation requirements or other critical in-person tasks, for all four campuses.

“During this modified return, the school will focus on social, emotional and academic learning to help fulfill critical in-person graduation requirements and provide students with the social-emotional support they need,” Balas wrote.

“The ACHS staff will be working from their classrooms to provide asynchronous instruction, proctor SOL exams and be available to any student in need of in-person social-emotional support or socialization.”

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Fauci Flip Flop

Republican candidate tries to walk back 'Fauci should be jailed' comment.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Republican congressional candidate Karina Lipsman is trying to walk back her comment that President Biden's chief medical advisor Anthony Fauci "should be jailed," a position she took during a time when she was battling four competitors to get the nomination to run in the Eighth Congressional District. Now that she has secured the nomination in a GOP convention, she is flip flopping on Fauci. In a written statement, she says she no longer stands by the extreme rhetoric that Fauci should be incarcerated even though he has never been charged with a crime.

"I do not believe Dr. Fauci should be jailed," said Lipsman in a written statement. "I do believe Dr. Fauci, and every other government official involved, need to be held to account for the actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic that wreaked havoc on our economy, our children and our country."

Lipsman says many people are currently suffering from mental health issues and drug addictions because of the "forced lockdowns." She describes data on covid mitigation efforts as "contrary to previous messaging from our government." Ultimately, she says that she wants to go to Congress to hold government officials accountable.

"We should expect our elected representatives to ask the hard questions of those in power and demand answers," she said in the written statement.

Through her campaign manager, Lipsman declined several requests to be interviewed for this story.

"If you can't answer questions about your flip flop, that's a problem," said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. "The idea



Republican candidate Karina Lipsman speaks during a candidates forum on May 5, when she called for chief medical advisor Anthony Fauci to be jailed.

that you don't even stand up for what you believe at the moment creates another set of problems for you as a candidate."

Since the outset of the pandemic, many people skeptical of pandemic mitigation efforts have been skeptical of Fauci, who is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. Before he lost the Republican primary for reelection, U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.) called for Fauci to be jailed. Similarly, U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) introduced the Fire Fauci Act, which suggests the chief medical advisor to the president "failed to provide Americans with accurate information" about the pandemic.

"Lock him up! Lock him up!" roared a crowd in Arizona earlier

this year when former President Donald Trump started bashing Fauci.

CANDIDATES OFTEN moderate their positions after securing a nomination, leaving behind strong rhetoric used to jockey for position among a field of rivals. Quentin Kidd at Christopher Newport University points to former Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who said he was for the war in Iraq before he was against it. Kidd also pointed to former President George H.W. Bush, who said "read my lips, no new taxes" during his campaign and then changed course after being elected. He said voters have to make a determination if the old position was insincere or if the new position is a crass attempt to

win an election.

"Declining to speak directly about her changed position makes me think that she is worried that it will be seen as a crass flip flop, and that she has no other legitimate way to explain it," said Kidd.

Now that she has secured the nomination, Lipsman will face either four-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) or challenger Victoria Virasingh. Unlike the Republicans, the Democrats will choose their candidate in a primary election rather than a convention. The election is scheduled for June 21, and early voting has already started. A spokesman for Beyer's campaign says the congressman believes Fauci has saved lives during the pandemic.

"It is deeply unfortunate, though

not surprising, that some right-wing politicians have chosen to scapegoat Dr. Fauci and other public health officials," said Aaron Fritschner, a spokesman for the Beyer campaign. "Congressman Beyer strongly opposed anti-science rhetoric and attacks on federal employees for doing their jobs during the previous administration, and he continues to be a stalwart supporter of science, and a defender of the civil service and the rule of law."

Virasingh said candidates and the right and left are guilty of using rhetoric that fuels the culture war, which she said is a distraction from issues that will help constituents in the Eighth Congressional District. When asked about Lipsman's flip flop on Fauci, Virasingh said running for Congress isn't easy.

"Karina is a first-time candidate, and when you're a first-time candidate you're learning a lot and you're building that plane as you fly it," said Virasingh. "I'd like to see a political climate that's more focused on issues and not as much on this culture-war rhetoric."

Lipsman now faces a dilemma. The people in the crowd who applauded her suggestion that "Fauci should be jailed" may now be alienated by her unwillingness to stand by that position. Similarly, voters who are wary of calls to incarcerate political opponents may be skeptical that her new position is trustworthy. Then again, some voters may never learn that she has abandoned her call to jail Fauci.

"There's the old saying in politics, when you're explaining, you're losing," said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "Make an outrageous statement, pull it back, people will remember the outrageous statement and not the official clarification."

Virginia Reports First Case of Monkeypox

DH: Northern Virginia resident with recent travel history to African country where the disease is known to occur.

The Virginia Department of Health has identified the first presumed monkeypox case in a Virginia resident. The initial testing was completed at the Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. Confirmatory test re-

sults will come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the report from the Virginia Department of Health:

The patient is an adult female resident of Northern Virginia with recent travel history to an African country where the disease

is known to occur. She was not infectious during travel. She did not require hospitalization and is isolating at home to monitor her health. To protect patient privacy, no further information will be provided. The health department is identifying and monitoring the patient's close contacts. No ad-

ditional cases have been detected in Virginia at this time.

"Monkeypox is a very rare disease in the United States," said State Health Commissioner Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH. "The patient is currently isolating and does not pose a risk to the public. ... Transmission requires close contact with someone with symptomatic monkeypox, and this virus has not shown the ability to spread rapidly in the general popula-

SEE VIRGINIA REPORTS, PAGE 9

Play Ball!

FROM PAGE 3



PHOTOS BY "MANGO" MIKE ANDERSON

"We are thrilled to bring the John Porter Cup back to Del Ray, safe from coastal flooding at Chadwick's."

— DRBA team captain Bill Blackburn

Bill Blackburn, right, leads the Del Ray Business Association softball team in shaking hands with members of the Old Town Business Association team following the May 26 game at Simpson Park.



Dana Lawhorne, left, with City Manager Jim Parajon were among the officials on the field at Simpson Park for the May 26 softball game between the Del Ray and Old Town business associations. Del Ray won the game 21-11.



The John Porter Cup trophy on display at Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray.

Virginia Reports First Case of Monkeypox

FROM PAGE 8

tion. VDH is monitoring national and international trends and has notified medical providers in Virginia to watch for monkeypox cases and report them to their local health district as soon as possible. Based on the limited information currently available about the evolving multi-country outbreak, the risk to the public appears to be very low."

Although rare, monkeypox is a potentially serious viral illness that is transmitted when someone has close contact with an infected person or animal. Person-to-person spread occurs with prolonged close contact or with direct contact with body fluids or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or linens. The illness typically begins with fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion and swelling of the lymph nodes. After a few days, a specific type of rash appears, often starting on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. Symptoms generally appear seven to 14 days after exposure and, for most people, clear up within two to four weeks. Some people can have severe illness and die. As with many viral illnesses, treatment mainly involves supportive care and relief of symptoms. <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>

Virginia Department of Health advises that if you

are sick and have symptoms consistent with monkeypox, you should seek medical care from your health-care provider, especially if you are in one of the following groups:

Those who traveled to central or west African countries, or parts of Europe where monkeypox cases have been reported, or other areas with confirmed cases of monkeypox during the month before their symptoms began,

Those who have had contact with a person with confirmed or suspected monkeypox, or

Men who regularly have close or intimate contact with other men.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON385>

If you need to seek care, call your healthcare provider first, according to the Department of Health. Let them know you are concerned about possible monkeypox infection so they can take precautions to ensure that others are not exposed.

On May 20, 2022, VDH distributed a Clinician Letter to medical professionals reminding them to report any suspected cases of monkeypox to their local health department as soon as possible and implement appropriate infection prevention precautions



We invite you to join us
Sunday, June 12, 2022

at 1801 North Quaker Lane for a
building dedication service and
celebration of our permanent church home!

11:15 a.m. Service 12:30 p.m. Bluegrass & BBQ

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 5

"SeeWorthy" Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Studio #9, Alexandria. View ship construction through the eyes of maritime archaeologists in SeeWorthy, a new exhibit from Alexandria Archaeology highlighting the technology used to digitally reconstruct historic vessels. Recent development along the waterfront has led to significant discoveries by archaeologists, including the remains of four historic ships. These remnants have been laser scanned to create models showing what they would have looked like in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

NOW THRU JUNE 12

MVUC Greenhouse Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weekends only. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the MVUC Greenhouse opens April 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends only. They have a variety of vegetables and flowers for sale again this year. Lots of regular and heirloom tomatoes and not-too-hot peppers (more than 20 different varieties) as well as some of your favorite perennials, annuals, and herbs. Visit the lovely, old greenhouse and buy some new plants for your spring garden.

NOW THRU JUNE 17

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Exhibit. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's traveling exhibit Panel 44: 8 Days in March will be on display at the National Museum of the United States Army through June 17, 2022, as a part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The centerpiece of the exhibit is the Memorial's original Panel 44, produced in 1982 but not placed in the Memorial because of a crack in the upper-right edge. It is inscribed with the names of 337 American service members who died between March 9-16, 1968. Two hundred fifteen of the inscribed names were Army Soldiers, ranging in age from 18 to 46. All those remembered by the panel represent 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Visit <https://www.thenmusa.org/visit/#get-tickets>.

NOW THRU JUNE 2

Rook Richards. 5-8 p.m. At Augies Mussel House & Beer Garden, 1106 King St., Alexandria. Live acoustic music! This is a weekly recurring event and runs from May 16 to June 2 and happens every Monday to Thursday from 5-8 p.m. Visit the website: <https://www.eventvista.com/events/17117/t/tickets>

NOW THRU JULY 9

Retrospective Art Deco Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria. The first retrospective on the work of Art Deco designer Edgard Sforzina will open April 30th at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the Art Deco Society of Washington's 39th annual Washington Modernism Show. Discount tickets are available at www.washingtonmodernismshow.com.

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.,



The 5th Annual Celebrate Alexandria Pride Event will take place on Saturday, June 4 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria.

Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

JUNE 2-4

Outdoor Opera. 5-7 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Opera returns to the Secret Garden with Mozart's beloved comedy in a delightful, immersive staging featuring a talented cast of young musicians. An audience favorite since 1786, discover the madcap comedy and radiant score as never before.

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

Lecture: "Patton & Rommel: The Missing Generals of D-Day." 7-8:30 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, Alexandria. Did you know two of the most important men of D-Day... weren't even there? Dr. Kim Holien returns with another behind-the-scenes look at D-Day. Dr. Kim Bernard Holien was a professional historian with the U.S. Army for 34 years, receiving commendations from the late John Marsh, Secretary of the Army, and President Ronald Reagan. \

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

BookTalk- American Landmark. 6-8 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House announces a Book-Talk with Virginia Christian Beach, author of "American Landmark: Charles Duell and the Rebirth of Middleton Place." Join in a lecture from the author and a candid discussion about historic interpretation. Email: woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

First Thursdays in Del Ray. 6 p.m. At various locations in Del Ray, Alexandria. Held the first Thursday from April to August along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, First Thursday is a series of free outdoor street festivals that bring the community together around a fun theme, benefiting a local nonprofit. This summer's themes

include "Unmask Your Superhero First Thursday," "First Thursday Red, White & Blue," "First Thursday Aloha Thursday" and "First Thursday Show Your Spirit," respectively. Visit visitdelray.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Interpreting the Enslaved People of Mount Vernon. 7 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Join in this talk and learn about various ways of interpreting the enslaved people at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Learn about the different techniques, the challenges and future goals. The talk will be given by Jeremy Ray, the Director of Interpretation at Mount Vernon. Visit leefendallhouse.org.

JUNE 3-26

The "Afros and Abstract" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Celebrates imagination and passion that reaches the expanse of humanity and a movement, encapsulating the amorphous state of color. Join them on opening day (Friday, June 3, 12-9 p.m.) for the widest selection of artwork. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit: DelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Interpreting the Enslaved People of Mount Vernon. 7 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Join in this talk and learn about various ways of interpreting the enslaved people at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Learn about the different techniques, the challenges and future goals. The talk will be given by Jeremy Ray, the Director of Interpretation at Mount Vernon. Visit leefendallhouse.org.

JUNE 3-5

13th Annual Taste of Del Ray. At Various restaurants in Del Ray, Alexandria. Top area restaurants are slated to participate in the 13th Annual Taste of Del Ray, a delicious competition where each venue offers a special \$5 taste at their restaurant. Taste of Del Ray weekend kicks off with a VIP reception on June 2 featuring wine and unlimited tastes from top Del Ray restaurants. VIP tickets are \$50 per person; for more information, visit visitdelray.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Happy Hour on the Plaza. At 44 Canal Center Plaza Alexandria. Happy Hour on Canal Center Plaza (4-9 p.m.) Live music from Indoor Kites, food trucks, lawn games, live music and beer, seltzer, wine cocktails.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

QuinTango CD Release. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. QuinTango CD release and birthday bash starts with a performance of the music from OBSESIÓN, the group's 7th CD, and ends with cake and bubbly to celebrate QuinTango leader Joan Singer's birthday. Tickets at www.quintango.com

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Groovy Nate Performance. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, (Parking Lot) Alexandria. Popular children's performer Groovy Nate entertains with songs, funky rhymes, silly instruments and more. Ages 3-12. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8891464>

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

5th Annual Celebrate Alexandria Pride Event. 1 to 4 p.m. At the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. The Alexandria LGBTQ+ Task Force invites you to join its 5th Annual Celebrate Alexandria Pride Event at Charles Houston Recreation Center. Back by popular demand in partnership with the Alexandria Library is "Drag Queen Story Time with Venus" at 2 p.m., perfect for children ages 3 to 8. Enjoy spoken word with C. Thomas at 3 p.m. Collect Pride swag, enjoy music and food, make some art, pose for a Pride pic, and learn about LGBTQ-inclusive services in Alexandria. Free and confidential HIV testing available.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Watercolor Workshop - Landscapes. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (16-Adult) Artist Dawn Flores helps you translate the beauty of nature into a watercolor painting by showing how to paint skies, trees, water, mountains and rocks. Learn strategies for building depth and focus in your work using color and value. Get techniques for building texture and masking to preserve the white of the page. A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$97 per person. Code 68F.QXPX.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

D-Day Commemoration/78th Anniversary Program. 3-6 p.m. At Market Square, Alexandria. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee will hold their Annual D-Day Commemoration at Market Square with swing music, costumed dancers, re-enactors, and information booths. The Special 78th Anniversary program will be held from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the Market Square stage.

SUNDAY/JUNE 5

FLW Birthday Picnic. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At: Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Celebrate the 155th birthday of the architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Enjoy an open house tour of Pope-Leighey House and learn about the history of the house and its designer. In the yard, enjoy games and music that inspired the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and enjoy a celebratory cupcake.

SUNDAY/JUNE 5

Piano Concert. 4-5 p.m. At Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Hailed as "a sensitive player." Liana Paniyeva has performed at festivals around the world. Free concert. Tax-deductible contribution aiding war-torn Ukraine accepted. Can be made through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Visit the website: <http://www.franconiaumc.org>

SUNDAY/JUNE 5

Tea Program: Moon Magic. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) June's full moon is the strawberry moon and a super-moon. The Moon is an object of enduring fascination. Explore its many incarnations throughout history, including deity, feminine symbol, and green cheese! Consider the moon's influence on human behavior, from "lunar lunacy" to its intimate connection with women. \$38 (lecture + tea); \$15 (lecture only). A traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, and scone with cream and jam. Specially prepared tea boxes to go are also available with advance purchase. Call Historic Green Spring at (703) 941-7987.

MONDAY/JUNE 6

Virginia Cider Education. 5-7 p.m. At Lost Boy Cider, 317 Hooffs Run Drive, Alexandria. Inviting all food and beverage professionals to join the American Cider Association and Lost Boy Cider for a cider education workshop. Taste cider, learn cocktail recipes and food pairing Principles. Visit the website: <https://ciderassociation.org/virginia-cider-ed-road-show/>

TUESDAY/JUNE 7

Wire Jewelry Workshop. 6-8:30 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Learn the basics of 'cold' wire jewelry (no heat), including the components and skills for assembling basic wire jewelry pieces (a pendant necklace & a pair of earrings). Details and register: <https://del-rayartisans.org/workshops/>

NEWS

Honor Juneteenth Throughout June in Alexandria

This June, Alexandria, Va., offers a range of ways to honor Juneteenth, June 19, which marks the day on which enslaved individuals in Galveston, TX, learned that the Emancipation Proclamation had freed them more than two years earlier.

In the days and weeks surrounding Juneteenth, participate in jubilee celebrations including outdoor garden concerts, festive celebrations at Carlyle House and the Torpedo Factory Art Center, enriching historical tours and lectures and more. Plus, reserve an advance ticket to visit the newly reopened Freedom House Museum, with three new exhibitions showcasing Alexandria's Black history and the Black experience in America. Alexandria City Hall will be illuminated in honor of Juneteenth from Thursday, June 16, through Monday morning, June 20.

Year-round, Alexandria features a wealth of Black history experiences including historic sites, markers, tours and more. Plus, discover 30 Alexandria Black-owned businesses to support this June and beyond.

Explore more ways to celebrate Juneteenth in Alexandria at Visit-Alexandria.com/Juneteenth.

Featured Juneteenth Events

Steps Toward Freedom: A Juneteenth Remembrance
June 16, 2022, at 5 and 6:30 p.m.
Admission: \$25 to \$45 per person
The Secret Garden at the Rectory, 711 Princess St., Alexandria, VA 22314
703-683-6040
classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts

Exciting artists and a powerful program of beloved spirituals, incredible songs, narration, storytelling and lyrical dance bring to life this new American holiday. After presenting its first Juneteenth concert just a day after Congress voted to make Juneteenth a national holiday, Classical Movements and the Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts partner once again to celebrate this day of joy and liberation. Enjoy a Juneteenth cocktail during this performance.

Juneteenth at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, June 19, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Admission: Free, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-746-4570, torpedofactory.org

Juneteenth Celebration at Carlyle House, America's second Independence Day is a time to celebrate, reflect and learn about the end of slavery in the United States. It's a celebration of freedom and also an opportunity to deepen our awareness of the nation's legacy of systemic racism and oppression. Join artists at the Art Center for a shared community space in the Grand Hall to create artistic mes-

sages with your loved ones.
June 19, 2022, from 12 to 4 p.m., Admission: Free, Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-549-2997
novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

Presented in collaboration with C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas and The Athenaeum, the event will be held outside in the gardens, on the lawn and the tented terrace of the Carlyle House, located in the heart of Old Town. Discover the history of Juneteenth through live music, hands-on activities, art, history and poetry readings. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865.

The museum will host four poets: The City of Alexandria's newest Poet Laureate, Zeina Azzam as well as Khalil Houston, Simply Sherri and Destinae, the 2020-2021 Youth Poet Laureate of Baltimore. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk with the artists after and in-between performances as well as share their written and/or drawn reactions to the powerful performances. There will be a professional photographer on site to capture free father/child portraits, in celebration of it also being Father's Day. The Athenaeum is offering an African-themed hands-on activity for all ages. There will also be a creative writing workshop presented by Enoch the Poet.

Manumission Tour Company: African American History Bus Tour, June 20, 2022, at 1 and 3 p.m., Admission: \$35 after June 1. Meets at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Manumissiontours.com On Monday, June 20, when the Juneteenth holiday is observed, join Manumission Tour Company for a 90-minute African American history bus tour to visit sites around the city such as the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, the African American Heritage Park, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Barrett Library and more. The tour will leave from the Alexandria Black History Museum at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Purchase your seat online.

More Juneteenth Events & Celebrations

Lives Worth Celebrating: Stories of Resilience, Rebellion and Freedom at Lee-Fendall House; June 3 to November 13, 2022

Admission: \$7 per person; Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-548-1789
leefendallhouse.org

Explore a timeline of major events related to the history of slavery in the Americas as you learn about legendary African American leaders, stories of self-liberation and family legacies including the descendants of free and enslaved African Americans who worked at the Lee-Fendall House. Part 1: "Freedom" will launch this 3-part exhibit which will delve into stories of rebellion and resilience by enslaved people in America over the next two years.

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Obituary

Obituary



Robert (Bob) Kirk Moir of Alexandria passed away on May 22 at 64 years of age after a brief illness. He was born in Lynn, MA to Ralph and Jeanne Moir.

Bob earned a BA in Economics from Washington and Lee University and a JD from George Mason University. He was an attorney at Lankford & Reed, Alexandria.

He was known for his soft spoken intelligence, tremendous laugh, striking blue eyes and ability to start a conversation with anyone. He was an American Revolutionary War and Civil War history buff, and once competed in the Ernest Hemingway Look Alike contest in Key West. His favorite activity was any

time spent with his family and friends with good food (and an occasional glass of wine) on the side. Bob was a lifelong fan of classic rock, the NCAA Lacrosse Championships, the Patriots and Red Sox. He caught the travel bug and spent the last few years on international trips with his wife, but still loved being a frequent patron of the BRUT Champagne and Wine Bar in Alexandria.

He was passionate about lacrosse. He coached youth lacrosse at Fort Hunt and then at the Alexandria Lacrosse Club (ALC), and was a founding board member of ALC serving as the second commissioner. He went on to serve for multiple seasons as the Chairman of the Northern Virginia Youth Lacrosse League. Bob was a graduate of the Alexandria City Academy and was appointed to the Park and Recreation Commission. The commission work included serving on the Youth Sports Advisory Board and on the advisory groups for development of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial and the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 17 years, Geralyn McNally, his sisters Diane Barrett of Newburyport, MA and Janet Cannon of Stowe, VT and a host of nieces and nephews.

A Memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you make a donation to the ALC Scholarship Fund (www.alexandrialacrosse.com) or Alive! (www.alive-inc.org)

Obituary

Obituary

Robert L. Hohman, Sr.

Husband. Father. Grandfather. B-52, KC-135, and FB-111 fighter pilot. Some people live larger than life and that describes Bob. A humble boy who spent his early childhood years on a farm in Nebraska, Bob was destined for bigger things. He had his first job at age seven delivering newspapers, and by age 11, he had the second largest route in Omaha with assistants of his own. In high school, Bob moved to selling shoes and trimming trees, both of which paid better than newspapers. Bob used his earnings to pay his way through college at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, where the Air Force ROTC changed his life and the lives of those around him forever. Bob passed away on May 23, 2022.



Bob loved flying airplanes. A 23-year officer and veteran of the Air Force, he was trained in and flew more airplanes than just about any Air Force pilot, logging more than 4000 hours in the B-52 alone. While in the Air Force, he was proud to be an instructor pilot of all the SAC planes in existence during his service. Bob served three tours in Vietnam, including a year during the 100-man rule. Bob was quoted in LIFE's The Vietnam Wars 50 Years Ago - Two Countries Torn Apart: "I was from a blue-collar family. I felt I was very privileged to go to pilot training. It was a big step up for me. It was a privilege to serve in the military. I loved the military. The B-52 was the King of Battle, and at the time I was a very enthusiastic warrior." Following retirement from the Air Force, Bob worked for National Systems Management, L3 and the Ballistic Missile Defense Agency. Late in life, Bob returned to the military as a civilian, serving a 30-month deployment in Kabul, Afghanistan, teaching Afghan soldiers how to fly airplanes. Bob celebrated his 70th birthday on his last day in Kabul.

Other than flying, perhaps Bob's most favorite endeavor was his oyster farm on the Rappahannock River. Begun as a hobby, An All American Oyster Company grew from producing a few thousand oysters to millions of oysters a year. At one point the AAA-OC was in the top 10% of oyster producers in Virginia with five to eight full-time employees. Known by family as the "cottage," the oyster farm was Bob's happy place.

Bob was born in Auburn, Nebraska, to Charles Phillip and Helen Leona Hohman on August 15, 1940. When he was 6 years old, the family moved to Omaha. Bob met Mary Anne Peter at a CYO dance in Omaha during his sophomore and her freshman year of high school, and they married in 1963 after Mary Anne graduated from college and Bob graduated from pilot training. In addition to his undergraduate degree from UNO, Bob earned a Master's degree from the University of Southern California, as well as degrees from the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National War College.

Bob's grandchildren made his eyes light up. Bob loved to watch his grandchildren play sports and was an avid fan of their rec league, high school, and college teams, which included practically every sport Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association offered, Georgetown Visitation field hockey and lacrosse teams, Gonzaga lacrosse and golf teams, Yale women's lacrosse, Yale men's golf, UNC men's lacrosse, and Holy Cross women's lacrosse. Bob never missed an opportunity to see his grandchildren, and one of his last outings was to Grandparents Day at the Basilica of Saint Mary School in early May.

Survivors include Mary Anne Peter, his wife of 59 years; daughter Anne; daughter Mary (Chuck) Zinsner and their children Addie, Teddy, PJ and Sally; son Bobby (Erika Mellman) and children RJ and Max; his sister-in-law Judy (the late Don); his brother Marshall (Cathy); and over 20 nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Interment will be on a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Bob's name to University of Nebraska Omaha Foundation, Robert L Hohman Fund, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508 (800-432-3216).

WELLBEING

Helping Children Cope with Tragedies

Local therapists offer suggestions for easing fears around recent school shootings.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Compassion, exploratory dialogue and honesty are among the suggestions that psychologist Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD, director of the George Mason University Center for Psychological Services, offers to her patients who are struggling to ease the fears of their children after the tragic school shooting in Texas. While it occurred far from her Fairfax office, parents are still facing the complicated task of helping their children process their emotions.

"I always encourage being direct, although developmentally appropriate," said Mehlenbeck who is also a professor in the Department of Psychology at George Mason University. "For example, starting with a question is always good. 'I know you have been talking about what happened in Texas. What do you think about it? Did anyone talk about it in school today?'"

Because each child processes tragic events differently, Mehlenbeck says that there are a variety of ways in which a child can express their emotions. "Some of the signs are fear or anxiety around going to school, not wanting to sleep alone, worrying about parents going to work," she said. There can be physical complaints like stomach aches or headaches."

When beginning a discussion about a child's fears and emotions, ask open-ended questions and listen without judgment, advises therapist Caroline Fenkel, Ph.D., LCSW. "Your answers should always validate their feelings in these situations," she said. "Sometimes it might be helpful to guide your kid toward being able to name their emotions. Try your best to limit their consumption of the news. There's no net positive to continuing to take in footage of police swarming or photos of victims."

It is important, says Fenkel, "that parents check in with their own emotions before starting a dialogue with their kids. It's important to make sure that you're in a safe headspace and emotionally regulated enough to have this type of conversation. Think about what the purpose of the conversation is. Is it to explain what happened? Help them process emotions? Be clear and prepared."

Parents can explore a child's emotions while engaging in pleasurable activities or hobbies, says Bethesda therapist Keisha Ranson, LPC. "Children and teens often communicate best through play. Watch them as they play," she said. "If they seem to be playing out scenes of people getting hurt, it is perfectly fine to



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN MEHLENBECK

Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD, GMU Center for Psychological Services.

ask them how they are feeling in that moment. If they continue to play out scenes of violence, a trained professional may be needed to help them feel safe again."

A parent's response to devastating events will have a significant impact on a child's response, said Ranson. "If a parent is calm, that will communicate safety more than the words that are being spoken," she said. "Parents should get themselves grounded first and then find fun, safe activities. Nature can be a big help.

Go for a walk. Play games that are easy and rhythmic such as catch."

Teens are able to understand the role they play in their own safety, says Ranson. "Remind them of where they can get support," she said. "Review safety procedures like what they should do in the case of an emergency."

"Children feel a sense of safety when parents remind them that no matter what is

going on in the world, they are safe," said Ranson. "Maintain normal routines such as riding the bus to school, doing their homework and going to sports practices," suggested Ranson.

"Whatever the state of the world, your family is safe right now and that needs to be communicated," continued Ranson.

"Nurture healthy coping skills, by encouraging your child to do things that they enjoy doing. This distracts them from the crisis and allows them to focus their attention on activities that bring them joy. Acknowledge the sadness but then move on and distract with life-affirming activities."

"I always encourage being direct, although developmentally appropriate."

— Robyn Mehlenbeck, PhD,
George Mason University
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Announcements

Notice is hereby given to members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. and the Association for Clinical Oncology that their Annual Business Meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, in room S103 of the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Drive, Chicago, IL, on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 12:00PM U.S. Central Time. Members with questions can email ascogovernance@asco.org. This notice is issued at the direction of the Boards of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology.

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Time is What I'll Make of It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit here and wonder about tomorrow/ the future, I try not to wonder about it too much. Since I have cancer, and at present a type of papillary cancer which, due to some unusual circumstances/dare I say, missteps, is characterized as "terminal." 'Terminal' in that currently there is no medicine, other than my present daily pill, that can sustain me beyond three years, give or take, from date of this most recent diagnosis. (Although, I'd like to believe that end date is not prescribed in stone.) I had been treated for non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV for the preceding 10 years or so until a biopsy revealed the tumors were thyroid cancer which had moved to the lung. A subsequent surgical removal of my thyroid glands didn't exactly solve the problem due to some persistent cancer that remained embedded under my collarbone. And soon thereafter, I officially became a thyroid cancer patient, for which I take a 10mg pill daily called lenvima. The side effects are modest, but unfortunately, the cancer is considered incurable.

In summary, I'm sort of taking a long walk off a short pier. And given that there are no guarantees/alternatives to my present protocol, and furthermore, given that the cancer is beyond anybody's control – aside from taking all my supplements and drinking alkaline water, I don't worry about what I can't control. As an example: I can't worry about the Red Sox bullpen. As much as it matters to me, as a life-long member of Red Sox Nation, that Boston's relievers are ordinary at best and disastrous at worst (see game one of the most recent Orioles/Red Sox series when the bullpen gave up two six-run leads), I have zero influence or input and/or control over any of it. And unlike the cancer, it's not exactly my problem, if you know what I mean? Now if the Red Sox wanted to pay me for my opinion, then perhaps it might be my problem. However, given the unlikely occurrence of yours truly getting paid for his baseball opinions, I'll have to narrow my focus and worry about my own problems. Cancer is enough of a problem that I don't need to look elsewhere for additional problems/challenges (and the Red Sox bullpen is most certainly a 'problem'/challenge').

Obviously, I can't ignore any symptoms or neglect my health. And even though my life expectancy has been shortened, I don't have a death wish. On the contrary, I have a life wish. And that 'life wish' consists of this cancer patient navigating through the ongoing demands without letting any of take me down emotionally. My intention/philosophy is, now in my 14th year post cancer diagnosis, to somehow rise above the inevitable downward pressure and try not to get dragged down by the sheer weight of the diagnosis. As my close friend and fellow cancer patient, Lynne said to me at the beginning of my diagnosis: "this is going to be the toughest thing you'll ever have to do." And of course, she was right. Consequently, I don't need to make matters worse. They're already bad enough on their own. If pretending, disconnecting, and laughing in the face of all this adversity gets me to the promised land (a normal life expectancy), then I promise to keep laughing and stay positive about the negative. "Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither was Milwaukee." I'm in this fight for the long haul. Besides, I'd like to live long enough to see how it all ends.

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

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers clean, paint and build to ready the ALIVE! Food Hub for the families in need of food and support services.

ALIVE! Food Hub for Alexandrians in Need

FROM PAGE 4

ALIVE! received funds for this project from the American Rescue Plan as a sub-awardee of the City of Alexandria. Ayers explains they received \$1 million over two years, which will cover distribution plus this pantry and another on the North. She adds they haven't

yet chosen the site for the other pantry. "It is a lot more challenging to find a site that is available in that area."

The new pantry is located at 501-F S. Van Dorn Street (in the Van Dorn Station Shopping Center) and is open Tuesday-Thursday noon-6:30 pm and Friday and Saturday 10 am-1 pm.

School, Hygiene Supplies For Hammond Students

FROM PAGE 4

During the welcoming ceremony of the event, Ian Gordon, Vice President, Community Impact & Engagement, United Way of the National Capital Area, presented Enterprise Holdings Group General Manager Coe Bockmier with a certificate of appreciation from United Way of the National Capital Area.

"With the support of our partners, we have seen great improvements in each student's ability to progress to high school with more academic confidence and emotional stability because of the staff and programs at each school site," said Gordon. "This morning filled me with joy as I witnessed Enterprise Holding volunteers unloading 320 drawstring bags full of school and hygiene supplies! Their generosity in volunteer hours and donated goods is an example of how we are Better United."

For the last five years, Enterprise employees have donated much-needed items to the students and families of Francis C. Hammond Middle School, which is one

of your United Way NCA's five community schools located throughout the Greater Washington Region.

"Enterprises' continued support is a great example of what brings us together each year for United Way of the National Capital Area's annual Do More 24 day of giving," added Gordon. "This social movement brings together charities, private companies, and donors committed to making a difference in the community and has supported more than 1,200 non-profit organizations raising more than 13.7 million dollars for this region's heroes and the nonprofits that support the community every day."

Do More 24 is a day when members of the community are encouraged to think about what they care most about; learn what others are doing to solve our region's most pressing social problems, like food insecurity, inequities in education and resources for students, mental health challenges, the digital divide, or the emergence out of this current health crisis. To learn more, please visit <https://www.domore24.org/>.

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