

Burke CONNECTION

In Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of *The Arabian Nights*, Elspeth Ripley, 14, as Dunyazade and Elena Dominquez, 18, as Scheherezade serve Shahryar, portrayed by Tony Talcott, 14.

Supervisors
Endorse
Advertised
Budget

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'Arabian Nights' at Lake Braddock

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APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2012

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Is Her Beautiful Smile Good Genes, Or Does She Have A Secret?

A smile so natural, only her dentist knows for sure.



Empowered

Eating her favorite foods, free to travel and live the life she wants. Not afraid to laugh or get close to the ones she loves. Many peers have missing or failing teeth, some even have dentures. How does she do it?

Odds Against Us

Virtually every adult will lose a tooth in their lifetime. For many, the suffering doesn't stop there. As we age, factors ranging from poor oral health to heredity often bring about accelerated tooth loss – so much so that the average American will lose 4 or more teeth by the time they reach 50 years of age.

Traditional Remedies

Historically, alternatives to failing teeth often involved a lifetime of glues, creams and adhesives and often were accompanied by discomfort and changes in appearance – meaning the options for treating missing or failing teeth could do little to alleviate the physical and emotional discomfort of tooth loss.

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Dental Implants are now considered a "Standard of Care" when replacing missing teeth and are often a better treatment option than conventional dental crowns, bridges, partial and full dentures. Dental Implants have been proven to be a more successful long term option when compared to these more traditional approaches. The appeal of dental implants is very simple: implants look and perform like natural teeth and fit precisely without the need for adhesives. They are permanent and cared for just like natural teeth and restore one's natural smile.

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Consider this:

MYTH: Tooth loss affects a relatively small group of people.

FACT: By the age of 50, the average American is missing 4 or more teeth.

MYTH: Tooth loss is almost always a result of poor oral hygiene.

FACT: Oral hygiene is important, but genetics and age are significant drivers of tooth loss.

MYTH: Dental problems caused by gum disease and tooth loss resolve themselves quickly.

FACT: Most dental problems do not "self-resolve" and usually become worse with time.

MYTH: Dentures are the only option for those dealing with tooth loss.

FACT: Dental implants look and feel like your natural teeth and are a modern alternative to dentures.

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So Did She or Didn't She?

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ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers are locally owned and operated by licensed local dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists and restorative dentists across the U.S. *Qualified patients can have their procedure in one day after initial workup without additional bone graft surgery. Results may vary in individual cases. Limited services available at satellite offices. †Independent Dental Implant Survey March 2011. America's #1 Choice determined by an Independent Patient Survey 2011.

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Anthony H. Griffin stands with his wife, Lucy, while the audience gives him a standing ovation for his 12 years as county executive on April 24, before the board of supervisor's budget meeting. Griffin served as the county's administrative leader since 2000, the second-longest tenure since the position was created in 1952. "I enter the next phase of my life with mixed emotions. I am excited but uncertain about my future, and I will miss continuing in my current capacity," Griffin said when he announced his retirement last year. "Fairfax County is a great community and a great organization."



Supervisors Endorse Advertised Budget

Highlights include restored funding for human services, libraries, employee pay.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

"Morning has broken, like the first morning..." Cat Stevens sang it in his 1971 hit, and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova used it to sum up the board's 8-2 vote, endorsing the advertised 2013 budget during the April 24 budget session.

All seven Democrats on the board, and Republican Michael Frey (Sully), endorsed County Executive Anthony Griffin's \$6.7 billion advertised budget, which means a \$1.075 real estate tax rate, a \$0.02 storm water tax rate and a \$79 increase in the tax bill of the average county homeowner this year.

"Today, while not entirely out of the woods, we are beginning to see evidence of a recovery, a slow and sluggish recovery, but a recovery nonetheless," Bulova said. "Hopefully, we are beginning to see the dawn of a new day."

Bulova listed signs of a recovery, including:

- ❖ uptick in land-use applications,
- ❖ strengthening commercial leasing and building activity,
- ❖ projected increase in revenue growth at 3.56 percent,
- ❖ increasing home sales and declining foreclosures.

"This is quite a contrast from four years ago when we adopted a budget to the backdrop of what is now known as the 'The Great Recession'," Bulova said.

BUT NOT EVERYONE was singing the same sunny tune.

Republican Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herrity (Springfield) voted against the budget. Herrity, who recently underwent successful heart surgery, said the budget doesn't reflect the "new normal," and does "nothing to plan for the future."

"I cannot support this budget because it raises the tax rate at a time when our homeowners are still

struggling," Herrity said in a statement. "It continues to fund things that should not be on our priority list such as \$40 million for government subsidized affordable housing for people making up to \$120,000 per year."

Herrity has been a strident critic of the county Housing Blueprint, which lays out strategies for a variety of affordable housing options - from workforce housing to housing the homeless.

"(His) comments were like a broken record," Bulova said. "Something Pat does is roll workforce into affordable housing, and he can make it sound like we're spending money from the budget on people who are well-heeled, and that is just not correct."

Bulova said the county does not subsidize workforce housing, but encourages developers, through incentives such as increased density, to provide affordable housing for young professionals and others who want to live and work in Fairfax County.

Cook said there were many positives in the budget, but transportation was the sticking point for him.

"Our own County staff tells us we need \$3 billion over the next decade to meet our transportation needs. State and Federal governments will not provide it," Cook said.

Cook said that despite increased county spending, "not a penny of those additional funds will support transportation infrastructure."

"We have to bring programmatic expenses down, so we have funding to complete critical infrastructure projects. You can't just always keep adding on to the top, you've got to go back and reprioritize," Cook said.

He said he was disappointed the board did not adopt his proposal to transfer the county's vehicle registration fee - which provides about \$24 million per year - from the general fund to transportation projects.

"Board members have said that setting aside some money for transportation would mean there would be less funding available for other things. Yes, that's called setting priorities," Cook said.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) pointed out that Cook and Herrity "are always saying they are for things like human services and raises for our employees but they don't agree to pay for them. It seems

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 7

Coming In from The Cold

Fairfax County hosts meeting on shelters' concerns.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County officials met with about 75 representatives from churches and other houses of worship Sunday, April 22, to address rumors and concerns that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter - and shut out many homeless residents - because of fire code violations.

Held at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke, the information session was hosted by county staff, elected officials and nonprofit partners. Panelists included Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS; Kerri Wilson, executive director of Reston Interfaith and Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who called Sunday's meeting.

"In some cases, it might be as simple as a installing a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector," she said.

Currently, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless residents during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has been a longtime advocate for the county's homeless population, said she wants to see the county maintain a partnership with the faith community in a safe environment.

"But the more critical issue is how will we eliminate or reduce hyperthermia without the needed housing? Our faith partners are looking to us to do the heavy lifting by providing the housing so they can support the county by serving the clients," Hudgins said.

Sunday's meeting was prompted by concerns from some church leaders that they would be forced to shut down

their programs due to fire code violations.

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program.

"Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Last week, Bulova said four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire codes, not 18, and stressed Fairfax County's longstanding support of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in an email announcing Sunday's session.

"I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who attended Sunday's meeting and met with faith representatives last week, said part of the concern was that some churches heard they were on the list (for code violations), but didn't know why.

"There was a real interest in churches to counter the rumor mill," Cook said. "The meeting was a good step in that regard."

Cook said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have encountered similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions. Tensions arise because each jurisdiction has some discretion when interpreting the codes.

"Everyone has to take deep breath, and recognize that we have to work through a process," Cook said.

"Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety," Bulova said.



Masrur Hossain and his wife, Anannya, sign-up for a silent auction item while attending the annual City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening at the Sherwood Community Center. Hossain works for Cardinal Bank, which was a Platinum Benefactor for the fundraising event.



Former City of Fairfax Mayor John Mason presents a gift to retiring George Mason University President Alan Merten and his wife, Sally, at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The Mertens were honorary co-chairs for the event, to honor their service to the Fairfax community and for the arts.

Fairfax Celebrates Arts

City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball attracts hundreds.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Sherwood Center on Friday, April 20 to attend the 2nd Annual Mayor's Ball, and to celebrate the opening of the 27th year of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Guests enjoyed a champagne reception and silent auction before a dinner accompanied by musical vignettes performed by students from the Fairfax Academy for Communications and Arts, Mason Opera and George Mason Department of Music. Guests also danced until midnight to the jazzy sounds of the Fairfax Swing Band.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards assisting local students to study arts related programs at George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College.

The 27th annual Spotlight on the Arts festival, which is dedicated to promoting local artists, will run until May 12. For more information on Spotlight, call 703 352-ARTS or visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org to view complete schedule with dates and times of events.

Highlights of the festival include:

- ❖ A premiere performance of Disney's "Winnie the Pooh" by Acting for Young People at the Sherwood Center
- ❖ "Forever Young" Art Exhibit at Adam Lister Gallery
- ❖ "SWING! SWING! SWING!" a Sherwood Center performance featuring swing music by the Woodson High School Jazz Band, as well as Tom and Debra of Gottaswing
- ❖ A Spring Arts Festival at Truro Church
- ❖ An FX Players (Fairfax High School) production of "Sweeney Todd," a Woodson Players (Woodson High School) production of "Alice in Wonderland" and a PVI Players (Paul VI High School) production of "Hello, Dolly!"
- ❖ "Wild Side Art Show" (The 2012 Earth Exhibit of Student Artwork) at City Hall, a display sponsored by the City of Fairfax Environmental Sustainability Committee and Twins Ace Hardware
- ❖ "Tea with Celtic Baroque" with the Sior-Óg Celtic music ensemble at Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center
- ❖ The 6th Annual Bluegrass Festival at Auld Shebeen

—VICTORIA ROSS



Jeanie Winslow, and his wife, Wendy, peruses the available items up during the silent auction at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The event is held each year to raise funds for the arts in Fairfax.



Fairfax Mayor Roger Lederer mingles with guests during the annual City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening at the Sherwood Community Center.



Daxx Wieser and Kaitlin Nelson perform a selection from the hit musical, A Chorus Line, at the City of Fairfax Mayor's Ball on Friday evening. The two are students at the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts.



After having performed a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan's H.M.S Pinafore at the Fairfax Mayor's Ball, members of Mason Opera are high-fived by Dennis and Becky McNaughton of Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY
ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION

WEEK IN BURKE

Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale

Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale will be Friday, May 4, from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. at Burke Nursery & Garden Center, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Rain or shine.

There are two ways to support the team: pre-purchase \$10 certificates from a rower, or visit www.robinsoncrew.com and print out a flyer to bring with you. This flyer and your purchase will benefit the Robinson Crew Team (a non-funded Fairfax County sport).

The entire Nursery inventory is available for purchase.

Have a Crime to Report? There's an App for That!

Fairfax County Crime Solvers has provided an anonymous tip line for the public to report crime since 1979. In 2008 they introduced secure text and email capabilities. They are now proud to promote a new smartphone app to further the public's ability to report crimes anonymously.

The free app, TipSubmit, is the first app of its kind and works on both the iPhone and Android phones. It allows the public to anonymously submit tips to police through their local Crime Solvers program. This mobile app works with the existing TipSoft software already utilized by Fairfax County Crime Solvers for their text and email tips. However, the app offers even more because it has the ability to use GPS to auto-locate the nearest Crime Solvers program or law enforcement agency. Users may also

manually select a location for their tip. Tipsters may include photos and videos with their tips.

In Virginia, tipsters and their information are protected under state law when their information is reported to a certified Crime Solvers program. (15.2-1713.1) For the tipster that fears retaliation, this state law is essential. It allows the tipster to communicate through a Crime Solvers program and still maintain their anonymity. As with the text and email capabilities, this app continues to promote that two-way communication, allowing real-time chat between the tipster and program.

Smart phone users are encouraged to download this free app and use it when you have information on a crime or a wanted person. For additional information on this new app, please visit <http://tipsoft.com/index.asp?P=TipSubmitMobile>

For crimes occurring in Fairfax County, tipsters may continue to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail tips at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637).

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes – including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

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are well
cultivated,
not as they
are fertile,
but as they
are free.

—Baron de
Montesquieu

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THE CONNECTION

OPINION

Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage

VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service last Saturday, April 22, “for exhaustive coverage of homelessness in the newspaper’s circulation area.” The award was announced in Roanoke at the press association’s annual convention.

The public service entries were judged by Robert Giles, former editor and publisher of The Detroit News and the immediate past curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Giles wrote of the Connection coverage: “Its stories gave voice to the homeless. Its stories effectively portrayed the plight of the poor living in tents and other makeshift shelters. It reported on how poverty and homelessness affects children. It examined the causes of homelessness and explained why people don’t have a place to live even when some have a job. It reported on the role of government and groups that advocate for the poor.

WINNING ENTRIES, CONNECTION, CENTRE VIEW

See a complete list of winners on page 14

❖ Virginia Press Association 2011 Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service

❖ Michael O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, 1st Place, Fairfax Connection, Multimedia Feature Report, An End to Homelessness, Judges comments: Wow. This is an amazing endeavor. The print and digital components complement each other nicely, although I would have liked to see some aggressive promotion of digital from print. The video and photo gallery provide nice layers to the overall storytelling. The webpage featuring your original coverage will be an excellent home to keep following this important topic. Well-done.

❖ Alex McVeigh, 1st Place, Great Falls Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Education Writing, Judges Comments: What the judges really appreciate about Bonnie’s stories is that each one is a unique, interesting and very readable story that makes the sometimes dry subject of education coverage appealing to readers. Much more than the “school board did this and the school board did that” type stories that so many newspapers publish, not to say that this coverage is not important. Bonnie’s work really made us want to read it. Good job, and congratulations.

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Feature Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: These entries were fantastic. Great writing style really makes these unique stories shine. Nicely packaged final product. Well done!

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, Online Slideshow, Wounded Warriors at Bat

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, General News Photo, Warm Welcome, Judges comments: I love how every subject in this photo is engaged into a mo-

It provided extensive lists of community organizations with missions to help the poor and homeless, and told how individuals could volunteer.

“It invited knowledgeable citizens to contribute guest editorials that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness.”

EDITORIAL

The online component of the homeless project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O’Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy.

The Connection Newspapers group, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and environmental writing; in-depth or investigative

ment. Wonderful.

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st Place, Burke Connection, Photo-Illustration, Vampire Feast, Judges comments: The intensity in the model’s face combined with the high contrast photo make this a dynamic illustration for a story about vampires.

❖ Victoria Ross, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Jon Roetman, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Sports Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: This entry exhibits solid sports reporting, plain and simple. The completeness of these stories is the name of the game here. The reporter demonstrates versatility, switching from feature to news writing within the articles themselves, giving the reader the whole story.

❖ Jeanne Theismann, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Feature Story Writing, 10th Anniversary of 9-11, Judges comments: Good job of writing about the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 — many stories were written, this was one of the better ones. Nice work.

❖ Louise Krafft, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Picture Story or Essay, Graduation Day in the Mount Vernon District, Judges comments: Good variety of a regular event in the community.

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Business and Financial Writing

❖ Lashawn Avery-Simon, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, General News Photo, ribbon cutting at park, Judges comments: great expression and tight composition

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Judges comments: Excellent writing. Diverse topics. Took what could be dry material and led me through it and kept me interested. Good work.

❖ Marilyn Campbell, 2nd Place, Great Falls Connection, Personal Service Writing, Beating the Holiday Blues, Great

Read the Winners

Many of the winning entries are posted at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/

reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won individual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of “wounded warriors at bat,” and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature portfolio. Alex McVeigh won first place for in depth or investigative reporting for his coverage of a land use issue in Great Falls. Montie Martin won two first place awards, one for business writing, the other for personal service writing.

The Children’s Connection won an award and judges said it was a “simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.”

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

WWW.TWITTER.COM/MARYKIMM

American Smokeout, Getting into ‘Right Fit’ Private School; Judges comments: Trio of strong entries.

❖ Mike O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions, End to Homelessness, Judges comments: “End to Homelessness” tab. It is nice to see a newspaper commit to a project such as this in the form of a special tab.

❖ Julia O’Donoghue, 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Education Writing W2W06 31912 Judges comments: Very nice variety in these stories, again, like the first place winner, going much deeper into the multitude of possibilities available in coverage of education and schools.

❖ Kenny Lourie, longtime columnist and Connection advertising representative, won two 1st place awards from the Maryland Delaware DC Press Association, one for local column and one for sports column. Lourie has been writing about his odyssey with Stage IV lung cancer, and the judges noted: “Writer chooses tough subject, his own mortality, and handles it quite well. He gives us an honest look at a very personal issue.”

❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla, 3rd place, Reston Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions W2M08 30698, Children’s Connection, Judges comments: Simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.

❖ Victoria Ross, 3rd place, Fairfax Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Mary Kimm, 3rd Place, Burke Connection, Editorial Writing, Judges comments: Mary Kimm’s columns are strong, particularly the one taking to task a school board on its disciplinary procedures in light of a student’s suicide. The community is better for her work.

❖ Michael Pope, 3rd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting



Victoria Ross



Deb Cobb



Jon Roetman



Jeanne Theismann



Alex McVeigh



Robbie Hammer



Louise Krafft



Michael Lee Pope



Lashawn Avery-Simon



Marilyn Campbell



Julia O'Donoghue



Kenny Lourie



Kemal Kurspahic



Laurence Foong



Amna Rehmatulla



Mary Kimm

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NEWS

County Budget Endorsed

FROM PAGE 3

to me they are for everything and willing to pay for nothing.”

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS include:

For the first time since 2009, county employees are poised to receive a 2.5 percent merit increase on top of the proposed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment at a cost of about \$16.5 million.

“They deserve a raise,” said Foust. “Their cooperation over the past couple of really tough years has enabled us to avoid draconian service cuts without increasing the tax burden.”

The board also voted to move forward to restore funding for an array of human services programs at an added cost of \$1.36 million, including \$275,000 for the Department of Family Services Rent Relief Program; \$100,000 for the Adult Dental Program and \$300,000 for the Home Based Care program.

In addition, the advertised budget funds the board’s Housing Blueprint for the acquisition of 200 new housing units and \$1.3 million for the county’s portion of the Housing Blueprint Community Challenge.

The board set aside a \$4.2 million reserve to address critical state and federal reduction to the Community Services Board, which oversees the Infant and Toddler Connection and programs for intellectually-disabled adults, the homeless, and other vulnerable residents

The County’s award-winning libraries also received funding support in the amount of \$674,359.

Noting that the libraries have “taken an inordinate hit” in the past few years, Bulova said the budget will restore nine hours each week at the county’s regional libraries, and three hours each week at the county’s community libraries. In addition, the budget includes funding 14 part-time positions to meet staffing needs at community libraries.

Although Fairfax County Public Schools initially requested an 8 percent increase in funding from fiscal year 2012, the board maintained the advertised transfer of a 4.5 percent increase over fiscal year 2012. The general fund transfer for school operations and debt service totals \$1.85 billion and represents 52.2 percent of the county’s total FY 2013 budget.

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NEWS



A collage of some of the animals who were or still are at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

PHOTO BY MARY O'MALLEY

Fundraiser Planned for Animal Shelter

Wine-tasting event is May 5.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is a place of refuge for animals needing care. They often arrive ill or injured, and many have been abused, neglected or abandoned.

With limited funds, the shelter can't pay for the care of each animal needs. But it has a guardian angel in the nonprofit Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS). Since 2006, this organization has raised money to fund things the shelter can't.

But to be able to keep making donations, FFCAS must continue raising money. So on Saturday, May 5, from 6:30-9 p.m., it's holding a wine- and beer-tasting event at Total Wine & More in the Greenbriar Shopping Center on Route 50 in Chantilly.

Called "Wine, Whiskers, Wags & Beer," it's \$35/person, and each attendee will taste five different wines and five different beers, enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and receive souvenir wine and beer glasses adorned with the FFCAS logo. Anyone wanting to attend

should sign up at www.ffcas.org.

"Last year we raised almost \$10,000 at this event," said FFCAS President Evelyn Grieve. "So this time, we hope to exceed that amount." People who can't come, but would like to help out, may contribute on the Web site.

The fun includes a silent auction for a wide variety of items, including golf outings for four at the Twin Lakes and Westfield golf courses; tickets to GMU men's basketball games; a jersey signed by the whole Washington Capitals team; four tickets to a Washington Nationals game, plus a baseball signed by a player; and baskets full of wine.

Also auctioned off will be a three-night stay and spa bath treatment for an animal at Old Town Pet Resort; a gift basket from Great Harvest Bread Co.; free pet wash at the Vienna Pet Spa; a plant or gift certificate from Merrifield Garden Center; and merchandise and gift cards from other, local merchants, as well.

All funds raised by the all-volunteer FFCAS go to the shelter, so the more money it receives from this event, the better it will be able to help the shelter care for its animals. And it receives all kinds. Although the majority of them are dogs and cats, the facility takes in

SEE PARTY, PAGE 9

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Party for a Cause

FROM PAGE 8

practically any potential pet imaginable, such as birds, turtles, chinchillas and hamsters.

"People drop off potbellied pigs, porcupines, horses, chickens, mice, rats, snakes, iguanas – anything," said Grieve. "It's really amazing. Sometimes, people just leave them outside the door, so they do their best to place them somewhere else. One man dropped off 30-40 rabbits all at once."

Shelter Director Karen Diviney notifies FFCAS when an animal with special needs comes in and, if the group can help, it does. People don't want to adopt animals needing surgery; but, often, it's needed to save an animal's life.

"Outside of the normal care, a lot of these animals won't have a second chance," said Grieve. "If they need immediate or extensive surgeries, the shelter can't afford to pay for them. They're only budgeted for so many surgeries, but they get so many animals."

The shelter handles more than 4,000 animals a year. In 2011, it gave veterinary treatment to more than 150 animals with special needs. These included Baby, a boxer-pit bull mix needing complicated spay surgery, and Jake, a Shiba Inu who was operated on after being hit by a car. And, said Grieve, "We just chipped in for hip-replacement surgery for a dog named Chevy."

LAST YEAR, FFCAS raised \$45,000 total for the shelter. Part went toward caring for the 160 cats and kittens the shelter received from a November 2010 hoarding case in Annandale. Some also went toward a program FFCAS started with Clocktower – a veterinarian office focusing on neonatal care – to provide specialized care for neonatal kittens.

The group also buys cages and supplies for the shelter's feral cats spay and neuter program. And now, it wants to hire a dog trainer.

"One of the big things we're trying to do is fund a behavior-modification program for the dogs coming into the shelter to help them become more socialized," said Grieve.

FFCAS also supports the shelter's foster program. Through it, underage and sick dogs, cats and other companion animals are sent to volunteer, foster-care providers to be cared for until they're mature and healthy enough to be returned to the shelter for adoption.

So with all these responsibilities, Grieve's hoping for a good turnout for the wine- and beer-tasking event.

Anyone wishing to donate to FFCAS may do so at the website, or by sending checks payable to the organization to: FFCAS, P.O. Box 2321, Centreville, VA 20122.

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Burke Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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‘Arabian Nights’ at Lake Braddock

Lake Braddock students perform culturally-rich classic.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Don't expect Disney's "Aladdin" in Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of "The Arabian Nights."

The costumes are lavish; the set is striking; and, yes, there are even belly dancers. But this performance of "The Arabian Nights" relies less on cartoonish cultural stereotypes and more on a multi-layered interpretation of Arabic culture.

Director R. L. Mirabal said the 40 students in the performance were enthused about the chance to explore a culture of peace and tolerance that "has often been incorrectly labeled as violent and evil."

"This production of 'The Arabian Nights' is motivated by a desire to balance the truth of the Arabic culture with the image that is sometimes depicted by our current society," Mirabal said.

"The Arabian Nights" is a classic collection of Middle Eastern and South Asian folk tales collected over centuries by various Islamic authors, scholars and translators. First performed in English in 1706, the work usually includes the ruler Shahryar, from Persian meaning "sovereign," and his wife, Scheherazade, meaning "of noble lineage."

"The Arabian Nights" stories are framed within other tales – stories within stories. Some contain only a few hundred nights, while others include 1,001 or more. "I like the framework of this play. It's more like the film 'Inception,' with a lot of unusual aspects and layers," said senior Elena Dominguez, 18, who plays Scheherazade, the beautiful heroine who is sentenced to die at sunrise.

When the play begins, Scheherazade is desperate to devise a plan to escape her fate. She regales her captor, Shahryar (played by freshman Tony Talcott, 14) with tales of romance, heroism, comedy and betrayal all night long. By cleverly leaving Shahryar in suspense at the end of each evening, Scheherazade is able to win a reprieve for another day.

The question is, can she continue her enchanting stories for 1,001 nights to save herself?

"I think there's something for everyone in this play. There's comedy, dancing, singing... It's magical and fantastic," Dominguez said.

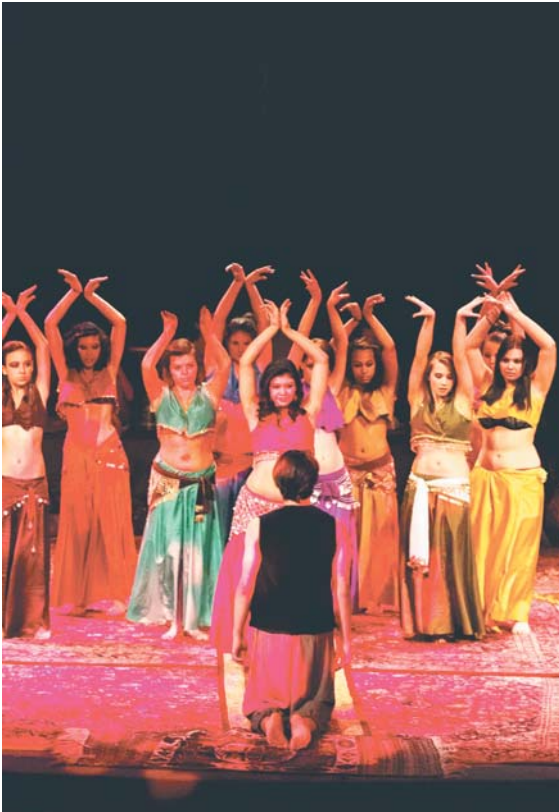


PHOTOS BY DAVID MASSARIK

Where and When

Showtimes are Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke.

Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.lbtheatre.com or \$11 at the door.



In Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of The Arabian Nights, the belly dancers are punishing the Madman because he scorned Perfect Love, the lead dancer. (Perfect Love is played by Sarah Fick and the Madman by Nick Edwards.)

In Lake Braddock Secondary School's production of The Arabian Nights, Elspeth Ripley, 14, as Dunyazade and Elena Dominquez, 18, as Scheherazade plead with captor Shahryar, portrayed by Tony Talcott, 14 to spare Scheherazade's life.



Elspeth Ripley, 14, as Dunyazade is comforted by Scheherazade (Elena Dominguez) in Lake Braddock Secondary School's performance of The Arabian Nights.

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

BC Friends Membership Meeting. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. With Robert Dorr, author of Mission to Berlin. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

"Arabian Nights." 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$11. lbtheatre.com or 703-426-1070.

Singer/Songwriter John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Bonita Lestina Performance Series: The Nickel Trio. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Contemporary to classical with flute, horn and piano. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

"Sweeney Todd." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Moose on the Loose! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about moose. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Friday Friend's Book Club. 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson. Age 8-12. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

"Arabian Nights." 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$11. lbtheatre.com or 703-426-1070.

Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Breakfast. 8 a.m. Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Honor volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County and finding new ways to serve. www.volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3816.

"Alice in Wonderland." 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. ASL-interpreted performance. \$5-\$10. 703-503-4759 or wtwdrama.org.

Concert Pianist Joyce Yang. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Including pieces by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

"Sweeney Todd." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Children's Show: The Smithsonian and Jammin Java present Tim and the Space Cadets. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Vance Gilbert at 7 p.m.; **Aaron Crawford** and **The Badcards** at 10



The Fairfax Fine Art Festival will be on April 28 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and April 29 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax, with a wide variety of painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, digital artists, glass, fiber and ceramic, mixed-media, metal and wood workers and more. Free admission. www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax.

p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Fine Art Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, digital artists, glass, fiber and ceramic, mixed-media, metal and wood workers and more. Free admission. www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax.

Run for the Children10K Race and 3K Run/Walk. 8:30 a.m. Fairfax County Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax. ChronoTrack timing and scoring. Proceeds support CASA volunteers advocating for abused and neglected children. \$20-\$35. www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com.

"Alice in Wonderland." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. \$5-\$10. 703-503-4759 or wtwdrama.org.

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

"Arabian Nights." 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$11. lbtheatre.com or 703-426-1070.

Little Sprouts Workshops: Teaching Kids the Love of Gardening. 10 a.m. Burke Nursery & Garden Centre, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Hands-on experience for ages 4-7. Free. Pre-registration is required at burke9401@aol.com or 703-323-1188.

Folk Duo The Nields. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Traditional folk music. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

Container Gardening Workshop. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Rd., Fairfax Station. Bring a container or purchase one. Potting soil, fertilizer, and design advice provided. Free. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

"Sweeney Todd." 2 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Children's Show: The Great Zucchini. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Fine Art Festival. 11 a.m.-5

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Fairfax County Public Schools: Visual and Performing Arts

Coming Next Month: Summer Activities and Programs

The Power of Art

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"If I Were a Rich Man," *Fiddler on the Roof*

A catchy show tune, a mesmerizing photograph, stunning computer graphics, a stirring orchestra rendition, an eloquent pencil drawing, or the graceful movements of a modern dance performance – each has the power to move audiences and transport them to a moment in time.

This Just In:

Fifteen Fairfax County Public School students received national medals for their entries in the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Students in grades K through 6 receive music and art instruction taught by certified art teachers. Middle school and high school students may choose to enroll in a variety of elective course offerings in all fine arts disciplines to include dance, music, theatre, and visual art. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) art classes are offered for students in grades 11 – 12.

Art engages students in a process that helps them develop the self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self motivation necessary for success in life.

"Art making involves critical thinking and problem solving to create a product," said Aaron Stratton, art education specialist at FCPS. "In this sense, art is an authentic approach to providing students with essential skills they will need in the 21st century to

develop creative solutions to challenges. Creativity and problem solving are essential components of innovation which will feed the economy and industries of the future."

Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Stratton. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."



Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to be become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at www.fcps.edu and click on the blue Events tab.



Getting To Know Us:

Herndon High School Theatre Teacher
Zoë Dillard

Zoë Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's

here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," said Dillard. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic design skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting."

"I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are seniors, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."

Did You Know?

More than 33,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-12 school year:

- Visual art – 12,400
- Music – 12,600
- Theatre – 2,600
- Dance – 200

Cappies: Award-Winning Performances



For those who would rather critique than perform, the Cappies, or Critics and Awards Program, is designed for high school theatre and journalism students who are trained as theatre critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish the reviews in local newspapers and online. The international program was launched by FCPS in 1999.

Each spring, Cappies critics nominate actors and technicians for Cappies awards, which are presented, along with awards for critics, at the annual Cappies Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Cappies Gala showcases the amazing artistic talents of our high school students," said Judy Bowns, co-founder of Cappies and theatre arts and dance specialist at FCPS. "Student actors, backstage technicians, singers, dancers, and musicians are honored with a Cappie by their peers who acknowledge this excellence by their votes. It's the only student theatre awards program that is student-driven with no awards decided by adults."

The gala draws more than 2,000 theatre students and their families. For more information visit www.cappies.com.



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A Life Story to Share

Retired Fairfax psychiatrist publishes memoir to help abuse victims.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

Each time Lisi Mayer would sit down to write a novel, she noticed she began writing about herself around page 50 or 60. After discarding these writing attempts, she thought, "Why don't I just start with myself and then go from there?" So began her journey to share her life story in a memoir titled, *Spirit's Path: A Story of Three Women*.

A Fairfax resident and retired psychiatrist, Mayer recounts the rape and sexual abuse she endured as a young girl both in Austria and in the United States. "I was a little girl who had to keep a bad secret that nobody wanted to talk about," she describes. "I wanted to tell the world and I wanted to touch people who were having similar or had similar experiences in their lives."

She also relates the tragedies she experienced many years after the abuse ended, when she lost her first husband to heart disease and her daughter Thais to acute lymphocytic leukemia. "I know many people have lost loved ones to cancer and what a miserable experience that is for everybody," says Mayer, who found that writing about her painful memories was therapeutic. "I guess I'm encouraging other people to come out and talk about what's going on in their lives that they find very painful or difficult to deal with."

The book is a "story of three women" as she describes her path from events in Austria to the United States to Korea.

SPIRIT'S PATH is a very detailed, tender account of Mayer's life, drawing material from the writer's vast memory and journals and other notes she's kept. The reader experiences acutely the lost innocence of Karla in post-World War II Austria. "This was a very chaotic time in Austria after World War II," Mayer describes.

In the midst of this chaos, Mayer's parents divorced and her mother remarried, to a Ukrainian refugee who had been forced to serve in the German army. On the day of her mother's wedding to her stepfather, Mayer was raped.

Her aunt attempted to bring the perpetrator to justice. Witness accounts claimed the eight-year-old girl had seduced the much older



Author Lisi Mayer, who also goes by Elizabeth Yoon, found writing her memoir helped her to heal and hopes it will encourage other abuse victims.

man and the case was dropped. So, too, was any further discussion about the violent crime.

Mayer began the process of trying to understand why this had happened to her, without any insight or support from the adults in her life. She believes at that time in Austria children were still seen as adults, with the same feelings and capabilities.

Mayer remembers, "From the beginning I was made to feel that this was something that was my responsibility ... That's a horrible thing to carry through life, to think that you're this evil person."

Mayer was later violated by two other males, including repeated sexual abuse from her stepfather. Mayer shares the perspective of a child throughout these experiences, as the character Karla navigates through a momentous move to the United States and additional life changes. Mayer also injects her adult understanding of the events, drawing from her background as a psychiatrist, as well as her spirituality.

"I felt I gained a lot of spiritual backbone through that suffering and through the perspective," Mayer said. "I think suffering is the greatest teacher that I have found in my life."

Mayer survived the years of abuse and paid her way through University of Nebraska Medical School. She attributes her resiliency to several factors. "Even though my mother was so wayward in many of her ways, I always felt a very strong love for [her]," remarks Mayer. "I think that was very important for me, my whole life, even though these things happened and my mother

abandoned me, I still always loved her."

Mayer also emphasizes another reason she survived her abuse: the internal faith she has always had, despite never attending church or any other religious services with

SEE ABUSE, PAGE 17

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❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

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❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Public Safety Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Montie Martin



Deb Cobb

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❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, *Fairfax Connection*

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❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, *Potomac Almanac*

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❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Lashawn Avery-Simon**, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Arlington Connection*

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SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Fairfax Connection*



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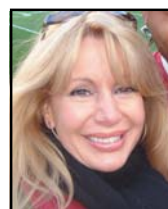
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LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION



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❖ **Carole Dell**, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

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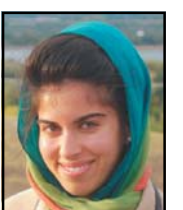
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Abuse Exposed

FROM PAGE 13
her family.

"I really felt this pull that I needed to find this higher power," she remembers.

The memoir goes on to describe Mayer's adult life, through Karla, and how her intuition helped her traverse the challenges of marriage, work, and parenthood. She was grateful that an inner directive encouraged her to move from a private practice in California to Lynchburg, Va., to serve as clinical director for the Virginia Baptist Hospital Child and Adolescent unit.

While she loved living in California and still dreams of one day returning, she knows she wouldn't have had the support system there when her daughter Thais became ill. Prior to her first husband Malcolm's death, she was able to support the family with her job in Lynchburg. This allowed him to quit his own job and attend a graduate program at the University of Virginia.

IN THE BOOK, Mayer also relates her relationship with her son

Talbot as well as her second marriage to Dr. Albert Yoon, also a psychiatrist. Soon after their wedding, Mayer visited his family in South Korea. Without knowing any Korean, she found herself warmly embraced by his relatives and enchanted by their culture.

Mayer is glad that today the reaction to abuse is very different from what she experienced. "I think times have changed tremendously in one sense. If a child is raped...that would go to court, there would be a punishment, there's no doubt about that and now a child would be availed of services, people to talk to about it. The parents would be much more with it and understanding than was the case when I lived in Austria."

Mayer, who also goes by Elizabeth Yoon, enjoys life in Fairfax with her husband who is semi-retired. Her days are filled with writing, reading, and meditating. She continues to learn new things, as she explores piano-playing, Korean, and healthy cooking. Aside from novels, she also enjoys writing poetry and is working on a



Cover of Spirit's Path.

couple of children's books. She hopes Spirit's Path will "encourage [others] to not feel that [abuse] is something they have to hide. I think it is something we have to open up much more in our society for healing to take place. As long as it's like a bad secret that nobody wants to deal with or talk about then it has a lot of power that it shouldn't have."

To learn more, visit Mayer's blog at lisimayer.authorsxpress.com.

Spirit's Path is available for purchase at Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

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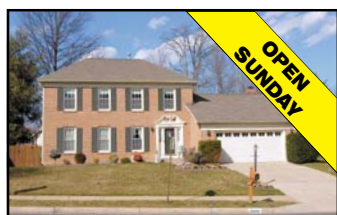


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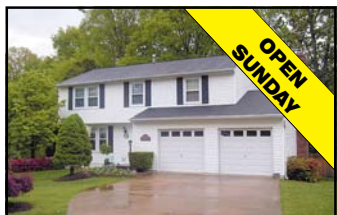
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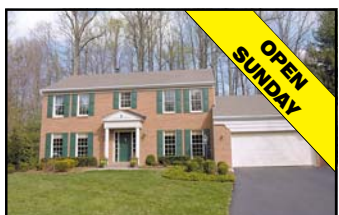
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Northern Region Well Represented at Capital Classic

Oakton's Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield senior Logan Battle isn't accustomed to beginning a basketball game on the bench. The 6-foot-1 Spartan standout earned a scholarship to Georgetown by making plays on the court from the opening tip. But during the first game of the 39th Annual Capital Classic, a public school matchup between the Virginia All-Stars and the Maryland All-Stars, she started with a seat on the sideline.

That didn't stop Battle from having her usual game-changing impact.

Battle came off the bench to score 12 points and earn game MVP honors as Virginia cruised to a 74-49 victory on April 21 at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. After a slow start by both squads, Virginia's second unit of Battle, West Springfield teammate April Robinson (Duquesne), Forest Park's Lexi Carpenter (Dayton), Stafford's Merritt Hempe (Georgia) and Fairfax's Liz



West Springfield senior Logan Battle won game MVP honors as the Virginia All-Stars defeated the Maryland All-Stars 74-49 during the 39th Annual Capital Classic on April 21 at T.C. Williams.

McNaughton (UMBC) sparked an 11-2 first-quarter run as the Commonwealth gradually pulled away.

"Sitting on the bench starting out gives me a chance to see how the other team plays and get a feel for what I'm supposed to be doing," Battle said. "...We've all seen each



Fairfax senior Liz McNaughton scored three points as the Virginia All-Stars defeated the Maryland All-Stars 74-49 on April 21 at T.C. Williams.

other play [and] played with each other during AAU or in other all-star games before. When we got on the court, we worked well together [because] none of us are selfish."

Each team had limited practice time prior to the contest, which tipped off the four-

game all-star event, but Robinson said the girls meshed well together on the floor.

"Everyone has the same goal and dream," she said. "We're just playing basketball."

FRED PRIESTER, who led Oakton to an undefeated season and the 2012 state championship, coached the Virginia All-Stars.

"There's always a little edge there," Priester said of the inter-state matchup. "We in the Virginia suburbs think we play pretty good ball, they think they play pretty good ball, so there's a little bit of bragging rights there."

Oakton's Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad, playing their final high school game before suiting up for Villanova.

"It was a little bittersweet," Katherine Coyer said. "It was definitely great to get to represent Oakton High School one more time. Of course, it's sad that this is the last time we're going to be putting on these shorts and playing to represent Oakton, [but] even going forward, this isn't something we're going to forget."

T.C. Williams senior Gaby Moss, who will play at Georgia State, scored nine points on her home floor. Robinson scored six points, Edison's Ruth Sherrill (Hofstra) finished with five and McNaughton had three.

In the other girls' game, the Prep-Private All-Stars defeated the Interhigh All-Stars 76-67. Bishop O'Connell's Nicole Carty scored three points for the Prep-Private team.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson Boys' Soccer Eyeing Big Games Ahead

Rams are 6-2 with games this week at Oakton and Woodson.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Through eight games, the Robinson Rams boys' soccer team has proven to be one of the more impressive teams in the Northern Region with a 6-2 overall record. But several big games lie ahead for the Concorde District team and there is still plenty to prove.

"So far, we are having a good season," said Robinson coach Jac Cicala. "We do have some nice wins but we have some really huge games remaining which will be key in preparation for the district tournament."

Robinson, 2-0 in district play, was scheduled to play road games on back-to-back nights this week - a district contest at Oakton on Thursday, April 26, and a non-district game versus W.T. Woodson (Patriot District) on Friday, April 27. Both games are scheduled for 7.

Woodson is undefeated and Oakton is also a ranked team in the metropolitan area

so the Rams will have a challenging week. But with just a handful of games remaining in the regular season before the start of the district tournament in the third week of May, Robinson will be aiming for the best possible seeding as possible for districts.

Thus far, the Rams have district wins over Chantilly, 4-0 at home on April 10; and Westfield, 5-0 at home on April 16. District contests with Centreville, Oakton, and Herndon remain, as well as non-district contests with Woodson and Washington-Lee.

TO BEGIN THE SEASON Robinson won its first three games - all at home and all by 3-0 scores over Lake Braddock (Patriot District) on March 19, Stone Bridge (Liberty District) on March 21, and First Colonial from Virginia Beach on March 23.

The team lost its next game on March 27 by a 1-0 score to local rival and visitor West Springfield (Patriot District). But the Rams came back two days later with a 2-1 win at South County (Patriot District) to put them at 4-1 on the season.

Following spring break, Robinson opened its district schedule with Chantilly at home on April 10, winning by the 4-0 score. A 2-1 non-district loss at Mount Vernon High (National District) followed on April 13.

But Robinson beat Westfield decisively in its following game to improve to 6-2.

Particularly strong play for the Rams up front this season has come from senior strikers Ryan Harmouche and Mikael Belay. The midfield play of junior Andrew Osiecki, senior co-captain Sam Yardley, and junior Ben Ferrell has been steady and solid. And in the back, defenders Evan Christian, a junior, senior Kyle Groth, and senior co-captain Alex Streitmater has been quite strong. In the net, senior Joshua Penn has done a good job.

Robinson has outscored its opponents 21-4 overall over its eight regular season games. The two goals allowed versus Mount Vernon was the lone occasion in which the Rams allowed more than one in a game.

Robinson will look to continue and even improve on its stellar play as the regular season winds down and the postseason looms ahead with districts and then the 16-team Northern Region tourney showcase.

"My expectation for the team is to make the regional tournament and get as far as we can," said Coach Cicala. "There are some very good teams in the region this year. It is a wide open field so hopefully we can make our way through the gauntlet."

SPORTS NOTES

More than **625 girls' lacrosse players** from the region will take the field for the postseason showcase wearing the same 'pink' attire, unified in their support for the breast cancer awareness cause. All of the players will be wearing pink hair wraps, pink ribbon shoe laces, and pink ribbon pins.

The multi-site, multi-team, near simultaneous effort is the first of its kind and one in which the Northern Region Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association hopes will become an annual event.

Fundraising for this year's district tournaments was left to each team. In the future, possible unified fundraising is under discussion as well as expanding the tournament by joining together with the 30 boys' lacrosse teams of the Northern Region.

This week's **Northern Region Top 10** Baseball Coach's Poll is as follows: Lake Braddock of the Patriot District remains at the No. 1 position, with a trio of Concorde District clubs - No. 2 Centreville, No. 3 Chantilly, and the No. 4 Herndon Hornets - following. The five through seven slots are filled by teams from the Liberty District with the McLean Highlanders at No. 5, the Madison Warhawks No. 6, and the Stone Bridge Bulldogs No. 7. The next two teams in the poll are defending Northern Region champion South County (Patriot District) at No. 8 and Oakton (Concorde District) at No. 9. Two teams, Langley High (Liberty District) and Westfield (Concorde) are tied for the No. 10 position. Other teams receiving votes were: W.T. Woodson, West Springfield, Robinson, and Marshall.

I ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA



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¹INCLUDES TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE W/12K MILES PER YEAR. EXAMPLE CAMRY L. ²0% APR FOR 60-MONTH TERM ON SELECT NEW TOYOTA PRIUS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. UP TO \$1,000 CUSTOMER CASH AVAILABLE WHEN FINANCED THROUGH TFS. ³BASED ON KELLEY BLUE BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. ⁴0% APR FOR A LIMITED TIME ON SELECT NEW TOYOTAS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$379 DEALER DOC FEE. ⁵WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. [†]FROM DATE OF TCUV PURCHASE. ^{††}WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THRU TFS. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. ^{*}WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE. COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE. PLAN IS FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET, OR A DELIVERY OR TAXI VEHICLE. SEE PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER FOR DETAILS. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 4/30/2012.

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703-425-8000



Springfield **\$689,000**
Beautiful colonial in sought after neighborhood of Glenwood Manor. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, baths, hardwood floors and carpeting. Additional undeveloped bonus room, walkout basement, underground utilities, situated on a wonderful cul-de-sac.
Pep Bauman 703-314-7055



Chantilly **\$719,000**
Beautiful 4 BR, 3.5 BA home with two story foyer, cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace, 1st floor MBR suite, open floor plan, spectacular in-ground pool.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Fairfax **\$489,000**
Lovely 4BR/3BA split level with cathedral ceilings has newly updated kitchen with granite & breakfast bar, family room addition with walkout to deck & fenced backyard. The expanded master suite addition includes new bathroom & two walk-in closets. New carpet and freshly painted with decorator touches! Walk to Metrobus, shopping, Royal Lake/Lakeside Park, and community swimming pool!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax Station **\$739,900**
Elegant 5,100 SF Kendall model. 5 BR, 4.5 BA, updated kitchen with rich cherry cabinets & granite counters. Library with built-ins. Tall ceilings, palladian windows, hardwood floors. Finished basement with in-law suite.
Dave Billups
Virginia Clark Billups
703-690-1795



Clifton **\$1,497,000**
Stunning all-brick colonial sited on beautiful 5 acres in sought after Wyckland offers 3 fin levels, 5 BRs, 3 full & 3 half BAs, 5 Fireplaces, 4 car garage & in-ground pool. A private guest house includes full Kit, Office/Den/Fam Rm, 2 Bonus Rms, full BA, closet space & laundry!
Carol Hermendorfer 703-216-4949



Herndon **\$290,000**
Move In Ready
This 3 Level, 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA TH features Country Kitchen, with eating area and ample counter space, SGD to yard backing to trees. New carpet & paint.
Barbara Nowak
703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte
703-309-8948



Warrenton **\$599,900**
DC Side on 1.4 acres. Picturesque setting for this gracious colonial with over 4500 square finished space. Classic center hall with hardwood floors, first floor library, glorious sunroom and so much more! Finished lower level with walkout to decking and gazebo. Large workshop and kennel with electricity.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Clifton **\$749,900**
Clifton Charm at Its Finest! Wonderful colonial on private, wooded 1.5 acres is loaded with outstanding updates! Gorgeous 4 season room and expansive deck, renovated kitchen, remodeled bath, & sparkling hardwoods are just a few of the gems this home beholds! For more information go to www.Hermendorfer.com
Carol Hermendorfer 703-503-1812



Falls Church **\$465,000**
Totally Renovated. This lovely 4 BR, 2 BA Cape Cod has been renovated top to bottom. UL finished w/2 BR's and full BA. New Kit w/SS appli, new cabinets and heated ceramic floor. And much more!
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Springfield **\$780,000**
Superb design lets you live on just one level or enjoy all 3 finished lvls! Grand foyer, beautiful hdwd flrs, 2 story family room w/fireplace, gourmet kitchen w/tons of granite countertops, breakfast room, large formal dining room & living room PLUS spacious master suite w/luxury bath on main level. Upper level features 3 BRs & 2 BAs and lower level is finished w/huge recreation room, large den/office and full bath plus tons of storage! 2 car side loan garage plus beautifully landscaped lot with trees! Just minutes to 195, metro, Ft. Belvoir, and shopping.
Pam Boe 703-503-1888



Lake Anna **\$639,000**
Lake Anna Waterfront. 2400+ Sq ft Rambler. Water views from both sides! 140' waterfrontage. 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Vaulted Family Room. Open to the Living Room, Dining Room & Breakfast Room. Large Deck, Summer Cabin and Boathouse. 2 car Garage & Carport.
David Lewis 703-980-3090



Fairfax Station **\$1,275,000**
This impressive custom home sits on five level, manicured acres w/great views. The gourmet kitchen, great room, covered porch, balcony, deck & pool create a resort environment for entertaining. With over 7000 sqft of well thought-out living space, the home offers 6 bedrooms including a main level bedroom, 6 full baths, a circular driveway and a 3-car garage.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$599,000**
Beautiful 4BR/3.5BA center hall Colonial in sought after Kings Park West. Renovated kitchen with 42" cabinets, granite, stainless appliances, and two pantries. Expanded Master Bath, walkout finished lower level, new windows, carpet, paint and more! Plus, screen porch & deck overlooking quiet wooded wonderland. Close to community schools & pool, GMU, & shopping!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Burke **\$274,000**
This attractive Townhome is nestled on a richly wooded lot. Home features 3 BRs, 1 1/2 Baths, New Glass Slider steps you out to a private Patio to enjoy your morning coffee. New Carpeting, New Vanity in half bath, and much more.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895
Mary FitzHenry 703-503-1825



Gainesville **\$525,000**
Enjoy 55+ lifestyle in Heritage Hunt with activities, golf, pools, trails. 3 bedroom, 3 bath with finished lower level. Exceptional water view & one block to golf & clubhouse. See photos & other 55+ community listings at www.marylroche.com.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Woodbridge **\$307,000**
Lovely and spacious 3 level TH that boasts a view of the Occoquan River!! Spacious bump outs on all 3 levels. Large Kitchen w/o to deck. Glamour bath off MBR. Cozy finished LL Rec Room w fireplace that w/o to fenced backyard.
Cyndy Patrick
703-851-7198



Burke **\$575,000**
Peaceful setting awaits you with classic colonial on cul de sac with pond views. An oasis from your busy days. Renovated kitchen adjoins family room. Walk-out basement to patio. Enjoy summer in screen porch w/skylights & ceiling fan. Beauty of nature prevails in Burke Center paths near home. Pool & rec centers waiting for your summer fun.
Beth Jones 703-503-1869



Fairfax City **\$489,900**
Charming expanded Cape Cod in historic neighborhood. Lovingly maintained with original features on fantastic 1/2 acre lot. Convenient to George Mason University, major transportation routes, shopping, schools, and restaurants.
Betsy Rutkowski 703-503-1478



Lake Ridge **\$269,900**
Enjoy fantastic water views in this classic, distinctive townhome located in the Lake Ridge neighborhood of Woodbridge and backing to Lake Occoquan. This 3 BR, 2 FB, 2 HB townhouse boasts an open floor plan and an abundance of windows! Move-in ready with fresh paint and new carpet!
Cyndee Julian
703-201-5834



Fairfax **\$899,000**
Beautiful Carrington model in Hampton Forest. 5 huge BRs, 2 story foyer, curved stairway, crown & chair moldings, wood floors, additional formal living & dining rooms w/library & loft to enjoy for all. Huge basement w/professional built-in bar perfect for entertaining walking out to paved patio. BBQ on the trex deck and enjoy company in the trex gazebo. 2 car garage w/plenty of additional parking on driveway. Close to major routes 166, FFX County Parkway, Braddock Rd & Lee Highway. Lacks nothing but you. Join me at my Open House, 4/28 1-4pm and Welcome home!
Kinder Saund 202-369-5597

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