

Sophomore Liam Finn (left) and senior Zach Newby (right) battle with samurai blades for the honor of the samurai's wife, played by senior Sarah Beck (center), in the Lake Braddock Theatre production of "Rashomon."

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2013
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Lake Braddock Theatre Revisits 'Rashomon'

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Fairfax County Budget Reflects 'Increasing Needs, Decreasing Revenues'

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Budget Reflects 'Increasing Needs, Decreasing Revenues'

Supervisors approve one-cent increase in property tax rate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

By a 9-1 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a one-cent increase in the property tax rate during its FY2014 budget mark-up session on Tuesday, April 23, which means the average homeowner will pay about \$216 more next fiscal year.

The tax rate increase equals \$20.6 million in additional revenue for Fairfax County.

THE MARKED-UP BUDGET includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed value, a one-cent increase from the \$1.075 rate in FY 2013. The increase is less than the

two-cent increase proposed by County Executive Edward Long on Feb. 26.

"This budget is a responsible fiscal plan that reflects our current difficult economic situation," said Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "It helps to restore structural balance as we continue to struggle with increasing needs, decreasing revenues, and the impacts of sequestration and economic uncertainty."

Braddock Supervisor John Cook joined his

colleagues in supporting the "compromise" budget, the first time the Republican has voted for the budget since 2010.

"It was a tough vote. There are no good, simple answers to the position the county is in. We need economic growth to keep what we have and when it stalls out, that's a problem," Cook said after the vote Tuesday.

Cook strongly criticized the Federal Government's inaction, and noted the impact that had on the Fairfax County budget.

"We should have had an 8 percent growth in commercial real estate this year. Instead we had 0 percent. We



Media and the public attend the first FY2014 budget presentation by County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. on Feb. 26.



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova



For the first time since 2010, Braddock Supervisor John Cook voted to approve the budget.



Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity was the lone dissenter in the boards 9-1 vote for the FY2014 budget.

Highlights of the package include:

- ❖ Increases the Real Estate Tax Rate by one cent, from the current \$1.075 to \$1.085 rather, than the advertised two cent increase;
- ❖ Increases property taxes by approximately \$216 on the average household;
- ❖ Closes a projected budget shortfall of \$169 million;
- ❖ Includes \$20.52 million in county agency reductions;
- ❖ Creates an \$8.1 million reserve to address the impact of sequestration and federal cuts;
- ❖ Transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools total \$1.89 billion or 52.7 percent of total county disbursements. The 2 percent increase is less than the school board's budget request, but provides funds to address their projected increase in the student population;
- ❖ Provides no increase in compensation for county employees, with the exception of longevity step increases included in the advertised budget;
- ❖ In addition, the total number of county staff positions will be reduced by 41, which includes the elimination of 83 positions, offset by 42 new positions.

wouldn't be in this circumstance if that growth had occurred. The commercial drop isn't because our businesses aren't ready to do business, it's because they are waiting for the Federal Government to do something," Cook said. "It is a bipartisan failure of the White House and Congress, of Democrats and Republicans."

Cook called the Fairfax County budget a

"true compromise."

"Not one person on the board got everything he or she wanted. In tough economic times it's important for us all to come together and craft a budget together. That's what we did this year and for that reason I voted for it."

But Supervisor Pat Herrity, one of three Republicans on the board, said the board

could have done better, adding that the one-penny increase translates into a 4.5 percent increase on the average homeowner. He noted that increased assessments for townhouse and condo owners mean those residents will see a \$700 increase in their tax bills.

"For the first time in recent memory, our citizens are seeing significant tax increases at all three levels of government," Herrity said. "Our furloughed residents do not have the option of raising revenue, they must make difficult cuts in their family's budgets and that is what we should be doing."

Herrity said that many Fairfax County homeowners are struggling as they try to navigate an uncertain future.

"I am disappointed that yet again we have balanced the budget on the backs of our homeowners," Herrity said. "We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

Cook said he advocated to keep the tax rate at FY2013 levels, but decided that he could be more effective working with his colleagues rather than simply voting no on any proposed tax increase.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher," Cook said. "By being involved, I was able to successfully exert some leverage on the board to help get the final rate reduced by one penny. Despite some misgivings, I believe this budget is a difficult compromise in a difficult year. That is why I supported it."

IN THE BUDGET, the board reaffirmed its commitment to work with employee groups to develop and refine an overall pay structure that invests in our workforce and helps in recruiting and retaining high quality employees.

"Our employees have continued to provide quality services to our residents with professionalism and dedication, even in the face of pay freezes and tough economic times," Bulova said. "Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by this body. The creation of a fair and sustainable compensation package for implementation in FY 2015 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the county workforce."

The Board of Supervisors will adopt the FY2014 Budget on April 30. The FY2014 Budget Mark-up as well as other background materials is posted at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher."
—Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

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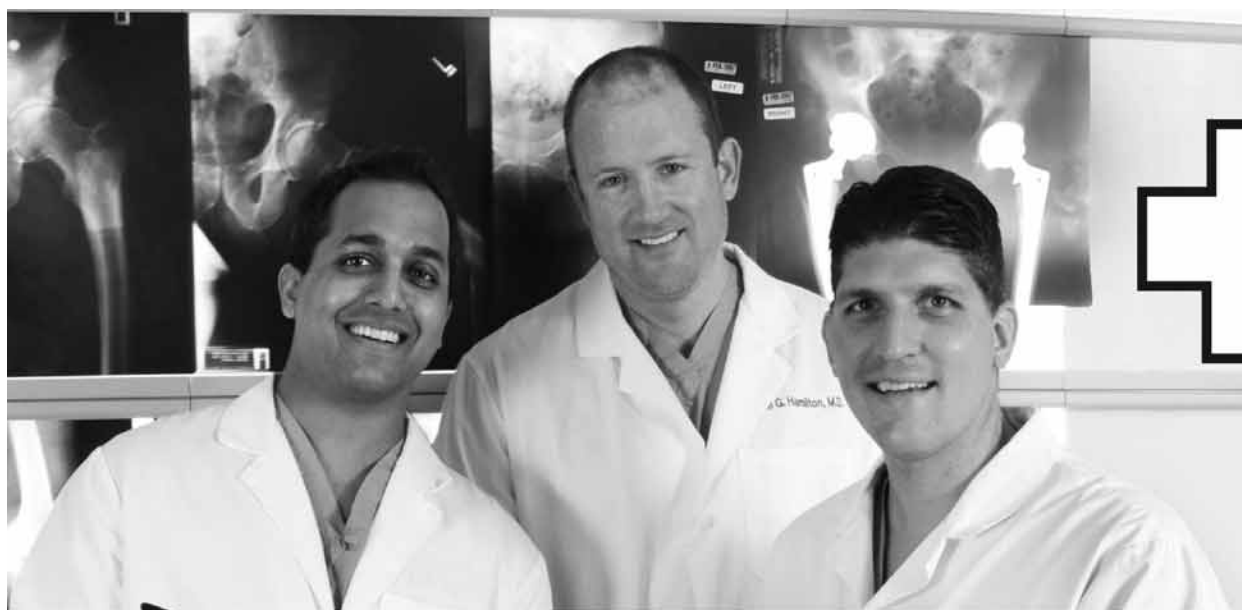


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OPINION

Connection Guide to Parks Wins ‘Best in Show’

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County, published in our Newcomers and Community Guides, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, Insiders Guide to the Parks led judges to say: “This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches.”

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. “This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category,” said judges of Ross’s work. “The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope.” See the entire immigration package at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. “Great reporting job and extremely thorough,” said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for Guns From the South. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for Looking Behind the Numbers.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge’s comment: “An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt.”

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and sec-

ond place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: “Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers’ interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered.”

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of “Freezin’ for a Reason,” the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of “New Leadership at Gunston Hall.”

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for “Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening” in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: “Although the tabloid format and general design has a ‘features’ feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in.”

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge’s comment: “A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day.”

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo Santiago Valdez. Judge’s comment: “Great Exposure.”

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge’s comment: “Think you can’t say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like ‘Bovine Intervention’ with the subhead ‘Del Ray’s Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities.”

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August Insiders Edition, Community and Newcomers Guide; and third place for special edition for the Children’s Gazette.

Mary Kimm won third place, editorial writing, for a package of education editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, under Awards.

AWARD WINNERS

SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin’ for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider’s Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children’s Edition.

MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

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New Superintendent Named

Karen Garza selected as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously approved educator Karen Garza of Texas to be the next superintendent of the 181,000 student district at its April 18 school board meeting.

For the past four years, Garza has been the superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. She will succeed retiring Superintendent Jack Dale on July 1, 2013. Her four-year contract runs through June 30, 2017, and she will earn \$265,000 in her first year.

"I'm thrilled that we have been able to finalize the appointment and contractual arrangement with Dr. Garza," said Ilryong Moon, Fairfax County School Board chairman. Moon said several school board members visited Lubbock early last week and "all of us came away extremely impressed with the community's observations regarding Dr. Garza's tenure as its superintendent."

"I could not be more pleased with the outcome of our extensive search process for a new superintendent," said school board member Ryan McElveen (at-large.) McElveen said one of the primary characteristics the community hoped to see in a new superintendent was the willingness to engage with the community.



Garza flew to Fairfax last Thursday to accept the appointment in person, and toured several schools on Friday, meeting with teachers, students and administrators.

"I am very humbled and excited to be selected by this board," she said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to join such a renowned school system." Garza said she will be "responsive and accountable" to all FCPS stakeholders and will support efforts already underway to provide FCPS students a world-class education.

"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools," she said.

Prior to her role in Lubbock, Garza served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country. As chief academic officer, the district's second position to the superintendent, Garza was responsible for both instruction and facilities for more than 200,000 students.

"She comes to Fairfax County with a deep commitment to openness and engagement and is eager to work collaboratively in the best interest of all students," Moon said.

The school board will begin planning a series of transition activities and public meetings for Dr. Garza before she begins her tenure as FCPS superintendent on July 1.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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Lake Braddock Senior Receives Scholarship

Nathaniel Smith awarded \$5,000 from Northern Virginia Urban League.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Urban League awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to local high school students at its annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Dinner Friday, April 19. The organization, whose mission it is to enable disadvantaged youth to achieve economic and academic success, awarded one scholarship to Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Nathaniel Smith.

"We need to excite our kids about science, technology, engineering and math in elementary school, so when they are a junior in high school they can really learn those areas of focus and participate in related extracurricular activities, like Lego Robotics," said Cynthia Dinkins, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Urban League. "Then when it's time

to go to college they can seriously consider majoring in one of those areas."

Dinkins said the importance of STEM learning must be imparted by all parties in the educational system.

"We need assistance from the homes, the schools, the churches and any other community groups. Learning starts at home, so it's upon us as parents that we encourage children to learn things that are different than they might normally learn, to go outside the box a little bit," she said. "And it's incumbent upon the schools to ensure we have teachers in the classrooms that make math, science, engineering and technology exciting. There are so many things youth can do in those programs."

SMITH is the vice president of the Japanese Honor Society at Lake Braddock, and is a member of the FIRST Robotics team.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Nathaniel Smith receives a \$5,000 scholarship from the Northern Virginia Urban League Friday, April 19.

He has been recognized as an AP Scholar, a National Merit Outstanding Achievement recipient and is an Eagle Scout.

"I've applied to many different colleges, but I'm leaning towards Cornell University," he said. "I hope to major in computer science, a form of engineering that involves a lot of information and technological systems that will help us all push forward into the future."

The Northern Virginia Urban League also presented awards to Boeing and Randal Pinkett, a Rhodes scholar and winner of season four of "The Apprentice."

Pinkett said that the coming years would prove vital to the future of minorities in the U.S., because they have an opportunity to increase their impact on the STEM fields.

He cited the fact that while the U.S. population consists of 13 percent African-American, 14 percent Hispanic and 1 percent Native American, they only make up 6 percent, 8 percent and .6 percent, respectively, of the U.S. college engineering population.

"Minorities, while we are witnesses to this digital world we live in, we are not as active participants in this technological revolution as we need to be," he said. "What we need is not more of us engaged in technology as consumers, we need more of us as active producers of technology, creating, designing, programming, imagining, because consumers change very little about the world. It's producers who innovate, change the landscape and the marketplace. That opportunity is right at our fingertips, because young people are already inclined to be comfortable with technology."

MARC MORIAL, the president and CEO of the National Urban League, was also in attendance, and he urged the audience to make STEM education a top priority.

"This commitment to STEM education, to enabling, ensuring and equipping our children, is not only something that is good to do, it is an imperative for us," he said. "Great nations do not just buy things, great nations make and invent things."

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NEWS

'Walking for Joe' Team Raises \$8,000 for MS Research



The "Walking for Joe" team in Reston, (from left): Bel Edmonson, Burke, Leslie Reiner of Tampa, Fla., Josh Greenberg of Centreville, team captain Hannah Wojszynski of Burke, Karan Baboota, Rori Stubbs and Madelyn Magnotti, all of Burke.

Hannah Wojszynski, senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, participated in the recent Reston Walk MS: She is a captain of a "Walking for Joe" team that raised \$8,000 in support of multiple sclerosis research. Hannah walks for her dad, Joe, who has MS. Her motto is: "We Walk Because We Can!"



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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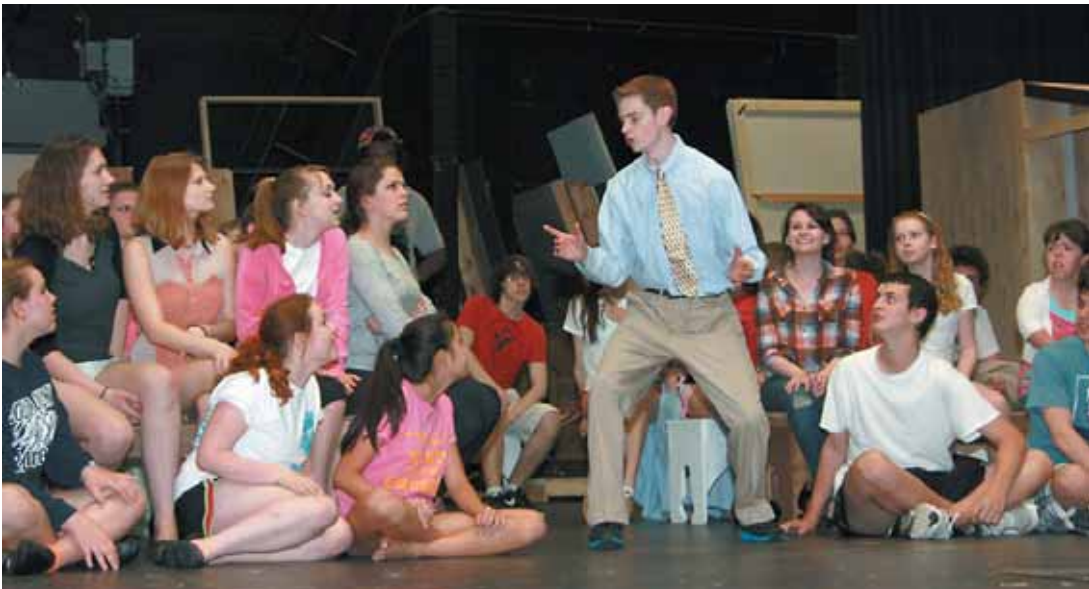


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South County sophomore Jack Gereski as Harold Hill rehearses with the cast of “The Music Man.”

‘The Music Man’ Marches Into South County High

Cast of over 50 presents the award-winning classic musical.

By TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Katie Murray, a South County High School senior and Fairfax Station resident, remembers vividly the first time she saw a rendition of Meredith Wilson’s classic musical “The Music Man.” Her younger self was home sick, channel surfing, and stumbled upon the 2003 film remake starring Matthew Broderick and Kristin Chenoweth.

“When it was done,” recalled Murray, “I felt instantly better ... for two minutes. It was just that moment, when everything was right with the world. It’s one of those feel-good musicals, but it also has a lot of depth to it that you don’t expect.”

Indeed, the Grammy and Tony Award-winning melodies telling the story of the slick traveling salesman Harold Hill and dubious librarian Marian Paroo have entertained generations of theatergoers. Songs such as “Seventy Six Trombones,” “Gary, Indiana,” and “Shipoopee” are lodged firmly in the tapestry of American musical history.

HILL, PLAYED BY SOPHOMORE Jack Gereski, is something of a lovable tramp, looking to make River City, Iowa another notch on his con belt. To get into character, “I have to feel really, really slimy,” explained Gereski. “I’m ripping all these people off. I enjoy it.”

Hill’s standard angle is swooping in on unsuspecting townsfolk and smoothly yet swiftly plying them for money with visions of a starting up a grand and mellifluous boys band. Once payments for instruments and uniforms are in hand, Hill skips town.

However, things don’t go exactly as planned in

River City, thanks in no small part to Marian, her skepticism, and her eventual change of heart. Hill is attracted to her, despite her defensive maneuvers, and begins to unveil a softer, more genuine underbelly to his character.

“I re-watched [‘The Music Man’] recently,” said senior Whitney Turner, “and it’s interesting to see how well developed the characters really are, even though it seems like such a simple musical.” The Fairfax Station resident plays Marian in this production.

“It’s the old idea ‘never judge a book by its cover,’” added Murray. “When you unravel the true Harold,

he’s a really great guy, who really cares about this town and these kids, and wants to help them in the end.”

Where and When

“The Music Man” runs Friday, May 3, Saturday, May 4, Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12, and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at www.southcountytheatre.org. The Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium at South County High School is located at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

and South County drama teacher Kathie McCormally. “I love the big numbers; musicals are my favorite to do.”

This production is McCormally’s third time directing “The Music Man” in her 33-year career of teaching theater. “Every time there are new obstacles, new challenges,” she said. Especially when the spring musical is open to the entire student body, not just drama students.

“The majority of students are from the theater department,” admitted McCormally. “But we always have new ones that come up, and I’m always surprised.”

One of those surprises was Gereski, who bagged a lead role in 2012’s production of “West Side Story” as a freshman. As a drama-novice choir student, the ascent was unexpected — not unlike the turnaround in this year’s role.

“The thing that sets this musical apart,” said Gereski, “is the villain is the guy everyone ends up rooting for in the end.” Whether “villain” is Hill’s condition or his identity, remains open to interpretation.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lake Braddock Theatre Revisits ‘Rashomon’

Director, fight choreographer both also worked on school’s 1994 production.

By TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Nineteen years ago, Lake Braddock drama teacher R.L. Mirabal and local choreographer Casey Kaleba worked together on “Rashomon,” the staged version of Akira Kurosawa’s 1950 dramatic film rooted in Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s Japanese folkloric stories “Rashomon” and “In a Grove.”

Mirabal, who has been teaching at the high school since the 1990-91 school year, was directing back in 1994; Kaleba, just a student at the time, played the woodcutter character.

The plot of Kurosawa’s work more closely follows that of “In a Grove,” while drawing more setting influences from “Rashomon.” The film director chose to have the parable center around a dead samurai and four different accounts of not only his demise, but the rape of his wife and the involvement of a notorious criminal—all offered during a court proceeding.

The court hears understandably conflicting yarns from the thief Tajomaru (played by sophomore and Burke resident Liam Finn), the woodcutter, the husband samurai (told posthumously through a “me-

dium”—character played by senior and Burke resident Zach Newby)—and the samurai’s wife (played by senior and Burke resident Sarah Beck).

“In her story, she’s a liar,” said Beck about the wife character. “But she tries to show off that she’s innocent. She likes to play games. It’s one of the most challenging roles

Where and When

“Rashomon” plays Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 4, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.lbtheatre.com.

I’ve had to take on. Myself, I’m not actually a mean person; I’m too nice.”

TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY of Lake Braddock, each drama production this year is one Mirabal has already directed in his 23-year career at the school. According to him, “Rashomon” was a solid choice to revisit and show off a tight group of talented upperclassmen.

It was also an opportunity to bring back Kaleba, who has made a name for himself as a highly sought-after fight choreographer in

the DC-area theater scene. “He’s a stand-up comedian with weapons,” said Mirabal, “making a living out of beating people up.”

Every two weeks during rehearsal season, Mirabal has given Kaleba a three-hour session with the cast to dedicate to the show’s demanding choreography. Not only are there a number of complicated samurai katana bouts, but the two veterans have staged an epic battle to open the play and give a central set piece (the gate of Kyoto) some context.

After a motion workshop with the entire cast, Mirabal suggested to Kaleba: “What about if we do this opening segment, this onslaught murder?” The scene is one of several creative additions Mirabal has made. Others include casting entirely new characters whose lines are text taken directly from Akutagawa’s original works.

These additions are “by no means long,” said Mirabal, and don’t “interrupt the flow. There’s a rich, beautiful description of the gate, the time period, and how people treated their dead. It’s helpful to set the image of what’s going on.”

“[Akutagawa’s] stuff is about where we came from and what we are, in a time period when they were trying to be so modern, and so Western,” Mirabal continued. “People see this movie and forget that it’s a Japanese story. They can



Sophomore Liam Finn (left) and senior Sarah Beck play struggle during a rehearsal for Lake Braddock’s production of “Rashomon,” while senior Zach Newby’s character can only observe from the sideline.

put it in any time and any place. I wanted some aspect of it to be Japanese. At least I can get the original words in there.”

THOUGH MORE OR LESS REMOVED from Akutagawa’s own 1920s-era Japan, his tales of deception, violence and honor contain timeless messages.

“Like for couples and relationships,” said Anna Coughlin, a junior from Burke who is the understudy for the samurai’s wife. “You’re trying to find fault—it re-

ally lies a little bit everywhere. You can’t always pin it in one place; everyone’s equally guilty. Everyone will always think they’re innocent, and go to great lengths to prove it, not only to everyone else but to themselves even more so.”

“It gives the audience conflict,” added Finn. “[They have to] take sides: Maybe I think the samurai is cool, honorable, but then everything is flipped upside down. Expect the unexpected.”

And try to avoid the opening onslaught murder.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Rashomon. 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock Theatre presents the play based on Akira Kurosawa’s award-winning Japanese period drama in which a samurai has been murdered and four witnesses each tell a completely different version of the incident. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.lbtheatre.com.

The classic musical “Hello Dolly!” 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. This light-hearted musical features a meddlesome matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart’s musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder’s “The Matchmaker” is a family-friendly musical full of funny characters and whimsical music. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

“The Trocks.” 8 p.m., at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, or “The Trocks,” feature large men stuffed into tutus balancing on point. The talented male dancers play both male and female roles to give the classical art an entertaining edge. \$24-\$48. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Of Mice and Men. 4 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Acting Company performs a stage adaptation of the American literary classic, the story of two migrant workers in Depression Era California who nurture a hopeless dream of someday saving enough money to buy a farm of their own. \$20-\$40. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

“The Magic Flute” By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. 4 p.m. at Harris Theatre, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Follow the young Prince Tamino in his quest for truth and romantic love, as he encounters a cast of unique characters. General admission: \$20; students, seniors, groups: \$15. 888-945-2468 or visitcfa.gmu.edu.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Turkish Coffee Night. 7-9 p.m., ATFA, 3949 University Dr., Fairfax. Turkish Coffee Night is a monthly gathering with fun activities, Turkish food, and Turkish Coffee. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dEQZQTZOTNVHhRb2l2UmFPRjhtOE6MA#gid=0>. **Rashomon.** 7:30 p.m., at Lake

annuals, perennials, stones, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees and master gardener/landscaping design; flyer required. www.robinsoncrew.org or contact Kay Billings at plantsale4crew@gmail.com.

Artist Talk/Walk. 4-6 p.m., at The Mason Hall Alumni Gallery in Mason Hall, GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An artists’ talk from Patrick Sargent and Erwin Thamm who have collaborated the past three years on a “multilayered narrative of our heroes”; among the work produced are silk screen layered over woodwork portraits of Andy Warhol, J Edgar Hoover and Paul McCartney. www.Facebook.com/gmu.soa.

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SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Model Classic 2013. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. An educational arts and crafts exhibit with doll houses, model railways, lectures by area historians, scale modeling demonstrations, raffles, children’s workshops, a scale modeling contest, and many displays presented by the Northern Virginia

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

AFTA Women’s Book Club. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the American Turkish Friendship Association, 3949 University Drive, Fairfax. Come to discuss a series of imaginary letters written to Lady Mary Montague, wife of an English ambassador to Turkey in 1716-1718, entitled “Yes, I Would Love Another Glass of Tea,” by Katharine Branning; light refreshments served. <http://bit.ly/Xamija>.

Free History Program. 7:30 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Historic re-enactor, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, portrays Mrs. Robert Walker, a suffragist from Baltimore. She will talk about the effort to secure voting rights for American women. Then, Bob Beach, architect, describes the plans for a permanent memorial to their struggles: the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

The Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center at 9401 Burke Road, Burke. The sale includes



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REAL ESTATE

What Housing Slump?

Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

"The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn't want the maintenance of a single family home," said Proxmire. "[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment's notice."

Proxmire's clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are 13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. "In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million," he said. "We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington]."

COMMUNITIES LIKE the Oronoco in Old Town Alexandria; Market Street at Town Center in Reston, and Quarry Springs in

Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. "The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you've got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service," said DeSantis. "The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don't have the issue of a long commute to work."

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. "Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming," said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. "Reston is one of the places where inventory is extremely limited, so you're getting multiples offers over list price."

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, "Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well."



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master's in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. "There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who've sold their large suburban homes," said Wulff. "Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walk-able neighborhood that is near mass transit."

DeSantis agrees. "A big portion of those clients are the empty-nester crowd," he said. "Their kids

have graduated from college and they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn't a good time to sell their big house in suburbs."

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. "Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales," he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the

SEE LUXURY, PAGE 13

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REAL ESTATE

Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 12

boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. "It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats," he said. "After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people's confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."

VIEWPOINTS

Housing Market Blossoms in Area

—ANDREA WORKER

Andy Krum, ABR, GRI, CDPE/Keller Williams Realty—Reston, 703-679-1700



"This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available."

Andrea Karalyos, realtor, REP coordinator, Prudential PenFed Realty—Reston, 703-716-2900



"Right now is the best time to sell or buy real estate in the Reston area. With the opening of the new Silver Line Metro approaching, we have seen an enormous increase in sales. The median sales price is up by 7.4 percent compared to last year. If your home is priced well and shows nicely you will have no problem selling. Reston is focused on the future yet still manages to stay true to its core principles of "Live, Work, Play and Get Involved."

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5-K Walk to benefit children in foster care

What: 5-K Walk

When: Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Registration from 8 to 8:30 a.m.)

Where: Lake Accotink Park (rear entrance) 5660 Heming Avenue, Springfield, VA.

Cost: \$30 registration fee/ Picnic lunch provided



Steps to Walk – or Support the 5-K Walk

1. Log on to: www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml to register
 2. Create your own team or join our Fairfax Families4Kids team.
- For more information, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov

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OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 27 & 28

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**

Centreville

13605 British Manor Ct.....\$689,900..Sun 1-4.....Margo Lockard.....ERA...703-359-7800

Chantilly

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

Clifton

7242 Archlaw Dr.....\$1,075,000..Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX...703-503-4365
12403 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$949,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermendorfer..Long & Foster...703-503-1812
12421 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$945,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermendorfer..Long & Foster...703-503-1812
12602 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$939,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermendorfer..Long & Foster...703-503-1812

Fairfax

6119 Queens Brigade Ct.....\$619,900..Sun 2-4.....Carrie Shokraei.....RE/MAX...703-297-2109

Fairfax Station

7612 Rustle Ridge Ct.....\$849,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808

Franconia/Kingstowne

6186 Windham Hill Run.....\$619,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster...703-822-0207
6509 Birchleigh Way.....\$374,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster...703-822-0207

Lorton

9040 Swans Creek Way....\$1,050,000..Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX...703-869-4567

Springfield


7415 Jervis.....\$524,900..Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX...703-475-3986

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.

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HOME SALES

In March 2013, 50 Burke homes sold between \$771,000-\$127,500.

Address	BR . FB . HB ...	Postal City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC .	PostalCode	Subdivision
5804 HERBERT ST	6 ... 4 ... 1	BURKE	\$771,000	Detached	0.58	22015	HOMEWOOD
9686 BRITFORD DR	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$746,299	Detached	0.24	22015	BRITFORD
6010 WILMINGTON DR	4 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$589,900	Detached	0.23	22015	BURKE CENTRE
9207 LAKE BRADDOCK DR	5 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$574,000	Detached	0.20	22015	SOUTHPORT
6650 NEWCHANDLER CT	4 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$559,000	Detached	0.24	22015	CHERRY RUN
6307 HERITAGE LANDING CT	4 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$553,500	Detached	0.56	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5618 MERIDIAN HILL PL	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$545,000	Detached	0.24	22015	SIGNAL HILL
6301 FALLING BROOK DR	5 ... 4 ... 0	BURKE	\$541,000	Detached	0.30	22015	SUMMERDAY
10014 WARDS GROVE CIR	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$535,000	Detached	0.19	22015	BURKE CENTRE
6014 CARRINDALE CT	4 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$530,000	Detached	0.25	22015	BURKE STATION SQUARE
9636 IRONMASTER DR	4 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$530,000	Detached	0.19	22015	CHERRY RUN
6240 WILMETTE DR	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$525,000	Detached	0.23	22015	BURKE CENTRE
9750 REHANEK CT	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$520,000	Detached	0.21	22015	CHERRY RUN
9081 BROOK FORD RD	5 ... 3 ... 0	BURKE	\$515,000	Detached	0.20	22015	BURKE STATION SQUARE
10000 MARSHALL POND RD	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$510,000	Detached	0.20	22015	BURKE CENTRE
8995 PARLIAMENT DR	5 ... 4 ... 1	BURKE	\$506,000	Detached	0.35	22015	SIGNAL HILL
5101 KINGS GROVE CT	5 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$505,000	Detached	0.21	22015	KINGS GROVE
9709 SCHMIDT DR	5 ... 3 ... 0	BURKE	\$489,000	Detached	0.23	22015	CHERRY RUN
9111 HUBER CT	5 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$485,000	Detached	0.26	22015	SHANNON STATION
9514 IRONMASTER DR	5 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$481,900	Detached	0.33	22015	ORANGE HUNT WEST
10241 MARSHALL POND RD	5 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$461,000	Detached	0.17	22015	BURKE CENTRE
6716 SUNSET WOODS CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.06	22015	WOODED GLEN
9374 TUCKER WOODS CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.07	22015	WOODED GLEN
9312 KITE ST	3 ... 2 ... 0	BURKE	\$438,000	Detached	0.29	22015	CARDINAL ESTATES
9397 PETER ROY CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$429,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	CAROLINE OAKS
9417 ULYSSES CT	3 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$408,500	Townhouse	0.04	22015	TRIPOLIS AT LAKE BRADDOCK
5491 LIGHTHOUSE LN	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$395,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK
9622 BLINCOE CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$394,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	BURKE VILLAGE
9874 HIGH WATER CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$385,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	LAKEPOINTE
5766 WALNUT WOOD LN	4 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$382,500	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5723 WALNUT WOOD LN	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
10156 SASSAFRAS WOODS CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5835 CANVASBACK RD	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	BURKE VILLAGE
5470 LIGHTHOUSE LN	3 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK
12213 WYE OAK COMMONS CIR	2 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$364,900	Townhouse	0.05	22015	WALDEN AT BURKE CENTRE
9856 BURKE POND CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$363,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
9313 RAINTREE RD	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$359,000	Detached	0.34	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK
9980 WHITEWATER DR	3 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	LAKEPOINTE
6105 MARTINS LANDING CT	3 ... 3 ... 1	BURKE	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5642 RAPID RUN CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	LAKEPOINTE
5807 WALDEN COMMONS CT	2 ... 2 ... 2	BURKE	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	WALDEN AT BURKE CENTRE
6023 SCARBOROUGH COMMONS LN	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE
10281 QUIET POND TER	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$309,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	BURKE CENTRE
4971 TIBBITT LN	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$287,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK
5801 OAK LADDER CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$275,250	Townhouse	0.05	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5804 SPRING PL	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$264,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE STATION SQUARE
10705 SPRING OAK CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	BURKE	\$253,000	Townhouse	0.05	22015	BURKE CENTRE
5835 COVE LANDING RD #101	2 ... 2 ... 0	BURKE	\$229,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.05	22015	BURKE COVE
5920 COVE LANDING RD #101	2 ... 2 ... 0	BURKE	\$219,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.05	22015	BURKE COVE
10330 REIN COMMONS CT #1	3 ... 1 ... 0	BURKE	\$127,500	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.05	22015	BURKE CTR STATION COMMONS

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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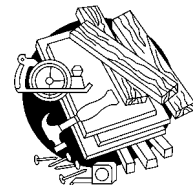
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NEWS

Art Competition Winners Announced

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) attends ceremony at Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

More than 200 high school students and their parents and teachers gathered at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center last week to hear U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and judges from across Virginia's 11th Congressional District announce the winners of the annual Congressional Art Competition.

Olivia Jones, a student at South County High School in Lorton, was awarded first place in the competition for her work entitled "Fracture." Jones' work will be hung in the U.S. Capitol this summer along with the works of other first place winners from congressional districts across the country.

The second place winner was Hyung Jun Suh, of Emmanuel Christian School in Manassas, for his piece named "Red Chair." Christopher Aponte of Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax took



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Third place winner Chris Aponte, of Robinson Secondary School, poses for a photo with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

third place for his piece "My Abstract Dreams." Fourth place went to Karla Pacheco of Woodbridge

High School for her piece entitled "Little Wonders," while Jacqueline Yofi Edwards of the New School of Northern Virginia in Fairfax won fifth place for her work named "Control."

The 144 pieces of art submitted to Congressman Connolly's annual competition will be on display at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center's McGuire Woods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road in Lorton, through May 26. The works were submitted by 111 high school students representing 23 different public and private high schools in Fairfax and Prince William.

"I encourage everyone to spend some time at the Workhouse Arts Center to view these works of art and enjoy the creativity of these talented high school students," Connolly said. "The record number of entries in this year's competition reflects the high level of interest in the fine arts among Northern Virginia students and the dedication of our arts teachers and patrons to encouraging artistic skills in our high schools."

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SPORTS

South County Softball Sends Message to Lake Braddock

Stallions sophomore Yates has 4 hits, 4 RBIs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Patriot District championship game is nearly a month away, but the South County softball team had something to prove on Tuesday.

Winners of six consecutive district titles, the Stallions entered their latest contest against Lake Braddock looking up at the Bruins in the standings. Lake Braddock, which lost to South County in last season's district final, was undefeated, had outscored its last five opponents 70-0 and beat the Stallions 7-5 during their first meeting this season on April 3.

"We knew," South County head coach Gary Dillow said, "we needed to come in and make some kind of a statement."

AFTER SEVEN INNINGS, the Stallions had sent a message: the path to the Patriot District championship still runs through South County.

Sophomore second baseman Cara Yates went 4-for-5 with four RBIs and junior pitcher Rebecca Martin tossed a three-hitter as South County rolled to a 10-1 victory on Tuesday night at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Yates' two-run triple in the second inning gave South County a lead it would not relinquish as the Stallions drew even with the Bruins in the loss column.

"It just makes a statement," Dillow said, "that we're not ready to let go of the district title yet."

Yates, who batted leadoff for South County as a freshman last season, moved down a spot in the order for the first half of



South County sophomore second baseman Cara Yates finished 4-for-5 with a triple and four RBIs against Lake Braddock on Tuesday night, April 23.



Lake Braddock third baseman Amanda Patterson swings against South County on Tuesday night.

the 2013 campaign, but recently returned to the top of the lineup. She reached base in each of her five at bats on Tuesday, April 23, including four hits.

"When you're hitting one," Yates said, "you know you have to get a hit because as a leadoff hitter, you pretty much determine the momentum of the game, so you have to get it started."

Yates led off the game with an opposite-field single to right. In the second inning, she ripped a two-run triple to center field. Yates singled in the fourth inning, reached on an error in the sixth and hit a deep two-run single to right-center in the seventh.

"She didn't look like a leadoff hitter tonight—she hit at least three balls right to the fence," Dillow said. "She's absolutely seeing the ball great right now and just really driving the ball."

Junior catcher Haylea Geer finished 2-for-4 for South County. Freshman right fielder Carley Kastner went 1-for-3 with two RBIs, senior first baseman Brittnee Haynes was 1-for-3 with an RBI and freshman left fielder Jade Williams hit a triple.

Martin earned the win in the pitcher's circle, tossing a complete game. She allowed one earned run and three hits while walking two, hitting one batter and striking out four in seven innings.

"She pitched really well," Dillow said. "I think she had something to prove. She didn't pitch real well against them the last time we played. It's probably, really, the first off-game I've seen her have in her three years here."

Martin did not allow a hit until the fourth inning, when Lake Braddock sophomore Amanda Hendrix led off with a double. Hendrix also hit a solo home run over the fence in right-center during the sixth inning, and freshman outfielder Danielle Newman had a single.

"We were definitely trying to defend the legacy we have," Martin said about the Stallions' six consecutive district championships.

LAKE BRADDOCK helped the South County cause with six errors.

"We pride ourselves on defense," Lake

Braddock head coach George Rumore said, "and [for] some reason, they just got the jitters, I guess, and they couldn't hang in there on defense."

Rumore downplayed the loss, saying it meant "nothing" in the grand scheme of things.

"We just let it go," he said. "We were 10-0 ... so we just go 10-0 again. So let's just forget it and learn from our mistakes in this game."

Junior Ashley Flesch started in the circle for Lake Braddock and allowed three unearned runs and five hits in four innings. She hit one batter, walked one and struck out two. Hendrix pitched the final three innings.

Lake Braddock fell to 10-1 overall and 7-1 in the Patriot District. The Bruins faced Lee on Wednesday, April 24, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock will travel to face West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

South County improved to 12-1 overall and 8-1 in the district. The Stallions will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Centreville

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team beat Centreville 9-8 on Tuesday, April 23, extending the Rams' winning streak to six and improving their record to 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the Concorde District.

Robinson will close the regular season at home against Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 26. The Chargers reached the state championship game the last two seasons and three of the last four.

Fairfax Boys' Lax Wins Seven of Eight

The Fairfax boys' lacrosse team is 7-1 heading into this final three regular sea-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team is 10-2.

son games.

The Rebels started 7-0 before losing 14-4 to four-time defending state champion Langley on April 15. Fairfax is 3-1 in the Liberty District.

The Rebels will host Madison at 7:30 p.m.

on Friday, April 26.

Robinson Girls' Soccer to Face Oakton, Herndon

The Robinson girls' soccer team will close its regular season with games against the Oakton Cougars on Thursday, April 25, and Herndon Hornets on May 6. The Rams will travel to face the Cougars and host the Hornets.

Robinson played to a 1-all tie with Centreville on April 17, moving the Rams' record to 6-3-2 overall and 0-2-1 in the Concorde District.

Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison baseball team remained atop the Northern Region top 10 and Vienna rival Oakton is ranked No. 2 in this week's coaches poll.

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 3, followed by Centreville (4), Robinson (5), Yorktown (6), Chantilly (7), West Potomac (8), Langley (9) and South County (10).

T.C. Williams, Stone Bridge, McLean, Westfield and Fairfax also received votes.

The Concorde District has four teams in the top 10, most among the four districts in the Northern Region. The Patriot District has three teams in the top 10, the Liberty has two and the National has one.

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