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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Kids Sending Smiles Around the World

NEWS, PAGE 3

Many of the members of non-profit Kids Sending Smiles, founded and run by local elementary school girls, show off their banner, their Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Proclamation, and the scrapbook of the seventeen charitable events they have already organized in their two year existence.

What's in a Name?
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Springfield Teacher
Honored in Richmond
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Thank you to the 4,000 Inova doctors leading the future of health.

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

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.

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 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 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 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.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Teri Baker, of Fairfax, and her 7-week-old foster puppy, her 50th foster, are greeted by shelter volunteers. Baker has been volunteering at the shelter for 8 years, and fostering puppies for 5 years.

Family Celebrates 50th Foster Puppy

What does the Fairfax County Animal Shelter do when it takes in an extremely young animal, one too young to adopt out? It finds a foster family willing to take on the responsibility of nurturing the sometimes days-old animal until it is old enough to be adopted permanently.

Recently a long-time volunteer at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Teri Baker, of Fairfax, celebrated fostering her 50th puppy. The vast majority of those puppies are American Pit Bull Terriers — a breed surrounded by controversy and misinformation.

Baker noticed that many pit bull puppies were coming in, but few were being fostered. She saw a need and stepped in to fill it. And she says it evolved from stepping in to meet a need to something she and her husband Doug Baker absolutely love to do.

“There is a mythology that they are more aggressive than other dogs, that they bite more than ‘normal’ dogs ... they’re just dogs ... very smart dogs,” said Baker. She acknowledges that there are specific challenges that they incur with pit bull puppies as they working on printing and bonding with the dogs, “For example, we teach the puppies never to put their mouths on us.”

“It’s very satisfying to know in a small way we have started a lifetime of unconditional love for the adopting family and that’s what keeps us going.”

Tawny Hammond, director of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter praises Baker’s efforts and commitment, “Volunteers are the engine that drives the shel-



Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler thanks Teri Baker, of Fairfax, for her long commitment to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in celebration of her 50th foster puppy. Says Roessler of Baker’s efforts, “Volunteers make the difference here at the shelter.”



Teri Baker of Fairfax in the lobby of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter with her 50th foster puppy, a 7-week-old mixed breed. Baker has been volunteering at the shelter for eight years, and fostering puppies for five years.

ter and helps us achieve our mission. Without volunteers we couldn’t do what we need to do.”

Springfield Teacher Honored in Richmond

Governor Bob McDonnell congratulated Fairfax County teacher Melissa A. Porfirio for her selection as Virginia's 2014 Teacher of the Year. Porfirio teaches first grade at Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield. Her selection was announced Friday evening, Oct. 11, in Richmond.

"Melissa Porfirio epitomizes the tens of thousands of truly outstanding teachers in Virginia's public schools who are dedicated to the success of their students," Governor McDonnell said. "She is a leader whose positive influence extends well beyond the walls of Crestwood Elementary."

Fellow Crestwood teachers and her principal describe Porfirio as the heart of the Crestwood community. She serves as a mentor to new teachers and has been featured in Fairfax County Public Schools' training videos.

Porfirio was selected from the eight Virginia 2014 Regional Teachers of the Year announced in September. Porfirio and the other regional nominees were seated



Melissa Porfirio with Crestwood Elementary students from last year.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

together at the annual Virginia Teacher of the Year banquet Friday evening when her selection was announced by Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright. "This is a group of dynamic and outstanding teachers," Porfirio said. "I was so surprised when my name was called. It is such an honor to represent Virginia's teachers."

Porfirio will be the

commonwealth's nominee in the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Teacher of the Year program. "Melissa will be a great ambassador for Virginia's public schools and for the teaching profession," Wright said.

A Fairfax County teacher for eight years, Porfirio earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Catholic University and a master's degree in education, cur-

riculum and instruction from George Mason University. Prior to becoming a teacher, Porfirio was a social worker in North Carolina and Washington, D.C. and taught English in Seoul, South Korea.

Porfirio, 39, was selected as 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year after being interviewed by a committee that included representatives of professional and educational associations, the Virginia

business community and 2013 Virginia Teacher of the Year Kathryn B. Galford of Chesapeake.

The 2014 National Teacher of the Year will be announced next spring at a White House ceremony. Two previous Virginia teachers of the year—Mary V. Bicouvaris in 1989 and B. Philip Bigler in 1998—have gone on to become National Teachers of the Year.

As the 2014 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Porfirio received a \$5,000 award and a commemorative ring from the Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation; a \$2,500 award from Richmond law firm Allen, Allen & Allen; a classroom technology package from Smart Technologies ULC; a travel package from EF Education First; educational opportunities from several public and private colleges and universities; flowers from Strange's Florist and Garden Centers; an engraved plaque from Bunkie Trinite Trophies, Inc.; a gift certificate from Crowne Plaza Hotel Richmond Downtown; a gift basket from C.F. Sauer Company; a gift from Blue Bell Creameries; and an engraved crystal apple.

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.



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, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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.

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



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.

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 donations, 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 or contact Jennifer Rose at develop@ODBFairfax.org, or 703-273-8829. For Food for Others sponsorship information, contact Jessica Cogen at 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/>

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) 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, http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

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

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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
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Christopher F. DeCarlo (I) 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-

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2012 AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER Virginia PRESS Association



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left—Lynn O'Connor (president & CEO of Westminster Ingleside Communities), Jennifer Wing (associate executive director, WLR), Libby Bush (executive director, WLR) and Glenn West (executive director, WLR 1992-2012).

Westminster at Lake Ridge Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The 20th anniversary of the founding of Westminster at Lake Ridge, a continuing care non-profit community, was held on Saturday, Oct. 5 near historic Occoquan. Nearly 400 people came out for the celebration.

Howl-O-Ween Fun Fest
 at Springfield Animal Hospital
 October 19th, 2013 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Bring your friends, family and four-legged companions and join us for an afternoon of festive fun, including:

- Doggy Paw-Print Painting
- Pet Costume Contest
- Photo Booth
- Raffles for Rescues
- "Ask the Vets" Booth
- Cat Adoptions
- Goulash Gourmet and Organic Pet Treats
- Pet Psychic Seminar with Diane Roadcap at 3:00pm

We look forward to seeing you!
 6580 BACKLICK RD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150
 (703) 451-1995
 WWW.SPRINGFIELD.AH.COM

2013

All new clients will receive a coupon for a **FREE** vaccine with your first visit at Springfield Animal Hospital. All clients joining us from King's Park Veterinary Hospital will receive a **10%** discount on your first office visit.

RETURNING HONESTY, FAIRNESS AND INTEGRITY TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ARE READY FOR A NEW SHERIFF BRYAN "B.A." WOLFE

- ★ WILL BRING NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW COMMAND STRUCTURE, NEW MANAGEMENT AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- ★ WILL IMPROVE THE WAY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND THE COMMUNITY RESPOND TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
- ★ WILL ADD RECORDING SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS INSIDE THE COUNTY JAIL
- ★ HAS OVER 30 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE AND IS A UNITED STATES AIR FORCE VETERAN
- ★ HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF

WILL DONATE HIS ENTIRE 2 YEAR SALARY TO FAIRFAX COUNTY CHARITIES

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 AUTHORIZED BY BRYAN WOLFE, CANDIDATE FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF

Congressman Jim Moran's 2013 Annual Women's Issues Conference

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013
*9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

George Washington Middle School
1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut

Rosa DeLauro is a leader in Congress on issues affecting women, families and children, serving as the top Democrat on the influential Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

The conference will include workshops on major issues impacting women and information tables representing local and national non-profit organizations.

*Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; event will start at 10:00 a.m. to prevent a conflict with the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk.

For more information and to register, visit moran.house.gov or call 703-971-4700.

HELP WANTED

Part-time graphic artist

needed on Wednesdays to help with page layout, ad design and photo processing in small, very busy department in Old Town Alexandria, walking distance to King St. Metro. More hours available some weeks. Send letter, resume to resumes@connectionnews.com

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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

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 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. Or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax's executive director, Irby N. Hollans, Jr., at 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. Or, contact the Burke Club at info@burkerotary.org.

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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

Jack-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. 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 and 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.



Erich RussekRobbins spooking the trail with haunting music.



Ester Pline, Nicole Smith and Jacquie Lambertson in the Witches Coven.

Beware of Creatures in the Spooky Forest

Chills and thrills await on the Clifton Haunted Trail.

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Surely, the vampires, witches, goblins and ghouls lying in wait for their victims along the Clifton Haunted Trail aren't real—or are they? One thing's for sure—they're deadly serious about scaring people.

And that's what they'll be doing Saturday, Oct. 26, from 7-10 p.m., in the Town of Clifton's Eight-Acre Park. (Rain date is Oct. 27.) Tickets are \$15, adults and \$10, children under 12, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the trail entrance; there are no advance sales.

"This year's event will include several new, terrifying skits, including reenactments, scary-movie scenes and plenty of frightening lightning and spooky props," said Jeff Harper of the Haunted Trail Committee. "This is not an event you'll want to miss."

No flashlights are allowed in the park, and parents should accompany children along the trail. Since the fright level is so intense, it's not recommended for those under 8. Because this event is so popular, attendees might want to arrive early, as the trail tends to get crowded during the later hours.

Sturdy shoes are advised; snacks and beverages will be available. Free parking is available at Clifton Elementary, on the flood plain, and at the Clifton House Shops on Chapel Road, where hayrides will take trail-goers to and from the park. For more information, see www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com.

However, children not wanting to go on the trail, plus parents waiting for teens to emerge from it, will be able to watch movies under the stars on a large screen at the park's entrance. This year's movies are "Cloverfield" and "Poltergeist."



Dancing skeletons Pia Deconti and Elle Ramey.

Meanwhile, those brave enough to enter Clifton's 14th annual Haunted Trail will encounter 20 spine-tingling scenarios—the best of the past, plus some spooky new ones. Bloody mayhem is afoot, and zombies, ghosts and other undead creatures are eager to pounce on those who dare to disturb them. After all, the trail's slogan is, "It's only eight acres—what could possibly happen to you?"

"This year's trail is bigger and better than ever," said Harper. "We have new skits, plus professional, Halloween geeks—area residents whose year-round hobby is Halloween. They're engineers who make props and have even made their own fog machine to put fog all over the bridge where people enter the trail. They're making the trail scarier and more dramatic."

SOME 200 CLIFTON-AREA VOLUNTEERS put on the Haunted Trail and act in the scenarios, which include everything from vampires to witches, pirates, skeletons and dangerous men wielding chainsaws. Committee

Chairman John Powell oversees the whole event, with help from Harper, Ester Pline and Steve Bittner.

Harper's in charge of the performers, Pline orchestrates who's doing what and Bittner heads up the electricity, making sure there are ample generators to provide power in the woods. Mainly Clifton residents, the actors create their own skits and costumes, get the props they need, rehearse and make their characters as realistic as possible.

This year, students from Centreville and Woodson High schools, plus Robinson Secondary, are doing scenarios, as well. And all will do their best to unleash the terrors of the night on innocent visitors.

"We have skits that'll scare you, startle you and creep you out," said Harper. "We also have a dozen roving monsters walking backward on the trail to terrify people. Last year, we were ranked by www.VirginiaHauntedHouses.com as one of the best haunted house/trail events in Northern Virginia. We even hold a training class to teach the actors in the skits how to scare people."

There's a bit of comic relief, however, in Harper's dancing-skeletons scenario. "I started it three years ago and we're doing it again, this year," he said. "The Woodson cheerleaders are joining in and we'll dance around to music."

Some skits will involve fog to give off an ominous vibe; others will strike fear into the hearts of trail-goers. Jacquie Lambertson and Trish Robertson will be among eight or nine pointy-hatted women in the witches' coven, and Boris Populoh will be lurking under a bridge.

Taylor Williams will be in a scenario with crazed, chainsaw-wielding demons, and John Kinter

will put on "his usual, over-the-top, gory skit," said Harper. Patrick and Ester Pline will portray voodoo zombies, and Fred Ansick will lead a ghoulish crew in a graveyard scene.

Eric Hencken and Rick Layfield will be scary clowns, and Erin Tengesdal and Sydney Sawyer will bare their fangs as vampires. Rick Peterson, Geri Yantis and Carter Wyant are portraying the denizens of Scarecrow Alley—a dangerous place to visit—and Steve Goetzinger will lead a mangy mess of menacing moss men.

Karen Gentry will ensnare visitors in a scary spider skit; but, said Harper, many other participants are keeping the details of their Haunted Trail deeds under wraps until the big night.

THE TOWN OF CLIFTON sponsors the Haunted Trail, using the proceeds for town improvements, including beautification. Another major sponsor this year is Kevin Hutto with Signature Financial Partners.

Proceeds from sales of hot apple cider, baked goods, soda, candy and popcorn will benefit the National Alliance on Mental Illness. It advocates for access to services, treatment and lifesaving medical research for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

In addition, Clifton's newest restaurant, Villagio's—sponsoring the hayride—will be selling pizza, and 2013 Clifton Haunted Trail T-shirts may be purchased at the concessions stand. And, said Harper, "They feature a really spooky haunted trail with a skull on it."

With professional sound and light, this year, the event has really been kicked up a notch or two, he added. "We usually get 3,000 people going through the trail, and we're trying to beat that," said Harper. "It's going to be thrilling and exciting. If you like Halloween and like to be scared, you won't be disappointed."

CALENDAR



"Endless Horizon," by Allen Levy, acrylic with gloss varnish. See Levy's work in an exhibition in Building W-5 at the Workhouse. The exhibit is up Oct. 9-Nov. 3.

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

THURSDAY-THURSDAY/OCT 17-31

Pumpkin Patch. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays-Fridays; 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturdays; 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sundays, at Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Road (Rt. 123), Fairfax Station. Find pumpkins, children's activities and fall-themed fun all season. 703-690-6060.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Havok supporting Soulfly. 5-11 p.m., Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Denver-based band plays in support of new record "Unnatural Selection." www.empire-nova.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

One Night Stands. 8 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. In concert, one night only, featuring solo cabaret performers from the DC area. Two performers each night, each performing a solo 45 minute set. Ticket includes light fare, cash bar available. \$15-\$25. www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Fall Benefit Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Messiah UMC, 8215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Proceeds will fund outreach and mission work. Items for sale include books, jewelry, women's clothing, household items, pumpkins, baked goods and a chili lunch. 703-569-9862 or www.messiahumc.org.

Electronics Recycling Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Glasgow Middle School, 4101 Fairfax Parkway, Alexandria. Computers, monitors, televisions, cell phones, MP3 Players, ink and toner cartridges, printers, microwaves, cables, writes, laptops and all electronics can be recycled at the free event. tinyurl.com/GlasgowMSMap.

Swiss Bakery & Pastry's

Oktoberfest Celebration. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at 5224 Port Royal Road, Ravensworth Shopping Center, Springfield. Hard-to-find beers, imported mustards, coffees, brat bun loafs, black forest cake, German sausages, sauerkraut, pretzels and rolls and everything else needed for an Oktoberfest celebration. 703-321-3670 or www.theswissbakery.com.

Cecil Ray Comedy Club. 7 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Host Cecil Ray leads the proceedings in a night of laughter with guest comedians from the mid-Atlantic region. \$20-\$30. www.elitevisionproductions.com.

Harvest Wine Dinner. 8 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. The winery's third annual signature 5-course meal specifically created to pair with Paradise Springs wines. \$139 per person plus tax (inclusive of wine, food, & gratuity). Reservations. 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

NTRAK Trains. 1-4 p.m., at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains running. Adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Autumn Serenade. 4 p.m., at Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Music by Schubert, Wagner, Poulenc performed by the Virginia Chamber Orchestra. Adults, \$25; seniors, \$20; on-line discount: adults/seniors \$20. 703-758-0179 or www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

FRIDAY-FRIDAY/OCT. 25-NOV. 1

The Music of Nevermore. 8 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A concert-style performance featuring Matt Conner's musical interpretations of Edgar Allan Poe's best known poems, stories and characters. A la carte cash bar available in venue. www.workhousearts.org.



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SPORTS

Pierson-El Leads West Potomac Past West Springfield

Wolverines quarterback throws 3 TDs, runs for 3.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

West Potomac senior DeMornay Pierson-El stood confident in the pocket, looking calmly down field without fear of a pass rush. The West Springfield defense took a passive approach, with lineman focusing on containment rather than pressuring Pierson-El, leaving the Wolverines' running back-turned-quarterback looking statuesque as he searched for an open receiver.

The Spartans' strategy? Force Pierson-El, who is committed to the University of Nebraska as a slot receiver and kick returner, to throw rather than tuck the ball and use his blazing speed.

"Our athleticism and speed just doesn't compete," West Springfield head coach Jason Eldredge said. "... We had to do a couple things schematically to try to hold down DeMornay."

THE SPARTANS' ATTEMPTS to contain Pierson-El proved futile, as No. 5 rushed for 200 yards and three touchdowns and passed for 166 and three more scores during a 47-29 Wolverines win on Oct. 14 at West Potomac High School. The game was rescheduled from Friday to Monday due to inclement weather.

Pierson-El completed eight of 16 passes, including a 57-yard bomb to CJ Burch on the game's first play. His 18-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Alexander gave West Potomac a 26-17 lead with 6:06



West Springfield running back Adis Ojeda scored two touchdowns against West Potomac on Oct. 14.

left in the third quarter. Pierson-El had a 35-yard scoring toss to George Williams IV, who made a leaping catch in double coverage to give the Wolverines a 33-17 advantage. Pierson-El's final touchdown pass came with 3:10 remaining in the fourth quarter, when he connected with David Appiah for a 20-yard score that put West Potomac up 47-29.

"What they're trying to make him do is be a quarterback and he's doing his best imitation right now," West Potomac head coach Jeremiah Davis said. "Everybody knows he's not a classic trained passer or nothing like that. ... He did a good job getting the ball to people in open sports, making the right decision ... and taking off and running."

Pierson-El's first touchdown run came late in the opening quarter,

when he rolled to his right, paused for a moment to look down field and then exploded up the middle of the field for a 64-yard scoring scamper.

On third-and-goal from the 5-yard line late in the first half, Pierson-El leaped into the end zone to give the Wolverines a 19-10 lead.

His final touchdown run came in the third quarter, when he took a chance and made a play. The call from the sideline was a toss left, but Pierson-El noticed there was only one Spartan to beat to the right side. Instead of tossing the ball to the left, Pierson-El kept it and raced around the right end for a 48-yard touchdown.

"That kid, you can't stop him," Eldredge said. "... If we do [rush the passer], which we did a couple times, just to try to see, he's right in the end zone. It's a feast-or-famine kind of deal with that. What I

"That kid, you can't stop him."

—West Springfield football coach Jason Eldredge about DeMornay Pierson-El.

needed us to do on offense was kind of keep him off the field and we just couldn't do that well enough."

Alexander scored a rushing touchdown for West Potomac. Senior linebacker Darien Pickett, who was an all-region guard last year, carried 10 times for 38 hard-nosed yards.

How would Pierson-El describe Pickett's running style?

"A nightmare," he said. "... He's

tough to bring down, he's strong, he's quick for his size and people are not used to that.

At 5-foot-10 and 220 pounds, Pickett, who is a standout rugby player, gives the Wolverines a powerful presence in the ground game.

"I knew from his rugby stuff that he can definitely carry the ball," Davis said. "... He adds another dimension. You've got a big guy to stop [and] you've got a little fast guy to stop. It's kind of tough."

WEST SPRINGFIELD trailed by 16 points early in the fourth quarter but came charging back with a pair of touchdowns during a 17-second span. Senior quarterback Jacob O'Connell scored on a 16-yard run with 8:14 remaining, cutting the West Potomac lead to 33-23. The Spartans pounced the ensuing kickoff and recovered the ball at the West Potomac 30-yard line. Two plays later, running back Adis Ojeda scored on an 8-yard run, cutting the Wolverines lead to 33-29 with 7:57 left.

That was as close as West Springfield would get, however, as West Potomac added a pair of late touchdowns.

"It felt good," Pickett said about scoring 47 points. "But, [defensively], it's a good win but we've got to play better. We were kind of slacking."

Glen Rushing and Michael James each had one interception for West Potomac.

Ojeda carried 11 times for 94 yards and two touchdowns for the Spartans. O'Connell completed 14 of 29 passes for 162 yards and two interceptions. He carried 20 times for 77 yards and two scores.

West Potomac (2-4) will travel to face South County (5-1) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18. West Springfield (2-4) will travel to face Lake Braddock (6-0).

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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Heinrich Popow visited Orthotic Prosthetic Center in Fairfax Friday, Sept. 27, to share with above-knee amputees interested in returning to running since losing a leg.

Track Star Mentors Amputee Athletes at Prosthetic Center

Paralympic track and field champion Heinrich Popow visited Fairfax Friday, Sept. 27, to provide demonstrations and instruction to area above-knee amputees interested in returning to running

and becoming more active since the loss of their legs. The training session involved local amputees trying out a first of its kind sports prosthesis developed specifically to help make that goal a reality.

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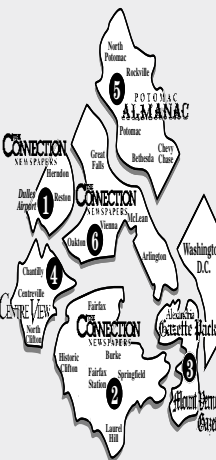
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LETTERS

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.

Madeira School Interns 'Furloughed' Due to Government Shutdown

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Katie Barack, an 11th grade student at The Madeira School in McLean was looking forward to spending the fall semester working in a congressional office, walking the halls of the U.S. Capitol and getting a first-hand view of the legislative process. Instead, she's strolling along the National Mall engaging in conversations with those whose lives have been affected by the government shutdown.

"It's so sad as a young adult because I feel powerless," said Barack.

A major component of the school year for 11th grade students at Madeira is an internship on Capitol Hill. However, because of the government shutdown, many of Madeira's high school juniors are unable to complete their congressional internships. So school officials restructured the program and students are now studying the government shutdown.

"The juniors affected by the shutdown [are] divided into two groups," said Ashley Smith, associate director of communications at Madeira. "Group one will research af-

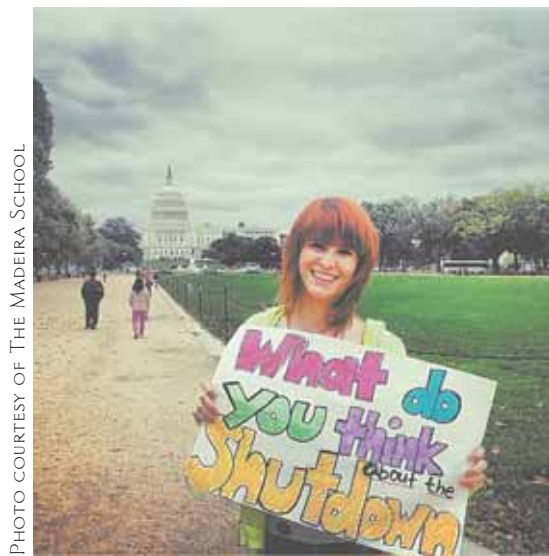


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

Rose McAvoy, an 11th grade student at The Madeira School, is spending time on the National Mall studying the effect that the government shutdown has on tourists, government employees and others.

"The idea behind the project was to make the shutdown come alive for the girls."

— Andre Withers, The Madeira School

ected monuments, government buildings and federal lands around D.C., while group two will research the more personal impact on tourists, vendors or 'nonessential' employees. After some prep in the morning, girls will travel down to the Hill to research and collect content in the form of interviews, photos [and] videos."

The revised internship plan was created

by the co-curriculum department in conjunction with other faculty and staff members. The goal is to help the students gain many of the skills they would have acquired from internships in congressional offices.

School officials hope the students' research will help them understand the scope of the government shutdown. "The idea behind the project was to make the shut-

Local students turn lost internship into a learning experience.

down come alive for the girls," said Andre Withers, the assistant head of the school and director of co-curriculum. "It is certainly an inconvenience for their co-curriculum placement as unpaid interns, but we constructed the project so that the girls could see a range of the total impact: effects on the city, a family's disrupted plans for touring D.C., or the visceral feeling of being deemed 'non-essential' by the very government that you work for." Withers added that the revised program is a skill-based exercise. "We wanted the girls to engage with the public and wade into the public dialogue, to research, to create a narrative and do so in a way that was expressive, artistic and compelling," he said. Madeira officials say they are looking forward to seeing how the students respond to the project and the projects they produce. "I have a hard time wrapping my head around the idea that hardworking corrections officers and other federal employees will go home without pay," said Barack. "But it makes me really grateful and aware of my privileges. It makes me want to work that much harder to be part of the solution. It's not fair for anybody, so everybody needs to accept responsibility and start making changes."

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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.

Choosing a Private School

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marta Soltes was sitting in an Arlington 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 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

SEE SELECTING, PAGE 19



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.

Selecting Independent School

FROM PAGE 18
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." 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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