

The Arlington Connection

Runners participate in the annual Twilighter 5K between 20th and 23rd streets in Crystal City midst the rain on Saturday evening, July 27.

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NEWS

Silence of the Court

Justices deny
public access to
shield personal
conversations.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Supreme Court operates in silence, denying public access to audio recordings of its oral arguments. Unlike the U.S. Supreme Court, which denies video recordings but allows audio recordings, the commonwealth's top appeals court has a complete blackout on public access to proceedings. In a written response to questions from Connection Newspapers, the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court explained that audio records were once public, but the installation of new equipment in January 2008 created new concerns for justices.

"The new digital recording equipment is more sensitive so that the recordings now include any confidential comments any justice makes to another justice during the oral argument," wrote Katya Herndon, director of legislative and public relations for the Office of the Executive Secretary. "Accordingly, the recordings, which are for the internal use of the justices, are no longer made available to the public."

That's unacceptable, according to several advocates for open government and freedom of the press. Virginia Press Association executive director Ginger Stanley said that she would raise the issue next month during a meeting of the Rights and Responsibilities Subcommittee of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council. During the meeting next month, members will be discussing whether or not to look at parts of government that are not subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which includes the State Corporation Commission and the Virginia Department of Corrections. Stanley said the August meeting would be an ideal opportunity to challenge the lack of transparency at the Virginia Supreme Court.

"I don't believe that new technology should stand in the way of transparency," said Stanley. "If this is new technology, then it should be able to block the parts that are considered private conversations."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Supreme Court does not allow audio recordings of oral arguments or provide transcripts of proceedings.

THE LACK of transparency at the Virginia Supreme Court fits into a pattern of behavior for the commonwealth, which has a reputation for shielding basic information from the public. Last year, the State Integrity Investigation ranked and graded each of the 50 states on government accountability, transparency and corruption. Virginia got an F, largely because police agencies use an exemption clause in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to withhold basic documents — even in cases that are closed. Now advocates for open government say it's a mistake for the Virginia Supreme Court to operate in secret.

"It just seems unnecessary to allow the justices to make private comments like that that don't serve any function in the hearing and use that as an excuse to keep the entire thing confidential," said Gregg Leslie, legal defense director for the Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "If they really have that concern they need to have better microphones that are off unless the justice pushes a button to turn them on."

Some lawyers see the lack of transparency as a necessary and expected part of the court system.

"If a judge leans over to another judge and says something during the oral argument, to me that's part of the deliberation," said Ed Weiner, a Fairfax County attorney with 33 years of experience. "And I just don't think that the public should be invited into chambers during deliberations."

THE COURT is an infamously closed operation. No
SEE JUSTICES, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

The New Old-Time String Band with Andrew Acosta in center.

Old-Timey Music

Arlington and Falls Church residents
comprise New Old-Time String Band.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

In the workaday world, Andrew Acosta has been a painting contractor for 30 years. During off times, he “paints” stories using traditional music, most often as leader of the New Old-Time String Band.

Acosta has resided in Falls Church since boyhood. At age 13 he took up the guitar, and is self-taught ever since. Neither of his parents, and none of his siblings, save one, was involved with music. The one older brother played in a rock band and there always was a guitar in the home.

Graduating from George Mason High School, Acosta became a fine arts major at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. After a year or so, he transferred to Clinch Valley College — now named the University of Virginia’s College at Wise. A significant interruption occurred there, one which likely influenced his future in terms of both occupation and music. A movie company arrived in the area to film “Coal Miner’s Daughter,” a biography of country musician Loretta Lynn. Acosta was hired as a full-time set painter for the production. All this occurred in a part of Virginia renown for traditional roots music; think Carter Family, Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys.

Promised work as a set painter, bachelor Acosta moved to California. He met a Falls Church girl, married, started a family and decided that “going home” was the thing to do. He does not like traveling. “I am a home boy,” he said, which also ex-

plains why he does not accept bookings or attend bluegrass music festivals very far away. The summer months find him at numerous park concerts across Falls Church, Arlington and Fairfax. Winter weeks involve practice and development of additional recordings. Year-round performances occur in JV’s Restaurant, Route 50 and Annandale Road. Benefit performances are scheduled now and then; the one readily recalled by Acosta was for Fisher House, a place for families to stay when a member of the military is hospitalized.

The heart of the New Old-Time String Band is made up of Acosta (guitar and mandolin), Bill Taylor of Arlington (bass) and John Kaparakis of

SEE ACOSTA, PAGE 11



Andrew Acosta

Automatic Debate

Candidates for governor agree
on amendment for voting rights;
disagree on executive order.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Should nonviolent felons have their right to vote automatically restored? What exactly is a nonviolent felony? What kind of process can be considered automatic?

These are some of the questions at the heart of an ongoing debate in Virginia about restoration of rights for those who have paid their debt to society. It’s also a point of distinction between the candidates for governor because the winner of the election will have the power to determine who gets to have civil liberties restored as well as the process to make it happen.

Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli voted against restoring voting rights when he was in the state Senate, although his views on the issue have been evolving. He now supports an amendment to restore voting rights, although he maintains that the governor does not have the constitutional authority to issue an executive order automatically restoring them. Former Democratic Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe, on the other hand, says he will issue an executive order the first day of his administration ditching the application process in favor of a new system in which the governor’s office would review all nonviolent felons.

Both Cuccinelli and McAuliffe support a constitutional amendment, although that’s a nonstarter in the Republican-controlled House of Delegates.

“The stereotypical position on restoration of voting rights for felons is that Democrats would generally be more supportive than Republicans,” said Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “We’re not necessarily seeing that in this particular instance because the governor has been for it.”

Since he took office in 2010, Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell has defied conventional wisdom on the issue of restoration of voting rights for nonviolent felon. Despite the long history of Republican opposition to the issue, McDonnell has restored voting rights to more felons than any other governor in

the history of Virginia — more than 4,000, so far. Last week, he launched a new online application so nonviolent felons could use the Internet to facilitate the process of restoring civil rights. He even raised the issue during his State of the Commonwealth Address earlier this year.

“As a nation that believes in redemption and second chances, we must provide a clear path for willing individuals to be productive members of society once they have served their sentences and paid their fines and restitution,” said McDonnell in the January address to members of the General Assembly. “It is time for Virginia to join most of the other states and make the restoration of civil rights an automatic process for nonviolent offenders.”

WITHIN MINUTES of the governor’s speech, civil-rights groups spoke out in support of the governor’s new position. The American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia praised the effort as a way to shed “this vestige of the Jim Crow era.” Virginia Organizing and Virginia New Majority also issued written statements supporting the effort, which now had bipartisan appeal. State Sen. Don McEachin (D-9) called on the governor to name the legislation in honor of the late state Sen. Yvonne Miller (D-5), who was a longtime advocate for restoring civil rights to nonviolent felons.

Then House Republicans pulled the rug out.

A few days after the State of the Commonwealth address, the House Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments met to consider a constitutional amendment introduced by Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). The amendment would have kept the governor’s power to restore civil rights, although it would have added a new power to the General Assembly to “provide for the restoration of civil rights to persons who have been convicted of nonviolent felonies and who have completed service of their sentences, subject to the conditions, requirements, and definitions set forth in that law.” But House Republicans broke with the Republican governor, the Re-

SEE VOTING RIGHTS, PAGE 5

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OPINION

Enjoy Tax Holiday, Donate School Supplies

Good timing to help those in need.

It is debatable whether recurring tax holidays for different seasonal needs are good policy. But since this weekend is Virginia's tax holiday on school supplies and clothing, it makes sense to take advantage of the savings, and to spread the wealth around. The savings are more significant this year with the new sales tax increases in effect as of July 1.

This year the tax holiday is Aug. 2-4. During this three-day period, school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from Virginia sales tax. There are some

items that do not qualify, for example digital school supplies. See www.tax.virginia.gov/ for more details.

When you are buying school supplies for your family, buy extra to donate to local families who are not able to afford to do the same.

Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing is holding its 5th Annual Backpack Drive to provide more than 250 backpacks to children in low to moderate income families to help them have a successful start to the new school year.

Donations needed: New backpacks in all sizes, spiral or composition notebooks, binders, loose-leaf and graph paper, sharpeners, #2 pencils, blue, black and red pens, pocket folders, crayons, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, glue sticks, school scissors, white-out and erasers. Contact Shanette Yao at 703-

851-3621 or at Liz McElwee with questions at 703-851-3635 or lmcelwee@apah.org. The drop off location is the APAH office at 2704 N. Pershing Drive, Arlington from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Arlington will partner with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to provide backpacks and school supplies to the children of their residents.

The church will collect the school items on Aug. 4 and Aug. 11. On Sunday, Aug. 11 the church will have a special Blessing of the Backpacks during the 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist. Any child who wants to bring their own backpack to be blessed, along with a donation to APAH, is welcome to do so.

The church is located at 4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, 703-522-1600.

What Is 'Dillon's Rule?' Authority rests with the state.

By MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

Every so often, an issue will break out between one of the more liberal local governments in Northern Virginia and the state government in Richmond. The locals say: "We know what is best for our residents." Richmond says "As a local unit of government, you have not been given the authority to act in the way you wish."

The former then mutters "D—n Dillon's Rule" while the latter whispers "Thank goodness for Dillon's Rule." Few Virginians know what Dillon's Rule says. Next to none know who Dillon was.

Dillon's Rule recognizes the senior sovereignty of a state government and holds that subordinate government units which the state creates, such as cities and counties, have only the powers expressly granted by the state plus only the powers necessary to carry out those express grants. The Supreme Court of the U.S. fully agreed beginning in 1891.



Judge John Forrest Dillon

With a degree of literary flourish, Dillon himself stated the basic rule in these terms: Municipal corporations owe their origin to, and derive their powers and rights wholly from, the legislature. It breathes into them the breath of life, without which they cannot

exist. Every state holds to this principle. As with so many things, "the devil is in the details." Differences arise in the wording used to expressly grant authority to the local governments. Some states confer broad powers, and this often is called "home rule." Others embrace strict construction of the basic principle and severely limit the scope of delegated authority. Since 1896, Virginia falls into the latter camp. Dillon's Rule prevails in Virginia, perhaps more so than in any other state.

When revisions to Virginia's Constitution were being considered in 1969, one proposal would have turned Dillon's Rule on its head. It said that lower governmental units had all powers, except those withheld. The suggestion failed.

The last major confrontation over Dillon's Rule in Virginia was decided by her Supreme Court in 2000 (Arlington County v. White). The county agreed that the issue

was whether the county's inclusion of domestic partners in the employees' health benefits plan violated Dillon's Rule. The Court said it did.

John Forrest Dillon was a native New Yorker who arrived in Iowa as a child. After becoming a doctor, he then became a lawyer. About the end of the Civil War and for some years following, he was a member of that state's Supreme Court.

Subsequently, he became a Federal judge. Resigning from that office, Dillon became a law professor at Columbia University in New York City. Respected as a legal scholar, he wrote the first treatise on the law governing cities, counties and other lower units of government (Municipal Corporations, 1872). Dillon died in 1914.

However for baseball fans, the only thing of interest about Dillon's Rule may be that Charles Dillon Stengel (also known as "Casey Stengel") was Judge Dillon's grand nephew.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why I Love America

To the Editor:

Last evening, Monday, July 22, I went with our Ugandan guest, Tom Kitandwe Kisolo, to our local McDonald's on the corner of George Mason Drive and Wilson Boulevard here in Arlington for a coffee and conversation, and stayed till 11 p.m. I was tired when I came home, went to bed, got up this morning and looked everywhere for my wallet. It was missing. I was sure I had brought it home. After searching everywhere, I decided to pass by the

McDonald's just to check if anyone had seen it. Imagine to my surprise when the manager on duty brought it to me. A night shift employee had found it under the table, and she took it to her manager. Everything in it was intact — the money, credit cards, driving license, cards, everything that one puts in a bulky wallet. I just closed my eyes and said I love this country and its people. God bless the girl who found it. I had no hesitation in leaving for her in an envelope all the cash that was in it as my thank you! What she did was worth more than the cash, many times over. My faith

in the people of this country just grew stronger.

I shared this story on my Facebook page and I got the following response from Dean Kitui, one of my African friends:

"She wins my admiration and John find out if she is not married, I have a son for her. If she is, God bless their marriage and her family."

So, there, if the young girl at the McDonald's is not married, a marriage proposal awaits.

John Wanda

Arlington Academy of Hope

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Voting Rights Restoration Debated

FROM PAGE 3

publican lieutenant governor and the Republican attorney general.

"A number of Republicans stood up on the floor of the House and essentially attacked the governor for supporting this," said Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45). "It's clear they don't intend to follow his wishes."

Since the session, momentum has been building to find a way to achieve some kind of action without the need for a constitutional amendment — an initiative that has failed year after year for more than three decades. In March, Attorney General Cuccinelli put together an advisory committee to figure out a way to move forward on the issue after decades of deadlock. In May, the advisory group released a report that discussed several alternative approaches, but didn't endorse any one in particular. One approach would designate an existing agency within the executive branch to spearhead a more proactive rights restoration process on behalf of the governor.

"Guided by policies articulated by the Governor, this agency would do what is not practical now: lead a statewide, proactive outreach and educational effort to encourage individuals to apply for a restoration of their civil rights," members of the advisory panel wrote in the May report. "After processing applications received, this agency could formulate recommendations for the

Governor who would make the decision on whether to remove political disabilities for each individual applicant."

CUCCINELLI was one of the strongest opponents to extending voting rights to nonviolent felons during his years in the General Assembly. Year after year, the issue was raised by Northern Virginia Democrats. And year after year, the conservative Republican who represented the 37th Senate District — an area that stretched from Burke to Centreville — would vote against it.

"Being in the middle of it for a number of years changed my opinion on this particular point," said Cuccinelli in a May interview with Connection Newspapers. "I think I'm consistent with some of the other things I've done in the criminal justice arena."

When he arrived in Richmond, Cuccinelli said, he thought denial of voting rights should be part of the punishment given to felons. Over the years though, he saw a pattern of behavior in which legislators would increase penalties for all manner of offenses — a phenomenon he calls "felony creep." By the time he became attorney general in 2010, Cuccinelli began to have second thoughts about his longstanding opposition to restoration of voting rights for nonviolent felons. This year, he appeared before a panel of legislators to testify in favor of an amendment that he voted against as

a legislator.

"When I arrived as attorney general, I evolved to a different position," said Cuccinelli. "I think that we need to be more open as a society to reintegrating people who go into our prisons and our jails when they come out."

MCAULIFFE takes a traditional Democratic position on extending voting rights, although he says streamlining the process would be one of the first actions he would take as governor. McAuliffe says he would issue an executive order on his first day in office that would do away with the application process altogether in favor of a new system in which the governor's office would review each and every case individually.

"Provided that they have served their time without significant incident and have made all required restitution and paid all fees and fines, their civil rights will be automatically restored to them and they can fully rejoin civil society," McAuliffe said in a written statement on the issue.

McAuliffe also says he would support a constitutional amendment that would automatically restore voting rights for nonviolent felons. This is an approach cheered by civil-rights advocates who fear that future governors might not take the same position as McAuliffe or even Cuccinelli and McDonnell. Considering the Republicans'

historical opposition to extending voting rights, even the best executive order would only be as good as the governor in the Executive Mansion. Ultimately, they say, an amendment is the best way to solve the problem in the long term.

"Until such legislation is passed, under the Virginia Constitution, it's up to the governor to use his or her constitutional authority to restore civil rights to non-violent felons," McAuliffe wrote. "This is basic fairness. Once someone has paid their debt, they should be free and clear."

Some of the issues remain unresolved. For example, what is "automatic" restoration? The ACLU uses that term to mean no application process is needed and no review of an individual's background is conducted. McDonnell, on the other hand, uses the term to mean that all applicants who qualify are approved.

Another issue that is up for interpretation is who qualifies as a "nonviolent" felon. Civil rights advocates are concerned that that the definition leaves too much room for interpretation.

"The Virginia constitution gives the governor complete discretion," said Hope Amezcua, legislative counsel and staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "If you are a person who has committed a crime that isn't considered nonviolent by the code of Virginia but you are on the governor's violent list, you don't qualify and you have to go through the more rigorous process."

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SUMMER FUN

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon Thursday. Photos are welcome.

ONGOING

Campfire Programs. Saturdays this summer (except Aug. 24), 7-8 p.m. at Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers. Campfire programs include stories, songs, games, special live animal guests and more. Topics will range from Rascally Raccoons to High-flying Hawks to Buzzing Bees. \$5 fee per participant, registration not required for children age 2 and under. Visit www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/ParksRecreationMain.aspx.

Enjoy a Monday morning **yoga class** through September held in Crystal City's Water Park located across from 1750 Crystal Drive. Led by instructors from Mind Your Body Oasis.

The Crystal City **FRESHFARM Market** is open on Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. with the same selection of foods and goods from local producers, in front of 251 S. 18th St.

Take a free **outdoor Zumba class** in the courtyard at 2121 Crystal Drive, led by instructors from the local Sport & Health Clubs, every Wednesday through the end of September. Participants can take a free shower afterwards at the nearby Sport & Health.

Photography Exhibit. Through Monday, Sept. 30, see "Hallowed Ground: Photos of the Gettysburg Battlefield 150 Years After, by Ron Cogswell," at Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road. Free. Call 703-228-6330.

Senior Olympics Registration. Online registration for the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics opens July 1. Participants can register online at www.nvso.us or by regular mail. The events take place Sept. 7-19 at 17 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Deadline to register is Aug. 23 (mail), Aug. 30 (online). The fee is \$12.

Register Now. 2013 Master Gardener Training Class still has a few spaces available for the program which runs from Sept. 10-Nov. 21 on Tuesday and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon. Classes held at the Fairfaxington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., as well as two Saturday field trips to gardens operated by master gardeners. Fee is \$225 for Arlington and Alexandria residents and \$275 for outside residents. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

Register Now. Encore Creativity's 55+ Encore Chorale welcomes older adults to register for its fall season. The program offers an opportunity to improve your voice in a welcoming community. No auditions will be held. Singers will rehearse classical and holiday songs in preparation for December performances. Call 301-261-5747 or visit encorecreativity.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 31

Jazz Performance. 3 p.m. at Reagan National Airport, 2401 S. Smith Boulevard. The Wayne Milentz Quartet will be performing, entertaining travelers while they pass through Washington's airports. Visit www.metwashairports.com.

Blues and Brews. 5-8 p.m. at 2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard. Live music and beer. In partnership with the Crystal City Business Improvement District, Vornado/Charles E. Smith and the Washington Wine Academy. The beer garden will feature delicious brews hand-selected by beer experts from the Washington Wine Academy and the Crystal City Wine Shop. Visit



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

After a ride on the Cliffhanger, three children dangle above the ground waiting for the next ride up at Arlington's 2011 county fair.

County Fair Opens Aug. 7

The Arlington County Fair has been providing entertainment for more than 35 years. In recent years, attendance has reached 50,000 as people come for competitive exhibits, midway rides and games, entertainment, vendors, racing piglets and more. Each year Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second Street South, is transformed into a place with something for everyone. Admission is free, and shuttle service is provided from locations throughout Arlington. Visit arlingtoncountyfair.us/ for more.

	Indoor Hours	Outdoor Hours
Wednesday, Aug. 7	N/A	5-10 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 8	N/A	5-10 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 9	4-10 p.m.	2-11 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 10	10 a.m.-9 p.m.	10 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 11	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	11 a.m.-10 p.m.

www.crystallcity.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Drop-in Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children that are preschool-age. Free. 703-228-5715.

Story Time. 10:30-11 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For children that are preschool-age. Free. 703-228-6330.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children that are pre-school age. Free. 703-228-5260.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children ages 2-5. Free. Call 703-228-5946.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children up to age 2. Free. Call 703-228-5946.

Scavenger Hunt. 3-5 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Explore and sample from the restaurants and businesses while solving mysteries and puzzles. Call 703-228-6545.

Jazz Performance. 4 p.m. at Reagan National Airport, 2401 S. Smith Boulevard. Tony Craddock, Jr. will be performing, entertaining travelers while they pass through Washington's airports. Visit www.metwashairports.com.

Wine in the Water Park. 6-10 p.m., Fridays in Sept. at Crystal City Water Park, 1750 Crystal Drive. Experts from the Washington Wine Academy

assist attendees in selecting wine. Free admission and snacks; \$5 for wine and beer. Call 703-412-9430 or visit www.crystallcity.org.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive. Free concert by the United States Air Force Band as a part of their summer concert series. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Volunteer Workday. 10 a.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2848 N. Marcey Road. Spend a morning with park staff and volunteers helping with indoor and outdoor projects in your favorite park. Call 703-528-5406.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children that are preschool age can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

Summer Safari. 1 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2848 N. Marcey Road. Chance to explore the infamous frog pond and manmade vernal pools with a naturalist. Reservation required. Call 703-528-5406.

Button Gluttons. 2-3 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Teens in grades 6-12 can make buttons for themselves and friends. Free. 703-228-6330.

Summer Concert. 7 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2848 N. Marcey Road. Musical performance by local group Surrender Friday. Free but donations are requested. Call 703-528-5406.

Theatre Open House. Signature



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Competitive Exhibits

Arlington County Fair has released its 2013 Competitive Exhibits Guide. The theme for Competitive Exhibits is "Explore Arlington" and celebrates the many opportunities Arlington offers residents and visitors.

Categories for participation range from fine arts, photography and ceramics to baked goods, flowers and food preservation.

Information and guidelines can be found in the official Competitive Exhibits Guide located in most community centers, libraries and at <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/entertainment/exhibits/>. The entry form and entry tags are included in the Guide and can be downloaded separately from the Fair website.

The Arlington County Fair is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization led by a volunteer board of directors. Learn more at www.arlingtoncountyfair.us.

Theatre's day-long event includes live performances on five different stages, workshops, discussion, the Signature Idol competition and 50 percent off selected ticket sales at the box office from noon-9:30 p.m. Events held at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave, and outdoors on the Shirlington Plaza. Visit signature-theatre.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 4

Film. 6-8 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Morning Glory." Free. 703-228-6545.

MONDAY/AUG. 5

Drop-in Story Time. 10:30-11 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. or noon at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children preschool-age. Free. 703-228-6545.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6548.

Stories from Gulf Branch Nature Center. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. Children in grades K-5 can hear stories and meet critters that live in the dirt. Free, but tickets required and are available starting the day before the performance. 703-228-6548.

Stories from Gulf Branch Nature Center. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Children in grades K-5 can hear stories and meet critters that live in the dirt. Free, but tickets required and are available starting the day before the performance. 703-228-6330.

Free Concert. 7 p.m. at Shirlington

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

ORANGE LINE CONNECTION

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Theatre Performance. Through Saturday, Aug. 17 at American Century Theater, 2700 South Lang Street. "I Do! I Do!" is a story chronicling 50 years of marriage. \$17-\$40. Call 703-998-4555 or visit www.culturecapital.com.

Week-long Summer Classes. Through Friday, Aug. 23, children can take art classes from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1:30-4 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for a list of classes and to register. Call 703-248-6800.

Classes for Adults. Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, through Aug. 29, 7-9:30 p.m. Arlington Arts Center is located at 3550 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

'Unplugged' Concert Series. Thursdays through August from 6-8 p.m. at Market Common Clarendon, 2700 Clarendon Blvd. Enjoy free performances of live acoustic music. Visit www.marketcommonclarendon.net or 703-785-5634.

Boot Camp Runs. Through Saturday, Sept. 21 at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. Monday and Wednesday, 6 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m. Registration is open for Rosslyn boot camp runs with instructor Victor Carcamo. \$25 for eight weeks of three sessions per week. Visit www.rosslynva.org/play/calendar/bootcamp.

Group Bike Rides. Tuesday nights through September at 7 p.m., meet at Freshbikes Arlington Store, 3924 Wilson Blvd. All abilities welcome. Free. After the ride purchase food from various food trucks each week. Visit www.freshbikescycling.com for more.

Restaurants and Rhythms. The BID's free happy-hour live music series inside Mezz Gallery through Aug. 3 at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Amy Hughes Braden: Demographic + Aaron Hughes: Sampling. A dual show by siblings Amy Hughes Braden and Aaron

the Key Bridge Marriott. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

Comedy. Every Saturday at 3 p.m. at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd., children can enjoy ComedySportz for Kidz. \$10. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Comedy. Every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. is ComedySportz ("clean") and at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday is the Blue Show ("unclean"), both at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd. \$15 each. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Poetry Series. 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Open Mic Nite. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. every Wednesday at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Sign-up times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring instruments, fans and friends. Featured musicians will perform from 9:30-10 p.m. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Visual Arts Exhibit. On display at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Carolina Mayorga: Infestation, a semi-permanent installation mixing multimedia, performance art and on-site installation. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Visual Arts Exhibit. On Display at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Linda Hesh: Art Every Day/Live For Art. Interactive project that invites public discussion on the meaning of art in everyday life. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Visual Arts Exhibit. On display in the Mezz Gallery through Aug. 3 at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Amy Hughes Braden: Demographic + Aaron Hughes: Sampling. A dual show by siblings Amy Hughes Braden and Aaron

Hughes. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Visual Arts Exhibit. On display in the Works in Progress Gallery through Aug. 18 at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Arijit Das: Cloud Mapping studies movement, stillness and photo-bombing by mixing Das' drawing on a wall with spectator movement. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Exhibit. On display through Aug. 11 at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Artisphere's Administrative Corridor features four video screens of Charles Bergquist video and photography work. Free. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Studio Visit. 10:30 a.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Join Pam Rogers for a visit to her studio and a hands-on art workshop. 703-248-6800 or www.arlingtonartscenter.org.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for 1st place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Spider Kelly's Running Club. Staff, friends and community welcome to join Spider Kelly's running club and train for their inaugural race, the annual Clarendon Day 5K, held on the last Thursday of September. Call 703-312-8888 or visit <http://spiderkellys.com>.

JULY 15 THROUGH AUG. 16

Week-long Summer Classes. Teens can take art classes from 1-4 p.m. or

1:30-4 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for a list of classes and to register. 703-248-6800.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Concert. 8:30 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Pet Parade celebrate their album release with opening acts Drunk Tigers and Beach Week. \$10. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Film Festival. "Can't Hardly Wait" (PG-13) 1998 - 100 minutes. Films begin at Dusk in Gateway Park, rain or shine. Gateway Park is located at the foot of Key Bridge at 1300 Lee Highway, two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

Theatre Performance. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, N. Columbus Street & 2nd Street North. D.C.'s Hexagon Theatre Company perform their original revue. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-run-amphitheater.aspx

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, N. Columbus Street & 2nd Street North. Rico Amerio performs a mixture of hip-hop and jazz music. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-run-amphitheater.aspx

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. Fixed price dinner beginning at 5 p.m. at Ireland's Four Courts in Arlington, 2051 Wilson Blvd., followed by movie of your choice at AMC Courthouse Plaza 8. Cost of \$30 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 4

Concert. 7 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Chuck Prophet and the Mission Express perform with opening act the Old Ceremony. \$20. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call

703-522-8340.

TUESDAY/AUG. 6

Arlington BBQ Tuesday Night Rides. 7 p.m. at Freshbikes Cycling, 3924 Wilson Blvd. Free. All abilities welcome. Free food and drink after the ride. Visit www.freshbikescycling.com for more.

Concert. 8 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Leftover Curies perform with opening act Passerine. \$12. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

FRIDAY/AUG. 9

Film Festival. "Sixteen Candles" (PG) 1984 - 93 minutes. Films begin at Dusk in Gateway Park, rain or shine. Gateway Park is located at the foot of Key Bridge at 1300 Lee Highway, two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro. Visit www.rosslynva.org.

Concert. 8:30 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The Stooges Brass Band perform. \$20 general admission; \$30 lounge level. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Concert. 9 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. The Riverbreaks and the Weatherhaves perform. \$12. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Artist Conversation. 10:30 a.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Join artists Pam Rogers and Radio Sebastian for coffee and discussion about their new work, (Agri Interior), on view now at the Wyatt Gallery. Call 703-248-6800 or visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org.

Concert. 9 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Dean Fields and the Cowards Choir celebrate their individual CD releases with opening act Wendell Kimbrough. \$12. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

MONDAY/AUG. 12

Concert. 9 p.m. at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Nikki and the Weeps perform. \$5. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Visit www.metwashairports.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 12

Paws to Read. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children in grades K-5 can read to therapy dogs for 15 minutes. Each dog is part of PAL. Register for a slot by calling 703-228-5946.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

Film. 2-4 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" (1966). Free. 703-228-5710.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 14

Nanny Club. 10 a.m.-noon at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5710.

Sticky Note Art. 3-4 p.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. Teens in grades 6-12 can show off their artistic ability and make creations out of sticky notes. Free. 703-228-5715.

Film. 7-8:45 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Truck Farm" about urban agriculture. Free. 703-228-5946.

Wakefield Graduate Moore to Play for Virginia Wesleyan

Khory Moore struggled with academics in his early years at Wakefield High School. A standout basketball player, Moore missed the first half of his sophomore season due to poor grades.

Moore eventually got his act together in the classroom and returned to the basketball court. During his senior year, Moore and the Warriors had a season to remember.

Moore, a 2013 Wakefield High School graduate, earned National District Player of the Year and first-team all-region honors. He guided Wakefield to the 2012-13 district championship, a berth in the Northern Region championship game and trip to the state semifinals. Moore drained six 3-pointers and scored 37 points in an overtime loss to Woodson in the region tournament final.

The sharpshooting guard will continue his basketball career at Division III Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk.

Q: What made Virginia Wesleyan the right fit for you?

Moore: Well, VWC is/was the only school recruiting me heavily, and the grades I got in my first couple years of high school didn't really attract DII or DI schools, even though athletically I probably could have played on that level. But just their play style is very up and down, similar to Wakefield's, and coach Dave Macedo is a great coach and I love his coaching style. This was a great fit because this is probably one of the best programs in Division III and it felt like home.

Q: Any word on playing time as a freshman?



Khory Moore, with ball, helped the Wakefield boys' basketball team reach the state semifinals in 2013.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION

Moore: No, not at all. I do feel like there is a lot of pressure on me to go in and play immediately because of my high school career and the fact that coach Macedo recruited me heavily. With my go-get-it mindset and ambition, I probably see myself getting some playing time as a freshman, but I also know that it's a bunch of guys, soon to be teammates, that have the same mentality as me, so I just have to go in and work hard and compete for every second of playing time.

Q: What is your favorite memory of playing basketball at Wakefield?

Moore: My favorite memory has to be my whole senior year. It was a great year. Senior year was just a result of hard work and dedication to the game day in and day out. I've been through a lot as a member of the Wakefield community and just having a great season like that just makes me realize that hard work does pay off! This season was just great, and glad that I got to do

it with my Wakefield family. Warrior Nation!

Q: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Moore: Taking it for granted. I never knew how special it was until it was over. Everything happened so quick, didn't get a chance to really enjoy it or let it sink in. But that's the thing about something great; it never sinks in during the moment, only afterward do you realize how great it really was.

Q: At what age did you start playing basketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?

Moore: I believe I started at the age of 7 or maybe 8. But I was never that good. I always played with kids one or two years older than me. I didn't really start to get good until my eighth-grade year. Since then, basketball was everything to me. I think basketball means more to me because I

worked hard to get where I'm at today, and it's just that much more exciting to be in the position I'm in now, getting ready to play college ball! Didn't really think about college ball until the summer before my senior year, when I was killing the AAU scene, playing for my high school coach Tony Bentley and his team, Team Pro Look. Started getting a couple college looks and said to myself, "You could really play at the next level." That's when I knew that I was most likely continuing my basketball career in college.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Moore: Growing up. I need college for more than just basketball and school. Those are very important to me, but I need to learn how to become independent and responsible. I'm a mama's boy and I'm a spoiled brat. I just think it's time for me to grow up and what better place to do that than at college? College will teach me responsibility, college will give me a little taste of what the real world is like and that's what I need. Always got to prepare for the next step in life; I always think about my future more than I do the present.

Q: You played a primary role in the Wakefield boys' basketball team's "Harlem Shake" video. What kind of a response did the team receive when the video came out?

Moore: LOL, the team actually got a lot of buzz from that video, way more than we expected. We just did it for fun and to loosen up during tournament time. That was a fun experience. I think we got voted for one of the best "Harlem Shake" videos in the DMV if I'm not mistaken. — JON ROETMAN

SPORTS BRIEFS

Overlee at Divisionals

Overlee's best and fastest swimmers swam in the divisionals meet this past Saturday at Vienna Aquatic Club. With the dual meet season behind them, the top two swimmers in each age group event swam with the best from other Division 1 teams. Three swimmers placed first at the meet: double winner Lauren Hartel (8U 25 free and breast), Audrey Hartel (8U butterfly), and Kayle Park (11-12 50-meter breaststroke).

At press time, Overlee is sending 10 swimmers to All-Stars next Saturday in Annandale. These swimmers are: Lindsay Bowers, Jonathan Day, Audrey Hartel, Lauren Hartel, Will Hart, Paul Kinsella, Isabella Lee, Michaela Morrison, Park and Ellie Ridgeway.

WGCC Falls Short

On July 22 and 23, the 15 teams of the Country Club Swimming and Diving Association met at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda for the CCSDA Swimming Championships. Each team sent its top swimmers to compete in each event. The preliminaries, where two swimmers per team swim in each event, were held on Monday and the top 16 finishers in each event returned on Tuesday for finals. While the other local swim leagues culminate in individual All-Stars, the CCSDA "Champs" meet is ultimately a team event and determines the top team for the entire league — and the division placements for the 2014 season.

After a 51-year drought, WGCC won Champs in



11-12 Lindsay Bowers swims 50 Fly at the Divisional meet held last Saturday at Vienna Aquatic Club. Lindsay qualified to swim 11-12 50 Meter Backstroke at next week's All Star Meet in Annandale.

2009 and 2010. The Lightning lost in a close match to Kenwood in 2011 and then regained the title in 2012.

During the two-day competition, about 8,600 total team points are awarded to the top 16 swimmers and relay teams in 50 events. This year's matchup resulted in the closest margin ever in the 62-year history of the CCSDA — the winner was determined by a half-point. WGCC finished with 1,268 points, only to be edged out by Kenwood with 1268.5. Had any one WGCC swimmer finished one spot higher, or any one Kenwood swimmer finished one spot lower, the heartbreaking loss for WGCC would have been a victory instead.

The final team scores were: Kenwood 1268.5; WGCC 1268; Army Navy 912.5; Congressional 906; Edgemoor 586; Columbia 523; Chevy Chase



Grace Loper, 8&U backstroker, competes for WGCC.

523; Bethesda 506.5; Manor 409; Montgomery 409; Norbeck 348.5; Belle Haven 324; Argyle 289; Lakewood 211; Avenel 163.

Despite the loss, many of the swimmers had their best times ever and several swam in record-setting times. Jack Carman won the boys' 10U 25-meter breaststroke in a Congressional pool record-setting swim of 19.18 seconds. Richard Gentry won the boys' 12U 50-meter breaststroke, setting a new Champs meet record of 34.62. Chris Outlaw set a Congressional pool record in the boys' 18U free during preliminaries with a time of 24.30. First-place finishes were also posted by Sean Curran (boys' 8U 25 back in a time of 21.61) and Charlie Moore (boys' 12U 50 back in a time of 33.01). In addition, the boys' junior medley relay team of Zander Zidlicky, Jack Carman, Thomas Outlaw,

and Conner McCarthy won their event.

WGCC swimmers finishing in the top 3 were: Ryan Baker (boys' 18U IM and back); Cate Barrett (girls' 12U breast), Rowan Clancy (girls' 8U free); Sean Curran (boys' 8U fly); Amanda Didawick (girls' 18U IM); Lily Darcey (girls' 8U breast); Richard Gentry (boys' 12U IM); Jillian Johnson (girls' 12U IM); Keira Johnson (girls' 8U back and fly); Conner McCarthy (boys' 8U free and breast); Charlie Moore (boys' 12U free); Peter Moore (boys' 10U back); Daniel O'Berry (boys' 18U fly); Helen Otteni (girls' 10U Fly); Chris Outlaw (boys' 18U free and fly); Thomas Outlaw (boys' 12U free and fly); Angus Ricks (boys' 12U breast); Charlotte Thomson (girls' 10U breast); and Zander Zidlicky (boys' 14U back and fly).

Other WGCC swimmers also earning points for the team on the final day of competition were: 8U swimmers Grace Loper, Liam Thomson and Will Walters; 10U swimmers Cab Fooshe, Paddy McCarthy, Avery Nassetta, Pamela Grace von Seelen, Tucker Wall and Sophie Yoder; 12U swimmers Lindsay Lukehart, Brian McCarthy, Petie Nassetta and Caroline Otteni; 14U swimmers Nick Gerlach, Spencer Lukehart, Grayson Offutt; Faith Palmer, G.G. Richmond, Kate Rita, Olivia Tripodi, Meredyth von Seelen, Grant Welch and Carson Wood; and 18&U swimmers George Cranwell, Kirby Nassetta, Mason Nassetta, Caitlyn O'Berry, Alston Offutt and Mike Poppalardo.

WGCC's team is led by head coach Matt Wolff; assistant coaches Shelley Gesker and Nicole Zinn; Head Dolphin Coach Sarah Myers; and junior coaches (and swimmers) Amanda Didawick, Mason Nassetta and Daniel O'Berry.

Justices Deny Public Access To Shield Conversations

FROM PAGE 2

video records are allowed. No audio recordings are permitted. Visitors to the court are not allowed to enter the building with a cell

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs for Aug. 12-17.

Arlington senior centers: Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Culpepper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Langston-Brown, 2121 N. Culpepper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Arlington Mill at Fairlington, 3308 S. Stafford St.; also Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St.; TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St.

Senior trips: Tuesday, Aug. 13, Atlantic City, N.J., \$12; Thursday, Aug. 15, Nationals play the Giants, afternoon, \$56; Friday, Aug. 16, Ford's Theater Museum, \$11; Saturday, Aug. 17, Lucketts Fair, Lucketts, Va, \$16. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

"Women in the Military," Monday, Aug. 12, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

Tennis, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., Bluemont Courts, Wilson and Manchester. Details, 703-228-4745.

Registration open for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 7-19. \$12 covers multiple events. Call for details, 703-228-4721.

phone. The court does not even produce transcripts of the oral arguments. Some say the failure to allow public access to audio recordings is a mistake that should either be fixed with some kind of tweak to the recording system or by a new law forcing the courts to allow more sunshine into the dark corridors of power in Richmond.

"The recordings should be made public," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "These cases are some of the most important cases in Virginia, and it's important to have as much sunshine on the public part of that process as possible."

That's a bipartisan view. Courts of Justice Chairman Del. David Albo (R-42) says the Virginia Su-

preme Court should allow public access to oral arguments or face an effort from the General Assembly to force transparency.

"They are denying the public recordings because they chose crappy technology," said Albo. "I just don't see why they shouldn't give them out. People are allowed to be there. It's a public forum."



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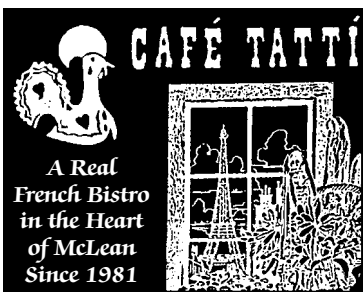
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Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic...703-979-5580

St. Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
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NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907
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Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535
Church of God - Anderson, Indiana
Church of God...703-671-6726
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McLean - First Church of Christ, Scientist...703-356-1391
First Church of Christ, Scientist, Arlington...703-534-0020
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St. George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286
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St. Johns Episcopal Church-McLean...703-356-4902
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St. Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625
St. Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606
St. Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330
Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077
Lutheran (ELCA)
Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
Lutheran Church of The Redeemer...703-356-3346

Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991
Lutheran (Missouri Synod)
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Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516
Non-Denominational
New Life Christian Church - McLean Campus...571-294-8306
Metaphysical
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"Chemo-Nosabe"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Although I've not seen the current "The Lone Ranger" theatrical release, I am of a certain age and generation who grew up watching – on black & white television with NO remote control and only THREE watchable channels – the original "The Lone Ranger" (starring Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels), along with other weekday-afternoon and Saturday-morning classics like "The Rifleman," "Roy Rogers," "Sky King," "Superman," "Leave It To Beaver" and "Ozzie and Harriet" – in my house, anyway. And though the "effects" weren't nearly as "special" as they are in today's movie/television productions/versions, nevertheless, the effects on me, personally, were far greater. Can you say wholesome goodness? The Golden Rule? Do unto others...

What little I know about life and death and sickness, I wasn't learning from these programs. And since I was raised in an extremely healthy household with an extended family that didn't seem to be too sick, too often, my upbringing had zero exposure to cancer – other than asking a girl for her astrological sign. Even into my adulthood, I had very little experience with this dreaded disease, and when I got married and connected with an entirely new and different set of people/backgrounds, cancer was amazingly still not impacting our lives. Obviously, we were all very lucky.

Well, I certainly know about it now: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (the terminal kind) diagnosed at age 54 and a half. Thank God my parents weren't alive when I was diagnosed; I imagine the news would have taken years off their lives. As it was, they lived full lives and died at 87 and 86; my widowed mother having died nearly three months before my diagnosis was confirmed. Certainly my parents would have provided great comfort to me, but predeceasing me was probably for the best.

And what's also been for the best, since my diagnosis, is what I've learned about my situation, a situation unlike any with which I've had experience. Previous to my diagnosis, my knowledge on the cancer subject would likely have fit on the head of a pin. Now, it's a bit more, not too much, but more than enough, as you regular readers know. And mostly that knowledge has to do with chemotherapy and targeted treatment, the two primary treatment protocols for stage IV lung cancer patients (stage IV means the cancer has metastasized and is inoperable; there is no stage V).

The most distressing thing I've learned is that chemotherapy/targeted treatment is no friend of mine; more like a necessary evil with no guarantees of success. Though these treatments may be an enemy of the cancer/tumors, they are no silver bullet and no Clayton Moore-type life saver (maybe if my oncologist wore a mask and yelled "Hi-Yo Silver" every time he saw me, my progress would be different). Granted, I've survived way longer than I was originally "prognosed" to do so ("13 months to two years"), for which I'm extremely grateful and fortunate. However, only reruns last forever.

Perhaps the years I spent watching these programs instilled in me a certain positive hopefulness that somehow things would work out OK. So far they have. And even though these shows have mostly disappeared from the airwaves, I haven't. See you next week. I'll be write here.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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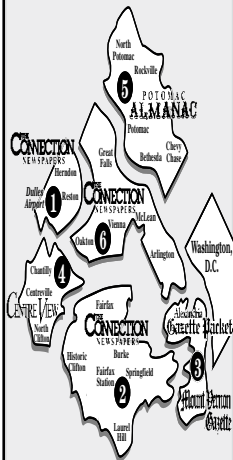
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Acosta

FROM PAGE 3

Arlington (guitar). The soul of the group is 95-year-old Roy Odell "Speedy" Tolliver, originally from Green Cove in southwest Virginia and the fiddle player declared a 2009 Virginia Heritage Awardee for his role in preserving the Commonwealth's traditional arts and culture. Acosta notes that the band linked up with Tolliver in 2000, and the entire period since "can only be described as 'an honor'." Other musicians round out the company on a come-and-go basis by mutual consent.

Acosta composes tunes with an old-timey flavor and adds lyrical topics that are contemporary, a process he calls "making the old, new." Several works have become local crowd favorites. For example, "Brown's Hardware" recounts shopping experiences lived by almost anyone in the Falls Church-Arlington-Fairfax area. Third-generation "Mr. Brown" still operates the store at the corner of Lee Highway and Broad Street (Routes 7 and 29). Asked about the impulse to compose, Acosta chuckled and called it "mysterious." He never knows what or when he will be moved to write, but he is pleased by the results. Questioned about other music and musicians in the area, Acosta says he respects the work of Bill Spottswood, bluegrass radio personality/disc-jockey on WAMU 88.5, and of Bill Kirchen, guitarist, singer and songwriter.

Recently, a new opportunity arose. Acosta was approached by an independent filmmaker and invited to write music and appear in a three-part series highlighting historical events and places in Falls Church. The pilot film tells about Cherry Hill Farm. Now in production, all the music is original and by Acosta. He explains the attraction of the project: "Much has happened in our little city over the centuries, yet people walk by sites and are unaware of what took place there. I hope these films find their way into the schools and libraries so that people, especially young people, gain a greater sense of where they are and become interested in the history all around us."

Another example of a willingness to experiment is the recent addition of a harmonica to the string band. "There is no good reason to stick strictly to the name," Acosta said, laughing. "The songs don't change and I just like the sound that the harmonica brings to the music we play."

Although he is one of a trio for appearances at house parties and other smaller events, and plays solo on occasion, the primary performance platform is billed as The New Old-Time String Band with Andrew Acosta. By the way, there never was an "Old-Time String Band" that has become "New"; Acosta muses that "juxtaposition of 'New' and 'Old' just struck me as interesting."

The philosophy behind Acosta's musicianship is simple: "Our traditional music needs to be passed on to another generation. It is something very special, and deserves to be saved. One way to do that is by performing. Some young people will listen and begin playing, and the music will live." To this end, Acosta sometimes accepts one or two students for private lessons.

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