

'We Have Not Forgotten'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Robinson Students Make the Cut for Caring

NEWS, PAGE 10

Breaking a Sweat for Homeless Pets

NEWS, PAGE 2

Carmella, a dog looking for her "forever home," waits at the start of the Break a Sweat for Homeless Pets race held at Burke Lake Park on April 14 to raise funds for the nonprofit Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to help support the shelter's mission. Carmella is available for adoption, contact the shelter for more information about her: 703-830-1100.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and shelter volunteers pose for three currently-available-for-adoption dogs at the Sunday, April 14, Break a Sweat for Homeless Pets race sponsored by the group at Burke Lake Park. From left is Peter Fabry with Carmella, Laura Shugrue with Hatsumi, and Rick Ojala with Mickey.

Breaking a Sweat for Homeless Pets

On Sunday, April 14, the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, a non-profit that assists the animal shelter, in conjunction with Metro Run & Walk and Olde Towne Pet Resort, held a race at Burke Lake

Park to raise funds for the shelter. Over 200 people, many with their dogs, participated in the event and several dogs available for adoption also participated.

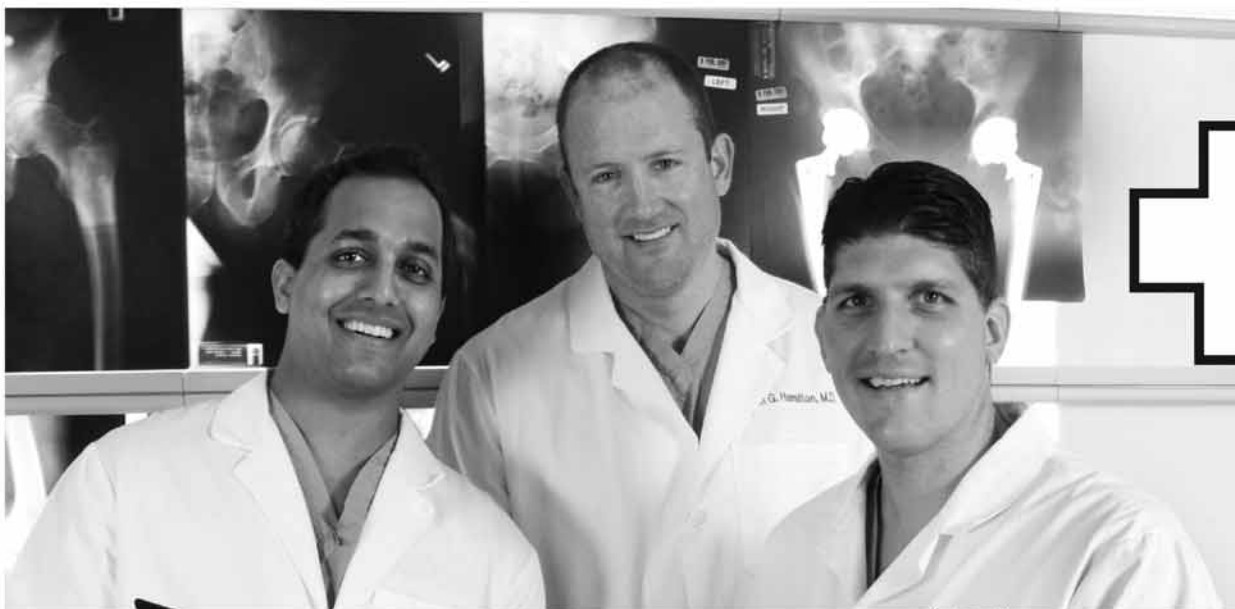
—DEB COBB



Even the dogs were eager to 'Break a Sweat for Homeless Pets,' at the Sunday, April 14, race at Burke Lake Park. The race was sponsored by the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to raise money for the shelter.



Terri Baker, a volunteer with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, is pictured with Kelli and Donel Hall and their dog Lincoln, adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter at the Break a Sweat for Homeless Pets race Saturday, April 14, at Burke Lake Park. The race was sponsored by the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to raise money for the shelter. Kelli Hall is also a volunteer with the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



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'We Have Not Forgotten'

Residents rally in Vienna to support stricter gun control measures.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Less than six miles from the National Rifle Association (NRA) headquarters in Fairfax, more than 100 people gathered on the Vienna Town Green Saturday, April 13, to urge Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

"We need to send a strong message to Congress that we have not forgotten Newtown. We have not forgotten Virginia Tech," said Pat Carol of Franconia, who attended the rally with her two teenage children. "... It's time to demand that (legislators) protect our children, instead of the gun lobby."

The event was part of a series of rallies this month co-hosted by Organizing for Action (OFA) — a social advocacy nonprofit that supports President Barack Obama — and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bipartisan coalition of 900 mayors co-chaired by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Both groups are calling for stricter gun laws, including background checks for all gun sales, gun safety training for all firearm buyers, and a ban on military-style assault weapons.

Vienna resident Sue Langley, a community activist with OFA of Virginia, organized Saturday's event, which began at 7 p.m. and ended with a candlelight vigil to remember the children of Newtown, and the estimated 32,000 Americans who die in gun-related deaths every year.

"The Senate will be in its final stages of debate this week, and by standing together we'll make sure they know how many people are behind them in passing legislation," Langley said.

THE EVENT included remarks from political leaders, gun control advocates and gun violence survivors.

"Eleven years ago my brother was murdered. He was 50 years old, and he had a wife and five children. He was shot during a robbery," said McLean resident Kathleen Murphy, choking back tears.



Gun control advocates held a banner, "Congress: Protect Our Children, Not the NRA," during the Saturday, April 13, candlelight vigil in Vienna urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done."

— John Horesji, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT)

"This is personal for me, not politics," said Murphy, who launched a bid to challenge Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) in this November's House of Delegates election. Murphy, a mother of six children, implored the crowd to keep the pressure on Congress to support measures such as expanded background checks. "We are going to hold them responsible," she said.

In an emotional speech Earle Mitchell of Springfield, a retired U.S. Navy supply officer, told the crowd that, as a member of the military, "we were always looking for foreign enemies. The enemy I'm

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 4

VIEWPOINTS

What motivated you to attend the candlelight vigil?

— VICTORIA ROSS

Klara Bilgin of Burke with son Alex

"I am originally from Bulgaria. When I travel abroad, people cannot believe that there are 32,000 gun deaths every year in America. They say 'you don't have a dictator; you aren't controlled by warlords, how can this happen?' We are moving in an awful direction ... we need to demand [measures] to reduce gun violence."



Hank Ronan of Fairfax (second from right), with Katy Ronan, Adam Ferguson and Earle Mitchell of Springfield

"What really [ticks] me off is that we do things like make people take off their shoes in the airport because one guy tried to light his shoe on fire, and yet we can't get background checks for guns? Some things are just common sense."



Jeanne Bierkan of Vienna

"I came here tonight because I want stronger background checks. I have two boys who grew up here, and I can't understand why we are still arguing about something that's just common sense."



Bob Hatfield of Vienna

"I'm here to support legislation that's before Congress. We need to bring Virginia into the 21st century, and see that it's responsible to have sane gun control measures and respect for the Second Amendment. The two are not mutually exclusive."



Raba Letteri of Reston attended the vigil with her husband Paul and sons Joseph, 13, (right) and Aaron, 9 (left).

"I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don't need to wait to lose one of my children to have a voice."





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NEWS



McLean resident Kathleen Murphy spoke about losing her brother 11 years ago to gun violence. She was one of several speakers during the April 13 candlelight vigil in Vienna urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.



Children hold up a sign — "Remember the Newtown 26" — while listening to speakers during a candlelight vigil in Vienna Saturday, April 13, urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

Residents Call for Stricter Gun Control Measures

FROM PAGE 3

talking about is the NRA headquarters on I-66."

"It's been only four months since 26 children died in Newtown, and we've had 3,300 gun-related deaths," Mitchell said. "I have young grandchildren, who all live in Virginia. Newtown could happen here. When will we say 'enough'?"

The event began with a Franciscan blessing read by John Horesji of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT).

"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done," Horesji recited.

"From a faith perspective, Second Amendment rights need to be balanced with the Second Commandment 'to love thy neighbor as thyself.' The Second Commandment also refers to false idols, and we need to question our worship of the Second Amendment," Horesji said.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro were the only political leaders to attend the event. Lazaro is a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

"There's a Virginia Tech every week in this country," Lazaro said during his remarks to the crowd. "We have background checks for everything. It takes a four-day background check to adopt a dog. We need to demand criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun."

Lazaro cited recent independent polls that show more than 90 percent of Americans support background checks for all gun buyers. More than 80 percent of gun owners — including 74 percent of National Rifle Association members — support requiring criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun.

Under current federal law, only licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct background checks on potential buyers, according to a report from Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Around 40 percent of U.S.

gun transfers are conducted by unlicensed "private sellers" who are not required to conduct a federal check, and who often do business at gun shows and on the Internet — indicating that about 6.6 million guns are transferred in the U.S. every year with no background check for the buyer.

"This 'private sale loophole' a people who are already prohibited from buying guns — including felons, domestic abusers and the seriously mentally ill — to avoid a background check by simply avoiding licensed dealers," according to the report.

Lu-Ann McNabb, a Centreville resident who was instrumental in starting the Angel Fund in memory of Reema Samaha, one of 32 students killed during the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, also spoke at the event.

"During Reema's funeral, her mother said to look at her hands, because they were unscathed. But I kissed her forehead, and I could see the exit wound," McNabb said. "How can we continue to let our children be victims?"

Raba Letteri, a Reston preschool teacher, burst into tears after the vigil.

"I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don't need to wait to lose one of my children to have a voice," Letteri said.

THIS WEEK, the Senate is expected to consider several gun legislation amendments, including a breakthrough bipartisan agreement proposed by Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to expand background checks to online and gun show sales.

"The American people have made it clear where they stand," Langley said. "They want a response to the tragedies caused by gun violence."

For more information on OFA, go to barackobama.com. For more information on Mayors Against Illegal Guns, go to mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org.

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.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

Financial Fortitude Symposium.

1:30-4:30 p.m., at Antioch Baptist Church in Rooms 205 A-B, 6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Guests speak on financial, estate, tax, college planning, retirement and investing; light refreshments served. RSVP by Saturday, April 20. 703-539-2813 or FinancialFortitude@fcacdst.org.

ONGOING

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The patriotic, genealogical and heraldic society for women of lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the original colonies in the geographical area of the present U.S. is accepting new members; the chapter meets four times yearly. jsmithtot@aol.com.

Mount Vernon Rep. Dan Storck

Community Office Hours. 10 a.m.-noon, at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. School Board Member and Mount Vernon District Representative Dan Storck hosts drop-in community office hours the second Saturday of each month. Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

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'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, RELAX!' at Fairview Elementary Spring Family Night

Fairview Elementary School's PTA in Fairfax Station is very excited about its first ever family recycling event being held Friday, May, 3 from 6-9 p.m. on the school's blacktop behind the school. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, RELAX!" action begins upon entry where event-goers can donate cell phones, eye glasses, toner cartridges, American flags (for proper disposal) and bicycles for recycling/reuse. Fairview's Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) will be collecting the bicycles and will assist with preparing the bikes for donation for Bikes for the World, a local non-profit. The community is welcome at the event.

Once inside, children and adults will enjoy Appalachian mountain music and BBQ by Red, Hot and Blue (\$5-\$6 per platter). Everything else at the event comes with the \$1/per person entry fee. There will be games provided by Adventure Links, composting demos by Fairfax County, face painting, and inflatables for the young. Dr.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013 from 6-9 p.m.
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
RELAX!
with Fairview Elementary School
at SPRING FAMILY NIGHT!

Logo for the upcoming May 3 event at Fairview Elementary.

Seuss's original cartoon, The Lorax, will be played in the gym throughout the event and children will make Truffula trees to take home. A Children's Book Exchange will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. where participants may bring up to three books to exchange—upon entry a ticket will be given to children participating in the exchange. All children will leave the event with an environmental activity booklet and a live oak tree to plant at home, giving them a way to give back to the Earth and leaving them

with lasting memories.

Bikes for the World links suburban garages to remote villages around the globe by "recycling" and repurposing bicycles, delivering them to overseas partners who refurbish and channel the bikes to people who rely on them, helping transform their lives. Monetary donations are also accepted, along with helmets, reflective tape and other related items. Donations are tax-deductible. Money donated will help to purchase tools needed in the upkeep of the bikes, allows for their transport, and helps to buy other needed supplies. A \$10 per bike donation is suggested but not required to help defray a share of the cost of these items, as well as shipping to overseas charity partners, which recondition the bicycles and distribute them to people who need them to get to work, school, and health services. If you'd like to learn more, visit www.bikesfortheworld.org/who-we-benefit.

—ERIN HERBIG

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NEWS

Fairfax Student Wins Columbus Essay Contest

Claire Wang, a junior at Trinity Christian School (TCS) of Fairfax, won the state level Christopher Columbus Essay Contest sponsored by the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution.

Claire competed with 147 other essayists from across the state, writing on the topic "How Did the Faith and Courage of Christopher Columbus Give to Mankind a New World?"

She received her award from the Virginia State Regent Patricia Musick Hatfield at the Annual Virginia State DAR Youth Luncheon held in Richmond on March 16. TCS was represented at the luncheon by R. Cody Phillips, upper school history teacher and school essay contest coordinator. Claire's essay was sponsored by the Pentagon Chapter, NSDAR.

The National Society DAR and National Italian American Foundation have jointly sponsored a na-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Patricia Musick Hatfield presents award to Claire Wang.

tion-wide essay contest on Christopher Columbus each year since 1996. The contest is open to students in grades nine through 12 in public, private or parochial schools, or those who are home-schooled.

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OPINION

Value-added Evaluation?

TJ admissions illustrate growing gap between “haves” and “have-nots.”

More than 181,000 students attend Fairfax County Public Schools. So why do the 480 students who were accepted for next year's freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology seem so important?

Fairfax County Public Schools have a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

❖ Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. Less than one percent of the incoming class at TJ is similarly economically disadvantaged.

❖ White students will make up just 25 percent of the incoming freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; 43 percent of FCPS students overall are white.

❖ Asian students will make up 66 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 19 percent of FCPS students overall are Asian.

❖ Hispanic students will make up just 3.1 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 22 percent of FCPS students overall are Hispanic.

❖ Black students will make up just one percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 10 percent of FCPS students overall are African American.

The local chapter of the NAACP and a group called Coalition of the Silence, led by former school board member Tina Hone, last year filed a civil rights complaint with the Justice Department alleging that FCPS is essentially running “separate-but-unequal” schools systems.

In a statement this month, Hone recently said there is “stark underrepresentation of Black and Latino students at the elementary and middle school level who are identified as eligible to receive instruction at a Gifted and Talented and/or Advanced Academic Program center. ... Because so few Black or Latino students (or poor students) receive instruction through these centers and because the instruction in these centers is so robust, the pipeline of talented Black, Latino and poor students who are able to compete successfully for admission to TJ is choked.”

The underrepresentation of poor students is in many ways more disturbing than the racial disparities. While the concept of “value added” has been controversial in teacher evaluations

Demographics:

FCPS		Incoming TJ
African American:	10.4%	1%
Asian American:	19.3%	66%
Hispanic:	22.1%	3%
White:	43.1%	25%
Subsidized Meals	25%	1%

(the sample size is too small for that) FCPS could rightly be evaluated on the value added.

Are its top performing schools really based on the value that relatively wealthy families are able to devote to their children's education? Books, computers, tablets and more at home, enrichment programs and camps, tutors, and attention from well educated parents are the main ingredients to FCPS success.

Perhaps it is best to measure the value added by FCPS based on the performance of its poorest students, the 25 percent who qualify for subsidized meals, and who bring the smallest resources from home to the table.

The School Board has named a new superintendent, pending some final details. She is Dr. Karen Garza, currently superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. Before that she served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country with more than 200,000 students. She faces tremendous opportunity here in Northern Virginia.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Misreading of History

To the Editor:

That a few local schools are named for Confederate generals bothers Kiran Hampton [“Alarmed by School Names,” Connection, April 11-17, 2013]. The US Army and Navy have named forts and ships after Confederate heroes. The Veterans Administration provides headstones for Confederate graves. That wouldn't have happened if they were traitors. No Confederates were convicted of treason. Hampton's shame that Virginia fought with the Confederacy suggests a misreading of US history.

The 13 colonies seceded from the United Kingdom in 1776. Were our Founding Fathers traitors? The Confederate States of America (CSA) cited adherence to principles of that Revolution for opposing Lincoln. Treason is an attempt to overthrow one's national government. The CSA never tried to overthrow the US government. It merely asked to be left in peace. The North answered by invading the South, hence use of the

term “War of Northern Aggression” that Hampton calls ridiculous. The only thing ridiculous was the total war waged against Southerners. The ancestors of many of these same Yankee invaders were the traitors of 1814 at the Hartford Convention who promoted the secession of New England and a separate peace in the War of 1812 with America's enemy, England.

In 1861, people saw themselves as citizens of their state first and Americans second. Union army units comprised almost exclusively and fought as state militia units; the US Army was small.

In November 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president, with under 40 percent of the popular vote in a four-man race. Virginia voted for moderate John Bell. Lincoln did all he could to provoke the Confederacy into war. He rejected reconciliation by Confederate emissaries and the Washington Peace Conference chaired by ex-President Tyler of Virginia. It took six additional months for the commonwealth to move from being pro-Union to supporting secession. Virginia pursued a very deliberate approach. Between No-

vember 1860 and May 23, 1861, the Old Dominion exhausted every avenue to prevent secession and war: citizen meetings, calling a peace conference of the states, creating a state convention to debate secession, and efforts to mediate between the Federal Government and the CSA. As with adoption of the US Constitution, the Confederate states held special conventions to approve secession. Texas, Tennessee and Virginia opted for a statewide referendum on secession. In that referendum, Fairfax County and Virginia voted reluctantly, but overwhelmingly

for the ordinance of secession. On May 23, 76 percent of county voters endorsed secession, while statewide 80 percent favored secession. At 2 a.m. on May 24, Union soldiers crossed the Potomac. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and J.E.B. Stuart fought to deliver our commonwealth from an invasion that had nothing to do with freeing slaves, but rather maintaining the forced economic dependence of the South upon the North.

Michael Shumaker
Fairfax

Thinking of History in Real Time

To the Editor,

Letter writer Kiran Hampton asks if she is “the only one alarmed by the presence of high schools named after Confederate leaders?” [“Alarmed By School Names, Connection, April 10-16, 2013]. In response, I would say, “Why yes, I believe she is.”

History cannot nearly be understood in 20/20 hindsight. To understand that period of our nation's history you must examine

and analyze the issues as if you were present during those times and not from the perspective of a person living a century and a half later. Obscured by today's political correctness is that the vast majority of people in the South at the time of the Civil War did not own slaves. In 1850, less than 6 percent of white Southerners owned slaves, leaving 94 percent who did not. To presume that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

some 800,000 young, white Southerners left their homes, families, and loved ones to risk their lives defending the rights of a small, wealthy minority ignores significant other issues, such as states' rights, that had not yet been settled in our nascent republic.

If Ms. Hampton would like to participate in a present day history naming issue, I would call her attention to the Navy's politically-motivated decision to name a ship after the late Congressman John Murtha. The amphibious transport dock ship, now being constructed and scheduled for commissioning in 2015, will be named after a person known for his very public pre-trial condemnation of the Marines involved in the Haditha incident during the Iraq war, as well as his own ethical issues while a member of Congress. Further, all other ships of the class are named for American cities. As a matter of fact, I would like to see one of the area's new schools named after Lee's dependable corps commander James Longstreet, because he became a "reconstructed rebel," embracing equal rights for the newly freed blacks, unification of the nation and reconstruction.

Chris J. Krisinger
Colonel, USAF (Ret.)
Burke

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Photo by Nancy J. Olds

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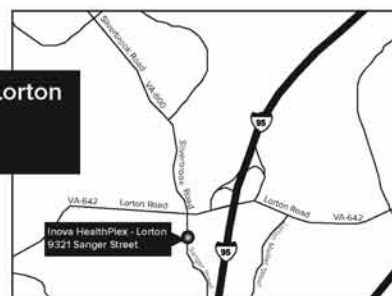
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As the May 1 national college decision day looms, high school seniors like Jack Phillips and Elizabeth Cornick of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School must decide which colleges they will attend in the fall.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Countdown to College Decision Day

Local college counselors offer advice on making the right choice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marta Daniels recalls the day when her son Will received his first college acceptance letter.

"He was thrilled," she said. "It was a huge relief to know that he had been accepted somewhere." But elation soon turned to stress when Will learned that he'd been accepted into all five schools to which he'd applied. "We went from being relieved that he would be going off to college next fall to panicking over whether or not we would choose the best school for Will," said Daniels.

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, the day students must shell out hefty deposits to secure their spots at colleges and universities, students like Daniels are feeling pressure. Most college counselors agree that it's important to make sure the school is a good fit for the student academically, financially and socially, and local counselors share ideas for making the decision less daunting.

They urge students to do a thoughtful assessment of who they are and what they need to thrive in an academic environment. "From community college to the ivy leagues, every school has success stories," said Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University in Arlington. "You can be successful at any school if it is the right one."

Brie Jeweler-Bentz, Psy.D., a psychologist at The School Counseling Group encourages students to ask, "Where to I want to be geographically? Do I need a large campus or a school with an urban campus? Will I go crazy in a small town? Do I want to paint my face and cheer on my Division I sports team?" The school's political and religious climates matter, she said, as does the local weather.

She also stressed that a school must be a good fit both socially academically. "A big rah-rah school is great, but academically will the student get lost in a big lecture hall with 400 other students?"

Michael Carter, Ph.D., director of college counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said that fit and balance also matter. "Does the student mesh with the school's programs academically and extracurricularly? Is there a good blend academically, socially and extracurricularly so that the student can have balance?"

One way to answer these questions is to spend time on campus. "Sit in the cafeteria, have lunch and look around at the students," said Jeweler-Bentz. "How do the students dress and talk? Do they have piercings, tattoos and nose rings? Does the school click for you? Does it feel like home?"

Randy Tajan, director of college counseling at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said students should look at colleges through a new lens, that of admitted student. "What is student life like? What about access to professors? Can you be a student and an active citizen? They should think about again why they applied to those schools originally."

A school's atmosphere should not be underestimated, said some counselors.

"Given that our environment often affects us, for better or worse, is this school a good fit for my goals and values?" asked Michael Hude, college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. He said that students should also ask, "Does it foster an environment that will facilitate the type of growth I'd like both to experience [in college] and take with me for the rest of my life?"

Hude said that the cost of the school is an important consideration: "Will I be going into debt? Does the quality of the education and the school's reputation justify the expense and debt?"

Meg Mayo, director of college counseling at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., agrees. "I think any type of scholarship money if awarded should play into a decision," she said. "I really worry about kids coming out of college loaded down with debt and not finding work right away."

Jeweler-Bentz adds the prospective students should take a look at those who have graduated from the institution. "Some schools have amazing [alumni] networks that can hook graduates up with job opportunities," she said. "It's also important to look at statistics on job and graduate school placement to see how good of a job particular colleges do with their students post-graduation."

Canfield said that once a student has selected a school, the next step is to connect. "Plan for orientation," he said. "Learn the process for registration. Check out the school's fan page on Facebook. Some schools host invitation-only closed social media sites."

Students should also start planning for life on campus. "What [activities are] they going to join when they get to campus? Students who are involved in campus activities or have a job on campus that is limited to 10 hours a week are significantly happier and do better in their classes than their counterparts who have neither," said Canfield.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Ninth grader Savannah Willet of Clifton shows off her bag of donated hair. Her mom Megan Dygve sits beside her, having made the first cut. Savannah has been growing those lustrous locks since third grade.

Robinson Students Make The Cut for Caring

26 Acts of Kindness campaign continues.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

April 1st marked the beginning of Robinson Secondary School's "26 Acts of Kindness"—a tribute to the 26 children and adults who were killed at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting last December in Newtown, Conn. The Student Government Association (SGA) pulled out all the stops to make this "pay it forward" campaign a success, even providing t-shirts with space on the back for supporters to fill in each act of kindness performed, producing a promotional video that was uploaded to YouTube, and even establishing a Twitter site where do-gooders could post what good deeds they had done.

On Friday, April 12, the school took their kindness to the next level at a school assembly where 66 students and staff had some serious hair cuts—donating the lopped off locks to the charity Pantene Beautiful Lengths to make wigs for cancer patients.

BEFORE THE CUTTING commenced, Special Education teacher Megan Gaeta, the organizer of this charitable contribution, received a special proclamation from Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) honoring the educator's receipt of a 2012 Virginia Lottery Super Teacher Award. The proclamation noted Gaeta's work with her special needs students who, in partnership with other Robinson students, created the school's Packaged With Care program. Together, the students with and without special needs raise funds, then shop for supplies for community members in need, bringing hygiene supplies to shelters, school supplies for children,

even crafts for hospitalized children.

The assembly then heard from Associate Principal Mike Mukai, who told the personal tale of how he had come to be the adopted parent of a 14-year-old boy when he himself was just a single 25-year-old, with only three years of teaching experience to his name. "People always say 'Wow, Mike, how you changed that boy's life!'" said Mukai. "It's really more the other way around. You do change lives with every act of kindness, but every act of kindness really changes your life—for the better."

The gathering was also inspired by Michael Ricucci, president and CEO of TerraRising Records, who told his own motivational story and spoke of his company's work to promote music therapy and support music education programs.

There was some comic relief in the form of a student "fill the packages for those in need" relay race, and then the scissors finally came out. Several hair styling teams, including a group from the Paul Mitchell School in Tysons Corner, donated their time and talent for the event. Many of the donors had a family member or friend make the first few cuts before the professionals took over and gave the newly shorn hair some style and shape. Some of the girls had been growing those tresses for years, so it was no surprise when a few tears were shed to the sound of the snipping and the donations were finally zipped into plastic bags.

ROBINSON'S 26 ACTS OF KINDNESS campaign will end officially on April 26 when all of those t-shirt-wearing, kindness-pledging students gather to take a group panoramic photograph to send to Sandy Hook Elementary school, along with the story of their crusade to give kindness a place in daily life. Sixty-six new hairstyles walking the school halls will act as a daily reminder toward that goal.



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) presents the proclamation for a Virginia Lottery Super Teacher 2012 Award to special education teacher Megan Gaeta at the 26 Acts of Kindness Assembly at Robinson Secondary School. Gaeta's class and the students who partner with them have donated countless hours of energy and time toward charitable activities like their Packaged With Care program.

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SCHOOL 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.

Sean Padraig Brennan, a senior majoring in computer science at the University of Rochester, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement for the fall 2012 semester. Brennan, a resident of Fairfax Station, is the son of John and Mary Ellen Brennan, and a graduate of South County Secondary School in Lorton.

Achievement Scholar awardees are the finalist candidates judged to have the strongest record of accomplishments and greatest potential for academic success in college. The 2013 National Achievement Scholarship Winner in the area is **Hayley V. Harris** of Centreville High School.

Forty-four undergraduate researchers at the University of Virginia have been selected for the Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, which allow them to conduct independent research projects during the summer of 2013. The research awards support students who present detailed plans for projects that have been endorsed by a faculty mentor. A faculty senate committee selected the winners, who receive up to \$3,000.

Among the award recipients are:

Kylene Daily, 19, of Clifton, a second-year biochemistry major in the college, who is researching *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and human neutrophils, examining the relationship between the human immune system and particular bacteria.

Jonathon Blonchek, 20, of West Friendship, Md., a third-year computer engineering major in the Engineering School; **Shiv Sinha**, 20, of Clifton, a third-year electrical and computer engineering double major with a minor in engineering business; **Anish Simhal**, 21, of Burke, a third-year electrical engineering major; and **Vinay Dandekar**, 20, of Fairfax, a third-year computer engineering major comprise a

group of student researchers seeking to develop a sensor system to determine occupancy in study spaces in Rice Hall, the newest engineering building.

Pranav Aurora, 21, of Lorton, a third-year nanomedical engineering major in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and **Tristan Jones**, 21, of Reston, a third-year engineering major, are researching how to regenerate heart muscle cells to improve cardiac function after a heart attack.

Joseph H. Austin, of Springfield graduated from Boston University with a bachelor of arts in philosophy in January 2013.

Megan J. Cartwright, of Springfield, received a master of music in music education from Boston University in January 2013.

Courtney Paige Long of Fairfax Station graduated from Radford University at the end of the fall semester. Long, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Long of Fairfax Station, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology.

Meredith Rigby, of Clifton, was named to Susquehanna University's dean's list for the fall 2012 semester.

Eleven residents of Fairfax Station have been named to the fall semester Dean's List at Radford University.

They are **Lisa Michelle Diana**, junior accounting major; **Kyle Patrick Fairbanks**, freshman pre-business major; **Elizabeth Ann Haase**, junior interdisciplinary studies major; **Eileen K. McCoy**, freshman interdisciplinary studies major; **Ben Fernando Pasquel**, junior communications major; **Julia Loryn Ports**, senior communication science and disorders major; **Kayla Beth Reisinger**, senior interdisciplinary studies major; **Preston Charles Sellers**, freshman marketing major; **Aaron Thomas Sronce**, junior criminal justice major; **Sarah Ashleigh Elizabeth Stroop**, freshman interdisciplinary studies major; and **Kelli Taranto**, freshman interdisciplinary studies major.



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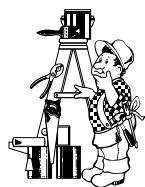
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WEDDING

Andreotta-Urben Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Mark P. Andreotta of Clifton are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Ashley Marie to Andrew Paul Urben, son of LTC (Ret.) and Mrs. Edward A. Urben of Woodbridge, Va.

The bride-to-be graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in English and cultural anthropology and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Marymount University. She is currently a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington.

The future groom received his bachelor's degree in psychology and human resources from James Madison University. He is currently employed as a contract specialist for the federal government.

The couple is planning a June wedding and plans to reside in Woodbridge, Va.

**Andrew Paul
Urben and
Ashley Marie
Andreotta**

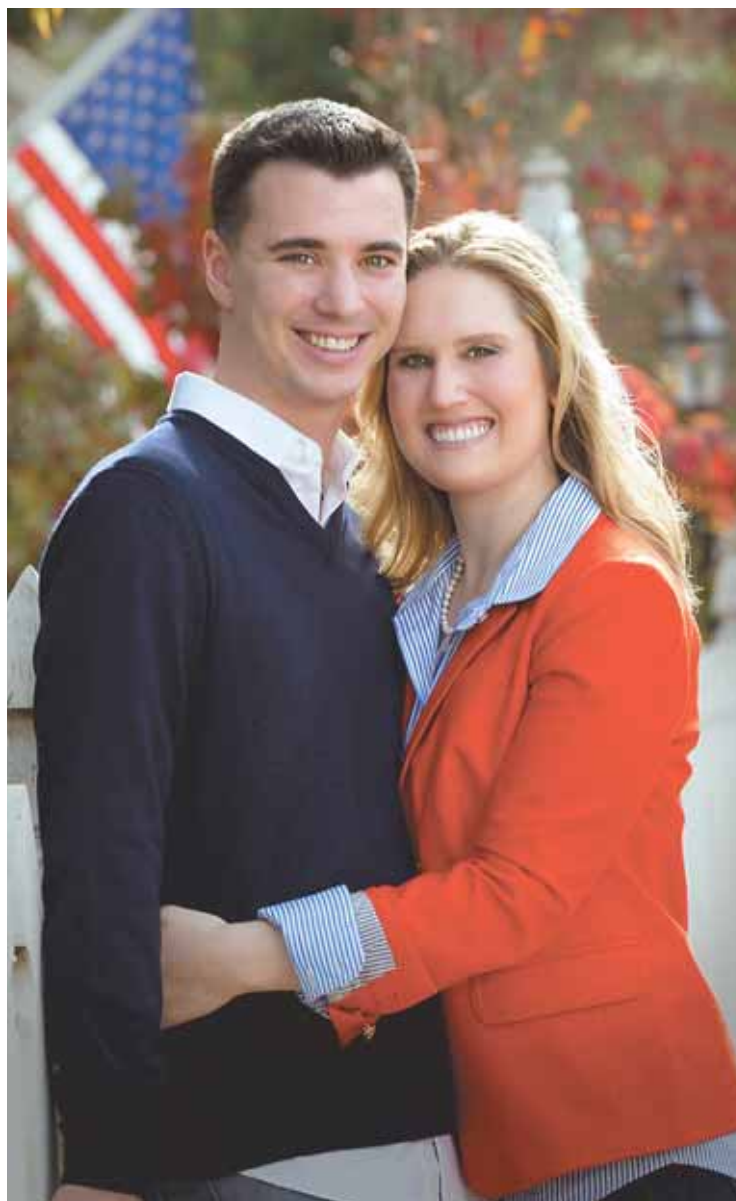


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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 20 & 21

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Burke

6012 Deep Lake Way\$759,990...Sat 12-6.....Clark Massie.....Tetra..703-391-6245

Centreville

5414 Clubside Ln.....\$449,000...Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606
6028B Machen Rd.....\$419,900...Sat 1-4.....Helen Hong....Samson Props..703-850-1607

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood.....\$800,000...Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert ..703-447-1662

Clifton

13100 Twin Lakes Dr.....\$1,272,500...Sun 1-4.....Marsha & Catie.....Long & Foster..703-618-4397
7380 Clifton Rd.....\$1,125,000...Sun 1-4.....Deborah Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-968-7000
13907 Stonefield Dr.....\$639,000...Sun 2-4.....Damon Nicholas..Coldwell Banker..703-502-8787
13904 Warm Springs Ct.....\$625,000...Sun 2-4.....Damon Nicholas..Coldwell Banker..703-502-8787

Fairfax

5102 Walport Ln.....\$550,000...Sun 1-4.....Kristi Morgan.....RE/MAX..703-909-4462

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6207 Halley Commons Ct..\$1,199,000...Sun 1-4.....Helen Grozbean.....Keller Williams..571-233-4287
7917 Wild Orchard Way.....\$960,000...Sun 1-4.....Pat Dewey.....Long & Foster..703-919-4952
8611 Woodwren Ln.....\$897,500...Sun 1-4.....Kathy Peters.....Long & Foster..703-915-2165
11501 Lilting Ln.....\$849,000...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
7713 Stoney Creek Ct.....\$839,950...Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
8001 Eddy Bend Trl.....\$795,000...Sun 2-4.....Carrie Shokraei.....RE/MAX..703-297-2109
6314 Youngs Branch Dr.....\$729,900...Sun 1-4.....Diana Khoury.....Long & Foster..703-401-7549

Franconia/Kingstowne

7505 Cadbury Row.....\$449,950...Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
4330 Gingham Ct.....\$399,950...Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6500 Old Carriage Dr.....\$299,950...Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

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8960 Fascination Ct #316.....\$339,990...Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

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8707 Middleford Dr.....\$724,900...Sun 1-4.....Michelle Gordon.....Long & Foster..703-489-1627

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Fairfax Sta/South Run \$839,950
Open Sunday 4/21 1-4

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Falls Church/Rt 50 \$244,950
Open Sunday 4/21 1-4

Spectacular lake front end unit condo w/ 2 patios, lovely hrdwd flrs, cozy frplc, remodeled bath, updated kit w/ newer appliances & lighting, loaded w/ moldings, new windows & sliders, replaced HVAC, washer, dryer & water heater, shows like a model, plenty of parking, comm pool, walk to rec center & only 1/2 mile to I495.



Burke \$739,950
Dramatic 2 Story Family Room

Sunny open floor plan w/ 5,200+ SQ FT on cul-de-sac backing to dense woods w/ SUNROOM, screened porch, 5BR, 4.5 BA, huge fin walkout bsmt, gas frplc, skylts, loaded w/ hrdwd flrs, eat-in kit w/ new SS & blk appliances, MBR w/ sitting rm, MBA w/ jetted tub, library, sec sys, sprinkler sys, replaced HVAC, roof & siding.



Fairfax Sta/South Run \$849,950
Backs To Parkland

Sunny Berry blt home w/ 5BR, 3.5BA, screen porch & deck overlook stream, huge fin walkout bsmt w/ bar & dance floor, dramatic Lvrn & Dnrm w/ vaulted clngs, updated eat-in kit w/ granite & new appl, library w/ walk-in closet, MBR w/ sittingrm, MBA w/ double sinks & sep tub & shower & more.



Burke/Longwood Knolls \$549,950
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Helping Homeless 'Close to Home'

**Springfield man
launches the
25th Project
Charity Golf
Classic to benefit
homeless.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On Christmas Day 2001, Jay Herriot made a vow to himself. "I spent the holiday away from family. It was the worst Christmas, and I vowed to myself this would not happen again," Herriott said.

The next Christmas, Herriott went to Boston Market and purchased a complete meal for eight. He put the hot meals in the back of his Ford Explorer and spent the day handing out meals to homeless people in D.C.

In 2002, he got his daughters involved in the effort, and they delivered 14 meals to homeless



Jay Herriott with his daughters Leyanah (left) and Marissa.

individuals. In 2010, his family began giving out meals on the 25th of every month, and in 2012, the group delivered 455 home-cooked meals to homeless living in tents and makeshift shelters in the woods.

They named the organization The "25th Project," because their efforts were initially limited to Thanksgiving and Christmas, and steadily grew into a gathering of volunteers every 25th of the month to aid the homeless in their community.

"After years of helping the homeless on Thanksgiving and Christmas, my daughters and I started to wonder what the homeless did throughout the rest of the year," Herriott said. "During the holiday season it is easy to give, but what happens the other 10 months of the year? Over time we invited others to help out and it has just taken off from there."

In addition to his daughters, Herriott enlists volunteers from Burke Community Church and a close-knit group of friends from the Burke Cigar Shop.

"On Christmas Eve, my church has a gift-wrapping party, and we'll wrap whatever we have, from tents and sleeping bags to flannel shirts," Herriott said. "As The 25th Project has grown, we have expanded our goals and now provide tents, batteries, sleeping bags, tarps and other life essentials."

This year, the grassroots organization is hosting its first charity golf tournament on April 26, at South Riding Golf Course, 43237 Golf View Drive from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Proceeds from the tournament will help raise \$25,000 needed to provide permanent housing for two individuals starting in January 2014.

"In just a few weeks, we will be playing a little golf, laughing a whole lot and raising money to help our homeless friends. The purpose of this event is to help get two of our homeless friends out of the woods and into housing on January 25th 2014," Herriott said, adding that the funds will pay rent, utilities and some transportation costs.

"We want to help our homeless friends get plugged back into society where they are back to being productive members," Herriott said.

For more information about The 25th Project and the golf tournament, contact Mike Mears at 202-734-1897, or visit the website at www.the25thproject.org.

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CALENDAR

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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

21st Anniversary Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8-10 a.m., at the Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. One of the largest community-wide recognition events honors 154 volunteers with 400 guests expected in attendance. \$40 for individuals; \$60 for corporate guests. www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Into The Woods. 7 p.m., in the Lee High School Auditorium, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The Steven Sondheim musical centered on Cinderella and other fairy tale characters who learn that "Happily Ever After" isn't necessarily as simple as it seems. \$10; \$5 for seniors and students. www.leadramaboosters.ticketleap.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Into The Woods. 7 p.m., in the Lee High School Auditorium, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The Steven Sondheim musical centered on Cinderella and other fairy tale characters who learn that "Happily Ever After" isn't necessarily as simple as it seems. \$10; \$5 for seniors and students. www.leadramaboosters.ticketleap.com.

The Phantom Tollbooth. 7:30 p.m., at Mark Twain Middle School, 4900 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A play based on the book by Norton Juster; Milo travels through the lands of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis to discover whether words or numbers are more important as he attempts to



Back row (left to right): Randi Chambers, Courtney Cox, Brian Nguyen, Preston Taylor, Emily Kelly, Elizabeth Carlisle, Marco Valentin, Roger Wise, Danielle Payne, Kara Pepper. Front row: Raina Payne and Ellie Milewski.

Going 'Into the Woods' at Lee High

Four years of high school theater will come to an end for 11 seniors when Robert E. Lee High School presents the Steven Sondheim musical "Into the Woods," April 18-20; the story centers on fairy tale characters who learn that "Happily Ever After" isn't necessarily as simple as it seems. All three performances will begin at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets for "Into the Woods" are \$10, \$5 for senior citizens and students. Advance tickets can be purchased at a reduced price at www.leadramaboosters.ticketleap.com.

save the Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason from the Land of Ignorance. \$5. sjlebowitz@fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

John Marshall Library 50th Birthday. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Music, prizes, refreshments, Latin dance, a commemorative ceremony and a performance of "The Poet and the Rent," starting at 1:30 p.m.,

presented by the Traveling Players Ensemble, are among the festivities at the family friendly celebration. Register. 703-971-0010 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

American Cancer Society Relay-4-Life. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Nova Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Drive, Springfield. The second annual family friendly walk features face painting, a caricature artist, Zumba, a basketball challenge, a live DJ and food offerings concurrently available with health

screenings for cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure throughout the day. \$10. 703-822-6598 or pmartinmattocks@nvcc.edu.

Standing Room Only. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Vulcan Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A selection of 20 artist-customized bike seats. This show will transform the everyday and familiar seat into a work of art; what is usually seen as a tool for sitting and part of the bicycle unit will become an object of display and will be exhibited as such, standing on pedestals as purely an art object. www.workhousearts.org.

The Phantom Tollbooth. 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Mark Twain Middle School, 4900 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A play based on the book by Norton Juster; Milo travels through the lands of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis to discover whether words or numbers are more important as he attempts to save the Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason from the Land of Ignorance. \$5. sjlebowitz@fcps.edu.

Into The Woods. 7 p.m., in the Lee High School Auditorium, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. The Steven Sondheim musical centered on Cinderella and other fairy tale characters who learn that "Happily Ever After" isn't necessarily as simple as it seems. \$10; \$5 for seniors and students. www.leadramaboosters.ticketleap.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

NTRAK display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Display of the Northern Virginia NTRAK (T-TRAK layout). \$3 for adults. \$1 for children. 703-425-9225

www.fairfax-station.org
The Phantom Tollbooth. 2 p.m., at Mark Twain Middle School, 4900 Franconia Road, Alexandria. A play based on the book by Norton Juster; Milo travels through the lands of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis to discover whether words or numbers are more important as he attempts to save the Princesses Sweet Rhyme and Pure Reason from the Land of Ignorance. \$5. sjlebowitz@fcps.edu.

MONDAY/APRIL 22

Kindergarten Orientation. 2-3:30 p.m., at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. Rising kindergarten students and their parents are invited to tour the school, meet the teachers, see the classrooms and meet other students. 703-923-2700.

TUESDAY/APRIL 23

Sam Oodle and His Sheep-TASTIC Adventure. 5 p.m., at Gum Springs Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Springfield native Devin Beasley will be present at his book release. www.amazon.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

MOMS on the Run: Maximizing the Early Years. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy., Springfield. Coffee, tea, homemade treats and perspective of Speaker Kelly White, who shares her thoughts on "taking the hard road" in the first years of child rearing so as to set the foundation for an enjoyable teen-parent relationship down the road; childcare included. \$7. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

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Robinson Coach Rike Reaches 500 Wins

60-year-old has coached Rams girls' soccer for 32 years.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Jim Rike became a high school head coach at the age of 24 when he took over the Falls Church boys' soccer program. He envisioned a career of considerable length, but as it turned out, he had no idea just how long he would stick around.

"I figured about 20 years," Rike said recently, "and I'd be done."

Rike has shown tremendous coaching longevity since his days with Falls Church. However, he sold himself short with the two-decade prediction.

Way short.

RIKE, NOW 60, is in his 37th season as a high school head soccer coach in Northern Virginia. Rike took over the Robinson girls' program after five seasons coaching the Falls Church boys' team, and has spent the last 32 years leading the Rams. Robinson has won five state championships under his watch, including the 1994 team that finished undefeated and ranked No. 2 nationally in the NSCAA/Umbro top 20 poll. The Rams at one point won six consecutive region titles (1994-99).

"I've enjoyed the kids," Rike



Robinson girls' soccer coach Jim Rike talks to the Rams during halftime of a 6-0 win against Mount Vernon on Friday, April 12. Rike reached 500 career victories earlier this season.

said, "and the experience."

While Rike had already accomplished plenty, the 2013 Rams helped him add another achievement to his resume.

Robinson defeated West Springfield 6-0 on April 4, giving Rike 500 career victories. The Rams were hoping to reach the milestone last season, but would have needed a deep postseason run in order to compile the necessary wins. Instead, Robinson's 2012 season ended with a loss to Yorktown in the Northern Region quarterfinals.

"Last year, they were aiming for it too, and we didn't get it so we were really motivated to get it this year," senior Savannah Miller said. "It was a really good experience. We all stormed the field and we could see how happy he was. It was wonderful."

After win No. 500, Robinson

beat South County 1-0 on April 8, improving the Rams' record to 5-1-1. The following night, however, Robinson lost its Concorde District opener to Chantilly, 7-1.

The lopsided loss to the Chargers was a reminder that the youthful Rams were bound to take their lumps.

"I really wasn't focused as much on [winning No. 500] as the kids were," Rike said. "We've got a really young team this year and we've had peaks and valleys, as you can see. We played so well against West Springfield—that was the 500th win—the kids were all fired up. And then, against Chantilly, it was 2-1 at half and we got down a couple goals early and the bottom just dropped out. You could just see it in the kids—it was like a deer in headlights."

"... Some of the parents came to me and I said you guys got a



Robinson senior Haley Roberson scored a goal against Mount Vernon on Friday, April 12.

little overconfident after West Springfield. I told you this is a rebuilding year for us. We've got a lot of young kids playing, we're starting three freshmen and there are going to be peaks and valleys and that was definitely a valley.

"I told the girls, you set two records this year: we got 500, and never in my life has a team I've coached ever given up more than three goals in a game and you gave up seven in one game. I said that's quite an accomplishment."

Robinson bounced back with a 6-0 victory against Mount Vernon on April 12. Miller, senior Haley Roberson, junior Alex Nagle, freshmen Katia Rabinowitch and Charlotte Hyland, and senior Annie Goetz each scored a goal for the Rams.

"He definitely cares about his players," Roberson said about Rike. "He goes above and beyond

to make sure that if how he's doing isn't working, he will adjust to how a player needs to play."

ROBINSON lost to Westfield 2-1 on Monday, April 15, dropping the Rams' record to 6-3-1 overall and 0-2 in the Concorde District. It brought Rike's career record to 502-131-55. Robinson traveled to face Centreville on Wednesday, April 17, after The Connection's deadline. Rike wrote in an email he's unsure how much longer he'll be coaching. For now, the Rams' next opponent is Oakton, which Robinson will travel to face at 7 p.m. on April 25.

"He's really dedicated," Miller said. "He cares a lot about us. We respect him a lot, he's very experienced [and] he knows what he's talking about. We look up to him because we know he's been through it all."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Braddock Baseball Ranked No. 2 in Region

The Lake Braddock baseball team is ranked No. 2 in this week's Northern Region top 10 coaches poll.

The defending state champion Bruins beat Annandale 9-3 on April 15, giving them seven consecutive victories after a 3-2 start. Lake Braddock improved to 10-2 overall and 6-0 in the Patriot District. The Bruins faced T.C. Williams on Wednesday, April 17, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

Madison is ranked No. 1 in this week's poll. Oakton is ranked No. 3, followed by Robinson (4), Centreville (5), West Potomac (6), McLean (7) and Fairfax (8). Stone Bridge and T.C. Williams finished in a tie for the No. 9 ranking. The Liberty District has four teams in the 10, most of any district in the region. The Concorde and Patriot districts each have three teams ranked.

Chantilly, Yorktown, Langley, Westfield, Washington-Lee and Herndon also received votes.

Lake Braddock Softball to Face South County

The Lake Braddock Bruins and South County Stallions are the top two teams in the Patriot District softball standings. Lake Braddock won the season's first meeting and remains in first place with an undefeated record.

Round two is approaching.

Lake Braddock will host South County at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23. The Bruins beat the Stallions 7-5 on April 3.

Lake Braddock defeated Annandale 19-0 on Monday, April 15, improving the Bruins' record to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the Patriot District.

Lake Braddock outscored its first nine opponents 101-9, and its last four 55-0.

The Bruins faced T.C. Williams on Wednesday, April 17, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

South County, which has won the last six Patriot District championships, started 9-1. The Stallions outscored their opponents 105-10 during their first 10 games, and 44-0



Alex Gransback and the Lake Braddock baseball team are ranked No. 2 in this week's Northern Region top 10.

during their last four.

South County faced Annandale on Wednesday, April 17, after The Connection's deadline. The Stallions will host T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

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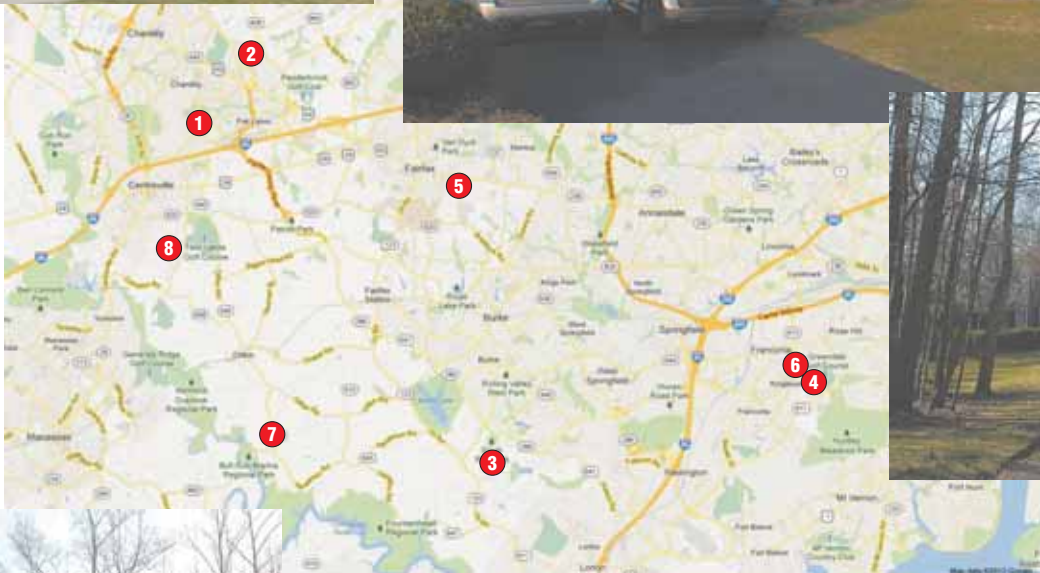


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