

CONNECTION

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Bitsy, after two years used as a breeder at the Envigo facility, is calmed by the presence of her new family and "brother" Moose, a Lab.



PHOTO COURTESY CHRISTIE LAVIN

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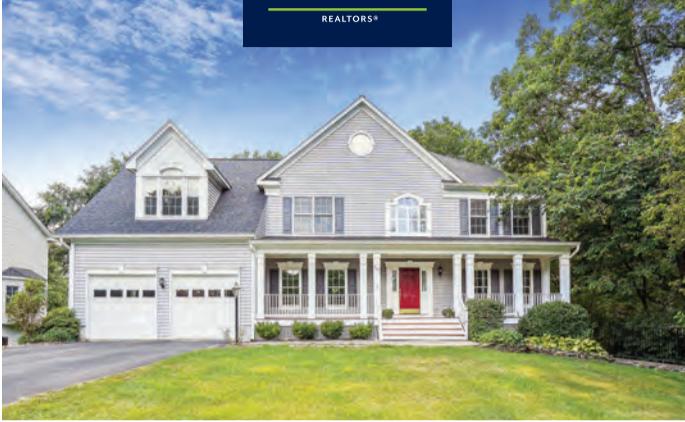
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NEWS

Saratoga Robbery Attempt ‘Unsettling’

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Last Wednesday night, Aug. 17, a robbery attempt at the Saratoga Shopping Center in Springfield brought out the Fairfax County Police Department in force, including the police helicopter.

According to the police, the attempted robbery took place about 8:48 p.m. in the 8000 block of Rolling Road, when three juvenile males approached the victim at an ATM, displayed a handgun and attempted to take the victim’s money. No property was taken. No injuries were reported, the police said.

According to the crime announcement on the FCCP social media, the three teens approached the ATM and demanded the money, but the victim pushed one of the teenagers, who then pulled out a gun. The victim fell to their knees and started screaming, which may



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Saratoga Shopping Center

have activated a car alarm, and the suspects ran.

There were people around and it caused alarm with some, leading to some chatter on social media. “What is going on in this County? Everyday some violent crime is happening,” one Springfield Forest resident said. “I live in Saratoga and while the news of what happened is unsettling and having a friend who personally knows the victim validating how unsettling it is,” another added.

Audition for CFTC’s Winter Musical

City of Fairfax Theatre Co.’s (CFTC) winter musical will be “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer.” Sierra Hoffman is directing, and Luke Hemmingson is the music director. The show will be presented Dec. 8-11, but auditions for people ages 6-adult are coming up soon. They’ll be held Sept. 12, 14 and 15 at the Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

CFTC believes in inclusive casting of actors of diverse ages, races, ethnicities, genders, body types and abilities. People are encouraged to audition, even if they’ve never been in a play or musical before. For more information and to sign up, go to <https://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/auditions-for-rudolph>.

Civil War Books, Relics, Memorabilia Show

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 per person. Vendors are welcome.

For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

New Route 50 West, East, Exit off I-66

As of this week, drivers exiting I-66 East to Route 50 West will use a new, combined exit approximately one mile prior to (west of) Route 50. This new exit is immediately before the Monument Drive Bridge over I-66. It provides access to both Route 50 East (toward Fairfax City) and West (toward Fair Oaks). This change will be the permanent location of Exit 57 A/B as part of the Transform 66 Outside of the Beltway Project.

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NEWS



Chairman Jeff McKay was a visitor to the park when he was growing up.



The day was proclaimed "Lake Accotink Park Day."

Lake Accotink Celebrates 60 Years with a Birthday Party

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The community role Lake Accotink played throughout the years was a big topic at the 60th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Aug. 27, starting with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay who was there with a few other county supervisors.

"It's hard to believe how long this park has been a staple in the community," McKay said, adding that "it looks pretty good for 60 years."

McKay was there with Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D), Pat Herity (R-Springfield) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39th). Lots of district lines come together at this park, and all seem to claim it as a significant part of their district. "The lake itself is entirely in the Braddock District," joked Walkinshaw.



West Springfield residents Alania Archie, left, and Lindsay Innis launch kayaks in the boating area.

Along with the speeches, there was food, face painting, bike riding and boating as a celebration for all.

The original 265-acre park being opened for public use by the Fairfax County Park

Authority on Aug. 25, 1962 and more land was added with another purchase in 1968. Through the years, there have been many changes at the lake, including the formation of the Lake Accotink Yacht Club in the

early 1970s by Springfield resident Ernest (Buddy) Belote and he had races in the lake from 1972-1982. Presently there is a fence around the dam as work continues on the trail segment past the spillway.



The Friends of Lake Accotink lead a discussion about animals found around the park area.

Bounce and Fly in Springfield

The location is the same, but more bounces for the buck.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

If having two feet solidly on the ground seems a little boring, there's a place to bounce and fly right off Fullerton Road called the Flight Adventure Park.

It originally opened a while ago, but underwent renovations over the last three weeks, and the ribbon was cut recently for a re-opening, featuring Captain Tammie Jo Shultz and former NASA astronaut

and shuttle veteran Hoot Gibson. Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) was also in attendance and speaking at the opening ceremony.

The rebuilt park now has attractions like wall-to-wall trampolines, Lunar Dodgeball, AirSlam Basketball, Battle Beam, a designated Kidz Zone for the junior pilots, and an EPIC arcade section.

To celebrate their grand re-opening, FLIGHT invited children from the local communities who are home-schooled to be the park's exclusive guests and will also be donating 20 percent of the opening weekend's proceeds to Horizon Day Camp, a local camp that is a part of the Sunrise Association,

whose mission is to bring back the joys of childhood to children with cancer and their siblings worldwide, FLIGHT information said.

FLIGHT also has locations in California, South Carolina, Connecticut, New York and Florida.

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE
The space theme is everywhere at the Flight Trampoline and Aerial Adventure Park.

Coming Together Around Love of Cars

Fairfax City hosts 23rd annual Labor Day Car Show.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Summer may be drawing to a close, but area residents seeking one more fun event to enjoy will find it at the 23rd annual Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax City. It's slated for Monday, Sept. 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine, and is jointly sponsored by the City and the Clifton Lions Club.

This free show features nearly every kind of vehicle imaginable, including trucks, antique cars from the 1920s and '30s, classic and custom cars, hot rods from the 1940s and '50s, muscle cars like Mustangs, Corvettes and Ford GTs, and foreign cars such as Jaguars, Mercedes and Porsches. Brand-new cars are also on display, so there'll be vehicles appealing to all ages.

Cars and trucks will line University Drive between Armstrong Street and Sager Avenue and will also be displayed in the Truist Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. Motorcycles will be in a parking lot close to Armstrong. From 6 a.m.-4 p.m., University Drive in that area will be closed to traffic.

Event Co-Chairmen are Lions Club President Bill Poole and former City Councilman Jeff Greenfield, with help from Mitzi Taylor of the Fairfax City Parks and Rec Department, plus the entire Clifton Lions membership. Their committee works year 'round planning the event.

"You see grandparents, parents and kids at the show, and it's fun hearing the grandfathers and their sons telling their children stories about, 'When I was young, I used to have this car,'" said Greenfield. "They all come together around their love of cars, and it's that love that makes it a successful show."

The fun includes food, deejay music by Bach 2 Rock, vendor booths and raffles. Most of all, though, the car show raises money for two worthy causes. Entry and parking are free, but tax-deductible donations are accepted – with proceeds mainly benefiting the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (www.NVTRP.org) and Inova Hospital System's Life with Cancer (www.lifewithcancer.org).

People may register vehicles to participate at www.labordaycarshow.org or outside Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive, the day of the event, from 6 a.m.-noon. Information about the two main charities will also be available at the registration desk.

Some 6,000 spectators attended last year's event and, weather permitting, the same number is expected this year to enjoy the 350 or more vehicles on display. The festivities also include a special noontime ceremony at the fire station, featuring Fairfax City's American Legion Post 177 Color Guard, local dignitaries and the singing of the National Anthem by Fairfax High grad Anna Fee.

In that area, there will be food and beverages for sale. Lions Club members will be grilling and selling hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage. Both Rita's Italian Ice



An estimated 6,000 people attended last year's Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax City.



Michael Cole at last year's event with the 1923 Model T Roadster he spent four years building with his dad out of old car parts.



From left, Gavin Calendar, 6, Peyton Paysour, 6, and her brother Camden, 8, enjoyed this 1928 Model T Ford at last year's show.

and The Inside Scoop ice cream truck will offer refreshing treats, and Cub Scout Pack 1860 of Union Mill Elementary will be selling water as a fundraiser. In addition, many restaurants in Old Town Fairfax will also be open, and Capital Ale House will sell breakfast in its rear parking area.

Over the event's 22-year history, it's raised some \$600,000 for charity. This year marks the seventh year the show has been held in Fairfax. And by the end of this one, said Greenfield, "We'll have raised about \$200,000 in that seven years." All proceeds go directly to the recipient charities because this show has no administrative costs – everyone is a volunteer.

Greenfield said the car show should yield a minimum of \$15,000 for each of the two primary charities. Proceeds will also benefit

American Legion Post 177, plus A Place to Eat, which supports the food pantries at all four Fairfax City schools. Greenfield hopes, as well, to donate \$1,500 each to the City of Fairfax fire and police departments.

Even the proceeds from the Clifton Lions Club food sales that day go to the many charities the club supports, including The Lamb Center in Fairfax City. Volunteers will also collect donations at Sager Avenue and University Drive and at University Drive and Armstrong Street.

About 40 trophies will be awarded to the various vehicles, with most of the winners selected by the spectators viewing them. Participants will vote on the top cars, including Best of Show. There'll also be Mayor's, Kids', Ladies' and People's Choice trophies, one each for Best Motorcycle and Best Truck,

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Those unable to attend the event, but wishing to make a charitable donation may do so either via PayPal at <https://www.labordaycarshow.org/make-a-donation> or by sending a check, payable to the Clifton Lions Club, to: Clifton Lions Club, P.O. Box 41, Clifton, VA 20124. For further information, go to www.labordaycarshow.org.

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THEATRE

Macbeth ‘Will Grip the Audience’

City of Fairfax Theatre Co. presents ‘Macbeth’ outdoors.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With a cast and crew of more than 30, Shakespeare in the City returns to Fairfax with City of Fairfax Theatre Co.’s (CFTC) production of “Macbeth.” This chilling tale of witchcraft, power and bloodshed shows what can happen when good people are consumed by insatiable ambition that threatens to destroy a nation.

Performances are Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 8, 9, 10, and Sept. 15, 16, 17, at 7:30 p.m. (rain dates TBD) at Veterans Amphitheater, behind Fairfax City Hall at 10455 Armstrong St. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic dinners and enjoy a riveting evening of drama under the stars.

Tickets are adults, \$25; and children, \$15, at <https://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/productions/macbeth>. Discounts are available for groups of 12 or more; contact CFTCBoxOffice@gmail.com for details.

Portraying Macbeth is Jef Chi. “He starts out as a strong-willed, stoic man concerned with honor and loyalty and getting the job done,” said Chi. “As Thane of Glamis, he’s a lord serving the king. He follows rules but isn’t aware of how he feels about them until a nudge from the witches exposes the huge hunger for power he has inside and has suppressed. He wants to be king of Scotland but didn’t believe it was possible. He’s hidden it even from himself; and when it all comes out, it gets messy.”

Chi loves his role because he understands “Macbeth is not an evil person by nature. He just wants to get ahead and is like anyone else who has dreams and ambitions. And he teaches us that, if someone plants a seed in your mind, beware what could take root. The stakes are high for Macbeth, and I realized he’s just a human being – and playing him makes me wonder how I’d react in his situation. It’s an honor and a privilege to get to do that, and it’s fun to inhabit his thoughts for a while.”

Chi said audiences will like seeing Macbeth’s human aspect and the struggles he’s going through. And, he added, “Our directors incorporated a beautiful, abstract flow into this production in the way they use lights, ribbons and fabric to depict what happens in the battles. Their creativity is really unique.”

Jaclyn Robertson plays Lady Macbeth. “She’s one of the most famous – if not THE most famous – Shakespearian characters,” said Robertson. “So there are lots of pre-conceived notions about her. For me, she’s a mother, first and foremost – even though her children died – and that’s shaped how I feel about her. That grief propels her to be more power hungry and evil. She wants to be in control of her own destiny; and as a woman in pre-Elizabethan Scotland, what can she



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The actors rehearsing a battle scene at Veterans Amphitheater.

do? She can try to control her husband and the world as best she can.

“So she props him up to do horrible deeds to make him king. And I believe – if she were a man and able to be king herself, she’d be a stronger ruler than him. As a couple, at the beginning, there’s a partnership; he comes to her for advice and approval. But he later starts to cut her out of his plans. Her goal is for him to be king, but he wants even more power.”

As a real-life mother, herself, Robertson said this role is a dream come true for her. “I know what it feels like to love and worry about a child,” she said. “And how sane would someone be if they lost a baby – or multiple babies, like Lady Macbeth did? So, to me, that’s what drives the fire in her.”

She said audiences will appreciate that the cast is comprised of young, professional adults. “And they’ll be obsessed with the technical elements and the fight choreography,” said Robertson. “Being able to sit outside and enjoy a picnic and a play is great. This venue works very well for live theater, so Fairfax City allowing us to use it for community theater is great.”

Amro Ibrahim plays several roles, including Murderer One. “He’s a sleazeball who’ll do anything for money,” said Ibrahim. “He does questionable things that have earned him his descriptive name. He’s interesting to play because I can get into the darkness of his character.”

“In scenes where I can explore more of him through his conversations with others, I get to show more depth to him,” continued Ibrahim. “And what’s fun is that he’s in two of the three fight scenes. I have martial arts experience, and that’s helped me with the fight choreography. It allowed me to learn these fight sequences really well and ex-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Jaclyn Robertson (Lady Macbeth) and Jef Chi (Macbeth) pose in character.

ecute them with the grace necessary to be technically safe.”

As for the audience, he said people will like the actors’ movements onstage and “all the gorgeously choreographed war scenes, which are just as spectacular as any dance. Also, the directors condensed the script so the story moves quickly and will grip the audience right away. This show is the culmination of community theater; the cast loves the process of putting on a play, and I’m enjoying being in the presence of the other actors.”

Portraying one of six witches in this production is Maggie Shircliff, who also plays several characters. In CFTC’s show, three older witches are controlling three younger

witches like puppets. “I’m one of the older witches,” said Shircliff. “They symbolize how little control we have over our own decisions.

“The younger witches are more fun, like Wednesday Addams, and what you picture as traditional witches. The older ones are more like demons, and you only see their eyes. They’re shadowy figures and forces that influence everyone’s actions. It’s an ensemble feel; we have individual speeches and also really cool moments when we’re all speaking together. There are a lot of slow, twisting movements as we control the other witches, plus interesting technical elements where we create a star as our witches’ symbol.”

Enjoying her role, Shircliff said CFTC’s version of “Macbeth” offers “an interesting take on the witches, and it’s been a fun challenge to explore how to act with my body when people can’t see my face.”

“This is definitely one of the best cuts of ‘Macbeth’ I’ve seen, highlighting the important parts,” she added. “And through our movements and expressions, we bring the story to life and make it understandable and enjoyable for everyone. The audience will also like the battle scenes and the unique aspects the directors bring to our show.”

Those directors are Stephen Shetler and Julia Tasheva, who are married in real life. He’s a classically trained actor, and she was a mime, puppeteer and dancer, so their combined talents enable the actors to do more than just stand and speak. He’s also the lighting director, and she’s one of the costume designers and in charge of sound.

“LED lighting lets us change colors and show the time of day and mood of the scene,” said Shetler. “It’ll be like rock-and-roll and dance lighting, emphasizing the body and space to reinforce the movement. Many times, actors’ faces won’t be fully seen; the light will come at them from odd angles.”

Regarding the music, Tasheva carefully chose each selection to support the mood of the action onstage. As for the costumes, she said, “All our soldiers have armor, and their uniforms are a synthesis of different colors symbolizing their characters’ individual qualities.”

A master of movement, she’s taught the actors to express themselves with their bodies and gestures. And, she said, “We also use ropes, strings and sticks to show the audience things they don’t expect.” Even fabric is employed, with a large, red cloth descending over a battlefield to symbolize the bloodshed there.

Overall, said Shetler, “Macbeth was a fairly heroic, trusted man, loved by his friends. But his and his wife’s ambition sends them both into a descending spiral of paranoia. When he hears the witches predict he’ll become king, he initially thinks, ‘OK, if it happens, it happens.’ But then he realizes he can take action. So did the witches compel him, or did he do it of his own, free will?”

PET CONNECTION



Bright eyed, newly rescued beagle Vermont, with new "parents" Donna Ann Winterling and Andy Crook, was the first of the Envigo dogs adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter



Vermont, 4 months, quickly makes the transition from sterile kennel life to plush comfort with new brother, Utah, 10 years, setting an example



Ryder, a purebred Hovawart, enjoys exploring his new home, especially the water features, as owner Ann Kisling thwarts his fun



From a working group breed, Ryder tries the Journalism profession, quickly taking up the reporter's notebook during his photo shoot



Bitsy, another Envigo beagle, rescued thru Homeward Trails by long-time beagle fancier Matt Lavin and his family, shown here with Christie Lavin

Rescue or Purebred?

Stories of the path to dog ownership.

By SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

For many northern Virginians, having a family dog is an absolute must.

This, even though dogs have been relieved of their traditional jobs for watch, livestock guarding/herding, and hunting, performed in earlier decades and more rural settings. In today's suburbia, the only "job" most family dogs have is companion. Just as varied as the number of dog breeds, are the reasons why people still elect to have a dog, and so too, the reasons why they select a particular pooch to be part of their lives.

Some might seek a dog like one from their childhood, to remind them of a past favorite or carefree times, or one that has an attribute they find particularly appealing, such a long ears or a clown-like behavior. A breed may be popular through association with a movie; such as Dalmatians and Cocker Spaniels in Disney movies, or Pugs in "Men in Black". Or a breed may be known through connection with a famous person, such as Queen Elizabeth's Corgis, or President Lyndon B. Johnson's Beagles.

Sadly, there are more dogs available than can fill the homes of dog lovers. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) estimates that 390,000 dogs are euthanized every year. Recognizing that high number of unwanted healthy dogs, it's become a source of pride and "badge of honor" to rescue a pet from a community shelter or rescue organization. Adopting families often are quick to share that they have helped by adopting one of the approximately two million dogs that find a home each year after entering a shelter. A common response one hears when asking about a dog

is: "He's a rescue," or "We're not sure of her age/breed/background; she's a rescue." These owners don't need to know the details. They are committed to giving the dog a home.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, other owners are keen to own a "purebred" dog; to contribute toward preservation of the variety of 199 dog breeds recognized in the United States by the American Kennel Club (AKC) and 360 breeds officially recognized world-wide by the World Canine Organization. From the tiny as a teacup Chihuahua to the giant Great Dane, full breed dogs are bred to exacting standards and requirements of the breed's intended use or job. National organizations and breed clubs seek to maintain the purity of breeds by maintaining registries and lineage records.

The

days, few owners will admit to buying a dog from a puppy store, a "back-yard breeder," online seller, or along a roadside, as these sources have become notorious for high prices, unhealthy stock, sourcing from factory puppy mills with horrid conditions, and even making buyers into victims of selling scams where there is no actual dog provided. Unfortunately, too many potential dog owners are unaware of the options for finding a puppy, the buying hazards of the loosely regulated pet industry, and comparative purchase prices when looking for a new family member.

Meet two dogs; one a rescue with a nationally publicized back story, and one a pure breed not commonly found in the United States. Arguably, they are at the extremes of what a dog goes through to end up in the rescued dogs.

Beagles, a small breed, are described as merry, amiable, even tempered, intelligent, gentle, determined and happy-go-lucky. Part of the Hound group, the Beagle breed was developed in Great Britain primarily for hunting rabbits in the 1830s. They became very popular in the United States, holding a position in the top ten most popular breeds

started life at a medical research breeding facility in Cumberland Virginia. After federal citations for cruelty under the Animal Welfare Act, he was one of the 4,000 Beagles surrendered in a settlement overseen by the United States District Court. The story drew national media coverage as the facility closed. The Beagles were transported in small groups by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to shelters and rescues throughout Virginia and around the country. Vermont is one of the first group of 16 beagles to come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. The shelter is working with HSUS to find family homes for several, facilitating final placements and much better lives for the rescued dogs.

VERMONT IS A BEAGLE. He was recently adopted by Andy Crook and Donna Ann Winterling of Chantilly. At just four months old, he is already a celebrity wherever he goes. He is one of more than 4,000 beagles who

had heard the Envigo Beagles' story in national news coverage and on social media. They were determined to give one of the rescued beagles a home with them and their ten year old Beagle, Utah, and began watching for availability at local shelters. When Crook saw six would be available the next day at Fairfax County Animal Shelter while drinking his 6 a.m. morning coffee, he and his wife quickly hatched a plan. Winterling would camp at the Shelter door on Friday morning at 8 a.m. in preparation for the opening at noon. Neither the rain nor the wait deterred her, and she was first in line. She passed the time waiting by volunteering her help with shelter tasks: loading pet food into a van and making up kitty litter boxes. Other potential adopters started showing up after 9 a.m.

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and an adoption queue formed behind Winterling. Near opening time, Crook arrived with their beagle Utah, for the recommended existing family dog meet and greet. Their well executed plan worked. Winterling said, "We were done with the whole adoption process in under an hour. So we did officially adopt the very first Envigo beagle from FCAS."

About two weeks have passed and Vermont, whose shelter name was Joe Pye, (all named for wildflowers) is busy learning new things, just as any young pup would be doing. (See The Connection, Springfield edition, August 11, page 8) Unlike most other pups, spending his first three months at the breeding facility, he knew only a concrete floor and caged kennel environment, and had limited human contact. Since being

with his new family, he learned to climb stairs in two days, to jump up on furniture in three days, to "escape" his designed level and explore the whole house during the day, and cuddle between his human parents in the evening. He is adapting to crate training at night and house training, with only a few "accidents." He enjoys bothering his older "brother" Utah for play bouts, and likes to watch dogs on television. It's unclear if he's glimpsed himself on TV in his celebrity persona. He does enjoy that bit of celebrity status when out and about as people ask "Is he one of those beagles?" given away by the tattoo on his ear that will be a lasting reminder of

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used for watch, guarding, tracking, and rescue; their name is derived from German words for "watch-yard".

Kisling was attracted to breed's loyalty, companionable traits, and ability to bond to one person. She plans to enter Ryder in conformation competition early, when he is a few months older. Conformation refers to visible structure and appearance. Conformation shows are not beauty pageants but a measure of how well a particular dog compares to the "ideal" or agreed "standard" of the breed. It's where a dog "earns" the right to breed, since fanciers want only the best examples as sires and dams to continue the breed line. Though every dog owner may think their dog is "the best", the sport and serious business of conformation dog shows provides an opportunity for impartial peer review and judgment.

Ryder may or may not go on to father future generations of Hovawarts in the United States.

But for now he is enjoying the puppy life and enrichment activities of exploring new territories, making new friends, and learning basic commands given by hand signals. He loves water and walks on park trails, already walking close by Kisling's side. He too is winning hearts and being a good ambassador for his less common breed.

Surely the debate will continue on solutions for the problem of overpopulation of dogs. Some owners will continue to favor rescue and others will favor strict adherence to limited responsible breeding. Those seeking a dog are urged to be wary consumers. To think carefully about the commitment they are making to a life-time of care for the dog so they don't add to the numbers filling shelters. Responsible ownership demands careful investigation of the source, or relying on area shelters and rescues to help make a connection with the right dog for the family situation that will last. As American writer Carolina Knapp put it, "Before you get a dog, you can't quite imagine what living with one might be like; afterward, you can't imagine living any other way."



Bitsy, after two years used as a breeder at the Envigo facility, is calmed by the presence of her new family and "brother" Moose, a Lab



Thistle, another adoption from FCAS with new "mom" Jenny Elrod, of Laurel, Md.



Thistle, who struggled having confidence in his new situation and with climbing stairs, finds comfort wrapped in warm snuggles.

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PET CONNECTION

FCPS Principals and Pups

SEE MORE, PAGE 5



Mount Vernon: Quander Road School Principal Frank Tranfa Jr. - "This is me, Frank Tranfa, principal at Quander Road School, and my Boston Terrier, Ike. Ike's favorite thing to do is sunbathe and play with his friend Ozzie, the French bulldog."



Vienna: Kilmer MS Principal Amy Miller and her dogs, Rosie and Pepper.



New FCPS Superintendent Dr. Michelle Reid and her dogs Nita, Zeus, and Rufus. All three pups made the cross-country road trip with Dr. Reid from Oregon.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Springfield: Garfield ES Principal April Cage and her dog Beaux, who loves "Frosty Paws." It's ice cream for dogs, and he loves to do zoomies around the yard and inside the house. He's so fast!



Oakton HS Principal Jamie Lane and her dog, Zeus. "Zeus is a three-year-old Great Pyrenees Mountain Dog. Zeus always wants to be in the lead and loves hiking and playing in any rivers or creeks he can find."



Mount Vernon: Waynewood ES Principal Katie Cachine with her yellow lab, Wilson, when he was a pup. He's a Caps fan.



Mount Vernon: Woodlawn ES Principal Laura Elliott and her pup, Milo - "Road trip. Milo enjoys sniffing everything on his walks and cuddles on the couch," Principal Elliott says.



Mount Vernon: Bucknell ES Principal Rashida Green enjoys kisses and snuggles from her Mini Goldendoodle, Willow Wiggles, as a form of self-care.



Mount Vernon: Bucknell ES Principal Rashida Green - "This is me and my three daughters and Willow Wiggles."

Thanks to Kathleen Miller, FCPS, who helped gather the snapshots and captions for the "FCPS Principals and Pups" feature in our Pet Connection.

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PET CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 4



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Ft. Belvoir Upper Elementary School Principal Jamey Chianetta and "Beau" (center) are ready for fall football season! Jamey's husband, James (left), is also FCPS. "Beau is a 'mutt' that our son adopted while he was in the Army, while he was stationed at Fort Drum, NY. We don't know what kind he is, but we suspect he has some Australian Cattle Dog. We'd love to do a doggie DNA kit. Beau LOVES to be outside to catch frisbees, go for long walks, and play in the snow. He loves his treats too, and according to his vet, he needs fewer of them because he's in a family who loves to treat him. Beau is a snuggler and will kick you off the couch for his favorite spot. He's the best pup in the world."

Franconia Elementary Principal Andrew Smith and Lola Jane. "Lola Jane is a 20-month-old Pitbull-Terrier and Beagle mix. She loves finding the squeaker inside her toys, snuggling with family on the couch, and playing tag with her best friends Arlo and Murphy."



McLean High School Principal Ellen Reilly and her dog Joy Ful, who passed away last year- Principal Reilly had Joy Ful, a mixed breed rescue, for 13.5 years. Joy Ful was the social butterfly of their cul-de-sac. Every afternoon she visited with neighbors to get treats, take a nap at their house, or just stop by for a visit. She sometimes got lucky and stayed for dinner.



Thanks to Kathleen Miller, FCPS, who helped gather the snapshots and captions for the "FCPS Principals and Pups" feature in our Pet Connection.

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2022-2023 NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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Alexandria Gazette Packet
Mount Vernon Gazette

Potomac ALMANAC



Publishes: Sep 14, 2022 | Advertising Due: Sep 8, 2022

Our annual Newcomer's and Community Guides, for each of our 8 communities, provides inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, their real power players, how to get involved and more. Inside you'll find information about local history, schools, parks, libraries, local people, elected officials, county/city offices, how decisions are made, and other vital community information.

This year's guide will also include a SENIOR LIVING section. We'll cover topics like local senior services, senior villages, cultural and social activities like Senior Olympics, education, jobs and volunteering.

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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 OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. 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. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria,

AUG. 19-SEPT. 5

Circus Vazquez. At Potomac Mills, 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Woodbridge. See unforgettable one-of-a-kind performances by an international all-human cast of circus superstars in an exciting all-new 2022 show. Led by Ringmaster Memo Vazquez, Circus Vazquez presents an awe-inspiring, death-defying, hilarious and affordable circus experience for Virginia area audiences. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m. on Saturdays; 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets start at \$25 and are available now at www.CircusVazquez.com.

AUG. 27-NOV. 15

Fruit Sale Signup. 7-11 p.m. Signup now for Fairfax Lions notices and discounts for Lions Club Fruit Sales in November and December. They sell fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, grapefruit; maple syrup, peanuts to raise funds for charity. Website: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification/>

AUG. 29-SEPT. 4

Fairfax City Restaurant Week. During the week-long event, over 20 participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe menus of \$20 for lunch/brunch and \$35 for dinner per person with couple and family meal options available. In addition to the curated menus, specialty restaurants will offer a Two for \$10 Deal providing food lovers the opportunity to further explore Fairfax City's regionally lauded diverse culinary scene. Visit www.FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 2

Best of Film at Mason Showcase. 4 p.m. At GMU Johnson Center for the Arts.

Johnson Center Cinema. Best of Film at Mason is a traveling showcase of recent notable and award-winning student films. This year's program features work including documentaries, beginning video productions, and senior thesis films. The screenings are followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. This event is free and open to the

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CALENDAR



OnStage: Charm City Junction with Brad Kolodner at Workhouse Arts Center on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.



Fairfax City Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 29-Sept. 4 in Fairfax.

public. Register here: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1973471/1912539/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. During the Colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of our country's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church on the first Saturday of every month between 1:00-3:00 p.m. Historic Pohick Episcopal Church is located at 9301 Richmond Highway in Lorton, on U.S. 1 between Telegraph Road and Pohick Road, not far from Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. For more information call the church office at 703-339-6572 or visit the website at <http://www.pohick.org>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

BRAD KOLODNER. 7:30 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 Rizer Pavilion, Lorton. A Baltimore-based clawhammer banjoist represents the next generation of Old-Time musicians pushing the boundaries of the tradition into uncharted territory. Regarded for his delicate touch, expressive style, and original compositions, Kolodner has rapidly gained national attention for his unique approach to the banjo. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

TOM TEASLEY. 2:00 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, W16 McGuire Woods Gallery, Lorton. Described in the Washington Post as "a percussionist in the widest and most exuberant sense of the word," he has maintained a unique career as a solo percussionist, composer and collaborator. A 2010 Helen Hayes Theater Award recipient for outstanding sound design, he tours frequently throughout the world performing his unique style. Tom will be performing his own interpretation of the music for the movie "Modern Times", a classic

Charlie Chaplin comedy. Visit workhousearts.org/onstage.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

Local German POW Camps of WWII Talk. 10-11:30 a.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Ann Shields, DOD retiree, will talk about the history of local WWII German POW camps (Ft. Meade, Ft. Hunt, Fairfax). Sponsored by NARFE Chapter 1159. In person meeting with refreshments. Also available by ZOOM; contact doujones500@verizon.net by 9/4/22 for link and passcode.

SEPT. 9-11

Every Brilliant Thing. 8-9:15 p.m. At The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. A funny and heartwarming interactive play that shines a light on all things that make life worth living. All seats are \$20 each, general admission. Website: <http://everybrilliantthing.info>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

Second Saturday Art Walk September 2022 6-9 p.m. Visit the Workhouse Monthly Featured Artists. All campus studio buildings will be open from 6pm - 9pm. Chat with artists about their works and processes. Second Saturday Art Walk September 2022 <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/second-saturday-art-walk-june22-jwrkr-26nan-mebsy>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

Life@50+. From 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. OLLI Mason Campus, 4210 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Life@50+ Planning for Your Health, Wealth and Happiness. AARP Virginia and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) invite you to join us for a special half-day event designed to help you make plans for better living. Learn about the positive powers of lifelong learning, tips for determining if you are on track for a secure financial retirement, practical strategies to help you maximize your Social Security and achieve retirement peace of mind, and more.

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- Making Cents of Caregiving Costs
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- Social Security: Understanding Your Benefits

Registration and more information: aarp.org/boomeracademy

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 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

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Each local newspapers mission aspire to provide great 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 the Small Business Admin in early February that will 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.

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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 has 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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