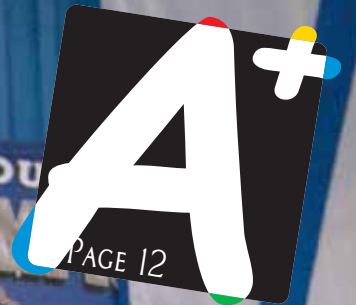


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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Alexander Griffith gives the Honor Graduate Address at the June 13 Fairfax High School Commencement Ceremony.

Fairfax High Celebrates Graduation

NEWS, PAGE 3

Student Wins Contest for Literature Letter

NEWS, PAGE 9

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5	\$600	Scare-Beasts Scare Geese	Kenmore Middle School
6	\$500	Rain Check	George Washington Middle School 2
7	\$450	Hit the Lights	George Washington Middle School 2
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9	\$350	Rooftop Garden	Kenmore Middle School
10	\$300	Lincolnia Community Garden	Lincolnia Community Center

CaringForOurWatersheds.com



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax High School counselor Jenny Washechek walks along the line of graduates whose names she will be announcing at the 2013 Fairfax High School Commencement Ceremony on June 13.



Mohamed Isse, Christen Hagans, Christian Giudice and Phillip Dyer are all smiles waiting for their June 13 Fairfax High School commencement ceremony to begin. Both Isse and Hagans aspire to be software engineers and they with Giudice will attend NOVA in the fall; Dyer will study computer science at the University of Maryland.

Fairfax High Celebrates Graduation

Commencement ceremony highlights achievements of 585 graduates.

BY MATT GILLICK
THE CONNECTION

A packed basketball gym with threatening weather looming outside made for a dramatic start to the graduating Class of 2013's commencement ceremony at Fairfax High School Thursday, June 13.

In keeping with tradition, seniors entered the gymnasium to Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," played by Fairfax High School's own Band and Orchestra, led by band directors Alan Johnson and Matt Baker, and orchestra director Cindy Crumb.

Fairfax High Chorus sang the national anthem, led by choral director Luke Frels. Principal David Goldfarb then greeted everyone present.

Goldfarb, addressing the students, said, "Your parents are your first teachers. Please stand and recognize them. And also to your teachers who have taken up the task of instructing you through life." He continued to say a few words about keeping a positive attitude in a world of adversity. "Persistent optimism," Goldfarb advised, "or what I like to call 'the winning attitude,' can be just as important as ability." The students applauded and senior Katherine Roszbach introduced the guest speaker, Kevin Simonds.

As a former faculty member of Fairfax High School, Simonds talked about his experiences in teaching. He also emphasized the perception of success, "Is it a resume or a state of mind? Recognize the limitations of your strengths and be awesome in them." The class gift to the faculty was several bricks that had the words "Once a Rebel, always a Rebel!" presented by student Natalie Dillinger.

Mayor of Fairfax Scott Silverstone and Judge Janice Miller distributed senior awards. Jennifer Brazinsky won the Outstanding Senior Award and Fairfax Award. Meghan Green was presented with the Citizenship Award and Kelly Deasy won the Faculty



The Fairfax High School chorus performs at the June 13 Fairfax High School Commencement Ceremony.



Brian Latimer greets a friend at the start of the processional at the Fairfax High School commencement ceremony on June 13. Latimer will attend Clemson University in the fall.

Award.

Chosen by his peers, Alex Griffin gave an unconventional speech for a graduation setting. In a playful, comedic tone Griffin said, "We are all dumb but, we have plenty of time to figure out how to get those old smart people in retirement homes ..." The speech ended and Principal Goldfarb then presented the class with their diplomas.

The class of 2013 left with a final thundering class chant: "We are '13!"

Seniors left the gym to a warm, clear sky.

VIEWPOINTS

Where are you going next and where do you see yourself in 10 years?

—MATT GILLICK



Allie Lerner

"I'm going to Virginia Tech so I can study business. Having a successful job and maybe married or have a boyfriend. I'm not so sure. I'm just happy that I graduated."



Travis Godfrey

"For college I'm going to East Carolina University where I want to work on how I can get a job in security systems. Working on a high paying job in some place like Lockheed Martin is a dream of mine. I also hope to have a nice family. But, in those 10 years I hope to become my own boss."



Aashna Dhayagude with her grandmother Vinita

"This fall I'm going to James Madison University. I want to study marketing and management but I'm not sure what I want to do with it. Well, in 10 years I see myself living in New York City. I just love that city so much and think it has so much opportunity."



Megan Green, with longtime friend Thor Rasmussen

"University of Virginia's where I'm headed. I hope to study business there. I hope to have traveled the world in 10 years, which is kind of why I want to be an FBI agent."

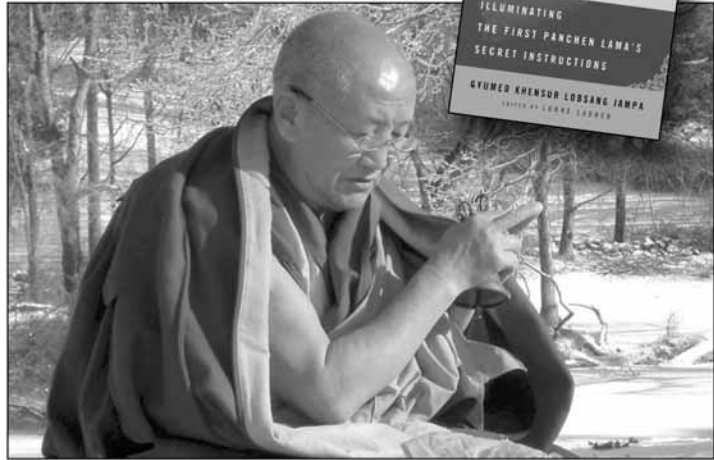


Ian Cooper with his whole family

"I'm going to the Air Force. I just want to travel the world. Ten years? I guess I just settle down with a family. I want my family to be close with me and have a good relationship."

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NEWS

Supervisors Pass Home Day Care Ordinance

Bulova calls for town hall meeting to educate providers on new rules.

After months of heated debate from parents and daycare providers, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors amended the zoning ordinance to bring rules concerning home child care in line with state code.

The amendment increases the maximum number of children allowed in a home child care facility from 10 to 12, and could also reduce the current Special Permit application filing fee of \$1,100 to as low as \$435.

"Fairfax County has a balanced approach to home child care," said Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "There is a tremendous need for quality child care in the county and we want to help make sure there are a sufficient number of providers available."

The amendment was prompted by changes in state licensing regulations last July, requiring home care providers to receive approval from their local zoning administration before their license is granted or renewed.

The change highlighted a significant discrepancy between state regulations and local zoning laws. While the state of Virginia allows up to 12 children

to be cared for in a home childcare facility, Fairfax County's zoning ordinance allowed for a maximum of 10 children.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said the change impacted nearly 400 state-licensed home childcare facilities in the county, "who, all of a sudden, unknowingly were operating in violation of the law."

"What we weren't able to do (with this amendment) is find a way for these 400 home childcare providers, who have been operating without any issues, to avoid a very bureaucratic, cumbersome and extensive process to stay in compliance," Herrity said. "In the end what we did today was good, but it wasn't good enough."

To help educate providers on the amendment, Bulova called for an informational town hall to be held on July 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center.

"[The town hall meeting] will help providers prepare and file special permit applications and also outline a timeline for coming into compliance," Bulova said.

Bulova said county staff will hold additional meetings around the county to assist providers with their applications and answer questions. These meetings will be advertised once dates and times have been finalized.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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SCHOOLS

Robinson Drama Camp For Students, All Ages

A summer of fun and adventure is in store for those attending this summer's Robinson Drama Camp. For the rising kindergartners through eighth graders:

Curtain Call camp consists of half-day camps in morning and afternoon sessions, each week, from July 1-26.

It runs from 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. The children's activities are centered around acting, performance, music and movement, plus technical aspects of theater. A lunch bunch program is offered.

Fun in the Theater, for rising grades first through sixth, is a weeklong, full-day camp from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Stage Door camp is for seventh through ninth graders. It's a two-week, full-day workshop from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., from July 29-Aug. 9. Campers collaborate on both scripted and devised performances.

Audition Boot Camp, for grades seven-12, is a weeklong camp from 3-5 p.m., July 15-19. Its goal is to equip campers to prepare more confident and successful auditions.

Intro to Musical Theater, also for grades seven-12, is a weeklong, full-day camp from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 15-19. More information is at the camps link on the left side of the Robinson Drama home page: www.RobinsonDrama.org.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Milana Mohler, 8, a second grader at Eagle View Elementary, gets her face painted at the bookstore fundraiser.

Students Put Fun Into Fundraiser

The Barnes & Noble in Fair Lakes hosted a recent book fair with a percentage of sales going to the Mountain View High School Scholarship Foundation. The event included face painting, storytelling, music and an art display.



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Robinson Student Receives Scholarship

Maritza Villarroel honored by Hispanic Leadership Alliance.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Just 18, Robinson Secondary senior Maritza Villarroel plans to go to college and someday become a nurse. And thanks to a scholarship from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance (HLA), she'll soon start her journey.

To apply for it, she had to write an essay about what career path she wanted to take and why. So she wrote about her grandfather and her interest in the medical field.

"When I was younger, my grandfather had a heart attack," said Villarroel. "He was OK, and my mother showed me around the hospital he was in, and I thought it was really cool."

She later researched nursing as a profession and decided to pursue it. "I'm interested in the different structures in the human body," she explained. "I do a lot of volunteer projects at church and am good at organizing things. And I also like the humility involved in being a nurse and helping others."

AT ROBINSON, Villarroel is one of the directors of LASA, the Latin American Students Association, which also helped fund her \$1,000 scholarship. "LASA has a partnership with HLA," said Ruth Azimi, co-sponsor of Robinson's LASA group, along with

school counselor Enrique Fernandez. "If we raise \$500, HLA will match it for a \$1,000 scholarship to a LASA member."

Villarroel's father is from Bolivia and her mother's from New Jersey, and she was born in the U.S. She found out she'd won the scholarship, April 29, during LASA's Senior Night, a closing ceremony for the school year.

"I was very happy," she said. "My mom's a single mother who's a fourth- and fifth-grade Spanish immersion teacher at Laurel Ridge Elementary in Fairfax. And my twin sister Jackie is going to college at the same time, so I didn't want my college expenses to hurt her chances of going to college."

Villarroel plans to attend Franciscan University, a small Catholic university in Ohio. But before she departs, she's leaving her mark on the local community.

In LASA, she helped organize a Zumbathon in April to raise money for 26 acts of kindness for New Jersey's Sandy Hook Elementary, and the event yielded \$240. While maintaining a 3.2 GPA, she also helped guide an international show this spring at Robinson where many different students highlighted their cultures.

Villarroel is active, as well, in the youth group of St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, where she organizes and participates in service projects to raise money for various causes. In her spare time, she's learned several types of Bolivian dances and is now in her second year of caporales, a fast dance which

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 7

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Robinson Student Honored

FROM PAGE 6

she and her group perform in parades and shows.

Azimi said Villarroel also has great determination. There was a snowstorm two days before the international show and it caused both a school cancellation and a delay. "The storm was supposed to be really big and there wouldn't be time for final rehearsals," said Fernandez. "But Maritza and the others were adamant that we should still do the show." They did and it was a big success.

REGARDING THE HLA SCHOLARSHIP, Azimi said she's happy Villarroel received it because "she deserves it and she worked so hard."

Fernandez said all the seniors who applied for it were deserving but, "Over the past two years, Maritza was such a go-getter and I could always rely on her to get things done for LASA. She'll be missed next year for her spunk, assertiveness and determination."



(From left) are Enrique Fernandez, Maritza Villarroel and Ruth Azimi. Villarroel plans to go to college and someday become a nurse. And thanks to a scholarship from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance (HLA), she'll soon start her journey.

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OPINION

Talking, Acting To Keep Them Safe

Reducing drug- and alcohol-related fatalities.

The pages and covers of most of this week's Connection Newspapers show the joy and accomplishment associated with high school graduation. The day celebrates graduates who accomplished much just by finishing, graduates headed to college and more.

Most area high schools also celebrate with an all-night graduation party, an event designed and coordinated by parents to provide graduates with safe and appealing fun, with many schools organizing an annual party for more than 20 years.

EDITORIAL It was, for example, the 25th annual All Night Drug and Alcohol-Free Graduation Celebration for T.C. Williams High School when the class of 2013 held its party on Saturday, June 15. Since 1989, when this tradition began at T.C. Williams, there have been no drug or alcohol-related graduation night fatalities.

Herndon High School parents have been providing a memorable evening for our graduates in an alcohol and drug free atmosphere for more than 20 years, and report that, "since the All Night Grad Celebrations began, we are happy to say there have been no alcohol or drug related fatalities on graduation night."

Summer is the beginning of many celebrations for young people in this area, and many of them, whether underage and over 21, admit that they celebrate with alcohol. Chances are that if your household includes a high school student, that student sometimes consumes alcohol. Graduation night is not the only danger lurking, as everyone knows.

All night graduation parties provide not only a safe place on graduation night, but also many opportunities before and after to talk about drinking and driving. There is no substitute for parents talking to their children about drinking, no matter how awkward, no matter how



Megan Hyunh, Kyeong Yun Jeong and Hongnhan 'Mimi' Lam are ready for the June 13 commencement ceremony to begin at Fairfax High School. The three soon-to-be graduates all plan to study biology. Hyunh will attend Johns Hopkins University, Jeong will attend George Mason University and Lam will attend Virginia Tech.

many eye-rolls you must endure. Driving while under the influence, or getting into a car as a passenger with someone who is impaired, is not the only danger of drinking, but it is one of the most avoidable.

On graduation day in 2007, West Potomac High School endured the unimaginable tragedy. Two young women who had graduated just hours before died in a car driven by another young woman who had alcohol in her system. The driver and another passenger, a 2005 West Potomac graduate, also died in that

crash.

If you've successfully raised a teenager through high school graduation, it is unbearable to think of losing him or her now. Talk. Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been way too much trouble to get to this point to risk losing them now. Tell them that you will come and get them, without consequences, any time they need a ride to avoid getting in a car with someone who has been drinking and/or otherwise under the influence. Look them in the eyes. Say the words.

For Adults Who Need a Reminder

Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide free rides for those over 21 who find themselves out celebrating on the Fourth of July without a safe ride home.

The 2013 Independence Day SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. Thursday, July 4 until 4 a.m. Friday, July 5.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), please call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the

SoberRide service.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure greater Washington, D.C. residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays. Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 57,990 safe rides home, keeping impaired drivers off the road.

SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

See <http://wrap.org/soberride>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Train To Help In Emergencies

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region's third annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Convention, hosted by the Fairfax County CERT Team, will take place June 28-29 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus.

CERTCon 2013 is a two-day seminar/functional exercise that offers training, networking and sharing of best practices to CERT members in the National Capital Region.

Saturday, June 29, will feature a lecture series from practicing professionals in the fields of emergency management, public health

preparedness, and disaster psychology. The speakers are drawn from a variety of organizations and agencies, including FEMA, NOAA, Virginia Task Force-1 (TF-1), and the National Association for Search & Rescue. Topics will include Stress and Trauma Management for First Responders, Pet First Aid, WMD & IED threat picture, Communications during a disaster, People with disabilities and disasters, Search and Rescue, Wilderness First Aid, Hazmat, and how to conduct Windshield Surveys.

Sunday, June 30, will feature a hands-on drill at the former Lorton reformatory which is now used as a disaster training site. This exercise will give the participants an opportunity to sharpen and advance their skills and work together as a multijurisdictional team.

CERT members go through 36 hours of training at their local Fire and Rescue academies. Training provides a basic understanding of fire suppression, search and rescue, disaster medical operations and team organization.

The CERT program began in 1985 in Los Angeles, Calif., after recognizing that large-scale disasters overwhelmed emergency response teams. Through FEMA grants to local jurisdictions civilians are trained to respond to emergencies or assist emergency responders arriving on the scene. All training and equipment is provided free of charge to the CERT participant.

This year CERTCon 2013 will host teams from Alexandria, Fairfax County and Fairfax City, Arlington, Manassas and Manassas

Park and Prince William County, Montgomery County and Prince George County team members will be attending and other Maryland CERTs as far away as Baltimore are expected. The District of Columbia is sending representatives from their team in addition to Georgetown University, American University and Gallaudet University CERT team members.

If you are interested in participating at CERTCon as an actor victim or a rescuer, visit certcon2013.eventbrite.com, to register.

To contact any of the Fairfax County CERT leadership, send the email directly to fire.CERT@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Mike Piccione
Fairfax County CERT team

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Student Christine Wang wrote an award-winning letter about this book.

Student Wins Contest For Literature Letter

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Local eighth grader Christine Wang has won first place (for grades six through eight) in the Letters about Literature contest sponsored by the Library of Congress. She wrote her award-winning letter about the book, "American Born Chinese" by Gene Luen Yang.

Christine, 13, even got to read her letter recently at the Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville. The book's a graphic novel in hardcover, comic-book form. It contains three connected stories that become one at the end, and they appealed to her on a personal level.

"One story's about a boy who's ashamed of his Chinese cousin, and another's about a boy tired of being Chinese," said Christine. "I liked the characters because they were strong and interesting, and I identified with them because of my heritage."

Born in Maryland, she moved to China at age 4 and returned to the U.S. at age 10. "When I first moved here, it was kind of hard because I was used to everyone being like me," she explained. "Then I didn't want to be Chinese—I wanted to fit in and be like everyone else."

Besides that, said Christine, now

13, "Everyone thought that because I was Asian I should get good grades." Additionally, she was new to Rocky Run Middle School this year because her family had moved over the summer. They live in Clifton and Christine's base school is Lanier Middle, but she attends Rocky Run Middle for Advanced Academic classes.

So, she said, "When I was reading this book, at the beginning of the school year, it was tough for me because I was the new kid again. But so was one of the characters in the book. I read it over a long period of time and, when he made his first friends, I made mine."

In the book, said Christine, that character "tried acting and dressing like an American, but it all backfired. So it taught me to just be who I am and not try to be someone else, so I wrote all these things in my letter. I was surprised to win; I was hoping to be a finalist. But I'm happy about it; I worked hard on the letter and I'm glad it got something."

Also pleased for Christine was her English teacher, Heather Hogue. "It's such a huge honor and I'm so proud of her," said Hogue. "She has a great way of expressing her emotion in writing and tapping a deep wellspring of intelligence and creativity. And it's a pleasure to have her in class."

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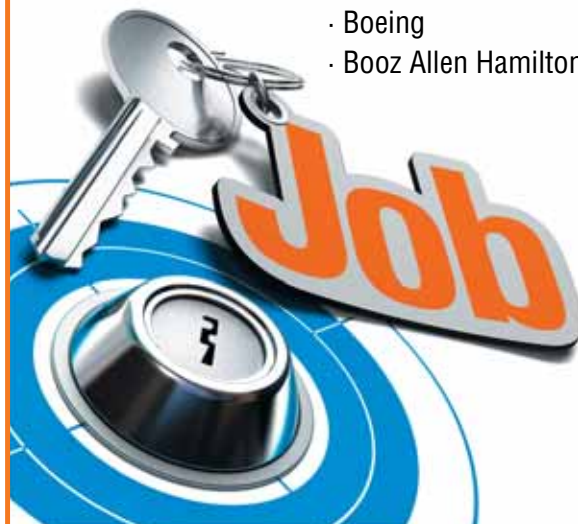
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SCHOOLS

Saying Goodbye to a 'Great Place'

Woodson graduates challenged to remember.

By MATTHEW AUKER
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson High School's Class of 2013 gathered together for the final time Thursday, June 13 at Robinson High School's Henry M. Smith Field House for its annual commencement ceremony. Students, faculty, family members, and distinguished guests were on hand to celebrate the culmination of the school's 50th anniversary.

Timothy Patrick Gill was presented with the Senior Award, given each year to an outgoing senior in recognition of outstanding scholarship, leadership, citizenship and service to the school.

Justin Adamson, chosen as this year's student graduation speaker, spoke to the numerous positive characteristics of his fellow Woodson Cavaliers, and ended his speech with a challenge. "I challenge us all to remember each other, and to remember what it means to be a Woodson Cavalier. I challenge us to bring the same spirit of friendship, victory, caring, support and modesty that has helped us make Woodson a great place, forward to the rest of our lives. Look around. There are a lot of talented, gifted people sitting



Woodson students file into the Henry M. Smith Field House at Robinson High School.



Cristhian Andres Alcoer Salinas, an honor graduate, receives his diploma.

among us. The graduates of this class will go far, and it would do all of us a world of good not to forget our experiences here."

The keynote speaker of the event was former Governor of Pennsylvania and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Se-

curity Tom Ridge. Ridge made a strong case for the graduating students to be responsible and active in their civic engagement. "Government is about tomorrow, and there are more tomorrows in your life than there are in mine," he explained. "So if you remember nothing

else from these remarks today, please accept your responsibility as a citizen to be an informed voter. Register R, register D, register as an independent; I don't care where you go just as long as you keep your head in the game. ... It's not a privilege to vote, just accept that it's a responsibility."



Morgan Legatie, Somya Leskanich and Cassidy Austria, all of Fairfax, anticipate the start of their June 13 Robinson High School commencement ceremony.



Former Robinson Principal Daniel Meier, who retired in April, was the guest speaker at the Robinson High School Commencement Ceremony on June 13.

Robinson Graduates Offered 'Tips for Success'

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

On Thursday, June 13, 661 Robinson High School seniors received their diplomas at the 2013 Commencement Ceremony held at the Patriot Center. Not only notable for its size, the graduates received over \$4 million in scholarship money for their continuing education. As student speaker Ellie Borkowski remarked in her comments, the class is "ready to take on any challenge; ready to take on the world." The commencement address was given by recently retired Robinson Principal Daniel Meyers, who gave graduates five tips to achieve success:

- ❖ Don't take your mother's love for granted;
- ❖ Bloom where you are planted and excel wherever you go;
- ❖ Don't expect your freshman year in college to be like your senior year in high school;
- ❖ When you choose your life's work, do something you love;
- ❖ When you get "that job," make yourself indispensable by being highly productive and low maintenance.

—DEB COBB



Robert Diaz, of Burke, waves to family in the crowd at his June 13 Robinson High School commencement ceremony.



Griffin Caparelli, of Burke, gives a "thumbs up" to family in the stands at his June 13 commencement ceremony.



Morgan Legatie (left) and Somya Leskanich await the presentation of their diplomas at the 2013 Robinson High School Commencement Ceremony, held on June 13 at the Patriot Center.

VIEWPOINTS

Where are you going next and where do you see yourself in 10 years?

—MATTHEW AUKER

Spenser Copp

"I'm going to the United States Military Academy in the fall, so in 10 years I hope to still be in the Army."



Gaby Collins

"I'm moving to Georgia next week, and going to Kennesaw State in the fall. In 10 years I plan on living on my own island in the middle of nowhere."

Caleb Brennan

"I'll be attending Northeastern University in Boston in the fall, and in 10 years I'd love to work for a big tech company like Apple or Google."



Rosie Barry

"Next I'm going to East Carolina University, and in 10 years I want to be a music therapist."



Essa Ayoobi

"I'm taking classes at NOVA in the fall, and in 10 years I hope to have a full time job in IT security."



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PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY LOPEZ

Henry Lopez (center) is pictured at home with (from left) his mother Emerita, his brother William, his sister Yuri and his father Arnolando. Henry, who was selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia, credits his parents and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fairfax with helping him realize his dreams.

Rising to Boys & Girls Clubs 'Youth of the Year'

With help of Boys & Girls Clubs, local immigrant student receives full college scholarship.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Today, Henry Lopez has a bright future, complete with a full scholarship to college. It wasn't always that way, however, and he remembers being a pre-school student in a foreign country, unfamiliar with the language and culture, fighting to learn, to fit in, to avoid falling into a gang.

The Boys & Girls Clubs proved an invaluable help to him in this struggle, and Henry was just selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia.

"For my family, the American dream when we came here in 1999 was survival," said Henry, who graduated from JEB Stuart High School in Falls Church last week. "In Guatemala, my parents realized that there was no money [or] opportunity to obtain it, so the only way to care for my [family] was to come to the United States."

THAT DREAM has gone far beyond survival, as Henry was accepted into George Mason University's Honors College and awarded a full academic scholarship to the Fairfax school as a University Scholar. Henry was one of 21 students selected from a pool of 1,500 applicants who were expected to "possess exemplary records of academic achievement ... demonstrate evidence of intellectual vision, a commitment to the obligations of citizenship and the potential to overcome obstacles and solve challenging problems," according to Anthony



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY LOPEZ

Henry Lopez (pictured here in Guatemala with his sister Yuri) moved with his family to Falls Church in search of the American dream. Earlier this month, he graduated from high school with a 4.3 GPA, was awarded a full scholarship to George Mason University and was selected as the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dyer Hoefer, Ph.D., the director of Mason's University Scholars Program and an Old Town Alexandria resident.

His college application wasn't the first time he impressed George Mason officials, however. While still in the eighth grade, Henry was accepted into George Mason's Early Identification Program, which supports and enriches students who will be the first in their families to attend college.

"He was an exceptional first generation college student," said Lewis E. Forrest II, the program's executive director. "Recently, I was looking over his eighth grade application and he stated that his number one goal was to go to college. Not only has he met that goal, he has gained a positive reputation before he has even enrolled in classes here at Mason."

Henry graduated with a 4.3 GPA as a member of the National Honor Society, as well as vice president of the JEB Stuart High School's chapter of the Spanish Honor Society. Among a lengthy list of academic and extracurricular accomplishments, he also served on his high

school's Student Government Association and ran on the varsity cross-country team. While he's proud of his accomplishments, he gives much of the credit to the support he received from his parents and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCW), Fairfax region located in Falls Church, Mount Vernon and Herndon.

Henry says his appreciation of hard work came from his parents: Emerita Lopez, who works as a

SEE YOUNG MAN, PAGE 15

Supervisors Pass Home Day Care Ordinance

Bulova calls for town hall meeting to educate providers on new rules.

After months of heated debate from parents and daycare providers, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors amended the zoning ordinance to bring rules concerning home child care in line with state code.

The amendment increases the maximum number of children allowed in a home child care facility from 10 to 12, and could also reduce the current Special Permit application filing fee of \$1,100 to as low as \$435.

"Fairfax County has a balanced approach to home child care," said Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "There is a tremendous need for quality child care in the county and we want to help make sure there are a sufficient number of providers available."

The amendment was prompted by changes in state licensing regulations last July, requiring home care providers to receive approval from their local zoning administration before their license is granted or renewed.

The change highlighted a significant discrepancy between state regulations and local zoning laws. While the state of Virginia allows up to 12 children

to be cared for in a home childcare facility, Fairfax County's zoning ordinance allowed for a maximum of 10 children.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said the change impacted nearly 400 state-licensed home childcare facilities in the county, "who, all of a sudden, unknowingly were operating in violation of the law."

"What we weren't able to do (with this amendment) is find a way for these 400 home childcare providers, who have been operating without any issues, to avoid a very bureaucratic, cumbersome and extensive process to stay in compliance," Herrity said. "In the end what we did today was good, but it wasn't good enough."

To help educate providers on the amendment, Bulova called for an informational town hall to be held on July 20 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center.

"[The town hall meeting] will help providers prepare and file special permit applications and also outline a timeline for coming into compliance," Bulova said.

Bulova said county staff will hold additional meetings around the county to assist providers with their applications and answer questions. These meetings will be advertised once dates and times have been finalized.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Young Man Overcomes Challenges, Limitations

FROM PAGE 12

housekeeper, and Arnoldo Lopez, a day laborer.

“Witnessing my parents physically push themselves every day had a tremendous impact on me,” said Henry. “I saw their situation and they constantly reminded me that they didn’t want me to clean houses or mow lawns.”

Emerita said she and her husband had loftier goals for Henry, his 21-year-old sister Yuri and his 13-year-old brother William. “I came here with my husband because it meant a much better life for my kids, but I had to work hard every day,” she said.

THE LOPEZ FAMILY moved to the Culmore neighborhood of Falls Church 15 years ago. It’s an area with affordable housing, but also gang activity, so the Lopezes found protection for their children in the form of the Culmore Chapter of the Boys & Girls Clubs.

“I start working at 8 in the morning and finished at 8 at night,” said Emerita. “I work as a housekeeper so we don’t have much money for babysitters. I was looking for a safe place for my kids while I worked long hours. When [they were] at the club, I knew that [they were] safe.”

Henry says that at the time, he was unaware of the danger that lurked in Culmore. “I had to grow up at a young age,” he said.

The Boys & Girls Clubs not only provided safety, it taught him to dream. “It would have been very easy to be influenced by gang activity because my parents were working all the time,” he said. “The Boys & Girls Clubs gave activities, provided me a place to go to learn about college and explore careers. Had it not been for the Boys & Girls Clubs, I would not have had the vision of going to college.”

Wonhee Kang, regional director of the Fairfax County Region Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, has served an important role in Henry’s life. “When I first met him, he was 4,” she said. “It was right after he arrived in this country from Guatemala. When he first came to the club, he didn’t speak any English. He was hiding and he was very shy.”

Over the past 14 years, Kang has watched Lopez evolve from that shy little boy into an eloquent orator and a proficient scholar. “I’ve been watching him grow year after year. He learned slowly about culture, culture of the club and community,” she said. “There were times when he didn’t have appropriate clothes for speaking engagements and competitions so we



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Henry Lopez, the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year for District of Columbia and Commonwealth of Virginia, was selected to speak at the 28th Annual Tim Russert Congressional Dinner presented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington.

made sure that he had a suit. I took him to our Youth of the Year competition in Newport News, Va., and that was his first time staying a hotel. The kids may not have [much] financially, but these are amazing young people.”

Kang said that Henry was always interested in academics. “He enjoyed

the power hour, which is time for studying and homework. That made him strong academically and helped him earn a scholarship to George Mason University. He got into five universities, but he got a full scholarship from George Mason.”

Henry was selected to speak at the 28th Annual Tim Russert Con-

gressional Dinner presented by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington last month, an annual fundraising event for the Boys & Girls Clubs. Kang also invited Henry’s family “because this is a once-in-a-lifetime event for Henry.

It was the first time in Henry’s life his father was able to attend one of his activities. “It is not that doesn’t want to,” Kang said. “A lot of times his work schedule doesn’t allow it, but he is also afraid to go to events where the majority of people speak English and he doesn’t.”

Kang’s effort to ensure that Henry’s family attended the dinner proved to be a profound gesture. “I was overwhelmed the whole time because I had never gone to such an elegant event,” said Henry’s father, Arnoldo, through an interpreter. “Tears could not stay away as [Henry] spoke. It was hard for me to believe that he was talking in front of so many people.”

DURING HIS SPEECH, Henry told the crowd about the challenges he faced growing up in Virginia as an immigrant with financial limi-

tations. “Looking back, the Clubs taught me to channel my responsibilities and develop a balance, providing me with a normal childhood. If it were not for the Boys & Girls Clubs, I would not be pursuing every resource to make a better future for myself and others.”

Representatives from George Mason were in the audience for Henry’s speech. “There were members of Congress, multimillionaire donors and representatives from the community who spoke,” said Hoefer. Henry, however, “was the one person who blew the crowd away. People were teary and getting choked up. He’s the best example of what those programs can do for kids who don’t have opportunities.”

When Henry begins college this fall, he will be embarking on a lifetime of potential and fulfilling one of the first goals that he set for himself. “The chance of college is a real opportunity and I’m willing to work for it,” said Henry. “It is personal story for me, but it is [also] a story for other youth in search of the American dream even if they have financial limitations.”

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SINCE 1955

Experiencing All-American Football Camp

Local players gain exposure to college coaches during camp and develop skills for football and life.

BY ANDREW MINER
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of high school football players took the two fields at Flint Hill Upper School for the All-American Football Camp. There were participants, rising freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors, from all across the mid-Atlantic region including Delaware, Ohio and the Carolinas. They came and stayed through the varying weather conditions of desert heats and gushing rains to put in the effort and get better.

Over four hours of grueling position workouts, offensive and defensive drills, and one-on-one they commanded the respect of the numerous collegiate coaches in attendance. There were even two representatives from the Washington Redskins who helped coach the offensive and defensive lineman. Over the past two years, over 100 athletes who have attended the camp are playing NCAA football, including 48 who received Division I scholarships in 2012.

Among those who have received a football scholarship is Lake Braddock quarterback Caleb Henderson. The 230 pound, 6-foot-4 North Carolina Tar Heel commit joked about turf toe and always vocally celebrated enthusiastically when anyone made a big catch down the sideline during the one-on-ones, no matter who threw it.

IT WAS UNCERTAIN whether or not Henderson would be able to attend the camp; however, he said that it was because of coach Kavanaugh that he came. "This camp is really fun, I'm glad I came out today," said Henderson. "I was debating whether to come because I just came back from the Elite 11 in Ohio yesterday, but I haven't see coach K in a while. He's a great guy and I like him a lot."

Another player who did not escape the attention of Kavanaugh was Centerville's linebacker Chad Wiggins who runs a 4.67 forty, stands 6-foot-1 and weighs 230 pounds and is a top linebacker in the Northern Virginia region. Wiggins' favorite part about being a linebacker is, of course, getting to hit people. Wiggins also loves the "exposure of the camp ... hanging with these guys and ... show[ing] off what you've been working hard for." The Linebacker MVP of the camp, Wiggins is considering Virginia Tech, yet wants to enjoy his senior season at Centerville first, looking forward to "winning a state championship next year."



The cornerbacks practice their footwork during specific position instruction.



The rising Lake Braddock senior Caleb Henderson rockets a pass downfield during an offensive drill.



Centerville linebacker Chad Wiggins (left) defends Clover Hill HS tight end Chase Stanley (right) during a one-on-one drill.



DeMatha offensive lineman Devante Fox (center) lets out a victory yell after successfully protecting his dummy quarterback in a drill.



Jacob Atkinson, from East Christian Academy (DE), holds up motivational speaker Randy Beeman's "Character Bricks." Each brick represented a different value; yet those values are dependent on a solid foundation.

Before the camp ended and the sky opened up there was what the players took as the greatest drill of them all: the trenches. Here defensive and offensive linemen battled mano a mano in a simulation where a tackling dummy is used as the quarterback. The goal is to either protect or attack. DeMatha's offensive lineman Devante Fox dominated this drill and the one time he was beat, sparking impromptu trash talk from his opponent. Fox silently answered with a swirl of his finger and pummeled his overmatched defender to the floor the next time around.

IN THE FINAL CAMP MEETING at midfield, Kavanaugh introduced pastor and Kansas University's character coach Randy Beeman to the group. Beeman stressed the importance for young athletes to have their lives in order, to prioritize and become men of character. He focused on the usefulness of a guide, citing the Bible as his, and then asked for a volunteer and for examples of traits that men of character have. The volunteer was Jacob Atkinson and with each trait, integrity, trustworthiness, honesty, respect, and hence forth, Beeman place a brick in Atkinson's hand. The student from East Christian Academy in Delaware and the camp MVP held each five-stacked bricks before it became unstable and they fell to the turf. The moral was to provide a realization that even having these traits of character was meaningless without a solid foundation. A foundation, both Beeman and Kavanaugh hope, that can lead to success long after football.

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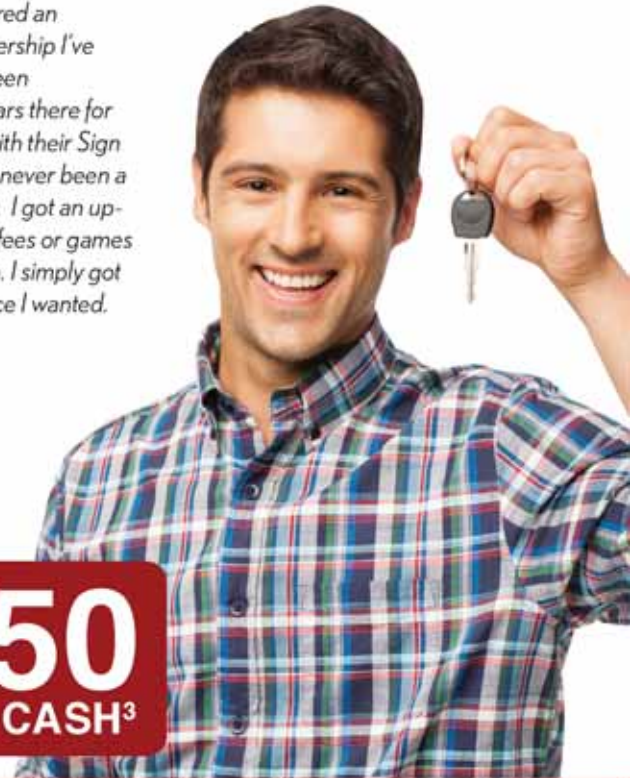
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Fairfax
\$570,000
Beautiful 4 BR Colonial features newly designed & remodeled kitchen with granite & breakfast bar adjacent to light-filled family room
addition overlooking backyard nature sanctuary. Fully finished walkout LL with recreation room. Plus, hardwoods, new carpet, freshly painted, updated baths, and new roof. Close to VRE, Metrobus, community pool, & nationally ranked schools!



Fairfax
Elegant Living \$750,000
Elegance is the hallmark of this exceptional property. Beautifully maintained. And updated 3 lvl, 4BR, 3.5 BA home in sought after Hampton Forest. Over 4600 sf of living space. Gourmet Kitchen w/SS appliances & granite counters. 2 story FR with fire place. AND MUCH MUCH MORE!



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



Fairfax
\$3,600/month
This single family home features 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms and is in the heart of Fairfax. Near VRE, Express Buses, I 495 and I 66. Located in Kings Park West and Robinson School pyramid.
Richard Esposito 703-856-2529

ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



Centreville Mid 270's
Newly Listed
Three finished levels in lovely condition! Enjoy the spring and summer on a private deck backing to trees. Three bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths and updated kitchen are just some of the features of this home. Community swim and tennis, minutes to Rt 28, shopping, and theaters.

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com