

Burke residents since 1989, Cindy Bennett (left) and husband Andy Bennett (right) portrayed wealthy Civil War-era brother and sister Hannah Coffey Burke and Joshua Coffey at the first revival of Burke History Day.

## Burke History Day Revisited

NEWS, PAGE 3

### What's in A Name?

NEWS, PAGE 5

### Rotary Clubs Join Hands to Help Others

NEWS, PAGE 13



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The first Burke History Day since the 1990s was hosted by the Burke Historical Society in the large hall of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.



Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana (left, portraying Colonel Silas Burke) talks history with fellow society member and Burke resident Ruth Williams (right).

# Burke History Day Revisited

**Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana hopes to make it an annual event once again.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Saturday, Oct. 12, grey skies and light rain didn't put a damper on the first Burke History Day since the 1990s. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a steady stream of visitors ventured into the large hall of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department facility as costumed members of the Burke Historical Society revived a former community event—albeit with a few modifications.

Originating in the 1970s, the Burke History Day was held annually in the parking lot of the Burke Village Center Giant grocery store. Previous incarnations had “more of an arts and crafts atmosphere,” said Burke Historical Society President and Burke resident Jon Vrana (clad authentically as Colonel Silas Burke).

**NOW THE FOCUS** is squarely on sharing history, through detailed texts and images, artifacts and the society's elaborately garbed “historical dramatists,” according to Vrana.

Linda Lau, a Fairfax resident and member of the historical society, was dressed to represent the fash-

ion of the 1850s, and had several of her Victorian-era hats available for children to try on. “It's very beneficial to hold something and touch it,” she said. “They really, really respond well to that.”

Fairfax resident Helen Anderson also brought the 1850s to life with her attire. “We dress like this to get people excited about history,” she said.

“We've pretty well covered the gamut, the timeline,” said Vrana, “from Antebellum through the Civil War, World War I and World War II—and this area was supposed to be Dulles International Airport in the 1950s, but people rose up against that idea and were able to prevent that from happening.”

From Stuart's Christmas Raid of 1862 to the Burke forest fire of 1941 and onward, the Burke History Day exhibits displayed a wealth of information about the town's numerous transitions from minor agricultural community to popular resort area and “bedroom to Washington,” according to Vrana. It's all part of a rich local history Vrana is passionate about sharing.

“I like to think of Burke's history as hidden in plain sight,” said Vrana. “Just relatively few yards from where we stand here, you have remnants from the railroad back in 1852.

You have a real diverse amount of history that spans from the residents that have lived here a long time to the new residents that are coming here new that are making

history themselves.”

Though the Burke Historical Society was responsible for the majority of the content on offer at the free event, it took a larger group effort to pull everything off. Supervisors Pat Herrity and John C Cook, and Chairman Sharon Bulova made opening remarks at the start of the day, and the exhibition was enriched by assistance from members of the Fairfax County History Commission and Cemetery Preservation Association.

“It's wonderful the kind of support we get from the county supervisors,” said Vrana. “It's a real example of collaboration when it comes to teaching people about history.”

**“I like to think of Burke's history as hidden in plain sight.”**

**—Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana**

**OUTSIDE OF THE HISTORICAL ARENA,** the society also received big help from the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue De-

partment. Not only did the outfit facilitate Burke History Day, but their conveniently scheduled open house and fire safety demonstrations helped draw a larger crowd for both events.

“There's a great synergy,” said Burke resident Andy Bennett (portraying the wealthy landowner and Silas Burke's brother-in-law Joshua Coffey). “We're very happy with the turnout. There's a good flow-through.”

“They've made [the space] available to us,” continued Vrana.

“We really have to thank them for making this opportunity possible.”



From left, Linda Lau of Fairfax poses with Austin and Betsy Cotton of Burke at the first revival of Burke History Day.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION



# CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

## THURSDAY-THURSDAY/ OCT. 17-31

**19th annual Fall Festival & Pumpkin Playground.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays; 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Burke Nursery, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Inflatable slides, obstacles courses and playgrounds, pumpkins galore, artisan market, fall plants and foliage for sale, many children's activities and all the fall-themed fun you can imagine. 03-323-1188 or [www.pumpkinplayground.com](http://www.pumpkinplayground.com).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 18

**"The Norwegian Paperclip."** 7 p.m., at Norway House, 3846 Meredith Drive, Fairfax. A book signing and program by Olav R. Crone-Aamot, Norwegian underground operative against the German occupation of Norway in World War II, and career intelligent specialist with the US Army in Germany and Asia. 703-573-5943 or [www.norwaydc.org](http://www.norwaydc.org).

**Modern Fado by Mariza.** 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mariza will perform her modernized interpretation of fado, the ancient Portuguese genre which translates as "fate" or "destiny." A pre-performance discussion runs 45 minutes prior to the performance on \$23-\$46; tickets are half price for

**The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble will perform Saturday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts.**

youth through grade 12. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 19

**25th annual Spartanfest.**

10 a.m.-3 p.m., at WSHS, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A craft show, silent auction, games, food and more to benefit the school. 703-629-2760 or [wshtspartanfest@msn.com](mailto:wshtspartanfest@msn.com).

**Burke Book Festival.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Hall, 9501 Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. Author signings and readings, music, prizes, Stanley & Norman, the basset hound brothers featured in the children's book series by author Frank Monahan, young adult author Daniele Lanzarotta and a donation book drive on behalf of Unity Bowling and more. <http://rocketscienceproductions.blogspot.com/p/rsp-book-fair.html>.

**Merrifield Fall Festival.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m., at Mosaic, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Live music by three different bands; a beer garden with fall food specials, hosted by Matchbox; local artists; kids activities including face painting and a balloon artist; a pumpkin patch hosted by Merrifield Garden Center; college football games broadcast on Lucy; and involvement from Mosaic's retailers and restaurants.



PHOTO BY COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.

[www.mosaicdistrict.com](http://www.mosaicdistrict.com).

**Confederate States Marine Corps.** 6-8 p.m., at Old Firestation #3 restaurant, 3988 University Drive, Fairfax. John Tansill speaks about his Confederate ancestor, Capt. Robert Tansill, CSMC, from Prince William County; a 6 p.m. dinner from the restaurant menu precedes a 7 p.m. talk. \$5. 703-425-5735. <http://www.stringfellowcamp.org/index.html>.

**Vintage #18 Concert.** 6-10 p.m., at Accotink Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The first set will be family and child-friendly; the rest of the evening features performers lending to a dance-hall feel. Refreshments will be available (childcare available upon request). \$10. 703-503-4579, [administrator@accotinkuuc.org](mailto:administrator@accotinkuuc.org) or [vintage18.net](http://vintage18.net).

**Aziz Ansari.** 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. One of the stars of NBC's "Parks and Recreation" performs his own stand

up comedy. \$35-\$45. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/ OCT. 19-20

**Hungarian State Folk Ensemble.** 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, at the Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The troupe presents "Hungarian Rhapsody," a spirited journey through time that traces the history of this thousand-year-old culture through its dance and music traditions. \$ [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

**The Marci and Zina Show.** 8 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich offer "wackily sophisticated" entertainment. From heartbreakingly sincere to laugh-out-loud funny, they do it all with style and class. \$29/\$24 JCCNV member and seniors; \$19 students and groups (10-plus). 703-323-0880 or [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 20

**Virginia Chamber Orchestra.** 4 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. David Grandis, music director, presents "Autumn Serenade." Music by Schubert, Wagner, Poulenc. Adults, \$25; seniors or adults online, \$20. Students admitted free. 703-758-0179 or [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

## TUESDAY-MONDAY/ OCT. 22-DEC. 16

**"Page Turners."** Daily, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The exhibit highlights visual

artists who are also illustrators, to run concurrently with the 8th annual Northern Virginia Jewish Book Festival. Features Valerie Brown, freelance photographer with images from her "Capital Splendor: Gardens & Parks of Washington, DC," Ian Frank, architect and artist, Katherine Janus Kahn, illustrator of the Sammy Spider series and Ziz, a gigantic bird of Jewish mythology and The Ladysmiths with female metalsmiths' jewelry creations. 703-323-0880 or [www.jccnvarts.org](http://www.jccnvarts.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 26

**"Chocolate Soldiers from the USA."** 4 p.m., at Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Tells the story of 140,000 Black American soldiers and thousands of British civilians who crossed a racial divide and introduced the British population to jazz, jitterbugging and Black American culture by night. <http://www.filmfest.com/>.

**Tony Arnold.** 8 p.m. Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, 3905 Railroad Ave., Fairfax. The award-winning soprano presents Haydn's "Symphony No. 60, 'Il Distratto,'" Stravinsky's "Pulcinella Suite," and the world premiere of Theofanidis's "Ordo Virtutum." Price to be determined. 703-563-1990 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org/](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org/).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 27

**Spookfest.** Time TBD, at Buffa's Dance Studio, 9570 Burke Road, Burke. A Halloween party with dancing, games, crafts, a haunted house, costume contest, raffles, food, prizes and special guest characters. \$20 pre-sale, \$25 at the door, free for children. 703-425-5599 or [www.buffas.com/](http://www.buffas.com/).

# RECYCLE this Weekend in FAIRFAX!



## SATURDAY, OCT. 19

from 8 a.m. to Noon at the  
**Springfield Governmental Center**  
(6140 Rolling Road, Springfield)

Shred up to 5 boxes of personal documents at no charge. No film, credit cards or electronic files of any kind will be accepted. Please remove all binders and binder clips.

## Electric Sunday SUNDAY, OCT. 20

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the  
**I-66 Transfer Station**  
(4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

Recycle televisions, computers and peripheral electronics - such as keyboards, scanners, printers, speakers, etc. - along with unbroken fluorescent tubes & light bulbs.

**These are FREE events for Fairfax County residents only.** For complete details, go online to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling), or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



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For reasonable ADA accommodations, please call 703-324-5230, TTY 711.





## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean National Ceremony where the Korean War dead are buried. In August, Marsden and his wife, Julia, spent a week in South Korea as guests of the Government of the Republic of Korea. He was invited to discuss his sponsorship of the “East Sea” bill, and also to present a resolution from the Southern Legislative Conference encouraging trade development between the United States and Korea.**

# What's in a Name?

## Virginia legislators work with Korean American groups to push for “East Sea” in textbooks.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Virginia's gubernatorial candidates Ken Cuccinelli (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D) may be light years apart on most issues, but on one issue they've reached a consensus.

Last month, they both pledged support to Virginia's growing population of Korean Americans to use the dual names of “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” to denote the body of water between Korea and Japan in Virginia's textbooks. Koreans view the “Sea of Japan” designation as a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.

Currently, more than 2.5 million Korean-Americans reside in the U.S. and nearly 150,000 of them live in Virginia.

“As governor, going forward, I will wholeheartedly support the effort to have our textbooks and other teaching materials reflect the concurrent names as we pursue education excellence in Virginia,” Cuccinelli wrote in a Sept. 16 letter to the Korean Community of Virginia.

“As governor, I will ensure that as new texts are purchased or downloaded, they reflect this important historical truth,” McAuliffe wrote to the Korean Community of Virginia on Sept. 25.

For the past year, state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) has been leading Virginia's legislative efforts to add the “East Sea” in public school textbooks.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**From left—Jung Ki Un, chairman of Voice of Korean Americans (VOKA), State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), and Peter Kim, president of VOKA, display a petition to use the dual names of “East Sea” and “Sea of Japan” to denote the body of water between Korea and Japan in Virginia's textbooks. Currently, Virginia's textbooks only use Sea of Japan, which Koreans view as historically inaccurate and a legacy of Japanese colonial rule.**

Marsden has been working with Peter Y. Kim, a Chantilly businessman, who is president of the non-profit Voice of Korean Americans (VoKA). In January, Kim formed VOKA to promote the use of “the East Sea,” contending the naming dispute is critical to Korean Americans for a number of reasons.

“The entire Korean-American community in Virginia is very concerned about the situation, particularly related to educating Korean-American children about their heritage that is currently not recognized by the state,” Kim said.

“The effort is gaining momentum in Virginia,” Marsden said, noting the “East Sea” Bill will require all future textbooks purchased by the Virginia Public Schools of Education to

SEE PROMOTING,  
PAGE 16



**Our Daily Bread Development Manager Jennifer Rose, 40, with Food Manager Chris Garriss, 50.**

STEVE HIBBARD/  
THE CONNECTION

## Complete the Circle Oct. 27

### Our Daily Bread hosting food and toiletries collections, community event.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

Our Daily Bread in Fairfax is hosting its third-annual “Complete the Circle” food-collection campaign and community event on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Fairfax High School practice field.

“We'd like to raise 10,000 pounds of food,” said Jennifer Rose, 40, development manager with Our Daily Bread. Some 28 different groups will be participating as teams, including local Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and church groups. Already, 600 people have signed up for this year. Organizers are asking that people bring \$10-\$20 food gift cards, non-perishable food, canned goods and toiletries, which will be distributed to needy families through Food for Others food bank, serving the entire county.

During the afternoon, hundreds of volunteers will gather for a “living picture,” photographed from high above by Daniel Dancer of “Art for the Sky” at the field at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The outer part of the circle will be comprised of food donations.

“I'm excited about completing the circle because it raises awareness about food insecurity in the most affluent of counties in the country,” said Rose, who commutes from Warrenton.

The cost is \$5 to participate and includes a T-shirt. The event includes pizza by Donatos Pizza, Whole Foods goodies and drinks. Entertainment will be provided by the children's band, School of Rock, with face painting and fun activities geared towards children. Corporate sponsors include: Apple Federal Credit Union, Virginia Heritage Bank and Bowman Consulting.

In the first year, 700 people at-

tended, bringing 2,500 pounds of food. In the second year, 700 people attended, bringing 4,800 pounds of food; and contributing \$5,000.

“Complete the Circle is a way to bring the community together to help fight hunger by hosting food dona-

tions, food gift cards and toiletries,” said Chris Garriss, food manager of ODB. “We started a program called ‘Food Bridge,’ and are trying to help clients become more self-sufficient by offering food gift cards because they can make their own choices.”

The program targets 60 families undergoing financial hardships by offering food, toiletries and gift cards for four months. In 2012, ODB provided food assistance to 287 families for four months. The families can stay with the program for six months if they are mentored by ODB volunteers, and nine months with “Project Bridge” to help them get back on their feet again. After they complete the program, new families are rotated in the system.

According to a June 11 study by “Feeding America,” there are more than 76,000 people in affluent Fairfax County who are “food insecure,” meaning they do not know where their next meal will be coming from.

To participate, visit the website: [www.odbfairfax.org](http://www.odbfairfax.org) or contact Jennifer Rose at [develop@ODBFairfax.org](mailto:develop@ODBFairfax.org), or 703-273-8829. For Food for Others sponsorship information, contact Jessica Cogen at [JCogen@foodforothers.org](mailto:JCogen@foodforothers.org) or call 703-207-9173.

## Non-perishables Needed

Canned sweet potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, beans (pinto, kidney, black, etc.), chili, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, mashed potatoes, cereal, crackers, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, peanut butter, canned meats.

## Toiletries Needed

Needed toiletries can be cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, baby wipes, shampoo, toothpaste and tooth brushes, soap and deodorant.



# OPINION

## Don't Let Negatives Keep You from Voting

Choices are stark; think about what principles should guide governance in Virginia for the next four years.

Every Virginia voter will have the option to cast a ballot for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and their member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

While much of the coverage and advertising at the top of the ticket has been negative in the extreme, it will still matter who is governor. Don't turn up your nose, hold your nose if necessary, and go vote. You can vote on Nov. 5; most likely you can vote before that.

### Voter Identification

Virginia's existing voter ID requirements will change in July 2014. A law requiring photo identification at the polls was signed into law in May 2013. This new photo identification requirement will not take effect until July 1, 2014. The current law allows for the acceptance of all identification documents listed here.

When you arrive at your polling place, a voting official will verify that your name is on the registration list. Voters will be asked to present one valid form of identification. It can be any of the following: Virginia voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid Virginia student ID; current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; Social Security card.

### On the Ballot 2013

Check what is on your ballot at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>

#### GOVERNOR

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Ken T. Cuccinelli (R) [www.cuccinelli.com](http://www.cuccinelli.com)  
Robert C. Sarvis (L) [www.robertsarvis.com](http://www.robertsarvis.com)

#### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) [www.northamforlg.com](http://www.northamforlg.com)

#### COLUMN

## It's Going to Take Humility'

BY FRANK WOLF  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
(R-IO)



In Luke 12:48 Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

The Congress and the president have been entrusted with much, namely the responsibility to govern this country.

The American people rightly expect us, regardless of party affiliation, to come together, espe-

cially during times of crisis, and find ways to get things done.

They are understandably fed up with this current dysfunction, and I am, too.

Each side thinks it is winning, but in reality, the country and the

American people are losing. Senate Chaplain Barry Black says there's a level of insanity involved in the current government shutdown. Asked what it would take to end the current impasse, the former Navy chaplain said, "It's going to take humility." Wise words.

Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall."

There is too much pride poisoning this debate.

The American people should be the winner, not one party or the other, not the administration or the Congress.

Short-sighted political victories aimed at capturing the latest headline in the 24 hour news cycle will not stand the test of time, nor will they be viewed well through the lens of history, especially if on our watch the trust that must exist between elected officials and the electorate is frayed beyond repair.

For those of us who think

sons, but you must sign a form affirming that you do qualify. Almost everyone with a job in Northern Virginia qualifies for one particular reason, however: your work plus commute time would be 11 hours or more between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other reasons include planned travel, pregnancy, illness or disability, being a student out of area and more. Voters can also vote absentee by mail.

It's worth looking at the absentee ballot application online before going to vote absentee in person: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/ABApplication.pdf>.

In Fairfax County, you can vote at Fairfax County Governmental Center or any one of seven "satellite" voting locations.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

The satellite locations in Fairfax County are also open for absentee in person voting; Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday: Beginning Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 3:30-7 p.m.

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

For more on voting absentee in Fairfax County, call 703-222-0776 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>.

### Contact

State Board of Elections, 804-864-8901 Toll Free: 800-552-9745 FAX: 804-371-0194, email: [info@sbe.virginia.gov](mailto:info@sbe.virginia.gov), [http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter\\_Information/Index.html](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html)

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov)

E.W. Jackson (R) [www.jacksonforlg.com](http://www.jacksonforlg.com)

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Mark D. Obenshain (R) [www.markobenshain.com](http://www.markobenshain.com)

#### EDITORIAL

#### HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2013 ELECTIONS

District 34 — Democrat Kathleen Murphy challenges Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock.

District 36 — Democratic incumbent Ken Plum unopposed  
District 86 — Democrat Jennifer Boysko challenges Republican incumbent Tom Rust

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S SPECIAL ELECTION

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D) [www.Staceykincaid.com](http://www.Staceykincaid.com)  
Bryan A. "B.A." Wolfe @ <http://www.wolfeforsheriff.com/>  
Christopher F. DeCarlo (I) [www.honestlyandethics.com](http://www.honestlyandethics.com)  
Robert A. Rivera (I)

#### SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

Fairfax County voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on the \$250 million school bond question in the general election. The schools plan to use the money to:

- ❖ Build two new elementary schools, one in the Richmond Highway area and one in the Bailey's area
  - ❖ Help renovate 22 schools including 17 elementary schools, two middle schools (Thoreau and Rocky Run) and three high schools (Langley, Herndon and Oakton)
  - ❖ Buy land for the South West County High School
  - ❖ Enhance the capacity of Westbriar Elementary and South Lakes High School
  - ❖ Replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems and parking lots.
- See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond13.shtml> for more details.

### Vote Now

From now until Saturday, Nov. 2, you can vote absentee in person for a variety of rea-

## Burke CONNECTION

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Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 17

**Paintings & Pairings.** 6-9 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Silent auctions, hors d'oeuvres and drinks and the works of local artists to support the Alzheimer's Family Day Care Center. 703-204-4664 or [AlzheimersFDC.org](http://AlzheimersFDC.org).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 18

**Homecoming Parade & Bite of Braddock.** Parade at 5 p.m., Bite of Braddock from 5-7 p.m., game vs. West Springfield at 7:30 p.m., starting at Ashburn Community Center, 9528 Ashburn Drive, Burke. From floats and cheerleaders throwing candy to Bite of Braddock food, games and entertainment, Homecoming Night excitement builds and culminates with the rivalry game.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 19

**Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates Info Session.** 11 a.m.-noon, at the Fairfax CASA office, 4103 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 200, Fairfax. If you would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children then register. 703-273-3526, ext. 22 or [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org).

**Cherishing Our Children.** 4-5 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A talk for parents, grandparents, teachers and all who love children, by Julie Ward, former teacher and choreographer, now in full time ministry. Child care/free parking available. 703-591-2122 or [www.christiansciencefairfax.com](http://www.christiansciencefairfax.com).

### TUESDAY/OCT. 22

**Lecture.** 4:30-7 p.m., at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A lecture on "Ethics of Race and the Fall of Apartheid: Sociopolitical Realities of South Africa: Past and Present" and Q&A session. <http://masonglobal.gmu.edu/event/esterhuyse/>.

**Celebration Banquet.** 7 p.m., at The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. A banquet to benefit the Lamb Center, with a mission of combatting homelessness and transforming lives through Christianity. 703-314-7805, [tlccelebration@gmail.com](mailto:tlccelebration@gmail.com) or [www.thelambcenter.org/index.html](http://www.thelambcenter.org/index.html).

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 23

**Affordable Health Care Act Info and Intro.** 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Two professionals help to clarify the new law followed by Q&A: Dr. Alison Evans Cuellar, associate professor of health administration and policy at George Mason University, Kathy May, director, Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare (VCV). RSVP. [CarlaR@jccnv.org](mailto:CarlaR@jccnv.org), 703-323-0880 or [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 25

**Casting Call: The Great American Home Movie.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Best Western Fairfax, 3535 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The casting call is looking for people who lived in the United States between 1946 and 1976, are at least 40 years of age, and willing to tell their stories of a time when American life was documented through home movies. 703-323-6110 or [ken@kensandervideo.com](mailto:ken@kensandervideo.com).



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Runners take off from the starting line of the 2012 Goblin Gallop 5K.



Dressed as Angry Birds last year are (from left) Savni Puri, Christine Conner, Lyn Howard and Michelle Mai.

# 20th Annual Goblin Gallop Is Oct. 27

## Benefits families of children with cancer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ack-o-lanterns, pumpkin pie and colorful leaves signal that Halloween will soon be here. And that means it's time for the Goblin Gallop. This year's event is the 20th annual and it's set for Sunday, Oct. 27, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center.

And although it raises money for a serious cause, there's always a party atmosphere. Many of the participants, plus those cheering them on, wear Halloween costumes; and afterward, there are refreshments and a costume contest.

"It's more than just a 5K race," said event organizer George Quadrino. "It's a family-fun event with live music, a moonbounce and commemorative T-shirts."

Rain or shine, the race begins and ends in front of Coastal Flats restaurant. The 1K fun run starts at 8:30 a.m.; the 5K race, at 9 a.m.; and the 5K walk, at 9:10 a.m. Entry fees through Oct. 24 are \$28 for the 5K run, \$20 for the 5K walk and \$15 for the 1K fun run. From Oct. 25 on, those fees, respectively, are \$30, \$25 and \$20.

Entrants should add \$5 to each amount if they'd like a long-sleeved, rather than a short-sleeved, T-shirt. Register at [www.goblingallop.org](http://www.goblingallop.org). Online registration will remain open until race time.

**PEOPLE MAY RUN** individually or as part of 5K teams competing against each other. Participants may be on a coed team of at least four people; the categories are organizations, families and friends. The top team in each category will receive fun awards for best team costume, fastest team—adding

up the four members' times, and for the team with the most members registered before packet pickup on Oct. 25.

Fairfax Station's Dixon Hemphill is the race director; and because of its headline sponsor, the race's official name is the Valvoline Instant Oil Change Goblin Gallop. Other main sponsors include Don Beyer Volvo, the Shaffer Charitable Foundation and the law firm of Butzel Long.

All proceeds go to the John Quadrino Foundation to Benefit Children with Cancer. George Quadrino established it after his son John died of the disease in 1985 at age 7. And each year, money raised from the Goblin Gallop is used for numerous, small grants to help childhood cancer victims and their families.

"We raised almost \$40,000 last year and that helped a lot," said Quadrino. "It allowed us to help about 260 families."

Some 1,850 people participated in last year's Goblin Gallop, and Quadrino expects between that number and 2,000 people this time. Usually, hundreds of people sign up on race day and, said Quadrino, "Computer registration only takes a moment."

The course is USATF-certified, and prizes valued at \$150, \$100 and \$50 are awarded to the top three, overall, male and female finishers. Prizes are also given to the top three overall finishers in various age categories, including a masters group for those over 40. All children participating will receive runner's medals inscribed with the words, "20th annual Goblin Gallop."

All competitors will receive a free, commemorative, glow-in-the-dark T-shirt. Decorated with the words, "Goblin Gallop," in orange, the shirts are purple and feature a scene of trick-or-treaters walking past a haunted house and a large, rising moon.

No dogs or headphones are allowed in the 5K events, but strollers are welcome in both the running and walking events. A computer chip in the runners' numbers

will register their starting and finishing times.

The route is challenging, but runners like it because it's fairly flat, with few hills and all right turns. Race D.C. Timing LLC will handle scoring and results, and the awards ceremony will be on the stage in front of Coastal Flats. Results will be posted that afternoon at [goblingallop.org](http://goblingallop.org) and [Results.racedctiming.com](http://Results.racedctiming.com).

After the race, the band Shaky Ground will perform classic rock on the Fairfax Corner stage, costumes will be judged and awarded prizes, and participants will enjoy hot dogs, breakfast bars, fruit, cookies and beverages.

Another highlight will be the Reptile Man, who brings snakes, a baby alligator and other reptiles for viewing by interested attendees. "He talks about them and explains what they eat," said Quadrino. "Kids are absolutely fascinated."

In addition, more than \$3,000 in door prizes will be given away. Most are donated by local merchants and include Redskins tickets, restaurant meals and gift certificates at running stores. Glory Days Grill is the largest prize-contributor, donating \$1,000 worth of goodies.

Because of the Goblin Gallop, the John Quadrino Foundation is able to make nearly 300 grants per year, totaling about \$80,000. The recipient families are referred by pediatric social workers at Inova Fairfax and Children's hospitals, and the grants are given directly to these families.

Because medical bills can be overwhelming, parents of seriously ill children often need help with rent, utility bills or car-repair costs. Often, one parent must quit a job to stay home and take care of the child. And a family with no prior financial problems suddenly finds itself in dire straits. That's where the foundation comes in.

Each year, for example, it awards grants for generators. They go to families with a

child who relies on a lifesaving machine at home. And, said Quadrino, "If their power went out, it could be devastating."

**THE FOUNDATION** buys wigs for children who've lost their hair to radiation/chemotherapy. And in the past few months, said Quadrino, "We outfitted 10-12 families with back-to-school clothes for their children."

"We've also paid for a sibling's child care so parents can visit their sick child in the hospital," he continued. "My wife and I saw the need when our son was going through this, and he did, too—he's our inspiration. He'd see kids like him who didn't see their parents very much, except for Sunday afternoons."

Worrying about their child's health, while wondering how they'll pay their rent or mortgage, is a "double whammy" for parents, said Quadrino. So his Foundation does all it can to help them.

"In the beginning, we were hoping to make three or four thousand dollars from the race, and it snowballed," he said. "But the need is still there. We also take care of lots of unpaid utility bills. Every week, we turn on people's lights and stop them from being turned off. We fill in where insurance doesn't."

Reflecting on the Goblin Gallop's 20th anniversary, Quadrino called it "pretty unusual" for a race to last that long, but he's glad it has. "We feel really good about it," he said. There are a lot of volunteers involved and we appreciate our sponsors. This allows us to help more people and we're excited about it."

To donate to the organization, send checks payable to The John Quadrino Foundation to P.O. Box 4614, Falls Church, VA 22044. Contributions are tax-deductible and may also be made via the Combined Federal Campaign by designating CFC No. 8931, or via the United Way by selecting No. 59426.



## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Honoring Holocaust Survivors

Expressions of the Holocaust: Dinner Honoring Survivors, a special night of music, art and poetry memorializing the struggle of those who survived the travesties of the Holocaust will take place on Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the HUB Ballroom at Mason's Fairfax Campus. The event is free for Mason students (with a \$10 deposit), and \$54 per person for community members. RSVP by Nov. 5 at [www.regonline.com/dinnerhonoring survivors](http://www.regonline.com/dinnerhonoring survivors).

### Bike Summit

The second Fairfax Bike Summit is set for Saturday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at GMU. Register by Oct. 31 at [www.fabbikes.org/summit](http://www.fabbikes.org/summit). Cost is \$25, which includes snacks and lunch. Sponsored by Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB), in partnership with GMU, Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax, it's open to everyone who wants more options for getting around their communities.

Nationally known speakers will explore topics such as the importance of bicycling to the future of Tysons Corner and other transit-oriented communities; safety, law enforcement and evaluation; and where to next for Fairfax biking? Also planned are exhibits by local bike stores, clubs and organizations.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Fairfax area students **Thomas W. Burke** and **Bryce W. Gentry** of Fairfax High School, **John R. Walnut**, homeschooled, **Megan V. Pearson** of James W. Robinson Secondary School, **Nathan J. Walko**, **Brian W. Walsh** and **Ian A. White** of Trinity Christian School, **Isabella R. Brahm**, **Dylan Burke**, **Bryan Chen**, **Elli Cryan**, **Chia Lee**, **Nikhil Mathur**, **Jared H. McFarlane**, **Ryan J. McKeown**, **Elizabeth J. Planert**, **Peter Wilson** and **Chloe E. Yun** of W.T. Woodson High School, and **Andreas Butler**, **Anthony Carrington**, **Adam Friedman**, **Lily Gu**, **Bryan Higgins**, **Krishnaprasa Jayaraj**, **Ryan Jian**, **Anwar Omeish**, **Emily Schneider** and **Tyler Sheperd** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology are National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

Fairfax residents **Josephine Kihui**, of Fairfax High School; **Ian Mugerwa**, **Tianay Zeigler**, **Kayla A. Meek** and **Suha Suliman** of W.T. Woodson High School; and **Tyler Young** of Trinity Christian School are 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists.



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## News

# Kids Sending Smiles Around the World

Youth non-profit to hold 5K Run/Walk for Breast Cancer at Burke Lake Park.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Court of the 2013 Lee District Lady Fairfax was in session, but there were no royal activities underway. Instead, 11-year-old Samantha Underwood and her friends were busy reminiscing about past events and planning future ones for Kids Sending Smiles (KSS)—the charitable organization they established when a friend of Philippine ancestry told Samantha about the conditions and the poverty, especially among young girls, in the native country of her family. “We thought about just sending money,” said “Queen” Samantha, “but that didn’t seem to mean the same as really getting involved and doing something to help.” So Samantha and a few of her elementary school friends got together, raised funds and collected donations and sent them off to a transitional facility for girls moving from homelessness. Doing this charitable work felt so good, that

Miss Underwood and company decided to take their efforts even further. With the help of their parents—in particular Mrs. Laurie Underwood—Kids Sending Smiles (KSS) was founded as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. “To bring happiness to ourselves and others by helping those in need in the United States and around the world” is their official mission, and a goal that they have obviously taken to heart in the two years since they first formed.

Starting with a core group of about seven young ladies, KSS has grown to about 20 members. There are official meetings—“You have to keep real records and stuff,” said Samantha Wenger, one of the “originals.” Any member can bring a potential project to the table. “Then we do a blind vote,” explained Katie Machado. “You close your eyes and raise your hand when the project you want to vote for is called. One of the adults keeps track. But whatever we pick, we all work together to make it happen.”

The youngest member of the group at 6 years old, home-schooled Molly’s favorite



Founding members of Kids Sending Smiles do a little reminiscing as they look over the scrapbook of their non-profit’s activities. From left: Laila Tucker, 9, Island Creek Elementary, Adaya Beard, 10, Lorton Station Elementary, Tatiana Joseph, 10, Lane Elementary, Alliyah Beard, 11, Lorton Station, Samantha Underwood, 10, Springfield Estates Elementary, Samantha Wenger, 10, Island Creek.

event so far was Christmas caroling at the local pool. Katie Machado, who attends Springfield Estates Elementary, and Samantha Wenger, who goes to Island Creek, recall the efforts to raise money for a seizure dog for a local toddler as high on their lists. The girls held a raffle and a silent auction in April at their local Genghis Grill, even acting as servers to aid in community efforts toward raising the \$22,000 needed to raise and train the specialized pooches.

The KSS collective have already pulled off

17 charitable projects in their short history. In addition to the seizure dog projects, they have raised funds for Hurricane Sandy victims, organized a winter clothing drive for those in need, made and sold jewelry and other products in aid of the Love a Child Orphanage in Monrovia, Liberia and raised relief effort funds for tornado victims in Oklahoma.

No wonder the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored them with a special proclamation earlier this year. Their 18th



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

Before the members of Kids Sending Smiles (KSS) get down to the business at hand—last minute preparations for Saturday’s 5k Run/Walk for Breast Cancer—there has to be a few minutes of catch-up and maybe a giggle or two. After all, these KSS’ers don’t all go to the same school.

event is their most ambitious yet. On Saturday, Oct. 19, they are holding a 5K Run/Walk for Breast Cancer at Burke Lake Park. With the help of sponsors like Metro Run and Walk, a store dedicated to runners and walkers in Springfield, the girls say they are ready. “There’s a lot to do,” admitted Ms. Underwood, “but we’ve been working on this since April. We got together to make the bags for the runners this week and lots of people have helped to organize it and teach us all the things we need to know to do this. “

THE EFFORTS of this group of community-spirited youngsters can be further explored on their website at [www.kidssendingsmiles.org](http://www.kidssendingsmiles.org) and on their Facebook page.

The children all hope to see your smiling face at Burke Lake Park on Saturday, and at any of the future charitable events they are even now managing to plan—in between school work, Girl Scouts, soccer, household chores and just being kids.

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## PEOPLE

### Fairfax High Student Honored for Writing

**A** Fairfax High sophomore was among those honored Sunday for their entries in a Grandparents Day writing contest. She is Maeve Costello and she received an honorable mention for a story she wrote called, "Meeting Charlie."

The Writers of Chantilly, a local group of professional and aspiring writers, sponsored the competition, which was held over the summer. The winners were recognized during a Sept. 8 ceremony at the Chantilly Regional Library.

Costello's story was about her grandmother's new puppy and, for her efforts, she received a certificate and will have her work published in an upcoming Writers of Chantilly anthology. She especially enjoys writing mysteries and her work may be read at FanFiction.net.

"I like being able to create stories that are different from real life so, when you read them, you can exit your life a little while and enjoy the stories," she explained. "I feel very honored; I didn't realize my story would win an award."

**Honored writer  
Maeve Costello.**



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# Rotary Clubs Join Hands to Help Others

Members of the Rotary Clubs of Fairfax and Burke combined forces to sell brats, French fries, hamburgers and beverages during the Burke Centre Festival that was held Sept. 7-8 at the Burke Centre Conservancy. The Rotarians were raising funds for service projects and were joined by Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Boy Scout Troop 698, Venture Crew 698, and members of the Fairfax High School Interact Club. The Boy Scouts operated an order and delivery service to the vendors working in other booths.

The spirit of volunteerism among the various groups was an exceptional example of how shared resources can make a big difference when help is needed. Together, this intergenerational workforce of 65 volunteers planned, stocked, staffed and cleaned up the concession booth that raised nearly \$4,500. Those funds will be used for local and international Rotary service projects. As another community service, all unsold food was donated to a local homeless shelter at the end of the festival.

Rotary Club of Burke President Chuck Sleeper said, "This effort was a great example of how Rotarians build community spirit and combine the talents and skills of a variety of like-minded civic and service organizations to accomplish goals and Engage Rotary to Change Lives."

Members of the Rotary Club of Fairfax had voted to lend a hand when they learned that the Rotary Club of Burke was going to be short-handed for the festival. "It was wonderful to be part of the joint effort to support another Rotary Club in our district and to see the enthusiasm of the young people from Boy Scouts, Venture Crew and the Interact Club," said Paula Kelley, president-elect of the



Paula Kelley, vice president of the Rotary Club of Fairfax, and members of the Fairfax High School Interact Club at the Burke Centre Festival.



Members of the Rotary Clubs of Burke and Fairfax cooking food for a worthy cause.

Rotary Club of Fairfax.

The Rotary Club of Fairfax also supports a school and literacy project in Guatemala, local charities, an exchange student program, Fairfax High School college scholarships, Teacher of the Year Awards in the City of Fairfax, and many other projects to help those in need and to build positive relationships around the world. The Fairfax club has also made many contributions to the City of Fairfax, including the four-faced street clock in Kitty Pozer Park, the picnic shelter in Van Dyke Park, and the Rotary Gallery in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center. The

Rotary Club of Fairfax meets Mondays for lunch at the American Legion Hall, 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax from noon until 1:30. For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club's website at [www.fairfaxrotary.org](http://www.fairfaxrotary.org). Or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax's executive director, Irby N. Hollans, Jr., at [ihollans@earthlink.net](mailto:ihollans@earthlink.net). The Rotary Club of Burke meets for breakfast on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 at Brion's Grille. Visit the Burke club's website at [www.burkerotary.org](http://www.burkerotary.org). Or, contact the Burke Club at [info@burkerotary.org](mailto:info@burkerotary.org).

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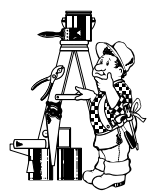
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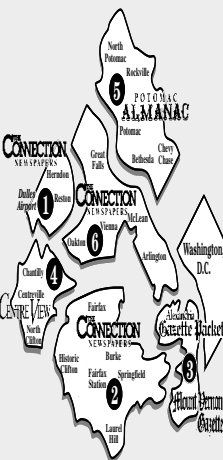
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## LETTERS

### The Choice Is Clear

To the Editor:

Within one month, Virginians will head to the polls to elect another governor. The choice is clear. One candidate has no experience in public office and is a partisan operative, while Ken Cuccinelli has dedicated his life to public service by serving as a delegate and as the commonwealth's highest legal authority, attorney general. Ken worked to improve K-12 public education, took a personal interest in releasing an innocent man from serving 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, and protected women on Virginia's college campuses.

While Ken's opponent has no record to run on, and requires on the job training, he does pride himself on being a businessman. Virginians don't need a governor whose business plan is modeled after the failed GreenTech debacle.

Acknowledging his lack of a record, Ken's opponent has resorted to personal attacks on Ken's character. In a state where young women may be expelled from school if they take a Tylenol or Advil, Ken's support of

parental notification and a waiting period for minors when considering an abortion is both responsible and reasonable. Furthermore, because Ken cares about the health and safety of all women, he has followed the Virginia Board of Health's recommendation to require women's health care clinics to maintain the same health and safety standards as other outpatient surgical hospitals. While people may disagree on women's issues, Ken has served and protected all the citizens of Virginia in his role as attorney general. We need this same common sense approach in our next governor.

Finally, with the recent shutdown in Washington, we need a governor who can reach across party lines and govern. The partisan attacks and intolerant rhetoric from Ken's opponent leaves little doubt that he is incapable of being bipartisan. Ken has a record of working with both Republicans and Democrats, and I expect he will continue conducting himself in this same manner when he is elected governor.

**Alice Butler-Short**  
Lorton

### Wolf

FROM PAGE 6

Only through enacting reforms based on the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles recommendations will we ever solve the drivers of our deficits. We have put these tough, but important, reforms off for far too long.

To my colleagues in the Congress and to President Obama who think they are "winning" at this particular moment, we would do well to remember the words of Napoleon Bonaparte in speaking of the changing nature of public opinion: "The crowd

which follows me with adulation would run with the same eagerness were I marching to the Guillotine."

I return again to the sentiments of scripture: We have been given a great trust, and it is demanded of us to come together to solve these problems.

It is time to show some humility. It is time to govern.

Let's get the government back open, ensure we don't default on our debt and then commit ourselves to curbing unsustainable entitlement spending.

## Promoting "East Sea"

FROM PAGE 5

reflect both names.

"What we call things is important, and names have deep meaning," Marsden said. "This would go a long way in speeding up the integration of our Korean-American population, and making people feel accepted and respected."

The dispute over the name has been simmering between Japan and South Korea for decades. In 1992, objections to the name Sea of Japan were first raised by North Korea and South Korea at the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Since 1997, South Korea has campaigned the International Hydrographic Organization, the governing body responsible for the naming of bodies of water, for the additional use of the East Sea name on the grounds that the term Sea of Japan only became popular globally during Japan's colonial rule of the peninsula. Japan says the name Sea of Japan has been used internationally since the 19th century, before the Korean Peninsula came under Japanese rule.

"What's important to me as a state repre-

sentative is that we already teach students about the controversy, so our textbooks ought to reflect that fact," Marsden said. "All they are looking for is a position of respect."

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) announced he is sponsoring a similar bill in the House this year.

"It is not right that their position on this issue be ignored," said Hugo in a statement. "It is not right that so many of our Korean-American students are taught that there is only one name for this body of water, when their culture and history say otherwise."

Kim said his group's final goal is to include "the East Sea" in all textbooks used at elementary, junior high and high schools in 50 states by March 2017, when the International Hydrographic Organization holds a meeting to discuss Seoul's request for the concurrent use in formal international maps.

"In keeping with America's high standard of education, our children would benefit from learning geography that includes current geo-political information," Kim said.



# Choosing a Private School

**Local educators offer advice on selecting the right independent school for your child.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**M**arta Soltes was sitting in an Arlington, Va., coffee shop recently, pouring through catalogs and application packets from some of the area's most elite independent schools. Her stack of brochures was almost as high as her extra-large latte.

"There are so many options," said Soltes, who is a mother of twins. "And the application fees are outrageously expensive. I can't apply to all of them."

As the independent school application process gets underway, many parents are struggling to find the best fit for their child. Author and education consultant Ann Dolin, president of Educational Connections Inc., in Fairfax, and Bethesda, Md., says when choosing a school, key factors to consider include the school's location, single-sex versus co-ed, the level of academic rigor, methods of instruction, athletics and a child's chance of acceptance. Dolin recommends school visits, tours and open houses as a way to start narrowing down your choices.

"You'll want to consider certain factors," said Dolin. "Is the school close by or logistically feasible? Are you looking for all-out rigor and accelerated academics or would your child benefit more from a balanced, less intensive approach? Are sports important to your child? If so, this factor may make a school more or less attractive. Is the school known to be highly competitive, meaning that only a small percentage of students gain acceptance each year? Is the school looking for very high test scores and top grades? These are the schools that might be hard to get into. Be sure your list contains some of these 'reach' schools, but also others that may provide a better chance of acceptance."

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS** agree that attending open houses and scheduling school visits are effective ways to start the application process. "An admission open house is a great venue to get an overview of a school's environment, sense of community, and the approach to teaching and learning," said Julie Jameson, director of admission at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. "Opportunities to get to know the school are offered through tours, speaking with current students and parents, meeting faculty and administrators, and learning more about curriculum, activities and student life."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission and financial aid for The Potomac School in McLean, suggests visiting a school during the day when classes are in

SEE EDUCATORS, PAGE 18



COURTESY OF THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

**Teacher Wassila Taylor reads with lower school students at The Potomac School in McLean. School visits give families a chance to see classes in action and observe the level of student engagement.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

**These students at The Madeira School in McLean enjoy each other's company on campus. School visits offer prospective families an opportunity to learn about student life.**

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# Educators Offer Advice on Selecting Independent School

FROM PAGE 17

session. "Visiting campus gives families a chance to see classes in action, sense the level of student engagement and picture their child at the school," she said.

"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment at Norwood School in Bethesda. "How is the learning environment set up? How do teacher and students interact? Are students working independently or collaboratively? Are they happy and engaged? Do the walls and the sounds in the hallway sing to you?"

Julie Lewis, director of admissions and financial aid at Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria, said, "Being in the hallways and seeing how students and teachers interact with one another gives a prospective family a feel for the school and its culture that cannot be found on a website."

Richard S. Moss, director of admissions at The Height School in Potomac, Md., says that an open house offers families an opportunity to look into the "heart and soul of a school" and to get a sense of a school's true environment. "On a superficial level, a good school ought to present an organized

and welcoming open house, but a discerning parent and student will look beyond the external trappings to discern what values and principles an institution holds dear and how it implements those principles," said Moss. "If the principles line up with those of family, and the school does a good job of implementing them, it could be a good fit."

**"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school."**

— Mimi Mulligan,  
assistant head and director of admission  
and enrollment, Norwood School

Open houses, said Mulligan, offer a different experience than a school tour. "[They] are wonderful opportunities to really delve into curricular discussions with faculty," she said. "Because open houses typically happen during non-school hours, teachers and administrators are available for conversation. Current students and parents are also usually in attendance, so if hearing about the school experience from that perspective is important to you, then an open house would be a worthwhile activity."

Mulligan said she believes it's important to experience a school in more than one setting. It "allows for a deeper understanding of how a school's mission comes alive."

Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid for The Madeira School, in McLean, also suggests that prospective families visit frequently and spend time on campus outside of scheduled tours and open houses. "Come often," she said. "We all have sporting events, announced on our website. You should stop by a game sometime. School plays and concerts are my favorite way to learn about a school. These events often have large numbers of parents and students from the school, and it is a wonderful way to see the culture of the school in one place."

**DURING THE VISIT** or open house, parents and prospective students should consider the school's environment and ask themselves several questions, said Katherine Carbo, director of Lower School admission at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria: "How comfortable do I feel in this environment? Do the faculty appear passionate and enthusiastic about teaching? Are the students focused and engaged? What is the overall philosophy of the school? Is the approach traditional or progressive?"

Classroom size and structure are other factors to note. "Keep your eyes peeled for the number of children in the classroom, and try to get a feel for their daily schedule," she said. "Could you imagine your child working and playing with the students and teachers you see? Visiting a school provides parents with one snapshot of the community. Learning more about that community takes time."

Carbo also suggests visiting several schools. "Most of the information you collect through reading and conversations will be reliable," she said. "But the right match for your child may be vastly different than your neighbor's child or coworker's child. This is why touring different schools is important."

Start now by calling or emailing a school's admission office to request a tour, said Carbo. "When should you get started?" she asks. "That really depends on what program you are seeking out. Most admission seasons begin in October, and parents will tour in the fall or winter, a year before they hope their child will start school."

The most important guide, say experts, are a parent's instincts. "Each school has its own distinct feel," Carbo said. "It is up to you to visit and see what seems to be a good fit for your family."

Dolin said, "Parents' intuition is a good guide, but you have to balance it with the needs of your child."



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**THE CONNECTION**  
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# SPORTS



South County running back LeVaughn Davis carries the ball against T.C. Williams on Oct. 12.



South County quarterback David Symmes threw two touchdown passes against T.C. Williams on Oct. 12.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## ‘Undisciplined’ South County Holds on to Beat T.C. Williams

**Stallions improve to 5-1, Titans fall to 4-2.**

**A**t the conclusion of Saturday’s game at T.C. Williams High School, South County football coach Gerry Pannoni voiced displeasure with the Stallions’ effort.

“We played undisciplined,” he said, “We played sloppy, we didn’t play smart.”

But they played well enough to win.

In a matchup of 4-1 teams from Conference 7, South County overcame penalties, turnovers and big plays by the Titans to beat T.C. Williams, 44-37. Running back LeVaughn Davis’ 22-yard touchdown run gave South County a two-score lead with less than five minutes remaining and the Stallions held off a late TC rally. Trailing by seven points, the Titans drove to the South County 31 with six seconds remaining, but quarterback Darius Holland’s pass into the end zone fell incomplete. South County was flagged for numerous penalties, committed two turnovers and allowed three TC touchdown runs of at least 51 yards. Despite their struggles, the Stallions improved to 5-1 with key contributors Robert Avery (RB/DB), Ed Kargbo (LB) and Campbell Buhrow (RB/LB) set to return within the next few weeks.

“I guess if there’s a silver lining, it’s we’re winning without several of our very good kids and they’re close to coming back,” Pannoni said. “... We’re finding a way to win, but that wasn’t good enough. That was bad. That was a bad performance, I thought.”

After a 15-yard South County penalty in the second quarter, Pannoni called timeout,

walked onto the field and chewed out the Stallions offense in the huddle. On the following play, quarterback David Symmes connected with Kevin Quigley for a 32-yard touchdown, giving South County a 21-0 lead with 10:16 remaining in the first half. The Stallions led 28-16 at halftime and 36-23 early in the fourth quarter.

“That’s not the style of play we want to represent,” Symmes said. “We want to be able to dominate mentally and physically. I’d rather win by 21 than seven points and have it down to the last [six] seconds [with TC] chucking it up into the end zone.”

Did Pannoni’s on-field pep talk help?

“He definitely has a great presence and we listen to him,” Symmes said, “especially when he’s screaming at us.”

Symmes completed six of 12 passes for 73 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. He also carried nine times for 35 yards.

Davis carried 35 times for 147 yards and two touchdowns. James Simon rushed for 82 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries and sophomore fullback Thomas Wheeler scored on a 1-yard run.

South County is averaging 49.5 points per game.

T.C. Williams dropped to 4-2, but showed resiliency in defeat. Trailing 21-0 early in the second quarter, the Titans faced third-and-11 at their own 12-yard line, having gained just seven yards to that point. Running back Malik Carney took a handoff and gave the Titans a spark with an 88-yard touchdown run.

Trailing by 13 points early in the fourth quarter, Carney received another third-down carry and raced 85 yards into the end

zone, cutting the South County lead to 36-30 with 10:05 remaining.

Carney, who is committed to UNC as a linebacker, finished with 15 carries for 220 yards and two touchdowns.

Davis’ 22-yard touchdown run and a two-point conversion by Gerald Hulett gave South County a 44-30 lead with less than five minutes remaining. TC responded with a three-play, 82-yard scoring drive to pull within seven. Holland, who struggled most of the afternoon, connected with Timmy Rattanaphone for a 43-yard gain on second-and-nine before finding a wide-open Alex Bledsoe for a 38-yard touchdown, cutting the South County lead to 44-37 with 3:35 left.

**“We played undisciplined, we played sloppy, we didn’t play smart.”**

**—South County football coach Gerry Pannoni**

TC’s final drive started at its own 25-yard line with 50 seconds remaining after South County turned it over on downs. Holland moved the Titans down to the Stallions 31 and spiked the ball with six seconds left. His desperation pass on the final play fell incomplete.

“We made lots of mistakes on both sides of the ball which contributed to our loss,” TC head coach Dennis Randolph said. “... But the thing that impressed me was we stuck in there. We could have very easily—when we were down five and then they scored again, went up 13—we could have

just stopped right there and said hey, it’s over ... but the kids came back.”

Holland, who missed last week’s game against Annandale with an elbow contusion, completed six of 29 passes for 120 yards and a touchdown. The junior, in his first season as a varsity starter, went 1-for-14 in the first half and misfired on 19 of his first 21 attempts.

“It’s his first season as a varsity player and there’s no substitute for experience,” Randolph said. “Hopefully he gained some valuable experience tonight.”

Holland made a play with his legs in the third quarter, when his 51-yard touchdown run cut the South County lead to 28-23.

“I made a move and got [in the] open,” Holland said. “[I] saw the light and I was out.”

Mahlique Booth rushed for 50 yards and a touchdown for the Titans. Rattanaphone had an interception.

South County will host West Potomac at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

“We shot ourselves in the foot with penalties,” Pannoni said. “Whether it was a holding, whether it was a personal foul, if you want to keep playing in December, that’s the kind of stuff you can’t do.”

T.C. Williams will travel to face Lee.

“We had some execution problems, but overall, you can come out of this game saying we aren’t willing to lay down,” TC lineman and UNC commit Jeremiah Clarke said. “We fixed our problems from [the loss to] Centreville [and we’re] ready to fight back at the end of games and come back—stuff that’s going to help us later on in the playoffs.”

The T.C. Williams football program is looking to end a 22-year playoff drought.





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