

Representing Arlington as Miss Sister City, Elizabeth Fonesca traveled to San Miguel, El Salvador, carrying goodwill and donations of books, medical equipment and other goods to the city during her year-long reign. The Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary of its first partnership was celebrated at the Arlington Arts Center on Monday, May 5.

Celebrating Sister Cities

NEWS, PAGE 4

Should Voters Consider Streetcar?

NEWS, PAGE 3

Despite Advances, Many Virginians Remain Uninsured

NEWS, PAGE 2

Synetic Presents 'Three Men in a Boat'

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

WELLBEING

PAGE 13

Despite Advances, Many Virginians Remain Uninsured

Affordable Care Act expands coverage, but more than 800,000 still have no health insurance.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Since the federal marketplace for health insurance became available through the Affordable Care Act, more than 216,000 Virginia residents have selected a plan. But that's only a small fraction of the 1,030,000 Virginians who currently don't have health insurance.

So what is the state of the uninsured in Virginia?

That's difficult to answer, partly because some key statistics are not yet known and the politics of the Affordable Care Act are still unfolding. About 400,000 of those who do not have health insurance are awaiting the conclusion of the budget showdown currently underway in Richmond, where Republicans and Democrats are split about the wisdom of accepting federal money to expand Medicaid, a program that offers health insurance to those who live in poverty or with disabilities. State officials say 470,000 of those without health insurance are eligible for the marketplace, although it's unclear how many of the 216,000 who have signed up for a marketplace plan already had insurance and were just looking for a better deal.

The most recent data from the Department of Health and Human Services suggests that 87 percent of enrollees were uninsured before signing up. But federal officials only collect information about existing coverage when the recipients qualify for a subsidy or tax credit. As a result, some say the states that run their own exchanges have better information because they ask for the information in a variety of ways, creating a balanced range of responses. By



that measure, the percentage of people who sign up for marketplace health insurance had no previous insurance about 70 percent to 75 percent of the time.

"That is still way over half of them being previously uninsured, which is a good thing by my lights," said Len Nichols, director at the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason University. "Of course, the number that would be covered who were previously uninsured would more than double that if Virginia would expand Medicaid."

ESTIMATES FROM the Census Bureau show that parts of Northern Virginia have some of the highest concentration of adults and children without health insurance. Manassas Park City, for example, has the highest concentration of uninsured adults in Virginia, 28 percent. Manassas Park City also has the third highest rate of uninsured children in Virginia, 11 percent. Meanwhile, information compiled by the Urban Institute shows that Fairfax County has 136,000 residents who lack health insurance. "If you look at the rate of people without health insurance in Fairfax County, it doesn't look that high," said Deborah Oswalt, executive director of the Virginia Health Care Foundation. "But if you look at the raw number of people without health

insurance, that's a lot of people."

Supporters of the Affordable Care Act say the law has already started making progress for the uninsured in Virginia. For example, people can no longer be denied coverage because they have a preexisting condition. And the mandate that employers offer health insurance to their workers have removed people from the rolls of the unin-

"What is happening to the uninsured in Virginia really sits in the House of Delegates. Will they agree with the Senate and the governor and accept large infusions of federal money to expand Medicaid coverage for the commonwealth or not?"

— Len Nichols, director at the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason University

sured. Plus allowing adult children to stay on their parents' plans until the age of 26 has already helped many people keep insurance they would have lost. By some estimates, without the Affordable Care Act about 1.3 million Virginians would lack health insurance.

"It's an excellent first step," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "It takes time for people to fully understand what's out there and

what's available. We're talking about people who are struggling with medical expenses and jobs and don't have lots of time."

ALTHOUGH THE NEW statistics show some progress in Virginians without insurance selecting a plan through the federal marketplace, most of the attention in recent weeks has focused on the political fight over expanding Medicaid. For the first two years, the federal government would pick up 100 percent of the cost for that program. After 2020, though, Virginia would be on the hook for providing 10 percent of the cost of the program. "That's \$240 million in today's dollars, but by 2020 that's going to be about \$400 million because of Medicaid inflation," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42). "It took me 15 years to get money for roads, and every time we had a surplus almost all of it got eaten up by Medicaid. So there's a lot of us that don't want to obligate Virginia to something we can't afford in the future."

Supporters of expanding Medicaid say Virginia can't afford turning down the deal, in part because money from taxpayers will be taken regardless of whether it's spent in the commonwealth or not. That means Virginia taxpayers will be funding Medicaid expansion in New York and California while low-income people in Virginia continue to suffer. By one estimate, that means about \$2 billion would be collected here in Virginia and diverted to help expand Medicaid in other

states.

"What is happening to the uninsured in Virginia really sits in the House of Delegates," said Nichols. "Will they agree with the Senate and the governor and accept large infusions of federal money to expand Medicaid coverage for the commonwealth or not? At the moment, the choice and fate of the uninsured is up to them. At some point, again, it will be up to the voters."

Feeling Repercussions of Winter

Schedule adjustments for Northern Virginia public school students.

BY SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
THE CONNECTION

This winter, thousands of area students were given more days off than expected.

Day after day, parents, students and faculty received notice that school had yet again been cancelled due to the heavy snow and cold weather, which forced students and faculty to watch one of the coldest and heaviest winters since the 2010 Snowmagedden from home.

But even though all of the snow has melted and summer is right around the corner, public schools across the region are still feeling the repercussions of winter.

"My kids had a great year despite Mother Nature's better efforts," said Jessica Wehrman, a mother of two Maury Elementary School students in Alexandria.

To meet the state's 180 days, or 990 hours of mandatory education instruction, schools across Northern Virginia and Maryland had to come up with plans to make up for the

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 6



School buses park outside of Arlington's Key Elementary School.

PHOTO BY SYDNEY KASHIWAGI/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Animal Instinct

Democrats in hotly contested primary
divided on approach to animal rights.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Candidates in the Democratic primary for Congress have a wide range of views on animal rights, an issue that has become one of the legacies of retiring U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). During his years in office, Moran has worked to require detailed labeling of fur garments and ban the sale of “animal crush videos.” He’s also supported efforts to improve animal care standards on farms and worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enforcement of humane slaughter requirements. Now that he’s stepping down, though, advocates for animal rights may be losing one of their key supporters.

“To a certain degree, I imagine that most candidates running for office want to be their own person,” said Geoff Skelley, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “But I think you could probably put animal rights supporters who make that a priority issue in the same wing of the party as environmentalists, and so this is not the kind of issue candidates can ignore.”

WHEN ASKED about his position on animal rights, former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer said he was a fan of the 1975 book “Animal Liberation” by Australian philosopher Peter Singer, which argues against discrimination based on species. Since launching his campaign for Congress, Beyer has called on supporters to join a petition started by U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its plan to weaken Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves.

“I continue to be strongly concerned about animal testing, especially as you move up the chain with dogs and cats and rabbits. It’s just not right to put them through pain and torture just for human testing,” said Beyer. “And I’ve already promised Jim Moran that if I win, I will join the animal



All 10 candidates for the Democratic primary to replace longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) gather at George Mason School of Public Policy in Arlington this week.

rights caucus.”

WHEN ASKED ABOUT animal rights, several candidates were not so sure whether they would join the caucus or not. Former Urban League of Northern Virginia president Lavern Chatman said she would ask for Moran about advice as to which caucuses she would join other than the Congressional Black Caucus. Alexandria Planning Commissioner Derek Hyra said he had no plans to join the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus. “I probably would set my sights on other issues,” said Hyra. “I would absolutely support a caucus like that. I don’t know if I would necessarily be the best candidate to join that caucus.”

Several candidates said they were proud that Moran had developed such a strong portfolio on the issue, and they hoped to continue his work although they didn’t have any plans to pursue specific legislation. Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), for example, said she admires Moran’s recent efforts to limit the use of exotic circus animals. But she said she had no specific agenda on animal rights at this point in the campaign. Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille said he supports Moran’s efforts, although it’s not an issue he’s focused on. State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

said he wants to continue Moran’s existing legislative agenda on animal rights.

“I’ve talked with Jim about the need to preserve the gray wolf and his work on labeling fur,” said Ebbin. “But one of the things that we’ve got to do is follow through on Jim’s legislation to make sure that chickens, when they are processed, are not boiled alive, which is not just a animal rights issue but is also a health issue.”

TWO OF THE CANDIDATES pledged that if elected they would go after puppy mills, commercial dog breeding operations, that have been strongly criticized by animal rights supporters. That could be significant in the next Congress, when legislators might consider proposed regulations allowing puppy mills to sell dogs over the Internet.

“I’d like to shut the puppy mills down, frankly,” said Hope. “A bill that’s passed in a couple of states is devocalization of cats and dogs. I’d like to ban that practice outright.”

During last year’s campaign, Mark Levine said he wrote an op-ed criticizing attorney general candidate Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) for his stand against regulating or banning puppy mills. If elected, he said, he

would crack down on the industry.

“I wrote an article that said if you hate puppies, here’s your candidate,” said Levine. “They put them in cages, like, one on top of another, which is awful.”

LAST WEEKEND, animal rights supporters rallied at the Capitol against breed-specific legislation targeting. For example, Prince George’s County bans residents from owning pit bulls. Many animal rights advocates say breed specific laws are difficult to enforce and that no evidence exists to prove that they make communities any safer. When asked about breed-specific legislation, only one candidate — former Navy pilot Bruce Shuttleworth — said he opposed efforts to target pit bulls.

“Some of the nicest dogs I’ve ever met have been pit bulls,” said Shuttleworth. “If a pit bull becomes less nice, it’s probably because of the environment, and there’s no reason we should be prejudiced against any animal breed.”

One candidate said he supports breed-specific legislation.

“I think pit bulls are cruel,” said businessman Satish Korpe. “They are a danger to society many times if they are not controlled.”

Should Voters Be Asked To Consider Streetcar?

Two candidates propose referendum, but path to ballot remains unclear.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Should voters consider the fate of the controversial \$310 million streetcar on Columbia Pike?

That’s what two candidates are proposing, although the path from their idea to the ballot box remains unclear, and the idea has resistance among people who support the initiative. The debate comes at a time when County Manager Barbara Donnellan prepares to propose her capital improvement program for fiscal years 2015 to 2024, a 10-year spending plan that will include the first major round of funding for the Columbia Pike Streetcar.

“This issue has clearly divided the Arlington community,” said Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), one of 10 Democrats in a primary for Congress. “It’s time to move forward and have a public referendum to settle this issue.”

Last week, Hope and Democrat Alan Howze outlined a proposal for voters to consider the issue. The proposal follows a special election in which Howze supported the streetcar initiative in a special election and lost to independent candidate John Vihstadt, a former Republican who campaigned against the proposal. Vihstadt’s victory follows the 2012 special election in which Democrat Libby Garvey won after expressing her opposition to the proposal.

“I am pleased to see that Alan Howze now agrees that Arlington taxpayers should have a voice regarding the County Board’s misguided proposal to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to install streetcars in Arlington,” said Vihstadt. “I regret that Mr. Howze still believes that streetcars are a good investment for Arlington.”

THE PROPOSAL might now amount to nothing more than a talking point, though, because the path from idea to referendum remains unclear. One potential way for the item to be presented to voters would be for the County Board to approve a general bond referendum, essentially asking voters to approve borrowing money to finance the initiative. The problem with that is that the current capital improvement program includes language about funding the street-

car using the commercial real estate tax. That means having voters consider a bond referendum would involve a change in the strategy of financing, one that streetcar supporters oppose because they say it would put the intuitive in competition with money that could be used for education or other county priorities.

“The reason why the streetcar has not been built yet is because we have been looking for alternative funding,” said John Snyder, chairman of Streetcar Now. “And now you’re saying, no I’ve got to go back to traditional funding, which everyone has already decided we are not going to use, and pretend that we are going to use it so that everyone can go vote against it.”

SEE SHOULD VOTERS, PAGE 5



Jacqueline Laporte and Katy Wheelock represent Arlington's sister city relationship with Reims, France, during a 20th anniversary party for the Arlington Sister City Association Monday night at the Arlington Arts Center.



Heidi Addison is the exchange coordinator for elementary school students who participate in the Arlington Sister City's program with Aachen, Germany.



Representing the partnership with Coyoacan, Mexico, Rebecca Canto was one of many participants in the Arlington Sister City Association's celebration Monday night commemorating the organization's 20th anniversary and the launch of a new oral history project.

Three Cheers to 20 Years

People filled the Arlington Arts Center Monday evening, May 5, to mark the Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary of its first partnership, with Aachen, Germany. But that wasn't the only reason for the party: ASCA also used the occasion to publicly launch an oral history project, tracing the history of the organization and its possible role for the future of Arlington and the five international communities it has befriended: Aachen; Coyoacan, Mexico; Reims, France; San Miguel, El Salvador; and Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.



The Arlington Sister City Association's newest partnership is with Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine. Steve Hodskin and Mark Smishaewych offered visitors to the Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary celebration a sample of one of the country's liqueurs.



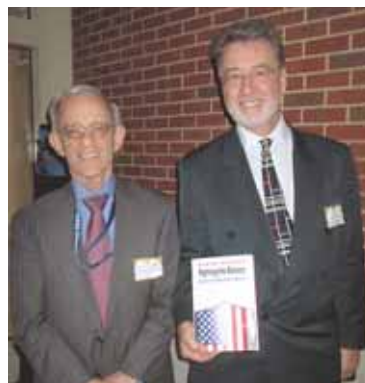
Scattered throughout the Arlington Arts Center Monday evening were samples of the oral histories collected by the Arlington Sister City Association, including this remembrance by County Board member Walter Tejada.



A collection of foods representing the five sister cities that have partnerships with Arlington spread over the tables at the Arlington Arts Center Monday night, for the organization's 20th anniversary party and the launch of a new oral history project.



Jennifer Wright, left, and Daphne Lathouras welcome guests to the Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary celebration Monday night at the Arlington Arts Center.



Daniel Serwer, author of "Righting the Balance: How You Can Protect America," former diplomat and professor at Johns Hopkins University, was one of the speakers to address the Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary celebration Monday night at the Arlington Arts Center. He is joined here by Carl Lankowski, a member of the committee that orchestrated the event.



Enjoying the festivities in commemoration of the Arlington Sister City Association's 20th anniversary and the launch of a new oral history project are, from left, Liza Hodskin, aid to the chair of the Arlington County Board; Counselor Stanislav Yezhov from the Embassy of Ukraine; Andrew Tsintsiruk, a representative of Arlington Sister City Association's partnership with Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, and former County Board member Chris Zimmerman.

PHOTOS BY AMBER HEAVY/THE CONNECTION

Should Voters Consider Streetcar?

FROM PAGE 3

The other way the streetcar system could be considered by voters is an advisory ballot. But that would require an act of the General Assembly, which would need to approve giving Arlington the ability to have county voters consider the issue. Then the County Board would need a majority of members to approve putting the item on the ballot. Howze said he would like to see County Board members consider putting the issue before voters, which he said would be a way to lend some credibility to a process that's been tarnished by the results of two consecutive special elections.

"I heard the concerns expressed by voters in the recent special election, and we can put the streetcar debate to rest and ensure public confidence by allowing a referendum vote," said Howze. "As we have done with Metro, schools, the Water Pollution Control plant and other important community investments, we should give voters the final decision through a public referendum vote."

THE CURRENT capital improvement program was approved two years ago, when county officials planned to raise about \$70 million from the commercial real estate tax. But that was when county officials estimated that the project would cost \$250 million, about \$60 million of which would come from the federal government. Since that time, the Federal Transit Administration has concluded that the project is likely to cost \$310 million and federal officials declined to fund it under the Small Starts program.

"What's been missing from this discussion is where the money would come from," said Peter Rousselot,

Two Ways to Get on the Ballot

❖ **Borrowing Money:** One way for the streetcar initiative to be before voters is for the County Board to approve a general obligation bond to finance part of the \$310 million project. That would require a change in the funding plan, though, because the current capital improvement plan includes language about financing the project through revenue obligation bonds, which do not require the approval of voters.

❖ **Advisory Ballot:** Another way for the streetcar to be before voters is for the County Board to approve an advisory ballot. This would first require the General Assembly to allow Arlington to put it on the ballot, which means the earliest it could happen would be next year. After receiving permission from legislators, members of the County Board would need to approve that the issue appears on the ballot.

founder of Arlingtonians for Sensible Transit. "They've never settled on where the money is coming from to pay for this."

That's why many people — supporters and opponents — are eagerly anticipating the county manager's proposed capital improvement plan, which she is expected to deliver May 13. That will open the door to an extended debate about a number of funding proposals, although the \$310 streetcar initiative will be one of the hottest debates this summer. A final vote is scheduled for July 24. Garvey and Vihstadt have already called for the capital improvement program to avoid including any financing for the streetcar initiative.

"If the board wants to have a referendum on the streetcar, it seems to me that we could find a way to do it," said Garvey. "But my preference is I would like to see the board come to its senses and decide we're not going to do this."



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Connect With a Child

To the Editor:

As we read recent news stories on children suffering through neglect, a local coach charged with sexual abuse, and families struggling to find services and shelter, we couldn't help but wonder—was there someone in each child's life who could have been a positive connection and made a difference?

LETTER The truth of what we work for and promote at SCAN is that the simple, everyday interactions with kids do make a difference in their health, safety and happiness. That's why we launched our new community education campaign, Kids Need Connections, during National Child Abuse Awareness Month in April.

As teen advocate Josh Shipp says, "Every kid is one caring adult away from becoming a success story." We couldn't agree more. We know positive adult-child connections are critical to keep children safe.

We know that when a child feels loved and supported by multiple adults, they learn to value themselves and feel empowered to succeed.

So as the buzz dies down from April, we're challenging community members: How will you be a connection for a child?

We encourage you to take on this responsibility. That is how prevention works and families thrive. Here's what you can do:

- ❖ Schedule special time to catch up with your own child or a child in your community. Take a walk, toss a ball or eat a meal together.
- ❖ Take notice when a child or family is struggling. Smile and praise the child or parent—acknowledge that parenting is a tough but re-



New Partnership

Encore Stage & Studio has partnered with the Nauck Community Services Center of the Bonder & Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation. The partnership provides students of the NCSC SOL tutoring program and other Nauck residents scholarships to participate in Encore Stage & Studio's educational programs in Shirlington. Encore's educational programs include holiday mini-camps, spring break camp and summer camps to explore theatre arts.

warding job.

- ❖ Create opportunities in your community for families to build new connections in safe, supportive environments.
- ❖ Connect with kids by volunteering.

We have additional ideas on our website. Visit www.scanva.org/kidsneedconnections to learn more, or consider joining us for SCAN's

upcoming Volunteer Orientation on May 22.

Thanks to every community member who made April such a success. Now the real work begins.

Sonia Quinonez

Executive Director
SCAN of Northern Virginia

Students Feel Repercussions of Winter

FROM PAGE 2

days they missed during the heavy snow.

Alexandria City public school students missed 10 days of school this year because of the winter weather. Since ACPS has 183 days of school, which include built-in make-up days, ACPS was able to meet the state requirement by using those built in make-up days and adding minutes to its middle schools in order to finish the school year according to schedule. But had any more days been missed, ACPS would have needed to make up another day into summer.

Wehrman says that she was relieved to find out that her children did not have to stay in school longer than they needed. "You start making summer plans around January or February," said Wehrman. "That's when summer camps start registration, and camps have varying refund policies."

Arlington was one of the few public school jurisdictions that did not have to add on any full make up days at all. This year, APS students missed only nine days of school, and therefore were able to instead turn their early release days into full days of school to meet

the state's 990 hours of mandatory instruction. "It's great that we didn't have to make up so many hours," said Ida Olkkonen, a mother of two at Arlington's Key Elementary School.

But other public school jurisdictions like Fairfax, were less fortunate this winter. Fairfax students stayed home for 11 days, and had to add on five make-up days this year, which has taken away five days from summer.

FCPS Public Information Officer John Torre says that after March 17, which was the final day that school was cancelled, every possibil-

"You start making summer plans around January or February. That's when summer camps start registration, and camps have varying refund policies."

— Jessica Wehrman, mother of two
Maury Elementary School students in Alexandria

ity was explored before they were forced to add on another day into summer.

Virginia public schools have the option of filing an appeal waiver to the state's department of education to try to avoid extra make-up days, but although FCPS' considered re-

questing for a waiver, the VDOE said that FCPS would not be given one.

June 25 is now the last day of class for Fairfax students, an extension that parents like Nishta Gupta, an Edison High School mother of two, thinks is unnecessary.

"They should have more days built into the schedule," said Gupta, who is thankful that she and her family did not have any travel plans this year. "It's not a good idea to make them up."

Montgomery County was another public school jurisdiction that had to make up days to account for the 10 days of school that were lost during the winter.

"Every week it was storm, after storm, after storm, so we had to find some way to make up some of those instructional days that were lost if we did not receive a waiver," said Gboyinde Onijala, a MCPS spokeswoman.

But in April, Maryland's state superintendent granted MCPS a waiver that allowed them to go four days less than the mandatory days of instructions if MCPS held just two make up days.

The last day of school for MCPS will now be a half-day of instruction on June 13.

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ME & MY MOM



SUBMITTED BY MIKE GREEN

Calliope Willis (I'm the little one) with my mom, Heather Willis, with her mom, Dot Green, with her mom, Catherine Stilmar, enjoying a Fall day in Arlington.



My Mom and Dad — Sudarshan Goel and Vinod Goel — both provided me with love, care and education as both of them are professors. My mom teaches at Foreign Service Institute of the U.S. Department of State. Now they both live in Arlington. The boy on my Mom's back is me, Vivek Goel, now a successful attorney in Virginia.

PHOTO BY
VINOD GOEL

Dranesville District Democratic Committee, Providence District Democratic Committee and Fairfax County Young Democrats Invite Members of the Public to a **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FORUM & STRAW POLL**

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ENTERTAINMENT

Synetic Theater is staging "Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)," starring Tim Getman, Rob Jansen, Tom Story and Alex Mills, through June 8.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JOHNNY SHRYOCK

Synetic Presents 'Three Men'

Based on an 1889 book, the story is a holiday romp through the English countryside.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Synetic Theater is concluding its 2013-14 season with a new adaptation of "Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)" May 8 through June 8 in Crystal City.

The production features D.C. theater stars Tim Getman, Rob Jansen and Tom Story making their Synetic Theater debuts and Synetic company member Alex Mills who was most recently seen as the title character in "Hamlet ...the rest is silence."

First published in 1889 by author Jerome K. Jerome, "Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)" is the story of a boating holiday through the English countryside. The travelogue up the Thames River tells the story of three men suffering from a severe case of "overwork" who get into one satirically hilarious predicament after another along the way. This classic comedy is known around the world but is still unfamiliar to American audiences.

"It's one of the funniest books ever written, but it speaks to our yearning and our longing for something deeper in the world that connects to our deeper self," said director Derek Goldman. "It's about these gentlemen's desires to get away from it all."

Goldman said the project offers many opportunities for physical humor and high jinks. He said that fusing the play with Synetic's unique style allowed them to be bolder with the production. "It stretches everybody on both sides," he added.

With actor Alex Mills playing Montmorency (the terrier), Goldman said that the choreography is part of the physical expression of the language. "It's more of a form of telling the story," he said. "And it's very funny." He added, "That's the language of choreography — it's using all of these expressive elements of theater."

Mills said Montmorency is the owned dog of Jerome, but very much a shared dog between the characters in terms of affection and appreciation, and also an entity unto himself.

"There is a large amount of text, so my challenge was how to bring an animal to life in a way that stays true to the world of spoken language and com-

bines that with the reality of a dog," he said. "It's developing and I'm finding a unique vocabulary of barking with inflection and movement that, hopefully, makes sense."

Added Mills, "The play is all about friendship and the dynamics you have with specific people in your life whom you don't get along with all the time but come to find that you need them and love them. We all have our quirks and that's why friends become friends and why certain dynamics create a sense of family."

Tim Getman plays George, who he describes as a bit of a bon vivant who may be a bit too confident for his own good. His adventure in camping and boating turn out to be harder than he fantasizes it to be.

He said the challenge was the play's physical world in conjunction with choreographer Irina Tsikurishvili's vision and Synetic's high expectation and specificity. "The challenges that that has brought into this process is great but also hard both for brain and body," he said.

He calls "Three Men in a Boat" a timeless story about friendship — of getting away from the hustle and bustle and remembering what you value and appreciate when you're away from it."

Rob Jansen, who plays Harris, describes his character as someone who likes to make lists of the places he plans to see before a trip and then delights in checking them off along the way. While he attempts to bottle up his emotions and is described by author Jerome as one who "never weeps," his humor comes from watching as his emotions get the best of him.

He said a challenge was balancing the language-based humor with the physical comedy. "Both take a great amount of time and specificity to discover in a process," he said.

"I hope audiences leave with a sense of having been another traveler on the boat with us," he said. "That they feel a part of the journey between these three men (to say nothing of their dog) along the Thames and are maybe a little better off from joining us along the way."

"Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog)" opens Thursday, May 8 and runs Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through June 8. Tickets start at \$35. Student tickets start at \$15. Senior citizens and military receive \$5 off. Group discounts are available. The venue is at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Parking is free after 4 p.m. on weekdays, free all day on weekends. Call the box office at 866-811-4111 or visit www.synetictheater.org.

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

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

Derby Registration. Register for the Phoenix Derby, a garage race and fundraiser on Saturday, May 17 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.

Theater. Through May 18, "Tango Turco" (Turkish Tango), a play by Rafael Bruza, runs at Gunston Arts Center, Theater Two, 2700 S. Lang St. In Spanish with English surtitles. Post-performance discussions Fridays. Childcare available Sundays with advance notice, \$10 per child. 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Prices vary: \$15 all Thursdays, \$30 students/seniors and \$35 general admission Fridays and Saturdays; \$25 all Sundays. Visit www.teatrodelaluna.org, www.ticketplace.org or www.goldstar.com.

Art Exhibit. Through May 31 at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. "Mayhem" is a juried exhibit. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact info@galleryunderground.org or 571-483-0652, or visit www.galleryunderground.org.

"The Threepenny Opera." Running through June 1 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. The MAX Theatre transforms into London's gritty underworld in this reimagined futuristic dystopia for "The Threepenny Opera," an adaptation of John Gay's 1728 ballad-opera The Beggar's Opera, a satirical commentary on politics, poverty, injustice and corruption at all levels of society. Visit signature-theatre.org or call 703-820-9771.

Theater. Through June 8, Synetic Theater presents a new adaptation of Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat (To say nothing of the dog)," May 8-June 8 at 1800 S. Bell St., Arlington. Tickets \$35+. Wednesday, May 14 is young professionals night with ticket discount and pre-show reception; during the Sunday, May 18 performance childcare is provided at Synetic Studio for \$5. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.synetictheater.org.

Book Event. Through June 15 at Works in Progress Gallery at the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Artist and illustrator Kate Samworth, will present work from her first illustrated book "Aviary Wonders Inc."

Photo Exhibit. Through July 7, see "America's First Green Space: Central Park, New York City — Photographs by Steve Rosenbach." At Cherrydale Library, 2190 Military Road. Free. Call 703-228-6330.

Visual Art and Sound. Through Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Fermata, a celebration of sound, mixes visual art and sound. Special events throughout exhibit. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Yappy Hour. Fridays through Aug. 29, 6-8 p.m. at the Le Meridien, 1121 N 19th St. Le Meridien hotel, along with the Rosslyn BID, is hosting a

Yappy Hour on the terrace outside of Amuse. Amuse will be serving specialty cocktails and appetizers for pet owners as well as a few treats for four legged friends. Free. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/yappy-hour#sthash.tuQQKjco.dpuf.

Historic Home Tours at the Ball-Sellers House, 5620 S. 3rd St. The oldest surviving house in Arlington County opens for the season with free tours and refreshments. The house is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays April through October. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Storytime. Mondays and Fridays, 10:30-11:00 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Voice Acting. Arlington Public Schools, in conjunction with Voice Coaches, will present Getting Paid To Talk, an introduction to the world of voice overs on Monday, May 12 and Monday, June 23, at Washington Lee 2013, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Attendees will record a mock commercial. \$55 for Arlington residents. Enrollment limited, registration required. Call 703-228-7200. Visit <http://registration.arlingtonadulthood.org/ShowSchedule.awp>.

Theatre Classes. Encore Stage & Studio is holding classes and mini camps for children in grades K-8 at on Saturdays at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road and Tuesdays and Wednesdays after-school at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Visit www.encorestageva.org for a list of classes.

Summer Art Camps. Summer camps for children and teens meet daily in several sessions throughout the summer at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Classes range from portfolio development to drawing, acrylic painting, and contemporary landscapes with oil paint. Members receive 10-15 percent off class tuition. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org/aacsummercamps. Original art classes for all ages and all skill levels are offered year-round.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/MAY 8

Food Web. 1-2 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. For 3-6 years, #632814-T. \$5 per child. Call 703-228-4747 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Indulge for Mothers. 5-8 p.m. at The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City, ground level, 1100 S. Hayes St. Style consultations, beauty services, entertainment, refreshments and giveaways. Visit www.simon.com/mall/the-fashion-centre-at-pentagon-city.

Author Reading. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Toby Devens with her debut novel "Happy Any Day Now." Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Celebration of Sound Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. in the Upper Town Hall and Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Exhibit runs April 24-Aug. 10. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

FRIDAY/MAY 9

Daytime Book Club. 11 a.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Survival Skills: Edible Plants. 4:15-5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Hands-on class teaches traditional survival skills. Learn which plants are good to eat. For ages 8-12, program #632924-F. \$7. Call 703-228-6535 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

Charity Walk. 9:30 a.m. at Bluemont Park, 601 N. Manchester St. Gather your neighbors and create a "pack" to walk in the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's 19th Annual Walk for the Animals. Visit www.awla.org.

Celebration. 11 a.m.-2p.m., at Everest College in Tysons Corner, 8620 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. A Taste of Asia, celebrates Asian-Pacific

American Heritage Month. Free. Call 571-633-9754, 703-304-8631.

Artists Talk. 1-4 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3500 Wilson Blvd. Gallery talk with the seven artists of the 2014 Spring SOLOS. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

Welcome Hummingbirds. 2-3:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. The whole family will learn with hands-on activities and games, including making a hummingbird feeder. For families; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Program #632854-G. \$5. Call 703-228-3403 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Astronomy Quest. 6-10 p.m. Meet at Lubber Run Center parking lot, 300 N. Park Drive. Travel to the darker skies of the Shenandoah Mountains to celebrate Astronomy Day. Astronomy enthusiasts and experts share their knowledge and telescopes with the public. For adults and families with children ages 13 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Program #632844-F. \$20. Call 703-228-3403 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Foraging Fawns Campfire. 7-8 p.m. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Roast marshmallows and learn about spring fawns. For families. Register children and adults; children must register with an accompanying adult. Program #632854-D. \$5. Call 703-228-3403 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

American Classics Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Artisphere's Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The National Chamber Ensemble plays classical, jazz and more, featuring pianist Burnett Thompson. Reception follows. \$30 adults, \$15 students. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 888-841-2787.

Guitar Performance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Dome Theatre at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Guitarist and composer Kaki King presents a visual and live music performance where the guitar is used as a projection screen. \$18 in

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Neighborhood Day is Saturday, May 17!



As a Neighborhood Day kick-off event, join Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall for their **Twilight Tattoo event on Wednesday, May 14 at 6:45 p.m. at Summerall Field!**

Neighborhood Day events happening May 17/18:

Family Fun Day at Alcova Heights Park * Fairlington

Day at Fairlington Community Center Grounds

Turtle Trot 5K at Lower Bluemont Park * Nauck

Neighborhood Clean-Up * Truck Day at Central

Library * High View Park/Waverly Hills/Cherrydale

Walkabout * Taste of Arlington



For a complete list of events, visit parks.arlingtonva.us, search "Neighborhood Day"



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

advance, \$22 day of. Part of Celebration of Sound exhibit, through Aug. 10. Visit artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

SUNDAY/MAY 11

Invasive Plants Removal. 2-4:30 p.m. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Work parties are held the second Sunday every month to keep the park free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Free, no registration required. Call 703-228-3403 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

MONDAY/MAY 12

Film Screening and Discussion. 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 Quincy St. Film “Gay Pioneers,” a tribute to civil rights activist Lilli Vincenz, followed by a panel discussion with local activists. Open to the public. Sponsored by Encore Learning and the Arlington Public Library; call 703-228-2144.

TUESDAY/MAY 13

Turtles Storytime. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Listen to stories all about the turtle. For ages 2-10. Program #632924-C. Free. Call 703-228-6535 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 14

55+ Fitness Day. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. S. Enjoy fitness activities and demos for all levels like boomer boot camp and dance fusion. Free. For information or to register contact 703-228-0955 or jcollins@arlingtonva.us or visit <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/55-fitness-day>.

YA Book Club. 5 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. “The Fault in Our Stars” by John Green. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

THURSDAY/MAY 15

Book Signing. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Arlington Historical Museum in the Hume School, 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Local author Charlie Clark of “Arlington County Chronicles” will sell and sign books. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalociety.org.

Author Reading. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Hilary Davidson with her first

stand-alone novel, “Blood Always Tells.” Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

FRIDAY/MAY 16

Children’s Math Movies. 7:30 p.m. at the David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N Quincy St., Arlington. “Schoolhouse Rock Multiplication Rock” (1973) and “Powers of Ten” (1968). Total running time 45 minutes. Suitable for family audiences. Schoolhouse Rock is targeted to children in grades K-5. \$3 for children 12 and under, \$5 for friends, members and seniors (60+), \$7 for teens and adults. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

FRIDAYS/MAY 16-SEPT. 26

Fashion Trucks. Fridays 11 a.m.-2 p.m., May 16 through Sept. 26, fashion trucks are stopping in Rosslyn to sell an array of clothing and accessories, including The Thread Truck, Pichardo Boutique, The Street Boutique, The G Truck and Curvy Chix Chariot. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/fashion-truck-fridays.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Neighborhood Day. Neighborhoods across Arlington will organize events ranging from picnics to sporting events. Full list of submitted events at <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/events/neighborhood-day-2014-3>. For more information about how to get involved in Neighborhood Day, contact Laura Barragan atlarragan@arlingtonva.us.

Arlington Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1101 N. Highland St. Enjoy browsing art while listening to live music. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com for more.

Secretive Snakes 10-11 a.m. at Fort CF Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Snakes are often feared and misunderstood. Learn more about some of the smaller, more secretive snakes in Arlington. Program #632724-B. \$5. Call 703-228-3403 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Turtle Trot 5K. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., starts at the South Bluemont Park Shelter, parking lot at the intersection of 4th Street N. & Manchester Street. Registration begins at 9 a.m., race starts at 10. \$30 fee for adults and teens, \$15 fee for children. Funds raised will go to support local turtles by paying for the veterinary services for injured turtles, medications, animal care and educational programming. Call 703-228-6535 or contact Cliff Fairweather at cfairweather@arlingtonva.us.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SURVEY

Community Input. In conjunction with public meetings, a survey is available for community input is regarding a farmers’ market at Fairlington Community Center. Access the survey at www.arlingtonva.us/dpr.

THURSDAY/MAY 8

Annual Meeting. 7 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St. The Arlington Historical Society will hold its annual members meeting and elections at its next

FOOD & DRINK

Donations from Dining. During May, the Curious Grape in Shirlington Village, 2900 South Quincy St., will donate 15 percent of each meal to Healwell — donation is not automatic, tell server you are dining to support Healwell. Healwell provides massage therapy to adult and pediatric inpatients in area hospitals focusing on decreasing pain, managing symptoms and bringing comfort to people living with advanced disease and those at the end of life. Visit www.healwell.org.

The Curious Grape Wine, Dine & Shop at 2900 S. Quincy St. in Shirlington Village is now open for lunch Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. A brunch menu is offered on Saturdays and Sundays 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 703-671-8700 or visit www.curiousgrape.com.

Clarendon Farmers Market. Year-round, has locally produced breads and pastries, organic vegetables, flowers, soap, sorbet and more. Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-noon at Courthouse Parking Lot, 3195 North Wilson Blvd. Also year-round on Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. at Clarendon Metro Station. Visit www.Clarendon.org. Call 703-812-8881.

Arlington Farmers Market at Courthouse. Adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. This is a ‘producer only’ market with more than 30 producers. From January through March, the market is open on Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for a list of vendors.

The Crystal City FRESHFARM Market is open April-November on Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m. with a selection of foods and goods from local producers, in front of 251 S. 18th St. Visit www.crystallcity.org for more.

Rosslyn Farmers Market and Concert. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, May 29-Sept. 25, across the street from Cupid’s Garden Sculpture, 1401 Wilson Blvd.. The market offers fresh foods and goods from regional vendors including bread and pastries, farm-fresh and organic produce, herbs and spices, exotic teas and specialty coffees, gourmet baked goods, and marinades and sauces. Visit www.rosslynva.org/do/rosslyn-farmers-market1.

Register at Active.com.

Spring Concert. 2 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School Auditorium, 1301 N. Stafford St. Encore Chorale, the nation’s largest and fastest growing choral program for older adults, announces the Northern Virginia Encore Chorale Spring Concert. Free. Visit <http://encorecreativity.org> or call 301-261-5747.

Cyclo-Cross Bicycle Race. 2-6 p.m. at 1851 South Bell St. The Phoenix Derby will transform an indoor parking garage into an urban cyclo-cross race course and spectator event. Free for spectators, registration required for a variety of races. The derby will raise funds for Phoenix Bikes, a nonprofit that teaches teens bike repair, mechanics and sales. Visit <http://phoenixderby.kintera.org/home> or call 703-517-5017.

Author Event. 4 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Marie Bostwick promotes “Apart at the Seams,” from the Cobbled Court Quilt series. Games and prizes, a drawing and goodie bags with materials provided by Cherrywood Fabrics and Arifil Threads. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Campfire: Beetles Everywhere. 7-8 p.m. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road.

Learn about beetles. Families are invited to the fire ring for stories, special animal guests, games, songs and treats. Register adults and children; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Program #632954-F. \$5. Call 703-228-6535 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Movie Night at the Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. at the David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N Quincy St., Arlington. “Little Man Tate” (1991), rated PG. Running time 99 minutes. \$3 for children 12 and under, \$5 for friends, members and seniors (60+), \$7 for teens and adults. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Arlington Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1101 N. Highland St. Enjoy browsing art while listening to live music. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com for more.

ADHD Walk and Family Fun Day. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bluemont Park, 601 North Manchester St., Arlington. 5K walk, resource fair, face painters, moon bounce, sports challenge, playground, obstacle course and DJ. T-shirt with \$10 registration; \$25 for families. Event seeks to increase awareness and reduce the stigma of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Visit www.chadd.org/

ADHD Walk.
Children’s Math Movies. 1:30 and 3 p.m. at the David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N Quincy St., Arlington. “Schoolhouse Rock Multiplication Rock” (1973) and “Powers of Ten” (1968). Dr. Alice Monet, President of the Friends of the Planetarium, introduces the movies. Total program time 1 hour. Suitable for family audiences. Schoolhouse Rock is targeted to children in grades K-5. \$3 for children 12 and under, \$5 for friends, members and seniors (60+), \$7 for teens and adults. Visit <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org>.

Invasive Plant Removal. 2-5 p.m. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Not all plants are good for the environment. Help remove the invaders from the park. Every third Sunday of the month. Ages 9-Adult. Free, no registration required. Call 703-228-6535 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Notable Nature: Stories and Sketches. 2-3:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. A lesson in nature journaling for the whole family. Make a nature journal and listen to stories about spring. Walk outside to find and sketch signs of spring. Program #632954-M. Free. Call 703-228-6535 or visit <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>.

Walkabout. 3-5 p.m., starting at the Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. Explore High View Park, Waverly Hills and Cherrydale with WalkArlington. 2.5 mile route is a shortened version of the full two-loop neighborhood walking tour. Visit www.walkarlington.com/pages/Walkabouts.

Performance. 3 p.m. at Artisphere’s Spectrum Theatre, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The show, hosted by the local non-profit This is My Brave, will feature essays, music and poetry performed by a dozen individuals living with, or loving someone with, a mental illness. For tickets and information visit www.thisismybrave.com. 703-875-1100.

Young Adult Author Panel. 3 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Featuring S.E. Green, Anne Blankman and Kristin Bailey. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Dance Fundraiser. 6-8 p.m. at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. “Zip Through a Tight Space,” featuring food, drink, dance and a silent auction, benefits Jane Franklin Dance. \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door. Visit www.janefranklin.com/support/benefit.

Urban Agriculture: Vegetable Gardening 101. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Join Master Gardener and Horticultural Agent Kirsten Buhls to learn the basics of seed starting, soil preparation, and when and where to plant. To register, call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

Candidate Event. 7 p.m. at Guarapo, 2039 Wilson Blvd. Meet and greet with the 8th District Democratic candidates hosted by the Democratic Asian Americans and the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia. Voters eligible to participate in the Democratic primary on June 10 are welcome. Visit <http://sbe.virginia.gov> to learn more about the election. Free, open to the public, light snacks will be served. Drinks and dinner can be purchased. RSVP is requested at <http://ht.ly/wwwPv>.

NEWS



PHOTO BY GEOFF HERVEY

Musical

St. Peter's Episcopal Church's production of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" featured about 80 youngsters from second grade through high school last month. St Peter's puts on a similar show every other year, rotating through "Joseph," "Narnia," and "Godspell."

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for May 19-23.

Senior trips: Monday, May 19, Rehoboth Beach, Del., \$42; Thursday, May 22, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa., \$75 (includes lunch). Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Gentle and traditional Yoga classes begin week of May 19 at senior centers. Call for information, 703-228-4745.

Introduction to Tai Chi begins Monday, May 19, 3 p.m., Langston-Brown. \$22.50/five classes. Register, 703-228-6300.

Seniors boot camp begins Monday, May 19, 8:30 a.m., Walter Reed. \$72/16 sessions. Register, 703-228-0955.

Will components explained, Monday, May 19, 1 p.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

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

NovaGold Roadshow, Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m., Arlington Mill. Register for a five-minute appraisal slot, 703-228-7369.

Zumba cardio dance class begins Tuesday, May 20, 2:15 p.m., Lee. Cost \$31.50. Seven sessions. Register, 703-228-0555.

Cardio boxing classes begin Tuesday, May 20, 9 a.m., Walter Reed. Cost \$37. Seven sessions. Register, 703-228-0955.

Transportation services in Arlington, Wednesday, May 21, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Boomer Boot Camp begins Wednesday, May 21, 9 a.m., Arlington Mill. Cost \$35. Seven sessions. Register, 703-228-7369.

Advanced Tai Chi classes begin Wednesday, May 21, 3 p.m., Langston-Brown. Cost \$22.50. Five classes. Register, 703-228-6300.

Caring for the caregiver, Thursday, May 22, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Preventing home burglaries, Thursday, May 22, 11 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403.

Seated Hatha Yoga classes begin, Thursday, May 22, 5 p.m., Langston-Brown. Cost \$49. Seven sessions. Register, 703-228-6300.

Ballroom Dance, Friday, May 23, Arlington Mill. Free; new dance floor. Register, 703-228-7369.



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Washington-Lee junior Jacob Campbell, left, and the Generals remained undefeated with a 2-0 victory against Mount Vernon on Monday.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Washington-Lee freshman midfielder Alejandro Maldonado goes for the ball between a pair of Mount Vernon players on Monday during the Generals' 2-0 victory.

W-L Boys' Soccer Wraps Up National District Title

Generals remain undefeated with 2-0 win against Mount Vernon.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lightning forced the Washington-Lee and Mount Vernon boys' soccer teams off the field Monday for an hour-long delay. When the Generals and Majors returned to action, one team came out ready to work, while the performance of the other group led to its head coach calling the team "lazy."

W-L sophomore Maycol Nunez scored off a Michael Katz corner kick in the 34th minute, Katz added an insurance goal moments later and the Generals defeated the defending state champion Majors 2-0 in a weather-shortened match at Mount Vernon High School. With the victory, W-L wrapped

up the National District title. Teams from the former National District have continued recognizing a champion after the VHSEs six-class realignment based on record against former district opponents. W-L, which is now in Conference 6, finished with a 5-0-2 record against teams from the former National District. "We knew we had to put a couple goals in in case the game got cancelled," Nunez said, "so we came out, tried to win and won the district title."

The game would eventually be called due to poor field conditions with 25:27 remaining in the second half, but not before the Generals scored a pair of goals. Play was originally suspended due to lightning with 23:15 remaining in the opening half and the teams locked in a scoreless tie. When play resumed, W-L took advantage of the wet grass field late in the first half as Nunez scored his team-leading 25th goal of the season off a Katz corner kick that came in low.

"I kind of gave my forward Maycol a look and he knew what I was doing — we've played together a long time," Katz said. "I

just hit it low and hard — it was wet, so I knew it was going to skip — and he put it in."

Nunez has been the Generals' primary offensive threat this season.

"He's quick on the ball, he's got a low center of gravity," head coach Jimmy Carrasquillo said about Nunez, "[and he] doesn't get knocked off the ball too often."

The victory improved W-Ls record to 10-0-2. The Generals have outscored opponents 43-8 and have held the opposition scoreless in seven contests.

Monday, W-L bounced back from an hour-long delay to take care of business. Meanwhile, Mount Vernon head coach Tony Garza, who won the 2013 AAA state title in his first season with the program, wasn't pleased with the Majors' effort. The loss dropped Mount Vernon's record to 2-4-4.

"We've actually battled this all season long," Garza said. "Since after the fourth game, it seems like, second half, the boys just come out like the game's already over. They have no desire to finish playing the game. ... We're a very lazy team. I hate to

be negative that way, but we're a very lazy team. They're still riding the high of last year's state championship win, [but] that was last year, not this year.

"As you can see from today's game, to every clear that we have, we are just basically jogging out while the other teams are forcing themselves out quickly, they're quick to the ball [and] we're just being reactive to everything. We're just a lazy team right now." After a 1-0-3 start, Mount Vernon is 1-4-1 over its last six games. The Majors will travel to face Stuart at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 8.

Washington-Lee will close the regular season with road games against Centerville (5:30 p.m., May 9) and T.C. Williams (4:30 p.m., May 13).

"It's going to be tough to beat us," Carrasquillo said. "... I'm looking forward to seeing how far we can take it. I think this team does have the capability, does have that mentality of moving on, going far in our conference and in the region."

"If we work really hard," Nunez said, "we can go far."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers announced that several Arlington students have won Scholastic Writing Awards. Gold Key and Honorable Mentions: **Ned Schweikert**; Gold Key: **Julia Flynn, Emily Burke**; Silver Key and Honorable Mention: **Amanda Hays**; Silver Key: **Daichi Monma, Anne Zetkovic, Aidan Walker, Emma Youcha**; Honorable Mention: **Nikki Brown, Ariah Tucci**,

Alison Miller, Julia Miller, Juliet Smith.

Arlington Public Schools students received awards at the annual Virginia Science Fair held at the Virginia Military Institute March 28-29. This year, 20 APS students competed in the state science fair. **Natalie Slater**, H-B Woodlawn, second place for "Thinking Green? The Effect of Economic Versus Environmental Priming on Decisions Made During a Common Pool Resources Game." **Gail Muggill and Natalie Skoloda**, Washington Lee High School, third

place for "The Effect of the Color and Concentration of Pollution on the Amount and Wavelength in Nanometers of Light Absorbed." **Michelle Howard**, Washington Lee High School, third place for "Benford's Law."

IoJo Diakit  has been selected to play Male Chorus for the University of Mary Washington production of "Lysistrata." Diakit  is the son of Lisa Nichols of Arlington and is a graduate of the Blue Ridge School. Diakit  is a sophomore theatre major.

Claudia Sara Landazabal and

Shelby Leigh Tarkenton, both students from the College of Arts & Sciences, were named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at Washington University in St. Louis.

Abdulaziz Alaiban recently received a Master of Business Administration degree in management from Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Md.

Mattson Fields has been inducted into the University of Mary Washington chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon, the national

mathematics honorary society. Fields is a senior mathematics and art double major.

Jillian Klarman spent spring break serving others through James Madison University's Alternative Spring Break program. Klarman, a junior international affairs major, traveled to Trujillo, Peru to volunteer with Espaanglish. The student-led trip took place March 8-15. Students spent the week living simply, focused on service in the destination community and on teamwork and reflection within the group.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Hearing Loss Doesn't Have to be Life-changing

“What?” May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

On any given workday, you might find Arlington resident Erin Weiner sitting in a family-friendly restaurant casually coloring or playing games with a young child. At first glance, she might be mistaken for any young mother entertaining her offspring while they wait for a meal. In actuality, Weiner, who is a speech-language pathologist, is employing what she describes as an innovative approach to therapy that involves working with a child in his or her natural environment.

“Real-time therapeutic sessions help children develop skills that they can effectively apply to day-to-day life,” said Weiner, of Erin’s Place for Therapy in North Potomac, Md.

Hearing loss affects more than 36 million Americans. During the month of May, Better Hearing & Speech Month, Weiner and other speech and hearing professionals are working to raise awareness about communication disorders and the treatments that are available.

“Most people don’t realize how the loss of hearing is interfering with their lives,” said Michael V. Massa, AuD., of Massa and Associates, Doctors of Audiology, with offices in Springfield and Mount Vernon. “Hearing loss is usually gradual and a spouse or family member will notice it first.”

Massa says that while hearing loss is most common in people aged 50 and older, it can affect patients from newborns to the elderly. Recognizing the warning signs and finding the proper treatment can be life-altering. “People come back and say ‘if I had known how much this would have helped, I would have come to see you much earlier,’” said Massa.

EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL.



Dr. Michael Massa examines Vivian Graeves in his Mount Vernon office.

“Hearing loss can affect one’s ability to communicate with and engage others in the community,” said Jeffrey Edge, rehabilitation services manager for the Fairfax County Health Department. “The earlier you detect a hearing loss, the sooner you can take steps to hopefully decrease the impact of the loss on communication. Early detection of hearing loss is most important with infants and children as hearing is critical to developing speech and language skills and learning.”

Edge points to research from the National Institute of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, which shows that speech and language development begins in the first six months of life and children who get treatment early develop better language skills than those who don’t.

There are certain signs that tell parents

their children might be experiencing hearing loss. “Is the child responding to their name when the child isn’t looking at you?” asks Weiner. “Are they speaking as much as their peers? Are they saying ‘What?’ a lot? Do they seem to be reading your lips? If a fire truck with its sirens on goes by does the child look up? Are they having problems speaking at the right volume?”

“Most people don’t realize how the loss of hearing is interfering with their lives.”

— Michael V. Massa, AuD., of Massa and Associates

“You have to determine if the issue is auditory processing or hearing loss. This can be difficult to distinguish. With auditory processing, someone might keep saying ‘What?’ and they probably heard you, but the message is not getting to their brain.”

Hearing loss in newborns can be heredi-

Details

❖ Erin’s Place for Therapy — <http://erinsplacefortherapy.com>

❖ Massa and Associates, Doctors of Audiology offers free hearing screenings during May. Visit www.massaandassociates.com.

❖ The Fairfax County Health Department’s Speech and Hearing Clinic provides hearing and speech screenings and evaluations for children and adults living in Fairfax County, Va. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/speech/speechservices.htm.

❖ National Institute of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders — www.nidcd.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx

❖ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association — www.asha.org

tary or congenital, said Massa, but it is often caught early because of state laws that require newborn hearing screenings. “At birth we can tell if a child’s hearing is normal or not and this is critical because they have to develop speech,” said Massa.

MASSA SAID THAT the number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled within the past 30 years. “Some of that is due to the fact that we have so many baby boomers,” he said. “Inner ear hearing loss is the most common type of loss.”

Sudden hearing loss is another common hearing disorder that usually occurs in one ear. “With sudden hearing loss, time is of the essence,” said Massa. “The person needs to be seen right away. Studies show that they have a better chance of recovering if treatment begins right away.”

When it comes to treatment, advancements in hearing devices now include the latest digital and Bluetooth technology, which can connect patients to their electronic devices, such as a television, a computer, a smart phone or cellular telephone phone, as well as induction loop systems found in theaters.

“Hearing devices have gotten really good with digital technology. How well a person is going to do with a hearing device is dependent on the type of hearing loss,” said Massa, who has been practicing for more than 30 years. “Fortunately most people can be helped by hearing devices. It is extremely important for those people to be seen by a doctor of audiology.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. MICHAEL MASSA

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THE
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A Tale of Two Seasons



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It is not the best of times, nor is it the worst of times; it is, simply put: the time between the end of winter and the beginning of summer. It is the season known as spring, but more to the point of this column, it is the time when, if the weather cooperates/accommodates, I won't need to turn the heat or the air conditioning on in my house. I will instead be able to ride the wave, so to speak, and not incur any post-win-ter/pre-summer utility bills. Possibly, I might even be able to pay off my oil-heating budget bill balance for the 2013/2014 season – before the 2014/2015 budget cycle begins, and hope-fully not have to cool down the house at the same time – due to an early summer – so that on the day my oil-heating bill is due, it won't be competing for cash with my upstart electric/air conditioning bill for money not well spent and for money hardly in abundance.

As difficult and challenging as our most recent winter has been, and as hot and humid as our summers typically are, I (like many others I'm sure), would cer-tainly appreciate a break/brake in my cash flowing out and instead enjoy its staying power – in my bank. Not that it earns any interest idling as it does there; nevertheless, its presence in my check-ing account without immediately being in demand would create a sense of sol-veny, false though it may be (and a temporary sensation at that), and likely make a positive contribution to my sea-sonal situation. I don't mind being thrown a bone once in a while.

Moreover, given the circumstances and reality of living in the never-having-enough-resources world, any discount, reduction or delay, real or imagined, in the ongoing and recurring utility bills, would be a most welcome improve-ment. If the heat and air conditioning indeed stayed off, and I didn't need to be warm any more than I needed to be cool, I'm sure I could make the adjust-ment. Paying less probably wouldn't be a hardship. I'm not too proud to admit it, though I'm not begging.

I'm not asking for a multi-month sojourn from my utility bill reality. I'm just asking for a month. One month where I could stop the bleeding and possibly pay forward to get ahead rather than pay backward to not be in arrears. I don't believe I'm asking for a lot. And neither do I think I'm being greedy. However, I agree it may be wishful thinking. Nevertheless, it's a request worth making. And as unpredictable – respectfully speaking, not criticizing – as the weather can be, a little help would go a long way; in dollars and in sense. Otherwise, I might have a dickens of a time paying for heat AND air condition-ing in the same month. Then it would be the worst of times.

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

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