

Members of the Fairfax County History Commission hosted a reception at historic Oak Hill after the dedication of the new historical marker commemorating the Bog Wallow Ambush of 1861.

Burke Civil War Marker Unveiled

NEWS, PAGE 4

Discussing 'Saturday Night in the Suburbs'

NEWS, PAGE 2

Governor Endorses Springfield Site for FBI Headquarters

NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS

‘Saturday Night in the Suburbs’

Lake Braddock seniors discuss sex, drugs and social media.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

What really happens in the suburbs on Saturday nights? At an open forum at Lake Braddock Secondary School on Wednesday, May 1, community parents had the opportunity to have their fears and concerns over this question confirmed, assuaged, and in some cases, postponed.

Special guests for the night were five high school seniors who had volunteered to discuss a range of topics—including illegal alcohol and marijuana use, depression and social media use—and field cross-examination from concerned parents.

The event followed another of its kind that took place at West Springfield High School on April 24. Titled “Saturday Night in the Suburbs,” the concept was developed by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (unifiedpreventioncoalition.org) and sponsored by the respective PTSA.

THOUGH THE ETHNICALLY DIVERSE five-member panel comprised all seniors (three female, two male), the vast majority of the 70-odd parent audience admitted to having one or more middle school students at home. Grade representation quickly dropped as the level of attendees increased; only one or two parents of high school seniors were present. Their peers, apparently, have all been there, done that.

At first, it would appear those with seventh and eighth-graders were acting prematurely. What could they gain from attending a question-and-answer-style event focused on teasing out the present-day high school culture of sex, drug use and electronic social interaction?

According to the results of the most recent Fairfax County Youth Survey, their fact- and truth-seeking involvement was right on time.

During her introduction, Executive Director of the Fairfax County Unified Prevention Coalition Diane Eckert shared that from 45,000 eighth, 10th and 12th grade students surveyed, 6.6 percent of eighth graders responded that they regularly drink alcohol



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County Executive Director Diane Eckert moderated an open forum discussion of high school transgressive social culture at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

VIEWPOINTS

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPTS DISCUSSED TONIGHT?



Judy Dioquino, Lake Braddock PTSA president and Burke resident

schools. Parents are just way behind.”



Diane Eckert, executive director of UPC of Fairfax County and Vienna resident

“The large number of middle school parents who are here tonight. It’s wonderful. And we have to pat ourselves on the back: while 36 percent of seniors surveyed are drinking regularly, 10 years ago it was up in 50 percent for 12th graders. As parents, these are things your school, your resources here, are readily available to help you with. You have really good people.”

— TIM PETERSON

and had done so within the last 30 days. And 2 percent of that group admitted to binge drinking (for males, having 5 or more drinks in a two-hour period, 4 or more for females).

“You should be here,” Eckert addressed the audience. “Now is the time to hear from these young people and think about how you want to handle these issues with your young people.”

The forum’s timing was appropriate for several reasons. In addition to being the onset of prom and graduation season, May has also been dubbed “Parents Who Host Lose The Most” in Fairfax

County.

PARENTS PROVIDING ALCOHOL TO MINORS fell under the category of “access.” According to the survey, 16 percent of 10th graders and 36.5 percent of seniors reported they had had a drink in the last month and were drinking regularly. The panel confirmed the understanding that parents’ liquor cabinets (both allowed and stolen) and older siblings or friends are the primary access points.

However, the five seniors also provided commentary that was

SEE PANEL, PAGE 5

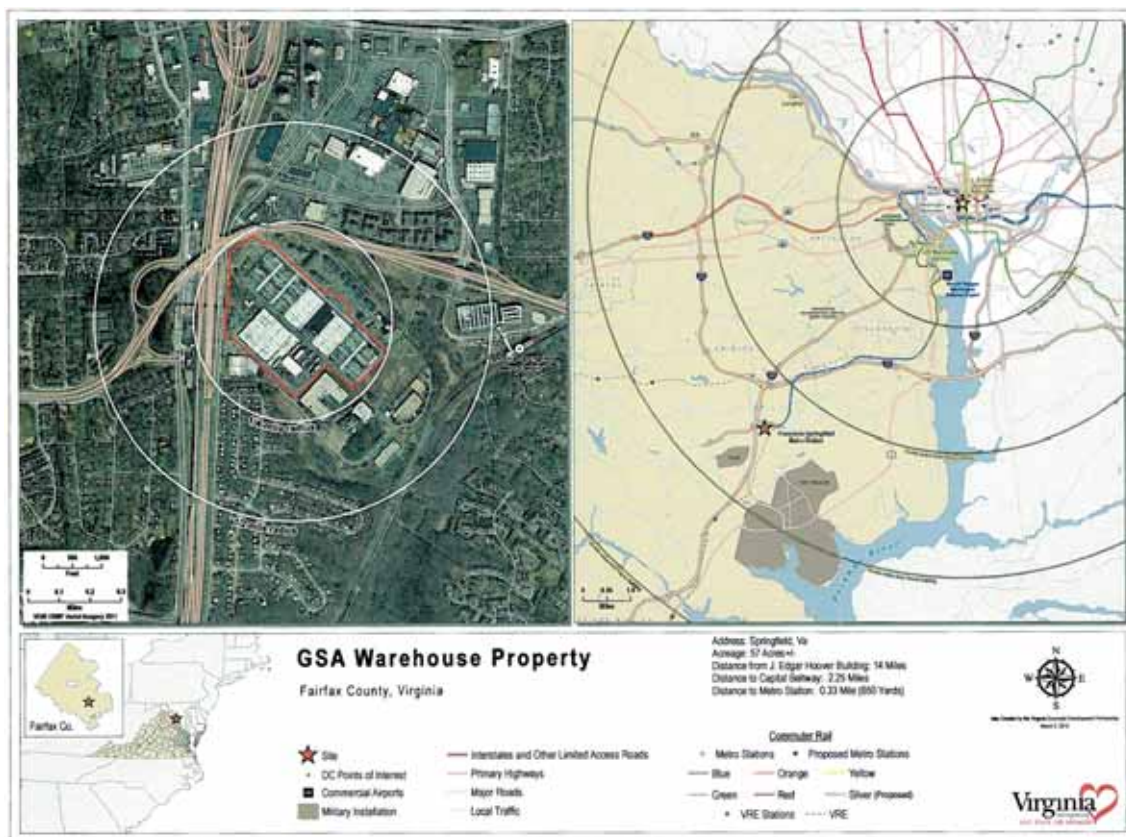


PHOTO PROVIDED BY GOVERNOR McDONNELL'S OFFICE



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

The General Services Administration warehouse site, which Fairfax County is proposing for the relocation of the new FBI headquarters, is located in Springfield, near four million square feet of office space and bordering the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.

“In short, the GSA Warehouse property is a natural solution to satisfy the December 2011 Senate resolution and meets the organizational goals of the FBI as stated in a recent congressional hearing.”

—Governor Bob McDonnell

An aerial view of the GSA warehouse property in Springfield. The site is 14 miles from the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington and sits on 57 acres.

Governor Endorses Springfield for FBI Headquarters

In letter to FBI director, McDonnell says Fairfax County site will advance “national security mission.”

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell publicly endorsed the Springfield warehouse site for the new FBI building headquarters, supporting Fairfax County in its bid for the new headquarters. The move is expected to bring at least 12,000 jobs and a \$1.2 billion complex to Northern Virginia.

In an April 30 letter to FBI Director Robert Mueller and Dan Tangherlini, the acting administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), McDonnell said the federally-owned warehouse 57-acre site is the best choice for a number of reasons.

THE GSA ALREADY OWNS the Springfield warehouse property, which will save the government more than \$44 million per year in lease payments and make the transaction “both clean and easy,” McDonnell wrote in the four-page letter. The site also satisfies the FBI’s stringent post 9/11 security guidelines.

“In short, the GSA Warehouse

property is a natural solution to satisfy the December 2011 Senate resolution and meets the organizational goals of the FBI as stated in a recent congressional hearing,” McDonnell wrote.

McDonnell invited Mueller and Tangherlini to accept his personal invitation to visit the site “at your convenience to discuss its unique attributes with community leaders and state officials.”

McDonnell outlined many of those attributes in the letter, including the intelligence community’s “considerable footprint in the commonwealth.” He also noted the Springfield location would allow collaboration with Fairfax County’s nine federally-funded research and development centers and 10 laboratory consortium partners.

“We are confident collaborations with these and other partners will result in the development of new technologies for law enforcement and intelligence gathering, thus greatly advancing the FBI’s national security mission,” McDonnell wrote.

McDonnell also took the opportunity to tout the General Assembly’s historic bi-partisan



PHOTO COURTESY OF FBI

The FBI is currently headquartered in the J. Edgar Hoover building.

transportation bill this session, a bill, McDonnell wrote, “that will provide for billions more in new funding for Northern Virginia alone in the next five years.”

“The governor’s support is consistent with the unanimous endorsement of the site by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,” Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said Friday. “I thank Gov. McDonnell for recognizing all the reasons why this should be an easy decision for the federal government, and for further highlighting the reasons why Springfield makes the most sense for the FBI.”

Fairfax County board members have been lobbying FBI and GSA officials for more than a year.

IN JANUARY 2012, Fairfax County joined Prince George’s County and the district in placing its marker on the table in the high-stakes competition soon after the Senate passed a resolution authorizing the GSA and FBI to seek new headquarters in December 2011. The new headquarters would consolidate more than 21 separate locations and relocate the FBI from the J. Edgar Hoover Building at 935 Pennsylvania Avenue, built in

1975 and in deteriorating condition.

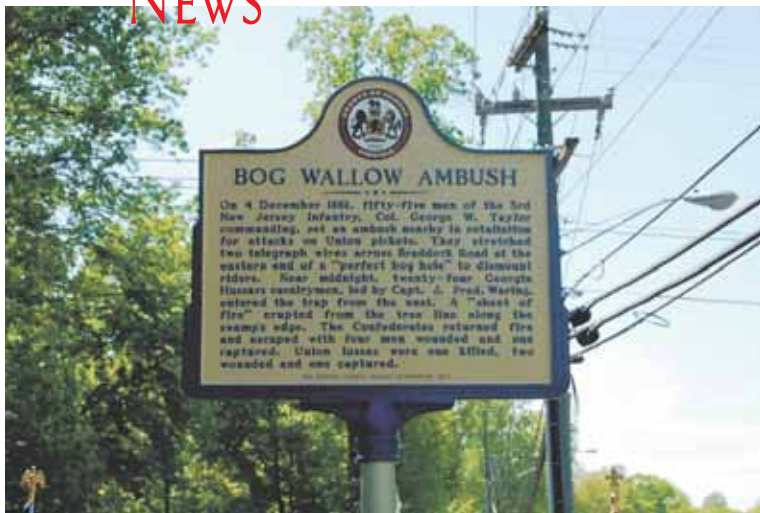
McKay said the benefits to the federal government of relocating to Springfield “would be substantial.”

“The FBI needs 2 million square feet of office space, located within two miles of a Metro station and within 2.5 miles of the beltway according to the GAO. Redeveloping existing sites in DC would be extremely expensive, especially given the post-9/11 security features that are now required. ... It is adjacent to the Franconia/Springfield Metro Station, VRE, AMTRAK, bus service, and every highway except Route 66.” He pointed out that airport access will soon be served by two Metro stations once Rail to Dulles is complete.

Fairfax County would also benefit.

“In addition to the high paying jobs that would come to the area, redevelopment of this site could spur construction of other office projects nearby and expand our commercial tax base,” he said. “You just can’t pick a better spot than Springfield,” McKay said.

According to Fairfax County officials, the GSA has received 35 responses to its request for information by its March 4 deadline, and is continuing to study those requests. The GSA is expected to begin accepting formal requests for proposals this summer.



The new Bog Wallow Ambush historical marker in Burke.



Braddock Supervisor John Cook (right) watches as Patty and Robert Kozak, descendants of the Union scout who planned the ambush, unveil the new historical marker commemorating the Bog Wallow Ambush of 1861.



Michael Mitchell, who conducted a significant amount of research on the topic, explained the significance of historic Oak Hill to the Bog Wallow Ambush.

Burke Civil War Marker Unveiled

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION

The sign commemorates the “Bog Wallow Ambush,” an 1861 Civil War skirmish.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and members of the Fairfax County History Commission gathered at the intersection of Dunleigh Drive and Braddock Road on Sunday, May 5, to dedicate a new historical marker commemorating the “Bog Wallow Ambush,” an 1861 Civil War skirmish.

The Fairfax County History Commission hosted the dedication ceremony, which was followed by a reception at historic Oak Hill.

The text on the new sign reads: On 4 December 1861, fifty-five men of the 3rd New Jersey Infantry, Col. George W. Taylor commanding, set an ambush nearby in retaliation for attacks on Union

pickets. They stretched two telegraph wires across Braddock Road at the eastern end of a “perfect bog hole” to dismount riders. Near midnight, twenty-four Georgia Hussars cavalrymen, led by Capt. J. Fred Waring, entered the trap from the west. A “sheet of fire” erupted from the tree line along the swamp’s edge. The Confederates returned fire and escaped with four men wounded and one

captured. Union losses were one killed, two wounded and one captured.

Following a brief account of the skirmish, the sign was unveiled by descendants of the Union scout who planned the ambush. The scout was severely wounded during the encounter, while attempting to ambush Confederate cavalry, according to Michael Mitchell of the Fairfax County History Commission.

—VICTORIA ROSS



Mary Lipsey, president of the Fairfax County History Commission.

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NEWS

Panel on 'Saturday Night'

FROM PAGE 2

unexpectedly tame. When questioned about peer pressure to drink to fit in, binge drinking, driving drunk and the use of marijuana and other drugs at high school parties, most of the panel members genuinely downplayed their prevalence.

"We're seeing the youth are being really influenced by how ambivalent the whole country is about the legalization of marijuana," said Eckert.

In some cases, students' responses were so positive and reassuring that the audience questioned their authenticity as a cross-section of the student body. "We need some bad kids on the panel," one parent commented during the discussion.

Indeed, another two seniors were meant to be on the panel but couldn't make it. And given the volunteer nature of their face-to-face presence at an event that was open to any adult in the community, it's understandable not all students would desire to come forward.

THOUGH PARENTS RAPIDLY FIRED QUESTIONS about sexual abuse at parties, if it's acceptable to call ahead to see if the party-thriller's parents would be present, and why students would drink or smoke in general, the room grew decidedly quiet when Eckert raised the topic of social media.

In addition to the inherent dangers of young adults risking their own privacy and safety through online picture and profile information-sharing platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, school and law enforcement officials have learned that social media is helping parties, particularly inter-high school, grow exponentially in size and popularity.

The panel confirmed this concept, citing the action jargon "Hype it or don't hype it" that qualifies a party as one that should be spread through social networks or not. The lack of audience feedback underlined a fundamental need for parents to make greater attempts at communicating with their children, both through new media and old-fashioned face-to-face time.

As one panelist summed: "You need to find a balance with your kid. You can be friendly, but if they mess up, they know the hammer's going to get dropped."



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OPINION

Some Limits, More Disclosure

Virginia does not benefit from elected officials being awash in cash donations and gifts.

It seems prescient now. Virginia's "corruption risk report card" in March 2012 ranked the state 47 out of 50, with an overall grade of "F." That's "F" for failing, mostly because Virginia is one of four states that place no limits on political contributions at all.

Virginia got a failing grade for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud, as we said last year. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts with some reporting loopholes is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as recent news about state elected officials and gifts well demonstrate. It could be better for businesses to have some limits as well.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how states handle contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political

parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle. You don't have corporations and CEOs giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

From 2009-2013, Dominion has made \$2,838,506 in political contributions to candidates and committees, 58 percent of it to Republicans, 39 percent to Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project www.vpap.org.

In 2012, Pepco donated \$2,000 to Friends of Martin O'Malley, Maryland's governor, \$10,000 to the state Democratic committee and \$5,000 to the state Republican committee.

In 2013, Pepco's total contributions currently reported are \$2,000.

In 2013, Dominion Resources' total contributions currently reported are \$450,000.

In 2010, Pepco donated \$4,000 each to Friends of O'Malley and Friends of Anthony Brown, his running mate. In 2008, Pepco donated \$10,000 to state Democratic committee and \$10,000 to the state Republican committee. (Pepco contributions are according to the Maryland Campaign Finance Reporting System.)

Dominion donated \$52,500 to McDonnell's campaign and another \$50,000 to his inaugural committee. Dominion also gave \$80,000 to the campaign of state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D), \$26,500 to Ken Plum (D) for delegate, \$25,000 to Mark Sickles (D) for delegate, \$18,500 to

Toddy Puller (D) for Senate, \$17,000 to Mark Herring (D) for Senate, \$14,157 to Tim Hugo (R) for delegate, \$12,000 to Tom Rust (R) for delegate and \$11,000 to Janet Howell (D) for Senate, just to cover some of the larger, local contributions.

Does it matter? Given the history of power outages, it's unlikely anyone would want to trade service from Dominion for service from Pepco.

Gifts are another question. In Virginia, even if an official does violate the very limited rules on gifts, the code states that "Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties."

Call us naive, but we would have bet that neither Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli nor Gov. Bob McDonnell would be susceptible to taking gifts under dubious circumstances, yet both are in the news for having failed to report gifts totaling tens of thousands of dollars. McDonnell says disclosure of gifts to his immediate family members are not required. Cuccinelli says he forgot about some gifts he received.

The State Integrity Investigation is "designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right." See <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

Virginia's access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by "lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed, limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications," according to the report.

— MARY KIMM,

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EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Power of Tourism

BY BARRY BIGGAR

From May 4 through 12, we celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week—a time when we applaud the impact our multi-faceted industry has on our community, the commonwealth and the nation.

Travel and tourism is easily one of America's largest industries. In fact, it is the country's number one service export industry. In 2012 alone, it contributed \$2 trillion to the U.S. economy, supported 14.6 million American jobs, and delivered \$129 billion in tax revenues.

In fact, without travel and tourism's contribution to the tax base, each household would have been taxed an additional \$1,060 to maintain the same level of services that they enjoyed. That's something everyone likes to

hear—especially in the midst of cutbacks and furloughs.

Travel's impact is significant and growing. It can drive our nation's economic recovery and resurgence as a great nation by creating and supporting American jobs. The travel industry contributes substantially to those businesses that depend on tourism, across the country and right here in our community.

Consider the impact that leisure and business travelers have on Fairfax County's hotels, restaurants, retailers, museums and countless other businesses. Visitors from around the world travel to Fairfax County, directly supporting over 30,000 local jobs with earnings of more than \$571 million. Last year alone, Fairfax County hotels sold more than 4.7 million hotel rooms, and tourism spending in the county generated an additional \$175.2 million in state and local taxes.

Given this level of economic importance, travel needs to be

easy and accessible. Metro's extension through Tysons Corner out toward Dulles International Airport, the Route 495

Express Lanes, and the increased development along the Route 1 corridor, among other capital development initiatives, are opening up the county to greater opportunities and easier access—not only for residents but indeed visitors.

On a national front, it is critical that our airports continue to maintain the highest degree of security for all travelers, but it is also vital to ensure that all visitors experience the friendliest of welcomes. Fairfax County hosts travelers from across the nation and around the globe each year. These visitors spend, on average, more than \$2.6 billion in our area. Great effort is underway to ensure a more effective and efficient visa processing system in key markets that are vital to the growth of this industry, notably China and Brazil. The U.S. Travel Association is working dili-

gently with our elected officials on reducing air travel inconvenience at security checkpoints and creating a smarter visa policy to allow one of our strongest economic industries help America get back on track. If successful, these initiatives will not only be significant on a national scale, but will make a huge impact right here in our backyard.

So this week as we celebrate our colleagues and neighbors who are a vital part of this industry, I urge all of us to use National Travel and Tourism Week as an occasion to encourage our local leaders and elected officials to ensure that the travel and tourism industry continues to thrive, and to reflect on the profound impact travel has on all of us—from personal memories that will last a lifetime to the global economic benefits that affect our world today and into the future.

The writer is president and CEO of Visit Fairfax [www.fxva.com].

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NEWS

Area Students Win Virginia History Day Awards

Students from three Fairfax County public schools earned awards at the 2013 Virginia History Day competition, held in Williamsburg.

First place award winners were:

❖ Alanna Peterson and Emily Williams of Lake Braddock Secondary School for "When China Lost the Seas," Senior Group Documentary.

❖ Meghan Holub and Lauren Catington of West Springfield High School for "The Great Fire of London 1666," Senior Group Exhibit.

❖ Charlotte Heffelmire of McLean High School for "Chamberlain Saved the World from Hitler and Nazi Domination," Senior Individual Performance.

Also winning awards at the state level were:

❖ Grayce Angle of West Springfield High School for "The Change from the Classical

to the Romantic Periods," second place in Senior Individual Performance.

❖ Gabriella Milef of West Springfield High School for "Edward Jenner: The Slayer of the Speckled Monster," third place in Senior Individual Web Site.

❖ Amy Vanden Berghe, Briana Bittner and Brett Bowker of West Springfield High School for "Nikola Tesla," third place in Senior Group Documentary.

Peterson and Williams won the Senior Division Naval History Award, sponsored by the National Capitol Commandery of the Naval Order of the United States for an outstanding student project that documents and analyzes an aspect of naval history.

The two top entries in each category and each age division qualify to compete in the national competition, scheduled for June 9-13 at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Used Book Sale. 1-9 p.m., at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Friends of Burke Centre Library organizes a used book sale. bcfriendsbooks@yahoo.com.

Relay for Life Team Captain Meeting. 7:30 p.m., at the WSHS Library, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A planning session for the May 17 Relay of Springfield-Burke event; email with

questions. springfieldburkerelay@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 10


Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Friends of Burke Centre Library organizes a used book sale. bcfriendsbooks@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Friends of Burke Centre Library organizes a used book sale. bcfriendsbooks@yahoo.com.


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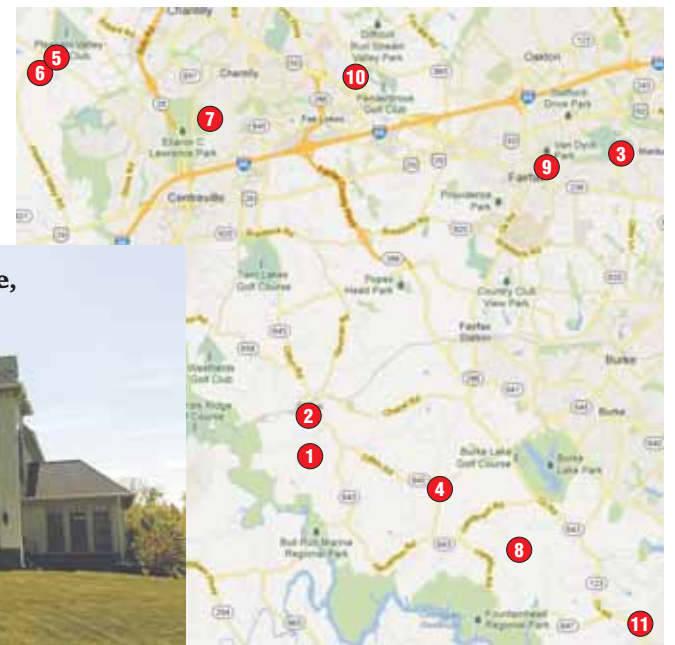


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Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests presenting mom with an array of bath and body treats to create a spa experience at home.



Moms with sophisticated palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass.



Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says jewelry like bangles and charm bracelets are great for Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Suggestions for honoring mom on her special day.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mother's Day is less than a week away. For some, choosing the perfect gift for mom can be a nerve-racking exercise. If you're still looking for the perfect present, local style gurus offer suggestions that they say will please even the most discerning of women.

For stylish mothers, Allison Priebe Brooks of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria recommends the sentimentality of matching parent-child jewelry: "It is fun to match or coordinate fashions with your child, especially on Mother's Day," she said. "You can do that with dresses or bold prints, but you can also do it with your jewelry. Little girls love to dress up and match their mothers, and jewelry is one thing that just about always fits and it can be passed down from generation to generation."

A spa day at home will give exhausted moms a chance to unwind, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Treat mom to a spa day at home [with] a new line bath line from The Charleston Soap Chef [which includes] lotion, hand and body wash, body butter and sugar scrub. We've been encouraging customers to put a few pieces together and pamper Mom without having to go to a spa."

Hand creams by Pre de Provence, rich in shea butter and available in crisp scents like lavender and verbena, are luxurious choices, said Angela Phelps, of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Every woman can use a good hand crème in her purse," she said.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, said, "Perfumes, lotions and candles from lines including Lollia, Tocca and Niven Morgan are a luxurious treat for moms."

For those thinking ahead to summer, O'Shields suggests a brightly hued tote bag. "Scout bags are the perfect accessory for summer at the beach, baseball games and every day." She also suggests colorful handbags, wallets and tech accessories.

MOMS WITH SOPHISTICATED palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass. "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift," said Thomas. "They are all hand-painted by a local artist and are available in a variety of colors and designs."

For moms who love jewelry, O'Shields suggests putting a ring on it — or even a bracelet. "Jewelry ranging from bangles and charm bracelets ... are great for Mother's Day." For a personal touch, she adds, "Engraved monogrammed charms and necklaces with children's initials are a special way to give Mom jewelry that reminds her of family. Precious Metal Prints include a kit for making a fingerprint mold that is then mailed to the artisan to transfer to a charm."

Epicureans with a penchant for entertaining would relish a cookbook line called "The Gathering of Friends," says Thomas. "It ... comes in five volumes, complete with table-setting ideas, shopping lists and beautiful photography. They are more than your typical cookbook."

Another idea for mothers who enjoy all things culinary: kitchen accessories. "If mom still has dishtowels from 40 years ago, why not swap them out for some new ones?" said Phelps of Le Village Marche. "I love ... vibrantly colored French towels from Jean Vier. Coming from the Basque region and made of 100 percent cotton jacquard, these oversized tea towels [32 inches by 23 inches] are beautifully and delicately woven. They can be machine-washed and dry wonderfully with no need for ironing."

For moms who enjoy photographing their offspring, O'Shields recommends the book "Photographing Your Children: A Handbook of Style and Instruction" by Jen Altman.

And for displaying those photographs, Thomas said, "We [have] ... frames ... that all have a sentimental words and saying and are a step beyond the traditional frame. They also have 'memory magnets' with a clip to attach a picture ... great for hanging pictures, notes and favorite art."

O'Shields said, "Picture frames make a wonderful gift and they are even more special when you take the time to have a picture printed and include it in the frame when you give the gift."

"For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift."

— Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

HomeLifeStyle

In the great room of this Great Falls home Andrea Houck, of A. Houck Designs, added window treatments to the wall of French doors and hung art over the fireplace to create a functional, but stylish space.



PHOTO BY
LYDIA CUTTER

Creating Serene, Relaxing Spaces

Local interior designer talks color and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF A. HOUCK DESIGNS

Andrea Houck began her career with the renovation of her own home.

Even when Arlington-based interior designer Andrea Houck was a toddler, she seemed to have an eye for detail. When her parents updated their bedroom with new wallpaper, for example, it was their young daughter who noticed the pattern had been hung upside down.

After beginning a career in art direction and advertising, the North Carolina native shifted gears and turned childhood flair for detail into an interior design business. She began with the renovation of her own home.

"I transitioned from the two-dimensional world of art direction to the three-dimensional world of interior design," said Houck. "I always enjoyed the tactile world of graphic design that included drawings and once everything became so digitally based, I transitioned into interior design."

Houck describes her style as transitional and often eschews neutral colors in favor of lively hues. "I also like color and am not afraid to use it," she said. "And scale is one of the most important elements to good design. I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person. I also offer a range of styles, from traditional to more contemporary. My work reflects my disciplined approach to design as well as each client's personality and lifestyle."

The designer enjoys the challenge of beautifying public spaces, like a living room or dining room, while making them simultaneously chic and functional. She points to one example in the design of a great room in a home in Great Falls.

"This great room had a dual focus: the fireplace and the television," said Houck. "The challenge was updating the space to be family friendly with com-

fortable fabrics while adding a punch of color. I added window treatments to the wall of French doors, art over the fireplace, and recovered some existing seating."

A master bedroom, study and porch that she designed for an Arlington family reflects her ability, said Houck, to incorporate a client's needs into a chic design. "The busy couple wanted a serene setting, so I updated the space with more storage, added a custom desk, dual chest of drawers with his and hers mirrors, upholstered headboard, seating with ottoman, wallpaper, lighting and custom colored rug."

The bedroom and bathroom of a Fairfax home also shows that she is not afraid to add a touch of whimsy. "In the bedroom, I removed carpet and installed hardwood flooring, updated the tray ceiling with moldings and chandelier. ... The bath was updated with a

new tub with jets, new vanity ... hand-painted tiles and marble floor."

Colleagues say one of Houck's greatest strengths is her ability to create room designs that reflect the homeowner's personality. "Andrea has always been one of my favorite designers in the Washington area," said Beverly Ross, who owns Beverly Ross Designs. "She is thorough and detailed, but also realizes that design should be fun."

Houck says she is passionate about donating her time and talent to charity and has joined design-related projects such Tuckahoe Home & Garden Tour in Arlington. This year, Houck was tapped to redesign a French modern bar and side hall in the 2013 DC Design House, which benefited Children's National Medical Center.

"She transformed the bar area into a must-see stop between the kitchen and dining room by adding antiques, cool LED lighting, and an onyx countertop. She also faux-grained the cabinets, added handmade wallpaper and fantastic art," said Taylor Wells, the DC Design House designer liaison. "Her attention to detail was spot-on and the finished design is dazzling, just what a home of this caliber needed."

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NEWS

Through the Looking Glass

Northern Virginia Players presents
"Alice in Wonderland, Jr."

Beginning May 17, the Northern Virginia Players will perform Disney's "Alice in Wonderland, Jr."

Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game.

The fast-paced musical features updated dialogue and new arrangements of such classic Disney songs as "I'm Late," "The Un-birthday Song" and "Zip-A-Dee-Do-Do-Da."

Northern Virginia Players has been entertaining audiences of all ages since their start. Shows are co-directed by theater veterans Kate Wittig and Ann Eul, and the cast is from throughout Northern Virginia. NVP is known for its exceptional talent, costumes and staging, which supports professional quality theatre at the community level.

Northern Virginia Players will dedicate these performances in loving memory of Bobby Collar. Collar, a friend and fellow actor, died unexpectedly Feb. 14, 2013. Part of ticket proceeds will be donated to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA PLAYERS

From left, Victoria Conner (Queen of Hearts), 16, from Woodbridge, Spencer Post (Mad Hatter), 13, from Fairfax Station, and Hannah MacGregor (Alice), 14, from Fort Belvoir.

Bobby Collar Memorial Fund.

Show Dates & Times:

❖ May 17, 18, 31 and June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

❖ May 18 and June 1 at 1:30 p.m.

❖ Performances held at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road.

❖ For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit NVPlayers.com. For photos from previous shows and updates, visit their Facebook page at "Northern Virginia Players." For questions, please call 703-866-3546.

—VICTORIA ROSS



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

SPORTS

Woodson Girls' Lax Returns to Patriot Championship Game

Dunn, Lightfoot lead Cavaliers past Annandale in district semifinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Laura Dunn was the first of the Cavaliers to introduce herself to Patrick Mahler, who this year became the Woodson girls' lacrosse program's third head coach in as many seasons.

From that moment, Mahler said, Dunn has been the team's "consummate leader."

"She's like the rock," said Mahler, a former Annandale boys' assistant who graduated from Woodson in 2000. "We have four captains, but they all kind of defer toward her. She's just a natural leader — kind of an alpha dog kind of thing."

Dunn has been on the varsity since her freshman year, experiencing three consecutive Patriot District titles. Now a senior captain, Dunn led the way as the Cavaliers earned a trip back to a familiar championship stage.

Dunn scored a game-high six goals and top-seed Woodson defeated No. 4 Annandale 18-8 on Tuesday night in the semifinal round of the Patriot District tournament at Lee High School. The Cavaliers secured a berth in the district championship game, where they will face No. 2 Lake Braddock at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 10 at Lee.

Dunn scored four goals in the first half as



PHOTO BY DAVE SULLIVAN

Woodson junior Alex Lightfoot tallied five goals during an 18-8 victory against Annandale on Tuesday night.

Woodson built a 9-5 halftime advantage. Her final goal gave the Cavaliers a 16-5 lead with 16:22 remaining in the second half.

"It's like all the pressure is on me now being a captain and a senior," Dunn said, "but it's good. It's a good feeling."

Dunn was not alone as two other Cavaliers scored at least four goals. Junior at-

tack Alex Lightfoot tallied five goals and three assists and senior midfielder DeeDee Montgomery finished with four goals.

Woodson jumped out to a 5-1 lead, thanks to two goals from Dunn and one goal and two assists from Lightfoot. Annandale responded with three straight goals, cutting the Woodson lead to 5-4 with 7:36 remain-

ing in the first half. Lightfoot and Dunn each scored again before a goal by Annandale's Janan Gokturk cut the Cavalier advantage to 7-5 with 3:43 left in the half.

It was all Woodson from that point as the Cavaliers embarked on an 11-0 run, holding Annandale scoreless for a stretch of more than 16 minutes.

Lightfoot scored three of Woodson's first six goals of the second half.

"[Dunn and Lightfoot] are our offense," Mahler said. "We like to run and gun, but when we settle, dodging is essentially our meat and potatoes and those are two elite dodgers and goal-scorers. When they are rocking and rolling, then we rock and roll. ... They do our heavy lifting on the offensive end."

Kelly Stegner, Jasmine Kim and Claire Swanson each scored one goal for Woodson.

Freshman midfielder Ashley Britton led Annandale with four goals.

Woodson improved its record to 11-2 and extended its winning streak to 11 games. The Cavaliers lost to Langley and Madison by a combined three goals to open the season and haven't lost since. Annandale fell to 10-6 and will play again in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament.

Woodson moved from the Liberty District to the Patriot District in 2010 and proceeded to win the Patriot championship each of its first three seasons. The Cavaliers will face Lake Braddock in the district final for the second straight year.

Lake Braddock Girls' Lax Advances to Patriot District Final

Bruins beat West Springfield in OT in semifinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With 10 minutes remaining in the first half of a district semifinal matchup with West Springfield, Lake Braddock junior Kristen Gaudian's stick failed to pass a referee's inspection and was removed from the game. Later, another Bruin was ruled to have an illegal stick, wiping out a go-ahead goal in overtime.

With a trip to the district championship game on the line, the Lake Braddock girls' lacrosse team forced a turnover and Gaudian scored the go-ahead goal with 54 seconds remaining in the OT. Afterward, West Springfield requested a stick check on Gaudian.

This time, she passed.

Gaudian's goal — her sixth of the game — in the second overtime period lifted No. 2 Lake Braddock to an 11-10 victory over No. 3 West Springfield on Tuesday night at Lee High School. The Bruins will face top-seed and three-time defending Patriot District champion Woodson on

Friday in a rematch of last season's district final, which the Cavaliers won 14-11.

"It feels great," Gaudian said of the victory. "I'm so proud of everybody. We worked our butts off."

Despite earlier stick problems, Gaudian said she wasn't worried when West Springfield asked for a stick check late in overtime.

"I was confident that my stick was not illegal," she said. "I had my coach check it, tie it very tight. That just meant that they were trying everything they could to win and I just knew that we were better than that and we had legal sticks."

Gaudian scored four of her six goals in the second half or overtime. Head coach Victor Chen said Gaudian has matured during her three varsity seasons.

"She just now understands the game completely," Chen said. "She knows not to get flustered and get rattled. It's really not how you start it's how you finish and she really showed that. She's grown 10-fold."

Gaudian's fifth goal of the night gave Lake Braddock a 10-7 lead with 15:11 remaining in the second half. West Springfield

scored the final three goals of regulation, including Kara Kachejian's game-tying goal with 28 seconds remaining, to force overtime.

Lake Braddock was a player down for the first 90 seconds of overtime due to a yellow card issued with 30 seconds remaining in regulation. Despite being a player down, the Bruins appeared to take the lead when Grace Youn scored 59 seconds into the first overtime period, but the goal was disallowed after a referee ruled Youn's stick was illegal.

In the second three-minute overtime period, West Springfield controlled the draw and possessed the ball for a lengthy period of time before Lake Braddock forced a turnover and scored the game-winner.

Now the Bruins are headed back to the district championship game. Last season, Lake Braddock went undefeated in the district during the regular season, only to lose to Woodson in the tournament final. Chen said the team had a different approach in 2013.

"We had a plan not to worry about what happened in the regular season," said Chen,

whose Bruins finished 6-1 in the district, losing to Woodson. "Last year, we ran the table in the regular season and then we lost when it mattered most. So this year was, it doesn't matter what we do [in the regular season] and our plan came together. ... It was a well-earned victory for us but, wow, it took a lot out."

Youn scored two goals for Lake Braddock. Kyra Hayden, Alexis Torres and Jade Samec each scored one.

Senior goalkeeper Alyssa Harrison finished with 18 saves for the Bruins.

"I think it's bittersweet because I feel for a lot of the seniors on the other team," Harrison said. "I've been in that position before ... and I know exactly how they feel, but I get one more crack at the district championship."

Lindsey Mares led West Springfield with three goals. Kachejian and Sadie Schroeder each had two goals, and Marissa Lim, Devan Warden and Jocelyn Siveroni each had one.

"I told them to hold their heads high," West Springfield head coach Brian Puhlick said. "They fought to the very end. They never gave up, they never quit and I couldn't ask for a team with more heart."

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/MAY 9

Carol Zeitlin's Art Students' Exhibit. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Raod, Burke. An annual display of drawings and paintings of Burke Centre Art Instructor Carol Zeitlin's art students of all ages is up through May 30. 703-250-6939 or czartlessons.com.



FRIDAY/MAY 10

The classic musical "Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The FX Players of Fairfax High School's theatre Department presents the classic musical "Hello Dolly!" with ASL interpretation; 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. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Robinson Support theTroops Softball Game. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. This event is being sponsored to increase awareness and raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project; refreshments included. \$3.

The classic musical "Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A 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.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: A Night of Opera Favorites. 8 p.m., at GMU CFA, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Hear Verdi and Wagner as conducted by Christopher Zimmerman and sung by soprano Joni Henson and tenor Brennen Guillory; free pre-concert discussion. \$25-\$55. 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

City of Fairfax Band: Spotlight on the Pops. 8 p.m., at WT Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Chantilly High School senior Andrea Hsu, a flautist, plays with the band; selections include excerpts from "Les Miserables," Jerry Brubaker's "Harry Potter Symphonic Suite," and works of Frank Ticheli, Mikhail Glinka and Camille Saint-Saëns. \$17 for adults; \$11 for seniors; free for students 18 and under. www.fairfaxband.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

The classic musical "Hello Dolly!" 2 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A 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.

5th Annual International Language and Cultural Festival. 4 p.m., at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. The American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) and the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA) are organizing an annual language and cultural festival. Join the festival for poems, songs and folk dances, and embrace the people of diverse communities around language, culture and heritage. 703-267-5751 or www.atfa.us.

MONDAY/MAY 13

Intro to Riding in a Peloton. 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave.,

An annual display of drawings and paintings of Burke Centre Art Instructor Carol Zeitlin's art students is up through May 30 at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Raod, Burke.

Fairfax. Learn the finer points of pacelines, echelons and drafting for those new to competitive riding and racing with the DESIGNS Cycling Team every second Monday of the month. www.freshbikescycling.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Book Fair at Barnes & Noble. 5-9 p.m., at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Barnes & Nobles at Fair Lakes will host a bookfair to raise funds for the Mountain View High School Scholarship Foundation; families can enjoy face painting, storytelling, bookmark making, musical performances and an art display while purchasing books for graduations, birthdays or personal enjoyment. bn.com/bookfairs (enter Bookfair ID 11061660 at checkout).

Relay for Life of Springfield-Burke. 7 p.m.-7 a.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The fourth annual family friendly event promoting an attitude of hope and honoring survivors benefits the American Cancer Society; a cancer survivors reception is at 5 p.m. \$10 registration. www.springfieldburkerelay.org or springfieldburkerelay@gmail.com.

Alice in Wonderland Jr. 7:30 p.m., at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Northern Virginia Players present Alice's madcap adventures with the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts. Performances are dedicated to Bobby Collar, a member of the players who died unexpectedly Feb. 14; part of ticket proceeds will go to the Bobby Collar Memorial Fund. NVPlayers.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

Alice in Wonderland Jr. 1:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Northern Virginia Players present Alice's madcap adventures with the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts. Performances are dedicated to Bobby Collar, a member of the players who died unexpectedly Feb. 14; part of ticket proceeds will go to the Bobby Collar Memorial Fund. NVPlayers.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

2013 Israel Street Festival. Noon-5 p.m., at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Headliner international music group The Shuk performs along with R&B artist Hadar Binyamin; performances, exhibits and activities including Krav Maga Israel Defense Force self defense demonstrations, a petting zoo, Israeli dancing, Israel-style shuck (marketplace) and food from Max's Kosher Cafe. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Alice in Wonderland Jr. 7:30 p.m., at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Northern Virginia Players present Alice's madcap adventures with the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter and the Queen of Hearts. Performances are dedicated to Bobby Collar, a member of the players who died unexpectedly Feb. 14; part of ticket proceeds will go to the Bobby Collar Memorial Fund. NVPlayers.com.

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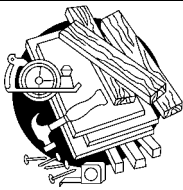
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