

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Inside the Ring

Boxing Showcase returns, honors Dennis Porter.



The Alexandria Boxing Showcase was held in memory of Dennis Porter, a longtime boxing coach who died suddenly in 2020 at the age of 59.



Alexandria Boxing Club coach Jeffrey Johnson advises boxer Tamen Rafie between rounds at the Alexandria Boxing Showcase Aug. 27 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Alexandria boxer Brandon Davis, right, and Isaac Meeks of Norfolk trade blows at the Alexandria Boxing Showcase Aug. 27 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Alexandria boxer Brandon Davis, left, and Isaac Meeks of Norfolk in the ring at the Alexandria Boxing Showcase Aug. 27 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Boxing Club hosted the Dennis Porter Invitational Boxing Showcase Aug. 27 at Charles Houston Recreation Center in memory of the beloved boxing coach, who died of a heart attack in 2020 at the age of 59.

"We are happy to have our showcase back," said Alexandria Boxing Executive Director Alice Williams. "This is our first showcase since 1992 and is a chance to honor and pay tribute to Dennis, who was a boxing coach here for over 30 years."

Porter trained Alexandria champions including 2016 Olympic Silver Medalist Shakur Stevenson, former IBF World Featherweight Champion Eric Aikens and 2020 Olympian Troy Isley.

The boxing showcase featured 20 amateur

bouts sanctioned by the USA Boxing Association.

"We have boxing clubs throughout the DMV, Pennsylvania, Hampton and Norfolk participating," Williams said. "We also recognized 20 students that participated in our beginners boxing program in July of this year."

Participating boxers range in age from 8-17 and each are examined by a doctor after every bout and between each round if necessary.

"All these boxers are registered through the USA Boxing Association, so this is a sanctioned fight," Williams said. "A doctor checks to make sure they are visually stable enough to continue the fight."

Jeffrey Johnson is the coach for the Alexandria Boxing Club, which includes one girl.

"We are here to teach them discipline, teach them to believe in themselves," Johnson said. "A lot of them do not realize they possess a skill that they actually have inside of them so we try to teach them to build character and



A doctor checks on boxer Isaac Meeks between bouts at the Aug. 27 Alexandria Boxing Showcase.



Norfolk boxer Isaac Meeks, left, and Brandon Davis of Alexandria await the decision of the judges at the Alexandria Boxing Showcase Aug. 27 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

at the end of the day make them productive citizens."

For more information, visit www.alxboxingclub.org

Hometown Hero

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Olympian Troy Isley paid a visit to his alma mater Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy Aug. 25, where he spoke to students about his journey from Alexandria to the international stage of Olympic boxing.

"Even here in Alexandria, we don't all have the same advantages," said Isley, a 2009 graduate of LCTA. "But whatever your circumstances, if you stick to your goals and don't lose focus, it is possible to make it out."

The youngest of six children, Isley grew up in Alexandria and attended LCTA, where he earned the coveted Principal's Award in the

Olympian Isley returns to LCTA.

fifth grade.

"The Principal's Award is given to the fifth grader who has shown perseverance, resilience and an at-

SEE OLYMPIAN ISLEY, PAGE 5

Olympic boxer and 2009 Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy graduate Troy Isley poses for a photo with students following a special assembly Aug. 25 at LCTA.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



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Student Growth Outpaces Staffing

Number of new teachers hasn't kept pace with surge in enrollment.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Since 2008, Alexandria schools have added more than 4,000 new students. But a new report from the Commonwealth Institute shows staffing has not kept pace. City schools have added only 100 new teachers during that time, and the number of teacher aides has actually declined by 10 positions. The staffing imbalance comes at a time when the public school system is trying to emerge from the pandemic, although the roots of the problem go back to the global financial meltdown 15 years ago.

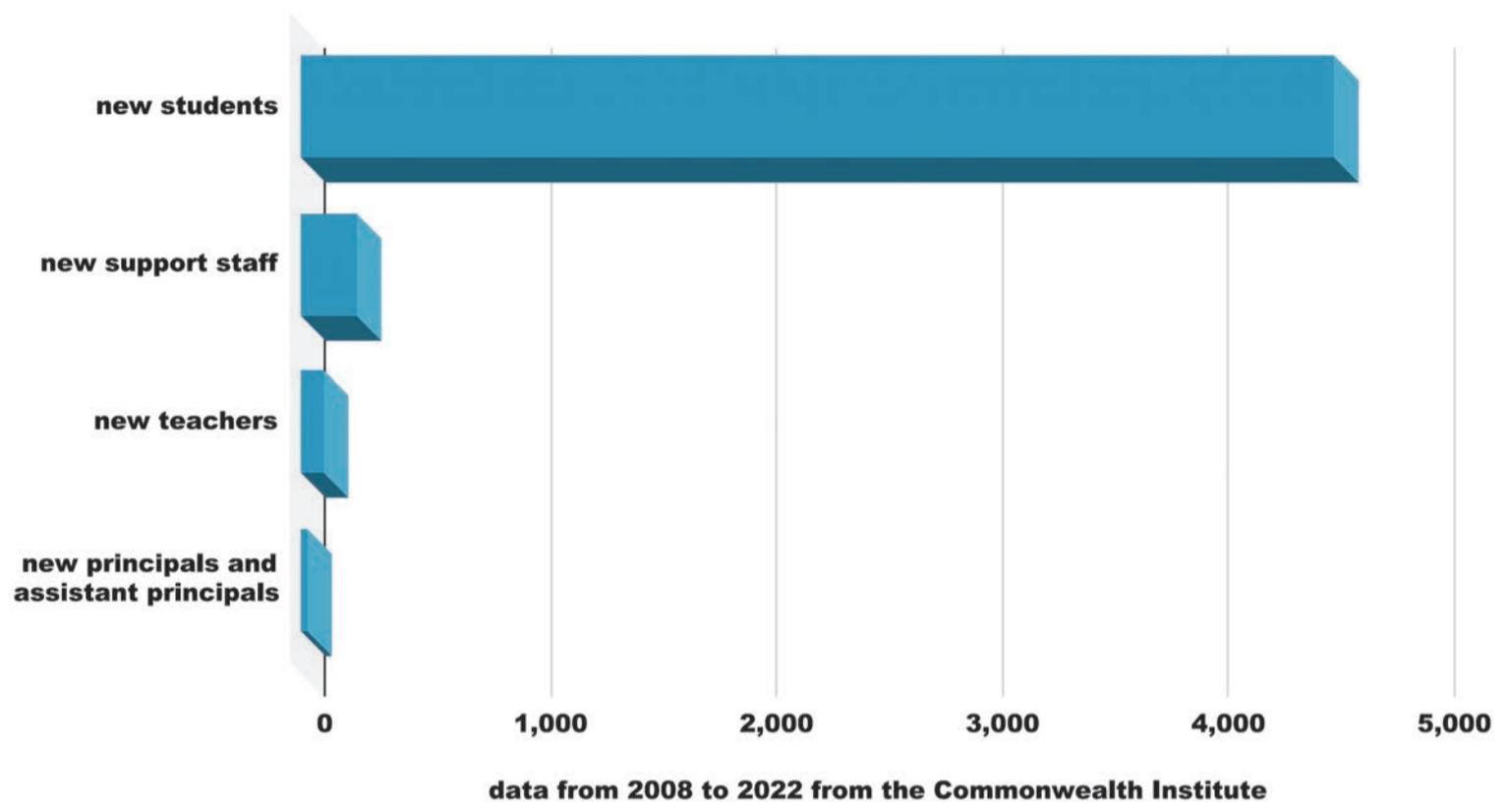
"During the Great Recession over a decade ago, the state made a number of cuts to its support for public schools and that has had long-term consequences for our students because we never fully refunded our schools," said Laura Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute. "As a result, the state is providing support for far fewer staff than it used to."

Teacher vacancies and staff vacancies are causing school officials across Virginia to figure out ways to do more with less. That's leaving many parents to feel an increasing sense of frustration as students struggle through the learning loss experienced during the pandemic. Here in Alexandria, parents of minority students worry that the burden will be heavier in schools that have higher rates of poverty.

"When you have fewer teachers and fewer support staff, the outcome will be lower academic achievement — particularly for our students of color and English-language learners," said Ingris Moran, an organizer with Tenants and Workers United. "Those students are not getting enough support, and that leads to students dropping out or not graduating on time."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS are reluctant to talk about the numbers. School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton denied a request to be in-

Uneven Growth at Alexandria Schools since 2008



"During the Great Recession over a decade ago, the state made a number of cuts to its support for public schools and that has had long-term consequences for our students because we never fully refunded our schools."

— Laura Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute

interviewed about the report from the Commonwealth Institute, referring questions to the staff at Alexandria City Public Schools. Kathy Mimberg, executive director of communications for the division, denied multiple requests to set up an interview with administrators for this story. Instead, she sent a written statement she said should be attributed to Julia Burgos, chief of school and community relations.

"We can confirm that staffing has kept pace with increases in our student enrollment over the past 10 years. Overall student enrollment growth and staffing growth is not a one-to-one relationship, but is based on the needs of students," said Burgos in the written statement. "For example, Kindergarten class sizes require more teachers per student than classes in grades five and above, therefore, our budget reflects the staffing levels that serve the needs of individual school enrollment."

The lack of transparency at Alexandria City Public Schools is a shift in communications strategy for the division, which once made administrators available for interviews. Now requests for interviews are met with written statements, and elected members of the School Board are not available for interviews either. School Board member Abdel-Rahman El-noubi also denied a request to be interviewed for this story, asking instead for questions in advance so he could respond in writing.

"They've obviously circled the wagons because that's what they've been directed to do," said former School Board member Bill Campbell.

"I've never been supportive of trying to hide stuff and trying to hold stuff back or trying to have some kind of canned message to the press but I guess different people have different thoughts on it. Certainly, we should not see the press as an enemy."

FUNDING SOURCES have also shifted since the Great Recession, reflecting an increase in support from the state in Alexandria. Since 2008, direct state aid per student has increased 2 percent and the state's share of total funding has increased from 15 percent of the budget to 18 percent of the budget. Meanwhile the local government's share of school funding has declined from 80 percent of the budget to 74 percent of the budget. Across Virginia, the state spends more on school divisions that meet standards and less on divisions that don't meet standards, an upside down approach that is alarming to many advocates.

"The ultimate solution would be to fix the funding formula, but there's a low likelihood of that in the near term in the General Assembly," said Shane Riddle, director of government relations for the Virginia Education Association. "We believe concentrating on the at-risk add on is one of the best

prospects."

The "at-risk add-on" is a budget approach to provide supplemental funding for school divisions with high concentrations of poverty. Here in Alexandria, 60 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. That's an indication that most public school students in city schools live in poverty, so increasing the at-risk add on would provide increased state funding for Alexandria.

"The variation in ability of Virginia localities to raise revenue leads to differing educational experiences across the state," said Riddle.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING might also play a role in the ability of teachers and support staff to work in Alexandria, where housing costs soar much higher than other parts of the region. During her time on the School Board, Ronnie Campbell pushed the city to set aside affordable housing units for teachers so the school system could retain teachers instead of having them move out to places where they can afford to live.

"Why would they be spending a lot of money for gas to commute here?" she asked. "If they've got the experience, they're going to stay near where they live. And you can't blame them."

Thank You to Senior Services of Alexandria's Summer Volunteers

BY MARGARET SHETLER
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) volunteers make a difference in an older adults' life every day. Volunteers are the backbone of SSA's programs and make it possible to serve older adults 365 days of the year. From delivering Meals on Wheels and being a friendly face, carefully shopping for and delivering a senior's personal grocery list, forming deeper friendships in our Friendly Visitor Program, delivering pet food and coordinating pet care, and spreading vital information for seniors as Senior Ambassadors—our volunteers do it all.

Without the help of our volunteers in our nutrition, companionship, and information programs, SSA would not be able to accomplish its mission: enabling seniors in the City of Alexandria to age with dignity. We are grateful to our volunteers for showing up and going above and beyond.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, visit SSA's website at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414 ext. 110.



During National Pet Week in May, AniMeals on Wheels volunteers delivered toys and treats to the 48 pets in the program. Pictured is Shannon Brady holding dog and cat toys.



Hannah Chidlow, Groceries to Go volunteer, makes her way through the aisles of Giant to get every item on a grocery client's list.



Susan Fitzpatrick, Groceries to Go volunteer, stands with her loaded cart and Senior Services blue insulated bags ready to deliver groceries to her senior. The collapsible carts and insulated bags were purchased through a generous Westminster Community Grant.



Elisabeth, Friendly Visitor Volunteer, spends time with Catherine. Friendly Visitors get together once a week in person or virtually.



Thank you to the Jeffrey's Catering staff who prepare meals every day for our Meals on Wheels clients.



Gerry Cooper, Senior Services Board Member and loyal Meals on Wheels volunteer, poses with his Chick-Fil-A gift card, donated by Meals on Wheels America to show gratitude to our volunteers.



Karen Shannon signed up to volunteer for Meals on Wheels last summer, and she has been a dedicated volunteer ever since.



Gary Hacker, Senior Information Corner volunteer, oversees seven Senior Information Corners across the city, stocking them with information and resources relevant to older adults.

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Olympian Isley Returns to LCTA

FROM PAGE 1

itude towards learning,” said LTCA Principal Dr. Patricia Zissios. “It is not the student who is the most academically successful but the student with the positive attitude that has worked the hardest and that was Troy.”

Isley answered questions from students, including one that asked “Can you beat Floyd Mayweather?”

Laughing, Isley answered, “Yes, I can beat Floyd Mayweather.”

Isley, who will turn 24 on Sept. 5, won a bronze medal at both the 2017 World Championships and 2019 Pan American Games. He made it to the round of 16 in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, held in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Isley first took an interest in boxing in the third grade. He joined the Alexandria Boxing Club and was trained by Dennis Porter and Kay Koroma, winning his first National PAL title in 2012.

He has continued to accumulate national and international medals and when asked how many trophies he has, Isley answered “about 50.”

Zissios added to that haul in presenting Isley with a mock title belt made by the LTCA PTA.

“This is going right there with all my medals,” Isley said in accepting the belt.

Isley went on to attend Jefferson Houston and what is now Alexandria City High School. When asked, he said that he still hangs out with some high school friends along with other Olympic boxers.

He credits LCTA principal Zissios for keeping him



Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy principal Dr. Patricia Zissios, right, presents Olympic boxer and LCTA 2009 graduate Troy Isley with a boxing title belt during a special visit by Isley to the school Aug. 25.

“If you stick to your goals and don’t lose focus, it is possible to make it out.”

— Olympic boxer Troy Isley

focused.

“You never gave up on me,” Isley said to Zissios. “You believed in me. You never suspended me and always gave me another chance. That helped me get to where I am today.”



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Olympian and 2009 Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy graduate Troy Isley greets students Aug. 25 during a special assembly at LCTA.

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Tricolor American foxhound mix Louie, taking a break at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Louie spent six months in the care of the AWLA before his adoption.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NINA TINGLEY

Louie transformed into a new dog living with Nina and Jim Tingley, finding it easy to relax in their Alexandria home.



PHOTOGRAPH BY NINA TINGLEY

Louie's favorite activity now is hopping in Jim Tingley's truck and going for a spin.

Louie the Foxhound Makes Dramatic Transformation Under Shelter's Watch

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

The tricolor American foxhound mix zooming around the Alexandria yard at the speed of a racehorse looks to be about 11 months old rather than the dog's actual 11 years. But that's only one sign of the recent transformation of Louie the super-dog.

Louie's journey began in January, when he first came to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). Although he passed his shelter medical exam with few issues, Louie displayed a sad look and seemed emotionally flat, recalls AWLA Veterinary & Foster Care Manager Elena Carver. Reports of some bite incidents in his previous home meant Louie needed to meet AWLA Behavior and Training Manager Joe Miench.

"Louie was pretty fearful and shut down at first, having a hard time walking on a leash," Miench recalled. "I brought him into my office to see how he would do, and he seemed tense, mainly staring at the door barking." He showed little interest in edible treats. But patient work with Louie by Miench and some specially trained volunteers slowly warmed him up until he was tolerating walks outdoors. After less than a month Louie was enjoying walks with the shelter's general volunteers; most

reported that the only challenge was he would put on the brakes when he thought the walks were coming to an end. Louie also had proved to be a finicky eater, so staff switched to hand-feeding him some of his meals in the special environment of the visitor room.

The AWLA team realized that Louie could benefit from a break from the shelter environment, so to give him a change of scenery, Carver matched him with a foster caregiver. Beginning in late March, one of the AWLA's foster caregivers took care of Louie off and on at her home, with all of his food and other supplies provided by the AWLA. The caregiver grew to adore Louie, and when she had to return him, expressed teary feelings about parting with him; Carver saw that he had flourished in foster care and decided to seek another foster right away.

Alexandrians Nina and Jim Tingley first spotted Louie in his kennel at the shelter. Because their house had started to feel empty after losing their dog to cancer a few months earlier, they decided to try fostering at the AWLA, where Nina also served as a volunteer. "Louie was just lying there in the corner of the kennel, and it broke my husband's heart," Nina Tingley recalled. "He kept talking about him."

When they returned to pick him up,

Louie came charging out to the parking lot with a volunteer and jumped right into the Tingleys' truck before they had even had a chance to touch him.

Louie relaxed quickly at the Tingleys' home, perching next to them on the couch, slowly leaning against them and finally plopping into a lap and falling asleep. Nina worked on teaching him new tricks and skills, asking him to "sit" and "wait" before he would eat his meals, which he was now enjoying voraciously. He now relishes running at top speed around the back yard and accompanying the Tingleys to the tennis court, where he lies on a towel just "looking cute," Nina Tingley said. But his favorite activity remains riding in Jim Tingley's truck. As Louie "wrote" to the shelter:

"I went on LOTS of car rides this week because, well, that is just my favorite thing to do. Jim conveniently parks his truck right in front of the house, so when we go for a walk, I just plant myself right next to it and refuse to go left or right. After a minute or two, Jim and Nina get the hint (and the truck keys) and I win."

After two months of watching Louie blossom, it was clear to the Tingleys that the dog was with them to stay. "I just couldn't bear the thought of him having to go to another new household," Nina Tingley said. "And he filled a void for us." Lou-

ie was officially adopted on July 26.

Louie returned to the shelter briefly with the Tingleys to finalize the adoption. "He held his head high, he was so confident," Carver said. "He greeted everyone and then went back over to the door as if to say, 'Mom, let's go.'"

From his arrival at the shelter in January to his July adoption, Louie had become one of the shelter's longest-staying residents. "The whole story just reminds us that, no matter how despondent an animal might seem, all it takes is one special person or family to turn it all around," Carver said. "The new owner could give them the new lease on life that they so deserve."

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. The AWLA impacts the lives of thousands of animals each year through adoptions and other programs, including a Pet Pantry that last year provided more than 50,000 pounds of pet food and supplies to community members in need. The AWLA also helps Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and other animals in the community. More than half of the AWLA's budget is composed of donations. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

5 Dates to Circle in September

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

From Oktoberfest celebrations to fall cookie decorations, September signals the shift to more autumnal themes and climes. Here are some of the month's best bets in the city's restaurant scene.

Oktoberfest Kickoff at Village Brauhaus, Sept. 15-16

Oktoberfest season is back again! Village Brauhaus is starting the festivities off in style with live music and specials on food and beverages. Come listen to Johnny Koenig sing some Oktoberfest-themed tunes and lift a glass to the season ahead. 710 King St.



Oktoberfest season is back at Village Brauhaus with live music and specials on food and beverages.

Wunderfest at Port City Brewing, Sept. 17

Continue the German theme right on through the weekend with additional festivities at Port City. With live music, a costume contest, a yodeling competition and more, there will be plenty to keep the celebration going throughout the day. Queue up at one of the food trucks on site and then take your pick of Port City's German-themed lineup (pro tip: Don't ignore the Schwarzbier). 3950 Wheeler Ave. Noon-10 p.m.

Cider Cocktail Party at Lost Boy Cider, Sept. 16

To celebrate Old Town Cocktail Week, Lost Boy is hosting a soiree featuring a new series of cider cocktails. Come prepared to jump

back into the 1920s – Prohibition, speakeasies, and all – and look for the lantern on the cidery's secret entrance to gain entry. (Lost Boy encourages 1920s-theme costumes.) 317 Hooffs Run Drive. 9 p.m.-midnight. \$45.

Crab Feast at Shooter McGee's, Sept. 17

The summer may be drawing to a close, but there's no reason not to dive into some late-season crabs. Shooter McGee's is hosting its annual crab feast for another year, featuring all-you-can-eat Maryland crabs with hush puppies and corn on the cob. Wash your feast down with \$6 Aslin beers and you'll hold onto summer for just a bit longer. 5239 Duke St. 2 p.m.-midnight. \$60

for prepaid adults; \$70 at the door.

Fall Cookie Decorating Class at Boxwood, Sept. 22

Get into the autumnal spirit with a fall cookie class hosted by Sugarcoated Bakery and Boxwood. Each entry grants bakers five different cookie designs, the use of plentiful decorating tools, multiple colors of royal icing, refreshments from Umbrella Dry Drinks and a box to bring your new treats home. 128 S. Royal St. 7-9 p.m. \$75.

Award-winning columnist Hope Nelson is author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us, \$20 for unlimited events. Go to the website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

NOW THRU SEPT. 10

Yoga Sessions. 12-2:15 p.m. Yoga at the National Museum of the United States Army hosted by Honest Soul Yoga, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Honest Soul Yoga and The Army Historical Foundation invites you to take a moment to de-stress by enjoying an afternoon of yoga at the Museum. Join trained instructors for an afternoon of flow and sound meditation. After class, grab a coffee and some healthy snacks in the Museum Café or take some time to explore the exhibits.

AUG. 31 TO OCT. 5

Waterfront Wednesdays Music Series. 5-7 p.m. At Robinson Landing Promenade and Pier, 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Head to Robinson Landing for the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series presented

by Yellow Door Music Concert Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 1

Del Ray's First Thursday: Show Your Spirit. 6 p.m. to dusk. At Mount Vernon Ave. between Hume Ave. and Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. Wear your team colors and join the Del Ray community for live music and themed activities benefiting a local nonprofit.

SEPT. 2 TO OCT. 1

"The Big 3-0" Members Showcase. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features artwork in a variety of media and celebrates Del Ray Artisans 30th Anniversary. Join us for the exhibit reception and anniversary party on Saturday, September 3, 3-6 p.m. The event will be inside and outside (rain date is Sept 10). Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 2). Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

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/SEPT. 3

Watercolor Workshop - Landscapes. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (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.

SEE HELPING, PAGE 8

BEST IN BUSINESS AWARDS

HONORING CATHY PUSKAR,
OUR BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR
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22-23
season

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Beethoven's Ninth
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OCTOBER 1 & OCTOBER 2, 2022

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Afghan Days, Arabian Nights
NOVEMBER 12 & NOVEMBER 13, 2022

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Jingle!
DECEMBER 17 & DECEMBER 18, 2022

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Obituary

Obituary



Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Hilsman Smith loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend left this world on January 26, 2022 in St. Petersburg, Florida. She passed away on her 83rd birthday. She was the daughter of Mary Elizabeth Milligan and Colonel Edward Hamilton Hilsman of Dade City, Florida. She cherished her stepfather, Hamilton Hayne, and his career took the family to several beautiful locations across the country. Beth was particularly fond of Evanston, Illinois. She would often share memorable experiences of attending boarding school at Kemper Hall in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Beth went on to study elementary education at Harcum College, University of Maryland and University of Georgia at Augusta. Her studies and love for teaching led her to rewarding positions as a kindergarten teacher early in her life. Beth met Leroy (Lee) Fleming Smith, Jr. while volunteering in a polio ward and married him in July 1959.

Beth and Lee raised their family in Alexandria, Virginia where her husband Lee had a thriving medical practice for 45 years. Their children attended St. Agnes and St. Stephen's schools. The family enjoyed many activities at Belle Haven Country Club. Beth and Lee shared a passion for travel and particularly enjoyed taking the family to Europe. Family meant the world to Beth and Lee. She was a gracious hostess and gourmet cook. She delighted family and friends with sausage balls, cornbread casserole, baked Alaska and other decadent desserts. Beth had a love and gift for the arts. She taught herself to play the piano and would grace their home with beautiful music. Her experience as a teacher was evident in all the creative experiences/activities/"field trips" that she provided for her children. Summer vacations at Hilton Head, South Carolina included creating hats from local natural resources. Upon completion of the hats a parade ensued. Beth had a way of making every occasion a wonderful celebration including festive birthday parties for their beloved pets. Beth was a member of a very close "Lunch Bunch" of dear friends. When you were in Beth's presence she made you feel loved and treasured. She enjoyed going to DC to the Smithsonian to take classes, see plays, historical sites and special events like the Capitol 4th. Beth bravely fought polio when she was a child and breast cancer in 2004.

Beth and Lee were blessed with four children: Leslie Smith (deceased) of Annapolis, MD, Powell Smith (Ellen) of Pine Mountain, GA, Edward Smith (Jennifer) of Waycross, GA, Abigail Miller (Brad) of St. Petersburg, FL, and grandchildren Virginia (Gingy) Smith, Mamie Smith, Asa Smith, Emma Smith, Harry Smith, Miles Smith, Charles Miller, and Elizabeth Miller. She is survived by sisters Kim Case (Glen), Pam Hayne and two brothers, Guy Hilsman and John Hilsman; dear cousins, Molly Lottridge, Jim Milligan and Mabel Kichline.

We will miss her dearly.

Beth's beauty lives on in her children and grandchildren.

Beth is buried in Greenwich Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia.

Gifts in her memory can be given to the American Cancer Society (cancer.org) or Susan G. Komen for the Cure (komen.org)

Obituary

Obituary



Brigid H. Davis, 83, of Alexandria, VA, died peacefully on Aug 5, 2022.

Brigid and her identical twin Erin were born in Philadelphia, PA, on Sept 1, 1938, to John Nelson Horrocks, Jr., and Helen Babcock Horrocks. Due to her father's naval career, the family moved frequently. She graduated from the American High School in Paris and earned a bachelor's degree at the College of William and Mary, followed by a Master's in English Literature from Duke University. Her marriage to Duke alumnus and psychology professor Keith E. Davis, which produced three daughters, ended in divorce. She served three Members of Congress (D-CA) over her 28-year career on Capitol Hill before she resigned as Rep. Tom Lantos's office manager in 1997 to spend time with her grandchildren, to whom she was known as "Gran."

"You can rest when you're dead," she was known to say, and she lived up to her motto (in between naps and vacations at her beach house in Corolla, NC) by seeking fun and adventure whenever possible and serving those in need through ALIVE! and other local nonprofits. As an active member of Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church for over 50 years, she sang alto in the choir, participated in study groups, headed up Vacation Bible School, and rustled up volunteers with such enthusiasm few could say no.

Brigid is survived by daughters Rachel Davis Newhouse (Jeff) and Jessica Davis (Jonathan Zilinski) of Alexandria and Rebecca Davis (Francene Machetto) of Falls Church, brothers Michael Horrocks (Sallie) of Clarks Summit, PA, and Harry James Horrocks II (Jane) of Fayetteville, NC, sister Norah H. Moseley (Phillip) of Alexandria and grandchildren Zoe, Elias, and William Newhouse and Jakob Zilinski.

Brigid is also survived by nieces Heather Findlay, Norah Findlay (Fermín Arnoso Balsa), Kendall Moseley (Mohamad Allaf), Amy Horrocks, Hallie Horrocks Bartlett (Nate) and nephews Phillip Clay Moseley (Melissa), Hampton Horrocks, as well as two grandnieces and five grandnephews. Brigid's parents and twin sister pre-deceased her. Please see the Everly Wheatley tribute page for information about the celebration of life on Sept 4, 2022.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

\$102 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 68FJJE4

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring Gardens with all of your senses. Join Ana Ka'ahanui, co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Contemplative, but more active than meditation, this forest bathing walk will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. Decompress and feel a deeper connection with the natural world. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. \$35 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Z0Y.ZVJO

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Garden Talk: Fall Veggie Gardening. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Planting a fall vegetable garden will extend the gardening season so you can continue to harvest fresh produce. Many cool-season vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts produce their best flavor and quality when they ma-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



The Floral Design workshop Indian Summer will take place at Green Springs Gardens in Alexandria on Thursday, Sept. 8.

Floral Design Workshop

Indian Summer. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Enjoy the flowers of late summer in this floral design workshop. Certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway walks you through this jewel-toned arrangement for your home. Register for both the class and the supply fee. Bring disinfected shears and a short box or container that will help you transport your arrangement home. \$42 per person (plus \$35 supply fee). Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes

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Obituary

It is with the deepest sadness that her husband, J. Wesley Oler, Jr., and her extended family announce the passing of **Harriet Lee (nee Boyer) Oler**, Esquire, on August 24, 2022. Harriet Lee died at home in Alexandria, Virginia, after a long illness.

Harriet Lee was born in Abington, Pennsylvania, on November 23, 1941. Despite the challenge of a chronic health condition throughout her life, which included long periods of hospitalization as a child, Harriet Lee was always happy and cheerful, with a great sense of humor; and was loyal and kind to her family and friends. She went to Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and then on to the University of Pennsylvania Law School, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following law school, she began a highly successful career in copyright law. Prior to her retirement from the federal government, Harriet Lee had served as Chief of the Examining Division of the Copyright Office, Library of Congress.

Harriet Lee treasured her time with her husband Wesley, and with her family and friends. Throughout her life, she remained in close touch with friends from all over the country, reaching out to them by phone and cards when she was no longer able to get out to visit. Harriet Lee also enjoyed reading and gardening, and spending time with her adored cat "Puck."

Harriet Lee and her husband Wesley were married for over 58 years. In addition to her husband, Harriet Lee is survived by her twin sister Louise Boyer Held of Harrisburg, PA; her nephews, Stephen Held of Harrisburg PA and Jonathan Held of Cape Coral FL, her niece Elizabeth "Beth" Hahn, of Alexandria, VA, as well as their children, all of whom will miss her cheerful presence.

Graveside service and burial were held August 28, 2022 at the Curwensville Zion Cemetery, near La Jose, Pennsylvania, where Harriet Lee spent many happy times.

Obituary

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What a Difference Five Weeks Makes

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



The first call I received from my sister-in-law, Vanessa, from the hospital that Sunday, nearly six weeks ago, was to tell me that my brother, Richard (her husband) had been ambulated to the hospital earlier that day due to pain in his leg which prevented him from walking. The second call from Vanessa a few hours later was to say that the pain in his leg was so severe the doctors were considering amputating it. The third call, even later, was Vanessa crying and saying the doctors didn't think my brother was going to survive the night. With that news, my wife, Dina, and I were on our way to the hospital, Covid rules be damned. (Vanessa had suggested on an earlier call that we wait until further notice. This was officially 'further notice.')

What we saw when we arrived in SICU (Surgical Intensive Care) was my brother lying in a hospital bed, completely sedated in front of a phalanx of IV pumps (eight total) infusing him with everything necessary to sustain his organs, all of which had shut down because of the septic shock which ensued when an infection in his leg shot through him unabated. This occurred because his white blood cell count - after two chemotherapy infusions, was barely measurable, one of the attending physicians told us and left him vulnerable. In addition, he was hooked up to a 24-7 dialysis machine, a ventilator (with a tube inserted in his mouth), a heart monitor, electrodes, a blood pressure cup on his left upper arm, an EEG machine monitoring brain activity, a wound V.A.C. to vacuum out any miscellaneous debris/infected tissue still in-and-around his infected leg, all managed by a full-time nurse. Typically, in the SICU, a nurse covers two patients. However, my brother was so sick that his nurse was not assigned any other patients. Her entire focus was on my brother. As I wrote in a previous column, and it bears repeating, one of the attending critical care physicians characterized my brother as "the sickest patient in the hospital," a hospital whose number of beds exceeds 900. Unable to make any significant progress (get the patient to wake up/respond to instructions) with my brother's condition, he said he had one option left: "a hail Mary," as he called it. It was some sort of infused drug that he said could only be used once. He was out of ideas, otherwise. I certainly can't recall its name, but I believe its color was red.

Well, it worked. Not immediately mind you, but very slowly and occasionally surely; Richard got better. Three weeks later, he was finally transferred from SICU to a regular bed on the wards. Unfortunately, 12 hours or so later, a bleeding event got him transferred back to an ICU, this time it was Medical Intensive Care. After a few days of rest and recovery there, his doctors thought it safe to move him back to the ward, where he remained for the past 10 days or so. And it has been within this private room where his remarkable recovery has really sped up. To the point where there's discussion about transferring him to a rehabilitation facility because he no longer requires the type of hands-on care provided in a regular hospital ward, and it's now considered time/appropriate to rehab his entire body.

Disconnected from nearly every medicine and machine now, and with his trach tube replaced with a plug sort of a thing, he's still not able to walk, but he can sure talk, according to Vanessa who visited him yesterday, as she has every day - and some nights, too. I skipped my visit today because, according to Vanessa, as Richard has been weaned off the ventilator, breathing on his own has been exhausting so all he wants to do is sleep. And he doesn't want me sitting at his side just to hear him snore.

I'll see him tomorrow for sure. It will be the first conversation we'll have had in over a month. I can't wait. I will congratulate and encourage him on a recovery well done, and we'll have a few laughs, but unfortunately, we may not be through the worst of it, oddly enough. Surgery looms (as he's no longer a candidate for chemotherapy, he "failed it" they said), and it's risky, his surgeon said. But due to his amazing recovery, it is possible he is now a candidate for surgery. Who would have thought? A month ago: nobody.

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning of 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us and throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now our oncoming horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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CALENDAR



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

"A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," features works from more than 20 area artists and includes hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. Through Oct. 17, 2022, free to the public, at the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition

At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

FROM PAGE 8

ture during cool weather. Extension Master Gardeners share tips and recommendations. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3A3.XWES

TAG DAY 2022:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 2022

Tag Day 2022 is an annual fund raiser for the West Potomac Performing Arts Department. Teams of 4-5 students will canvas homes in the community to distribute "tags" which include performance dates for the band, chorus, theatre, orchestra, and guitar groups. Teams may sing, act, or perform for the neighborhood and welcome any donations which will go towards new instruments, uniforms, costumes, and transportation. Your thoughtful and generous support of the West Potomac Performing Arts is appreciated and affords wonderful opportunities for our students.

ON DISPLAY

Artist Andreas Barrett. At Nepenthe Gallery, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Nepenthe Gallery is pleased to announce that local talent and one of Nepenthe's newest artists, Andreas Barrett, will be the featured artist. Ann Sklar's exhibit, the originally scheduled feature, has been rescheduled for Dec. 8. Andreas made his debut at the gallery in June as one of six local artists who was part of a special exhibit showcasing select local talent. Andreas is a lifelong musician who turned his creative expression to visual art amid the pandemic. Using mixed media on canvas, Andreas creates

contemporary works that are inspired by the world around him - people, current events, other art or experiences. More than a dozen of Andreas's paintings will be on display on Thursday evening. The artist will also be on hand and will share a brief presentation on his works, his process and his inspiration. Ph: 571-347-7961 www.nepenthegallery.com

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Old Town Art Walk. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Old Town Alexandria and explore the fine art and studio crafts found in art galleries and boutique shops on the third Thursday of each month, May to October. The stroll is a great activity after an early dinner, or before enjoying a meal at one of Old Town Alexandria's restaurants. The Old Town Art Walk is presented by the Old Town Business Association.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

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Old Town | \$5,400,000

A rare offering, the Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House resides on a half-acre double lot with verdant gardens, patios, detached 2-car garage & studio. Significant renovations and professional restorations have been completed with great attention to detail. 601 & 607 Oronoco St
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Cloisters | \$1,600,000

Classic all-brick home sited perfectly on a 1.2-acre lot. One level living with large living room, 3 fireplaces, family room, spacious and efficient eat-in kitchen with built-in window seat, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Plenty of space for a sports court and pool. 1600 Frazier Street
Betty Mallon 703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



Burke | \$999,000

Gorgeous 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath, center-hall Colonial on a lush, flat, .92-acre lot. The curb-appeal will captivate you as you catch your first glimpse of the welcoming front porch & can easily envision a relaxing evening enjoying this low-traffic location. 9321 Jackson Street
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com



Belle Wood | \$987,000

Expanded and updated split foyer on .45 acres has 5-6 bedrooms, 3 full baths and over 3400 SF with multiple living spaces and main level access to a huge deck overlooking the retreat-like yard, the highlights of which are an in-ground pool and hot tub. 4827 Peacock Ave
Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
www.JodieBurns.com



OPEN SUN 9/4, 12-2PM

Stratford on the Potomac | \$845,000

The foyer of this charming home opens right into a light-filled, airy space that immediately feels like home. The 2 levels contain 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths between them, as well as an eat-in kitchen with an island, and a family room on each level. 8707 Parry Lane
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeckHogan.com



Belle Haven on the Green | \$839,000

This luxury townhouse features sparkling hardwood flooring and a sun-flooded floor plan emphasize the vast living area. This 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom, end unit has gracious space and an enviable location. 1799 Duffield Lane
Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



COMING SOON

Governors Grove \$750,000

Stunning 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom with a three-story bump-out! Open concept main level, two gas fireplaces, two back decks, two-car garage, two walk-in closets in primary, freshly painted, hardwoods on main, new carpet in bedrooms. Must see! 5661 Governors Pond Circle

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com



OPEN SUN 9/4, 1-3PM

Silver Spring \$839,000

4-level townhome in an incredible setting with Rock Creek Park nearby. With 2,800 SF, this light-filled, open and spacious home has tall ceilings, gorgeous crown molding and hardwood floors on every level! 5 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, deck, and 2-car garage. 9504 Ament Street

Kim Peele 703.244.5852
www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



2022 First Half Residential Market Report

In our latest semi-annual market report we take a comprehensive look at sales data for the first half of this year, analyze the impact of rising interest rates, and look ahead to the second half of 2022 to help you make the most informed real estate decisions.

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