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FATHER'S DAY PHOTOS



Garrett Cook, 9, from Springfield, with his father Tom Cook and his grandfather Robert Cook. This was taken on a family trip to the Pennsylvania State University in April 2014.



Patrick and daughter, Harper, 1, alongside the neighborhood pond in Fairfax Station, helping dad set up for their favorite Sunday fishing.

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.

Alissa Caitlin Feudo, daughter of Dr. Christopher V. and Melanie L. Feudo, of Fairfax Station, graduated Magna Cum Laude on May 9 from Christopher Newport University, in Newport News, Va. Alissa was awarded a number of ribbons and medallions, and received the highest award, 'Excel-

lence in Psychological Research' from the Psychology Department. Alissa was the awardee of the 2012 Honors Program Summer Research Stipend, the International Honors Society in Psychology Smithfield-Goodwin Scholarship, selected for the Dean's list for all four years, elected to Director of the Research Lab (for all 4 years), and was Solo Author presenter at five (5) conferences. She was also co-Author of an article for the International Psychology Community. She is a talented musician on her way to pursue her dreams, as a song-writer and singer.

See Schools, Page 7

First Responders Honored for Going 'Above and Beyond'

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce hosts First Responders Benefit Lunch.

> By Janelle Germanos THE CONNECTION

eing a first responder is stressful enough, but the first responders who were honored at this year's Above and Beyond: First Responders Benefit Lunch excel at their jobs and more.

Four outstanding first responders who truly go above and beyond were awarded this year. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler, and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid were presenters at the event. Jeff Goldberg, the Virginia bureau chief for ABC7/WJLA-TV, served as the narrator for the event.

The honorees included Master Deputy Sheriff Rodney Harrison, who has been working in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office since 1987. In addition to showing great professionalism in his job, Harrison is active in his community as a Salvation Army bell ringer, serving 35 hours a week for six weeks during the holidays for the past 20 years. Every year, Harrison travels to Africa through his church on mission trips.

Auxiliary Police Officer Thomas Oliver, who has been volunteering for the police department since 1999, was also honored at the event. Not only does Oliver serve the police department by helping with traffic stops and events, but he also goes above and beyond by participating in over 70 vehicle and crime prevention events in the community in 2013.

In February after responding to a domestic call, Officer Long Dinh, Jr. was critically injured after a head-on collision with the case's suspect. Dinh received traumatic brain injuries, but is working hard to return to work as a police officer, and returned this March in light capacity. Dinh was another recipient of the "Above and Beyond" award.

The final award was presented to Ofofficer and volunteer firefighter. In addition to his full-time police officer job, he serves at least 60 hours every quarter as a volunteer firefighter in Burke to keep



Photos by Janelle Germanos/The Connection

Master Deputy Sheriff Rodney Harrison, third from left, was one of the first responders honored at this year's Above & Beyond: First Responders Benefit **Lunch hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of** Commerce.



Officer Long Dinh, Jr., third from left, was one of the first responders honored at this year's Above & Beyond: First Responders Benefit Lunch hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

his status as a volunteer firefighter.

"In the course of their work protecting our community and our neighbors, our honorees see unfilled needs and, in their off time, ficer Paul Stracke, who is both a police they fill it," said Michael Drobnis, chair of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Above and Beyond Awards. "They go above and beyond and we are honored to have them as part of our community."



APO Thomas Oliver, third from left, was one of the first responders honored at this year's Above & Beyond: First Responders Benefit Lunch hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.



Officer Long Dinh, Jr. and Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Chief of Police, at this year's Above & Beyond: First Responders Benefit Lunch hosted by the **Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.**



Officer Paul F. Stracke, third from left, was one of the first responders honored at this year's Above & Beyond: First **Responders Benefit Lunch** hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Meals Task Force Referendum co-chairs Kate Hanley and Tom Davis deliver a short presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, June 17, on the final report of the 44-member task force.

Meals Tax: Tasty or Revolting?

force's final report on hot-button issue.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

fter hours of simmering debate, the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force's presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday was a mere amuse-bouche, whetting the appetite of board the for the group's 170-page multi-course written re-

For the past two months, top chefs Kate Hanley (D) and Tom Davis (R), both former chairmen of the board, led a 44-member task force through four highly-charged and heated meetings.

But the group failed to come to a consensus about whether the supervisors should serve up a referendum to voters on the meals tax; instead it provided the board with an exhaustive menu of pros and cons for the supervisors to consider.

Commissioned by Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large), the task force was convened in April to consider whether Fairfax County should proceed with a referendum for a meals tax; if yes, what year should the referendum be held, and how should the revenue from the meals tax be used.

Supervisors digest task THE LAST TIME Fairfax County asked voters to approve a tax on restaurant meals, in 1992, the issue ignited a firestorm of protests, and threatened to melt down several political careers.

> The reverberations of that epic failure what many consider the third rail of county politics - continue to echo in the ears of county politicians.

> Probably no local politician was more affected by the issue than Davis, the former Republican congressman who chaired the board during the last 1992 meals tax battle.

> "It got pretty ugly," he said of the factions in the 1992 referendum crusade. The measure was defeated 58 percent to 42 percent with approximately 102,000 votes cast during a special April election.

> During Tuesday's presentation, Davis and Hanley noted the task force learned from the 1992 referendum failure, and came to a swift consensus on two points:

> If the board decides to put the tax to a referendum, the referendum should be held during a general election, not a special elec-

* If the board decided to approve a referendum, the money should be dedicated, meaning that voters should know how the money will be spent.

Bulova has said that a four-percent tax on meals and beverages at the county's nearly 3,000 restaurants would generate approximately \$90 million in new revenue for schools, public safety, parks, libraries and human services.

After the short presentation by Hanley and Davis, Bulova made it clear to that she would "not entertain motions" on the report during Tuesday's meeting.

"The board just received the report, and we need time to digest it," she said, opening up the issue for brief comments and questions from the board.

"Is it persuasive to voters, in your opinion, that we are not treated as cities in our ability to raise revenue?" asked Supervisor Gerald Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). "Do you think we should raise the issue that this tax will get us away from the reliance of real estate tax? Will that be persuasive to vot-

Hanley and Davis said the task force did provide advice on how to sell the tax to

"Many issues here continue to confuse voters," Hanley said.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was concerned about the "enormous lack of information regarding what our constituents know about (our taxing authority)."

"Our legislative agenda has always been that we need the authority to tax in this situation. And that piece is not often discussed," Hudgins said.

Counties in Virginia are historically restricted in their authority to levy many local taxes, including a meals tax, without a referendum. Cities and towns, on the other hand, are given more leeway by the Virginia state code.

About a Meals Tax

What effect would the meals tax have on an average resident at a 4 percent tax rate?

- ❖ On a \$5 "fast food" meal, tax would be
- ❖ On a \$50 meal at a "nice restaurant", tax

would be \$2 Who would pay the meals tax?

- County residents who choose to dine out.
- Commuters, travelers and tourists who visit Fairfax County

What about tourists? How much do tourists spend on dining out in Fairfax County?

- According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, tourists spend an estimated \$631.4 million eating out in Fairfax County annually.
- Approximately 28 percent of meals expenditures in Fairfax County are generated by non-county residents.
- ❖ If Fairfax County voters approve a 4 percent meals tax, revenue generated from tourists is expected to be about \$25.3 million annually.

Who else has a meals tax in Northern Virginia, and how much revenue does it raise?

- ❖ Alexandria has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$17.6 million in 2014.
- ❖ Arlington has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$34.7 million in 2014.
- ❖ Falls Church has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$2.7 million in 2014
- ❖ Fairfax City has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$5.4 million in 2014.
- ❖ Herndon has a 2.5 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$2 million in 2014.
- Vienna has a 3 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$1.9 million in 2014
- ❖ The District of Columbia has a 10 percent. MTR that is expected to generate \$331.31 million in 2014.

The City of Alexandria (1975), the City of Fairfax (1985), the City of Falls Church (1977), the Town of Herndon (2003), the City Manassas (1988) and the Town of Vienna (1989) have all enacted a meals tax by local ordinance. Meanwhile, Arlington County is one of the few counties that has received authority from the Virginia General Assembly to enact a meals tax by unanimous vote of its County Board.

That's something that won't happen in Fairfax County, said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who declared Tuesday there would be no "unanimous" decision when the Fairfax County board casts its vote on a meals tax referendum.

"It's a tax that targets a single industry," Herrity said in explaining why he would not consider voting to put a referendum on the ballot. "It would increase the tax on prepared foods by 67 percent, and Fairfax County residents will overwhelmingly shoulder this burden, the same county residents that have seen their homeowner taxes rise by 14 percent in the last three years alone."

Across the state, a meals tax has met with mixed reaction from voters. Loudoun and Prince William county officials recently rejected the idea of a meals tax after restaurant groups successfully argued the tax would unfairly target an industry that is facing pressure to increase the minimum wage while still struggling to recover from the 2008 recession.

But voters in Henrico County, which surrounds the City of Richmond, narrowly approved a 4 percent meals tax last Novem-

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 5

News

Meals Tax: Pros & Cons

From Page 4

Political analysis concluded the success of that referendum was due, in large part, to an avid public awareness campaign that reminded voters funds generated from the tax — about \$18 million each year — were dedicated to Henrico County Public Schools.

While much has changed in Fairfax County since 1992, the mere mention of a meals tax still stirs up vehement reactions.

"I think it is a bit disingenuous to suggest libraries, schools and parks would be the primary beneficiaries of meals tax revenues," said Herndon resident Walter Hadlock in an email regarding the tax. "There are those of us, i.e., retirees, people with no children at home ... who don't get any direct benefit from the bulk of county services"

"The board has once again put off making a decision on whether to place this burden on our residents, caterers, grocery stores, and restaurants," Herrity said.

ON THE OTHER SIDE of the debate, Josh Israel of Fairfax said that, although he has no children, he would be "absolutely fine with paying more to make sure that our county has even better schools, sufficient funds for infrastructure, and is able to offer more programs to make our county a better place for everyone to live."

Therese and Bernard Martin of Reston agreed with Israel.

"Fairfax County has tried, without success, to find sources other than the property tax to pay for schools, public safety and other services desired by its citizens," the couple wrote in a June 6 email to the task force.

"I bet that the long lines of people waiting to get into restaurants at places like the Reston Town Center won't be tempted to get back in their cars and drive to Loudoun or Prince William County to save 4 cents on every dollar that they spend. I think the restaurant industry is 'crying wolf," Therese Martin said.

After the report by Hanley and Davis, Bulova thanked the task force but did not say when the board would vote on the report.

"What's missing (in the report) is how we discuss this with the community," added Hudgins.

"This is still in our lap and we have to decide what we want to do with it."

To view the report, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/



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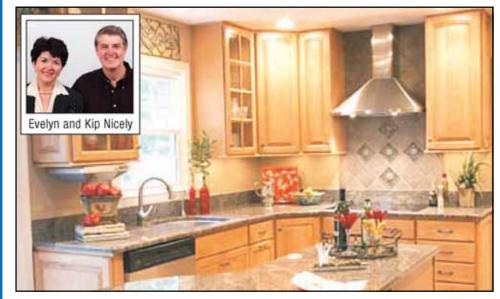
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OPINION

More Affordable Housing Needed

Anticipated job growth to exacerbate problem.

n Northern Virginia, affordable housing means more than human services or helping those who are less fortunate. It means more than housing the chronically homeless, although that is not optional.

In Northern Virginia, having enough affordable housing is critical to economic health, based on housing the workers needed at a variety of income levels. It is also critical to traffic management. If workers on the lower end of the income scale can't afford to work near their jobs, those workers **EDITORIALS** will have to drive longer distances, creating gridlock and air pollution.

Consider that in the Washington Metropolitan Region, the established median rent for a two-bedroom apartment, according to HUD, is \$1,589 monthly. To afford that rent, paying no more than 30 percent of gross income, requires an income of about \$60,000 annually. And it is obvious that rents in Northern Virginia are more expensive that the region.

Consider for example, that right now in Alexandria, there are more than 8,300 workers in the accommodations and food service industry who earn on average \$470 weekly, or less than \$25,000 a year. (Employment statistics from Virginia Employment Commission.)

In Arlington, there are more than 15,400 median income of \$22,500.

workers in accommodations and food service, with an average weekly wage of \$491, or \$25,500 annually.

In Fairfax County, in food service and accommodations, there are more than 48,400 workers with an average wage of \$426 weekly or an annual income of just over \$22,000.

These are people working full time in jobs that are important to our economy who cannot afford market rate rents, and rents are

The George Mason University School of Public Policy Center for Regional Analysis forecasts that, based on predicted job growth, over the

next 20 years this region will need an additional 344,624 single-family units and 203,674 multi-family units.

From the report:

"The region's new housing must be priced so that it is affordable to these new workers. Based on the housing need forecasts, 44.1 percent of rental units will need to have rents of less than \$1,250 a month, while only 2.4 percent of the rental demand will be for units priced at \$2,250 a month or more. About 16.4 percent of the owner-occupied units forecasted need to be valued at less than \$200,000 and only 13.5 percent at over \$600,000."

For example, the report predicts adding more than 71,000 health services workers with a median income of \$39,500; more than 45,000 hospitality workers with a median income of \$18,300; and 17,700 retail workers with a

The units to house the current and future workforce will not materialize on their own. It will require a variety of incentives and interventions to make sure those units are part of new development.

As the Silver Line opens, it's important to remember that the coming years will bring the last great boom in building in Fairfax County. No matter what the immediate impediments, the local economy cannot thrive unless developing affordable housing is built into all of those development plans, current and future.

-MARY KIMM

Call for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 23, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 16.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please tell us a little bit about your pet, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, explanations of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Email to editor@connectionnewspapers.com.

Woodson High Graduates: Where Do You See Yourself in the Next 5-10 Years?



"Hopefully working. I'd like to travel and have, like, a job at that point. Hopefully graduate

- James Lovett plans to attend Radford University



"I'm going to be a commissioned officer in the U.S.

Christine Sidhu plans to attend the **U.S. Military Academy** at West Point



"Teaching at my art studio, Picasso. freelancing for graphic design.'

- Rebecca Cho plans to attend George **Mason University**



"I'm going to be in the Ma-Corps, serving

 Ariel Magalong leaves for the Marine Corps on July 7



Abigail Constantino

"I'm going to Indiana University to study music education for trumpet.

- Noah Freeman (left)

Fairfax High Graduates: Where Do You See Yourself in the Next 5-10 Years?



"I'm going to go to James Madison University next year and hopefully major in Nursing, and I see myself working with their Women's Specialty Department."

— Yvanna Salas



"I'm going to be going to Longwood University and studying Athletic Training. In five to 10 years, I want to be able to run my own physical therapy."

— Samantha Carr



"For plans after high school, I'll be at the University of Virginia, and hopefully after that, I'll be attending an Ivy League school for another four years. I'm going to be in the UVA Undergraduate Business School and hopefully, in graduate school, business."

— Tom Burke



"I'm going to the University of Pittsburgh, and I think I'm going to be in Dental School in five years. I've been interested since I was a kid; that's what I've wanted to do. I'm passionate about dental hygiene.

— Mahesh Pallapolu

Springfield

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: To discuss ideas and concerns, Call: 703-778-9410 e-mail:

springfield@connectionnewspapers.com **Kemal Kurspahic**

kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla

Editorial Assistant 703-778-9410 ext.427

Janelle Germanos

Community Reporter 703-364-8161 jgermanos@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman

Sports Editor • 703-752-4013 jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria RossCounty Reporter ❖ 301-502-6027 vross@connectionnewspapers.com

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Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm 703-778-9433 mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief Managing Editor Photography:

Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly **Production Manager:** Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann 703-778-9436 jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426 **Circulation Manager:**

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



SCHOOL NOTES

SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 2

Andrew Neils of Fairfax Station, has been named to the Dean's List in the University of Notre Dame's College of Engineering for outstanding scholarship during the Spring 2014 semester.

Abigail Coster of Clifton graduated from Columbia Law School on May 22, 2014, earning a juris doctor. Coster is a graduate of James W. Robinson, Jr. Second-

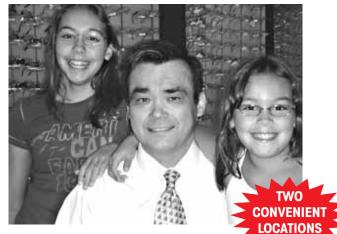
ary School (2006) and the University of Virginia (2010) where she earned a B.S. in commerce.

While at Columbia Law School, Coster was the vice president of the Entertainment Law Society and a co-captain of the softball team. She worked for the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission in Washington during the summer of 2012. During the summer of 2013, Coster was a summer associate for Schulte Roth & Zabel, working in both the firm's New York and Washington offices and with its white collar litigation and investment management groups. Coster will begin as an associate at Schulte Roth & Zabel's New York headquarters, as a member of the litigation group.

She is the daughter of Jeffrey and Sarah Coster, who reside in Clifton.

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The recipients of scholarships from the Fairfax County Retired Educators gather at a luncheon honoring their accomplishments on June 12. All of these students have plans to obtain a teaching career and some are hoping to return to teach in Fairfax County. From left: Talia Schmidt, a recipient of last year's scholarship, Kimberley Drummond, Billie Johnson, president of FCRE, Sydney Kirwan, Elizabeth McCune, Phyllis Rittman, Julia Gurdak, John Dent, incoming president of FCRE, Sandra Richie, and Anna Barr. Not pictured: Scholarship recipient Emily Colon.

Retired Educators Award Scholarships

Seven aspiring educators from Fairfax County receive awards.

> By Janelle Germanos THE CONNECTION

spiring educators from across Fairfax County were honored for their accomplishments and presented with scholarships to help them begin their teaching careers at a luncheon and ceremony held by the Fairfax County Retired Educators on June 12 in Fairfax.

Every year, FCRE awards students interested in teaching careers with \$2,000 scholarships. This year, the seven students were either graduates or soon-to-be graduates of high schools throughout Fairfax County, including Robinson, Lake Braddock, West Springfield, Marshall, Mclean and James Madison.

Anna Barr, recipient of one of the been sure about for a long time Bobbi Vest Memorial Scholarships, now," Barr said. is a 2014 graduate of Robinson Kimberley Drummond, who County. this fall.



Karen Garza, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, speaks at a luncheon honoring the 2014 Fairfax **County Retired Educators scholarship recipients.**

2014 FCRE Scholarship Recipients

Anna Barr, Robinson Secondary School Emily Colon, West Springfield High School Kimberly Drummond, Lake Braddock Secondary Julia Gurdak, Marshall High School Sydney Kirwan, Lake Braddock Secondary School Elizabeth McCune, McLean High School Sandra Richie, James Madison High School

second recipient of the Bobbie Vest does," Drummond said. "Education is something that I've Memorial Scholarship. She will be Sydney Kirwan, another 2014 busy," Garza said.

Secondary School. She will be atgraduates this June from Lake "I hope that I have the privilege" of schools in Fairfax County and tending the University of Virginia Braddock Secondary School, is the of working here like my mom current events in the county.

graduate of Lake Braddock, is a recipient of the W. Harold Ford Scholarship and will be attending the University of Virginia.

Emily Colon, a junior at Virginia Tech, is a graduate of West Springfield High School and the recipient of the Mary O. Ambler Scholarship.

Julia Gurdak, a graduate of Marshall High School, is the recipient of the Harriet B. Mika Memorial Scholarship and will be attending Vanderbilt University.

Sandra Richie, a graduate of James Madison High School, is the recipient of the Herbert Grady Carpenter Scholarship Award, presented by Apple Federal Credit Union. Richie attends James Madison University.

Elizabeth McCune is a graduate of McLean High School and will be attending Stanford University.

"I will always continue to learn so that I am knowledgeable and masterly among my subject's contemporaries in order to provide students high caliber instruction,"

Karen Garza, superintendent of beach and bamboo," said Brown. attending William and Mary in the Fairfax County Public Schools, was fall and hopes to return to Fairfax a special guest speaker at the luntotes make practical gifts for new cheon. Garza spoke to the future graduates, perfect for a quick trip

"It's been a busy year, but a good

Education Learning Fun

Gifts for New Grads

Local tastemakers offer suggestions from the sentimental to the practical.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

fter the tassels have been turned and the di plomas received, it is usually time for a graduation celebration. Whether you're shopping for someone who Heirloom-quality frames, such as these by Elias Artmetal, can make ideal is heading to college or venturing **graduation presents.** out into the workforce, choosing a present for the graduate in your life can be perplexing, but local tastemakers are here to help, offering suggestions for graduation presents that range from the practical to the sentimental.

Frames for displaying graduation photos or family photos that remind graduates of home can make great gifts. "We have gorgeous, heirloom-quality frames by Elias Artmetal that are made in the U.S.A. by an old established company," said John Brown, owner of J. Brown and Company in Old Town Alexandria.

Leather goods, such as a wellmade key chain, journal or passport holder are also gifts that will not only be treasured, but will come in handy long after the pomp and circumstance of the big day are over.

Reminders of the college the graduate attended or will attend can make cheerful presents. "Collegiate products make great gifts," said Randyl Fabian, manager of The Dandelion Patch in Reston Town Center and Vienna. "There are platters, wine glasses and koozies for not only Virginia colleges, but a lot of schools outside of Virginia. They could be a commemorative item for a college graduate or a gift for someone who is heading off to college."

Another option is a scented candle or diffuser, which can add a touch of elegance to a first apartment or dorm room. "Nest Fragrances has line of scents that young people love ... especially

Backpacks, overnight bags and home or a first business trip. "Fun graphic totes are a great gift for grads," said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Perfect for

travel, the gym or toting things around campus, they are something every grad can use." Fabian said that Scout bags

(www.scoutbags.com), which come in an array of colors, sizes and styles, are easy to clean and appropriate for a wide variety of

Don't forget jewelry, which can last for a lifetime: "Personalized items like our initial

pendant necklaces make a great gift and can serve as a remembrance of the graduate's special day," said Thomas.

For high school graduates, consider warm pajamas or cozy throws for chilly dorm rooms. Also, "Kate Spade makes nice desk sets that are a bit jazzier than your average desk, and would add a nice touch to a dorm room," said Fabian.

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News



Veteran Henry Stawicki greets French children in the village of Sainte-Mère-Église. At the height of World War II, the village was recaptured by American airborne and land troops. Their efforts helped this to be the first Normandy village liberated from Nazi tyranny.



Henry Stawicki, pictured with the Sherman Tank, the most commonly used American tank in World War II, at the Bastogne Barracks in Belgium. More than 50,000 Shermans were produced between 1942 and 1945.

-

Burke Veteran Revisits Normandy

Revisiting historic places, memories during 10-day trip to Europe alongside family.

By Thomas Friestad
The Connection

hile the visual of infantry servicemen during the Normandy Invasion is an iconic World War II visual, lesser known is that of the combat engineers who made the infantry's progress through enemy territory possible. Veteran Henry Stawicki of Burke recently revisited Europe on the seventieth anniversary of D-Day to commemorate his role in the 341st Engineer Regiment.

Stawicki said he and his family decided to participate on a ten-day tour of various European cities prominent in WWII history after receiving a letter from the American Battle Commission. Their tour included visits to Normandy, Paris, Luxembourg, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

"My family decided it would be interesting to go since it was the seventieth anniversary; there were seven of us who went," Stawicki said. "We went last year, but there weren't that many veterans there that time. The ceremony was from the city of Normandy; they honored all veterans with a special medal for knighthood."

Stawicki said, as a young man from Pittsburgh, he originally wanted to become part of the infantry after receiving a letter from President Roosevelt, informing him his neighbors had recommended him for service. However, based on test scores he achieved, he was instead assigned to the 341st Engineer Regiment.



Members of the French Army request autographs and photographs from Henry Stawicki at Sainte-Mère-Église.

He landed on Utah Beach a few weeks after D-Day to put his skills into action during the battle's aftermath.

"The Germans destroyed bridges, and we were there to repair them and put them back up, and also to take care of the minefields," Stawicki said. "When I landed on the beach, I had pneumonia. They wanted to put me in the hospital, but I didn't want to go because I wanted to travel with the people I had trained with. I survived. I was pretty healthy. In army life, they push you through a lot of hard work. I was blessed, that's all."

JAN CURLEY, Stawicki's daughter, accompanied him on his recent visit abroad. She said she spoke to another veteran during the tour who enlightened her regarding the dangers combat engineers such as Stawicki faced at the time.

"He said to me 'I was in the infantry, but I would've rather had a rifle in my hand than a wrench like your father," Curley said. "Combat engineers had to build what are called Victory Bridges for the Infantry to

cross. They had five to seven days to build a bridge, and while it was under construction, they were surrounded by Germans, and were often under fire, which is why my father and his company earned five bronze stars each."

Stawicki described his experience passing through a concentration camp after Paris had been freed from Nazi control.

"We visited a concentration camp, and the prisoners there were so skinny," Stawicki said. "We weren't allowed to feed them because they had to go on a special diet, but we could give them cigarettes, so I gave them my two cartons as we were marching through."

Curley said the visit granted her an opportunity to learn more about a major part of her father's life.

"There was a moment over there where I said to my dad, 'Wow, I didn't know about all of this growing up,' and he said, 'This is a big part of my life," Curley said. "I never thought about it that way, but it was. My dad is part of World War II."

"When I landed on the beach, I had pneumonia. They wanted to put me in the hospital, but I didn't want to go because I wanted to travel with the people I had trained with. I survived."

— Veteran Henry Stawicki

Curley said one major goal both she and Stawicki share is to educate U.S. citizens on World War II and to ensure they do not forget its role in the country's history.

"In Normandy, those people will always remember," Curley said. "I think that's the message they want to give the world: please don't forget. These men and women were heroes, and they formed what we have today. If you ask any of the French, they'll say, 'If we didn't win the war, we could all be speaking German today."

Curley said, during her visits to Heatherwood Retirement Community in Burke, where Stawicki currently resides, she has observed a great interest in her father's stories from other residents.

"When dad arrived back there, so many of them wanted to hear stories about the trip; they're very interested," Curley said. "A lot of the women, who lost their veteran husbands years ago, never went back to Europe. It's part of their husbands' lives, so they enjoy experiencing parts of it again."

STAWICKI SAID ONE KEY DIFFER- ENCE he observed from landing on Utah
Beach in 1944 revisiting Normandy in 2014

was the mood of the local townspeople.

"They were unhappy when I first went over there, and now they're happy," Stawicki said. "They're free; they can do what they want to do without anyone telling them what they should or should not do. They really appreciate that we came there. God willing, I'll be back again next year."

Entertainment

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 20-SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Some Girl(s). Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This play by Neil LaBute tells the story of one man as he flies across the country in search of the perfect woman (whom he's already broken up with). Admissions: \$5-\$10. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-

FRIDAY/JUNE 20 – SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Cooking Light & Health's The Fit Foodie 5K Race Weekend.

Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. The Fit Foodie 5K Race Weekend Series is jam-packed with celebrity chef tastings, cooking and fitness demonstrations, yoga sessions, and a Power Systems fitness boot camp, all led by celebrity trainers and fitness experts. For tickets and registration, visit http:// www.fitfoodierun.com/

FRIDAY/JUNE 20-SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Wild Horse and Burro Adoption.

Meadowood Recreation Center 10406 Gunston Road, Lorton. Friday 2- 7 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adoption by first come, first served.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21- AUGUST 9 Children's Theatre: The Ice

Queen. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. This original fairytale follows the Ice Queen's search for the love of her life. Will the Ice Queen and Jack Frost make the perfect pair and live happily ever after? Admissions: \$9-\$12. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Dress code is casual for both ballroom mini-lessons and open dancing. Mini-lessons begin at 7:30 and feature different styles, from ChaCha to Tango. Open dance begins at 8. All skill levels are welcome, and complimentary refreshments and cash bar are available. Admissions: \$5-\$10. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584

Wildflower Folklore & More. 10-11 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

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in July

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springfieldconnection.com

Be sure to include your name,

address and phone number, and

Naturalist Alonso Abugattas shares the identification, folklore, medicinal usage, ethics of collecting and other human interactions surrounding wildflowers. \$18. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

greenspring or 703-642-5173. **Boy Scout Plant Science Merit Badge**. 12-4 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. \$28.

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Mall, 6417 Loisdale Road, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

34th Annual Spring Mosby Civil **War Bus Tour.** 8:30 a.m. Truro Parish, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Visit Green Springs (The home of Fount Beattie), the City of Alexandria, the Robert E. Lee Camp Hall Museum, the grave of Ranger Albert Minor, the site of the Rose Hill Manor House, the Broder's Site & Cemetery and much more. Cost for Stuart-Mosby Histocial Society members is \$6; non-members is \$75. Reserve your seat by sending us your name, address and phone number and contact Don Hakenson at dhakenson@verizon.net. Or at 703-971-4984. Reservations are not complete until we receive your check Make checks payable to: Don Hakenson and send it to: 4708 Lillian Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22310. Visit www.stuart-mosby.com and www.hmshistory.com.

The Law of Attraction. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Learn what the universal "Law of Attraction" belief system is all about, based on the works of popular mainstream authors. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/rb/ under "Events."

SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Serving up Strawberries Tea **Program**. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn how to grow strawberries and enjoy a taste -Wimbledon-style – in the garden before tea. \$29. Reservations required at 703-941-7987.

Sunset Cruise. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Sit back and listen while your tourboat guide shares interesting facts about the history of the park, the lake and the surrounding area. \$6 per person. Reservations and advance payment required. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakeaccotink/events.htm

MONDAY/JUNE 23

Magic Tree House Club. 3-4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read and talk about the fourth story Pirates Past Noon by Mary Pope Osborne. Age 6-8. 703Pohick Prose Society. 7-8:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Teens talk about books. Call for title. Age 13-18. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 25

Concert in the Garden. 6:30-8 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Live, musical evening in the gardens with Andrew Acosta and the new Old-Time String Band. Bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the lawn. 703-642-5173.

Fun with Ones. 10:30-11 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special story time just for one-year olds Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

branches/rb/ under "Events." **Dance for a Cure.** 7 – 11 p.m. Empire Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. A fundraiser to benefit Relay for Life of Springfield American Cancer Society. Enjoy music of the 60s, 70s and 80s. \$5 donation.

THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Garden Stroll & Tea Program. 1-3

p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tour some of the demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present, then enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$29. Reservations required at 703-941-7987

FRIDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 29

Braddock Nights Concert Series.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield or Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Listen to musical performances in the great outdoors. Visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/ for location and schedule.

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

Explore It with the Smithsonian's Spark! Lab. 2-2:45 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Create a musical instrument. Ages 6-12. Register at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ library/branches/rb/ under "Events."

4th Annual Bachelors and **Bachelorettes for Breast Cancer Fashion Show and Auction.** 7 – 11 p.m. Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Clarke Entertainment is hosting its 4th Annual Bachelors and Bachelorettes for Breast Cancer Fashion Show and Auction, Come enjoy the evening while bidding for a date with local supporters.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Mall, 6417 Loisdale Road, Springfield.





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21 Announcements

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Zone 6: The Arlington Connection The Vienna/Oakton Connection The McLean Connection The Great Falls Connection 21 Announcements

21 Announcements



21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF CLIFTON JULY 1, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations. eral Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton,

The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website http://clifton-va.com under the Town Council – News from

the Council drop-down menu.

A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644
Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Good is not good, where better is expected.

-Thomas Fuller

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills.º703-978-5600.

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1-2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn basic computer skills with our one-on-one technology volunteers.º703-978-

Genealogy Help Desk. 2-3 p.m. City

of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

Teen Volunteer Hours. 3-5 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Work towards completing your school volunteer hours. Ages 12-18 only. Must have a completed volunteer application signed by a parent; available at the Information Desk. Online sign-up for a volunteer shift is required. 703-

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Dog Adoption. 12 -3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highwwy, Fairfax. Call 703-817-9444 or visit hart90.org

DAR Awards Presented

Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter. NSDAR of Springfield. has awarded its DAR Good Citizen Award and the DAR **Bronze JROTC Award to** seniors at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The DAR **Youth Citizenship Medal is** given to sixth graders who show the qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism. Pictured -Nancy Tarlano, Karla Lopez and Sandy Todd.



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SPORTS

Robinson sophomore **Austin Henry** (1) scored a team-high three goals during the Rams' victory over Langley in the 6A boys' lacrosse state final on June





Members of the Robinson boys' lacrosse team rush the field after winning the 6A state championship on June 15.

Robinson Boys' Lax Wins State Championship

Rams beat Langley in 6A state final.

By David Balick The Connection

rom 1991-2007, the Robinson boys' lacrosse team won nine state championships. They were a powerhouse that dominated Virginia lacrosse for nearly two decades. Since 2007, however, this domination has fizzled and the state title has eluded them.

On Sunday night, the Rams were able to get it back by defeating Langley 9-7 in the 6A state championship game at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"It is unbelievable," said sophomore Austin Henry, who led the team with three goals in the win. "We brought (the title) back to Robinson, home of the champions."

The Rams fell behind early, but scored two goals in the final two minutes of the opening quarter to lead 2-1 at the end of the

The key for Robinson was its force. The Rams dominated the Saxons physically and never allowed them to get comfortable on the field. Senior Joe Bynum set the tone early for the Rams with a couple crushing checks, and the rest of the team followed

Langley scored again early in the second, but Robinson then strung together three straight goals and went into halftime with a 5-2 lead.

In the third quarter, Robinson came out even stronger, outscoring Langley 4-1, with goals from four different players, giving the Rams a 9-3 lead entering the fourth quarter. Robinson moved the ball well throughout, with everyone getting involved in the action.

Senior goalie Nick Kondracki came up with save after save in this quarter. He looked like a brick wall, and would follow his saves with sprints up the field, showing agility to start the counter attack for Robinson.

Head Coach Matt Curran said of Kondracki: "Quite frankly, we probably don't get here without how he played in goal all season long for us."

At the start of the fourth, the lead seemed insurmountable for the Saxons, but they showed why they made it to state title game with four goals of their own, aided by a couple of Robinson penalties, cutting the lead to 9-7 with 3 minutes left in the

But once again, the Robinson defense and

Kondracki shut the door when they needed it most. Langley was only able to fire off two shots in the closing minutes, even though the Saxons possessed the ball for most of it. Langley simply could not find any openings in the defense and seemed to know a long distance shot was a waste of possession against Kondracki.

As the horn went off to signal the end of the game, the Robinson team threw their equipment up in the sky and rushed Kondracki to celebrate a season well done.

"It feels incredible," Curran said. "We have worked so hard and we got what we have been after. We had a great group of seniors who really helped lead the way to-

The seniors finished their high school lacrosse careers on the highest of all notes with a memory that will undoubtedly last them a lifetime.

> Paul VI's championship

boys basketball team with

adults (from

Farello, Assistant Coach

Jason Hark

and Mayor

Silverthorne.

Scott

left) Head Coach Glenn

Paul VI's championship girls basketball team with (back row, from left) Head **Coach Scott** Allen, Assistant Coach **Parker Roach** and Fairfax **Mayor Scott** Silverthorne.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF EILEEN KILEY

City Council Honors PVI Hoops Teams

The Fairfax City Council recently recognized Paul VI's boys and girls basketball teams for winning both the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) and Virginia Division 1 titles. It was only the second time in WCAC history that both the boys and girls teams won the conference title in the same year.

The 2013-14 Paul VI girls' basketball team had a historic season with a 29-5 record. The girls won the WCAC regular-season and tournament championships. The Lady Panthers also set a national, high-school record by capturing their eighth consecutive Virginia Independent School division 1 state championship - Paul VI's 15th championship in the last 20 years.

They played one of the most difficult game schedules in the country by competing against nationally ranked teams in Florida, New York and Fairfax. The Lady Panthers finished with national rankings and were also ranked number one in Virginia by the Virginia Independent School

Athletic Assn.

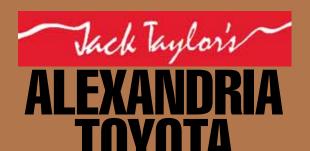
The boys' team became WCAC Champions with a 56-37 win over DeMatha High and VISAA Champions by beating previously undefeated and nationally ranked Cape Henry High. Paul VI's boys also won the Alhambra Catholic Invitational Championship.

Seven different players scored 15 or more points in at least one game during the regular season, which the team finished with a 31-6 record. The team was ranked number one in the Washington Metropolitan area and number six in the nation.

During the ceremony at City Hall, girls Head Coach Scott Allen said, "It's such a privilege to have such an outstanding team, parents and Catholic high school."

Boys Head Coach Glenn Farello praised the "wonderful community and student athletes – especially Evan Taylor, the Ione senior who led us so well this year." And, he added, "It's wonderful to share this moment with the girls' team."

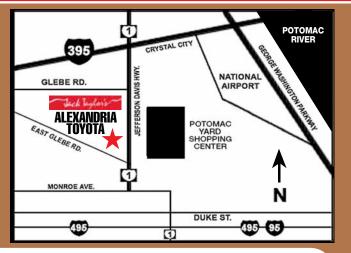
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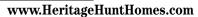
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