

Jarrell Leads Woodson Field Hockey

SPORTS, PAGE 17

Woodson junior Kelly Stegner scored a career-high three goals against Hayfield during the "Under the Lights" tournament on Aug. 25 at Lee High School.

911's 'Complete Failure'

NEWS, PAGE 8

'Senior Prank' Filmed in Area

NEWS, PAGE 10

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Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and daughter Leann, 5, lead dignitaries in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance during the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 28. (From left) Del. Vivian Watts (D-39); Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large); Fairfax County School Board Representative Tammy Kaufax; Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield); Sen. George Barker (D-39); and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8).



PHOTOS BY ALAN GOLDSTEIN

Drum Roll, Please

11th Annual Springfield BridgeWalk celebrates community support of Fort Belvoir's soldiers.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

For a few minutes on Tuesday Night, the only sound on Veteran's Bridge in downtown Springfield was the rhythmic drum roll and piercing call of the fife as the Ft. Belvoir Fife and Drum Corps led a contingent of soldiers, civic leaders and community participants across the bridge in the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk.

"To me this walk symbolizes the renewal of the relationship we have with the Springfield community," said Col. Gregory Gadson, who became the new garrison commander of Fort Belvoir in June, which houses 46,000 soldiers, civilians and their families.

IN 2007, while serving in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Gadson lost both of his legs when he was injured by a car bomb. He also served during Operation Desert Storm, as well as in Bosnia and Afghanistan.

Before becoming the leader of Fort Belvoir, Gadson served as the director of the Army's Wounded Warrior Program. "My faith, my family and my friends got me through this. My faith has allowed me to expect things I can't explain," Gadson said.

Gadson, a 20-year Army veteran who has been awarded three Bronze Star medals and a Purple Heart, joined Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and other community leaders in signing the Army Community Covenant, which affirms the community's support for the Armed Forces.

McKay, who hosts the annual Lee District event, read the covenant to the crowd of about 150 people gathered on the grounds of Springfield's American Legion Post 176 after the ceremony:

"We the community, recognize..."

*The commitment soldiers and their families are making every day.

*The strength of soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

*The strength of families is supported by the strength of the community.

*The strength of the community comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders and its citizens."

"The evening's bridge walk is especially significant to all of us because we are honoring our good friends from Fort Belvoir by renewing the Army Community Covenant," McKay said.

"We grew up together, and it's a special relationship the community has with Fort Belvoir," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large).

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) told the crowd that the significance of the event "hit home" for him after attending the funeral earlier in the day of United States Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Ryan Jeschke of Herndon.

"It's especially meaningful for me to be here tonight to renew this covenant and honor the sacrifice and commitment of our young men and women who serve every day in our military," Herrity said.

Other dignitaries who made brief remarks included U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), Sen. George Barker (D-39), Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), and Fairfax County School Board Representative Tammy Kaufax.

THE EVENT included patriotic music from the Kings Park

Concert Band, light refreshments and door prizes. But the focus of the evening was clearly on Gadson, who received cheers and handshakes from hundreds of community leaders and residents.

Nicole Carrello, a sixth-grader at Crestwood Elementary School, attended the event with her parents and grandparents. She said her uncle served in Iraq.

Her father, Santiago Carrello, said he attended the event to show his "support for our troops."

"It's important to support soldiers like Col. Gadson," Carrello said. "Look what he sacrificed for us."

"It's an honor for me to be here and talk to people in the community," Gadson said. "It's wonderful to feel the community's support, because that means everything to the men and women in uniform who are fighting."



The Fort Belvoir Color Guard and the Fife and Drum Corp led participants on a march across Veterans Bridge during the 11th annual Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 28. Participants included members of Springfield's American Legion Post 176, VFW Post 7327, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Belvoir Motor Cycle Department and the Buffalo Solders Motor Cycle Club.



The Veteran's Memorial at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

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**THE CONNECTION
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NEWS

Feedback Sought on Emergency Communications

**Fairfax County online
survey now available.**

After filing a report last week with the Federal Communications Commission on Verizon's 911 outages, Fairfax County officials are looking at how to improve their own communications during emergencies.

The county wants to know how it can better communicate with residents and businesses in a disaster like a derecho, hurricane or terrorist attack. Officials are seeking feedback in a short, online survey.

"We're asking for every resident to provide input, as well as business owners," said David McKernan, coordinator of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. "It's important for us as emergency planners to learn how this storm affected our

residents, businesses and infrastructure so that we can implement corrective measures and plans for a better response for future storms."

To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fairfaxemergencyinfo>. This survey is part of the county's official review of its response to the July 2012 derecho.

However, this storm is not the last time that the county could experience widespread, long-lasting power outages.

Hurricane season lasts until Nov. 30 in the Washington, D.C. area, and forecasts calls for five to eight hurricanes in the Atlantic this year. It's not only the Gulf Coast that's at risk, officials say. In 2003, Hurricane Isabel left thousands in the area without power and water for days.

—VICTORIA ROSS

Football Stadiums Sport Banners Against Underage Drinking

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high school football stadiums will sport new banners this fall encouraging parents and adults in the community to report underage drinking parties to the police. The banners, donated by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC), are a part of the UPC's Parents Who Host, Lose the Most education campaign.

While there has been a decline in reported alcohol use by high school seniors from 2005 to 2010, the 2010-11 Fairfax County Youth Survey showed that 36.5 percent of high school seniors report they have used alcohol in the past 30 days and 20.5 percent reporting binge drinking during the past two weeks.

The main message of the campaign encourages parents and adults to support alcohol-free events and

to report parties with suspected underage drinking to police. Parents and adults may call 703-691-2131; these calls can be anonymous.

Each FCPS high school has received a banner for its football stadium and gym, as well as Parents Who Host (PWH) fact cards about underage drinking laws with tips for parents for distribution at parent events, PWH posters for school offices frequented by parents, a poster on risks of underage drinking for posting in student areas, and a print advertisement for homecoming and football programs and for school and booster club websites.

The nonprofit UPC partners with more than 50 community organizations to prevent violence, alcohol, and other drug use by youth and young adults.

SCHOOL NOTES

Fairfax residents **Cara Bialek** and **David Hixon** have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

Austin Lee has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon

Academy. He is the son of Leah Lee of Fairfax and Seung Kyu of Arlington.

Brittney Ransdell has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. She is the daughter of Denise Ralls of Fairfax.

Nathan Warren of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 honor roll at Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, Ct.


Paul Anthony Polanski of Fairfax has earned a bachelor of science from Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y.

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**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**





PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left, Julie Clemente of McLean is a member of the First Lady's Initiatives Team Efforts (FLITE); Heidi Murkoff is the author of the best-selling "What to Expect" pregnancy and parenting series of books, website resources and apps; Jamilia Shipman, executive director of Operations for Operation Homefront DC Metro and local meteorologist Kim Martucci, who did the honors as the emcee.

Baby Shower for Military Moms

Virginia's First Lady, FLITE and Operation Homefront host the event at Waterford in Springfield.

It started with a phone call 28 weeks ago. What happened inbetween—the planning, the coordination, the logistics, the marshalling of personnel and resources, and just a lot of hard work—would have made a Pentagon strategist proud. It's a fitting analogy since the recipients of all this effort were more than 100 expectant and new military moms, representing all branches of military service, who attended a very special group baby shower at The Waterford in Springfield on Aug. 21.

The phone call was from first lady of Virginia Maureen McDonnell to Julie Clemente of McLean. When not absorbed in her role as the president of the Friends of Clemmyjontri Park in McLean, Clemente is often to be found involved in activities as a member of the First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort (FLITE). FLITE is Mrs. McDonnell's answer to her husband the governor's inaugural address call to pursue "A Commonwealth of Opportunity." One hundred women from across the state belong to FLITE, working to identity programs, activities, individuals and organizations that demonstrate exemplary achievement within the first lady's four key focus areas and providing assistance and support for their efforts. One of those focus areas targets military families, seeking ways to give back to those who serve and those who support.

"Of course you say 'Yes!' when the first lady of Virginia is on the line!" said Clemente when describing how the baby shower was conceived. "Especially when she's asking you to help in such a worthwhile effort."

The next step for Clemente was contacting Operation Homefront's DC Metro Chapter. Chapter co-founder and President Vivian Dietrich was delighted to co-host. The group has experience organizing military baby showers and gladly accepted the assignment.

Clemente and Dietrich then took things to the next level. Clemente contacted her friends, Heidi and Erik

Murkoff. Heidi is the creator of the best-selling "What to Expect" pregnancy, birth and parenting series and website that began with the book "What To Expect When You're Expecting." Hoping to receive a few signed copies of the book as giveaways at the shower, Clemente was nearly overwhelmed when Erik Murkoff offered books for all the attendees—and a guest appearance by Heidi who would also do a book signing and lead a Q&A session.

Operation Homefront DC Metro's Dietrich did her share of recruiting as well, lining up a speaker from Fort Belvoir to provide practical baby care information and snagging Emmy-award winning meteorologist Kim Martucci as the day's emcee. Martucci, who currently freelances in our area and can be seen doing the video forecast for NBC 4, couldn't have been a better choice, being close to the due date of her own pregnancy.

Throughout the day, Operation Homefront volunteers circulated to assist, often taking a baby for a stroll while the mom had a chance to eat, take notes, or just stretch and take a break.

Mrs. McDonnell also added to the baby shower swag that the moms would be taking home. She and the governor had red "onesies" made for each of the moms with "Our Little Hero" printed on the front and a "Thank You from Governor and Mrs. Bob McDonnell."

"I am the daughter and the daughter-in-law of men who served. My husband served, active and reserves, for 21 years. Even more recently, I have spent many long nights waiting anxiously for that phone to ring. Just like all of you, I waited to hear that beautiful voice and know that they're safe," said Mrs. McDonnell, referring to her daughter Jeanine who served as an Army signal corps officer in Iraq. "Virginia needs to remember our service men and women and their families. You all are the selfless, quiet heroes of the freedoms we all wake up to each morning."

Heidi Murkoff was next up, speaking and then leading a lengthy Q&A session. Hands just kept being raised. The moms seemed genuinely relieved to be able to ask a wide range of questions and ask for advice.

More photos and information at www.firstlady.governor.virginia.gov and Operation Homefront at www.operationhomefront.net/dcmetro.



In her remarks to the moms, Virginia's First Lady Maureen McDonnell admitted she gets nervous speaking to a crowd and would rather be out there holding the babies and that's just what she did: 7-week-old Connor Paszkiet seems pretty happy with the arrangement.



Michelle Toothman from the Franconia area, First Lady Maureen McDonnell and Patty Pacheco of Springfield share a few moments talking about "mom things." Michelle and Marine Drum and Bugle Corps David are expecting their first child. Patty's husband is an Army officer.



From left, Ashley Adams, Crystal Fichter, Aileen Brasse, Laura Piper. As the only one in the group with the experience of one already, Crystal had to show the other expectant moms how it's done, as they tried to prepare to transport the baby furniture won as a door prize.

OPINION

First Day of School Coming Up

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

EDITORIALS Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>.

This school year will be the last for superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will

spend much of the coming months in the search and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>.

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Fairfax County Board of Elections

703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Correction: Last week's *Newcomers and Community Guide* omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Our Health Depends on the Air We Breathe

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-S)

For too many Americans and Virginians, simply breathing the air can be dangerous. That's especially the case for the 306,000 Virginia children and 96,000 adults who battle asthma, the 1.1 million with cardiovascular disease, the 154,000 with chronic bronchitis and the estimated 411,000 who live in poverty. But it is true for all of us and it's that way because of soot in our air.

Soot, or fine particulate matter (PM2.5), is composed of a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets, usually made up of several different types of harmful chemicals. It's easy to recognize as it contributes significantly to the haze that blankets many cities and national parks. Smokestacks and tailpipes churn out soot and we breathe it in, every day.

The body reacts to it in much the same manner as it does to tobacco smoke. Smaller than a grain of sand and only visible with a micro-



scope, tiny soot particles travel deep into the lungs when inhaled and swiftly penetrate the bloodstream, immediately increasing the risk of severe respiratory distress, heart attacks and strokes.

Soot kills; leads to hospitalizations; triggers asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes; and has been linked to causing permanent lung tissue and airway damage, reproductive complications and cancer.

For decades, the Clean Air Act has helped protect the air we breathe by letting us know and track what pollutants make it into our air and allowing us to set targets, make plans, and have accountability for reducing those pollutants over time. And perhaps most importantly, it requires that we review those standards as science helps us understand new risks.

That's happening now with soot. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the current standard for soot, last set in 1997. Since then, more than 10,000 studies have demonstrated that soot is a public health

threat and that we must ensure that fewer smaller particles are able to get into the air and into our lungs.

Earlier this summer, the EPA proposed a new stronger standard for soot and is accepting public comments on these standards until the end of August. What are the potential benefits of enacting the strongest standard? By cleaning up soot, we can prevent 35,700 deaths, 23,290 visits to the hospital and emergency room, 2,350 heart attacks, 1.4 million cases of aggravated asthma and 29,800 cases of acute bronchitis every year. An estimated 2.7 million days of missed work and school due to air pollution-caused ailments would be avoided annually.

It's August in Washington and the humidity makes it hard enough to breathe for even the most healthy among us. While we see the haze of air pollution on really bad days, we do not see the particles within it. And those particles are a threat to our health and the health of our families and neighbors. I hope all Virginians and Americans will join me in asking the EPA to stand strong for a strong soot standard. We'll all breathe a bit easier when you do.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Senior Olympics Deadline

Saturday, Sept. 1., register at www.nvso.us for the 2012 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, to take place throughout Northern Virginia, Sept. 15-26. Participants can compete in over 40

events anywhere from swimming to yo-yo tricks. Events will take place on Sept. 15-26 at 18 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration fee of \$12. For more information, call 703-228-4721 or go to www.nvso.us.

Discover Pond Life at Walney Pond.

10-11 a.m., Walney Pond, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover pond life and all sorts of creatures such as tadpoles, water scorpions, dragonfly nymphs etc. at the park. Meeting with a naturalist at Walney Pond will help you find out what is

living under the water at the pond's edge. \$2.50 per person. 703-631-0013. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.

THURSDAY/AUG. 30

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats and poultry; and local foods. Every Thursday through Oct. 25. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

County Residents' Feedback on Derecho Emergency Response. Through Sept. 7, the Fairfax County

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) requests feedback from businesses and residents to assess the county's response to the June 29 derecho storm. Find the survey at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Citizens' Advisory Committee. 7:30 p.m., in the West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Join for a presentation from Captain Joe Hill on "State of West Springfield." <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/>.

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BalletNova Young Choreographers Competition first-place winner Elizabeth Burr receiving her prize from BNYCC Chair Punky Scruggs and BalletNova Artistic Director Nancie Woods.

Young Choreographers Competition

The 2013 BalletNova Young Choreographers Competition launches in September and is open to residents of Northern Virginia. Applicants must submit a videotape via YouTube plus a short essay and recommendation from their teacher. Five finalists will be chosen virtually by a slate of in-

ternationally recognized judges, and then the public is invited to vote for their favorite choreographer through Facebook. The popular vote counts 20 percent toward the total score. For more information on how to apply please contact BalletNova at info@BalletNova.org.

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A Complete Failure

Fairfax County says Verizon 'failed completely' during June 29 derecho.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The eerie silence is what Steve Souder, Fairfax County's 911 director, remembers about the night of June 29, when the derecho hit Fairfax County.

"The derecho was fierce and sudden, a lot of things most storms aren't," Souder said in an interview on Friday. "We were busy as all get-out."

The fast-moving storms slammed Fairfax County at about 10:20 p.m., resulting in a record number of emergency calls—a 415 percent jump for 911 dispatchers and a 2,000 percent jump for Fire and Rescue. Approximately 30 minutes later, power flickered and then died in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), where 46 911 dispatchers were fielding hundreds of calls.

"We can't afford to be crippled, so our generators came on, and we're rocking and rollin' in the blink of an eye," Souder said.

At 1:30 a.m., the first wave of calls started to subside.

"We're taking a deep breath and looking ahead to sunrise, when we fully expected another wave of calls as people wake up and take a look around their homes at the damage," Souder said.

THE NEXT MORNING, as hundreds of thousands of county residents awoke to smashed cars, split fences and downed power lines from uprooted trees, the county's 911 operators braced themselves for another onslaught of calls.

But the next wave never came.

"The phones just stopped ringing. We were dead in the water... Never, ever, ever has this happened to us," said Souder, who has been in emergency op-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's 911 Call Center located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, named after former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

erations for 44 years.

It would be several more hours before Souder and other County officials learned that no calls were getting through due to a problem with Verizon. According to Souder, all calls to Fairfax County's 911 go through the Verizon network, regardless of the commercial carrier service. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 911 service was completely down and for the next three days service was sporadic.

Souder said signs of trouble with Verizon came around 7 a.m., when Verizon sent a cryptic email to Fairfax County staff saying that the Arlington central office was without power or backup battery/generator. The references to Arlington, according to Souder, suggested that 911 service was affected only in Arlington County, so Fairfax County's 911 staff continued with their normal operations.

"We are completely unaware that incoming 911 call service from Verizon is slowly dying...We don't get officially notified until about 10 hours after [the] whole mess begins, which is completely unacceptable," Souder said, adding:

"It's like the Captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted official comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation and actions.

"During and after a storm, and in any emergency or disaster, the loss of the public's ability to contact emergency responders is most profoundly felt," according to County officials. "Families in darkened homes crushed by fallen trees, motorists unable to get through roadways blocked by downed electric power lines, elderly residents in care facilities without power in temperatures over 90 degrees, and any other citizens in need of emergency services must be able to call 911 to seek assistance."

"Fairfax County is, and will stay, on top of this," said Fairfax County Board

"It's like the captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

—Steve Souder, Fairfax County 911 Director



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steve Souder

SEE COMPLAINT, PAGE 9



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The popular Las Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble at the Burke Centre Festival.

Burke Centre Fall Festival Sept. 8-9

Affordable family fun—and flash mob (maybe...)

Festival Hours

Saturday, Sept. 8

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Saturday, Sept. 8

5 to 10 p.m. Wine Garden with live music and appetizers.

Sunday, Sept. 9

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Admission is free.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Burke hosts its biggest block party on Sept. 8 and 9 as the community welcomes friends and neighbors of all ages for the 35th annual Burke Centre Fall Festival. The event will be held at the Burke Centre Conservancy's (BCC) Festival Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway.

"This is still the most affordable family event around," said Jeannie Winslow, administration director for the BCC. "The goal is not to make money, but to celebrate the Burke Centre community."

Winslow said this year's event features community favorites, such as the quality arts and crafts show with a shopper incentive program where buyers can win prizes just for making a purchase, delicious food and live entertainment appealing to all ages.

"We've enhanced the event by adding more pony rides and face painters so the lines are not too long. I always say there's something for everyone, but it's true with this event," Winslow said.

She added that there is a surprise this year, which will "probably" happen on Sunday afternoon.

"I've wanted to do something like a flash mob at the festival for several years, but you have to come out and see if we can make that happen, maybe on Sunday afternoon around 1 p.m. You never know," she said, smiling.

In addition to two days of live entertainment, including the popular Mexican Dance Ensemble, there are carnival rides, two moon bounces, a junior Ferris wheel, a 28-foot rock-climbing wall, interactive wildlife exhibits, face-painting, toddler play areas and pet care centers. New features this year include private areas for nursing mothers and diaper changing, TalkStory with Burke Living History Demonstrations (from 3-4 p.m. each day), and a classic Mustang raffle hosted by the Baileys Crossroad Rotary Club.

"We really try to find something that's appealing for all age groups, and everything is reasonably priced, so it's a very family-friendly event," Winslow said. "There are many free activities, and all of the entertainment is free, so you don't have to spend a dime. People are usually quite pleased with the variety of food, attractions and entertainment."

Her "insider" tip this year? Use the free shuttle buses, which will pick up festival-goers at the community centers and Metro bus lots. In addition, free parking is available along Burke Centre Parkway and at Knollwood Community Church on Saturday across from the conservancy. The festival typically draws about 10,000 people for the weekend, Winslow said.

Check out the website at www.burkecentreweb.com for more information about parking, sponsors and other event information.

NEWS

County Files FCC Complaint

FROM PAGE 8

of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at large). The County's response to the FCC, released last Thursday, lays the blame for the outage squarely at the feet of Verizon, and Verizon acknowledged some responsibility in its Aug. 13 report to the MWCOG.

After first denying it had major problems with Arlington County's 911 service, Verizon officials admitted they did not know 911 emergency service was out in Fairfax County until alerted by County officials.

In the Verizon report, officials said two major generator failures—one in Fairfax and one in the central Arlington office, which routes 911 calls to multiple centers—caused “multiple failures cascading from these specific generator problems.”

Verizon also reported that it lost visibility over its own network, so that technicians did not know that power was draining from battery-operated generators until it was too late.

“When the batteries in the Arlington central office were being depleted... why was there a delay in deploying additional resources to remedy the situation before the Arlington facility went dark?” asked County officials, in concluding statements in the FCC report. “Verizon's 911 service in Fairfax County failed completely during the June 29, 2012, derecho. Both immediate and longer-term changes are needed to improve 911 service in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.”

THE CURRENT FCC REPORT is one of several investigations launched into the 911 fiasco. Accord-

How to Improve 911 Service in the Area?

Fairfax County's report to the FCC outlines immediate and long-term changes needed to improve 911 service in the area.

❖ To read Fairfax County official comments to the Federal Communications Commission, go to <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7022005003>

❖ To read Verizon's Aug. 13 report, go to <http://www.nena.org/resource/resmgr/GovAffairs/Verizon911OutagesReport.pdf>

ing to officials, Fairfax County is pursuing the issue from many angles, including the report to the FCC and regional work through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government.

“We are very fortunate that no one died as a result of the 911 outage,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity, (R-Springfield). Herrity is a member of the statewide 911 panel tasked with looking into the outage.

“I have every confidence that Fairfax County is up to whatever emergency comes our way—in as much as we have control. I'm more worried about third parties such as Verizon based on our 911 experience. Frankly, that was wholly unacceptable and we are going to do everything necessary to hold their feet to the fire,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Souder said it's gratifying to know Verizon is taking some responsibility, and attempting to fix its communication problems.

“The public should know that, seven weeks after this storm, we're still a long way from being done from making sure this (911 failure) doesn't happen again,” Souder said.



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FAITH

New Rector Comes to St. Andrew's

The Reverend Tim Heflin will begin his tenure as rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Burke on Sunday, Sept. 9. Heflin recently served as associate rector and day school chaplain of Trinity Church in Baton Rouge, La., a church comparable in size to St. Andrew's, yet with a pre-k to fifth grade day school of nearly 200. As the associate rector, Heflin was responsible for the bulk of pastoral care, Christian education for all ages, Wednesday night dinners and programs, youth and young adults and outreach, as well as weekly school liturgical duties. He also served as priest-in-charge as the church went through a rector transition and search process in 2011. Heflin was ordained at Trinity in 2008.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tim Heflin

In life prior to ordained ministry, Heflin served in various management and chaplain positions in hospice programs across the country, from Chicago to Colorado, and in the metro New Orleans area following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He was the director and volunteer recruiter of a medical clinic for homeless and low-income persons in his native Jackson, Miss. While attending graduate school in Princeton, N.J.,

Heflin completed internships in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City and at Trenton State Prison of New Jersey. He has taught on the elementary grade level as well as having taught college students and adults.

Heflin studied colonial American religion and philosophical thought as a history major at Mississippi College, where he spent some time running varsity cross-country and track. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Seminary in 1994, where he studied secularization theory and civil religion; he was awarded the Edward Howell Roberts Prize (Senior) for preaching while at Princeton. Heflin later focused on liturgy as he earned a Certificate in Anglican Studies prior to his ordination.

A passionate sports fan, especially of the SEC and New Orleans Saints, Heflin likes to read, and enjoys hiking and now more limited running, cooking the evening meals and spending time with his two favorite females—Alexis, his wife and a Latin/Classics teacher and Simone, their 4-year-old yellow Labrador retriever named for Heflin's favorite theologian, Simone Weil.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

New and Prospective Member BBQ Picnic. On Sunday, Sept. 9, 5 p.m., at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6949 Conservation Drive, Springfield. Learn about the members of Congregation Adat Reyim. RSVP by Aug. 31 to office@adatreyim.org.

Adat Reyim Tashlich Service and Ice Cream Social. on Monday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Join on Rosh Hashanah to cast off sins. Ice cream treats to follow. RSVP to religiouspractices@adatreyim.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More tra-

ditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.popl.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register at 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. There will be a Terry Hall Concert on Saturday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with old spirituals, classic hymns, southern gospel favorites and more. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.

The filming of "The Senior Prank."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

'Senior Prank' Filmed in Area

Local talent recruited for "The Senior Prank."

The community has rallied together behind the new local film in progress, "The Senior Prank." Director Donald Leow, who also directed previous film "For the Glory," has brought in cast and crew from all over the country, while recruiting local talent for his film as well. Many members of the Fairfax community have gathered to be extras, show their talent on screen, help with tech, or just support the film.

Part of the excitement for the film comes from bringing in the talented actor of the hit 2011 movie "Courageous," Ben Davies, to play lead role Brandon.

"The Senior Prank" is the story of a group of popular teenagers who decide to elect a girl with Down's Syndrome as their homecoming queen for a joke. This family drama with a Christian basis is sure to touch hearts as it displays the horrible truth of bullying.

The movie itself was filmed all over the area, in places like Manassas Baptist Church, The Kings Chapel in Clifton, Word of Life Christian Academy in Springfield, and even Great Harvest Bread in Lorton. Many locals have opened up their homes to the cast and crew for housing as well as to provide backdrops to shoot scenes.

The local participation and location in filming "The Senior Prank" makes the community very integrated and rightfully excited to see it on the silver screen.

—HANNAH BUNTING



Ben Davies (Brandon) and Frank Stephens (Ben), play brothers in the movie.

Carys Meyer, who plays Carly, getting her make-up done before shooting.



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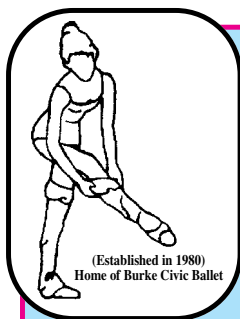
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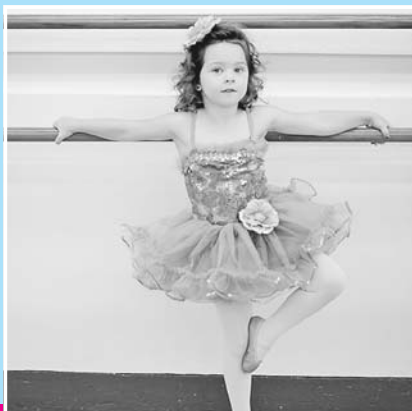
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NEWS

Paul VI Runfest 5K Sept. 16 in Fairfax

After a two-year hiatus, the Paul VI Catholic High School (PVI) Runfest 5K will return Sunday, Sept. 16, at 8 a.m., to the City of Fairfax. Previously run over 10 consecutive years, it was last held in fall 2009.

With strong support from the community, this year's race will raise funds for PVI's nationally recognized Options Program for students with intellectual disabilities. A portion of the proceeds will also benefit the PVI Cross Country programs.

The certified 5K course is a two-loop route with a few gentle hills; it starts and finishes in the PVI parking lot behind the school at 10675 Fairfax Blvd. All race registrations, except for on race day, may be submitted online at <http://tinyurl.com/pvirunfest2012>.

The entry fee for students and faculty is \$15; all others are \$25. The race-day fee is \$35 for everyone. Full race details, including T-shirt and packet-pickup locations, are at the Runfest website above; or contact Race Chairman Jim Turcol at crosscountry7@verizon.net.

"We are very grateful to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN KILEY

Ready to take off: The starting line at a previous Paul VI Runfest 5K race.

many local businesses that have given their support through cash or in-kind donations," said Sponsorship Chairman Deirdre Kwartunas. "We still have more to do in order to defray costs and offer great prizes."

An excited team of volunteers has been working hard to make the 11th Runfest a race to remem-

ber, with traditional top-finisher and age-group prizes, as well as many random prize drawings.

"It's great that the race has returned to PVI," said Turcol. "Many participants and volunteers have mentioned that they missed it and asked when it would be held again."

—BONNIE HOBBS



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BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Listen, baby...
“Ain’t no mountain high. Ain’t no valley low. Ain’t no river wide enough, baby. If you need me, call me. No matter where you are. No matter how far.”

The Motown classic “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, has been a show-stopping favorite for decades.

The same was true Thursday night for the karaoke team from Northrop Grumman, who won bragging rights as the 2012 Best Performers during the Fairfax Chamber’s second annual karaoke event to benefit Fairfax County Public Schools education foundation.

The team joined more than 250 members of the Northern Virginia business community, elected offi-

cials and other notables who sang or cheered on other participants. The list included Delegates Dave Albo, Mark Keam, Barbara Comstock, Kay Kory, Alfonso Lopez, Jim Scott, Ken Plum, Vivian Watts and Tom Rust. Senators included Dave Marsden and Barbara Favola, as well as Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale.

“The atmosphere was electric,” said Fairfax Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran. “It was an incredible display of community involvement, competition and just plain fun, all in support of a great cause – education.” Corcoran said the Education Foundation has made contributions to FCPS of over \$1 million in the past two years. The event raised about \$19,000 last year and \$30,000 this year.

CHAR-A-OKE AWARD WINNERS

Best Performance: Northrop Grumman
Best Vocals: Dominion Virginia Power
Best Moves: Cordia Partners
Best Lyrics: McGladrey Tax Services
Spirit Award: Helios HR
Best Duet: Cardinal Bank
Most Crowd Participation: John Marshall Bank

The foundation, Corcoran said, is not a scholarship program, but a way to fund and support initiatives in Fairfax County’s world-class public school system.

Corcoran said the event grew from five teams participating in the singing competition the first year to 22 karaoke teams this year. “What was really great about this event is that you didn’t have just one sector participating. You had a who’s who from companies of all sizes, government contractors, banks, elected officials, FCPS.”

Corcoran said Helios HR in Herndon was the event’s Signature sponsor. “Kathy Albarado, Helios HR’s CEO, was great at creating enthusiasm for this event. You have no idea how excited people were.”

Erin DeWaters, the Fairfax Chamber’s vice president of com-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Northrop Grumman PDP Team (l-r) Andrew Tran, Stephanie Paone, Neetu Dhillon, Candice Currier, Vivian Obando and Ashley Stone celebrate winning Best Performance at Char-a-oke.



PHOTO BY JENNY RULEY/FCPS

Attendees were so enthusiastic about the event, all the teams took the stage together at the end of the night to sing “Summer Nights” from Grease.

munications, said some companies recruited interns to participate, while others got their CEOs on stage to perform, and some teams practiced all summer.

“It was also a great team-building effort and a way to boost employee morale,” DeWaters said.

Corcoran said last year he performed original lyrics to Billy Joel’s “Piano Man.” And this year? “They fired me,” he joked. But DeWaters set the record straight: the event was so popular they filled the 22 slots quickly with chamber members.

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 7055 Leewood Forest Dr...\$339,950...Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Woodbridge

6174 Oaklawn Ln.....\$369,900....Sun 1-4....Glenna Spencer..Long & Foster..703-475-1320

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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/AUG. 30

Activist Group. 7-9 p.m., at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Sierra Club/Great Falls welcomes all to learn about the Dominion Virginia Power Coal to Clean Energy Campaign and planning to bring offshore wind and solar energy to Virginia. Pizza and drinks provided. 703-506-4310.

FRIDAY/AUG. 31

Slightly Something. 7:30 p.m., at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Come enjoy pop music. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Alte Kameraden "AUG-toberfest" Concert. 7:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, Springfield. Enjoy a German band outdoor concert. www.fairfaxband.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

150th anniversary of the Battle of Ox Hill Commemoration. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park, 4134 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Civil War re-enactors make artillery and infantry demonstrations; a souvenir craft available for children. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill.

Public Reception: Han-Mee Artists, Blurring Boundaries. 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Korean American Artists Association of Greater Washington, DC, an organization for artists of Korean heritage. Exhibit open Aug. 31-Sept. 23. www.workhousearts.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 3

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Fourth Annual Doggie Splashdown. 7 p.m., at Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. The fourth annual Doggie Splashdown benefits the Humane Society of Fairfax County and your pet. Keep dogs on leashes until event begins. \$5 suggested donation. 703-273-1342 or betsyd@fairfaxpool.com.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Encore Chorale of Potomac Academy. 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. For singers age 55+. <http://encorecreativity.org>

Fairfax Old Town Hall Gallery Art Show. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Tuesdays and Wednesdays the September Fairfax Art League exhibit opens to the public on the second floor. www.fairfaxva.gov.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

Encore Chorale of Springfield. 1:30 - 3 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For singers age 55+. <http://encorecreativity.org>

Fairfax Old Town Hall Gallery Art Show. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Tuesdays and Wednesdays the September Fairfax Art League exhibit



opens to the public on the second floor. www.fairfaxva.gov.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

13 the Musical. 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. <http://www.metrotheater.org>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Burke Centre Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at the Conservancy Festival Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Pkwy. Amusement rides, craft show, Mustang raffle, face painting, festival food, flash mob dance, live entertainment (dancers, singers, sorts demos), misting tents, puppet shows, book talks, a wine garden and wildlife shows. burkecentreweb.com.

Fair Oaks Mall Home & Lifestyle Expo. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Grand Court in Fair Oaks Mall, off I-66 at Route 50, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. 703-359—8302 or www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com.

Wakefield Skate Park Opening. 11 a.m., Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Watch demos, enjoy light refreshments and live music and hear brief remarks by officials as they cut the ribbon. 703-324-8662 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/skatepark.

13 the Musical. 4 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. www.metrotheater.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

Burke Centre Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Conservancy Festival Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Pkwy. Amusement rides, craft show, Mustang raffle, face painting, festival food, flash mob dance, live entertainment (dancers, singers, sorts demos), misting tents, puppet shows, a wine garden and wildlife shows. www.burkecentreweb.com

Fair Oaks Mall Home & Lifestyle Expo. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Grand Court in Fair Oaks Mall, off I-66 at Route 50, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. 703-359—8302 or www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com.

Volunteers for Change Orientation. Noon-1 p.m., at the Volunteer Fairfax Office, 10530 Page Ave., Fairfax. A volunteer program for busy professionals, students, stay-at-home moms/dads or anyone with limited time featuring a flexible calendar of fun weekend and weekday evening projects. RSVP at 703-246-3895 or e-mail [jkivlin@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:jktivlin@volunteerfairfax.org).

Model Train Display. 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK group will have running table top (T- Trak) model trains at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. 703-425-9225, www.fairfax-station.org.

"Rebuilding the Pentagon." 2 p.m., at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Construction Project Manager Walker Lee Evey will discuss the massive rebuilding project in the year following the September 11, 2001

Blurring Boundaries

Han-Mee Artist Association of Greater Washington, D.C. presents Blurring Boundaries at the Lorton Workhouse starting Friday, Aug. 31 through Saturday, Sept. 23. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Sept. 1 from 5-7 p.m. The gallery is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Email scotthabes@lortonarts.org for more information.

terrorist attack on the Pentagon. 703-385-8414.

MONDAY/SEPT. 17

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks I. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and pianist Jeffrey Biegel perform Adams' The Chairman Dances, Zwilich's Shadows for Piano and Orchestra, Bernstein's Three Dance Episodes from "On the Town" and Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F Major. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 23

Solo Guitarist David Rogers. 8 p.m. Epicure Cafe 11213-A Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-352-9193.

MONDAY/OCT. 1

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 15

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 5

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks II. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Ken Woods and violinist Benjamin Beilman perform Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Op. 62, Symphony No. 2 and Violin Concerto. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 19

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Art League Hosts Gallery Events

Fairfax Art League's September Gallery Shows at the Fairfax Old Town Hall Gallery and the Fairfax Village Gallery open Saturday, Sept. 8 and run through Wednesday, Oct. 3. These exhibits will be free to the public with an opening reception where guests may personally meet Atti Wheeler and the other Fairfax Art League artists at the Fairfax Old Town Hall Gallery in the City of Fairfax on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Atti Wheeler will be the featured artist at both Fairfax Art League Galleries this month, while a complete assortment of fine art paintings, drawings and fine art photography by members of the Fairfax Art League will also be on exhibit.

Atti Wheeler says she enjoys searching out artistic media because she always finds something new to discover, such as movement of lines, shape, colors, light, shade and form, which she says attract her.

She uses a mixture of oil painting and mixed media to express her reaction to her subjects. This often involves collages with earth materials, used for visual and textured effects. Wheeler says that for her, painting is copying the subject but a creative response conveying her appreciation and excitement about her subjects.

Wheeler received a B.F.A. degree in Fine Arts from Accademia Di Belle Arti University of Fine Arts in Rome, Italy, majoring in design and painting. She received many awards from The Fairfax Art League, Alexandria Art League and MOCA DC Art Gallery in Washington, D.C.

The Fairfax Old Town Hall Gallery September Art Show is on the second floor of the Old Town Hall at 3999 University Drive at the corner of Main Street in the City of Fairfax from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Fairfax Village Art Gallery September Art Show will show "How We Survived

Summer," in which Fairfax League artists preset their accordingly-themed work. The Village Gallery is located at 3950 University Drive in the Old

Town Plaza within the City of Fairfax near Route 123. This gallery will be open Saturdays from 1 to 7 p.m. starting Sept. 8.

COMMUNITY



The filming of "The Senior Prank."



Carys Meyer, who plays Carly, getting her make-up done before shooting.

'Senior Prank' Filmed in Area

The community has rallied together behind the new local film in progress "The Senior Prank." Director Donald Leow, who also directed previous film "For the Glory," has brought in cast and crew from all over the country, while recruiting local talent for his film as well. Many members of the Fairfax community have gathered to be extras, show their talent on screen, help with tech, or just support the film.

Part of the excitement for the film comes

from bringing in the talented actor of the hit 2011 movie "Courageous," Ben Davies, to play lead role Brandon.

"The Senior Prank" is the story of a group of popular teenagers who decide to elect a girl with Down's Syndrome as their homecoming queen for a joke. This family drama with a Christian basis is sure to touch hearts as it displays the horrible truth of bullying.

The movie itself was filmed all over the area, in places like Manassas Baptist Church, The

Local talent recruited for "The Senior Prank."

Kings Chapel in Clifton, Word of Life Christian Academy in Springfield, and even Great Harvest Bread in Lorton. Many locals have opened up their homes to the cast and crew for housing as well as to provide backdrops to shoot scenes.

The local participation and location in filming "The Senior Prank" makes the community very integrated and rightfully excited to see it on the silver screen.

—HANNAH BUNTING

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SPORTS

Woodson junior Alex Lightfoot, right, competes for the ball against a Hayfield player at the “Under the Lights” tournament on Aug. 25 at Lee High School.



PHOTOS BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Jarrell Leads Woodson Field Hockey Cavaliers fell short of regional tournament in 2011.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

First-year Woodson head field hockey coach Meg Jarrell isn't much older than her players, but that hasn't stood in the way of the 22-year-old trying to light a competitive fire under the Cavaliers.

Jarrell took over a program that qualified for the state tournament as recently as 2009, but failed to advance to even the regional tournament in 2011. Woodson is off to a 3-1-2 start in 2012, including a 2-0-2 effort at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School. Jarrell, a 2008 Lake Braddock graduate who played field hockey at Davidson College, said the Cavaliers have responded to her max-effort teachings.

“The girls, although the record might have been down [last season], they're a very disciplined squad and they're very talented, but I think they kind of [developed] this attitude, ‘We win some, we lose some,’” Jarrell said. “Right from the get-go, our first scrimmage, I really made the impression on them a loss is not OK when you don't play your best. They've really taken that to heart and wins mean more to them and the losses hurt—and I want the losses to hurt because I want them to learn from them, not just go home and say, ‘All right, we'll go out the next day and do whatever.’”

“A team with this much talent not making it to the regional tournament is not acceptable and they know that, and they hold pretty high expectations.”

Jarrell said having a small age gap between coach and players helps her relate to the Cavaliers, and athletes still show her the respect of an elder.

After defeating Chantilly, 2-0, in their season opener on Aug. 22, the Cavaliers faced the Chargers again on the first day of “Under the Lights” and finished in a 1-1 tie on Aug. 24. Junior midfielder Alex Lightfoot scored Woodson's goal.

“I think we're definitely improving with every game

we play,” sophomore midfielder Isabel Obregon said after the tie against Chantilly. “We started off slow at our first scrimmage, but each game we've played I think we've gotten better and we're becoming more of a team.”

In Woodson's second game of the day, the Cavaliers defeated T.C. Williams, 4-1, with goals from Jasmine Kim, Kelly Stegner, Obregon and Maddie Browning.

Woodson started strong on the second day, beating Hayfield, 6-1, on Aug. 25. Stegner, a junior midfielder, scored a career-high three goals against the Hawks.

“Once she learns to keep the ball moving as fast as her legs, she's going to be incredible,” Jarrell said. “I've only had her for two or three weeks if you go all the way back to the beginning of tryouts, and she's made incredible leaps and bounds. She's so fast and so athletic. She's been told she's one of the best athletes in the school and it shows.”

Molly Wecker scored a pair of goals against Hayfield and Coco Armstrong added one.

Woodson closed the tournament with a 2-2 tie against Thomas Jefferson. Stegner and Kim scored goals for the Cavaliers.

On Aug. 27, Woodson lost to three-time defending Liberty District champion Fairfax, 1-0.

Defensively, Jarrell said junior right back Claudia Muratore and senior goalkeeper Jessica Peckins should be standouts for Woodson. At midfield, Jarrell described Lightfoot as “just a total brick wall.” Senior forward Meghan Smiga, one of the team's top players, is out with an injury.

Woodson will travel to face Westfield at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 7. The Cavaliers' next home game is Sept. 12 against Oakton. Woodson will open Patriot District play on Sept. 14 against South County.

“I think we'll do really well,” Stegner said. “Our coach is really solid, she has a lot of plays for us to do and we have really productive practices. I think we're going to go really far. I'm excited.”



Meg Jarrell, a 2008 Lake Braddock graduate, is in her first season as Woodson head field hockey coach.



West Springfield senior Tasy Novopachennaia battles for the ball against two Chantilly players during the “Under the Lights” field hockey tournament on Aug. 25 at Lee High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/ THE CONNECTION

Spartans Win 4 of 6

Spartans looking for first district title in nearly four decades.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield field hockey team is in search of its first district championship since 1973. While the Patriot District tournament is more than five weeks away, the Spartans started their journey by winning four of their first six games, including a 2-1-1 performance at the “Under the Lights” tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School.

After beating Mount Vernon at home, 2-0, during its season opener on Aug. 22, West Springfield opened its “Under the Lights” competition with a 6-1 victory against Thomas Jefferson on Aug. 24. Natalie Ha scored a pair of goals for the Spartans, and Casey Nelson, Tasy Novopachennaia, Brittan Muir and Kara Kachejian each scored one. Later in the day, West Springfield tied Mount Vernon, 1-1, in a rematch with the Majors. Novopachennaia scored the Spartans' lone goal.

West Springfield faced TJ on Lee's turf field and played Mount Vernon on the outfield grass of the Lancers' baseball field. The Spartans' home field is turf, and fourth-year head coach Rosie Donaldson said the

team needs to better adapt to playing on grass.

“The first game we did very well,” Donaldson said. “...The second game didn't go as well as I would have liked it to go. I think we need to adjust on the grass—we practice on turf and we play on turf—we need to adjust on grass and we just didn't do that very well. We played well enough—we didn't lose—but I think we have to learn how to adjust a little better because we are going to face some teams on grass this year.”

On Aug. 25, the second day of the tournament, West Springfield defeated Oakton, 2-1, and lost to Chantilly, 3-1. On Aug. 28, the Spartans defeated McLean, 3-2, improving their record to 4-1-1.

Muir, a sophomore, and Novopachennaia, a senior captain, are two of the Spartans' top offensive threats. Marissa Trujillo, a senior, is one of the team's top defenders. Nelson, a senior, is also a captain. Julia Schwabenbauer, a senior, is the Spartans' starting goalkeeper.

West Springfield will travel to face Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31. The Spartans will open Patriot District competition at home against Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.



West Springfield sophomore Brittan Muir plays center-midfield for the Spartans field hockey team.

The Workhouse People's Choice Awards

Three artists from the Workhouse Associate Artists (WAA) were chosen as People's Choice Award winners for their current exhibitions in the Vulcan Gallery (Building W16) at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The winners were chosen during the Workhouse's monthly Second Saturday Art Walk on Aug. 11. The winners are Maria Bennett Hock (1st place), Jack Dyer (2nd place) and Richard Mallory Allnutt (3rd place).

FIRST PLACE went to Maria Bennett Hock, of Burke, for her piece Barefoot Ballerina. She specializes in painting portraits and figurative pieces that convey emotion. Her work has been shown at numerous galleries including locations in Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C., in Alexandria and Solomon's Island, Md.

Bennett Hock currently exhibits at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. Along with commissions and gallery exhibits, she is a member of the Portrait Society of America, Springfield Art Guild, Torpedo Factory Art Center and volunteers as a docent at the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton.

SECOND PLACE went to Jack Dyer, of Springfield, for his piece Lotus Blossoms. Dyer paints outdoors, on site, in various weather and values a chance to see, smell, listen, walk around, even to touch the subject, evoking a painter's response unobtainable in the studio. He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and worked as a newspaper artist and art teacher in Boston before he came to Virginia as the curator of art for the U.S. Marine Corps Museum. His work may be seen on a regular basis at the Lorton Workhouse's Vulcan Gallery W-16 and at



The first place winner, Barefoot Ballerina, by Maria Bennett Hock of Burke.

the Artists Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan.

THIRD PLACE went to Richard Mallory Allnutt, of Fairfax Station, for his piece Ice Fishing. A British-born photographer based in the United States, he focuses primarily on portraiture, but his passions for aviation and the natural world also play a strong role in his repertoire. His images have been published in books and magazines such as JazzTimes, Swing Journal, Smithsonian Air & Space and Capitol File. Allnutt has also worked as a set photographer on several motion picture films. He currently works primarily in Washington, D.C., New York, Ottawa and London.

You can find more information about the Workhouse Art Center at www.workhousearts.org. The gallery is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.



Lotus Blossoms, by Jack Dyer of Springfield, won second place.

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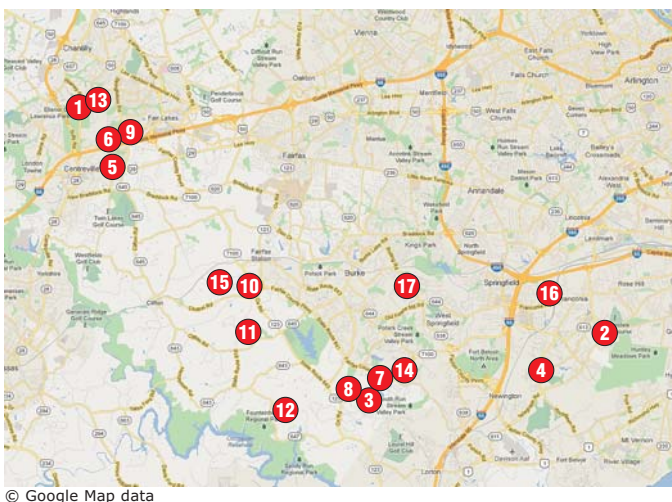
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