

Local residents enjoy sunshine, art and a festive atmosphere in the Workhouse quad.

Workhouse Rolls Out 'Robust' Summer Schedule

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New Citizens Welcomed at Gunston Hall Ceremony

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Fundraiser Planned For Animal Shelter

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The 51 candidates stand and recite the “Oath of Allegiance to the United States.”

New Citizens Welcomed at Gunston Hall Ceremony

First Regent of Gunston Hall Wylie Raab welcomed 51 new US citizens in the special citizenship ceremony held at George Mason’s home. The new citizens represent 28 countries from four of the five continents.



Agnieszka Paulina Pawelkowska proudly displays her certificate of citizenship.



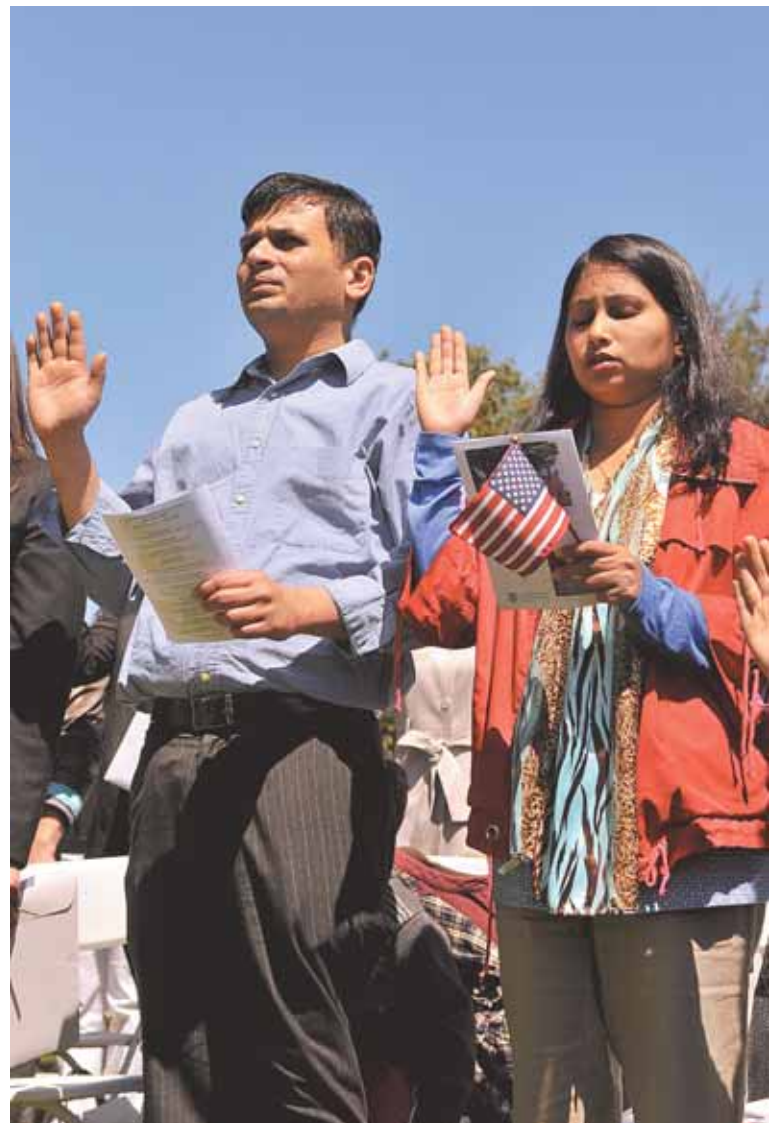
US Marine Kofi Amponsah Boateng and Jager Singh Bathla recite the “Oath of Allegiance.”



Members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America-DC stand and sing “America the Beautiful” as the Mount Vernon Brass perform.



The honor guard of the Alexandria Division of the US Sea Cadet Corps retires the colors.



Muhammad and Tasiba Baset recite the “Oath of Allegiance to the United States.”

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Kevin Cao, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School, receives the Tony Griffin Partnership Leader award at the 2013 Celebrate Partnerships Award Ceremony on May 21 at the Mason Inn and Conference Center. Former County Executive Tony Griffin and Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, applaud Cao's initiative in co-founding GIVE, Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education, a tutoring program.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Celebrating Partnerships

Fairfax County, FCPS honor 12 public-private partners during awards ceremony.

In the summer of 2012 when most high school seniors are working on their college essays or lounging by the pool, Kevin Cao, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, decided to do something different.

He envisioned a service project, contacted Fairfax County Public Library staff to gauge interest and put the wheels in motion to create a program where older students offer tutoring to younger students in communities where there is a significant need.

He co-founded Growth and Inspiration through Volunteering and Education (GIVE), which encourages and supports "participation in community organizations and other activities that address community needs and opportunities." Through GIVE, he began tutoring, seeking volunteer tutors, reserving rooms at five library branches and publicizing the new service in English and Spanish.

Between October 2012 and February 2013 his partnership with the library served more than 300 students through 1,450 tutoring sessions. If the library or Kevin were to charge even \$15 per session, the value would equal more than \$21,000.

Cao was recognized for his giving with the Tony Griffin Partnership Leader Award at this year's Celebrate Partnerships Awards Ceremony on May 21. The event is hosted by Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools.

"Even at his young age, Kevin Cao exemplifies what we all seek in a community leader, someone with vision, compassion and the wherewithal to take an idea and make it happen for the benefit of people, not just our family or our friends or even ourselves, but to create partnerships that benefit the community as a whole," said Tony Griffin, former Fairfax County Executive.

Cao was one of 12 individuals and groups honored at the event, held at the Mason Inn and Conference Center.

More than 55 businesses and community groups were nominated for these annual awards, which focus on individuals and groups who partner with Fairfax County and FCPS to give back to the community in which they work and live.

The event was attended by more than 380 people who heard from Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County School Board Chair Ilryong Moon, Deputy Division Superintendent Richard



Frost Middle School's Advanced Women's Ensemble sang the National Anthem at the 2013 Celebrate Partnerships Award Ceremony on May 21 at the Mason Inn and Conference Center.

Winners

❖ OP3 Award Winners

Small Business Resource Champion: Comstock Partners
Blue Ribbon Partnership: Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax
Community Resource Connector: A Way Forward
Media/Communications Partnership: Univision
Large Business Resource Champion: Target
Tony Griffin Partnership Leader: Kevin Cao, Thomas Jefferson High School

❖ Fairfax County Public Schools Award Winners

Blue Ribbon Mentoring: Providence Elementary School

❖ **Blue Ribbon Outstanding Event:** Exxon Mobil Corporation, Micron Technology, Northrop Grumman Information Systems, Noblis, SRC Inc.

❖ **Blue Ribbon Workforce Development:** DoD CIO & IT/TM

❖ **Community Partner of the Year:** Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

❖ **Business Partner of the Year:** Time Warner Cable

❖ **Bruce Oliver Leadership Award (Business):** Judy Hubka, Exxon Mobil Corporation

❖ **Bruce Oliver Leadership Award (Community):** Evan Glazer, FCPS Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Moniuszko and Fairfax County Director Rob Staltzer.

"Hundreds of our local business and individuals are giving their time, talent and resources as partners in the community. When businesses, the County, FCPS and the local nonprofits team up everybody is a winner," said Patricia Stevens, Executive Director, Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships.

"Together with Fairfax County, we are continually amazed at the generosity and talent our partners provide on a daily basis. These partnerships positively impact our community's youth, which I predict will create a better tomorrow," said Jay Garant, Coordinator, Business and Community Partnerships, Fairfax County Public Schools.

—VICTORIA ROSS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe speaks at the outreach event in Lorton.

Democrats Focus On 2013 Elections

Mont Vernon Democrats held an event to get their 2012 volunteers focused on this year's elections on May 15 at the Pane e Vino Ristorante in Lorton. Over 85 people attended to show their support and listen to the candidates. It also gave the volunteers a chance to meet Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe and the two candidates seeking the Democratic nod on June 11 for attorney general, Justin Fairfax and Mark Herring.

Also in attendance was one of the candidates for Lt. governor, Aneesh Chopra, and several local elected delegates including Del. Mark Sickles, Del. Vivian Watts and Del. Scott Surovell.



Lt. governor candidate Aneesh Chopra speaks at the outreach event at Pane e Vino Ristorante in Lorton.



Attorney general candidate Mark Herring talks to volunteers.



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Cory Hills returned to his Springfield elementary school, Newington Forest, to perform "The Percussive Art of Storytelling," his popular, interactive and high-energy concert.

Splat! Boom! Bang!

Springfield musician makes classical music playful and accessible to children.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

For children raised on the high-voltage soundtracks of "Halo" and other video games, a classical music concert probably sounds boring and stuffy.

But Lake Braddock alum Cory Hills—a Grammy-nominated percussionist, composer and storyteller—wants to change that perception.

With hissing cymbals, tick-tocking footsteps and Liszt-inspired tornadoes, Hills blends classical musical styles with storytelling, creating a colorful palette of sound and fanciful, playful worlds for children and adults.

Last month, Hills returned to his musical roots, Newington Forest Elementary School, where he performed "The Percussive Art of Storytelling," his popular, interactive and high-energy concert, during two performances.

"I love to see kids get involved during a concert. It's absolutely hilarious; they are up and down, whooping and hollering, listening to the music and the story," Hills said.

As an educator, Hills said he thrives on "breaking down musical barriers in innovative and creative ways."

SINCE ITS INCEPTION in 2008, Hills has presented "The Percussive Art of Storytelling" more than 250 times, reaching 16,000 people throughout the United States, Mexico, Australia, and Europe.

For his work, Hills has been the recipient of numerous arts grants, including a Zakoura Family Fund Grant and a Reach Out Kansas Grant. In 2009, he was named the 2009 Emerging Artist for the Kansas Arts Commission.

He has received degrees from Northwestern University, Queensland Conservatorium

and the University of Kansas, and was awarded a research fellowship to Institute Fabrice. Now living in Los Angeles with his wife and young daughter, Hills said "The Percussive Art of Storytelling" manifested itself one day while he was improvising.

"I found myself drawn to a circular pattern between two woodblocks, two cowbells and two plastic blocks. The pattern was reminiscent of a bicycle, always pedaling forward into the future," Hills said. "In a flurry of activity, I wrote a story called "The Lost Bicycle," composed the music and percussive storytelling was born."

"The Lost Bicycle" story centers on Mother Earth's only son, who loses the bike he receives for his sixth birthday. The story involves the boy chasing after his lost bicycle through chance encounters with a cheetah, tortoise and hippopotamus before discovering that his best friend, the dog, has found the bicycle and brought it home.

"It's a cool story with characters and events that a young audience can relate to," Hills said.

The CD is organized like a trip to the theatre, consisting of a prelude, three acts, two fun-filled intermezzos and a postlude.

After the success of his percussive concerts, Hills released "The Lost Bicycle," his debut solo CD of percussive stories, in the spring of 2010.

THE LOST BICYCLE received rave reviews from critics and concert goers, including a coveted gold medal from the NAPPA Parent's Awards, who said the mix of folktales, and original and personal stories are "snappy and satisfying. Kids and parents will want to tap, bang and strum along!"

For more information on "The Percussive Art of Storytelling," please visit www.splatboombang.com. To purchase the CD, visit www.cdbaby.com/cd/CoryHills.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SCHOOLS

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.

Paige Britton, a freshman at Annandale High School is the "Offensive Player of the Patriot District" and **Christina Nagel**, a junior at West Springfield High School, is the "Defensive Player of the District." Both were recognized on May 10 at the Patriot District Championship game between Woodson and Lake Braddock, along with the First Team All-District Nominees.

Alex Horvath of Fairfax Station, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, won a scholarship from the US state department to study in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia for the summer.

Andrew Poirier of Springfield graduated from Radford University on May 11, 2013 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing and a Bachelor of Science degree in information science and systems. He also was named to the dean's list for the spring 2013 semester.

Amitabh Joshi, of Clifton, is a regional finalist for the 40th Student Academy Awards. A graduate of the New School of Northern Virginia and Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, Amitabh is currently in the MFA program for social documentary film at SVA. His film, "Wonder Workshop," was chosen for contention in the documentary



Paige Britton and Christina Nagel at the final Patriot District Championship game between Woodson and Lake Braddock on May 10, where the girls were recognized along with the First Team All-District nominees.

category of the Student Academy Awards. The film was screened in Los Angeles at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater on Tuesday, May 7, if notified that he has been chosen as a National Finalist, Amitabh will return to Los Angeles where on Saturday, June 8, the winners in each of the four categories (Narrative, Documentary, Alternative and Animation) will be announced at the Student Academy Awards ceremony.

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NEWS

Richard Byrd Library Adds Mystery to Sum- mer Book Sale

Every summer, booklovers and bargain hunters eagerly await the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library book sale, one of the largest in the region with more than 10,000 books, many in pristine condition.

While the sale always includes a diverse array of books, this sale includes something extra: books with a mysterious past.

"The mystery began in late December when a truck pulled up to the back of Richard Byrd Library to deliver more than 400 professionally packed books," said Christine Peterson, president of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library.

"No one noticed any lettering on the truck to indicate where it came from. As the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library team unpacked, they realized they were looking at new, beautiful books," Peterson said.

She said books from the mysterious donor include volumes on art, decorating, cooking, history



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Lee High School Tennis Team unloaded hundreds of crates of books for the Richard Byrd Mystery Book Sale beginning Thursday, May 30.

and many other topics.

"While shoppers always find treasures at our sale, this time the treasures will be even more bountiful," Peterson said, adding that she still does not know who delivered the books.

The sale begins Thursday, May 30, at 3 p.m. and runs through June 1 at the Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St. Proceeds benefit the library's summer pro-

grams.

"Whether you want beautiful birthday, graduation and Father's Day book gifts on a budget or vacation and summer reading for the whole family, you will find something at our sale," Peterson said. For more information, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/rb/.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Recognized for Community Outreach

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) was awarded the 2013 Community Partner of the Year for its education partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) at a Celebrate Partnerships event on Monday, May 20 at George Mason University's Conference Center and Hotel. The Fairfax Symphony and Fairfax County Public Schools formalized a partnership agreement in October 2010, expanding a relationship that the 56-year-old FSO and FCPS have had for more than 30 years. Through this partnership, the Fairfax Symphony provides education programs directly to the schools. The SCORE program, offered to fifth-12th grade band and orchestra students, brings FSO musicians and an orchestral conductor into the classroom to provide one on-one mentoring and instructional opportunities, and to support the classroom teacher and his/her musical goals and milestones. For younger elementary students, the FSO presents the newly revamped Overture to Orchestra program, in which four different chamber ensembles—string quartet, brass quintet, woodwind quintet, and percussion duo—introduce students to the orchestral instruments and teach basic musical concepts through the theme of global aware-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(From left) Holly Vesilind, Eric Moore, Paul Johnson, Michael Bunn, Andy Skaggs and Chris Ferrari with students from Westgate Elementary School

ness. These programs engage the students in kinesthetic learning activities and use concepts from their core curriculum to enhance student engagement. The FSO, with generous support from corporations, foundations and individuals, invests over \$70,000 per year in its education and outreach initiatives.

FSO's Music Director, Christopher Zimmerman, leads many of the in-school workshops with the FSO's musicians. Zimmerman loves conducting FSO-student orchestras and hopes that he can inspire some of

the kids to become professional musicians. Debra Harrison, President of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra stated that these educational programs were integral to the Fairfax Symphony's mission. She was excited to receive the 2013 award and hoped that the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra could continue to grow its programs throughout Fairfax County. Information about the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's concerts and its education and outreach programs can be found at www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

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OPINION

Don't Be Among the Missing

Last time Virginia elected a governor, 1.7 million voters failed to vote after voting the previous year.

In 2008, 74.5 percent of Virginia's registered voters turned out to vote in the presidential election. In 2009, the last time Virginians elected a governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and members of the House of Delegates, just 40.4 percent of registered voters came out to vote.

That is to say that 1.7 million voters went missing in the commonwealth.

Last November, more than 70 percent of Virginia's registered voters turned out. Will this November see 40 percent or less? Choices at the statewide level could hardly be more stark, and low turnout will make the outcome unpredictable.

It's a mistake for people offended by the inflammatory and derogatory rhetoric by the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor, E.W. Jackson, to think that he is unelectable in Virginia or that his negatives will make Ken Cuccinelli, Republican nominee for governor, unelectable.

It all depends on who turns out to vote. As an example, in November 2007, incumbent

state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) won re-election by less than one-half of a percentage point, with an edge of just 92 votes out of 37,185 ballots cast, beating Democrat Janet Oleszek. Approximately 32 percent of registered voters in the 37th District cast ballots at the polls in that election. Imagine what might be different today if that race had gone differently. Cuccinelli was first elected to the Virginia Senate in 2002 in a special election.

Primary June 11

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 11, with absentee voting currently underway.

Voters in the Democratic primary will choose between Ralph S. Northam and Aneesh Chopra for lieutenant governor; and between Mark R. Herring and Justin E. Fairfax for attorney general.

In Fairfax County, there is also Democratic primary for District 86, between Jennifer Boysko and Herb Kemp, with the winner facing incumbent Tom Rust (R).

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

on June 11.

Good sources for information on upcoming elections:

Virginia State Board of Elections, www.sbe.virginia.gov/,

Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org/candidates?display=state, Fairfax County Board of Elections, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar.htm,

City of Fairfax Board of Elections, www.fairfaxva.gov/Registrar/GeneralRegistrar.asp.

Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is June 16, and as in years past, The Connection will publish a gallery of photos of fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and sons and daughters. Send your photos, including names of everyone in the photo, ages of children, town of residence and a brief description of what is happening to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Reform the Reforms

Reform would re-direct education expectations to ensure that every child becomes a successful learner.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Anyone with a sibling or with two or more children knows how different children are. Within the same family there are differences in interests, aptitude, personality and temperament. These differences are among the things that make young children unique and special. That is, until they get into the public education stream. Standards set by local, state and now federal officials create a mold each child is expected to fit into. Not unlike a raw material fed into one end of the school factory, the children are expected to come out the other end as a defined product. Teachers

are the assembly-line workers with strict product specifications their students are expected to meet with the teacher's rate of pay increasingly dependent upon the students' performance. Quality control is the high stakes, standardized testing that has increasingly been encroaching on instructional time. Too often lost in the process are the special qualities of children that allow them to sing and dance with great success; to use their hands and minds to create, repair and assemble; or to ponder, write and imagine. These skills simply do not fit onto a fill-in-the-bubbles answer sheet.

Schools virtually close down instruction this time of year for the annual standardized tests. Anxiety

risers for children who can no doubt sense it from their parents and the school staff. The race is on to prove the impossible of having everyone be above average. No space is left for the individual child for under the current system every child as an individual is left behind.

I am not alone in my beliefs. Diane Ravitch, a former assistant secretary of education who helped put together the No Child Left Behind program has written a book titled, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*. Richard Rothstein's new book, *Grading Education: Getting Accountability Right* argues that the current focus on basic skills is narrowing the curriculum allowing schools to get higher test scores without supplying better education. Linda Darling-Hammond in her book *The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future* reviews what the top-performing school systems around the world do to get results. She concludes it



is building a strong, experienced staff with an emphasis on a rich, well-balanced curriculum in the arts and sciences. Finland, the highest performing nation, does not rely on testing.

Increasingly testing has been a relatively cheap and quick way for politicians to say they are working for better schools, but the system they have built is faulty and does not encourage future learning or creativity. Reforming many of the past reforms would not lower our expectations; it would re-direct them to ensuring that every child was a successful learner who would be able to succeed in a changing world.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
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Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Cathy Connolly ride in the Ride of the Patriots parade in Fairfax on Sunday, May 26.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/
THE CONNECTION



Fairfax Welcomes Patriots

The 15th Ride of the Patriots brings an estimated 4,000 bikers to the City of Fairfax.

The 15th Ride of the Patriots brought an estimated 4,000 bikers to the City of Fairfax on May 26, to ride together to Rolling Thunder at the Pentagon in Arlington. The event honors America's veterans, servicemen and women, and raises awareness of American POW and MIA soldiers of all wars.

The event is sponsored by Patriot Harley-Davidson and the Fairfax VA Chapter, Harley Owners Group.



City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne speaks at the opening ceremony of the 15th Ride of the Patriots at Patriot Harley-Davidson on May 26.



Danny Lee, of Richmond, sits in a motorcycle sidecar awaiting the start of the 15th Ride of the Patriots on Sunday, May 26. Lee is a Vietnam veteran whose health has been severely impacted by Agent Orange poisoning. He has always wanted to do the ride.



Nellie the beagle sits in her sidecar awaiting the start of the 15th Ride of the Patriots on Sunday, May 26. Nellie hails from North Carolina and has tens of thousands of miles under her belt with her family, Mary and Jack Lewis. This is Nellie's eighth Ride of the Patriots.



The 15th Ride of the Patriots brought an estimated 4,000 bikers to the City of Fairfax on May 26, to ride together to Rolling Thunder at the Pentagon in Arlington. The event honors America's veterans, servicemen and women, and raises awareness of American POW and MIA soldiers of all wars.



The Armed Forces Color Guard leads the parade that is the start of the 15th Ride of the Patriots on Sunday, May 26 in the City of Fairfax. An estimated 4,000 bikers participated in the ride that starts at Patriot Harley-Davidson and ends at Rolling Thunder's Ride for Freedom.

SUMMER FUN

From left: Thane Tuttle (Dutchy), Christopher Schwartz (O'Shaunessy), and Craig Geoffrion (Chicago) rehearse a scene from PPF's production of the Mark Twain/David Ives comedy "Is He Dead?"

PHOTOS BY
CHIP GERTZOG



Bringing to Life 'Is He Dead?'

Providence Players present recently unearthed Mark Twain comedy.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

It is rare that a play written by one of America's iconic writers is found and produced a century after it was written. But the Providence Players are bringing to life "Is He Dead?" written by Mark Twain in 1898 and first published in print in 2003.

Playwright David Ives, whose works have been seen at the Shakespeare's Theatre and Studio Theater in D.C., adapted the play for contemporary audiences in 2007 and it had a Broadway run.

"Is He Dead?" is a fictionalized account of a real-life mid-19th century French painter, Jean-Francoise Millet. In the Twain play the painter struggles to be recognized; his paintings are not selling. He is penniless. What should he do? With scenes reminiscent of the Carol Burnett Show with Harvey Korman and Tim Conway in their full-out lunacy along with some Marx Brothers thrown in, an idea is hatched. The male painter will stage his own fake death. He will return dressed as a quite flamboyant woman to fool people and help his artwork climb in value.

"Is He Dead" is full of deceptions, its share of physical comedy and a good bit of cross-dressing, according to veteran director Beth Hughes-Brown. The audience is in for "the time of their lives with this modern, snappy comedy." There will be plenty of winks and nods ala Monty Python with a full-of-life 16-member cast. There is even can can.

The lead role of Jean-Francoise Millett is played by Patrick David, who has appeared in many Providence Players productions. In an interview, David was all grins and twinkling eyes as he described his multi-character roles, calling the play "a timeless, broad comedy." When asked about his favorite lines, he broke out into a huge smile thinking about just which line to mention. "There are so many great lines and physical humor that go along with them," including when he is decked-out in a full fashion statement in his feminine character.

The Providence Players even enlisted the painterly



Patrick David (Millet) and Liz Mykietyn (Marie) in the Providence Players comedy production of Mark Twain's "Is He Dead?"

Where and When

Providence Players of Fairfax present "Is He Dead?" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances May 31-June 15. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m. June 2 & 9. Tickets: \$15-\$18. Call 703-425-6782 or visit: www.providenceplayers.org.

skill of local professional painter Paul Hennesy. Hennesy painted the various works shown throughout the production that are attributed to Jean-Francoise Millett.

So, get ready for some out-right outrageousness with the Providence Players. Be ready to take in some delightful silliness along the way with the sightings of some unexpected, unlikely characters including one bigger than life "peerless Goddess."

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Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout is sponsored by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County in partnership with local businesses and in collaboration with Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and the following Fairfax County government departments: Police, Health, Public and Private Partnerships, Neighborhood and Community Services, Public Works and Environmental Services, and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

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SUMMER FUN

Fun Ways to Keep Learning in Summer

Local education experts suggest fun ways to keep children learning over the summer break.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As summer vacation begins in a few weeks, some parents are scrambling for activities to fill the days for their children. Often that means summer vacations and trips to the pool or the park.

Education experts say even in the midst of summer fun, it is important to ensure that children don't lose the skills they've learned during the academic year. However, they say relaxing and having fun are equally important, and suggest a myriad of stealthy tricks that parents can employ for laid-back learning all summer long.

Students are encouraged to read many books over the summer. "Talking about what your child is reading is a powerful way to build comprehension skills," said Blake M. Giliotti, staff development teacher at Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "It can also be as simple as saying, 'Tell me about what you are reading.' Engaging in a natural conversation about a book can give you insight into what your child understands and helps build oral communication skills."

Summer book clubs are a good idea as well. "My kids love to pick a book, put together a few friends and send an Evite to the book club," said Shannon Melideo, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Education at Marymount University in Arlington. "They each read the book and come with a few questions. We have a party that goes with the theme of the book."

Melideo encourages parents to avoid making the learning aspect of summer activities too contrived. "I would hate summer learning to feel too much like school," she said. "It is important to learn and explore with our kids as naturally is possible."

Susan DeLaurentis, director of counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, agrees and encourages plenty of unstructured time for play and a break from a structured schedule.

"I recommend lots of downtime for children over the summer," she said. "When it's too hot outside, or on a rainy day, pitch a tent in the living room and go 'camping' indoors. Have a bag ready, filled with new board games, card games and books."

GROUP ACTIVITIES can also offer a clever disguise for skill building. "How about rounding up



Cooking with children during the summer teaches math and reading skills, say experts.

some kids in the neighborhood for a summer carnival game day?" asked Jennifer Suh, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education, College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University in Fairfax. "[A] summer

neighborhood carnival will be sure to engage kids in the 21st century skills: four Cs — creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking."

She said carnival games like face painting and popcorn drops can strengthen math skills. "Students have a choice of heart, butterfly, spider web, and lightning bolt," said Suh. "How many lines of symmetry do you have on your design?"

For help developing science and math game ideas, Suh recommends the visiting www.aimsedu.org/activities/, <http://mathbridges.onmason.com/> and www.kidsknowmath.com.

Bob Weiman, director of the Lower School at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School agrees that games can be ideal tools for learning. "ThinkFun educational games are always great," he said. "Summer is also a great time to introduce your children to classic board games. I just introduced Stratego to my own family last weekend and look forward to playing it over the summer."

Melideo said that even a trip to the park can be

come an opportunity for learning, and suggests turning the outdoors into a science lab. "Don't just go on the swings and slides," she said. "Look at trees and look under rocks at the park. Elementary school children need to be out digging in dirt and investigating. The more that they're out investigating, the more interested they're going to be in the world around them."

Parents can model an interest in discovery and exploration for their children. "Try to notice and get excited about things in nature," said Melideo. "For example, if a butterfly crosses your windshield, you can point it out to your child with excitement."

Michele Claeys, associate head and middle school principal at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., said, "Pick four or five [local] tourist attractions [and] spend a full day exploring. Involve everyone in researching and learning about the site before you go."

EDUCATORS ALSO RECOMMEND involving children in meal preparation. "If there are days when it's rainy, that is the time to do cooking," said Melideo. "It helps teach patience and math and reading skills too."

Anna Reeves, owner of Tiny Chefs, which offers cooking classes in Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Oakton and McLean, said, "I've always been a proponent of using cooking to teach confidence and give children the opportunity to do things that they may not be exposed to at home."

While middle school students may be more difficult to engage than younger children, educators say the effort is critical. "Middle school is when they really need to be looked after," said Melideo. "That is when you need to make sure they're not running off doing their own thing."

A treasure hunt with a group of friends is an ideal activity. "Middle school students like doing scavenger hunts," said Melideo. "You can create a treasure hunt, maybe at a museum, where two parents offer to be drivers. The students look for clues and have a fun prize or celebration at the end. They don't realize how much they're learning along the way. It is not labor intensive for parents, but it is a fun competition."

When it comes to summer, the bottom line is fun. "Whatever activities parents plan, they should be enjoyable and stress-free," said DeLaurentis.

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that Dr. Kathleen Phillips will be joining our staff as a full time associate starting June 1st 2013. Dr. Phillips grew up in Buffalo, New York and is still a huge Sabres and Bills fan. She attained a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Rochester and graduated from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. She has been working at a small animal practice in the Springfield area for the past 12 years. She shares her life with two beautiful kitties, one impertinent pug, her husband Matt and their young son Ethan. When she is not busy treating her patients, she is likely enjoying a ballgame at Nationals Park or exploring the Virginia countryside with her family.

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OutdoorFest: 4pm - 8pm
Pool Party: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Free indoor swimming

Outdoor Movie, **Madagascar 3**: 8:30pm
Everything is free except for food and the wagon rides!

Car Show: at the American Legion Hall in Springfield, 11am - 3pm

Springfield 15K/5K Race:
Starts at Loisdale Road starting at 8am

Sunday, June 2

Cardboard Boat Regatta:
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for more information visit
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SUMMER FUN

Workhouse Arts Center Rolls Out 'Robust' Summer Schedule

Free concerts, fireworks, urban art and more make the former prison a Lorton community center.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Since opening in 2008 as the Workhouse Arts Center, the staff within the stately red bricks of what was originally a Progressive Era prison has worked to develop the site as a central fixture of the Lorton community. To that end, the Workhouse campus supports a year-round bench of over 100 artists in six studio buildings, a Youth Arts Center, arts education program and theater, music, film and dance performances.

The regular programming of exhibitions and art walks every second Saturday evening of the month heats up this summer, with an impressive slate of special events including a multi-night run of "Fame: The Musical" (Aug. 23, 24, 25, 29 and 30) and "360 Degrees of Post-Traumatic Stress," an exhibition of work from veterans in therapeutic art programs at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital (June 2 through August 16).

"IT'S A MUCH MORE ROBUST PROGRAM than in previous years," said Camela Speer, director of marketing for the Workhouse and Fairfax Station resident. Each summer, she said, they have been "tweaking it, trying to find something that will really interest the community."

When the Workhouse first opened its doors, there was an immediate and unforeseen need for arts education in the South County area. There was also no real "center" for Lorton as a whole. Now, education is one of the largest program focuses at the Workhouse—their themed summer camps for ages 6-15 include graphic design affiliated with George Mason University, visual arts, dance, theatre and music.

The challenge is tying everything together.

"We would like to see ourselves becoming a community center," continued Speer, "one that educates and involves the community in all forms of art. How do we present something where they can experience visuals, performances and arts education—which you don't necessarily find in one ball of wax, anywhere."

They aren't there yet, she admitted, but by continuing to program larger and more diverse activities, as well as partnering with other community organizations, the Workhouse is engaging more local residents than ever before. Joining forces with Fairfax County for the all-things-green SpringFest 2013 in April drew more than 3,000 people to campus in a single day.

They have similarly linked up with the Fairfax County Park Authority to host a summer-long "Mount Vernon Nights



"Pleasures Ruined," by Drew Storm Graham, airbrush on wood, is an example of the "low-brow" art on display as part of the exhibition "Urban Decay 4."

Fireworks light up the summer sky above the Progressive Era brick structure.



This summer, the Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series takes place on the Rizer Pavilion Stage in the Workhouse quad.

Concert Series" of free performances each Saturday night. The partnership should help boost exposure and bring more of the community together.

"Becoming a place for people to be,"

said Speer, "is key to our success."

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING of performances, exhibitions, events and camps, visit www.workhousearts.org.

When and where

♦Urban Decay 4, Workhouse Arts Center McGuireWoods Gallery, June 1-July 28

Opening reception Saturday, June 8, 6-11 p.m.; artist panel 5 p.m.

For the fourth year, the Workhouse, in collaboration with Urban Art Syndicate (UAS), presents an exhibition of artists from around the country who are part of the populist movement described as "low-brow urban art." The multi-media work is influenced by punk music, graphic novels, tattoo culture and street art, and is "seen by many in the art world as 'delinquent art' or 'deviant art,'" said Debra Yarrington, UAS curator. The reception event on June 8 will feature live graffiti in the Workhouse quad, tattooing in the exhibition space and live music from the local band Lightspeed Rescue and Thrive.

♦Fireworks & Bluegrass, Workhouse Arts Center Quad, July 6, 7 p.m.

All summer long, the Workhouse will host a weekly free concert series each Saturday night, programmed by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Genres range from jazz and folk to tango and Celtic. Among the most noteworthy performances on the bill are the service ensembles, including the US Navy's "Commodores" (jazz) and Air Force's "Strolling Strings" ("light classics"). For the near-Fourth of July fireworks on July 6, the bluegrass group Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen provide a patriotic aural backdrop.

♦Summer Art Party on the Quad, Workhouse Arts Center Quad, June 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Fitness walk at 9:30 a.m.)

A three-mile fitness walk into Occoquan Regional Park and back, led by the Workhouse Movement Director Lesley Spalding, sets up a day filled with a myriad of artistic and interactive activities. From a Chinese Brush Painting demonstration and "Art to Wear" fashion show by the Workhouse Fiber Artists, to a kite-making workshop and community pillow fight, there's a lot of party packed into one quad.

SUMMER FUN

The cardboard boat regatta, one of the most popular Springfield Days activities, will be held at Lake Accotink Park on Sunday, June 2.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



Weekend at Springfield Days

A community-wide celebration returns Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2.

Springfield Days is a community wide celebration that takes place the weekend after Memorial Day each year. This year it will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 1-2, with multiple events on each day. Springfield Days includes many different types of events and activities that provide fun and entertainment to all ages. Visit <http://www.springfielddays.com/> for more information.

—PARKER KOBAYASHI

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

- ❖ Springfield 15k/5k Race. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Delicious food at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield.
- ❖ PetFest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Exhibitors, games, demos, pet parade, dog agility, flyball, vendors and more.
- ❖ Family FitnessFest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Demos, facility tours and fun activities for the whole family.
- ❖ Vintage Car Show. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the American Legion Hall in Springfield. Come and see a variety of local vintage cars.
- ❖ OutdoorFest. 4-8 p.m., at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Wagon rides (fee), free nature walks, farm animals, raptors, snakes and amphibians.
- ❖ Pool Party. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Free swimming indoors before the movie. Bring along your swimsuit and towel with your movie blanket and jacket.
- ❖ Outdoor movie on the big screen at dark at South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2

- ❖ Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Witness the spectacle of cardboard creations sailing along Lake Accotink's shoreline. \$4 per vehicle to enter park.



The pet kisses booth is always a popular attraction during Springfield Days.



Carnival rides and cotton candy—a FamilyFest tradition—will be at Springfield Days 2013 during June 1 and 2.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The fundraising Zumbathon on June 8 at Empire will benefit 15-year-old Jocelyn Rodriguez, who suffers from a rare blood disease, Sickle Cell. The dance-fest day helps pay for the budding artist, musician and Anime-fan's bone marrow transplant coming up in July.

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Fundraising Zumbathon. 1 p.m., at
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support Jocelyn Rodriguez who has
been struggling with Sickle Cell
disease. Adults: \$20; students: \$10.
http://www.thejocelynproject.com.

Opening Reception of Urban

Decay 4. 6-9 p.m., at the
McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox
Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts
Center is kicking off the summer with
Urban Decay 4, an exhibition of low-
brow urban art. Low-brow art is a
populist art movement with origins in
the underground comic world, punk
music, tattoo and street art. The
show is curated by Debra Yarrington
of Urban Art Syndicate. 703-584-
2900 or workhousearts.org/.

Featured Artists and Studio

Exhibitions. 6-9 p.m., at the
Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox
Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts
Center presents a variety of artists'
work during the Featured Artists and
Studio Exhibitions. 703-584-2900.

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

Fundraiser Planned for Animal Shelter

Wine-tasting event slated for June 9.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each year, the nonprofit Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FFCAS) raises money to pay for things the shelter can't afford. And in June, it holds a wine tasting and invites the public to participate.

In past years, it's been at a beverage store. "But this time, we're doing something totally different," said FFCAS President Evelyn Grieve. "We're having it at Paradise Springs Winery. And besides the wine tasting, there'll be appetizers, desserts and a raffle."

The event is slated for Sunday, June 9, from 1-5 p.m., at the winery at 13219 Yates Ford Road in Clifton. Tickets are \$30/person at www.ffcas.org. Or mail checks payable to FFCAS to FFCAS, P.O. Box 2321, Centreville, VA 20122. It's called "Wine, Whiskers & Wags" and includes samples of six or seven different wines, plus a free souvenir wine glass and dogs are welcome.

"It's a fun event because it's an outing where people can just come and have a good time, while also helping the animals," said Grieve. "It's important to help support the shelter and ensure that all animals get a good home. These animals can't speak for themselves, so we have to speak for them."

FFCAS raised nearly \$12,000 at last year's event and, said Grieve, "We hope to do the same, this year. We may even have a small, silent auction, but we'll definitely sell raffle tickets for cool things."

RAFFLE ITEMS include baskets of wines; handmade, decorative, animal-print wall quilts; baskets of cat and dog treats, restaurant gift cards and items from Trader Joe's. Also up for grabs will be genetic testing kits for animals; the winners will be able to test their dogs to see what breed or breeds they are.

Although most of the animals at the shelter are dogs and cats, the facility takes in practically any potential pet imaginable, such as birds, snakes, turtles, chinchillas and hamsters. Currently, it has several baby chicks that were given as Easter presents and then turned in to the shelter.

It's also undergoing a major



Pictured are some of the many residents of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

renovation that should be complete by fall. The dog holding areas—including isolation, quarantine, stray and adoption kennels—are all finished now, and all the dogs have been moved into the new section of the building. Cats for adoption have all been relocated to 40 cat condos in the new cat adoption room.

When construction is complete, there'll also be 40 holding cages for cats. Other small animals are also now housed in the new area, and the new adoption wing is open, as is the new lobby. But the shelter still has many other needs, and that's where the FFCAS comes in.

The all-volunteer group gives all the money it raises to the shelter. Proceeds from last year's wine-

tasting event were used to train shelter staff and volunteers to work with the dogs. This year, said Grieve, one of the things FFCAS wants to focus on is the dog holding areas.

"Last year's fundraiser enabled us to buy Kuranda beds for the dogs," she said. "They're nicer and softer than their old beds and are elevated off the ground. So from this year's funds, we'd like to buy another 20-30 beds."

A couple months ago, said Grieve, "We also bought special housing for all the small animals, like hamsters and mice, and that was about \$3,500. And we purchased an ID-tag machine for about \$3,600 to make tags for all the animals that leave the shelter. It's free to each adopter—they get

an ID tag and a collar with their new pet."

So besides the dog beds, she said, FFCAS hopes to buy more tags and collars—and, perhaps, another small-mammal habitat. Then there are Nylabones. "Something we started this year is that all dogs coming to the shelter now receive Nylabones," said Grieve. "They're hard, bone-shaped toys and we'd like to purchase more of them."

FFCAS also helps fund some special needs of the animals—such as when a dog brought in after being hit by a car requires emergency medical treatment or older animals need lab work done to prove that they're in good health and are still adoptable. In addition, it provides money and education for other programs, including the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

During all of 2012, FFCAS raised almost \$60,000 total for the shelter. And Grieve would like more people to donate, join the group's mailing list and help support its work.

ANYONE WISHING TO DONATE to FFCAS may do so at the website, or by sending checks payable to the organization to: FFCAS, P.O. Box 2321, Centreville, VA 20122. It's also part of the Combined Federal Campaign, so contributions may be made there, as well, by designating number 88219.

For more information, people may also check out the organization on Facebook at Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

"We want people to think of this more as a resort for animals—a beautiful place, not just a shelter," said Grieve. "The shelter staff and volunteers all do a great job. There are beautiful animals at the shelter and they all deserve a second chance. We want the animals to come in, be well taken care of and go out as soon as possible to loving, caring homes."

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

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Unused/Expired Medication Drop-off at the West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles); goes through June 1. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential and safe. 703-938-8723, TTY 711 or www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 31

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) Applications Due. FAS accepts applications for adult softball teams through May 31: men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, and Reston leagues are available. 703-815-9007, www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com or office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 1

Pet Fest and Paws on Parade. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the South Run Park, Reservation Drive, Springfield. Part of the Springfield Days celebration, this pet event has exhibits on pet care, nutrition, training rescue groups, and the annual Paws on Parade. www.springfielddays.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2

Rolling Hills Seahawks Car Wash/Dog Wash/Bake Sale. 8 a.m.-noon, at Rolling Hills Swim Club, 8301 Carrleigh Parkway, West Springfield. Support the Rolling Hills Seahawks and get your car sparkling clean; you can also get your pooch washed and take home some home-baked treats.

MONDAY/JUNE 3

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Cancer Center Ceremony. 10 a.m., at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, 3600 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Inova Fair Oaks Hospital is building a state-of-the-art, comprehensive cancer center (opening early 2014) to advance our existing cancer services and support the community's growing needs by bringing radiation oncology therapy to the Inova Fair Oaks Medical Campus.

SUNDAY/JUNE 16

Father's Day Celebration. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Celebrate Father's Day; church is handicapped accessible. admin@franconiaumc.org.

Girl Scout Earns Gold Award With Theatre Workshop

On Monday, April 22, Allison Belkowitz organized a theatre workshop at South County Middle School as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. The event, "Play-In-A-Day," was attended by over 60 area elementary school students. Allison raised funds to provide scholarships for students whose families may not have the financial means to enroll their children in theatre workshops. The participants had the opportunity to decorate sets, create costumes and rehearse scenes, culminating in an on-stage performance before family and friends. Allison is a junior at South County High School and has been a girl scout in Troop 374 since kindergarten.



Allison Belkowitz, of Fairfax Station, confers with students as they decorate shirts for costumes.

Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers
**Winners of Awards in the 2012 Virginia Press Association
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Best in Show, Non-daily Artwork

The top prize when the first place winners of all the design categories for all Virginia Press Association-member, non-daily papers are judged against each other.



Jean Card

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



Laurence Foong



Craig Sterbutzel

Win, Place, Show for Alexandria Gazette Packet
 Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three top spots for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division.

First Place

❖ **Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: In-depth or investigative reporting



Nicholas Horrock



Montie Martin

❖ **Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: In-depth or investigative reporting • Guns From the South

Third Place

❖ **Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: In-depth or investigative reporting • Looking Behind the Numbers



Michael Lee Pope

First Place Winners

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

❖ **Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls**



Nikki Cheshire

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, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: Informational Graphics



Deb Cobb

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing**



Bonnie Hobbs

❖ **Kenneth Lourie, Arlington**



Kenneth Lourie

Connection: Column Writing
 ❖ **Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon**
 Connection: Education Writing
 • The Human Element of Learning



Alex McVeigh

❖ **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



Victoria Ross

News Writing
 ❖ **Victoria Ross, Springfield**
 Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting
 • Immigration

Second Place Winners

❖ **Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette**: Page Design

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax**
 Connection: Public Safety Writing



Louise Krafft

❖ **Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette**: Picture Story or Essay • Mount Vernon Graduation 2012

❖ **Louise Krafft, 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

❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette**: Special Sections or Special Editions
 • Insider's Guide



Jeanne Theismann



Geovani Flores

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION



Kemal Kurspahic

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll, Geovani Flores, Great Falls**
 Connection: General Makeup



Stuart Moll



Amna Rehmatulla

Third Place Winners

❖ **Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: Page Design

❖ **Laurence Foong, The Fairfax**
 Connection: Informational Graphics



Chelsea Bryan

❖ **Mary Kimm, Fairfax**
 Connection: Editorial Writing
 ❖ **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



Mary Kimm

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, Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet**: General Makeup

❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette**: Special Sections or Special Editions
 • Children's Edition



Jon Roetman

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 MDCC Press awards luncheon. **Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2)** and Staff were named as winners.

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NEWS

The Gift Of Dance

Girl Scout Nicole Frazzini launches Project D.A.N.C.E. and helps girls build self-esteem.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Nicole Frazzini discovered the joy of expression through dancing at an early age. By the time she was 5 years old, the South County High School junior was already a competitive dancer.

"I was extremely shy as a child," Frazzini said. "Dance allowed me to express myself in ways that I wasn't able to when I was young."

She used that talent when she conceived of her service project for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Last year, she launched Project D.A.N.C.E. "Dance Appreciation to Nurture Confidence through Expression," and organized and ran a series of dance workshops for elementary school children.

Her goal was to teach young dancers "that committing to an activity like dance helps build long-lasting confidence and self-esteem," she said. While researching her project, Frazzini said she learned that a root cause of teenage depression, low academic achievement and crime is often low self-esteem.

She also realized what an important role dance has had in her life and on her own self-confidence.

"Dancing serves as an outlet for me to unwind and reduce the stresses of everyday teenage life and I want to teach that lesson to as many young children as I can," she said.

Frazzini held three Project D.A.N.C.E. workshops, each focused on a single type of dance: Ballet, jazz and hip hop. She also

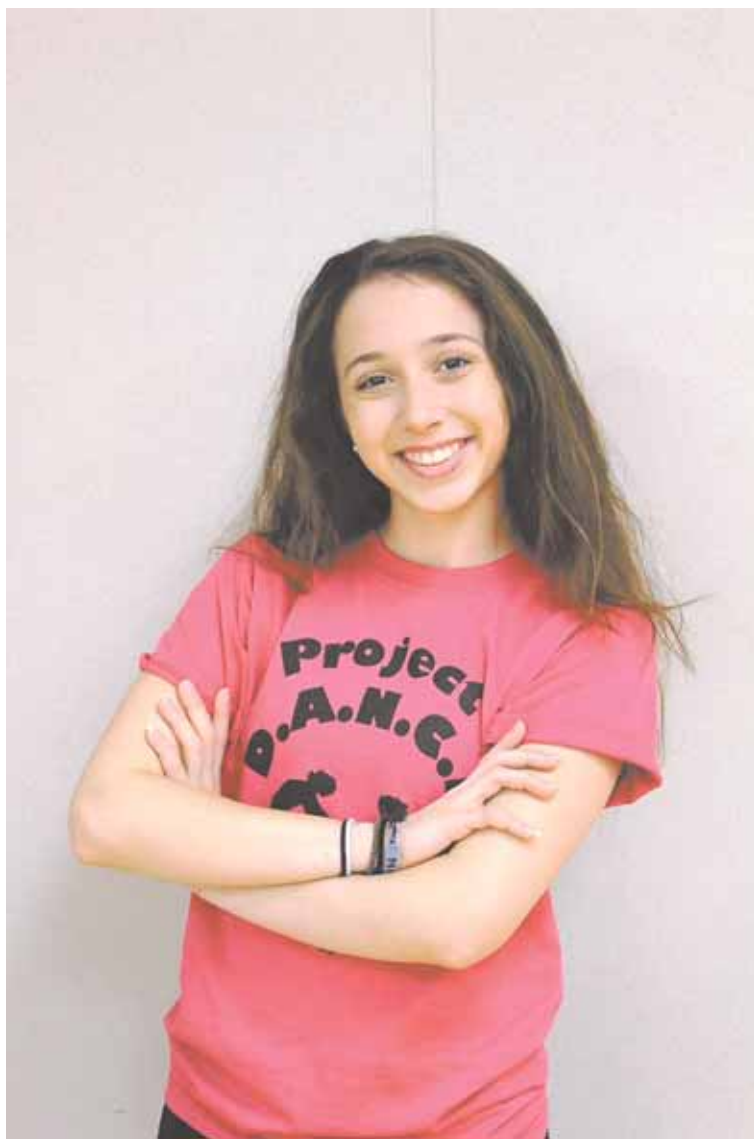


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Nicole Frazzini, a South County High School junior, receives a Girl Scout Gold Award for Project D.A.N.C.E. "Dance Appreciation to Nurture Confidence through Expression."

organized a trip for the participants to see the Manassas Ballet's performance of "The Nutcracker."

On May 24 at New Hope Church in Lorton, Frazzini was one of 185 Girl Scouts from throughout the area to receive an award at the Precious Medals ceremony. The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, South Central Fairfax Association, presented the girls with Bronze, Silver, Silver Trefoil and Gold Awards.

The Gold Award is the highest honor earned by a select group of Girl Scouts who have demonstrated superior leadership, organization and a higher commitment to community service. Comparable to the Boy Scout Eagle award, the Gold Award projects cover a range of issues from anti-bullying campaigns and protecting the environment to building confidence and

promoting healthy behaviors. The theme of this year's ceremony was "Taking Action to Make the World a Better Place."

Frazzini said she could not have completed her project without the help of her "team of amazing volunteers," including Windy Queen, director of HeartBeats Music and Dance and Nicole's project advisor, Jamie Hartley, ballet instructor, Jane Hardiman, her friends and her parents, Paul and Maria Frazzini. Her mother, Maria, serves as leader of Troop 374.

"I hope through opportunities like Project D.A.N.C.E, more children will make the connection that committing to an activity that you love is not only fun, but it also helps build the confidence you need to be successful and to help get you through the challenging times in life," Frazzini said.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Student Athletes Win Scholarships

Twelve FCPS students have been named winners of scholarships by the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA). Each of the recipients will receive a \$2,000 scholarship; awards will be presented at the organization's annual scholarship awards ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, at the Waterford at Fair Oaks. Winners are Drew

Bonner of Fairfax High; Alyssa Harrison, Alexandra Hunter and Megan Moody of Lake Braddock Secondary; Sophia Kim of Lee High; Kelsey Ross of Madison High; Caitlin Jaeckel and Elizabeth Lowery of Stuart High; Ji Kim and Patrick O'Connor of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; and Andrew Chang and Laura Dunn of Woodson High.

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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JUNE 1 & 2

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**

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Fairfax

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Fairfax Station

11133 Sandy Manor Dr..\$1,299,000.....Sun 1-4.....The Applegate Team.....Long & Foster..703-451-5818
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11501 Lilting Ln.....\$849,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Franconia/Kingstowne

6559 Parish Glebe Ln.....\$485,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marianne Welds.....Weichert..703-549-8700
6071 Estates Dr.....\$475,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kerry Adams.....Long & Foster..703-683-0400

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8112 Higham Rd.....\$1,100,000.....Sun 1-4.....Sherilee Cronin.....Keller Williams..703-562-1800
8970 Fascination Ct #315..\$363,101.....Sun 12-4.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990
8960 Fascination Ct #316..\$339,990.....Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990
8970 Fascination Ct #211..\$299,990.....Sat 12-4.....Shawn Evans.....Long & Foster..703-790-1990

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7315 Westerly Ln.....\$1,459,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

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6150 Reza Ct.....\$1,250,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jim Souvagis.....Long & Foster..703-919-9191
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8636 Woodview Dr.....\$459,900.....Sun 1:30-4.....Cheryl Kenny.....Golden..571-379-4734
6400 Eastleigh Ct.....\$459,450.....Sun 1-4.....Kay Graff.....Coldwell Banker..703-938-5600
7424 Willshire Hunt Ct.....\$439,900.....Sun 1-4.....Meghan Wasinger.....Jobin..703-828-5660
7089 Leewood Forest Dr.....\$383,000.....Sun 1-4.....Tiffany Bram.....Proximity Homes..703-624-5586

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COLLEGE

Lake Braddock Baseball Returns to Region Semifinals

Bruins beat Madison, will face Marshall.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford didn't want to play the underdog card, feeling his players wouldn't approve. As it turned out, Rutherford's big-game pitcher already felt the Bruins had something to prove.

Senior left-hander Thomas Rogers, who threw a four-hit shutout in last season's AAA state championship game before undergoing off-season Tommy John surgery, took the mound for the Bruins on Monday night in the Northern Region quarterfinals. His opponent was the Liberty District champion Madison Warhawks, winners of 22 in a row prior to Monday's matchup. Lake Braddock had lost to South County in the Patriot District championship game on May 20 and dealt with injuries early in the season. Despite being the defending state champ, Lake Braddock, on paper, was an underdog.

With the Bruins' season on the line Monday, Rogers was on a pitch limit of 75 as he continues working his way back from off-season surgery.

He made them count.

Rogers kept Lake Braddock in the game, allowing one earned run in four-and-one-third innings, and the Bruins beat the Warhawks 9-6 at Madison High School. Rogers surrendered four runs—one earned—on four hits while walking three and striking out six. He threw 74 pitches before being pulled with one on and one out in the bottom of the fifth inning, with Lake Braddock leading 6

"This is an ultra-competitive game and not being out there all the time all year long and being thrown out into a really ultra-competitive game is tough on a kid," Rutherford said. "[Rogers] competed his [butt] off. He just probably needed to control his emotions a little bit more early on. When he's on the mound, our team has the utmost confidence in him."

Lake Braddock earned a trip to the re-

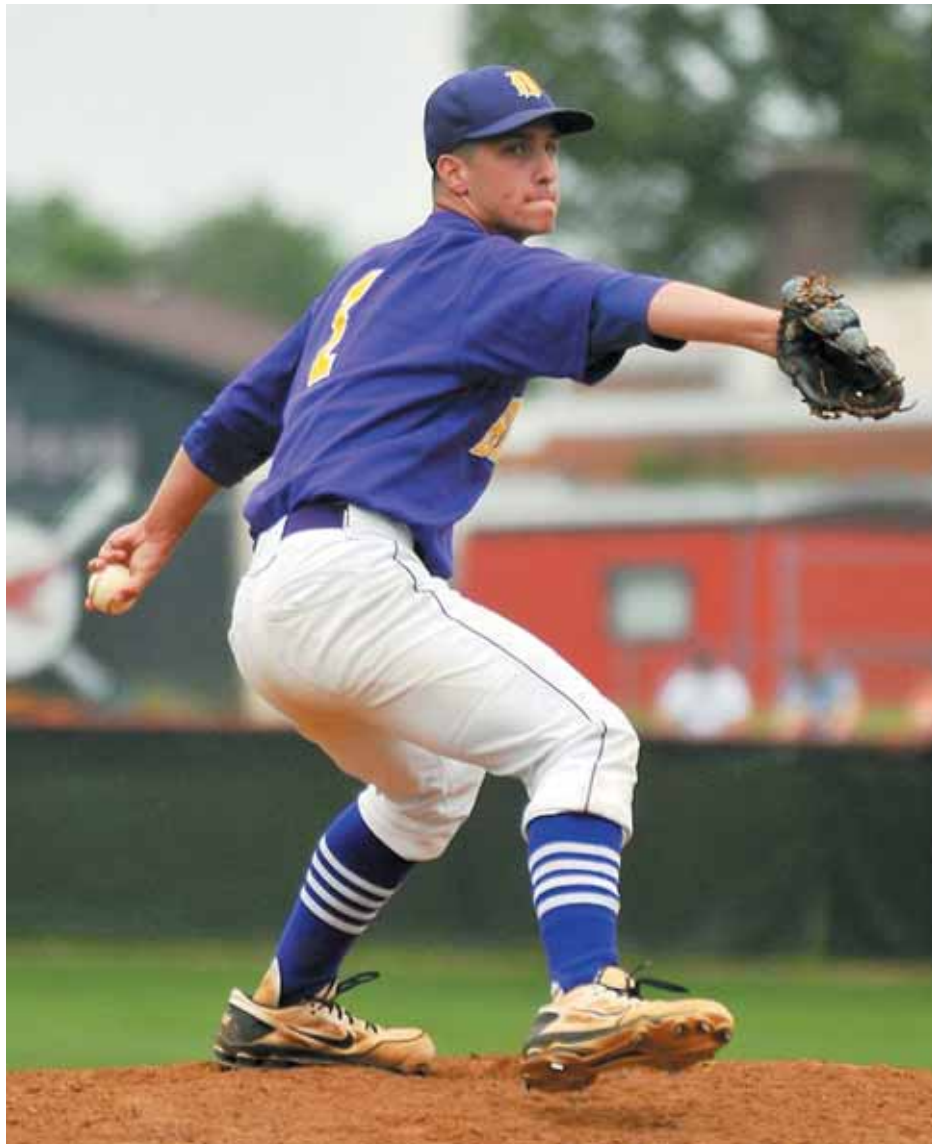


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock pitcher Thomas Rogers earned the victory against Madison in the Northern Region quarterfinals on Monday, May 27.

gion semifinals, where the Bruins faced Marshall, the Liberty District's No. 4 seed, on Wednesday, May 29, after The Connection's deadline. The winner earned a berth in the state tournament.

Did Rutherford play the "underdog" card prior to Monday's game?

"I didn't really play the underdog card because I think if I would have said that to my guys, they would have looked at me like, are you crazy coach? Where's coach Ruth-

erford? That type of deal," he said after the Bruins beat Madison. "I just approached it [as] if we're the better team, then it will be decided on the field."

How would Rogers have reacted if Rutherford said the Bruins were underdogs?

"I probably would have thought since we were the champions last year and nobody was giving us any credit with all our injuries and everything, and it seemed like ev-

erybody was overlooking us," Rogers said. "We felt like we had something to prove today and I feel like we proved that."

Lake Braddock struck first with three runs in the top of the first inning. Senior catcher Garrett Driscoll ripped a two-run double and Rogers added a sacrifice fly.

Madison responded with two in the bottom half and tied the score at 3-all with a run in the third.

Lake Braddock took the lead for good when sophomore second baseman Nick Neville drove in a run with a single in the fourth. The Bruins would extend their lead to 6-3.

Neville, who joined Lake Braddock this season after moving from Arizona, went 3 for 4 with two RBIs, including a two-out RBI single in the seventh, which gave the Bruins a 9-5 advantage.

"Lefty-lefty, I was just trying to stay back, just trying to drive the ball up the middle," Neville said of his seventh-inning at-bat. "[The pitcher] hung a curveball and [I] just hit it back up the middle."

Madison brought the tying run to the plate in the bottom of the seventh, but Lake Braddock reliever Nick McIntyre ended the game with a strikeout.

Driscoll went 2 for 3. Third baseman Alex Lewis finished 2 for 4 with two RBIs. Center fielder Alex Gransback was 1 for 3 with an RBI.

Logan Claybrook and John Defazio each had two hits for Madison, and Michael Nielson went 1 for 4 with a double and two RBIs.

"We felt like we had something to prove today and I feel like we proved that."

—Lake Braddock senior Thomas Rogers

AREA ROUNDUPS

Madison Boys' Lax Wins Region Championship

The Madison boys' lacrosse team defeated Chantilly 7-6 on May 24 to capture the Northern Region championship at Chantilly High School.

The victory improved Madison's record to 16-5 and assured the Warhawks of a home game in the AAA state quarterfinals.

Madison also took home the Liberty District championship this season, beating Langley 10-2 in the district final on May 10.

The Warhawks will host the West Central runner-up in the state quarterfinals either May 31 or June 1.



The Madison boys' lacrosse teams celebrates after winning the Northern Region championship with a 7-6 victory against Chantilly on May 24.

Madison Softball Beats Oakton

The Madison softball team defeated Oakton 5-0 on Monday in the Northern Region quarterfinals at Falls Church High School.

The Warhawks will face McLean in the semifinals at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29 at Falls Church. The winner secures a berth in the state tournament.

Oakton's season ended with the loss. The Cougars won the Concorde District championship with a 2-0 victory over Chantilly on May 20.

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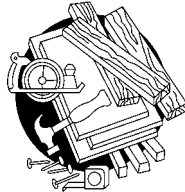
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