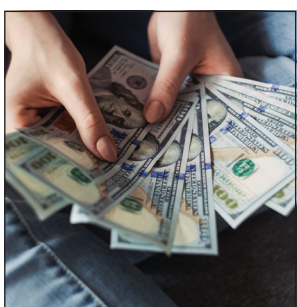


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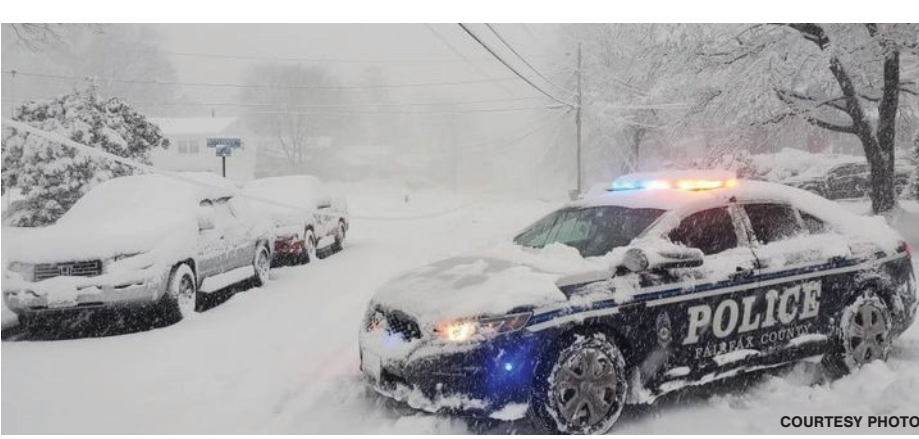
First snow in Fairfax shuts down schools, government, and roads

By Heather Zwicker
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Monday's snowstorm shuttered schools and government offices giving everyone some extra time for winter break. Snowfall measured from five inches in the western part of the county to approximately 12 inches in Lorton.

By Sunday afternoon grocery store shelves were nearly empty. The Chantilly Wegmans produce section was almost bare, and orange juice and milk supplies were scant as well by 5 p.m. That night around 9 p.m. a Chantilly resident lamented the empty bread shelves there. "It's a little snow coming, not nuclear winter," said Mark Franke in a post on Facebook.

While pretty in some places and fun for sledding, the snow proved dangerous on the roads as Virginia State Police (VSP) and Fairfax County Police asked people to stay home. As of mid-morning Tuesday, authorities were advising drivers to avoid traveling Interstate 95 through Fredericksburg which had been closed for about 50 miles in both directions 3 a.m. Tuesday.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hundreds of cars were stranded overnight as efforts were underway to remove the vehicles, clear and treat the roads. Spin-outs included cars and tractor trailers and the effort was also hampered by Tuesday afternoon and the road was reopened that night, thought there were still 50 to 60 vehicles abandoned on the road.

From 12:01 a.m. Monday to 10 a.m. Tuesday, VSP had responded to 231 disabled vehicles and 125 crashes in the Fairfax Division, according to Corinne Geller, VSP public relations manager. Similarly, Fairfax County Police Department responded to 103 crashes, 231 disabled motorists, and 212 traffic hazards. According to a

FCPD spokesman, a traffic hazard can be trees or wires down, debris or ice in the road or a car in the road. "It really is all encompassing of something that could present a traffic hazard or block a roadway," they explained.

Traffic wasn't the only issue however. Hundreds of thousands of residents were without power across the state.

Fairfax resident Shirley Howe said her husband saw the power lines come down near their house of Route 123 before lunch on Monday. "I think it was the weight of the snow," she said. "The pole came down and there was this big flash of light. She added that one of her neighbors said that other poles had fallen further down the street as well.

It was about 4:30 p.m.

that afternoon they gathered their children and two dogs and went to go to a hotel, she said. "I realized we would be in darkness and nothing was going to get fixed." According to Howe their power came back on around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and they were able to return home.

Dominion Power was reporting Wednesday that there were still nearly 3,000 customers without power in Fairfax County.

Another fast-moving storm was expected late Thursday night into Friday morning. "We are looking at another chance for some plowable snowfall amounts," said Storm Team4's Matt Ritter. He characterized the storm as energetic.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of

emergency Wednesday as the state braces for more snow at the end of the week. The governor's office said the system is likely to cause more fallen trees, power outages and interrupt travel.

"Having two bouts of snow and icy weather back to back makes it more likely communities will need additional help as they continue to recover from the first round of tree-snapping wet snow and ice that we saw Monday" said the governor.

VSP encourages Virginians to be weather aware, plan ahead and avoid traveling during inclement conditions. "Back-to-back storms are nothing new for the state police or Virginia," said Maj. R.C. Maxey, Jr., deputy director of VSP Bureau of Field Operations. "State Police is prepared for this latest round of winter weather." Maxey said all available troopers would be on patrol, shifts would be extended and they would redirect resources as needed.

Some good resources to check during storms include the Virginia Department of Transportation, Ready Fairfax, Fairfax County Government social media pages and Ready.gov.

Residents face long lines, full capacity at FCPS testing sites

FCPS will also participate in the Test to Stay pilot program



TWITTER

By Laura Scudder
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Amidst the snow that stopped Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) from opening early in the week, long lines at COVID-19 testing sites — which all had to close early after reaching full capacity — also hindered the return from winter break.

The COVID testing was voluntary and only meant for symptomatic FCPS students and staff. Testing was not required for students to return to school this week.

On Dec. 30, the testing location at Gatehouse Road reached capacity at 1:24 p.m. The long lines also caused traffic backups, according to WUSA9.

"Our intent is to remain open as we navigate this COVID spike - doing everything we can to mitigate spread and cover classes to keep us operational. After hearing from the community regarding the limited availability of testing, we worked very hard with our vendor at the last minute to offer this service to staff and students who are symptomatic, and would like to know their health status before returning to school or work," the FCPS website stated with an update on Dec. 31, prior to opening the testing site for that day.

The Gatehouse Road location reached capacity on Dec. 31 at 11:20 a.m., prompting FCPS to offer additional days of testing.

On both Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 at South County

See TESTING, Page A4

POSITIVE Vibes

By Laura Scudder • FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES



Youth-led organization offers education and services to teens

Astudia gives students opportunity to get involved, with focus on mental health

For high schoolers and teens in Northern Virginia and beyond who care about worldly issues, Astudia is a place they can go to learn and do something about them.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, I started noticing that a lot of my friends were kind of feeling listless, with all this social isolation and all of that, and then also that a lot of them were avoiding the news. And I was thinking of what can I do to kind of make a difference and to make sure that young people are engaging in the world, keeping up with what's going on — all of that," said Daliya Rizvi, the president of Astudia.

Rizvi, who is also a junior in Fairfax County Public Schools, said that while Astudia started as a smaller group, they now have more than 150 members. According to the website, it is "an organization that provides teens with opportunities, resources, and online services while empowering them to make a difference in the world."

Astudia offers various virtual programs and workshops for young people to participate in, from virtual pen pals to the GenZCares program.

"We have a program called GenZCares, which is this online initiative in which we post about global issues, and we have GenZCares ambassadors who repost, help spread awareness about those issues. So we've covered things like climate

See ASTUDIA, Page A4

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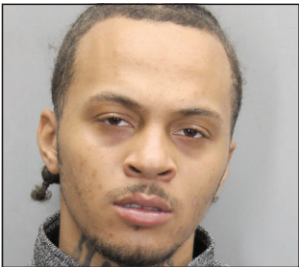
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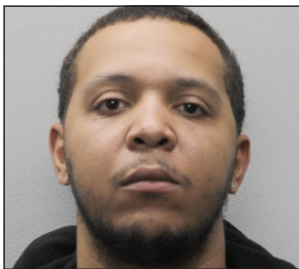
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PUBLIC SAFETY



COURTESY PHOTO
Kelly Smith



COURTESY PHOTO
Terrell Tapscott

Men arrested in connection with 7-Eleven robberies

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Major Crimes Bureau Robbery Squad have charged two men in connection to a series of robberies that occurred at 7-Eleven convenience stores throughout Northern Virginia.

Detectives began investigating this series of robberies on December 6 at the 7-Eleven at 9511 Blake Lane in Fairfax. A man entered the business, walked behind the counter and demanded the clerk open the register. The man took property and fled. A second robbery occurred on December 11 at the 7-Eleven at 8110 Old Dominion Drive in McLean. Two men entered the business, implied a weapon, took property, and fled the store.

Forensic evidence recovered from one of the crime scenes led to the positive identification of one of the suspects, Kelly Smith, 25, of Chantilly. Smith was arrested on December 13 and charged with two counts of robbery. He was held at the Adult Detention Center on no bond. The following day, detectives were able to link Kelly to a third robbery. He was charged with the additional robbery while he remained at the ADC.

Investigative leads and additional interviews led detectives to the identification of a second suspect in the robbery series. Terrell Tapscott, 29, of Gainesville, was charged with four counts of robbery and those warrants were served December 25 by Virginia State Police. He is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on no bond.

Both men are believed to be involved in additional robberies in neighboring jurisdictions. FCPD detectives are working with our law enforcement partners to help link these suspects to additional cases. Anyone with information about these cases is asked to call the Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800, option 5. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).



COURTESY PHOTO
Nnanyereugo Onuoha

Alexandria Police search for assault suspect

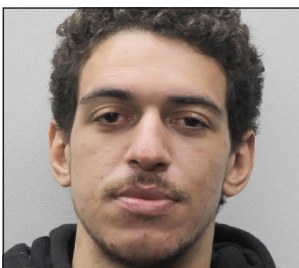
The Alexandria Police Department is asking for the public’s assistance in locating a wanted man.

APD responded to a call for service in the 2400 block of Mandeville Lane at approximately 6:18 p.m. on December 27, for a report of an armed individual involved in a domestic dispute. APD officers were able to locate the suspect, Nnanyereugo Onuoha, in the 200 block of Swamp Fox Road.

As Onuoha fled the scene, he struck one officer with his vehicle and another officer was injured while trying to avoid being hit by the suspect. Both officers were transported to Fairfax Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and have since been treated and released.

Onuoha is wanted for assault and battery on law enforcement, hit and run, and he is wanted out of several other jurisdictions for various other offenses. He is known to drive a newer model Black Honda Pilot with Maryland tags 1EV8163. There may be damage to the lower molding of the vehicle.

APD is asking anyone with any information leading to the arrest of Onuoha to please contact APD’s Investigator Matt Barnickle by phone at 703-859-5150, email at matthew.barnickle@alexandriava.gov, or call APD’s non-emergency number at 703-746-4444. Tips can be anonymous.



COURTESY PHOTO
Anthony Batts

Centerville man arrested in Chantilly

The victim’s 2019 Nissan Rouge was stolen after it was left unattended with the keys inside. Utilizing a tracking app, the vehicle was found occupied in a nearby shopping center parking lot in the 14000 block of Chantilly Crossing December 26 at 10:38 a.m.

The driver, Anthony

Batts, 25, of Centerville, was arrested and charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and two counts of credit card theft.

McLean bicyclist killed in accident

A 33-year-old bicyclist has died following a crash that occurred just after 2 p.m. December 29 at the intersection of Dolley Madison Boulevard and Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit have preliminarily determined that Matthew Jaeger, of McLean, was riding his bicycle east on Ingleside Avenue. Detectives believe Jaeger entered the intersection and was struck in the road by the driver of a 2014 BMW 328xi traveling south on Dolley Madison Boulevard. He was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the BMW remained at the scene. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors in the crash. The investigation remains active and details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney for review.

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

This was the third fatality involving a bicyclist in the county in 2021.

Pedestrian killed in McLean crash

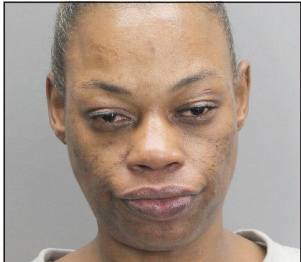
Detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash that occurred at 9 p.m. December 30 on Chain Bridge Road just south of Tysons Boulevard in McLean.

Preliminarily, detectives determined Filadelfo Ramos Marquez, 74, of Annandale, was crossing Chain Bridge Road from west to east just south of Tysons Boulevard not at a crosswalk. The driver of a 2010 Toyota Camry was traveling south on Chain Bridge Road and struck Ramos Marquez in the roadway. Ramos Marquez was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Preliminarily, speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors in the crash.

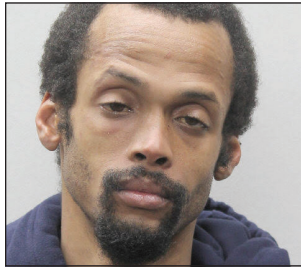
Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also

be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone –1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

This was the 14th pedestrian fatality in the county in 2021.



COURTESY PHOTO
Valencia Owens

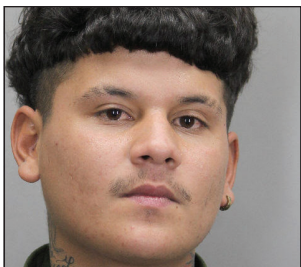


COURTESY PHOTO
Bryant Reynolds

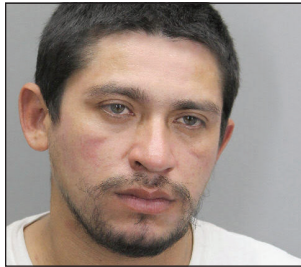
Two from D.C. arrested in Alexandria

An officer saw a 2016 Hyundai Sonata that was reported stolen from an out-of-state jurisdiction in the 5900 block of Richmond Highway, December 27 at 1:18 a.m.

The officer arrested the occupants of the vehicle, Valencia Owens, 42, and Bryant Reynolds, 35, both from Washington D.C. The female was charged with possession of scheduled I or II drug, grand larceny, and false identification to law enforcement. The man was charged with possession of schedule I or II drug, and grand larceny.



COURTESY PHOTO
Anderson Reconco Vasquez



COURTESY PHOTO
Milton Marquez Mata

Two men from Alexandria arrested

Two victims were walking in the 6200 block of Little River Turnpike at 11:53 p.m. December 27 when they were approached by two men. A fight broke out between them, resulting in the men assaulting the victims. When one of the

victims was on the ground, one of the men removed property and left on foot.

Officers located the offenders nearby and they were arrested. Anderson Reconco Vasquez, 21, of Alexandria was charged with robbery, assault, and preventing someone from calling 911. Milton Marquez Mata, 36 of Alexandria was charged with robbery and assault. No injuries were reported.

Washington D.C. woman arrested on multiple charges, 13 outstanding warrants

An officer saw a 2008 Lexus GX470 at Chain Bridge Road and Colshire Drive December 26 at 4:53 p.m. The vehicle was reported stolen from a neighboring jurisdiction.

When officers attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver, Kayla Whitfield, 18, of Washington, D.C. intentionally struck two occupied police vehicles before fleeing at a high rate of speed. The female continued to drive recklessly, striking four other vehicles before her vehicle became disabled. She was arrested and charged with malicious wounding to law enforcement, grand larceny, failure to obey commands to stop, and four counts of hit and run. Additionally, she was served with 13 outstanding warrants. No injuries were reported.



COURTESY PHOTO
Robert Scesco

Man arrested for assault

At approximately 7:58 a.m. December 23, officers responded to the Burger King at 10885 Fairfax Boulevard for the report of an assault. An employee reported that they were pushed and kicked by a person unknown to them.

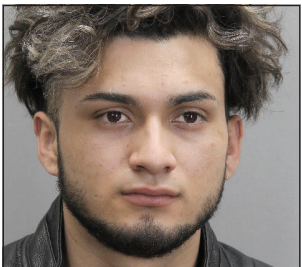
Through further investigation, the subject was positively identified and a warrant was obtained. At 11:31 a.m., Robert Scesco, 29, no fixed address, was arrested and served an assault and battery warrant. Scesco was held on no bond.

D.C. man tries to escape, is arrested

Officers were investigating a vehicle with an improper registration in the 8000 block of Tysons Corner Center December 26 at 9:33 p.m. when the operator of the vehicle, Hezekiah Darby, 20, of Washington, D.C. intentionally drove at the officers nearly striking them.

The vehicle sped off into a parking garage where it was blocked in by responding officers. The driver was

arrested and charged with two counts of attempted malicious wounding and failure to obey commands to stop. No injuries were reported.



COURTESY PHOTO
Erik Murillo-Melgar

Maryland man arrested in Fairfax

Officers responded to the 10775 block of Fairfax Boulevard for a motor vehicle accident at approximately 2:32 a.m. December 24. A witness reported that the crash originally took place at 11003 Lee Hwy.

An investigation was conducted and the driver was determined to be intoxicated. Erik Murillo-Melgar, 21, of Maryland, was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with DUI. Murillo-Melgar was later released once he was deemed to be sober.

Fairfax County Police officer wounds man in Chantilly shooting

Fairfax County Police officers were called to the 4500 block of Briarton Drive in Chantilly around 1 p.m. Jan. 4.

The elderly couple residing in the home reported that their 51-year-old son who lives with them had been acting in an unstable manner and threatening them.

On their initial visit to the home, the man was not there. Police then worked with the parents who had obtained an emergency custody order from the magistrate and returned to serve it.

Upon entering the home to make contact with the man, a FCPD supervisor and a commander made the decision to back out of the home and tactically reposition officers in a posture to deescalate the situation and communicate with the man inside the home, according to Chief Kevin Davis.

Shortly after that, the man emerged from the home armed with a compound bow and arrow, which he raised and pointed at the officers on scene trying to take him into custody, Davis said.

One of the officers then discharged his weapon striking the man in the upper body. The man was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Davis said that the man was no stranger to FCPD and has a history with the mental health system that they are aware of. “This man was in crisis today,” said Davis. “That crisis prompted his parents to get Fairfax County Police involved in an effort to get him help and keep them safe.”

Davis characterized the situation as a very dangerous situation for all involved.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES



COURTESY PHOTO
Ariela Sofer
and Sanjeev Setia

GMU names interim
divisional deans

Ariela Sofer and **Sanjeev Setia** have been named interim divisional deans for the Volgenau School of Engineering and the proposed School of Computing.

Sofer will become interim divisional dean for engineering, and Setia will be interim divisional dean for computing while an international search takes place for permanent divisional deans. Volgenau School of Engineering Dean Ken Ball will lead the proposed College of Engineering and Computing.

“The purpose of these appointments will be to provide leadership and guidance during a time of transition for the two schools,” Ball said. “Both bring years of experience and knowledge in their respective fields to the jobs. They are talented and committed leaders.”

Sofer, the current associate dean for Administration and Faculty Affairs, served as department chair for the Department of Systems Engineering and Operations Research for almost 16 years. She is a prolific researcher, author, leader, and organizer. She has also held board positions on four different leading professional associations. Setia, Volgenau’s associate dean for Computing Programs and Initiatives, brings a wealth of administrative experience to the position. In addition to serving as chair of the Computer Science department for two terms from 2011 to 2019, he served as interim chair of the Computer Science department in 2006-07 when Computer Science and Software Engineering merged.

Sofer and Setia agree that obtaining approval from the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) is a top priority. The three goals they seek to address at the same time include:

Write the SCHEV proposal for the creation of the School of Computing and the reorganization of the school of engineering into the College of Engineering and Computing;

Develop bylaws and a governance structure for the proposed School of Computing and determine how it will interface with the School of Engineering and other schools;

Take the steps necessary to boost enrollment in Mason’s Tech Talent Investment Pipeline-eligible master’s programs.

“The bylaws should foster and promote cross-disciplinary collaboration in our educational programs, and in research,” Soffer said.

Setia said the biggest and most immediate challenge is boosting enrollments in the master’s programs in computer science, software engineering, and computer engineering.

Actively engaging faculty will be the key to the successful launch of the new structure, the interim deans said.



COURTESY PHOTO
Bob Rosenbaum

McLean resident
celebrates 50 years
as a Rotarian

Robert F. “Bob” Rosenbaum joined the Rotary Club of McLean on November 16, 1971, then meeting at the old Evans Farm Inn every Tuesday for lunch. He quickly became involved in club activities and during Rotary Year 1974-75 he served as the club’s president. His tenure as president was known for its emphasis on increasing membership, fellowship, and community service.

Rosenbaum’s enthusiasm and love for Rotary has been contagious--so much that he was responsible for bringing more new members into Rotary than any other McLean Club member, according to McLean Rotary officials. He was the third of four boys. His father and all four Rosenbaum sons were Rotarians, and now Rosenbaum’s younger son, John, is also a McLean Rotarian.

McLean Rotarians, Rosenbaum’s family and other guests gathered joyfully at a festive reception and dinner November 16 to honor him for his 50 years as a Rotarian.

Delegate Kathleen Murphy presented Rosenbaum with HR Resolution 783 passed by the Virginia House of Delegates in recognition of his service as a “pillar to the community” over the past 50 years. McLean Rotarian and Area 10 Assistant Governor Deborah Jackson presented him a certificate from Rotary District 7610 signed by District Governor Patricia Borowski “in appreciation of your many years of dedicated Rotarian service, devotion, and commitment to the community and the Rotary Club of McLean.” McLean Rotary President John McEvilly awarded Rosenbaum a plaque from the club “with deep appreciation for your selfless contributions in helping others and bringing joy to many over five decades.” Fellow Rotarians offered personal tributes and reminiscences.

Rosenbaum’s cheerful demeanor, love of people, joy of life, and commitment to service have enriched everyone he encounters, according to McLean Rotary members. They said he and his wife Judy are known as the “hospitality couple” for the many Rotary gatherings they have hosted over the years. Rosenbaum was one of the early founders and stalwarts of the McLean food booth at the annual McLean Day festivities in Lewinsville Park. Because their home backed up to the park it became the logical staging spot for all of the club’s McLean Day activities.

For many years, as “Santa,” Rosenbaum delighted pre-schoolers at the Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center holiday parties organized by the McLean Club.

Perhaps he is best known to our community as Bob “Piano Man” Rosenbaum. He has generously given his time and talent playing his keyboard for hours at Share’s holiday parties for food pantry clients, and at many nursing home and other residences for older adults; during the annual McLean Winter Fest Parade; at weekly Rotary Club meetings; and most recently at the American Legion Post 270 Flags for Heroes Veteran’s

Day program.

During COVID, Rosenbaum has played his piano every weekday afternoon, live-streamed from his home to bring cheer during the pandemic with his standards from the American Songbook, Broadway shows, and many familiar folk and patriotic tunes. For this and so many other ways in which he has actively served Rotary and others in the community for 50 years, the McLean Club has been proud to honor and congratulate Bob as a “Golden Rotarian.”

Bull Run Civil War
Round Table
scholarship available

The **Bull Run Civil War Round Table** once again seeks to reward a local area high school senior who exhibits a passion for American history, particularly an interest in and knowledge of the Civil War, with a \$2,000 scholarship towards their continued education.

This award has been given annually since 2013 to a student based on an assessment of a locally-based Civil War essay, high school grades and participation, and history teacher recommendation.

High school seniors from the Northern Virginia area are eligible to apply for the scholarship. Applicants must submit a transcript detailing grades and courses, a written description of extra-curricular activities, a picture of themselves taken at a local historical sign related to the Civil War, and a written recommendation from a history teacher at their high school. These submissions will be evaluated, and top candidates will be interviewed by the Round Table Scholarship Committee for the final selection of a winner. Packages may be submitted via e-mail to BRCWRTScholarship@gmail.com, or mailed to: BRCWRT-Scholarship Team, P.O. Box 2147, Centreville, VA 20122.

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table was established in May 1991 to bring together those wishing to expand and share knowledge of the Civil War, accomplishing this through lectures, research, field trips and active participation in the preservation of Civil War sites. For more information about the Round Table visit bullruncwrt.org. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



COURTESY PHOTO
Robert Brokamp

Fairfax Station
resident is a 401(k)
champion

The national 401(k) Champion® Competition is celebrating the selection of **Robert Brokamp** of Fairfax Station, as 401(k) Champion® for 2021.

“What better way to bring in the new year than by shining a light on role models, such as Robert, who champion financial literacy,” said Julie Jason, founder of Jackson, Grant Investment Advisers, Inc., sponsor of the award.

“I love the spirit of the 401(k) Champion® Award. It acknowledges that everyday employees can be motivators and educators, improving retirement security for themselves and their coworkers,” said Brokamp. “In my case, it’s an acknowledgement of the work a handful of colleagues who collaborated with our employer to improve our 401(k) plan – leading to lower expenses, better investment choices, more learning

opportunities, and even a higher match. The changes have increased the collective retirement savings of Motley Fool employees by millions of dollars since 2007.”

Brokamp has been a resident of Fairfax County for 21 years. He’s currently a senior advisor, author and podcaster at The Motley Fool.

Hearing Doctors give
the gift of hearing

Hearing Doctors is donating more than \$75,000 worth of hearing aids to members of the Washington, D.C. Metro community who are in need. In partnership with ReSound, Hearing Doctors is providing 11 pairs of hearing aids to those who cannot afford hearing devices.

As part of that effort, nominations of are now being accepted for people with hearing loss who are experiencing financial difficulty and would benefit from receiving a free pair of hearing aids. The rechargeable ReSound ONETM hearing aids are one of the top hearing devices available on the market today. Initial fitting and follow-up care fees for recipients will be waived.

“The holiday season is upon us and we want to give back to our community. We know how difficult the past couple of years have been for so many, and we are delighted to be able to give the gift of hearing to those in need in our community,” said Dr. Ana Anzola, principal of Hearing Doctors.

Nominations are made by filling in the form online at <https://www.HearingDoctors.com/gift>. Nominations must be received by January 31. Nominees must reside within 15 miles of a Hearing Doctors location to qualify. Only selected nominees will receive a pair of hearing aids. Recipients will be notified by Hearing Doctors on or after February 4.



COURTESY PHOTO
Jeff Sperber

Fairfax company
names CFO

3Pillar Global (“3Pillar”), a leading digital product development company, named a new CFO to its executive leadership team to leverage the company’s explosive growth in revenue to power future expansion. Over the last four years, 3Pillar has nearly quadrupled in revenue. The company has hired **Jeff Sperber** to serve as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and to lead 3Pillar through further anticipated growth cycles in the coming years.

“Jeff Sperber joins our executive leadership team at a time when his expertise and experience are exactly what we need at 3Pillar,” said 3Pillar CEO David DeWolf. “He brings us exceptional skills honed by years of leadership managing high-growth businesses. But Jeff is more than just a top talent; he is also someone who understands and lives our company’s core values. I am confident he will be a superb partner as we build for our next phase of growth.”

A seasoned business executive, Sperber has been CFO for a variety of companies, including Class Valuation, TalentReef, NetDocuments and Accenture Mortgage Cadence, among others. He is an expert in leading firms through strategic investments by private equity partners and organizing rapidly growing finances into a business strategy that delivers results.

“Joining 3Pillar is an

opportunity unlike any other,” said Sperber. “Almost nowhere else in the industry can you find a rapidly growing company with such a strong values-based approach as 3Pillar. As the company quickly scales its operations to deliver innovation to new industry partners, I am honored to join the team and participate in the next several years of exciting expansion.”

Sperber joins 3Pillar shortly after the firm received a new strategic investment that has positioned it to expand its impact on new industry sectors. Sperber’s new role at 3Pillar is part of the company’s strategy for leveraging its current momentum for rapid future growth.

BOS covets land to
Park Authority

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted at its meeting on December 7, to convey two parcels of land in Alexandria, to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Board-owned property at 6318 Quander Road and the adjacent Fairchild property total approximately 10.6 acres and are located south of Richmond Highway and north of the Quander Road School.

Significant portions of both parcels are within a Resource Protection Area in the Little Hunting Creek watershed and have been subject to a recent stream restoration initiative by the Department of Public Works. As the land is conveyed to the Park Authority, a conservation easement will be placed over portions of it to preserve undisturbed natural features and secure water quality benefits. The easement will also allow for natural trails and open areas, where interpretive signs can be installed that discuss the ownership of the land by the Quander family, believed to be one of the oldest families of African descent in the United States. Additional smaller scale park amenities outside the conservation easement will be vetted with the community as the park goes through the park planning process.

“This transfer provides the opportunity for the Park Authority to preserve a wonderful ecologically sensitive area, to provide neighborhood park

amenities and to also interpret a significant cultural site,” Park Authority Executive Director Jai Cole said. “This is another untold story that will now be heard in the Mount Vernon District thanks to the actions of the Board of Supervisors.”

The county’s Comprehensive Plan calls for the properties to be preserved and developed as public park space and include ecological enhancements. These properties provide a unique resource within an urban area, offering connections to a more naturalized and passive recreation space adjacent to the built environment.

With this acquisition, the Park Authority will manage 23,645 acres of land in Fairfax County.

Apply to be a 2022
Bank of America
Student Leader

The deadline for high school juniors and seniors to apply for the Bank of America Student Leaders® program is Jan. 28.

Selected students participate in a paid eight-week internship, working directly with local non-profit organizations to obtain first-hand job and leadership experience while making a difference in their communities.

The internship includes a week-long expenses-paid Student Leaders Summit, to be held July 25-30 in Washington, D.C. (subject to local guidelines for gatherings). Students will see first-hand how government, business, and the nonprofit sector work together to address critical community needs.

In 2021, Spencer Nash of Langley High School was one of among approximately 300 Student Leaders nationally. Nash and four other high schoolers from around the D.C. region interned with the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington.

Launched in 2004, the Bank of America Student Leaders® program helps prepare a diverse pipeline of community-minded students with leadership training to be successful in the workforce. By interning with local nonprofits, students learn valuable civil, social, and business leadership skills.

The application and eligibility rules are available at BankOfAmerica.com

OBITUARIES

In loving memory

James C. McKeever Jr.

James C. McKeever Jr. of Fairfax, Virginia, died at 75 years on October 30, 2021. A loving husband, caring father, active in the community, businessman and keeper of the faith.

He grew up in New Jersey, where he began his love for music and his church, as well as football. After attending University of Pennsylvania and playing football, he joined the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era and was honorably discharged. In 1974 he founded MAPS, which evolved into McKeever Services Corporation (MSC). As President and CEO, MSC provides consulting and permit processing serving the Washington D.C. metropolitan area and continues to be an industry leader.

His love for music was influential throughout his life. His high school choir had the opportunity of touring in Europe. In college he performed as a folk singer and was a long-time member of the Sanctuary Choir at Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax, Virginia.

In addition, Jim served as the Chairman of the Arts for Fairfax County, Commissioner of the Arts for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Chairman of the International Children’s Festival at Wolf Trap, and Chairman of the Board for the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. He was also a member for Fairfax Lions Club.

At Providence Presbyterian Church, he spearheaded the project to design, fund and install a new Lively Fulcher Pipe Organ for the Sanctuary Choir. He was ordained as an Elder and taught Sunday School for many years.

Above all family was of utmost importance to Jim. He enjoyed family vacations in Avalon, New Jersey, and holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. He loved sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and the views from his retreat on Kent Island, Maryland.

The family Patriarch, he is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lesley. He is the devoted father of three daughters – Kathryn and her partner Rick, Rebecca and her husband, Nelson, and Stephanie. He is the loving grandfather to Isabella and Simon. He is the beloved brother of John McKeever and his wife Betsy, and Beth McKeever Lewis and her husband Jeff. He is also survived by his many loving nieces and nephews, relatives, in-laws, and friends.

The funeral service will be private. A memorial service will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra for the McKeever Legacy Fund - <https://www.fairfax-symphony.org/mckeeverlegacyfund>. Or the Sanctuary Choir at Providence Presbyterian Church (<https://www.providencechurch.org/give/>) – checks can be mailed to 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax VA 22031.

In loving memory

Dale Nelson Saunders “Sam”

Dale Nelson Saunders, “Sam”, of Herndon, Virginia died on January 2, 2022 as a result of cancer. He was a native of Herndon, attended Herndon and Floris Elementary Schools, a graduate of Herndon High School and earned a B.A. in Business from George Mason University. Sam started his career in home construction then worked two decades for the Dept. of Justice. In his later years he worked for several plumbing firms.

Sam was born December 6, 1949, in Arlington, Virginia, a son of the late Robert J. Saunders and the late Doris Cockerill Saunders. He is preceded in death by sister Debra Jean Saunders and brother Dennis Lee Saunders. He is survived by one daughter, Melissa Marie, one grandson, Leigh Tyler Williams, both of Alexandria, Virginia, and one sister, Dawn Clay Saunders and her husband Fred D. Duncan, Jr. of Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia.

A memorial visitation will be held at Adams-Green Funeral Home from 4:00 until 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. The family is requiring masks be worn inside. Inurnment at Chestnut Grove Cemetery will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

How Madison football lost a state championship – but built a legacy

By Michael Marrow
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

It wasn't the press conference they had been hoping to give.

After falling 42-17 to the Oscar Smith Tigers in the Class 6 football state championship, Madison Warhawks Head Coach Justin Counts along with four senior team captains – quarterback Connor Barry, running back Alex Jreige, linebacker Ryan Salvosa, and defensive back John Hurley – shuffled into a small room on December 11 to field questions from reporters about what went wrong.

Leading up to the game, the team had smashed several school records: the Warhawks notched 13-straight wins, almost all with lopsided scores, and achieved back-to-back region championships for the first time in school history. Their trip to the state final was also Madison's first.

But the championship game at Old Dominion University was different. The Tigers physically outmatched the Warhawks, condemning them to the same fate that Madison afflicted on so many other teams. "They didn't try to trick us," Salvosa said. "They ran it right down our throat."

Defensive Coordinator Ray Gordon similarly stated

that the sheer size and speed of the Tigers wore down the Warhawks and contributed to their defeat. "I don't really know there's a lot you can do," Gordon said when asked how to craft a defense in a similar situation. "A scheme's not going to fix that."

The Warhawks kept it close after coming out of halftime with a touchdown to narrow Oscar Smith's lead 21-17, but after that, Gordon noted, Oscar Smith began to pull away, mostly due to big plays.

In the tight-knit Vienna community, losing the state championship was difficult for many of the players to bear. "I've been tossing and turning with this for nights," Hurley said. "On the defensive side, we knew we messed up because we couldn't stop them."

"To know that we let that game slip through our hands, it's tough," Barry added. "It feels like we let down our coaches, our teammates and our community."

After the game, Counts thanked the players for the example they set, telling them they left a blueprint for future teams. "It was probably the best compliment I was ever given," Salvosa said.

The team's journey to the state championship began many years ago. The four captains, along with many of

their teammates, have known each other since some of their earliest days of sports, playing a mix of games together like baseball, basketball, and football.

Throughout the season, their chemistry was evident. "These guys just got along," Counts said.

The four captains carry themselves with a different demeanor than what some might expect from high school students, Counts added.

"They're very humble kids," he observed. "They have no airs about them."

This past season was Counts' fifth as head coach, and his ascent to the post was shaped by tragedy. Lenny Schultz, Counts' predecessor and a pillar of the Madison athletic community, was killed in a car accident on the Capital Beltway in June 2017.

Schultz's final season, in fall 2016, had been Madison's strongest to date – the Warhawks secured an 11-2 record and a conference championship. Schultz had previously brought on several coaches who are still with the program and was friends with many, including current Offensive Coordinator Tim Hecht.

The two were teammates on Madison's football team back in their high school days.

"It was devastating to

all of us," Hecht said of Schultz's passing. As the team and coaching staff gathered to mourn, Hecht said the group resolved to honor his legacy. "There was a determination that we were going to follow on in terms of what Lenny had put together," Hecht said.

Overlooking Madison's home field is a crate that reads "Leave No Doubt," a favorite expression of Schultz's. The phrase serves as a constant reminder to players and coaches of the standard necessary to build and maintain a formidable program.

Facing renowned teams, especially after moving to the Concorde District, the Warhawks had their work cut out for them, leading them to embrace the role of underdog. "We've been chasing Westfield for years," Counts said.

That all changed last season. During a spring game played under Covid restrictions, the Warhawks were trailing the Westfield Bulldogs 14-3. A pick-six by the Warhawks then shifted momentum, eventually leading them to a 21-14 victory over the Bulldogs for the first time in Madison history.

"Since that minute, our whole program changed," Gordon said. "Now, we don't fear anybody."

Though this season's team was the first that did

not have an opportunity to know Schultz, every player knows his impact. In a testament to his lasting influence, as well as the bonds formed by Madison football, about a dozen former teammates who played alongside Schultz showed up to watch the Warhawks face the Tigers, Hecht said.

Beyond innovative play-calling and the performance of talented athletes, some of the team's success can also be attributed to Counts' approach to coaching.

Upbeat with a warm disposition, he is somewhat different from many other coaches. "I'm not a yeller, I don't curse," Counts remarked. "I try to be really positive."

Counts' style also has echoes of Schultz. "He talked about love all the time," Gordon reminisced of Schultz. "He cared way more about the last three kids on a roster than the top three."

It's an effective method that inspires many Warhawks.

"He's like a second dad," Jreige said of Counts. "He's the best coach you could ask for."

Numerous players earned impressive stats this season, and several pulled in accolades. Hurley, Jreige, Salvosa, and offensive lineman Ciaran Sullivan were named first team All-State.

Barry was named second team and kicker Connor Sevy earned an honorable mention. Jreige was also named second team All-Met by the Washington Post and Barry received an honorable mention.

The graduation of several seniors will leave large shoes to fill, but the success of this year's team left a roadmap for those who will come next. Just as Madison lost in last season's semifinals and won it this year to advance to the state championship, they are hopeful their successors will finish what they started.

Moving on, however, will be bittersweet. Reflecting on the impact of his coaches, Jreige began to choke up. "You've got me a little bit emotional," Jreige laughed. "I talked more about life with Coach Ray than I did about football."

Jreige said he is in talks with Schultz. "He cared way more about the last three kids on a roster than the top three."

It's an effective method that inspires many Warhawks. "He's like a second dad," Jreige said of Counts. "He's the best coach you could ask for."

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A fresh start

KEYS TO BETTER HEALTH
CINDY SANTA ANA



For many of us, the holidays are filled with sugary treats, comfort meals, and perhaps a drink or two. Now that the holidays have come and gone, we may feel fatigued, have gut issues, or simply that some of our health habits have fallen by the wayside. Perhaps it is time then for a post-holiday refresh to get ourselves back on track and keep ourselves accountable.

I'm not a fan of the diet mindset and the work I do focuses on:

- helping people learn to cook and eat nutritious foods
- sharing health and nutrition information so you can make better decisions
- encouraging you to create healthy behaviors and how you could do that on an ongoing, sustainable basis – not just at certain times of the year

Still, I recognize that early in the year people are extra motivated to establish habits. Ultimately, a post-holiday reboot involves nutrition, lifestyle, movement, and mindset. Since I've been in this field, I've learned that working on any of these elements on their own is going to be beneficial, yet if we're looking at total and optimal health we also need to look at how all of these things work together.

Here are a few guidelines to get

you started, or at least think about starting, to bring about a healthy year ahead.

Choose low-glycemic foods

High glycemic foods are those that are immediately digested and hit our bloodstream quickly, leading to highs and lows in our blood sugar levels. This can lead to some dire consequences, like weight gain and blood sugar imbalances. Changing my diet this past fall allowed me to drop 20 pounds!

High glycemic foods include:

- refined and processed grains (white rice, white bread, packaged cereals, crackers, etc.)
- foods low in protein, fat, and/or fiber
- sugary foods (pastries, refined sugars, candy, cookies, cake, etc.)
- tropical fruits, such as bananas, pineapple

Focus on low-glycemic foods such as:

- Loads of vegetables (dark leafy greens, broccoli, cabbage, onions, garlic, tomatoes, cucumber – basically, things that aren't super sweet)
- Whole grains, such as wild rice, buckwheat, and quinoa
- Fresh herbs and spices
- Quality protein sources, whether animal-based or plant-based
- Nourishing fats, such as ghee, coconut oil, avocado, fatty fish, nuts, and seeds

Eliminate or avoid sugar



I've been low sugar for several years now and this has made a massive difference in my life. I sleep better, I have more energy and I feel like my brain is running at a more effective level (which allows me to be more present with my family as well as all of you). Try monk fruit drops in your coffee or tea, choose products without sugar added, and read those ingredient labels. Avoid sucralose, aspartame, and acesulfame potassium.

Add in daily movement

Daily movement helps:

- increase energy levels
- get the blood and lymph flowing
- improves digestion (prevents constipation)
- enhances mental and emotional health
- builds strength and resilience

Avoid alcohol

There are a few studies showing the benefits of drinking alcohol, but who paid for those studies? There is in fact, a lot of data showing the detrimental effects of drinking alcoholic beverages, including poor

sleep, weight gain (a lot of alcoholic drinks are high in sugar), it's a known depressant, and it's bad for brain health.

Instead try herbal teas with adaptogens like ashwagandha, kombucha, or berry-infused sparkling waters.

Start this year off with healthy habits that you can sustain all year and your health will improve very quickly. If you need more support, please reach out at www.UnlockBetterHealth.com.

Care for your skin in the winter months



By Margarita Zorkina
MASTER ESTHETICIAN

During the colder weather and being in places with central heating, our skin becomes more dry and often more sensitive.

Make sure you keep hydrated during the day by drinking enough water and adding a hyaluronic acid serum to your skincare routine.

Gentle cleansing is must. If your skin feels tight after cleansing, it's likely that the cleanser you are using has disrupted your skin barrier. Your should feel calm and hydrated after cleansing. So, if you are reaching immediately for your moisturizer, you may want to consider a gentle cleanser. Be sure to use creams and serums containing Vitamin C. Vitamin C will keep your skin glowing during the colder months. It brightens, strengthens, and stimulates collagen production which helps the skin retain it's moisture better and helps protect it from external aggressors.

When choosing a moisturizer, pay attention to texture. Fluids and emulsions are not suitable for winter and lightweight moisturizers are ideal for most skin types in summer. Switching

to creams will help your skin because the dense texture will seal the moisture inside and act as a winter coat for the skin. Always make sure you're applying SPF and be sure to use SPF products even in cloudy weather. It's important that SPF is a part of your skin care during winter because UV rays are still active during this time of the year.

Lip care is especially important in the winter. Get rid of those bad habits such as biting and licking your lips. Normalize your diet and be sure to take extra care at home as well. Sometimes the lips dry out because of poor quality of chapstick, so be sure to get a trusted and truthful lip balm to use during the winter. Buy lip balm that contains antioxidants-vitamins A, E, C, and natural ingredients. Such a remedy will help to avoid drying of the the lips because of wind and low temperatures in the winter. The use of a lip scrub will also help moisturize the lips, improve blood circulation, and remove dead skin cells. Be sure to do this at least once a week and you will notice the effect almost immediately. You can buy a lip scrub or make one yourself! Mix honey (1 tbsp) , sugar (1 tsp) , and add a few drops of olive oil. Apply to the skin of the lips and massage. The sugar will dissolve on the lips leaving them soft and plump. The scrub residue

can be removed with a lint-free napkin.

Don't forget about your hands too! Wear gloves every time you go outside during the winter. Use rubber gloves when doing house work. Use a hydrating and soft lotion on your hands and legs every day in general and before going out into the cold. Don't forget to exfoliate your hands. Lowering the temperature of your shower or bath will help get rid of dry hands. Try adding humidity to your home.

Book a facial. Winter skin is often dull. It's recommended a professional facial about every four weeks. But during the winter, you may book sooner to make sure your skin barrier is always in tact. Regular facials will help to keep your skin clean, clear, and hydrated while maximizing your everyday skin care regime too. Consider getting a professional skin treatment. Winter is a great time of the year for skin treatments like peels and laser treatment. In the summer months because of the sun exposure, getting one of these treatment does put you at a higher risk of unwanted post inflammatory hyperpigmentation. Fall and winter therefore represents an opportunity.

Margarita Zorkina is a master esthetician at Alya Salon and Spa in Vienna. She received her training at NOVA Laser and Esthetics Training and Spectrum Beauty Academy. She can be reached at 703-281-2592.

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It is long past time to compensate disabled veterans fairly

Dear Editor,

I am asking Congress to compensate our grossly underpaid disabled veterans fairly this year. This must be corrected by appropriate legislation now.

In 2022 a totally disabled veteran with no dependents is

compensated at the ridiculous rate of \$39,984.72 dollars annually. The National Average Wage Index (NAWI) for 2020 was \$55,628.60 dollars per annum and the median income for 2020 was \$67,521.00. The per capita GDP in 2020 was \$63,416.00 dollars, among the highest

in the world. This low rate of compensation to disabled veterans is deliberate and cruel.

Disabled veterans are only compensated for projected lost wages not to include a 'loss of quality of life' payment. That is an antiquated approach to injury compensation and has not been used in courts

awarding personal injury compensation for at least two generations now. This is done specifically to keep taxes low on our Elites who pay next to nothing in federal taxes every year.

And there is a national security aspect to this travesty of justice.

Once our youth realize that serious injury or sickness received in the armed forces will mean a lifetime of near poverty due to artificially low compensation as disabled veterans the armed forces will collapse. It will happen very quickly and we will not be able to stop it once it starts.

A young person would have to be unbalanced to accept this social contract as reasonable between an enlistee and the government. No clear-thinking young person would agree to this lopsided arrangement.

Gretchen Schwope
Alexandria

In response to Professor Victor's letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

After reading Professor Victor's letter to the editor of the Fairfax Times, some might conclude that in just three short paragraphs she managed to slander people she disagrees with as "intolerant", "homophobic" while categorizing our opinions as "nothing moral". She also suggests those who think differently from her seek to shame and ostracize the LGBTQ community – does the good professor have one shred of proof for her contention? Not content with what sounds like slandering her opponents, she goes on

to malign this newspaper for its supposed "advocating for hate" and salaciousness. It takes one's breath away to read how much intolerance for opposing opinions she displayed in so few sentences. Her verbal bombardment could be easily dismissed were it not for the fact that she is an associate professor at a major university whose role is supposed to be fostering a healthy debate among your impressionable students.

I take little comfort in recalling that when I majored in Political Science, professors at our university seemed much more tolerant of opposing views than she seems able to

muster. And to add insult to injury, those she maligns are paying her salary as a public employee.

And as for her reference to "modern norms and best practices for journalism" – I think the term is journalistic ethics. I hope she can equally scrutinize the Washington Post for its myriad breaches of those ethics. Perhaps going a bit far afield, I would add the Washington Post does not subscribe to any code of journalistic ethics such as that of the Society of Professional Journalists – easily found with an internet search.

Looking on the bright side, at least she

did not call her opponent Klansmen as one visitor did who testified before the McLean Community Center board earlier this month. If this letter write might indulge himself, he would end on a personal note – "keep up the good work of virtue signaling"; given today's environment she should make full professor in no time. Heck, she probably can ride this horse to president of the university if you can keep up your strident tone in the coming years.

Nicholas Kalis, JD
McLean

Schools must remain open for in person learning

Dear Editor,

As students in Fairfax County head back to school on January 3, the FCPA emphasizes the importance of in-person education. We are grateful to the FCPS School Board for holding strong to their commitment to in-person learning, and grateful to the bipartisan efforts of Virginia Senators Chap Petersen and Siobhan Dunnivant and thousands of Fairfax County parents, for advocating and ensuring passage of SB 1303, which requires that Virginia school systems offer the choice of in-person education to all students.

"Zero COVID" is unattainable, regardless of variant. Those who continue to drive panic about COVID and the omicron variant do so in flagrant disregard for the science surrounding cases and outcomes. Fairfax County parents have said for almost two years that we need to be grateful for the minimal impacts of COVID on our children. We are grateful for the availability of vaccinations, and now boosters, for our teachers and families. COVID is not going away. We must learn to live in a world where

COVID exists, and where children are still receiving access to a robust, in-person education.

We know COVID and the omicron variant's health impacts on children are minimal and that the level of mitigations in school make them safer than the surrounding communities. What we also know – and knew even in the summer of 2020 – that the astounding and harmful impacts on children resulting from shuttering in-person education are devastating. From severe academic backsliding, to dangerous mental health challenges for children, to the dramatic underreporting of potential abuse and the harmful impacts of too much screen time. Many children rely on school as a vital safe harbor, while essential workers depend on schools to enable them to continue serving the community. These harmful impacts will be with our children for years and will impact our community for decades. The media, and the local labor unions, love to encourage panic over case numbers resulting from a mild variant where vaccinations and boosters exist, schools have in place high levels of mitigations, and

therapeutics and medical knowledge of treatments has greatly advanced. We cannot let this hysteria lead us to more disruptions, where students in Fairfax County are on their third school year of educational disruption. Exacerbating that disruption only adds to the damage already done to students.

As people in our community attend parties, sporting events, the theater, and happy hours, we must not fall into the trap of holding children hostage to COVID panic by denying them access to in-person education. We urge members of the community, including teachers' union and political party officials, to support our community's children and the effort of FCPS to keep schools open. Students all over the United States and throughout other nations have been prioritized by their governments and communities for years. Schools should be the very last institutions to close. We all need to be grateful for medical science and a mild variant and step up efforts to be part of the solution to the many challenges created for children in this local community over these past years.

Fairfax County Parents Association
(FCPA)

For the Left, government is always underfunded – part 2

Dear Editor,

Part I of this column responded to a Dec. 10, 2021, Virginia Public Media article entitled, "Economic experts say Youngkin tax cuts could continue underfunding Virginia's essential services." In fact, for decades Virginia spending on education and welfare has far exceeded the growth in population and inflation.

Virginia Public Media also asserted that the current Virginia budget surplus of \$2.6 billion exists because government is "underinvesting."

They ignore two recent tax windfalls. One is the Internet sales tax, which started July 2019. The other is that Virginia failed to increase its income tax standard deduction to conform to the standard deduction increase under the Trump tax reform. As a

result, Virginians who used to itemize deductions were forced to take the low Virginia standard deduction and pay more state income taxes.

In announcing the \$2.6 billion budget surplus, outgoing Governor Northam failed to mention how much of the surplus came from these two tax hikes.

Here are suggestions for reining in state and local spending and taxes:

1) Public schools are failing to teach reading and math because they use the quack "whole language" curriculum instead of intensive phonics and they replace math drills with hand calculators. Fixing reading and math would raise achievement for all races, especially Blacks and Hispanics, and reduce racial inequality. Graduates could get good jobs and not need Medicaid. Do not increase public-school spending until

curricula are fixed.

2) Virginia pension systems have a \$20 billion unfunded liability, despite doubling the taxpayer funding of the pension systems. Do what private industry did long ago and replace pensions with defined-contribution plans.

3) Fairfax County saved \$14 million by moving all employees from fixed-copy health plans to co-insurance plans. This forces providers to publish prices and compete. Virginia should do the same.

4) Cancel carbon credit auctions and the Virginia Clean Energy Act. Don't destroy natural-gas power plants, and complete the unfinished Lake Anna nuclear facility. "Clean energy" is neither affordable nor reliable nor clean. Germany, a world leader in clean energy, somehow still needs a natural gas pipeline ... from Russia. Solar cell

and lithium manufacturing are polluters.

5) Reduce real estate taxes by banning union contributions to local government political campaigns. Salary increases drive real estate tax hikes, and right now unions sit on both sides of the negotiating table.

Finally, Virginia Public Media said that Virginia taxes and cost of living rank in the middle of all states. However, they should not compare Virginia to other states, whose taxes and spending are probably also out of control. Never-ending tax increases are the symptom of bad policies. It's time to fix the policies and cut the taxes.

Arthur G. Purves
President
Fairfax County Taxpayers
Alliance



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PETS: WINTER DANGERS FOR PETS
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www.fairfaxtimes.com | Friday - Sunday, JANUARY 7 - 9, 2022

Ricky Skaggs returns to The Birchmere



THE BLUEGRASS AND COUNTRY STAR HAS BEEN A FIDDLING EXTRAORDINAIRE FOR 50 YEARS

By Keith Loria
SPECIAL TO THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

As a 15-time Grammy Award winner, Ricky Skaggs is one of country music's most beloved artists of his generation. His popularity is so strong that legendary guitarist Chet Atkins once anointed Skaggs with the title of "single-handedly saving country music."

But the musician is known for much more than just country music. Ever since he plucked his first chords on a mando-

lin more than five decades ago, Skaggs has been leaving his mark on bluegrass, gospel and roots music as well.

He began his professional career playing the mandolin with bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe at just 6 years old, and was on TV a year later. In his early days, Skaggs would perform with progressive bluegrass acts like the Country Gentlemen and J.D. Crowe & the New South.

Over the past decade, Skaggs has been honored with inductions into the Gospel Music Hall of

Fame, the Musicians Hall of Fame, the National Fiddler Hall of Fame, the IBMA Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and country music's greatest honor, the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Last year, he was awarded the prestigious National Medal of Arts for his contributions to the American music industry.

But he doesn't play for the awards and accolades. As he gears up for his first live dates of 2022, Skaggs is just thrilled to be playing music with his band, Kentucky Thunder.

"This group of guys meets my approval every night," Skaggs said. "Each and every one of the pickers in Kentucky Thunder totally amazes me in every show, and that, to me, outweighs any award we could ever win."

The all-star lineup of Kentucky Thunder includes Russ Carson on banjo; Jake Workman on lead guitar; Dennis Parker on baritone vocals and guitar; Jeff Picker on bass; Mike Rogers on tenor vocals and rhythm guitar; and Billy Contreras on the fiddle.

For two nights, January

7-8, Ricky Skaggs and the Kentucky Thunder will be celebrating the early days of 2022 at The Birchmere.

"We've got a new show since we were there last in 2019, so we're excited about that," Skaggs said. "We have two new band members with Mike and Billy and they're both amazing additions to the band. It's made a lot of difference."

Skaggs has written a number of new instrumentals this past year, and the show will feature some of those, along with his country, bluegrass and gospel

songs that people love.

"A lot of these songs I had started before we shut down, but I did get them finished when I was dormant, not out playing anywhere," Skaggs said. "They are just old-time instrumentals that have a lot of fire and a lot of joy."

For the long-time performer, being on the road is second nature to him and he desperately missed playing in front of a live crowd.

"We started back in July last year doing shows

See SKAGGS, Page B4



Workhouse Arts Center presents classic who-done-it The theatre is presenting the Tony Award-winning musical, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood"

By Keith Loria
SPECIAL TO THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

When Rupert Holmes (yes, the man behind the Pina Colada song!) wrote the Tony Award-winning musical, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood," a murder mystery based on an unfinished novel by Charles Dickens, he wanted to keep the fact that it was unfinished as a plot point for the show.

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" takes place in the small

town of Chesterham, England, and the title character has been mysteriously murdered. The audience is not only a part of the plot, but they get to help solve the crime and choose the murderer, so every performance is different.

The Workhouse Arts Center is presenting the show through January 23 in the W3 Theatre, under the direction of Dan Stapula.

"I really enjoyed directing this show because I love sketch comedy and all things musical theatre, and Drood presented the perfect cross between a vaude-

ville era SNL with great music and the audience participation of an Escape Room," Stapula said. "The actors will stop at nothing to make sure you have a wonderful evening and get to realize your chosen ending."

The key to directing a show that has an unknown ending every night comes down to great casting and having a fantastic creative team in Paige-Austin Rammelkamp and Stefan Sittig to help weave together the scenes and

See WORKHOUSE, Page B4

HOT LINKS BY COLLIN COPE



'Equality For All' By Sunny Mullarkey

Right now, experience Sunny Mullarkey's stunning tribute to the women's suffrage movement in Lorton's Workhouse Arts Center. 100 years following the women's suffrage movement, Mullarkey presents various artistic displays aimed to appreciate historical efforts towards achieving women's suffrage, as well as the women who made it happen. On display in the lobby of building W-16, "Equality for All" will make its permanent home at Workhouse Arts and will stand as an important reminder of the country's history. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3zsYDQT>.



NOVA Central Market • Every Sunday through March 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Every Sunday from now through March, check out NOVA Central Market at Marshall High School in Falls Church for a locally sourced farmer's market. With an outstandingly vast array of produce, pork, chicken, fish, baked goods and more, the market is sure to appeal to all kinds of guests regardless of taste. Additionally, the market features live music, an in-person chef and even more fun for everyone! The market will open at 9 a.m. and will conclude at 1 p.m. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3HCCUNV>.



Improvicon of Northern Virginia • January 8 • 7 p.m.

Check out "Improvicon of Northern Virginia" January 8 at the McLean Community Center. Starting at 7 p.m., attendees will be treated to a series of improvisational stage performances each competing to be crowned 2022's Improvicon Champion. Some of the groups include names such as Sarah Akers and Star Balatoun, The Pundemics, Home Improv Mints, (the) Unruly Theatre Project and Calamity Improv. Tickets to the show will be available at the door and will be \$20 per person. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3EYRMzB>.

COURTESY PHOTOS

celebrity
extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: Who plays Kurt Warner's wife in the new film about his life? I saw a commercial for it the other day but missed the actress' name. She looks so familiar. – O.S.

A: "American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story" was released in theaters on Christmas Day. It's a feel-good flick about the Super Bowl-winning quarterback who stocked shelves at a grocery store before making his way to the NFL. Zachary Levi ("Shazam!") plays Warner in the biopic that was filmed mostly in Oklahoma City.

Anna Paquin plays Kurt's devoted wife, Brenda. At just 11 years old, Paquin won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role in "The Piano" opposite Holly Hunter. She's been thriving ever since, playing Rogue in the "X-Men" films and starring for seven seasons in the HBO vampire series "True Blood."

Next up for Paquin is the Netflix family film "True Spirit," in which she'll play the mother of a teenage girl who sails solo around the world.

Q: I'm surprised there hasn't been a sequel to the holiday movie "Elf." Hollywood usually wants to capitalize on a big hit. Do you think it will stay that way? – J.K.

A: "Elf" has remained a standalone movie, but it's not for lack of trying. According to The Hollywood Reporter, Will Ferrell, who starred in the 2003 film, turned down a \$29 million paycheck for "Elf 2" because he didn't feel the script measured up to the original. However,



Anna Paquin

DEPOSITPHOTOS

Ferrell might not be the best at predicting box-office success because at one point in filming "Elf" he thought the movie would be the end of his career. Instead, it turned out to be a mega hit and has become a holiday classic.

Most recently, Ferrell took on a dramatic role in the Apple TV+ series "The Shrink Next Door," and is wrapping up filming "Spirited," a musical retelling of the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol."

Q: I was pleasantly surprised to see Tom Hanks in the new "Yellowstone" spin-off series. Do they have any other big names slated to guest star? – K.W.

A: The new Paramount+ series "1883" already had an impressive cast with country music stars Tim McGraw and Faith Hill headlining the new Western series. Then they announced the addition of

the always charismatic Sam Elliott ("The Ranch") to the cast. In the second episode, if you did a double-take during a Civil War flashback scene, you weren't alone. Yes, that was movie star Tom Hanks playing famed Union Gen. George Meade, simply doing his friend McGraw a favor by filming a cameo for his buddy's new show.

"1883," the prequel to the massive hit series "Yellowstone," starring Kevin Costner, follows the Dutton family on their journey through the Old West to Montana. The show's premiere was the most viewed original series for the streaming service Paramount+, with new episodes dropping every Sunday.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com, or write me at KFWS, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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The arts are abundant in Fairfax



By Manuela Quintero Fehr
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

As the New Year begins, science still occupies center stage — as it did through most of 2021. However, we can thank our creativity, innovation, and desire to connect with others for getting us to 2022. It has not been an easy year, but the arts have helped us get through it.

Whether you are an amateur artist or an experienced pro, it is always a fun idea to think about new resolutions to make the coming year creative and fun. This might be the year you set up a home studio, learn a new medium, or explore a new art form. Here are a few art events that might catch your eye that you might want to try.

Dwight Yoakam at Capital One Hall

Legendary multiple Grammy Award winner and star of film and television,

Dwight Yoakam continues to sell-out shows across the nation. He's on his way to doing it again at the new Capital One Hall on January 13. Visit www.capitalonehall.com for more information and tickets.

The Spanish Hour Sharon Isbin, guitar

Multi-Grammy Award-winning guitarist returns to The Barns on Jan. 23, after many years for her first solo performance. Isbin will explore the rich and multifaceted legacy of Spanish solo guitar works. Visit <https://bit.ly/3pX-15MI> for more information and tickets.

Reston Community Players presents: "Bright Star"

Created by comedy legend Steve Martin and Grammy winner Edie Brickell, "Bright Star" tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. This richly emotional story weaves together two

chapters in the life of literary editor Alice Murphy; the first, as a young backwoods girl in love with the son of a prominent family; and the second, as a mentor to a young soldier just back from the war. Visit <https://restonplayers.org/show2/> to purchase your tickets today.

Art Works for Virginia 2022

The Virginia Commission for the Arts annual conference, Art Works for Virginia 2022, will still begin in this month, virtually. In addition, the format is going to change more significantly than in years past. Art Works for Virginia 2022 will take place as a series, on the 4th Wednesdays of January - April, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. each day. Register at arts.virginia.gov.

Whatever your new year's goals, ArtsFairfax has you covered! Visit www.artsfairfax.org and check out our arts directory and calendar for more information.

Fairfax County Times

Baby Boomers

Winter Edition

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ZED by Duane M. Abel

I FEEL BAD LEAVING THE CHRISTMAS STUFF UP HERE...

ME TOO!

MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK OF THIS AS A CHRISTMAS DRESSING ROOM!

I LOVE THAT!

WHY DOES THE ATTIC DOOR HAVE THE CHRISTMAS TREE STUCK ON IT?

MUNCH MUNCH

www.corkeycomics.com

The benefits of dogs in the workplace

Courtesy of Family Features

As many pet parents return to the office in the new year, they are looking for ways to continue spending time with their furry friends during the workday. In fact, 72 percent of pet owners said being able to

bring pets to work is important, according to an online survey conducted on behalf of the CESAR(r) brand. As part of its mission to make the world (including office spaces) dog friendly, the brand uncovered some benefits of bringing pets to work, including boosting happiness and relieving stress. Learn more at BetterCitiesForPets.com/PetsWorkAtWork.

BETTER TOGETHER: DOGS IN THE WORKPLACE

As pet parents return to the office in the new year, they don't want to leave their best friends behind. In fact, 89% said it's important for them to continue spending time with pets during the workday.

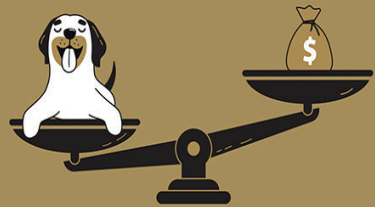
To help keep the 70 million dog owners and their pets together wherever they are, the CESAR® brand uncovered the benefits of being able to bring pets to work.



58% of dog owners said "dogs make the best coworkers."



37% of Gen Z dog owners said they would consider taking a pay cut to work for a pet-friendly company



and 64% would change jobs or reduce hours to have more time with their pets.

PET PARENTS BELIEVE HAVING DOGS AT WORK:

Boosts happiness
58%

Relieves anxiety or stress
57%

Encourages healthy breaks
58%

Supports more social interaction
52%



NEARLY HALF of dog owners said it would be harder to leave their jobs if their companies allowed them to bring their pets to work.

69% of pet parents would bring their pets to work if they could, but only 11% of companies allow dogs.



AS THEY THINK ABOUT RETURNING TO WORK...

72% of pet parents said being able to bring pets along is important. So are policies that let them work at home with pets at least part time or go home to check on pets during the day.



The CESAR® brand is on a mission to make the world a dog-friendly place so people and their pets can always be together. That's why we want to make every office dog friendly; check out BetterCitiesForPets.com/PetsWorkAtWork to learn more.

Sources:
Online survey of 1,004 U.S. adults conducted by KRC Research between July 30 - August 1, 2021.
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Online survey of 1,000 U.S. adult pet owners conducted by KRC Research between July 28 - August 8, 2021.
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Annual survey of employers conducted by The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), published in April 2019.

FROM THE DOG'S PAW

Winter dangers for pets



UNSPASH

By Noah! Samson! Abby!
SPECIAL TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Oh, my paws! SNOW! We awoke Monday morning to see five inches of beautiful snow! Forever playtime today with my human in the snow. Winter poses several dangers for pets, which sometimes humans don't remember.

WOOF! If it is too cold outside for you, it's pawbably too cold for your pet. Paws, yes, we have winter coats of various colors, sizes, wavy, curly, fluffy, foofy, and poofyness, but we still get cold. Pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, injured, or even disoriented from being left outdoors in the cold weather. Barks! Noah is from southern North Carolina and hadn't seen much snow nor cold weather until he came here. Dad saw him shivering in his first winter while he supervised Dad's shoveling the driveway. Barkingly, he took Noah inside, but it wasn't long before he got a handsome winter coat to wear. Keep your pets inside whenever the temperatures get pawsitively super cold. Barkingly, do not leave your dog in the car while shopping. The car can act as a refrigerator retaining cold. It's best to leave your dog home when going out, especially in winter storms. Before starting your car in the winter months, paws, make noise upon approach, and look under the vehicle for any cats curled up under a vehicle to get warm.

Woofingly, a product commonly used by humans is anti-freeze. Though it's great for vehicles, it is dangerous for pets. Its sweet smell is a lure to taste, but its ingredients can be deadly to pets. BARKS, though I have

been told, there are anti-freeze products available that are not as dangerous to pets. Barkingly, I'd prefer to take safety precautions to be sure. If you use it, be certain to clean up spills immediately. Paws, I hang out with Dad all the time, but he leaves me indoors when using antifreeze. Cats like to prowl around finding what they can and could easily sneak under a vehicle getting into any spilled antifreeze. Symptoms of antifreeze poisoning are your pet may appear confused, vomiting, depression, increased thirst and urination, sores appearing in the mouth, and lethargy. Should you suspect any poisoning, contact the veterinarian immediately or the 24/7 Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661. Their website is <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/>.

Paws, never shave your pet's fur to the skin in the winter months. Longer coats provide warmth. Barkingly, if your dog is long-haired, more than loving classical music, that is, trim the hair enough to minimize ice, salt crystals, and de-icing chemicals irritating their skin. Don't neglect the hairs between their toes. Paws, avoid bathing your pet as often during the cold months. Bathing can remove essential oils from the pet's fur. If you must bathe, ask your veterinarian about moisturizing shampoos.

Pawing about walking, a danger for dogs is the chemicals many humans use to de-ice roads, driveways, and sidewalks. These chemicals can be toxic and pawssibly fatal if ingested. As you walk, keep an eye out for them and rock salt. If you can't avoid an area treated with chemicals, stop and wipe clean your dog's paws, legs, and chest after getting past them. Carrying a towel with you is a great way to wipe off any chem-

icals. This helps avoid problems later. Once home, do a thorough cleaning for ice and chemicals. Woof.

The extra work to keep warm, especially after being outside, makes me a bit hungrier in the colder months. Woofs, a little extra food in the bowls will help keep the energy up. Paws, make sure they have pawlenty of water too.

Noah, Samson, and I have our dog/cat beds, blankets, and pillows which provide us a pawlace to keep warm. We are off the floor, so we aren't bothered by drafts. We ask our humans to supply us with good shows on TV, good books or magazines to read, some favorite delicious treats, and water to enjoy warming up! Woofs!

BARKS! Never let your dog off-leash during a snow storm. Dogs can lose their scent in the winter and become lost. More dogs get lost in the winter than in any other season. Keep your dog leashed and make pawsitively certain ID tags, collars, and microchips are up-to-date.

Keeping these tips in mind will help keep the winter weather safer.

About us!

WOOF! MEOW! Do you enjoy our articles? Barks and purrs, pawlease follow us at www.fromthedogspaw.com by email to enjoy our adventures! Noah, Samson, and Abby are pawthors pawing about dog/cat care tips using facts and humor, and entertaining stories about their lives with humans. Our human, Allen Pearson, is a dog, nature, and railroad photographer and Writer. Find us all at: www.fromthedogspaw.com, www.instagram.com/fromthedogspaw, www.facebook.com/fromthedogspaw.

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Art News

Night Sky Photography Learn how to use a wide-angle lens and tripod to make long-exposure, starry nightscapes and landscapes from the boardwalk. 6 p.m. January 7. Cost is \$40. Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3JDlw7x>.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood Based on Charles Dickens’ final unfinished novel, this hilarious whodunit invites the audience to solve its mystery by choosing the identity of the murderer. 8 p.m. January 7 and 8. 2 p.m. January 9. Cost is \$30. Workhouse Performing Arts W-3 Theater, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3zkDvMk>.

Urban Forestry Sarah Hood Salomon uses traditional printing methods and conceptual photographic sculptures to illustrate the challenges faced by urban trees. This exhibit explores the complex coexistence of humans and the natural environment. Through January 8 in the Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3sdtRtK>.

Workhouse Glass National 2021 is an exhibition highlighting the depth and breadth of contemporary functional and sculptural glass artworks being created throughout the country. Through January 9 with competition reception January 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Vulcan Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3IT8L9R>.

Second Saturday Art Walk More than 60 resident visual artists are onsite to speak about their work throughout the artist buildings. 6 to 9 p.m. January 8. Free. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3eLOfAm>.

Improvicon will feature hosts, Sarah Akers and Star Bobatoon, The Pundemics, Home Improv Mints, (the) Unruly Theatre Project and Calamity Improv. 7 p.m. January 8. Tickets are \$15 to \$20. Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3qK5Uro>.

Michael Clem Birthday Show Current and founding member of Eddie from Ohio takes the stage for this near annual tradition going back to 2006. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. January 8. Show is at 8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$20. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3zkFRe8>.

Band Battle Prelims Bands use this event to launch their career. First round of this event takes place January 9, 12, 16 and 19. Tickets are \$10 to \$20. Doors open at 6 p.m. Show is at 7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3mKC1pR>.

U2Topia A range of music from the early 80s to present day performed in this U2 tribute. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Show is at 8 p.m. January 13. Tickets are \$10. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. For more information <https://bit.ly/3Htds8H>.

Pandemic Physiognomy is a solo exhibition by Syahidah Osman whose work is an intimate peek into the struggles of juggling motherhood, work demands and the current social challenges in the western world. Through January 30. Free. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/32b5npH>.

Curious Creatures: Animal Portraits Pamela Day’s solo exhibition captures the personality of animals she portrays through etching and monoprint. Her inspiration comes from her photos taken at farms, zoos parks and home. Through January 30. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/32cOIC8>.

Traveling While Black Virtual Reality the immersion of 360° footage draws viewers into living history lessons told around a booth in Ben’s Chili Bowl. Through February 12 with the exception of county holidays. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3EoGaXa>.

Outsider Art Inside Lorton is a collaboration with the Lucy Burns Museum and features the work of inmate “outsider artists” with nor formal training or schooling. Some artwork was created in prison sanctioned programs. Fridays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Through February 28. Lucy Burns Museum, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. For more information <https://bit.ly/3IZaf28>.

Community Information

Wildlife Walk Look and listen for seasonally active wildlife like birds, frogs, turtles, dragonflies, and muskrats. Touch biofacts like turtle shells and snakeskin. 3:30 p.m. January 7. Cost is \$9. Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3pMIQdB>.

Klondike Campfire Cookout Prepare a winter meal with your family using centuries-old colonial and indigenous cooking techniques around the campfire. 3 p.m. January 8. Cost is \$15. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3qKb1Yy>.

Tasting Teas for Winter Health Sample a variety of the best teas and herbal infusions to boost immunity and cure the winter blues. Learn about their medicinal properties. 10 a.m. January 8. Cost is \$25. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/32AmGkV>.

Campfire Night Hike Enjoy a night hike to learn about nocturnal hunters. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes and try to catch a glimpse of them in the forest. 4 p.m. January 8. Cost is \$8. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Rd., Chantilly. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/31jbsR7>.

Fishing Workshop Participants will learn how to tie different knots for different types of lures, lines and applications. 10 a.m. January 9. Cost is \$8. Lake Accotink, 7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3EP5Qvo>.

Intro to Telescopes This course covers introductory basics of astronomy, observing the sky, and what you need to know to set up and use your telescope. 7:30 p.m. January 11. Cost is \$11. Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Rd., Great Falls. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3FNBM4B>.

Celebrate Uttarayan/ Makar Sankranti is the Hindu festival dedicated to the Surya, the Sun God. In Gujarat, the festival is also known as the kite festival, as people of all backgrounds take to rooftops and fill the sky with colorful kites or patang. Virtual. 6 p.m. January 13. Cost is \$5 to \$7. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/31jxmUd>.

ONGOING Ice Skating through February 22 at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3ELI1hC>. Or multiple dates at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3elfTnR>.

Winter Lights Enjoy the serenity of winter lights in McLean Central Park through mid January. Free. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3yv0PH2>.

Free Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange Do you love putting together jigsaw puzzles? Bring a puzzle and take a puzzle. Through January 8. Call the library for hours and holiday closings. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Dr., Alexandria. For more information call 703-971-0010.

Virtual Mental Help Events and Support Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia holds a variety of free online events and support groups each week. Meet new friends, stay healthy and fit, participate in art therapy and more. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/3vokjut>.

Help Children in Need through volunteer work with Assistance League. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/305C3ge>.

Volunteer Fairfax has volunteer opportunities and donation needs. Please visit <https://bit.ly/3b169oZ> for more information.

HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo



TONY RIZZO

Candid shot of Paul Newman

those who'd stand still for a picture and pose.

"Take it on the run," is what you always say ... so I do, and a blur is what I throw away.

Mrs. Newman's often difficult too. "Posing," she says, "I never do!"

"I'm a wife and a mother," she always replies, and that always draws a couple of sighs.

As a wife and a mother, she should get off the stage, why can't she be nice, like Geraldine Page?

She's a wife and a mother, just like her, at least she stands still so I don't get a blur.

I followed you to your garage last week and heard you speak ... "Did it ever occur to you it might embarrass me?"

But it's part of fame, Mr.

Newman, don't you see. In all the time you take saying what you won't do, I could have taken 10 snaps of you.

Why can't you have that old fashioned vice, instead of being disagreeable, try being nice.

That night I ran after his car, and after saying, "Great poem, you're a great poet," he finally posed, and that photo accompanies this story.

The next week, I encountered Joanne Woodward at Oscar rehearsals. "Don't I know you from New York?" she asked.

"Yes, I gave you the poem at Sardi's."

"We loved it," she said, "hung it in our basement and show it to all our friends!" Wonder if my poem will be in the book?

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WORKHORSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

scenarios, the director said.

"In addition to being terrific musicians and actors the cast members have to be able to improvise and work with an audience and bring their own 'spice' and nuttiness to their performance," Stapula said. "As a director, I made sure the actors understood the freedom they had to add life to the many options they are presented with and only gave them enough blocking and direction so they understood how to get into and out of the many different scenarios."

Amanda Mason plays Edwin Drood, the nephew of John Jasper and the soon-to-be husband of Rosa Bud. She describes Drood as "a confident and self-assured man who commands the attention of everyone in the room." Although he can be ignorant and dismissive of others, he tries desperately to make his personal mark on the world and push himself towards greatness.

"Edwin Drood is a trouser role, meaning that a female actress portrays a man on stage," she said. "Male impersonation performance was common throughout the music halls of Victorian England and continues to be utilized in many operas even today. I definitely had to be more aware of my physicality as Drood, specifically with my hand motions and overall posture, but it is so much fun to do."

In fact, Mason called the show one of her favorites and unlike any she's done before.

"It follows a play within a play format with actors playing various roles throughout," she said. "The hilariously quick-witted dialogue and colorful cast of characters makes this show so special and truly a joy to perform. This musical is also extremely varied with songs ranging from dramatic ballads to upbeat patter songs at the drop of a hat."

Most significantly, however, the interactive nature of the show brings an exciting and unique energy to the stage.

"The audience is very much an integral part of the production, and we ultimately break the fourth wall, so to speak, for most of the show," Mason said. "But I personally think our cast is the biggest highlight of all. Not only is everyone extremely talented and

hard-working, there is a high level of trust and support towards one another. I am unbelievably grateful for everyone's dedication and enthusiasm with this production."

Kaley Harman plays Rosa Budd, a character who holds a lot of the plot together through her connections.

"She has been betrothed to Edwin Drood since she was a baby pretty much, and it's interesting playing her because it's an ingénue role that has a lot of growth," she said. "From the beginning of the show when she sings 'Moonfall,' she is seeing new things and experiencing new things and once Edwin is presumed dead, you can see she is much more jaded with the world."

Each actor plays more than one role and it's a zany mix of characters that bring lots of fun.

"The audience is not blind; they know they will be voting on the ending of the show and they get to vote on not only the murderer but other things as well," Harman said. "It allows the show to be fresh each night and it's all just good fun."

For tickets or more information, visit www.workhousearts.org

SKAGGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

again, and we hadn't played in about a year and a half," Skaggs said. "People were so excited to hear live music again, they were jumping out of their skin. That's what we've seen all this past year—the excitement of people who were ready to get out of their houses."

Of course, Skaggs noted it's just as special for him and the band, if not more so. Having been doing this for more than 50 years, this was one of the rare times when the 67-year-old has spent more time at home than he did on the road.

"The one great thing that came from it is that for [my wife] Shannon and I, this is the longest we've ever got to be together in 40 years of marriage," he said. "We both have toured a great deal and have been gone a lot,

so this has been great to spend time together."

Still, he is glad to be back and invites people to come celebrate the new year with one of the most fun bands out there today.

"If you want to have a great time and have some fun, this is an enjoyable night out for sure," Skaggs said. "The Birchmere is usually our first show of each new year, and it's a great way to kick off 2022."

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Business Development Manager sought by Project Supply Solutions co. (Chantilly, VA) with exp. in all of the following: (i) overseeing operational activities, including supply chain, purchasing, warehousing, and administrative systems, and implementing process improvement initiatives to optimize operations, (ii) building and maintaining relationship with end-customer, sales and retail team, supply chain/logistics team, and vendor/manufacturer and serve as liaison between teams to ensure functionality in all aspects, and (iii) in management of whole business cycle from strategy, definition to execution in the fields of electrical equipment manufacturing for power generation and Oil&Gas, and services on the industry and water management, as well as to increase sales and profitability, and return on investment for company shareholders through the represented brands. Business related Bachelor's + 6M exp. in the job duties. No travel or lang. fluency req. Please send resumes postal mail only to: Luis Jose Hernandez, CEO, GROF USA Distributors Inc., 3656 Centerville Dr, Suite 7 & 8, Chantilly, VA 20151.

Software Engineer(s)
Nodal Exchange LLC seeks Software Engineer(s) in Tysons Corner, VA - Design, develop, implement & manage modules of Nodal Exchange's fully featured commodities trading platform. Email CV to blair@nodalexchange.com, reference job code T3042-00112. E.O.E.

Technical Program Manager (Digital Intelligence Systems, LLC (DISYS)/ McLean, VA. Dev new prdcts, manage complt soft dev lifecycle to dev cmplx & innovative digi & cloud-based prdcts & features, incl mobile apps, for fin svcs ind. Req: Bach deg in Comp Sci, Soft Eng'g, Comp Eng'g, or other IT-related Eng'g field + 5 yrs' prog. post-baccalaureate exp in job offered or a rtd occup; dev exp using JIRA, MS Proj, Amazon Web Svcs (AWS); exp designing, delivering & maintaining high volume enterprise apps d/b's w/ agile methodology; exp migrating microservices to pltfms & exp configuring & tuning App WebLogic servers; exp implmntg CI/CD pipelines to merge w/ CDP pltfms & micro service monitoring in kubernetes clusters on CDP; exp designing automation architecture using GG, JavaScript, Angular JS, REST API/SOAP, DMaaS, LOOM/ELK, Grafana, InfluxDB; & knowl in Java, TCP/IP & Diameter Protocol, SQL Oracle, Scripting, & Python. Must be willing to work at var unanticipated work locations throughout U.S. Submit resumes via <https://careers.disys.com/>, srch job code "DISYS-014."

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Legal Notice

TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **Historic District Review Board** of the Town of Herndon will hold a work session on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon and a public hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following item:

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING ALTERATIONS, HDRB #21-015, to consider an application for façade alterations to the commercial building located at 681 Spring Street, Herndon, Virginia, in the northwest corner of the intersection of Locust Street and Spring Street, and further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0162-02-0082. The property is zoned as zoned CC; Central Commercial and consists of 26,641 total square feet of land. Owner: Kjurram Afzal, 681 Spring Street LLC. Applicant: Farshad Ferdowsi, EMSI Engineering Inc.

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website www.herndon-va.gov beginning December 31, 2021 after 3:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above item are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to hdrb.arb@herndon-va.gov

The Town of Herndon supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, so that they may participate in services, programs, or activities, offered by the Town. Please call (703) 435-6804 to arrange for any accommodation that may be necessary to allow for participation.

Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish on December 31, 2021 and January 7, 2022

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish on December 31, 2021 and January 7, 2022

Legal Notice

TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **Town Council** of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, will hold a work session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room, located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, and a public hearing on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following item:

Resolution, to consider Special Exception application **SE #21-03, 1315 and 1317 Monroe Street**, to allow the placement of fill in order to construct two new single-family dwellings on two existing single-family lots within the FPO, Floodplain Overlay District. The project proposal is to demolish the existing single-family dwelling and construct a new single-family dwelling on 1317 Monroe Street and construct a new single-family dwelling on 1315 Monroe Street. The total area of both lots is approximately 1.06 acres. The property is zoned R-10, Single-Family Residential district, and is designated in the Comprehensive Plan as "Neighborhood Conservation." The property is located at the northwest corner of the Monroe Street and Grant Street intersection. Fairfax County Tax Map Numbers 0102 02 0001B and 0102 02 0001C. Agent: Anwar Maharmeh, P.E. MTES Engineering Services. Applicant/Owners: Dina Abdel-Hamid and David Hawa.

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website www.herndon-va.gov beginning at 3:00 p.m. on **Friday**, prior to the meeting.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above item are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to town.clerk@herndon-va.gov

The Town of Herndon supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, so that they may participate in services, programs, or activities, offered by the Town. Please call (703) 435-6804 to arrange for any accommodation that may be necessary to allow for participation.

Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish on January 7, 2022, and January 14, 2022

Legal Notice

TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **Town Council** of the Town of Herndon, Virginia, will hold a work session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room, located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon, and a public hearing on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building, located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following item:

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Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish on January 7, 2022, and January 14, 2022

Call Marcia Patch
703-904-1004

TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **Architectural Review Board** of the of the Town of Herndon will hold a work session on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon Police Department Community Room, located at 397 Herndon Parkway, Herndon and a public hearing on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon Council Chambers Building located at 765 Lynn Street, Herndon on the following item:

APPLICATION FOR SIGNAGE, ARB #21-028, to consider an application for an exterior wall sign located at 251 Exchange Place, Herndon, Virginia and further identified as Fairfax County Tax Map 0164 10 0001C. The site is located in the north-west quadrant of the cul-de-sac on Exchange Place, and approximately 720 feet north of the intersection of Exchange Place and Herndon Parkway. This property is zoned as O & LI, Office & Light Industrial District, and consists of 158,158 square feet of land. Owner: Christopher Howard, *Pool5 Industrial VA, LLC*. Applicant: Mike Ross, Beanstalk, Inc.

The proposed item is available for review by the public on the town's website www.herndon-va.gov beginning December 31, 2021 after 3:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to participate in the town's public hearing process. Individuals having an interest in the above item are invited to attend the public hearing and to state their opinions. Individuals may submit comments to hdrb.arb@herndon-va.gov

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Viki L. Wellershaus, Town Clerk

Note to Publisher:
Publish on December 31, 2021 and January 7, 2022

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Public Safety Menace
Property: 917 Uterback Store Road., Great Falls, VA 22066, Tax Map Parcel ID # 0073 01 0032
Condition: Tree is in danger of falling that might endanger the safety of the public.

Required action to eliminate condition that constitutes a public safety menace: Removal of the tree.

Fairfax County Chapter 46 authorizes the removal of a public safety menace at the owners expense, after notifying the owner by certified mail and by a notice published once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation with the County when the owner fails to take the required action. The owner has a right to request a hearing. The request for a hearing shall be in writing to the Director of Health, Fairfax County Health Department, 10777 Main Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

Failure to contact the Director of Health by (date 28 days after first publication) or correct the Condition, the Health Department will order the condition eliminated and any costs or expenses that remain unpaid shall constitute a lien against the property.

[(Full name(s) of owner(s))]:
BBQChicken Herndon LLC

Trading as:
BBQ Chicken & Beer
2338 Woodland Crossing Dr Ste A
Herndon, Fairfax County, VA 20171-5881

The above establishment is applying to the **VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY** for a **Wine & Beer On Premises / Mixed Beverage Restaurant** license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Young Kim, Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

3009059 (12-31-21, 01-07-22)

[(Full name(s) of owner(s))]:
UD Family Enterprise, Inc

Trading as:
54 Restaurant
6795 Springfield Mall
Springfield, Virginia 22150-1719

The above establishment is applying to the **VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY** for a **Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Mixed Beverage Restaurant (over 150) license** to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Dong W. Shin, President / Un Y. Cho, Vice President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

3009072 (12-31-21, 01-07-22)