

Spring Fling

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New 'Dream Hotel'

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Yorktown Girls' Lacrosse
Team Facing New Challenges

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Potter Steven Summerville displays a variety of his decorative bowls and dishes at the 2nd annual Spring Fling held Saturday, March 15 at Swanson Middle School.



Cancer had act one. Isabel received the encore.

At 15 months old, Isabel was diagnosed with a tumor on her left kidney. It was growing rapidly and immediate action was required. Isabel's parents turned to the experts who specialize in pediatric cancer. Watch her journey at JustRightForChildren.com/Isabel.

“I'm Isabel
and I like
to dance.”

Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina



NEWS



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE CONNECTION

Sunny Saturday

At Gravelly Point Park, Natalie Barnes, her son Quincy and friend Nia Bethea pitch their kite into the wind as they watched airplanes takeoff from Reagan National Airport on Saturday, March 15.



Nia Bethea runs through the ribbons of her kite just before she launches it in the air.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

communities. For more information and to RSVP visit www.ourveterans.eventbrite.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Free Golf Program for Teens. 5-7 p.m. at East Potomac Golf Course, 972 Ohio Drive SW, Washington, D.C. Arlington teens in 6th to 12th grade can learn life skills and leadership through the game of golf on Thursdays. Email sknox@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-7782. (Habla Espanol 703-228-7783). Visit www.thefirstteedc.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Military Forum. 10 a.m.-noon at Arlington Cemetery's Women in Military Service for America Memorial. This Forum brings together a panel of national and local leaders, veterans and civilians, to discuss efforts underway across communities and sectors to reintegrate and engage veterans in the life-and work-of our

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Basics of Vegetable Gardening. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 North Quincy St. Focus is on seed starting, soil preparation, and when and where to plant. Free. Call 703-228-6414, or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. Visit mgmv.org.

Townhall Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. at Virginia Hospital Center, Hazel Auditorium, 1701 N George Mason Drive. Del. Patrick Hope and Alan Howze, Democratic Nominee for the Arlington County Board will discuss Closing the Coverage Gap. Special guest Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. William A Hazel will also be in attendance. Free and open to the public. Call 703-486-1010 or email DelPHope@house.virginia.gov.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 7

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—Chinese
proverb

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NEWS

Courthouse Dream

Arlington County Board
approves new 'Dream Hotel.'

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Like Rip Van Winkle, dreams of redevelopment at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and North Adams Street have been slumbering for years. The property was first identified as a key redevelopment site back in 1993. Now, more than 20 years later, members of the Arlington County Board have approved two developments for the site, an eight-story hotel on Wilson Boulevard and a four-single family homes along 16th Street.

"It's called the Dream Hotel," said Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fiset. "And I think it's been a dream of a process."

Not everyone thinks the project is dreamy. In a sharply worded letter to County Board members, the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board said they were concerned about the number of historic houses that have been demolished since Lyon Village was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Three of the four houses that will be demolished to make way for this project are considered to be "contributing" buildings within the historic district.

"The overall integrity of the Lyon Village National Register Historic District is diminished with each building in the District that is demolished," wrote board chairwoman Joan Lawrence in a letter to County Board members. "We remind the County Board that the Lyon Village National Register Historic District, and all of Arlington County's other 17 neighborhood National Register Historic Districts, were established with public funding to acknowledge their significance in Arlington's and the nation's his-



COURTESY OF ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The hotel will have 161 rooms and about 1,300 square feet of retail space at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and North Adams Street near the Courthouse Metro station.

tory."

THE PROJECT has been in the works for many years. It was originally a hotel. Then it was changed to a residential project. Now it's come forward as a combination of hotel and single-family residential houses. County officials say they hope the project will act as a transition between the high-density courthouse neighborhood and the residential Lyon Village neighborhood. County Board member Mary Hynes said she believed the final design incorporated many of the features that makes Lyon Village ar-

chitecturally distinctive, such as front porches and chimneys.

"I think that's a concern of everyone who lives in Lyon Village," said Arlington County Board member Mary Hynes. "At the same time, evolution is impossible to stop."

The hotel will replace a 1950s-era shopping center and surface parking lot with a 93,000 square foot hotel that has 161 rooms. The building, which will be located at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and North Adams Street, will have 80 underground parking spaces and 1,200 square feet of separately leased ground floor restaurant

"This project will provide a new hotel where it's needed, near a Metro station along the busy Rosslyn-Ballston corridor."

— Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fiset

space. County officials describe the architecture as a "streamlined modern look," with smooth platinum-colored metal panels and silver corrugated metal panels.

"Another building of undistinguished architecture in a corridor full of buildings of undistinguished architecture," said Jim Hurysz, a critic of the proposal. "What else is new in Arlington?"

COUNTY OFFICIALS point out a number of community benefits that will be part of the development, including improvements to the streetscape, removal of curb cuts, creation of a new cul-de-sac, installation of a new bus shelter, a \$580,000 contribution to the Affordable Housing Fund, a \$75,000 contribution to public art and a \$1.5 million contribution to finance a new elevator for the Courthouse Metro station.

"This project will provide a new hotel where it's needed, near a Metro station along the busy Rosslyn-Ballston corridor," said Fiset. "It also will provide a transition between the high density development along Wilson Boulevard and the homes in the Lyon Village neighborhood."

Two Die in House Fire

Two people died in a fire that broke out in a house in Arlington, and a firefighter suffered burns.

The names of the deceased are being held pending the results of an autopsy, and fire officials have not released the name of the firefighter but say he has been released from the hospital.

Firefighters were called to the house Saturday, March 15, about 3:30 p.m. near South Langley and 19th streets. Deputy Fire Marshal Brian McGraw says witnesses reported hearing two loud explosions in the house. It's not clear what caused them. Officials say several people evacuated the

house on their own before firefighters arrived.

"There were reports from bystanders that the adult male went back into the house to help the adult female," said Sarah-Maria Marchegiani, public-information officer for the Arlington Fire Department. "Both were later found dead."

The intensity of the flames initially prevented firefighters from entering the house. Marchegiani said gusts of 20 miles an hour made the fire more intense, along with the combustible nature of the siding on the house.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE



COURTESY OF ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Arlington firefighters fight a fatal house fire near South Langley and 19th streets on Saturday, March 15.



Susan Wolf works on a carving on a small gourd during Saturday Spring Fling at Swanson Middle School. Wolf creates birdhouse, boxes and bowls.



Character education ambassadors and eighth graders at Swanson Middle School Elizabeth Koehler, Peter Jacob and Will Le Hardy.



Amy Green Thrasher creates felted jewelry and accessories.

Spring Fling at Swanson Middle School

The PTA at Swanson Middle School held its 2nd annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 15, in the school gym. The juried arts and crafts show and sale featured jewelry, paintings, quilts, knitted items, birdhouses made from gourds, hand-painted glassware, vintage cards and more. Swanson character education ambassadors held a bake sale to raise money for World Vision.

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE CONNECTION



Acrylic artist Bryan Jernigan with a few of his paintings.

Details of a selection of felted accessories by Amy Green Thrasher of Gardenfelt.com



Swanson students Carolyn Zuniga, Ellie Brooks and Peyton Jernigan browse through the booths of the arts and craft show stopping at Mindy's Knits to look at the owls.



A selection of birdhouse by Susan Wolf.



Shamrock Crawl

David Faeder and Jorge Diaz celebrate St. Patrick's Day as they join in the annual Shamrock Crawl.



PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE CONNECTION

Clarendon Boulevard was filled with participants on the annual Shamrock Crawl on Saturday, March 15.

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OPINION

Income Gap Alive and Well

Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

Northern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospi-

tals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health

EDITORIAL

care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least \$1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about \$635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average \$415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average \$950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to www.NYTimes.com and search "income gap."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical Society's Role in Arlington

To the Editor:

I wish to commend "Arlington Connection" for the excellent article by Steve Hibbard ("Exploring Arlington History," March 12-18) about efforts to capture and relate the history of Arlington County. The attention to the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), as well as the Center for Local History (CLH) at Central Library, the Black Heritage Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the County Office of Historical Preservation will benefit all Arlingtonians by letting them know what is going on and where to find out more about programs.

It is worth mentioning that the Arlington Heritage Center, originally intended as a "one-stop" introduction for visitors to Arlington, could become a reality if space were to be found in the planned County building that will be part of redeveloped Courthouse Square. This facility could house the AHS Museum, a Black Heritage Museum, a theater, local arts/crafts, and the Visitors and Convention Bureau, providing information about what to see, where to stay, and where to eat in Arlington. A major public-private partnership would be required to bring the Heritage Center to fruition, but it would be well worth the time, money, and effort required.

John P. Richardson

President, Arlington Historical Society



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

Winter Shadows

A backyard landscape etched by snow on Monday, March 17.

Conscientious Employee

To the Editor:

Virginia Hospital Center excels in many medical arenas and is a stand-out in the region. However, aside from its outstanding medical reputation and recent glowing achievement of the hard earned Magnet Nursing status, it appears the hospital leaves no stone unturned when it comes to excellence.

The Starbucks located in the lobby of the hospital is a well-attended gathering hole for popular drinks and good pastries. As a true lover of lattes, I am a frequent customer when I visit the hospital or adjacent medical offices.

It would seem as though anyone could make a good latte and make it right but that is not a fact nor is it a simple one. When I recently encountered Abril Ceasar, the employee manning the hospital Starbucks outlet, it was immediately apparent to me that she takes her job seriously and works conscientiously. Not only did she prepare my drink expeditiously, she made it perfectly. I ordered it "extra hot," and it was, in fact, extra hot. She added the right amount of flavoring, filled the drink cup to the brim — as it should be — and handed it to me with a smile and pleasant demeanor.

What a treat to place an order and have it right the first time without a glitch. A simple task? One would think so, but that is not often the case in many establishments.

Once again, Virginia Hospital Center does it right with every last detail — even down to the lobby-based Starbucks. Abril Ceasar, the employee who faces an ongoing line of customers amidst the pressure of explicit requests and hurried demands, cheerfully, calmly, and conscientiously does her job exceedingly well. Her performance is another feather in the cap for Virginia Hospital Center.

Karen L. Bune/Arlington

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NEWS

Dreams for Kids

Washington Capitals defenseman Jack Hillen signs an autograph for a Dreams for Kids participant on Feb. 22. For the fourth-consecutive year the Washington Capitals teamed up with Dreams for Kids to host an Extreme Recess Hockey clinic at Kettler Capitals Iceplex.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Grant Application. Through Sunday, March 23 apply for one of 40 \$25,000 State Farm Neighborhood Assist grants. Now in its third year, Neighborhood Assist is a youth-led philanthropic program that invites people to identify the issues they feel are the most important in their communities. The program then connects them with a local nonprofit that can help solve the problem. Visit www.statefarm.com/neighborhoodassist.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Fundraising. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Overlee Pool Bathhouse, 6030 Lee Highway, in the lower parking lot. The Northwest Arlington Lions Club will be selling fresh Florida citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130.

Information Session. 6-7:30 p.m. at Navy League Building, 2300 Wilson Blvd. Get

information about the Signature Program Class of 2015. Free. RSVP to Liz Nohra, Chief Operating Officer, at lnohra@leadershiparlington.org or 703-528-2522 ext. 15. Visit www.leadershiparlington.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Fundraising. 6:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Overlee Pool Bathhouse, 6030 Lee Highway, in the lower parking lot. The Northwest Arlington Lions Club will be selling fresh Florida citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130. Also, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, March 27

THURSDAY/MARCH 27

Job Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme St. More than 45 Military-friendly companies will be present. Job seekers are encouraged to pre-register to help facilitate an effective pre-matching process. Find registration information and the full schedule at CivilianJobs.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Synetic Theater Stages Silent 'Hamlet'

Synetic presents an abstract, no-dialogue rendition of Shakespeare's classic.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Synetic Theater is remounting Shakespeare's "Hamlet ... the rest is silence," the abstract and wordless show that struck gold for them in 2002 when it debuted in Washington. This silent rendering stars Alex Mills, 24, as Prince Hamlet, Irina Tsikurishvili as Gertrude, Iraakli Kavsadze as Claudius and Irina Kavsadze as Ophelia.

To help celebrate the Bard's 450th birthday this year, Synetic took an abstract approach to the tragedy set in Denmark by using sparse sets, minimal props (originally by Georgi Alexi-Meskhishvili), dramatic lighting design (by Brittany Diliberto), minimal black-and-white costumes (Claire Cantwell) and intense sound design (Irakli Kavsadze). Synetic is best known for fusing the classical elements of drama, movement, mime, dance and music.

The storyline of "Hamlet" centers on the revenge the grief-stricken Prince Hamlet exacts on his uncle Claudius for murdering Hamlet's father, Claudius's brother. He succeeds to the throne and takes his wife Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. The play explores every-

thing from incest to revenge to madness and corruption.

"Hamlet" is my first baby. This was the first production I directed in this country, said director and Synetic CEO Paata Tsikurishvili, 47, of Potomac, Md. "Hamlet" was how Synetic struck gold."

"And I wanted to bring it back to show people who haven't seen it," he said. "It's a simple production and very abstract."

He said that because of the nature of the genre and style of the production, he always compares "Hamlet" to an impressionistic life painting. He said, "When you take a look at a painting, it takes a long time to catch all of the details."

He wrote, "The actor's very being becomes the medium, music the paintbrush, the audience both the viewer and creator.

The result is a living, breathing 'painting.'"

"I already directed, performed and produced other Shakespeare productions, and I wanted to give an opportunity to show people who haven't seen it," he added.

Paata, who hails from the country of Georgia, tried to capture Hamlet's internal world in this ensemble-based production. "Emotionally it was challenging and exciting because I had

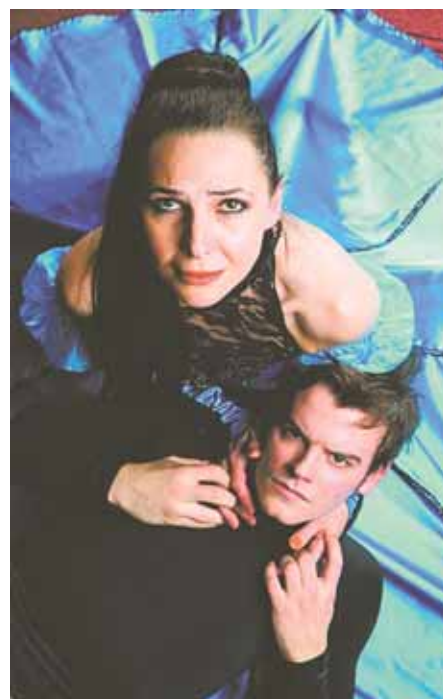


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Irina Tsikurishvili stars as Gertrude and Alex Mills plays Prince Hamlet in Synetic Theater's no-dialogue rendition of "Hamlet ... the rest is silence."

the opportunity to watch the show from outside and make corrections," he said.

His wife Irina, 42, who is Synetic's co-founder and who plays the mother Gertrude in this production and who played Ophelia in the original version, said that making "Hamlet" without words for the first time was a huge scandal in 2002, but has since become their trademark. "People loved it. So we decided to do one silent Shakespeare show per season," she said.

"I love the show. It is so different," she

said. "And it works in your imagination. So it's really a different show from any other shows we've done at Synetic." Working with Synetic's costume designer and creative team, Irina spent two weeks teaching the new cast the choreography, including the tango of Denmark's high society. "It's all symbolical and people are going to create their own conclusions based on their own experience," she said. "It's open for your own interpretation when you see this 'Hamlet.'"

Mills, who plays Prince Hamlet, said he wanted to bring a general 'youthfulness' to the most famous of Shakespearean characters. "He is a young man struggling with what it means to grow up and be thrust into this serious situation, and having to make strong decisions and struggling with identity."

He added, "I think I intended to bring this level of decision-making in what it is to be a man, and have that struggle be apparent, and have his conflict be there."

Mills, who lives in the District, calls Shakespeare an inherently fun challenge. "A lot of the scenes are symbolic, represented in a very abstract way," he said. "And that's fun as an actor to impart that in a very different way."

Mills said that because the show had been done by Synetic before, there was a lot of information and learning for him all at once, and he didn't want to copy another actor's work. "It was beneficial to me to find out the nuances of the character and that helped out a lot."

He said, "I'm performing the show that I know, but what the audience gets from it can be completely different and have a completely different take... and that's fun for me."

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Theater Performance. See Virginia Woolf's "Orlando" at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Performances run Feb. 26-March 23. Pay-what-you-can Saturday matinees March 1-22 at 2 p.m. All other performances are Thursday-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org/ for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Illuminations" the art of Linda Maldonado and Elise Ritter at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Both artists use acrylic, watercolor, and collage to achieve imaginative expression in abstract and symbolist styles. The exhibit runs March 3-28. Free. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or 571-483-0652.

Theater Performance. "Beaches" will run Feb. 18-March 30 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Performances are Tuesday-Sunday evenings with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets start at \$40. Based on the book by Iris Rainer Dart. Visit www.signaturetheatre.org.

theatre.org.

Art Exhibit. See Arlington resident Howard C. Smith's "Over Kansas," featuring watercolor paintings at House of Steep, 3800 Lee Highway, through March 31. The show is an exploration in color and space, and includes abstracts inspired by the photo, along with a series of still lifes. Visit www.bethsingerdesign.com/watercolors or www.houseofsteep.com for more.

Theater Performance. See "The Legend of Blarnia" and "The Vegas Way" at Gunston Theatre One, 2700 South Lang St. ArtStream presents the two productions. Shows run March 27-29 and April 3-5, with showings Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 presale; \$15/door; \$5/ArtStream actors. Visit www.artstream.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Easter Island Today: Images by Arlington Photographer Greg Embree" at Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road. Runs through April 7. Hours are Monday and Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesdays 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.5 p.m. Free.

Art Exhibit. See "CSA: Forty Years of

Community-Sourced Art" curated by Laura Roulet at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. The exhibit celebrates 40 years of AAC's role as incubator of talent, and features work by artists whose careers were launched at AAC. Free. Runs Jan. 22 through April 13. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800 for hours.

Art Exhibit. See "Bodies of Work: Art in Series" in the main gallery at Gallery Underground in the Crystal City Shops, 2100 Crystal Drive. The exhibit will showcase works by the gallery's 43 members. The show runs April 1-30. Free. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

"Tender Napalm." Through May 11, Signature Theatre presents the Washington, D.C. premiere of Philip Ridley's raw and intimate play. A tragedy has plunged this couple into an imaginary world, stranded amid the dreamlike wreckage of their love. Tickets available at signaturetheatre.org or by calling 703-820-9771.

Registration Now Open. Register for the Phoenix Derby, a garage race and fundraiser on Saturday, May 17 from 2-6 p.m. at the underground parking

garage at 1851 S. Bell St. Some of the events are free, some have cost. Visit phoenixderby.kintera.org/home to register and find information.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Garden Club Program. 11 a.m. at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road. Hear about pollinators and wildlife friendly gardens. Free, with an optional \$5 lunch following the program. Hosted by the Rock Spring Garden Club. Visit www.rockspringgardenclub.com or rockspringgardenclub@gmail.com for reservations.

Duct Tape Wallet Making. 3-5 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Middle school age children can make a wallet out of different types of duct tape. Free. 703-228-5260.

Film. 3 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "Pirate Radio," starring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. Free. 703-228-5710.

Anniversary Party. 6-9 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King Street, in Alexandria. The Arlington/Alexandria chapter of Holistic Moms network will celebrate

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 20-21

Play. 7 p.m. at McKinley Elementary School, 1030 McKinley Road. Educational Theatre Company presents "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter," an original play created by and starring McKinley 2nd through 5th graders. Free, donations welcome. Visit www.educationaltheatrecompany.org, or call 703-271-0222.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to 1 year old can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5260.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-5946.

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

Story Time: Wobbly Walkers. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 13-24 months. Free. 703-228-5260.

Hoops & High Heels Preview Night Party. 7-10 p.m. at 251 18th Street South, eighth floor. Bubbly, brews, food, music and first access to the Tossed & Found treasure trove. All proceeds support JLW's mission. Tickets \$45 in advance; \$50 at the door. Visit www.crystallcity.org/item/the-junior-league-of-washingtons-tossed-and-found-returns-to-crystal-city.

Planetarium Program. 7:30 p.m. at David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 Quincy Street. Premiere of the digital program: "Undiscovered Worlds." This show explores whether other Earth-like planets exist in the universe. Admission \$3-\$7. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

Gangstagrass. 8 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Gangstagrass brings their mix of bluegrass and hip-hop to Artisphere. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Tossed & Found. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 251 18th Street South, eighth floor. Shop a wide array of "fabulous finds" including clothing, designer fashions, jewelry, furniture, house wares, books, electronics, sporting equipment, and more. Admission is free. Visit www.crystallcity.org/item/the-junior-league-of-washingtons-tossed-and-found-returns-to-crystal-city for more.

Drop in Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

"Making the Anti-Hollywood Movie" Seminar. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hyatt Arlington, 1325 Wilson Road. Veteran film and tv director John Putch will reveal his strategies for making and micro-budget movies. \$60. Tickets at johnputchseminar.brownpapertickets.com.

Dance Festival. 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. at Gunston Theater, 2700 S. Lang St. The Indian Dance Educators Association (IDEA) presents their bi-annual dance festival in conjunction with the organization's 20th anniversary celebrations presented via three distinct showcases. \$15 for each showcase; \$30 to attend all three. Visit www.ideadancers.org.

Film. 2-3:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Children and their caregivers can watch "Monsters University" (2013). Free. 703-228-

6545.

Concert and Buffet. 4:30-7 p.m. at Mongolian School of the National Capital at the Wilson School, 1601 Wilson Blvd. Celebrate the Year of Horse with a concert and buffet dinner. Suggested donation: \$40, \$20 for children 10 or under, cash or check. Visit www.themongolianschool.com.

Saturday Science Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 Quincy Street. Michael F. A'Hearn, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Astronomy, University of Maryland. Admission for all programs is \$3-\$7. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Tossed & Found. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 251 18th Street South, eighth floor. Shop a wide array of "fabulous finds." Admission is free. Visit www.crystallcity.org/item/the-junior-league-of-washingtons-tossed-and-found-returns-to-crystal-city for more.

Planetarium Program. 1:30 p.m. at David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 Quincy Street. Premiere of the digital program: "Undiscovered Worlds." This show explores whether other Earth-like planets exist in the universe. Admission \$3-\$7. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

Film. 3-4:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "High Tech Low Life" (2012). Free. 703-228-5710.

Planetarium Program. 3 p.m. at David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 Quincy Street. Screening of the digital program: Magic Tree House Space Mission. Admission \$3-\$7. Visit friendsoftheplanetarium.org.

Author Visit. 4 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Historical fiction author Erika Robuck will share from her most recent novel, "Fallen Beauty." Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

MONDAY/MARCH 24

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

Drop-in Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6545.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5946.

Film. 6 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Watch "The Place Beyond the Pines." Free. 703-228-5260.

Drop in Family Storytime. 6:45 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6330.

Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "Zeitoun" by Dave Eggers. Free. 703-228-5946.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Book Club. 2 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Discuss "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver. Free. 703-228-5260.

Paws to Read. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Children in grades K-5 can read to therapy dogs. Free. Register for a slot by calling 703-228-5260.

Film. 6 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Children of Men." Free. 703-228-5946.

Book Club. 7 pm. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. The Spiritual/ Philosophical Book Group will meet. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

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

Drop-In Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 25 months- 5 years. Free. 703-228-5260.

Stop in for Stories. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5946.

Kids Club. 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children in grades K-5 can enjoy activities and more. Free 703-228-5710.

Art Club for Tweens. 5 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children in grades 4-6 can enjoy art related fun. Free. 703-228-5710.

Film. 6 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Charlie Wilson's War." Free. 703-228-5946.

Family Story Time. 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6548.

THURSDAY/MARCH 27

Book Club. 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "Flight: A Novel" and "Reservation Blues" both by Sherman Alexie. Free. 703-228-5946.

Drop-in Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30-11 a.m. or 11:15-11:45 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children age 25 months-5 years. Free. 703-228-6545.

Mongolian School of the National Capital Area Celebrates the Year of the Horse with a Concert and Buffet Dinner

March 22, 2014 from 4:30-7:00 P.M.

1601 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209 • The Wilson School

Food and Entertainment will include: • Mongolian Musical Instruments, Dancers, and Song – including a Tsam/Masked Dance and Mongolian Long Song



• Mongolian milk tea and authentic Mongolian cuisine – including steamed dumplings/buuz, fried beef patties/huushuur, and various salads and desserts
• Mongolian clothes and costumes • Come for the buffet dinner at 4:30 and stay for the show!
Free parking!

Suggested Donation: \$40, \$20 for children aged 10 or under – cash or check (payable to the Mongolian School of the National Capital Area)

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON'S 22nd annual TOSSED & FOUND SALE

Hoops & High Heels Preview Night

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 ~ 7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$45 at www.jlw.org or \$50 at the door
Food, fun, cocktails, an amazing silent and live auction and NCAA basketball games on the big screen!
Have first pick of all sale items including quality furniture. (Significant Others encouraged)

General Shopping

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 ~ 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 ~ 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

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Proceeds from the sales at Tossed & Found go to support the mission of the Junior League of Washington, including our focus on promoting literacy in the Washington area. For more information, visit www.jlw.org
Cash or Check Only – No credit cards will be accepted for purchases on March 22 or 23

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'Oh Dad, Poor Dad' Debuts in Arlington

American Century Theater tackles 1960s absurdist comedy.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The American Century Theater is presenting the Arthur Kopit farce, "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad," March 21-April 12 at Gunston Arts Center, Theatre Two, in Arlington.

Described by the playwright as "a Pseudoclassical Tragifarce in a Bastard French Tradition," this antic, absurdist black comedy about the most dysfunctional family imaginable was an Off-Broadway sensation in 1962 and a hardly-watched 1967 film starring Rosalind Russell, Barbara Harris, and Jonathan Winters.

A farce in three scenes, "Oh Dad, Poor Dad ..." tells the bizarre tale of wealthy, domineering mother Madame Rosepettle, who travels to a luxury resort in a Cuban hotel, bringing along her stuttering son, a man-eating Venus Fly Trap plant, a piranha, and her deceased husband, preserved and in his casket.

"It has this raw energy — this yearning to get out of the '50s, and one of the things I was interested in, I feel like the themes are applicable nowadays, is we're dissatisfied with the state of the country and how things are being run ... and looking for a better future," said director Tyler Herman, 26, of the District. "There's a black comedy aspect that I feel is very applicable to young people of today."

Robin Reck, of Alexandria, plays the charming and intense matriarch Madame Rosepettle, a take-charge character who terrorizes those around her. "What I've tried

Madame Rosepettle (Robin Reck) and her son Jonathan (Tony Strowd) star in "Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad" at the Gunston Arts Center.



PHOTO BY STEVE BRADFORD

to do with this role is to bring the humanity to this character and not just play her flat as a villain," said Reck, who works for the federal government. "But as a character that has a lot of dynamics and depth that drive her."

She adds, "I tried to bring a lot of emotional depth to show what drives her to her crazy, intense actions ... her over-the-top actions."

Tony Strowd, 27, of Silver Spring plays the 16-year-old Jonathan Rosepettle whose world gets turned upside down by a babysitter named Rosalie, who tries to take him away from his domineering mother. "What's wonderful about this show is it's theater of the absurd," said Strowd. "It presents aspects of life that are not normally experienced, but are technically possible, in terms of the extreme nature of personalities."

He adds: "The main thing is this is a comedy, it may be a dark comedy, but it's very energetic, fun and lively ... It's a comedy in a very confusing way."

Music Director and composer Steve Przybylski, 36, of Laurel, Md., plays live

guitar throughout the play. Collaborating with Vaughn Irving who plays percussion, they have been improvising during six weeks of rehearsals. "From my perspective, my job is to help tell the story," said Przybylski. "We set the mood, we set the time and place, we underscore moments and we comment on moments — so the music has developed right along with the action."

"This is American absurdism," said Jorge A. Silva, 24, of the District, who plays one of the five bellboys and the dad. "I think it's a different voice and different idea of existentialism and what the arbitrary can be."

He adds, "I think the play can be extremely cathartic through its use of tragedy and its comedy."

Stage Manager Sarah Kamins, 28, of Arlington said, "Nothing is set in stone based

on the script, so imaginations can run wild and everything is free game." She added, "There will be hilarious moments, and there's touching moments and pratfalls in between."

Artistic Director Jack Marshall has been holding on to this play since the theater company was launched in 1994, waiting for just the right moment to let it loose on Northern Virginia audiences. "TACT has noticed that its audiences are finding the black and absurdist comedies of the late '50s and early '60s funny again. Some of the best comedies need to wait for things to get crazy again like they were when these comedies were written. America was stressed out in 1962, and it is stressed out now. I know I am. It's time for Madame Rosepettle. We need her."

The cast includes Robin Reck as Madame Rosepettle, Tony Strowd as Jonathan, Emery Erin Hamami as Rosalie, Manolo Santalla as Commodore Roseabove, and Anna Lynch as Rosalinda (the Fish). Jorge A. Silva, Brian David Clarke, Andrew Quilpa, and Chema Pineda-Fernández are the bellboys.

The show is produced by Ed Moser. Sarah Kamins is the Stage Manager. Sound Designer is Thomas Sowers and Lighting Design is by Jason Aufdem-Brinke. The Master Carpenter is Michael Salmi and the Master Electrician

is Jorge A. Silva. Costume Design is by Jacy Barber. The Scenic Designer/Artist is Katie Wertz and Props Designer is Kevin Laughon. Lindsey E. Moore is the Assistant Stage Manager.

Details

"Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad" opens Friday, March 21 and runs through Saturday, April 12, with a pay-what-you-can preview on Thursday, March 20 at 8 p.m. and a pay-what-you-can performance on Wednesday, March 26 at 8 p.m. There is a post-show talk-back on Thursday, March 27. Regular show times are Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. with Saturday/Sunday matinees, 2:30 p.m. (no matinee Saturday, March 22). The Gunston Theatre Two is located at 2700 South Lang Street, Arlington. Tickets can be ordered online at americancentury.org or by calling 703-998-4555.

CALENDAR

Drop in Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-6330.

Drop-in Storytime: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5715.

Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s. 11:15 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children age 2-5. Free. 703-228-5715.

Film. 3 p.m. at Columbia Pike, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "A Late Quartet," starring the late Philip Seymour Hoffman. Free. 703-228-5710.

Bilingual Story Time. 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children can enjoy stories, songs and crafts in English and Spanish. Free. 703-228-5990.

Teen Author Club. 4:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. High school students can bring works-in-progress or imagination and discuss about writing, writer's block and more. Free. 703-228-5946.

Knitting Group. 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. Drop-in for knitting

support and instruction. Free. 703-228-6548.

Live Music. IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Natalie York will be at IOTA with Bells and Hunters. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Author Visit. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Louis Bayard appears to talk about "Roosevelt's Beast." Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to 1 year old can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5260.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-5946.

Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. or

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

Story Time: Wobbly Walkers. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 13-24 months. Free. 703-228-5260.

Film. 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Hunger Games." Free. 703-228-5946.

Scholarship Benefit Concert at 7:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Email Amy Yamashiro at amydyama@yahoo.com, or call 571-405-9300, or 703-942-9748.

FRIDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 28-APRIL 4

Spring Art Celebration. ArtFest Week at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. North. An opening reception will be held Friday, March 28, 6-8 p.m., meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments in the historic 1902 Hendry House. Events will take place throughout the week. Free, open to the public. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Drop in Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents, "The Big Meow." \$10-\$15. Visit www.janefranklin.com or purchase at the door. Partnering with Homeward Trails animal rescue, guests will be able to meet cats available for adoption or donate cash, wet food or kitty litter. Call 703-933-1111.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents "Sway," a suite to Dean Martin classics, a barbershop "Some Enchanted Evening" and a brass "Downtown." Tickets are \$16-\$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Luisa Maita will perform. \$18. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-

1100.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Ballet Performance. 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Classical Ballet Theatre Studios, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Classical Ballet Theatre Presents: The Sleeping Beauty Experience, a one-hour children's series performance (Act I only). Tickets \$10. Visit www.cbtnva.org/sleepingbeauty to purchase tickets.

Dance Performance. 2 p.m. at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Jane Franklin Dance presents, "The Big Meow." \$10-\$15. Visit www.janefranklin.com or purchase at the door. Partnering with Homeward Trails animal rescue, guests will be able to meet cats available for adoption or donate cash, wet food or kitty litter.

Concert. 4 p.m. at Rock Spring United Congregational Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road. Ibis presents a free concert featuring Joseph Scheer, violin, Sean Neidlinger cello, and Edward Newman piano. Donations appreciated. Visit www.ibischambermusic.org for more.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

How To Prepare for the New SAT

Local experts say working hard in class is the best way to be successful.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Linda Mitchell and her 15-year-old daughter, Alexis, say they don't really know what to expect when Alexis sits for the SAT college admissions exam in 2016, but they're not too worried at this point. Two years is a long time.

"I'm just going to make sure she gets the best education possible," said Mitchell, who lives in Great Falls. "There's nothing else that I can really do at this point."

Local experts said that Mitchell's strategy is wise, explaining that the best way current ninth grade students (and those who are younger) can prepare for the test is to become strong readers and writers.

"It would appear that College Board's recent announcement regarding the redesigning of the SAT will indeed have some impact on how students, mainly current ninth graders, will prepare for standardized tests in the coming years," said Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

Reading and reading comprehension skills are key. "There are kids today who love to read. They've been exposed to an extensive vocabulary so they aren't afraid of words," said test preparation expert Harriet Broder of Breakthrough Test Prep in Potomac. "If you're a strong reader, you're going to do well on the test."

So how can parents help their children become more effective readers? "I have had students who say they hate reading," said Broder. "One thing that parents can do, for example, for children who don't like to read, is if their child wants to go see a movie, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

Students at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, attend an English class. Experts say strong reading and writing skills will help students on standardized tests.

parent can say 'Read at least two or three reviews about this movie and the tell me why you want to see it.' That is the place to start for non-readers."

Students, said Broder, should also be exposed to a variety of writing styles. "There's no magic SAT fairy dust," she said. "Students should be exposed to different types of writing. They will be able to apply their skills more comfortably."

Broder also said improving reading speed and learning to recognize an author's main point and how the author had developed that point are critical skills. "Kids need to be trained to read

to learn the author's thesis," she said. "Some students can read a chapter in a school book and can answer questions at the end, but they can't tell you the main point the author is trying to make."

Broder said an improved reading ability can be accomplished with "step-by-step ... strategies in critical reading, problem-solving [and] vocabulary development ..."

Officials at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington said they will focus on professional development strategies for teachers so they can help prepare stu-

dents for the new test format.

"The proposed changes to the SAT will

"The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

— Michael R. Hude, The Heights School

Test Prep

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy, a not-for-profit educational organization; to provide free, supplemental test preparation resources for those taking the soon-to-be redesigned SAT in 2016. By spring 2015, students will have access to state-of-the-art, interactive learning tools.

Those taking the 2014 or 2015 SAT can gain access to hundreds of previously unreleased math, reading and writing questions from real SATs and more than 200 videos that show step-by-step solutions to each question. Visit www.khanacademy.org/sat.

definitely have some impact in the way students prepare for the exam. The elimination of more obscure vocabulary words, free online test prep materials and aligning the test to coincide with what students actually learn in high school will allow students to focus more clearly on what they need to know to do well," said Kristina Herbst, the school's director of college counseling. "Also, the elimination of the penalty for wrong answers will make the test more user-friendly and help eliminate much anxiety over guessing while taking the test."

For those concerned about how the revised test might impact their admittance to their top college choices, officials at Marymount University in Arlington said they don't foresee a large adjustment.

"We will need to adjust to the changes in scoring, but otherwise no significant difference at this time," said Francesca Reed, associate vice president for enrollment at Marymount. "When we evaluate applicants, we look at the applicant holistically and consider not only their high school GPA and rigor, but their letters of reference and the level of engagement at their school and/or community. In an age when colleges are considering test-optional admissions, standardized tests will need to demonstrate that they provide admissions offices with resources that otherwise wouldn't have been determined through grades and other requirements."

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Yorktown junior Kristen Somers shoots during a scrimmage at Herndon High School on March 14.



Junior goalkeeper Erin Morrissey is expected to be one of the Yorktown girls' lacrosse team's top players this season.

Yorktown Girls' Lacrosse Team Facing New Challenges

After eight straight National District titles, Patriots move to Conference 6.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Yorktown assistant girls' lacrosse coach Kristin Daus wasn't pleased with the expressions on the faces of the Patriots during halftime of a March 14 scrimmage at Herndon High School — and she let them know about it.

"They didn't look like their normal selves," head coach Crystal Fraser recalled. "They kind of looked defeated a little bit and we wanted to [tell them] you can't go back to the second half looking defeated or you might as well not play. Your confidence is going to be down, your emotions are going to be all over the place, so we just need to make sure they stayed calm and collected and got pumped up again ... and that they had the confidence they could come back and win."

Yorktown responded well in the second half of the scrimmage. Once the Conference 6 tournament arrives in mid-May, the Patriots will need to be on top of their game, as well.

The Yorktown girls' lacrosse team dominated the National District for most of the last decade, winning eight consecutive district championships. But the Patriots' days of taking titles against overmatched teams are over as Yorktown is now a member of Conference 6 after the VHSE's six-class realignment. Instead of facing inferior competition, the Patriots will take on teams like Madison (defending state champion) and Langley (state runner-up last two years) in the conference tournament.

Conference 6 is composed of Yorktown, Washington-Lee, Hayfield, Madison, Langley, McLean, South Lakes and Fairfax.

"Everything's new to us this year and we're definitely aware that we're playing

"People might think that we're a weaker team coming into this conference, but I think that we're very capable of showing them that we're a contender."

— Yorktown girls' lacrosse coach Crystal Fraser

in a very tough conference with Madison, Langley and all the other schools that we're going to be playing," Fraser said. "But we're really excited for the challenge and I think that playing excellent teams like those teams is going to help make us better."

"... People might think that we're a weaker team coming into this conference, but I think that we're very capable of showing them that we're a contender."

Junior goalkeeper Erin Morrissey said playing in Conference 6 will be a positive for Yorktown.

"It helps," Morrissey said, "because, after eight district titles, it gives us something to shoot higher for."

Morrissey enters her third season as Yorktown's starting goalkeeper and has impressed her head coach during preseason scrimmages.

"She is amazing this year," Fraser said. "She started off our scrimmage against West Springfield [on March 10] and has played better than I've ever seen her play. ... She's worked really hard in the offseason to get where she is right now and we're excited to



Yorktown freshman Laura Crawford shoots during a scrimmage Herndon High School on March 14.

see her flourish."

Junior midfielder/attacker Kristen Somers, a three-year varsity athlete who is committed to VCU, is Yorktown's top offensive threat.

"Everything can be crazy out on the field and hectic and things happening all over the place and she is always so calm on the field," Fraser said. "She never gets razzed or frazzled or anything. She always has a very calm presence with her and I think that really helps and kind of rubs off on the rest of the team. ... She's an amazing shooter. ... She's always been a really clutch player for us."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Application Deadline. High school students can apply for McDonald's Educates Scholarship Program. Applicants must plan to enroll as a full-time undergraduate student at a college or university in fall 2014. Download an application at www.mcdonaldseducates.com. Applications

Senior Emily Spack (attack/midfield), junior Margaret Doyle (attack/midfield) and sophomores Kate Grattan (attack), Emma Thurman (midfield), and Sissy Davis (midfield) are also prominent players.

Spack, and senior defenders Kristin Herbert, Gracie Conyngham and Melissa Land are team captains.

Yorktown's home opener will be against Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20.

The Conference 6 tournament begins on May 15.

"We like being the underdog," Somers said. "There's nothing to lose."

must be postmarked by March 21.

MONDAY/APRIL 7

Submission Deadline. Arlington County students can enter up to five films for the APS Student Film Fest. The fest runs June 6-7. Find the submission form and rules at <https://www.facebook.com/apsstudentfilmfest>.

Elena Morrissey, was named to the dean's list at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

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United Way Awards \$259,862 to Local Nonprofits

United Way of the National Capital Area recently awarded 20 grants totaling \$259,862 to member organizations serving Arlington. The funds came through designations to the Arlington Community Impact Fund in United Way NCA's annual workplace giving campaign. Each of the grants addresses programs that fall within United Way NCA's focus areas of education, financial stability and health.

In total, \$1.7 million was raised through Community Impact Funds in United Way NCA's eight regions thanks to the support of employees from more than 800 workplaces with more than 3,000 locations throughout the Washington, D.C. region. This year, United Way NCA increased the minimum grant award to \$10,000. The maximum award, as in past years, is \$25,000. United Way NCA awarded a total of 133 grants to 104 member organizations. There were 29 programs funded in the areas of education, 38 in financial stability, and 66 in health.

The Arlington grantees are Arlington Pediatric Center, Inc.; Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, Inc.; Arlington Thrive; Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.; Capital Area Food Bank; Davis Memorial Goodwill Industries; DC Central Kitchen, Inc.; Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.; Food & Friends,



From left: Courtney Kissell, executive director, Reading Connection; Sarah Zullo, special programs officer, Ethiopian Community Development Council; Debby Taylor, senior vice president and regional director, Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic; Tamika Hodnett, foundation and corporate grants manager, Food and Friends; Linda Chandler, CEO, Linden Resources; Michael O'Rourke, executive director, Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless; Elizabeth Hodge, director, foundation and corporate giving, Capital Area Food Bank; Rosie Allen-Herring, president and CEO of United Way NCA; Alexis Vanderhuy, corporate and foundation relations officer, Arlington Pediatric Center; Jay Fisette, County Board chair; Janece Kleban, vice president of development; Shandra Niswander, development manager, Arlington Thrive; Skip Chaples, president, Music for Life; Tom Wilson, executive director, Northern Virginia Dental Clinic; Shirley M. Clark, interim CEO and executive director, The Women's Center, and Major Lewis Reckline, area commander, The Salvation Army - National Capital Area.

Inc.; GnG NCA; Home Care Partners, Inc.; Linden Resources, Inc.; Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, Inc.; Northern Virginia

Dental Clinic, Inc.; Northern Virginia Family Service; NOVA ScriptsCentral, Inc.; Phoenix Houses of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.; The

Reading Connection Inc.; Salvation Army, National Capital Area Command, and The Women's Center.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Seven Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 167 in Arlington who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout were honored on March 1.

Seven Scouts Achieve Eagle Rank

The largest group of Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 167 in Arlington to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout was honored for their achievement on March 1 at Mt. Olivet Methodist Church. Those attaining Eagle Rank were:

- ❖ Brian Claeys – junior, Gonzaga College High School,
- ❖ Spencer Cobb – senior, Yorktown High School,
- ❖ Nicholas Goryachev – junior, Yorktown High School,
- ❖ Ross Kocher – junior, Yorktown High School,
- ❖ Callan Rogers – senior, HB Woodlawn Secondary Program,
- ❖ Andrew Schweser – senior, Wakefield High School,
- ❖ David V. Wein-Kandil – senior, HB Woodlawn Secondary Program.

The Scouts have been friends for several years and elected to participate together in the Eagle Court of Honor — the first time in the troop's history to so honor a group of young men.

Six of the new Eagles joined together to backpack at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2011; and four of those returned for a second year last summer. Scouts Brian, Spencer, Nick, Ross and Andrew are also members of Scouting's "Order of the Arrow."

The Scouts' Eagle projects provided service and assistance to the community. Locations that benefited included Arlington Central Library, Camp Highroad, the Gulf Branch Nature Center, Long Branch Nature Center, Ball Family Cemetery, Arlington Food Assistance Center (Culpepper Senior Center garden plots) and the Bluemont Frisbee golf course.

Eleanor Bune Celebrates Her 94th

Sharp as a tack and mentally "with it" as a younger person, Eleanor Bune, an Arlington resident, is not missing a beat. On March 14, she turned 96-years-old. With a full head of her own hair that often draws compliments from strangers, she had her hair done on her birthday and wanted to look her best for a night out on the town. Her birthday was celebrated at Essy's Carriage House in Arlington with her daughter, Karen L. Bune, and friends.

Essy, the owner of the restaurant, gave her a warm welcome. His buoyant and vivacious personality added to the occasion, and the delicious food prepared by his wife, Janet, satisfied everyone's palate for the festive occasion.

Mrs. Bune does not look her age. Most people guess her 15-20 years younger than she is. She enjoys good company, interesting conversations, and lively discussions. She reads the newspaper and keeps up with news and current events,



Eleanor Bune with the owner of Essy's Carriage House.

and she enjoys time spent with her daughter, Karen.

"Every year before her next birthday, she says, 'if I make it.' I reply, Oh, mom, of course you will make it. On her birthday, I relish telling her, 'I told you so,' her daughter, Karen, said. She added, "I am so blessed to still have her in my life and enjoy every moment we share together."

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for March 31-April 4.

Senior trips: Thursday, April 3, Nina's Dandy Lunch Cruise, \$66; Saturday, April 5, Washington Nationals vs Atlanta Braves, evening game, \$61. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Social bridge, Mondays and Fridays, 12 – 3 p.m., Lee. Free. Details, 703-228-0555.

Oil and acrylic painting classes begin,

Monday, March 31, 10a.m., Lee. \$56, 8 two hour sessions. Register, 703-228-0555.

Seniors only weight room hours, Langston-Brown and Madison. Monday-Wednesday-Friday, \$60/15 sessions. Call for days and times, 703-228-4745.

Ice skating, Mondays, 8 – 9:10 a.m., Kettler Capitals Iceplex, Ballston Mall, \$1 (includes skates). Register, 703-228-4745.

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Sr. Software Architect

(Master's with 3 yrs exp or Bachelor's with 5 yrs exp; Major: CS, Engg, Math or equiv.; other suitable qualifications acceptable) - Great Falls, VA. Job entails working with and requires experience including: Java, Oracle, Weblogic, Web Services, XML Beans, JMS, Apache, Java Security API, Perl, GWT, EJB, Open Adaptor, Spring MVC, Axis, Workflows and Callflows. Must have designing and developing experience. Relocation and travel to unanticipated locations within USA possible. Send resumes to Great Falls Software Solutions Inc., Attn: HR, 1000 Evonshire Lane, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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-William Van Horne

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's an old advisory among salespeople: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naïve, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

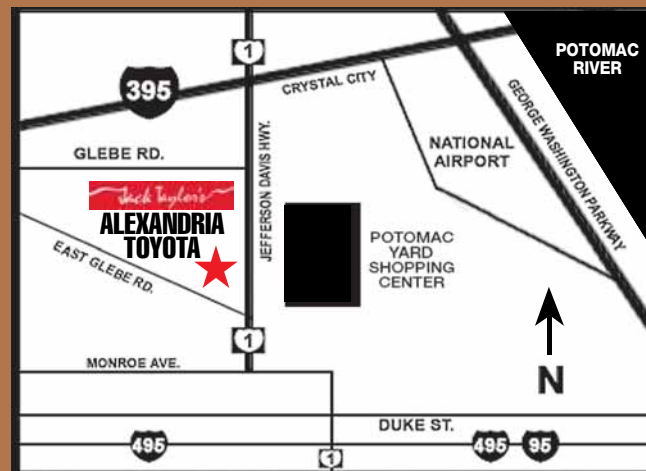
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struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

SPRING DETAIL SPECIAL

\$119⁹⁵

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road
conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and
wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior.
Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER
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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$99⁹⁵

PADS

PLUS \$50 VISA GIFT CARD

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors
& drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR
COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY
AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

SERVICE

PRICE **\$99.95**

\$50 VISA CARD \$50.00

YOUR COST **\$49.95**

BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR



\$1⁰⁰



**GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION.
PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.**

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3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

DETAIL SPECIALS

\$39⁹⁵

Wash & Vacuum

\$139⁹⁵

Hand wash, wax
& interior cleaning

\$295⁹⁵

Full premium detail

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BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

BREATHE EASY SPECIAL

\$59⁹⁵

Includes: Replace cabin air filter
and inspect Air conditioning system

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EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL



\$139⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement,
24 month **FREE** roadside assistance, 60 month proration,
PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER
EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID
ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

\$79⁸⁸
2003 & NEWER

INCLUDES: Replace engine oil, replace engine oil filter, drain
plug washer, check & top off fluids (as needed), inspect brake lin-
ings/drums & brake pads/discs, rotate best tires to front,
clean brakes (if applicable), perform multi-point inspection,
& road test vehicle (as needed).

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/14.
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

HEADLIGHT RESTORATION SPECIAL

\$89⁹⁵

Plastic lenses can
yellow with age,
reducing the vehi-
cle's market value.
Headlight brightness
& the overall safety
during nighttime
driving. The headlight
lens restoration
from us allows you
to shine and restore
headlights to like-
new conditions.



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

**WE WILL
MEET OR BEAT
ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S
CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE
SPECIALS**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER
EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights,
belts & hoses & fluid levels.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER
EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID
ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL

\$49⁹⁵

Includes: Rotate and balance all
4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.

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EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP.
VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

Jack Taylor's
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TOYOTA / SCION

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TOYOTA

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Go
Places**