

Finding Taklimakan Desert

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Geography whiz
Rohil Bhinge, 10,
has the world in
his hands. He will
compete in the state
Geography Bee.

Walk, Candlelight Vigil Honors Crime Victims

NEWS, PAGE 4

Fairfax Apartment Fire: \$2 Million in Damage

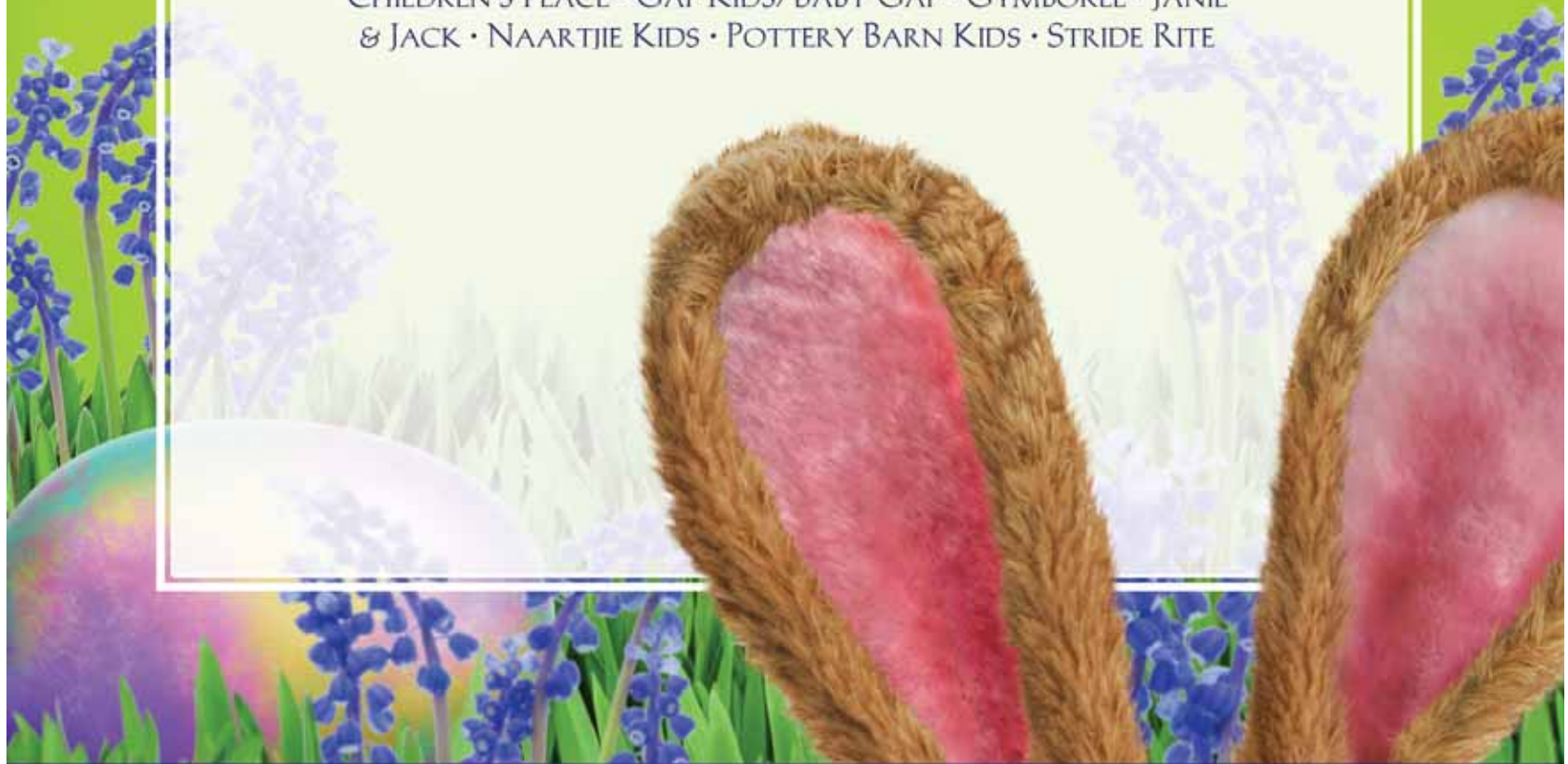
NEWS, PAGE 4

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Potholes on North Pitt Street in Old Town Alexandria.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Blizzard of Spending

Polar vortex sends financial chill through local governments.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The unusually hard winter has created a blizzard of spending for local governments across Northern Virginia — bursting through budgeted amounts for snow removal and treating roads, leaving a lasting legacy of potholes that will be plaguing roads this spring. Officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation say they spent \$175 million on snow removal this winter, more than twice as much than they were planning to spend. And that's just for starters.

"This is going to be a much worse pothole season than in years past," said Jennifer McCord, spokeswoman for VDOT. "We've been filling them, basically, since the winter started."

Alexandria spent \$1.6 million on snow control. That's more than twice the amount city officials set aside in the budget, which was \$836,000. And Arlington officials say they've already spent more than \$2 million even though they had budgeted only \$1.1 million. Local governments across the region will be forced to dip into their contingency funds to deal with the record amounts of snow dumped on Northern Virginia this year.

"If they don't deal with these potholes quickly, the cost will become much greater," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government Leadership. "Waiting longer means they have to dig up the road bed, which is way more expensive than filling a pothole."

POTHOLES FORM when roads experience moisture and then a rapid freeze and thaw. Moisture gets into cracks in the road, which undermines the road surface. Then traffic pummels the already undermined road surface over and over until the cracks become larger and larger. Over time the cracks start to peel away as pieces of asphalt fly away. When that happens over and over, the cracks start to grow larger and larger.

"That creates a minor depression that can sometimes grow into something much larger that we affectionately call a pothole," said Yon Lambert, deputy director for operations of the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Alexandria currently has 574 requests since the beginning of January to March 21, a 552 percent increase over last year, which was 88 requests for service. About 42 of those are still being investigated to see what kind of remedy would be appropriate. That's part of a regional effort to address potholes throughout Northern Virginia, a region that has been hit with a disproportionate amount of precipitation and freezing weather this year. All local governments are trying to figure out how much this year's winter will cost them as the next budget season approaches.

"All invoices for snow-related costs for the last event have not been paid. Some not received yet," said Arlington budget director Richard Stephenson. "In addition, the cost of pot hole repairs will not be known for some time."

THE COSTS of the polar vortex are not easy to grasp, partially because it's difficult to know what the final bill will be and partially because nobody knows how much the damage will be inflicted. Anecdotal evidence is overwhelming. Drivers know that their roads are deteriorating rapidly. Alexandria and Arlington have dominion over their own streets, although the roads of Fairfax County are maintained by officials at the Virginia Department of Transportation, who are scrambling to meet all the requests they have been confronted with since the polar vortex swept into town.

"Our roads are in pretty sorry shape," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "The snow removal expense has now begun to eat into the repaving expense for this year, and so VDOT is having to look at deferring paving projects that were planned for 2014 because of the amount of money that it has to spend on snow expenses."

Budget officials across Northern Virginia will not know the final expense of the polar vortex for some time. That's because all the invoices have not yet been received by local governments. Those expenses will probably become more digestible for budget officials during the mid-year review or the third-quarter review, long after the snow has melted and the spring flowers have wilted. Until that time, government leaders will be working overtime to fix the damage of the polar vortex. One day last week, for example, Alexandria had four crews out repairing 375 potholes using six tons of hot-mix asphalt.

"We can't do a really active and intense period of pothole repairs when temperatures are very cold," said Lambert. "We've had more than 30 inches of snow this year whereas we had less than two inches last year, and that combined with the very cold temperatures has a very big impact on our roads."

'The Taklimakan Desert Is in Which Country?'

Fairfax boy, 10, to compete in state Geography Bee.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Rohil Bhinge is one, smart boy. A fifth-grader at Mosby Woods Elementary, he'll represent his school, April 4, in Farmville, at the state Geography Bee.

In January, his teacher Mark Holzshu held a geography bee for his students. Participation was optional, and Rohil was one of 10 students in his class who took part. Other fifth-grade classes also held bees, as did fourth- and sixth-grade classes.

The students answered questions such as, "Which state grows more oranges, Florida or Maine?" (Florida) and "What are the two major rivers in Virginia?" (the James and the York).

Ultimately, 20 students total emerged as classroom winners and then competed against each other. Rohil's winning question was: "The Taklimakan Desert, home to the Wieger people and north of the Kunlin Mountains, is in which country?"

Rohil, 10, knew it's in China because "we studied the Silk Road in class and I saw the Taklimakan Desert on a map in China and remembered it." Furthermore, he said, "My mom told me one of the 'Star Wars' movies was filmed in those mountains."

Happy to be the Mosby Woods geography champion, Rohil said, "The sixth-graders always win the school geography bee, but they never made it to the state bee. So being a fifth-grader, I wanted to beat them."

He then took a 70-question, written geography test consisting of multiple-choice questions, plus some analogies. A sample question was "Cowboys are to the American West as gauchos are to (the Pampas)." Another was "James Cook discovered islands in which ocean?" (The Pacific Ocean).

Two weeks ago, Rohil received a letter from the National Geographic Society saying he'd be one of 100 students statewide, in grades four through eight, to compete in the Virginia Geographic Bee.

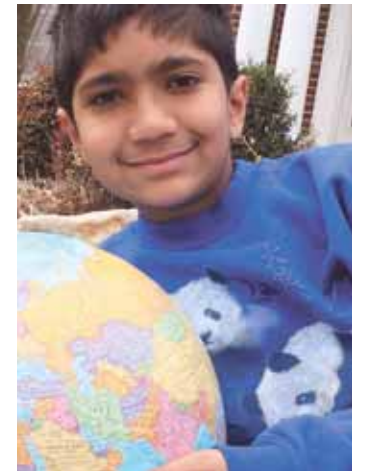


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The future's bright for fifth-grader Rohil Bhinge.

That winner will receive a cash prize and represent the Commonwealth in the national finals in May.

"I was thinking I was going to make [states] because the test seemed pretty easy," said Rohil. "When I got the letter, I was so happy, I was dancing."

He expects to do well at states, too, because he's been studying a great deal for the contest. "I'm using blank, outline maps of countries and putting in the names of their cities, rivers, mountains and lakes," he said. "I remember things better by writing them down; I'm also reading books on geography."

In his spare time, Rohil even plays geography-based video games. In them, he either plays golf or builds rollercoasters all over the world. "Since I was 2, geography just fascinated me," he explained. "I like traveling to other countries, and my goal is to visit 100 countries and every U.S. state. So far, I've gone to 10 countries and 30-something states."

He's in the AAP (Advanced Academic Program) at Mosby Woods and is a Young Mensan, an organization for youth with high IQs. Rohil is also part of Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth which identifies and develops the talents of the most advanced K-12 learners throughout the world. And he's in Duke University's Talent Identification Program, dedicated to serving academically gifted and talented youth to help them reach their full potential.



City of Fairfax firefighters rescue occupants and attack the blaze as smoke and fire pour out of the building.



Flames and smoke billow from the roof in back of the apartment building.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDY VITA

Fairfax Apartment Fire: \$2 Million in Damage

A two-alarm fire Monday afternoon at a Fairfax apartment building displaced some 25 residents and caused an estimated \$2 million damage. Roughly 80 City of Fairfax firefighters raced to 4311 Bob Court, March 24, around 3:45 p.m., after a report of a fire with people trapped in the building.

Engine and Truck 3 arrived to find heavy fire coming from the second and third floors, with flames extending to the roof and attic.

Firefighters were also met with occupants who'd jumped from the second floor and also escaped the blaze via a ground ladder provided by a maintenance worker on site.

"The quick actions by the early arriving units made a significant difference on this call," said Assistant Chief of Operations Andy Vita. "The decision of the first-in officer to utilize a heavy-stream [hose] to knock down the large amount of fire coming from the apartment and spreading

throughout the attic was instrumental in containing the fire to the original building."

Furthermore, said Vita, "Staff from Truck 3 were able to quickly place multiple ground ladders to the second and third floors of the building to allow for search-and-rescue and further attack of the fire."

Four occupants sustained minor injuries and one was transported to the hospital. The rest of the building's residents were aided by Fire Department personnel, building man-

agement and the American Red Cross as they arrived home or asked to re-enter their apartments to obtain personal belongings.

Two cats were also rescued and provided with oxygen therapy by the medics before they were reunited with their owner. No firefighters were injured, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Twelve units total were damaged.

—BONNIE HOBBS

Walk, Candlelight Vigil Honors Crime Victims

The free event to kick off National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County remembers local people who've been victims of crimes. And on Sunday, April 6, at Fairfax Corner, they'll be honored via the second annual 5K Walk and Candlelight Vigil.

The free event, in front of the movie theater at 4100 Monument Corner Drive in the Fairfax Corner shopping center, kicks off National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12.

Each April, law-enforcement agencies, along with organizations and communities, join together to observe this week. The goal is to promote victims' rights and honor crime victims and the people who work tirelessly advocating on their behalf.

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. and Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh will welcome attendees and give opening remarks at 5:30 p.m. First, though, check-in and a resource fair featuring more than 15 vendors from local and national service providers will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The participants include Dr. Will Marling, executive director, National Organization for Victim Assistance. In addition, Steve Shillingford and Peter Khan

of the E and Me band will perform live jazz.

The walk will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the candlelight vigil honoring the victims, from 7-7:30 p.m. For more information and to register, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCVRW2014>. The first 200 people registered will receive free T-shirts.

The walk and vigil are being hosted by the Victims Services Section of the county Police Department and the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation. And the community is invited to join the professionals who support local victims of homicide, trauma, sexual and domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, stalking, human trafficking and suicide as they walk together.

A related event during that week will be held Thursday, April 10, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., at The Greene Turtle Restaurant, 3950 University Drive, Suite 209, in the City of Fairfax. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation, it's a fundraiser for the Victim Services Section so it can continue meeting the immediate needs of crime victims.

Those eating lunch or dinner that day at The Green Turtle will have 20 percent of the gross proceeds from their meal donated to the cause. To participate, people must download an event flyer at www.fairfaxfoundation.org, print it and present it to their server when they order.

To learn more about the Police Department's Victim Services section, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/victim-services.htm>.



Some of the participants in last year's 5K Walk and Candlelight Vigil.

Compassion Award for County Animal Shelter

The Virginia Federation of Humane Societies has selected the state's top animal shelters and programs that made a difference in the animal welfare in 2013. And the Fairfax County Animal Shelter received the Compassion Award for its demonstration of strong leadership and significant progress

toward reducing euthanasia of healthy and treatable dogs and cats in the community. Deborah Griggs, a board member of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, presented the award. Last year, Fairfax County was the largest jurisdiction in the U.S. with an animal-placement rate above 90 percent.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(From left) are Lee Ann Shenefiel, business operations manager; Shelter Director Tawny Hammond; Kelly Willet, animal care operations manager; and Kristen Auerbach, communications and outreach director.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Our Daily Bread Art Contest

Fairfax-based charity Our Daily Bread is seeking designs for its Complete the Circle FoodRaiser Art for the Sky project. Winning entry receives a \$200 cash prize. Entries are due by April 4. The event will be held in conjunction with Food for Others on Oct. 26 in Fairfax City. Information and applications are at www.ODBFairfax.org. Contact 703-273-8829 or info@ODBFairfax.org.

Pothole Patrol

The City of Fairfax has established a Pothole Hotline to receive information about potholes in the City. Contact 703-385-7810 or WeCare@fairfaxva.gov.

Register for Summer Camp

The City of Fairfax is offering a variety of summer camps for children age 3 through rising 10th-graders. Camps run from June 30 to Aug. 15 in City schools, either for seven weeks or in designated two-week sessions. For more information, go to www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

Child Carseat Checks

City residents may have their children's carseats checked or installed by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. For an appointment, call 703-385-7830.

THE FAIRFAX GREEN ENERGY PARK WILL REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 3.6 MILLION TONS.



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Ask the Board of Supervisors to support the Green Energy Park



OPINION

Challenging Budgets

Local Government should be able to access income taxes to give relief on real estate taxes.

Northern Virginia governments are facing shortfalls in the classic budget sense: projected revenues are less than last year's expenditures plus increases in costs.

Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young: "This is the seventh straight year of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth." His proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the Alexandria School Board.

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova: "This will be a very challenging budget." Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza proposed an increase of 5.7 percent, \$98 million more than the schools requested last year, but supervisors have said to expect an increase of 2 percent.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, is wrestling with how to fund increasing financial requests from schools, increasing needs for human services and providing a safety net, and many other areas of local budgets.

In Virginia, localities are allowed few areas of revenue, and local budgets are funded primarily through real estate property taxes. Prop-

EDITORIAL

erty values have increased this year, and local governments are also considering increases in the property tax rate, meaning homeowners will pay more in taxes.

Fairfax County Real Estate Assessments increased 5.8 percent for single family homes, 8.4 percent for townhouses and 10.5 percent for condos. In Arlington, property values grew about 5.8 percent this year. That includes single-family houses and townhouses, which went up 6.2 percent, as well as condominiums, which went up 5.9 percent. In Alexandria, residential assessments increased 4.8 percent.

But just because a home is worth more this year than last year doesn't actually put any more money in anyone's pocket. The increases are mostly modest and necessary in an area that prides itself on providing an exceptional quality of life and thriving business environment.

Employment and jobs are also strong in Northern Virginia, with unemployment at 3.7 percent in Fairfax, 4.1 percent in Alexandria and 3.2 percent in Arlington. Northern Virginia is the economic engine of Virginia. The overall unemployment rate in Virginia is 5 percent, with these statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These rates are far below the national rate.

But state income tax, paid disproportionately by workers in Northern Virginia, are collected by the state for the state budget. The exact percentage of money that returns to Northern Virginia is debated, but it is definitely small. Localities should have the ability to add a piggyback tax to the state income tax in order to provide needed and expected services while giving relief to homeowners.

Anyone familiar with the political process in Virginia knows that this is a pipe dream with essentially zero chance. It would have to pass the Virginia General Assembly. Nevertheless, it makes no sense for Northern Virginia to pay income taxes to the state without being able to benefit.

Meanwhile, Arlington FY 2015 tax rate public hearing is March 27 at 7 p.m. More on Arlington's budget: <http://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/budget/>

Fairfax County's public hearings, all in the board auditorium at the government center: Effective Tax Rate Hearing 3 p.m., April 8, 2014; Budget Public Hearing 6 p.m., April 8; 3 p.m., April 9; 3 p.m., April 10. More on Fairfax County Budget, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

For more on Alexandria's budget <https://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=75641>.

A favorite guideline on testimony at budget hearings comes in Arlington: "Repetitious testimony is discouraged." Good luck with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Small Farmers Need Clean Water

BY MARIETTE HIU NEWCOMB
AND KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Northern Virginia's small farmers know the importance of keeping the water that we all depend on clean. They worry that polluted water could contaminate their crops — the fruits and vegetables that are supposed to keep people nourished and healthy. Local farmers are doing their part to reduce runoff pollution into the streams that feed into the Potomac River.

But the Potomac River and other waterways across Virginia remain at risk.

The Clean Water Act has been helping protect waterways across the country from pollution for the past 40 years. Through its protections, we've made huge progress in cleaning up Virginia's waterways, giving even more Virginians the opportunity to fish and swim in rivers like the Potomac. But if polluters like Big Ag and Big Oil have their way, that progress will stop here.

Polluter-led lawsuits have opened up

huge loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

These loopholes leave 57 percent of Virginia's streams and many of its wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution. To make matters worse, these are the same waterways that feed and filter waterways like the Potomac River and, on their own, provide the drinking water for 2 million Virginians.

The effects of these loopholes on Virginia could be huge. The health of our families, our local economy and the ecosystem depend on our waterways being clean and safe. And our farms need clean water to grow healthy food for our communities. No one should be allowed to dump waste into the waterways that provide our communities with drinking water and a place to visit and enjoy. We all have a stake in clean water, and we know from the days before the Clean Water Act that when polluters dump into our streams and pave over our wetlands, we all suffer.

Virginia's small farmers have a particularly large stake in clean water and would feel the impacts

of an impaired water source. And because of that, many small farmers in Virginia take great care to be stewards of their land and our waterways. But without adequate protections to all our waterways, we can't ensure that our water will remain clean enough for drinking, swimming, or watering our crops.

Fortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the power to close these loopholes and help ensure that all Virginia's waterways are safe for future generations to enjoy just like we do today.

For over a decade, the nation's biggest polluters have been fighting tooth and nail to keep the EPA from fixing these loopholes and letting the cops on the environmental beat protect waterways like the Potomac River. But this fall, the EPA took the first big step toward protecting all of Virginia's waterways when it initiated the process to finally close these loopholes. This is great news for people across Virginia, especially small farmers. If the EPA continues to move forward and fixes the Clean Water Act, our

waterways could soon again have the protections they deserve.

Whether we're fishing, swimming, watering crops, or just turning on the tap, the health of our waterways is critical to our way of life. All our waterways should be clean enough that we can swim in them without risking getting sick and fish from them without fearing the catch is too contaminated to eat. And the water that farmers give to their livestock should come from protected sources. Whether we're farmers, entrepreneurs, local officials, or ordinary families, we all need the EPA to move forward and fix the Clean Water Act now to ensure that places like the Potomac River are protected now and for future generations.

Mariette Hiu Newcomb is the owner of Potomac Vegetable Farms, a local farm in Northern Virginia that specializes in growing crops without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Their vegetables, herbs, and cut flowers are available at farmers markets, our two on-farm roadside stands, and through their 550-member CSA.

Kimberly Williams is the Clean Water Associate with Environment Virginia, a citizen based advocacy organization.

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LETTERS

A Short Walk to Save a Life

To the Editor:

As a kidney transplant recipient, I know firsthand how kidney disease impacts a family and how a little knowledge can go a long way.

I ignored the symptoms of my failing kidneys for three years. I chalked them up to stress, poor diet and lack of sleep. One day I passed out, was rushed to the hospital, and immediately put on dialysis. In the blink of an eye, my family nearly lost me.

This spring, I will be walking with kidney patients, organ donors, transplant recipients, family, friends and co-workers to help raise awareness of the 700,000 individuals and their families affected by kidney disease in the National Capital Area. Join me on Sunday, April 13 at the Northern Virginia Kidney Walk [in Reston Town Center] or on Saturday, May 17 at the National Capital Area Kidney Walk.

Funds raised at the National Kidney Foundation serving the National Capital Area Kidney Walks go directly to vital programs that help fight kidney disease through prevention, advocacy and education.

Take the first step, visit www.kidneywalk.org.

Daryle McGhee

Assistant Vice President, First Citizens Bank

County's Urge to Spend

To the Editor:

The power to tax is the power to destroy. When the economy was booming Fairfax County spent (and spent) and most of us were too busy to take as much notice as needed. Now many years later the county urge to spend remains high as if the tax payers have unlimited resources. My tax rate, based on the assessment letter recently received has a rate in the order of 12 percent in spite of the letter's claim that the increase is (only) 9 percent.

Hopefully the Board of Supervisors will, with taxpayer input, do a line by line review of the draft budget and get the fat out before it's too late.

Bill Finberg

Burke

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have received national awards for their writing from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Three of the students received Gold Medals, the highest form of recognition.

Aline Dolinh of Oakton High School received the American Voices Medal, the equivalent of the best of show award, for her poetry, "Accent Marks, Exorcism, Model Minority, Second-generation."

National winners include:

❖ Melissa Halbrook of Woodson High School, Gold Medal for humor, "Kim Jung-Un's New Clothes."

❖ Emma Hastings of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Gold Medal for short story, "Sight Without Vision, Vision Without Sight;" and Gold Medal for writing portfolio, "I Sing Of."

❖ Sara Warrington of TJHSST, Silver Medal for Journalism, "Overcoming Intolerance."

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a 91-year old program of the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, will honor the winners at a special ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, June 6.

The Scholastic Writing Awards competition is administered locally by Writopia Lab.

Rabia Hassan of Fairfax graduated with a master's degree in criminal justice from Boston University.

Alex celebrated her 16th wearing her gown, not ours.

Alexandria was diagnosed with bone cancer her first year of high school. Instead of going to an adult hospital, her family got help from a cancer treatment team focused completely on pediatric medicine. Watch how specialized care created a special day at JustRightForChildren.com/Alex.

“Today I’m celebrating. I beat cancer and I had caring people on my side.”

Alexandria Herndon
Princess for the day

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

—Bill Cosby

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SPRING FUN 2014

Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen and Dinyar Vania as Don Jose in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen."



PHOTOS BY DAVID A. BELOFF/COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

'Carmen' Comes to Area

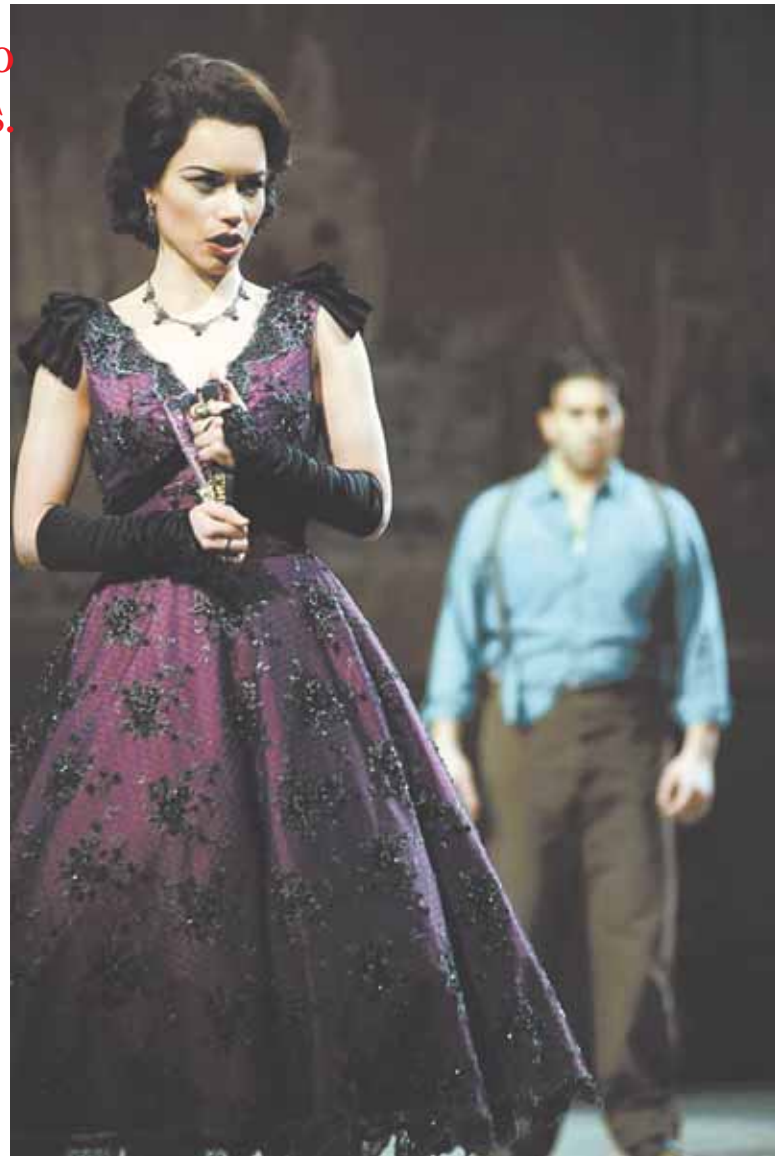
Virginia Opera brings "Carmen" to Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Opera, the Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will present Georges Bizet's sultry tragedy about opera's most famous femme fatale, "Carmen." The opera has enthralled audiences for more than a century and is one of the most popular. "Carmen" follows Don Jos and his ill-fated obsession with the alluring Carmen who tosses him aside for another man leading to jealous rage.

"At the Center for the Arts, we strive to offer programming that appeals to our patrons' diverse artistic tastes. Bizet's 'Carmen' is beloved by opera enthusiasts, and even those who are new to the genre are familiar with the music," said Jill Laiacona, George Mason University, Public and Media Relations Coordinator. "One of its most famous arias, 'Habanera,' has been parodied countless times, including by The Muppets and The Marx Brothers. We're thrilled that Virginia Opera chose this work as the finale for its 39th season."

"The team that Virginia Opera brings to lead 'Carmen' has produced incredible opera both on our stage and in opera houses across the world," said Russell P. Allen, president and CEO of Virginia Opera. "Audiences can expect a production of 'Carmen' that will not disappoint."



Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen."

Where and When

Virginia Opera's "Carmen" at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances are Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are Friday: \$44-\$86; Sunday: \$48-\$98. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26-SUNDAY/MARCH 30
6th Annual Used Book Sale. Hours March 26 8 a.m. – 4p.m.; March 27. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; March 28 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and March 30 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Geshur Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Over 10,000 neatly sorted gently read books will be offered for sale at prices from \$0.50 to \$2.50. On March 30, all books are \$5 a bag.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28-SATURDAY/MARCH 29
Children's Consignment Sale. Friday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. At Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Make some extra cash by selling your children's outgrown (but in good condition) clothes, equipment/toys, and maternity wear while helping other parents outfit their growing children. Sellers receive 60% of the sales price (seller determined) and the UMW receives 40% to support Local and National charities. Become a seller, call 703-971-7957 or email CUMC.UMW.CGS@gmail.com by March 23.

First Robotics Competition Greater D.C. Regional. 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Patriot Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Student-built remote controlled robots face off in a two-day tournament at GMU's Patriot Center. Winners qualify for World Robotics Championship. www.dc-first.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 29
Signature English Tea. 2 - 4 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton, VA, at corner of U.S. 1 & Telegraph Road, Lorton. Colonial Living History Program, 18th century music by flautist and harpsichordist. Silent auction. Golden Dove Gift Shop open noon-1:45 p.m. Docent-led tours of church begin 1 p.m. Cost \$40.00 for adults, \$25.00 for children age 12 and under. 703-497-5927 or helenandjeffp@verizon.net.
Spring Bazaar. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Come shop from outstanding local artists and artisans, crafters, vintage & collectible dealers and consultants representing a wide variety of products. Our youth will be having a car wash! Homemade bake goods will be featured. www.sydenstrickerumc.org
Indoor Yard Sale. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Independence Day Celebration Committee will host a yard sale and seeks donated items. These items will be accepted for the



Get ready, the circus is coming to town! Join in on the fun with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey as they present Built to Amaze Circus, beginning April 9 at George Mason University's Patriot Center.

yard sale from 4-8 p.m. March 28 in the Green Acres Center cafeteria: children's clothes, toys, bikes, computers, furniture and household linens. Please, no adult-size clothing or cloth covered sofas. Proceeds will benefit the city's 2014 Independence Day celebration to be held July 4. For information, call 703-385-7949.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30
Jeffrey Siegel, "The Romantic Music of Chopin." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The acclaimed pianist performs Chopin's compositions as part of his Keyboard Conversations series. \$19-38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on March 18. cfa.gmu.edu.
"The Adventures of Pinocchio's Sister." 2 p.m., at 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, Stacy Sherwood Center. This rousing Education Show by Glenn Winters follows the journey of Pinocchio's sister as she meets many madcap opera characters who teach her about opera, singing, language and culture. 866.673.7282 or WWW.VAOPERA.ORG
Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival. 8900 Little River Turnpike Fairfax, The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Eleven contemporary Jewish-themed and/or Israeli-made feature films will provide the heart, history, humor and hope. www.jccnvarts.org.

SATURDAY/ APRIL 5
In the Name of Love: A Jazz Poetry Slam. 7-10 p.m., 10125

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

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/MARCH 29
Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or for more info. visit hart90.org

SUNDAY/MARCH 30
Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (41st District - Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Springfield) will hold March office hours at Saxbys Coffee (10637 Braddock Rd, Fairfax), 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. No appointment necessary. Please drop by.



CONTRIBUTOR

SATURDAY/ APRIL 5
Dog Adoption. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Fairfax. Homeless Animals Rescue Team hosts this dog adoption event at PETCO. 703-817-9444 or hart90.org

ONGOING
Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern

Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core

Bailey Presents Built to Amaze Circus. GMU Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15-\$30. For more information and showtimings visit, www.ticketmaster.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27
Jeffrey Siegel, "Mistresses and Masterpieces." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The pianist performs music inspired by composers' major love interests. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on April 15. cfa.gmu.edu.
Young Artists Musicales. 6 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts lobby, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Piano students and winners of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Honors Recitals perform short pieces. Free admission. cfa.gmu.edu.

ONGOING

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. www.smartmarkets.org.

First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild. 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or www.artguildofclifton.org/.

Saturday Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com.

Sunday Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com.

Fairfax Mosaic Wednesday Night Freshbikes Rides. 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Weekly bike rides leave from the Fairfax Mosaic rides the newest addition to the Freshbikes family of stores in the area. www.freshbikescycling.com.
Join Jewish War Veterans of the USA. The Burke Post E 100 5712 Walnut Wood, Burke, invites Jewish veterans and service members to join. 703-209-5925.

muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.
American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.
Dementia Care Givers Support Groups. Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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Invitation

For parents whose children are entering Kindergarten for the 2014/15 School Year

Kiddie Country Developmental Learning Center, 9601 Old Keene Mill Road, will be presenting an overview to assist those parents who are seeking a high quality educational kindergarten experience for their child(ren) on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

This presentation will be conducted by Karen Duffy, Curriculum Specialist, and Tricia Daniels, Virginia Licensed Kindergarten teacher. Together Ms. Duffy and Ms. Daniels have a total of forty-four years of teaching experience between them and are eager to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

Kiddie Country's Kindergarten program is highly recognized for its advanced curriculum and outstanding students who meet with great success in first grade and beyond. Come join us for a relaxed session that will fully describe the many outstanding attributes of this highly acclaimed curriculum and the reasons why Kiddie Country's Kindergarten is a "best choice" placement for your child.

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FAITH

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Mothers and daughters, come together to enjoy Bingo, crafts, games, refreshments and more. Bring your favorite teacup and wear your best tea party hat for special contest categories. The cost is \$25/couple with an extra \$5 for each additional sibling.

The Tea is Saturday, April 5, from 2-4 p.m. at Burke United Methodist Church. There will also be a silent auction with a portion of the proceeds to benefit SHARE - Share Her Annual Real Expenses - a Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital program that provides funding for Girl Scout campsites, leader training and financial aid.

For reservations contact Sandy Latta at 703-495-0063 or

slatta@fourthwave.com. Reservations close March 29.

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America, sponsored by the Cancer Support Team, Ministry of Greater Little Baptist Church, Fairfax, will present "Restore: The Journey Toward Self Forgiveness & Physical Health" on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. This is a free event. To RSVP, call the church at 703-764-9111 or email Cancer Support Team Ministry at cstm@glzbc.org

The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Michael Barry author of the Forgiveness Project and Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer

Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, Pa.

The Effects of Mass Incarceration: A Public Forum on Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2 - 4 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Drive, Burke. The panelists include state Sen. Dave Marsden, the Sentencing Project's Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Fairfax's Deputy County Executive David Rohrer. They will engage these concerns: the United States has more people in jail than any

SEE FAITH, PAGE 11

GMUParenting Mindfully Study

Are you the parent of a teenager? Are you feeling stressed out? We are looking for parents of 12-16 year olds for a study of a mindfulness program to reduce parent stress. If you enroll, you will be eligible to receive a FREE 8 week mindfulness course specially designed for parents of teenagers.

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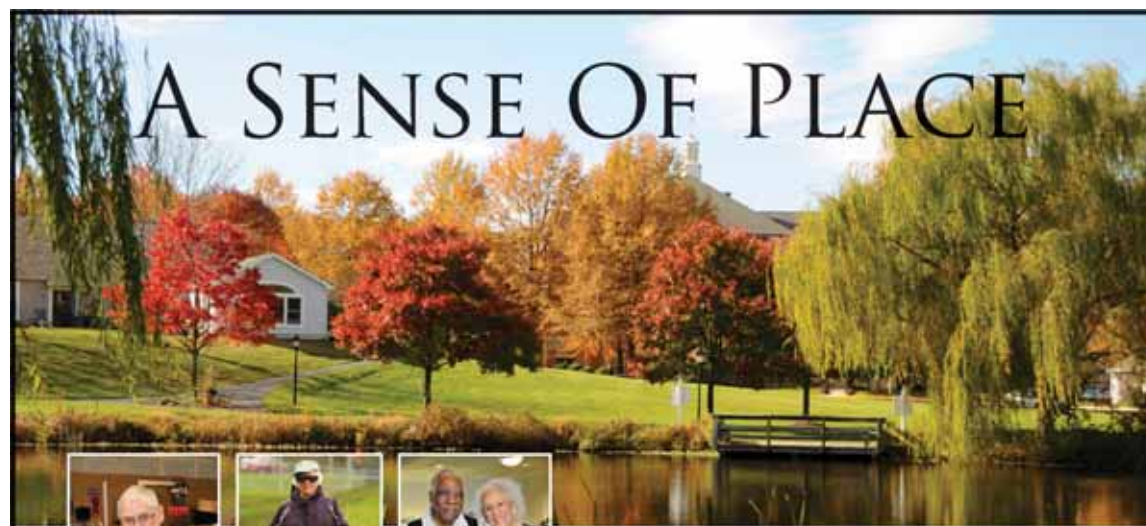
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FAITH

FROM PAGE 11

nation in the history of the world. Unintended consequences of this Mass Incarceration are especially devastating to poor communities of color. Young African-American Men are more likely to go to jail than to college. Many drug offenders are discriminated against in housing, voting and education after they have served their sentences. How do we minimize the human costs of the Drug War and Mass Incarceration and fix this crisis? For more info got to www.acotinkuuc.org - or call 703-503-4579 and ask for Reverend Scott Sammler-Michael

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind,

overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

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East All-Stars Beat West in Suburban Classic

West Springfield's Berglund wins 3-point shootout.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic started with a 3-point shootout — the perfect competition for West Springfield senior Amy Berglund to show off her sharpshooting skills.

After posting the top score of the first round (19), Berglund won the event with a score of 9 in the finals, beating McLean's Cami Prock, Centreville's Jenna Green and Osbourn's Bailey Dufrene.

Berglund, who scored more than 1,000 points in her high school career, knocked down countless 3-pointers in her four years as a Spartan, but she said performing in front of a small crowd in a quiet Oakton High School gym was more nerve-wracking than playing in a big game.

"My heart was racing, I don't know why," Berglund said. "I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]. My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

Berglund's 3-point shootout title preceded the afternoon's main event: the East-West all-star game. Berglund, who plans to play for University of Northwestern St. Paul next season, scored 10 points and helped the East all-stars beat the West 78-64 on March 23.

THE SUBURBAN CLASSIC featured some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. The Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association sponsored the event and helped raise scholarship money for athletes.

The East all-stars, coached by Edison's Dianne Lewis, led the West squad, coached by Madison's Kirsten Stone, by as many as 22 points in the second half.

Prock finished with 12 points for the East and earned team MVP honors. Prock "took a couple emotional days off" following McLean's season-ending loss to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24. Following her decompression session, Prock returned to the gym to work on her game. While her time with the McLean girls' basketball team was over, Prock's hard work paid off a month down the road with a strong performance in the Suburban Classic.

The East all-stars led 34-30 late in the second quarter. Prock helped the East pull away, though, scoring six points in the final 90 seconds of the first half as the team built a 41-30 halftime advantage.

Prock agreed that the environment was a combination of competitiveness and enjoyment.

"It was definitely a great mixture of both," she said. "I know when I'm competing and having fun at the same time, it's a great feeling."



West Springfield senior and East all-star Amy Berglund won the 3-point shootout at the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School and scored 10 points during the main event.



Lake Braddock senior Caitlyn Mandela scored four points for the East all-stars during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School.

Prock will attend the College of William & Mary next year and is debating whether to attempt to join the university's basketball team as a walk on.

South Lakes guard Caitlin Jensen, a member of the West all-stars, was another athlete who didn't take long to return to the gym after her high school season had ended. Jensen said she went back to work the following day after the Seahawks lost to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

On Sunday, Jensen led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

"I've been working really hard since the season ended," Jensen said. "It's a great feel-

ing."

Jensen will continue her basketball career next season at the University of Mary Washington. On this afternoon, she got to play once again with South Lakes teammate Abby Rendle, and with girls she had competed against during her high school career.

"It was a good experience," Jensen said. "It was nice because I've played against these people forever and now playing on the same team with [Centreville point guard] Jenna [Green] and all them, it's a new feel, but I liked it."

Madison senior Katie Kerrigan has also been working hard, but in a different sport. After the Madison girls' basketball team lost

"My heart was racing, I don't know why. I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]. My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

— West Springfield senior Amy Berglund

to Stonewall Jackson in the region semifinals on Feb. 27, Kerrigan transitioned to her primary sport of lacrosse, which she will play at Ohio State University. On Sunday, she was back on the hardwood as a member of the West all-stars.

"It was definitely a lot of fun playing with the best players in the region," Kerrigan said. "It's definitely a little hard because I haven't touched a basketball in three weeks. It was fun."

It was a great experience. I got to play with a lot of my close friends. It was a great way to end my high school career."

Kerrigan scored six points, played aggressive defense and got to play for Coach Stone one more time.

"It was fun," Stone said of coaching Kerrigan in the all-star game. "She's just a workhorse. You don't really see many of those. ... I turned to the girls on the bench and I'm like, 'I would hate for her to have to guard me.' And they were like, 'it's awful.'"

Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon/Christopher Newport) and Amber Bryson (Lee) each scored 10 points for the East all-stars. Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams) finished with nine points, while Michelle Noel (Wakefield) and Tatianna Torres (Edison) each had eight. Caitlyn Mandela (Lake Braddock) and De'Ja Jeanpierre (Mount Vernon/Barton College) each had four points for the East, and Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams) had three.

FOR THE WEST ALL-STARS, Centreville's Green finished with 13 points and earned team MVP honors. Arnette Collins (Freedom) scored 12 points and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run) had nine. Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson) and Bailey Dufrene (Osbourn) each had one point. Freedom's Nicole Lubovich also competed for the West team. Centreville's Katie Blumer was a member of the West all-stars but sat out due to injury.

Lewis, who coached Edison to its second consecutive region championship this season, said allowing players to have fun was a priority, but she takes pride in winning.

"Absolutely," she said. "I hate to lose."

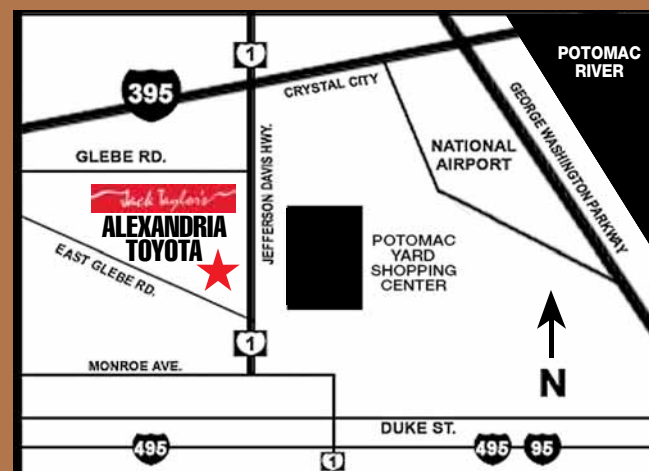
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SPORTS



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Lake Braddock senior Ashley Flesch pitched a one-hitter against Bishop O'Connell on March 22.

Lake Braddock freshman third baseman Patty Maye Ohanian made several plays to help keep pitcher Ashley Flesch's perfect game alive into the seventh inning on March 22.

Lake Braddock Softball Beats O'Connell

Bruins pitcher Flesch tosses one-hitter against Knights.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock softball team returns two all-state athletes from a 2013 group that captured the program's first district championship since 2001.

If Saturday's performance against Bishop O'Connell, one of the premier programs in the Washington, D.C.-metro area, is any indication, the Bruins have a chance to be even better in 2014.

Lake Braddock senior pitcher Ashley Flesch hurled a one-hitter and the Bruins defeated O'Connell 2-1 on March 22 in Burke.

O'Connell, a private school located in Arlington, has won the last 10 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championships, yet Flesch had a perfect game going entering the seventh inning. She hit O'Connell leadoff batter Hayley Metcalf with a 3-2 pitch, giving the Knights their first base runner of the afternoon. After retiring the next two batters, Flesch surrendered a single to O'Connell first baseman Olivia Giaquinto, ending the no-hit bid. A Lake Braddock error on the play allowed a run to score and put the tying run in scoring position for the Knights, but Flesch got O'Connell pitcher Erin Sweeney to fly out to left field to end the game.

"[Flesch] started getting tired, I think, but she held it together," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "I didn't want to switch [pitchers] in the seventh because she had a no-hitter going."

After Flesch lost her perfect game, Lake Braddock had an infield meeting near the pitcher's circle to discuss strategy. Did Flesch struggle to bounce back?

"No. I was just trying to get the win the whole time," Flesch said. "I didn't even realize that I had a perfect game until after

the fact. But, oh well. We got the win, that's all that matters."

Flesch, who earned honorable mention all-state honors as a pitcher last season, threw seven innings, allowing one hit and one unearned run. She struck out eight, walked none and hit one batter.

While O'Connell struggled to get the bats going, Lake Braddock jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when junior first baseman Amanda Hendrix, a first-team all-state selection last season, delivered an RBI double. The Bruins added what proved to be a pivotal insurance run in the bottom of the sixth, when junior center-fielder Jenna Edwards led off the inning with a single and, two batters later, sophomore left-fielder Danielle Newman drove her in with an RBI double.

Edwards finished 2-for-3. Flesch and junior second baseman Katherine Plescow each had a single.

Last season, Lake Braddock finished 19-2 and defeated six-time defending Patriot District champion South County for the Bruins' first district title in more than a decade. However, four days after beating the Stallions in the Patriot District championship game, the Bruins lost to Centreville in the opening round of the regional tournament.

Rumore said the Bruins entered regionals mentally drained after winning the district title. Flesch, a four-year varsity athlete, said Lake Braddock has a chance to be even better this year. "It was a great measuring stick for us, where we are, what we need to improve," Flesch said of beating O'Connell. "... That's a big boost for the team, mentally. ... Every year, we've gotten more and more talent and we just expect more out of each other. We're expecting to get further and further every year."

If Saturday's win is any indication, the Bruins have a shot to make that happen.

"It's a good win for us, especially under the circumstances — nobody's really been [outside]," Rumore said. "This is only our third time since tryouts started we've been out on a field, so it's nice."

Lake Braddock will travel to face South County at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28.

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