

Enrique Fernandez, a guidance counselor at Robinson, and Ruth Azimi, the school's parent liaison, serve as co-sponsors of the school's Latin American Student Association. The two describe Claudia Torres and Carolina <u>Castedo</u>, recipients of scholarships from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance, as hard-working and driven individuals.

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WELLBEING

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ESI IS TRYING TO GOVER **10 Our Commu** em Bring Toxins 1

FACTS:

- ESI has refused to commit that it will not use coal ash to construct their 70 foot wall and to cover debris at their proposed massive expansion of the Lorton Landfill.
- Coal ash contains arsenic, mercury, cadmium and a dozen other heavy metals. When exposed to rainfall and groundwater, these heavy metals can leach out of the coal dust into the environment.
 - Airborne coal ash dust increases the exposure risk to area residents by this toxic material.
- Post-closure monitoring is only required for 10 years at landfills, which is an insufficient time period to measure toxic releases of heavy metals from the coal ash.
- If the Board of Supervisors approves ESI's 70' high retaining wall that is over 2 miles long, they will be able to bring millions of tons of coal ash to Fairfax County to build it.

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News

Robinson **Students Receive** Scholarships

Claudia Torres and Carolina Castedo honored by Hispanic Leadership Alliance.

By Janelle Germanos THE CONNECTION

laudia Torres, a senior at Robinson Secondary School, and Carolina Castedo, also a senior at Robinson, both moved to the United States at a young age over 10 years ago. Torres is Peruvian, and Castedo is Bolivian and Chilean.

Burke residents Torres and Castedo, both 18, wrote about challenges they have overcome as newcomers to the United States, as well as reasons they wish to attend college, in an application for a Fairfax County Hispanic Leadership Alliance Scholarship.

"I didn't know how to speak English, and that was hard for me when I got here," Castedo said.

CASTEDO AND TORRES have overcome these challenges and shine as leaders at Robinson. The students, who are active in the Latin American Student Association at Robinson, recently received \$1,000 each in scholarships from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance, which provides these scholarships for firstgeneration Hispanic students who are the first in their families to attend a post-secondary school education.

Through the Latin American Student Association (LASA), Castedo and Torres have spread their culture with others. The group holds an international show every year, where Robinson students can celebrate their cultures through fashion shows and cultural displays.

"It helps you feel connected to home," Castedo said. LASA has helped the students voice their pride and appreciation for their culture.

"I think a big challenge was accepting myself and my culture, because just being here is different. There are so many people that don't understand, so it took me awhile to fully accept it. Now, I listen to Spanish music, and am more accepting of myself," Torres said.

In addition to adjusting to life in the United States at a young age, Torres has also overcome some personal challenges, which she wrote about in her essay for the scholarship.

"I want to study psychology, and last year I got sick with a mental illness, so I wrote about that," Torres said.

Torres will attend Northern Virginia Community College for two years, and then plans on transferring to James Madison.

money and you still get the same education," Torres said.

Castedo is attending Radford and hopes to be a special education teacher. She and Torres are both involved in Partners Club, an organization that partners them with special education students.

RUTH AZIMI, a parent liaison at the school who www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Claudia Torres and Carolina Castedo, seniors at Robinson Secondary School and members of the school's Latin American Student Association, received scholarships from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance.



Carolina Castedo, a senior at Robinson, has received a scholarship from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance. The scholarship is for first-generation Hispanic students who are the first in their families to attend a post-secondary institution.



Claudia Torres, 18, who moved to the United States as a child, has received a scholarship from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance. Torres is a senior at Robinson Secondary School and plans on studying psychology in college.

co-sponsors LASA along with Enrique Fernandez, a school guidance counselor, recognized her students' leadership and dedication, and suggested they apply for the scholarship.

Azimi helps the parents of Hispanic students at Robinson connect with the school, as many do not speak English.

"We have been able to connect with the Hispanic community here," Azimi said. "It's a great relationship that we have at the school."

Torres and Castedo say that they will continue to promote their culture and to break down the stereotypes that may be present in society.

"I feel like a lot of people look down on the Span-"I think it's a good option because you save a lot of ish community. I feel like it's mostly stereotypes," Torres said. "We try to get rid of those stereotypes and show that we're hardworking and we take our education seriously."

> Both students are thankful for the opportunity to work with Azimi and Fernandez and to spread Latino culture at Robinson.

> "They are both great girls and well-deserving of this scholarship," said Fernandez.



The Board of Supervisors passed the county budget in a 7-3 vote.

Supervisors Pass **County Budget**

Three supervisors vote against the \$3.7 billion budget.

> By Reena Singh The Connection

ducators are not happy that the school district will receive \$64 million less than they asked for next year.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors passed the county's Fiscal Year 2015 budget, which includes a 3 percent increase in the School Fund Transfer, at the April 29 meeting.

"Our official position is that the funds are just not adequate," said Fairfax Education Association President Kimberly Adams in a previous interview. "This is going to impede our abilities to compensate our employees."

She and several teachers attended the budget markup earlier that month to make their presence known.

Fairfax County Public Schools will receive \$1.928 billion from the county this year — an increase of 3 percent from last year. The Board of Education had asked the county for \$64 million more to continue programs and proceed with scheduled teacher pay raises.

The tax rate will rise half a cent from \$1.085 to \$1.090 per \$100 of assessed value. That means a homeowner with a property value of \$100,000 will pay \$1,090.

Non-uniformed government employees will receive an ties straight, we're going to tax across-the-board 1 percent increase in their pay — a move that was commended by all supervisors.

The county police department, sheriff's department, Fire and Rescue and Office of Emergency Management will receive a total of \$426,864,290 from the general fund.

There was no discussion about the supervisors' positions after the resolution motions were made. However, once they passed, Chairman Sharon Bulova thanked her budget committee and her staff.

"This was not an easy budget, and that is an understatement,' she said.

All three of the resolutions to formally approve the real estate property tax rate, addendums to the advertised FY 2015 budget and school fund — passed 7-3. Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and Braddock Supervisor John Cook voted against the resolutions. They also voted against the budget markup at the April 22 meeting.

Herrity said he is concerned about the 7 percent increase that residents will see in their taxes for the FY 2016 budget if no changes in the recommendations are made. His statement was based off of a recommendation made during the Board of Supervisor's April 22 meeting, but there has been no official agreement to increase the taxes for that year's budget.

"If we don't keep our prioripeople out of the county," he said.

See Budget, Page 12

Cook to Host Neighborhood College

Beginning in May, Supervisor John Cook (R- Braddock) will be hosting a new Neighborhood College program. This program is a civic engagement program open to residents interested in learning about Fairfax County and how to work with neighbors, community organizations and local government. The Department of Neighborhood and Community Services will be supporting this program presentation. Neighborhood College will feature a combination of lectures and group discussions and cover topics including Fairfax County Government and how it works, demographic profiles and trends in a community context, and how to work effectively within diverse neighborhoods and communities.

"I am a Neighborhood College graduate and know personally the tremendous value this program can bring to the community," said Supervisor Cook. "It has been several years since the last Braddock District Neighborhood College and it is time to train the next set of community leaders and volunteers."

Participants can use the knowledge they gain through the programs to strengthen neighborhoods, build citizen engagement, and promote a strong sense of community. Supervisor Cook recommends this program as an excellent leadership training opportunity for residents who serve as officers on their homeowner or civic association boards, or who just want to learn more about how the County works.

Neighborhood College classes will meet at the Pinn Community Center on Thursday nights from 6:30 until 9 p.m. between May 15 and June 19. If you would like to learn more or register for the series, please contact Ann Sharp or Kiel Stone at 703-425-9300 or e-mail ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- Allison Schneider

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Bulletin Board

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SATURDAY/ MAY 10

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

TUESDAY/MAY 13

Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place.

THURSDAY/MAY 15

Lunch N' Life. 12 – 2 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Please join us for the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, The Program will feature Kent Knowles of the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia, along with some of their birds of prey. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by May 9. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Dog Adoption. 12 - 3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444.

MONDAY/MAY 19

Rising Kindergarten Orientation. 2 – 3:30 p.m. Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 21

How Do I Take Away the Keys...Dementia & Driving. 1:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, formerly Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. Come for a discussion on the many hard decisions involved with dementia and driving, and learn more about caregiver approaches for dealing with this difficult and emotional topic. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

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.

Area Roundups

Public Meetings on Noise Ordinances, Group Assembly

Public meetings on proposed Fairfax County changes to the noise ordinance and group assembly rules in residential dwellings will occur throughout the month of May.

The Fairfax County Zoning Administration Division is proposing the group assembly changes which "will limit the number of persons and frequency of large gatherings at a home," according to a Fairfax County press release.

The proposed change states that "group assembly when accessory to a dwelling unit shall be permitted, except any group assembly exceeding forty-nine (49) people in one day shall not occur more frequently than three (3) times in any forty (40) day period."

The meetings are Wednesday, May 7 at South County Government Center Main Conference Room, Monday, May 12 at Fairfax County Government Center Board Room, and Monday, May 19 at Lemon Road Elementary School Cafeteria.

Auditions Open for 'How to Succeed...'

Westfield Summer Stage celebrates 14 years of summer musicals with the musical-comedy satire, "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying." Auditions are open to Northern Virginia teen actors, singers and dancers in rising grades 7-12, plus 2014 high-school graduates. Some 55 actors will be cast.

Hopefuls should attend an audition workshop Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m., when material for the vocal and dance auditions will be taught, and where students may sign up for auditions. Auditions are May 17, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; callbacks are May 18 at 2 p.m.

All activities are at Westfield High, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Rehearsals begin June 19; most are on weekday evenings until the performances, July 18-26. The theatre workshop fee is \$300 for students who are cast and accept their role.







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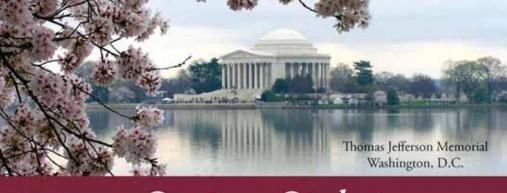
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OPINION Yes to the Meals Tax Referendum

Voters could decide on the tax in November.

conomic diversification is worthy goal. All of your eggs shouldn't be in one basket. All of your revenue shouldn't come from one source. In Fairfax County, adding a meals tax at the same level as Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, 4 percent, could generate \$88 million a year. The county estimates that 25ing a

30 percent of the meals taxes collected would be paid by non-county residents.

The inability to implement alternative revenue sources will mean continued dependence on one basket. The combined increase in the real estate property tax rate and home values means that most homeowners will be paying hundreds of dollars more in property taxes regardless of their ability to pay.

In Virginia, localities have only the powers explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly. In Northern Virginia, the economic engine of the state, this has translated into heavy dependence on the real estate property tax to fund everything, because localities are allowed faw revenue options

allowed few revenue options.

RIAL Fairfax County has a task force studying the possibility of holding a required referendum to let voters decide on adding a meals tax. It would applied to "ready-toeat foods and beverages wherever they are

sold," but not vending machines. Former Board Chairman Kate Hanley and former Board Chairman and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis will chair the task force and report back to the Board of Supervisors in mid June. If supervisors approved the referendum, it could appear on the November ballot.

It's interesting that historically, Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly give the thumbs up to authorizing capital improvements to schools, parks and roads via bond sales, but in 1992, voters said no to the meals tax. It will be up to elected officials and advocates for schools, parks, libraries, public safety and human services to help make the case for the increase.

(Taxing income is a power the Commonwealth of Virginia retains for itself, and it is a mechanism that sends money from Northern Virginia to other parts of the state while forcing Northern Virginia localities to depend on property taxes.)

> — Mary Kimm, mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

BOS Budget Falls Short for FCPS

By Ilryong Moon Fairfax County School Board Chairman

he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) continues to state that education is its top priority but its actions clearly do not match its words not when county spending next year will increase by 3.6 percent while Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) budget is projected to increase by just 1.6 percent over last year's adopted budget. Overall, FCPS will receive 52.4 percent of the county's budget, down from 52.7 percent this year. While this percentage change seems small, that equates to more than \$12 million that FCPS would have received.

In his April 22 newsletter to residents, Supervisor Pat Herrity makes several misleading assertions about the FCPS budget. He suggests that the School Board already has available funding to meet the school system's needs, beyond the amount that will be transferred from the county and state. We would like to correct these misperceptions.

Supervisor Herrity suggests increasing the salary "lapse rate" (a salary lapse occurs during a job vacancy). FCPS' budgeted lapse savings are based on historical trends. FCPS has taken several steps to adjust compensation accounts in the FY 2015 budget including using lower salaries to budget for vacant positions and for new positions due to enrollment growth. Whatever is remaining in the compensation accounts, combined with other savings generated throughout the year, go into the ending balance which we use to fund the following year's budget.

Supervisor Herrity suggests eliminating pay raises for administrators to save \$13 million. The cost of providing a step increase for all employees is \$41 million. Of that amount, the cost for the administrative positions in schools is \$1.7 million and central administrators account for \$300,000. To achieve his goal of \$13 million in savings, pay raises would need to be denied to employees who directly serve students including advanced academic resource teachers, work experience teachers, instructional support teachers, school counselors, librarians, audiologists, physical and occupational therapists, English for speakers of languages teachers, professional technical project teachers, public health attendants, public health training assistants, school-based technologists, psychologists, social workers, school clerical, school custodial, and school administration.

Supervisor Herrity also claims that many of our teachers are doing administration instead of teaching. He states that if we "take the total number of students in the school system and divide it by the number of full time equivalent teachers (emphasis added), we should get a class size of 12." As our class size is not as such, he alleges that our teachers must be doing administration. This canard has been raised before by Supervisor Herrity and it is irresponsible for him to continue to deliberately mislead the public by using deceitful teacher-student ratios in his comments. This doesn't result in purposeful conversation, but rather distracts the community

from the real issue of fully funding schools. To clarify once again, "full time equivalent teachers" are much more than classroom teachers. They also include special education teachers, English for Speakers of Other Languages teachers, instructional coaches, speech therapists, guidance counselors, librarians, music, physical education teachers, and more. Although these professionals do not have assigned classrooms, they are all teaching and working directly with students. It takes more than a single classroom teacher to provide a well-rounded and full education for FCPS students.

Moving forward, it's critical in budget discussions that disingenuous arguments are not used to refute or support one's position. This should not be seen as a School Board versus Board of Supervisors debate. We are partners. The School Board will continue to work closely with the Supervisors in an effort to develop long-term sustainable funding for FCPS and to meet the expectations of the community to maintain our worldclass school system.

LETTERS Timely Discussion On Drug Abuse

To the Editor:

Through columns on your newspaper website like "Avoidance Better Than Arrests, Prison, Death" ing A my attention has been drawn to your spotlight on forums focused on drug prevention in high schools. With the increase in use of drugs for recreational use among youths, this is a timely and well-covered issue in your news-G & BURKE CONNECTION & MAY 8-14, 2014

paper. The d

The drug prevention forum covered by your paper called "Protecting Against the Realities of Substance Abuse," put on by Parents Reaching Out To Educate Communities Together (PROTECT), provides a new approach to talking about drug awareness and prevention that could help parents better understand and approach the rise in drug culture in youths. By bringing in police officers, former drug users and dealers, and families affected by drugs, parents were able to hear their stories and learn ideas like how to recognize signs earlier that may indicate drug use in their children.

As a former student at the [Madison] high school where the forum was held and as an adult now who has had friends struggle

with drug addictions, I find it extremely important and well received that this topic is being highlighted in your publication. This is an issue in children today that needs to be addressed because prevention of drug use is always better than detection of drug use for all parties involved.

> Rebecca Rosen Vienna



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MOTHER'S DAY The Things My

Mom Taught Me Growing up my mom went from asking me what was one nice thing I did for someone to inspiring me to think differently and change the community and even the world around me. That has led me to my purpose in life. To go beyond help or charity and work towards fundamentally changing the lives of others. She would always remind me that the success of our family did not come on our own. It was the grace of God, the support of friends, and the encouragement of a community. I continue to see my mom live this every day. She is so dedicated to her employees and does big and small things for their professional and personal lives because she wants the best for them. People she barely knows, but she knows helping them is not just being a good employer; it is being a good citizen of the world. She also never misses the big and little moments in my life. In this picture posted in January I commented that in the 30+ years I



Amanda Misiko Andere with Mom: "In the 30 plus years I have been singing, dancing, or acting she has never missed a performance."

Shirley M. Bailey, 84, of Burke submitted this poem "as a tribute to my mother,

Lorena W. Mayhew, a superb seamstress, who kept her four children well dressed during the Depression and even later with her superb skills as a seamstress."

have been singing, dancing, or acting she has never missed a performance. Every nonprofit I have worked for she has volunteered or donated her amazing catering talents. I am so blessed to call her

mom and mentor!

– Amanda Misiko Andere

The writer is Executive Director of FACETS - Opening Doors for People in Need.

My Mother

While she's here, your mind forgets that she won't always be.

You accept with selfish gratitude the nights she sewed late

so you could have a special dress to wear to some event

that seemed then to be more important than your

aging mother getting rest.

You took for granted the talent she had for taking a tuck here, and easing a seam there, just so you could feel,

when you walked into that party, that you were looking as good as you possibly

could, considering what you started out as.

Needle in hand, she hummed (always the same tune)

as she sewed, proud that her daughter was having opportunities for fun, something life left little room for in her own youth.

Always willing to put her own needs aside for any desire of the four children she bore, she made each of us feel special, as though we were her only child. Ever the example of goodness, she gave her love unconditionally, even when we erred.

- SHIRLEY M. BAILEY,

Burke





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News



Daryl Vasquez, third from night, a nurse with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, was honored for saving a man's life at a CSB location in Springfield.

> Photos contributed

Nurse Honored with Life Saving Award

All county nurses celebrated during Nurses Week, May 6-12.

> By Janelle Germanos The Connection

n late February, Daryl Vasquez, a nurse with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Community Readiness and Support Program in Springfield and a Burke resident, noticed that a CSB client having lunch was choking and could not breathe.

"She managed to get her arms around him and perform the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the obstruction and most likely saving this man's life," Gary Ambrose, a CSB board member, told the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on April 29.

For her heroic actions, Richard Bowers, chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, honored Vasquez with a Citizen Life Saving Award.

"Here's a great example of the everyday continuum of care that our nurses and other community leaders provide," Bowers said. "This is an example of a nurse saving a life in our community."

THE PRESENTATION came the same day that the Board of Supervisors designed May 6-12 as Nurses Week in Fairfax County to raise awareness of the importance of nurses and the hard work they do on a daily basis. Ambrose joined Louella Meachem, CSB's director of nursing services, to accept the proclamation.

"As the proclamation points out, nurses are unsung heroes throughout our county," Ambrose said.

"The people the CSB serves, people who struggle with mental



Florence Hagan, Gloria Larson-Jadali, Daryl Vasquez, Colton Hand, Louella Meachem, Rosaline NanKam, Len Wales and Gary Ambrose celebrate a proclamation designating May 6-12 as Nurses Week.

illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual and developmental disabilities, often face the additional challenge of having little or no access to primary health care.

This can lead to early death from diseases that are common and preventable if detected early."

Nurses throughout the county help to bridge the gap for CSB clients, Ambrose said.

"In addition to providing counseling, crisis intervention, case management and behavioral health support services, the CSB's 66 nurses screen people for common primary health concerns, such as high blood pressure and diabetes," Ambrose said. "They, and nurses throughout our community, have saved lives again and again by detecting and addressing serious conditions requiring medical attention."

Vasquez says she enjoys her job with the Community Readiness and Support Program, and thanked the Fire and Rescue Department for presenting her with the award.

"While I saved a life, I believe as nurses we are also saving lives by educating our clients, one-onone and in psychosocial group settings," Vasquez said. "I feel very lucky to be working there."

FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT,

Vasquez provided the man she saved with education about chewing effectively and reducing choking and aspiration risk in the future.

"As nurses it is also important to teach about prevention of serious health risks and disease (heart attack with clients with cardiovascular disease and diabetic complications with clients with diabetes). It was traumatic to experience it for me and CRSP team to experience as well," Vasquez said.

After reading the proclamation declaring May 6-12 as Nurses Week, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross acknowledged the importance of nursing and the need to encourage people to apply for nursing school.

"We all know the role that nurses have traditionally played in health care, but now with sort of the new health care iterations, nurses become even more important and provide different kinds of care than perhaps traditionally they used to," Gross said.

Mother's Day Photo Gallery

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova: "Just minutes after giving birth to my daughter Karin in 1971. I was 24 and we are in Fairfax Hospital."

Sharon Bulova's daughter Karin with her first child, Finnian ("Finn") in Seattle on June 23, 2011.

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.

Razan Abdurrahman Idris of Springfield, a graduate of United World College in Montezuma, N.M., and daughter of Noura Harran and Abdurrahman Idris, is among seven incoming freshmen at Duke University selected as winners of the Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship.

The full value of each "Reggie" scholarship, which covers full tuition, room, board and mandatory fees, is more than \$240,000 over four years. Duke provides this award annually to first-year students of African heritage who have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability, academic achievement, community involvement and a serious commitment to social justice. The Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholarship is named for the first black student body president at Duke, who died in a car accident in 1976.

For more information about the incoming class of "Reggie" Scholars, visit the scholarship's website at reggies.duke.edu.

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WELLBEING Hearing Loss Doesn't Have to be Life-changing

"What?" May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

By Marilyn Campbell

might find Arlington resident Erin Weiner sitting in a family-friendly restaurant causally coloring or playing games with a young common in people aged 50 and older, it can child. At first glance, she might be mistaken affect patients from newborns to the elderly. for any young mother entertaining her offspring while they wait for a meal. In actuality, Weiner, who is a speech-language pa- "People come back and say 'if I had known thologist, is employing what she describes how much this would have helped, I would as an innovative approach to therapy that have come to see you much earlier," said involves working with a child in his or her Massa. natural environment.

dren develop skills that they can effectively ing loss can affect one's ability to communiapply to day-to-day life," said Weiner, of cate with and engage others in the commu-Erin's Place for Therapy in North Potomac, nity," said Jeffrey Edge, rehabilitation ser-

Selected

as one of the

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 THE CONNECTION Michael V. Massa, AuD., of Massa and Associates, Doctors of Audiology, with offices in n any given workday, you 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 Recognizing the warning signs and finding the proper treatment can be life-altering.

"Real-time therapeutic sessions help chil- EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL. "Hearvices manager for the Fairfax County Health Hearing loss affects more than 36 million Department. "The earlier you detect a hear-



ing loss, the sooner you can take steps to ten caught early because of state laws that hopefully decrease the impact of the loss on require newborn hearing screenings. "At inication. Early detection of hearing birth we can tell if a child's hearing is norloss is most important with infants and chilmal or not and this is critical because they dren as hearing is critical to developing have to develop speech," said Massa. speech and language skills and learning." Edge points to research from the National MASSA SAID THAT the number of Ameri-Institute of Health, National Institute on cans with hearing loss has doubled within Deafness and Other Communication Disorthe past 30 years. "Some of that is due to ders, which shows that speech and language the fact that we have so many baby boomers," he said. "Inner ear hearing loss is development begins in the first six months of life and children who get treatment early the most common type of loss." develop better language skills than those Sudden hearing loss is another common

who don't.

speaking at the right volume?"

sage is not getting to their brain."

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optimum oral health is key to total body health and
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                                                                        time they dedicate to continuing edu-
well-being. These days, going to the dentist is not
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just about taking good care of your teeth; it is
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in your mouth can be signs of trouble elsewhere
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in your body. Your oral exam reveals important
                                                                                                            Metropolitan Area
                                                                          ing an extensive array of dental
early warning signs for many total-body condi-
                                                                          services including digital x-rays,
                                                                                                             by Washingtonian Magazine
tions including diabetes, oral cancer and high
                                                                          injection-free laser procedures,
                                                                        CAD-cam same-day porcelain crowns, tooth whitening, Invisalign, and
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Magazine
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Speech-language pathologist Erin Weiner holds a therapy session with a young patient in a natural environment.

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 child look up? Are they having problems

Weiner, who provides oral, motor articulation, language therapy and auditory processing treatments, said problems with audio processing can often be difficult to diagnose. "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 mes-

Hearing loss in newborns can be hereditarv or congenital, said Massa, but it is of-

hearing disorder that usually occurs in one There are certain signs that tell parents 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 fire truck with its sirens on goes by does 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.'

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Education Is Key To Better Hearing

MYTH

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MYTH

Hearing aids need replacing on average every 3 years

DUSTED Hearing aids, if properly

maintained, will last 10 to 15 years.

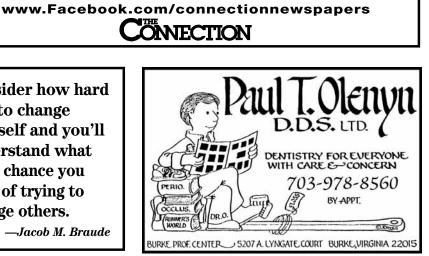
MYTH

The more invisible a hearing aid, the more it has to cost.

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Our hearing aids sell by the circuit, not size. Our invisible CIC's (completely in canal) are as inexpensive as our BTE's (behind the ear)





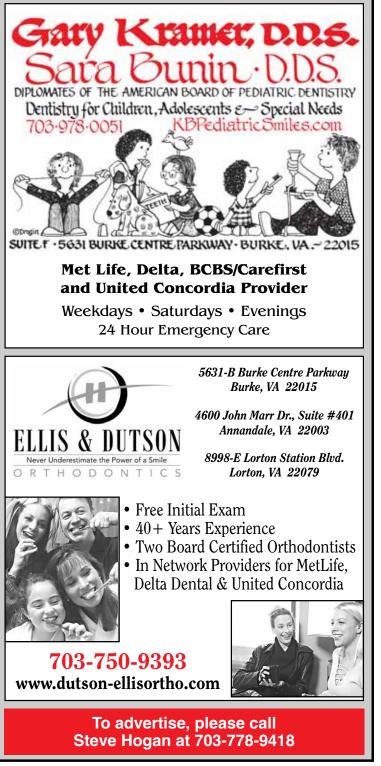
Burke Connection 🔹 May 8-14, 2014 🔹 1



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News



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) visits with **Scout Troop** 698 of Burke to talk about civics and the Virginia General Assembly.

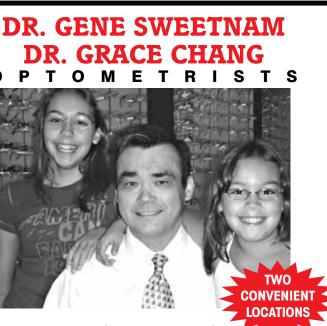
Del. Filler-Corn Meets Scout Troop 698 of Burke

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) recently met with viduals who regularly work to help make our com-Scout Troop 698 of Burke to discuss the important role civics and community participation plays in government and community development. Del. Filler-Corn and the group even played Virginia jeopardy, testing the Scouts knowledge of the House of Delegates and everything Virginia.

"I truly enjoy spending time out in our community, meeting with many groups throughout the 41st district. I continue to be inspired by so many indi-

munity a wonderful place to live. I am especially energized by meeting with groups of young people. These young scouts were quite impressive, knowledgeable and inquisitive. I know the future of the Commonwealth will be better off with their leadership in he future," said Del. Filler-Corn.

The Scout Troop 698 of Burke is led by Scoutmaster Mike Koehler of Burke and the event was organized by Eagle Advisor Heather Zdancewicz.



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He said his aunt has already moved out of Fairfax County because she could not afford to live here.

"I think we've got a board that's not focused on our priorities," he said. "If they don't make changes, I'll vote against it next year."

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins did not agree with some aspects of the budget, according to her comments at previous public hearings, but she voted for it anyway.

"With the adoption of the FY 2015 budget, and the lack of a [Board of Supervisors] consensus, it was clear that all residents in Fairfax County will feel the effects in some capacity," she said in a press release. "However, based on correspondence received, my interactions with residents, and guidance from the Hunter Mill District Budget Committee, my approach to this year's budget remained philosophically consistent: attempt to not to inflict undue hardship on any one segment of the county, whether that be those who receive services, those who pay real estate and other taxes, those whom the county employ, those whom the county educates, or all of us who rely on the county to keep us safe."

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♦ Burke Connection ♦ May 8-14, 2014

ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy a Magical Time with 'Beauty and the Beast Jr.'

Area residents shine in Northern Virginia Players spring production.

> **By Janelle Germanos** The Connection

embers of Northern Virginia Players are sharing their enthusiasm and love for song and dance while also raising money for an 11year-old with a brain disorder through their spring production of "Beauty and the Beast Jr."

Last weekend's shows brought fun and cheer to packed audiences, with standing ovations every show, and the good times continue May 9 and 10 at Burke Community Church.

A portion of the ticket proceeds benefit Glitter Matters, a nonprofit that was started for Ellie Schleyer. Schleyer is an 11-year-old who has been battling an undiagnosed and



Austin Herndon plays Gaston and Alyssa Gallo plays Belle in Northern Virginia Players spring musical, "Beauty and the Beast Jr."

rare brain disorder. Northern Virginia Players first heard of the cause when they previously performed shows at New Hope Church, where Schleyer's father is a pastor.

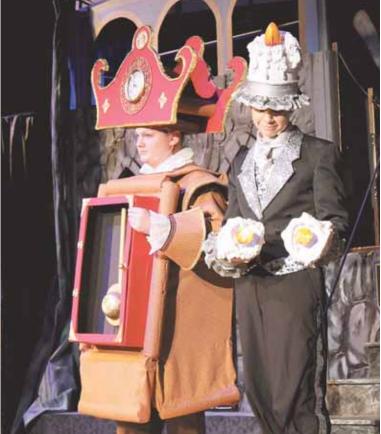
"It's just a great way to give back to the community," said Ann Eul, a director of the show

and West Springfield resident.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA PLAY-

ERS' performance was filled with exceptional renditions of classics such as "Be Our Guest" and "Beauty and the Beast." Next week's show is sure to be just as exciting, with a whole new set of cast members performing in the main roles for the second weekend.

"We double-cast because we emphasize working together," said SEE BEAUTY, PAGE 15



Charlie Porter stars as Cogsworth and Travis Carr stars as Lumiere in the Northern Virginia Players production of "Beauty and the Beast Jr."



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ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY/MAY 9

Wounded Warrior Project Jill's House Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Tickets \$10 available at

www.convictusmusic.com/shows. FRIDAY/MAY 9-SUNDAY/JUNE 1

The Fantasticks. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Fantasticks is a funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. Tickets : \$15.

FRIDAY/MAY 9-SUNDAY/MAY 18 "Failure, A Love Story" Play.

Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or www.thehubtheatre.org. Note: For ages 10 and up.

FRIDAY/MAY 9 - SATURDAY/MAY 10

- "Be Our Guest." 7:30 p.m. May 3 and 10 at 1: 30 p.m. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Step into the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. For tickets please visit NVPlayers.com.
- **"The Producers."** 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A musical performed by South County High School students that will provide laughter and comedy. PG- 13. General admission at the door is \$12 and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be



PHOTO BY HELEN PAFUMI/HUB THEATRE From left: Tia, Shearer, Carolyn Kasner, Maggie Erwin in Hub Theatre's production of "Failure: A Love Story." The play runs through May 18 at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax.

purchased in advance at southcountytheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 9 - SUNDAY/MAY 11

"9 to 5: The Musical." 7:30 p.m. May 4 & 11 at 2 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Based on the 1980 hit movie, this new musical is the story of three unlikely friends who conspire to rise up against their tyrannical and sexist boss and find there's nothing they can't do — even in a man's world. Outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. PG-13. Tickets are \$10 online at www.fxplayers.org, and \$15 at the door.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

- Eileen Olson Art Show Reception. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Building Five, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m.
- Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. An opening reception for all studio shows and

featured artists. Celebrating the Changing Seasons with the Symphony. 8 p.m. Joining the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra are virtuous violinist Guillermo Figueroa and the massed forces of the Fairfax Choral Society.

The Castles of Spain. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church is located at 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Internationally recognized classical guitarist, Larry Snitzler will perform.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 14

"Mission to Tokyo." 1:30 p.m. American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield. Local author, Robert F. Dorr, will speak about one of his 70+ books. The book takes the reader on a WWII strategic bombing mission from Tinian, a western Pacific Island, to Tokyo and back. Mr. Dorr will talk about the war itself and about his experiences in researching the war. He has a couple of surprises that may alter your understanding of history.

THURSDAY/MAY 15

Who Won the Race of a Lifetime: the Battle between Byrd and Amundsen at the North Pole. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street. The epic struggle between Richard Byrd and Roald Amundsen – as they raced to be the first man to fly over the North Pole – has never been this exciting. Author Sheldon Bart will use facts and stories never before published. To make the evening special, Richard Byrd's grandson will be on hand to add his personal insights.

Second Annual Fashion in Motion Fashion Show. 7:30 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Nine Fairfax Academy Fashion Design 2 students—representing nine different Fairfax County public schools—will be showcasing their collections. Tickets can be purchased at http:// fashioninmotion.ticketleap.com/2/ or at the door. Seating is limited; advance ticket purchase is recommended.

SATURDAY/ MAY 17

- Spring Garden Day. 9 a.m.-3p.m., Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. More than 40 vendors of rare and unusual plants descend on Green Spring Gardens to fill your spring gardening needs.
- **2014 Spring Carnival.** 11 a.m. 5 p.m. 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Hosted by St. Andrew's The Apostle School. Spring fun for all in the community.
- Ballroom Social Dance Featuring Cha-Cha. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$5-\$10. http://www.workhousearts.org/ events/performing-arts/ballroomsocial-dance-12
- Yard Sale. 8 a.m. 1 p.m. Lee High School Parking Lot, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Register for a small space now prices: are \$10 or 2 for \$15. Register by email at Leeyardsalemay17@gmail.com.
- Springtime Pops. 8 p.m. WT Woodson High School, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. CFB's season closer is a celebration of spring in full swing, with an "Evening at Pops" inspired program featuring light classics, marches, show tunes and movie music. The program also features the winter of the 2014 Young Artist Competition in solo performance.



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

ENTERTAINMENT

'Beauty and the Beast Jr.'

From Page 13

Kate Wittig, a director of the show. "We don't build starlets, and we think it shows in the performances."

Burke resident Alyssa Gallo, 18, starred as Belle in the May 2 and 3 performances. This was her first play with Northern Virginia Players, but she said it's already become like one big family.

"I like my part because I can be myself in it. I've dealt with some things that she kind of feels. It was immediate connection. And I love NVP because I can be myself in front of them," Gallo said.

Gallo is also happy that proceeds of the show are benefiting Glitter Matters, as she was a cancer patient when she was younger.

"I knew I wanted to help in any way that I could," Gallo said.

On May 9 and 10, Victoria Conner, 17, will play the part of Belle.

Northern Virginia Players is a community group with children from age 8 to 18. Wittig and Eul, the show's directors, say the nearly 70-member cast is a talented and exceptional group of students.

"It's the most positive atmosphere that I've been able to find anywhere in any theater group in this area," said Alden Lester, 16, who plays the part of Lefou.

The students' love for Northern Virginia Players and their characters shines through in their performance.

"My double-cast is amazing, and my character, Madame de la Grande Bouche, is big, giant, and



Blaise Majewski and Alyssa Gallo star in "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," Northern Virginia Players' spring musical. The show continues May 9 and 10 at Burke Community Church.

she likes to be known. It's a lot of of the students plan to pursue thefun," said Abby Collins, 15, of Falls Church. Springfield resident John Stallings, 8, was a member of the ensemble.

"I loved playing the part of the villager," Stallings said. "And I love singing and dancing."

Jordon Post, a Fairfax Station resident and a narrator in the play, has been in seven Northern Virginia Players productions.

"It's just a lot of fun making new friends and acting, and showing off what you can do," Post said. "My double-cast last year became my best friend."

ACTING AND SINGING gives the students a chance to do an activity they love and to make friends at the same time. Several

ater after graduation.

"My character Cogsworth is just so weird. It's really out there, and it's fun to get out there, because I'm kind of shy actually," said Charlie Potter, 18. "My brother is actually going to play Cogsworth next week, and he wants to make the part completely different."

Northern Virginia Players boosts a close-knit environment that relies on the work of dedicated parents and volunteers.

"We have a lot of military families that come back and see the shows," Eul said. "The parents are amazing and supportive."

Want to go? Showtimes are May 9 and 10 at 7:30, and May 10 at 1:30 at Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke.

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New York City **Fairfax Academy** presents the Fairfax Academy's annual dance showcase entitled, "On the

Corner Of" a Dance **Tribute to New York** City, featuring dance

of the students from around Fairfax County High Schools of the Fairfax Academy. Performance at Fairfax Academy 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15 at the door and \$10 on line at fxdance.ticketleap.com. For more information, visit faxcaddance.com Young Artists Series will be a shortened version for youngsters at 3 p.m. on May 17. Tickets \$5.



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COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Sports



Woodson junior Isabel Obregon scored eight goals during the Cavaliers' 18-8 victory over Annandale on Tuesday.



Woodson senior Alex Lightfoot scored four goals, including three in a row at one point, during the Cavaliers' win over Annandale on Tuesday.

Obregon, Lightfoot Lead Woodson Girls' Lax to Victory

Cavaliers score 10 straight goals to pull away from Annandale.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

nnandale attacker Sureyya Gokturk's goal with 18:30 remaining in the second half tied the score at 7 during Tuesday's contest against the perennial Patriot District power Woodson Cavaliers.

Little did the Atoms know, their evening was about to go downhill quickly.

The Woodson girls' lacrosse team scored the next 10 goals, including three straight by senior Alex Lightfoot, en route to an 18-8 victory on May 6 at Annandale High School.

Woodson won four consecutive Patriot District championships since moving over from the Liberty District in 2010. Now a member of Conference 7 (composed of seven of the previous eight Patriot District teams) after the VHSL's six-class realignment, the Cavaliers are looking to continue their postseason success. Tuesday's win improved Woodson's record to 8-2, including 5-0 against conference foes.

"We expect to win the [conference]," second-year Woodson head coach Patrick Mahler said. "That's our first goal. We expect to be playing into the month of June and give ourselves a chance for the big trophies."

Woodson appears to have the firepower to make a postseason run. Junior midfielder Isabel Obregon, who was named Patriot District Player of the Year as a freshman in 2012 before playing her sophomore season at Bishop Ireton, scored a game-high eight goals, many of which came early while the score was tight. Senior midfielder Kelly Stegner scored the go-ahead goal with 16:38 remaining, giving the Cavaliers an 8-

16 ♦ Burke Connection ♦ May 8-14, 2014



Woodson senior Kelly Stegner (5) tries to escape two Annandale defenders on Tuesday.

7 advantage. Lightfoot scored the next three goals as Woodson started to pull away.

WOODSON'S 10-0 RUN started after Annandale standout Ashley Britton left the field after receiving her second penalty card.

"I definitely think we were all panicking in the beginning because we kind of got into our own heads before the game," Obregon said. "I think we were over-analyzing the other team. I don't think we had enough confidence."

If the Cavaliers were lacking confidence, it didn't show in the second half.

"We knew that they were going to be aggressive and we knew that they were going to get fouls, in particular certain players, so we knew when those players were in the penalty box, that we needed to take advantage of our opportunities," Mahler said. "Senior leader Alex Lightfoot did that exact thing and had [three] in a row. We knew that it was just a matter of time before their over-aggression got the best of them and then we were able to capitalize on that."

While seven different Cavaliers scored at least one goal, Obregon and Lightfoot car-

ried much of the offensive load. Obregon scored six of the team's first seven goals and finished with eight. Now a junior, Obregon transferred back to Woodson from Bishop Ireton at the beginning of the second semester in January and re-joined the Cavalier lacrosse program. The University of Maryland commit said she is enjoying being back at her former school.

"I'm definitely having more fun with lacrosse here," she said, "because it's a lot less

West Springfield Baseball Wins 11 of 13

West Springfield senior Tim Yonkers pitches against South County on Tuesday, May 6. The Spartans entered the contest having won 11 of their last 13 games.



Mahler said Obregon struggled at first with transitioning back to Woodson, but No. 18 has come on strong.

"It was a change," Mahler said. "She's a high school girl and she's a creature of habit. The change so late in the school year really made it a roller coaster experience for her, but now it's starting to level out, especially after spring break."

Lightfoot, who will play at Randolph Macon, finished with four goals for Woodson.

"Alex Lightfoot's been playing since she was 6 or 7 years old," Mahler said. "She might not be the most athletic, but she has all of the nuances and she knows how to play the game. She's very, very crafty and very, very smart. She has excellent stick skills."

Sophomore attacker/midfielder Claire Swanson scored two goals for Woodson. Stegner, Grace Stephan, Emily Williams and Emma Vinall each scored one.

WOODSON WILL TRAVEL to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9, and close the regular season at home against Lee on Monday, May 12.

"I know that Woodson can make it very far," Obregon said. "We have talent on the team. Even our bench is very deep. I expect to definitely win our [conference]."







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