

The
Arlington
Connection

Capping Off Fashion at Graduation

Sean
David
McGarvey.

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2014

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Washington-Lee principal Gregg Robertson and APS Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy lead the processional into Constitution Hall on Thursday morning, June 19, at D.A.R. Constitution Hall.



Washington-Lee Class of 2014 valedictorian Samuel Douthit is followed by class vice-president Audrey Batcheller and class president Paul Murphy.



Abdulmalyk Mohammed Al-Saif and his brother Saud Mohammed pose for a photo with Gazal Amer before the graduation ceremony on Thursday afternoon.



2014 W-L principal award recipients Tyler A. Lored and Delphina Francine Charles.

Bidding Farewell to Washington-Lee High School

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION



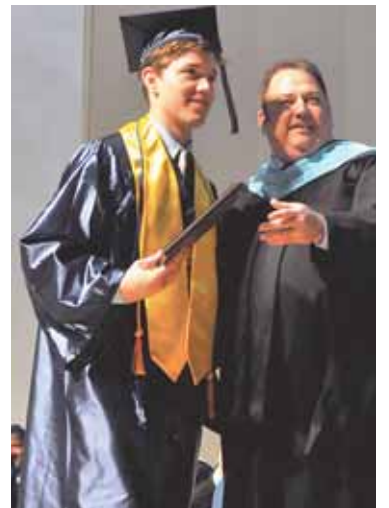
Senior Class president Paul Murphy introduces the honored guests.



Washington-Lee principal Gregg Robertson presents the 2014 O.U. Johnson Award for Education Excellence to Moussa W. Dia.



The 2014 Marion D. Spraggins Excellence in Service Award was presented to Anna Santiago.



Class valedictorian Samuel R. Douthit is awarded the 2014 Dr. William J. Shargaugh Award for Leadership Excellence.



The Air Force Junior R.O.T.C. presents the colors.



The Washington-Lee Madrigal Singers directed by Theresa Severin perform "For Good" by Stephen Schwartz.



Senior class president Grace Greenwood welcomes all to the 2014 Yorktown High School graduation ceremony.



Elizabeth Rachel Grossman, Anna Margarete Hardage, Alexander Henry Hall, Genevieve Pierson Harner, Sarah Nekia Hawkins and Elizabeth Bryan Ayres gather at the June 19 Commencement Exercises at D.A.R. Constitution Hall.



Hillary Rose Jones and Lily Claire Messinger



Amy Kristen Cederholm and Katherine Grace Keane

Yorktown Graduates March into the Future

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



Kelly Doyle, Devon Walton Parker and Claire Patricia Lewis



Melissa Rachel Land and Adam Joseph Land



Kristen Cole Herbert and social studies teacher Jon Schildknecht



John'tae De'andre Abbey and Bahadean Zuber Aqrawi

Madison Kelly Harple and Joseph Anthony Harp



Kelly Rowan Mark, Jennifer Emely Martinez and Melissa Giovanni Martinelli



Senior class president Grace Greenwood gets some words of encouragement before the Thursday afternoon graduation ceremony.



Fiori Kahsay, Tijer Hall, Megan Horsfall and Daiana Guevara-Copa



Peyton Johnson joins her classmates in the Hall.



Stephanie Gidron, Mikal Haile, Afrah Ibrahim, Natsinet Haile, Tsion Habtamu and Ledet Haile

Wakefield High School Class of 2014 Moves On



Family and friends of the Wakefield High School class of 2014 arrive at Constitution Hall for the 8 p.m. commencement exercises on June 19.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

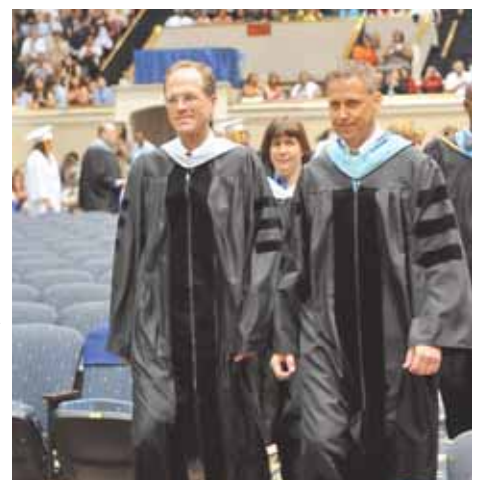


Denny D'Alelio directs the Wakefield High School Band in a prelude concert.



Lafire Faucette and Michael Flagg (center) take their places for the processional into the Hall.

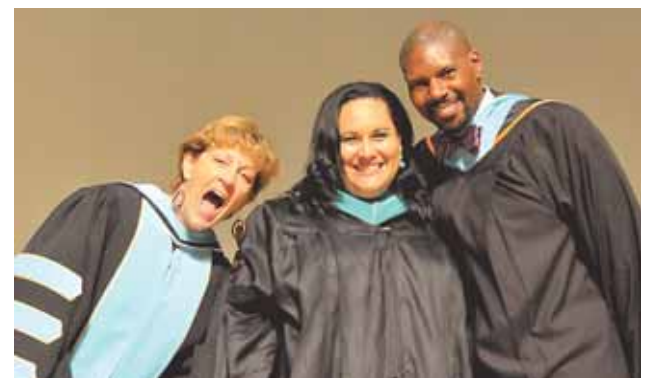
APS Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy and Wakefield High School principal Dr. Christian Willmore lead the procession into the Hall.



Nursen Kasgarli and Jennifer E. Kaldenbach-Montemayor



Caitlyn Graves, Markus Boyd and Renee Julia Dumlao



APS Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Brenda Wilks, School Board Chief of Staff Julia Burgos and School Board member James Lander.

Hearing from the People

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Supporters of a plan to build a streetcar line along Columbia Pike are divided over the wisdom of whether or not voters should weigh in on the issue. But even if voters won't be able to cast a direct ballot on the issue, they will be able to send an indirect signal when they select a candidate for Arlington County Board.

Back in May, several prominent elected officials called for a referendum, including Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), Treasurer Frank O'Leary and Commissioner of Revenue Ingrid Morroy. Last week, those hopes were dashed when a majority of County Board members said they opposed putting the streetcar issue on the ballot. County Board Chairman Jay Fissette said the county would not be seeking legislative approval for an advisory ballot, adding that he opposed financing the project through taxes on homeowners that would prompt a bond referendum.

"I am committed to streetcars," said Fissette during a County Board meeting this week. "But not at any cost."

Hope said he agreed with County Board members that an advisory ballot — essentially a nonbonding poll of county residents — would not be the best course of action.

But he said he disagreed with board members that a bond referendum should be avoided at all costs. Hope said he would have liked to have seen board members put a token dollar amount on the ballot as a bond referendum. That way voters could express their opinions on the issue in a way that would give elected officials an indication of which way the wind is blowing in the county.

"I still believe that the streetcar is an important investment," said Hope. "But I also think that this is one of those situations that's controversial enough that we ought to let the voters decide whether we go forward or not."

EVEN IF the voters will not have a direct ballot question on the streetcar issue, they will be indirectly voting on the issue this November when they choose a candidate for the County Board. Incumbent County Board member John Vihstadt won a special election earlier this year after basing his campaign largely against the streetcar system as wasteful spending. This November, he will once again face Democrat Alan Howze, who supports the streetcar. Like Hope, Howze would have liked to have seen the County Board approve some amount of money for a general obligation bond to get the issue on the ballot before voters.

Voters will have indirect say on streetcars, even without referendum.

"I recognize that there are differences of opinion on this between me and some of the board members, and that's OK," said Howze. "I think a strong public vote in support of the streetcar would be the best way to move the project forward. I continue to feel that way, and nothing has swayed me from that opinion."

The issue of the streetcar has become one of the most divisive political issues in Arlington in generations.

Democrats are divided on the issue, with County Board member Libby Garvey leading the opposition. Former Democratic Party

chairman Peter Rousselot is also a leading opponent. He and other opponents formed a group known as Arlingtonians for Sensible Transit, a group that's now preparing for yet another campaign against the streetcar system.

"Three members of the County Board have made it clear that there isn't going to be a referendum, and therefore the closest thing to a referendum is the County Board election between John Vihstadt and Alan Howze," said Rousselot. "The voters can weigh in again this November just like they did in April on that subject."

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for July 6-12.

Senior trips: Sunday, July 6, Castleton (Va.) Festival, "Madama Butterfly," \$93; Monday, July 7, Maryland Live! Casino, \$9; Wednesday, July 9, Bay Lighthouse Cruise, lunch, Annapolis, \$65; Thursday, July 10, Coach & Horses Tearoom, Winchester, \$65; Saturday, July 12, walking tour, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., \$9. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

Current events roundtable, Monday, July 7, 10 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free; Register, 703-228-4403.

Just Playin' Country Musicians, Monday, July 7, 10:15 a.m., Lee. Free. Details,

703-228-0555.

Chess club, Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Madison Community Center. Free. Details, 703-534-6232.

Ice skating, Mondays, 8:10 a.m. – 9:20 a.m., Kettler Capital Iceplex, Ballston Mall, \$1. Register, 703-228-4745.

Tennis, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Bluemont Courts, Free. Details, 703-228-4745.

Arlington Mill Trail Trekkers, Tuesday, July 8, 9:30 a.m. Free. Register, 703-228-7369.

Table tennis, Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

Low impact aerobics, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., \$60/15 sessions, Aurora Hills. Register, 703-228-5722.



Meet the new face of lung cancer

Theresa never imagined she could have half of her lung removed through a tiny incision, be up and walking less than an hour later, and home the very next day.

When tests revealed she had lung cancer, Theresa Ott, 50, underwent a minimally invasive surgery with renowned thoracic surgeon Sandeep Khandhar, MD.

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-Theresa Ott, Springfield, VA

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OPINION

Celebrate a Safe Fourth

Talking and planning are the best safety measures; SoberRide offers a safety net.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

EDITORIALS But in case those plans go awry, here is a safe alternative.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30) beginning 10 p.m. the night of July 4 for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2013, nearly 300 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic

deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and

driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 60,565 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Visit www.soberride.com.

—MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Call for Pet Photos, Stories and Artwork

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. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults

Please tell us a little bit about your pet, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo, and include your address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email photos, artwork and stories to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

For advertising information, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

Keep Uber and Lyft Running in Virginia

BY GARY SHAPIRO
PRESIDENT AND CEO
CONSUMER ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION

Virginia has a long legacy as a tech- and innovation-friendly destination. From strong business policies that attract the best and brightest, to its diverse economy and hands-off regulatory approach, the commonwealth is a hub for entrepreneurship and forward-thinking growth. That's why the news that the Virginia DMV has issued cease-and-desist orders to innovative, ride-sharing services Uber and Lyft is so shocking. The DMV's action feels more like a protectionist throwback and a misstep from Virginia's traditional pro-business public policies.

COMMENTARY Uber and Lyft are immensely popular services that allow consumers access to safe, affordable rides through lightning-fast smartphone apps. The services even let riders pay via credit card, avoiding the hassle of cash transactions. Given that two out of every three consumers now own smartphones, services like these are a top choice for riders who love the ease of use and freedom they provide. And Uber and Lyft are so fast and reliable that many people even use them for commuting.

Virginia residents from the D.C. metro region to the Hampton Roads area have embraced the services wholeheartedly — me included. So why, with little apparent reason besides protecting the interests of traditional taxi cab services, is Virginia shutting them down?

It's not surprising that status quo businesses want to regulate Uber, Lyft and other innovative services like these out of existence. We've seen

this same battle play out over ridesharing across the U.S., in cities such as Seattle and Washington, D.C. So far, innovation continues to trump legacy business practices and the status quo, because consumers want services that suit their connected lifestyles. Traditional cab services aren't providing that, so these innovative startups are stepping in to fill the gap and provide us more choices. That's the way competition works — it's the engine that keeps our economy running.

What is surprising is Virginia's sudden reversal on innovation. Our state is known for encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation by enacting policies that favor startups and business growth. In fact, Virginia topped Forbes' 2013 list of the best states in which to do business. The outlet ranked Virginia first in terms of its regulatory environment, thanks to the state's business-friendly policies and strong, incentive practices for new businesses to set up shop. More, Virginia's economic development programs are among the very best in the nation, providing forward-thinking opportunities across a wide range of industries. And our state's diverse economy spans bioscience, logistics, manufacturing and technology.

In particular, the tech sector enjoys continued growth in Virginia. We are the birthplace of hundreds of tech companies large and small, and were the first in the nation to cre-

ate the position of Secretary of Technology. The commonwealth has the highest concentration of tech workers in the U.S. — 9.8 percent — and tech companies have been expanding their Virginia operations from Chester to Petersburg to Boydton. Amazon added 2,000 jobs in Virginia between 2011 and 2013. And Microsoft has invested \$1 billion to build and expand a data center here.

To attract tech startups, Virginia exempts certain, early-stage businesses from capital gains taxes. And the state offers one of the most competitive angel-investor tax credits for investments in technology.

Given Virginia's strong support for innovation, the sudden pushback against Uber and Lyft makes absolutely no sense. These two startups are prime examples of what innovation can achieve — leveraging the power of technology to provide great service to consumers across the state. Virginia's banning of these companies will weaken its reputation for welcoming innovation and new technology, as well as killing jobs.

Virginia must reconsider this short-sighted and protectionist move. Companies like Uber and Lyft deserve permanent homes in Virginia. We can't let special interests regulate them out

of existence, favoring the entrenched status quo over innovation and consumer choice. Virginia's economy, continued job growth and ongoing innovation depend on it.

About the Author

Gary Shapiro of McLean is president and CEO of the Arlington-based Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), the U.S. trade association representing more than 2,000 consumer electronics companies, and author of the New York Times best-selling books, "Ninja Innovation: The Ten Killer Strategies of the World's Most Successful Businesses" and "The Comeback: How Innovation Will Restore the American Dream." His views are his own. Connect with him on Twitter: @GaryShapiro.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns, call: 703-778-9410
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor
703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter
703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
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:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Students Graduate through Langston Continuation Program



On stage at Langston High School Continuation Program's graduation on June 20 were, from left, School Board Member Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez; Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy; Langston students Ashantee Thompson (behind Murphy), Chris Morales, Priya Khatri, and Unity Hanoud, and Langston Principal Cleveland James Jr.



Langston Social Studies Teacher Dr. Yaa Osun and librarian Megan Lordos are recognized by Langston Principal Cleveland James for their service. The High School Continuation Program is a flexible program that allows high school students to take courses needed to acquire the credits needed for graduation.



Graduates Christopher A. Davis and Jorge Alonzo Ramos gather after the graduation ceremony with family and friends.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED


Be Part of The July Pet Connection
Send Your Photos & Stories Now to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or complete our online form at arlingtonconnection.com
Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 17.

Dermatology & Allergy

SPECIALISTS OF VIRGINIA

Kathryn J. Sowerwine, MD



Dr. Kathryn J. Sowerwine is a board certified Allergist and Immunologist with a special interest in dermatological diseases linked to allergy. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Georgetown University Hospital and her clinical and research fellowship in allergy and immunology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Sowerwine has specialized training and experience to find out what causes your allergies, prevent and treat symptoms, and help keep them under control.

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All rates and offers are effective as of June 24, 2014 for new applications only for a limited time, and subject to change without notice. 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Payment Example: The information provided assumes the purpose of the loan is to purchase a property with a loan amount of \$600,000 and an estimated property value of \$750,000. At a 4.125% interest rate, the APR for this loan type is 4.217%, other rates and terms available. The monthly payment schedule would be 359 payments of \$2,907.90 and 1 payment of \$2,907.23 at an interest rate of 4.125%. Payments shown do not include taxes or insurance, actual payments may be greater. The application of points will be determined by the loan to value (LTV) ratio combined with certain representative credit scores. Additional points also apply to certain cash-out refinance transactions, certain condominium transactions, and some transactions with subordinate financing that will reflect on the Good Faith Estimate and/or Settlement Statement. *For purchase transactions, the rate cannot be locked until PenFed has received a ratified purchase agreement. Investment properties not eligible for offers. The maximum combined loan-to-value (CLTV) is 95%. The maximum LTV and CLTV for condominiums is 80%. The applicant is responsible for the following fees and costs at the time of closing: Origination fee, appraisal fee, tax service fee, title fees, transfer tax fees, credit report fee, flood cert fee, recording fee, survey if required and work verification fee, escrow reserves and interest due until first payment. Other cost may be included due to program specific circumstances. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. Additional terms & conditions apply. Federally Insured by NCUA.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. “Lady Valor” on display June 2-28 at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Former Navy SEAL Kristin Beck struggled with PTSD and gender identity issues, which led to painting as therapy. A silent auction of her paintings will benefit The 296 Project, which researches art and expressive therapy to combat PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Tickets \$15, visit www.the296project.org.

“Judgment at Nuremberg.” Through June 28, The American Century Theater presents “Judgment at Nuremberg” by Abby Mann, in Theatre Two at Gunston Arts Center, 2700 South Lang St., Arlington. Tickets \$32-\$40. Visit americancentury.org for more.

Theater. June 4-29 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Comedy, “Boeing-Boeing” by Marc Camoletti. \$21.95 and up. Call 703-820-9771 or visit www.noruletheatre.org.

Master Storytellers. Through July 3 every Monday and Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m. Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Learn from the best storytellers and share valuable tips for telling stories of your own. Free. Call 703-228-6545 for more.

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

World Soccer Party. Through July 13. During World Cup matches. 100 Montaditos, 1776 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn. Drink specials during all World Cup matches and large-screen TVs for watching the action. Visit <http://www.rosslynva.org/go/100-montaditos> for more.

Art Exhibition. Through July 20, see “Texture in Wax and Fiber” by art quilter Dominic Nash and mixed media artist Susan Feller in the Crossroads Gallery of Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson St., Falls Church. Visit www.goodwinhouse.org.

“How are you doing today?” Paintings on Emotion in Color. Tuesdays-Saturdays, July 1-26. Opening reception Friday, July 11 5-8 p.m. Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Anne Chandra, creator of the exhibit, is a painter with 20 years of experience. Free and open to the public. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

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

Marine Corps Sunset Parade and Concerts. Tuesdays through Aug. 12. 7 p.m. in May, June, July. 6:30 p.m. in August. Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington. Sunset parade by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Team. Visit www.barracks.marines.mil.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 25

Author Event. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Dave Berg, author of “Behind the Curtain: An Insider’s View of Jay Leno’s Tonight Show.” Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Chorus Open House. 7:30 p.m. at Gunston Middle School, room 145, 2700 S Lang St. The Arlingtones, a mens a cappella chorus singing in the barbershop style, is hosting an open house. Meet the new Music Director, Chantel Pomerville, and join in singing All are welcome to attend. Visit www.harmonize.com/arlingtones for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Operation Rescue Ready. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St., Arlington. Teens are invited to participate in an emergency response scenario alongside Arlington’s public safety and emergency response teams and the American Red Cross. Partake in a real-time disaster drill, hands only CPR training, and info sessions. Free admission. Visit <http://parks.arlingtonva.us/2014/05/safety-day/> for more.

Free Movie. 3 p.m. Columbia Pike Branch Library, 816 South Walter Reed Drive. Watch, “The Big Red One,” rated R. Call 703-228-5710.

Fermata: On/Off. 7 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. A one-night experiential event featuring three connected performances, featuring Peals, Christine Sun Kim, and Transmissions. \$12. Part of Celebration of Sound exhibit, through Aug. 10. Visit www.artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100.

Movie Premiere. 7 p.m. at E Street Cinema, 555 11th St., NW, Washington, D.C. Premiere of “The Green Mountain Upset,” the story about an underdog high school boys basketball team from Vermont, produced by an Arlington film company. A meet and greet with director Nick Hanson and executive producer Mark Mooney, Jr. begins at 6 p.m. \$10. Visit www.thegreenmountainupset.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

Wonderful Worms Campfire. 7-8 p.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. Learn about worms around the campfire. \$5. Call 703-228-3403 for more.

Author Event. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Lauren Francis-Sharma, author of “Til the Well Runs Dry.” Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Summer Concert Series. 8 p.m. Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive. The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants perform. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil for more.

Film: Two Weeks Notice. 8-10 p.m. at Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway. This year’s Rosslyn Outdoor Film Festival features movies about work: bad bosses, crazy co-worker, best friends. Bring blankets, low chairs and a picnic. Movies shown rain (cancelled for severe weather) or shine. Visit www.rosslynva.org/events for more.

Outdoor Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, North Columbus Street and 2nd Street North. Margot MacDonald, a classically trained soprano and pianist with modern music. Free. Picnics welcome, alcohol prohibited. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

Debo Band at Artisphere. 8 p.m. Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The Artisphere presents a concert by Ethiopian pop music band Debo Band and special guests Feedel Band and DJ Underdog. \$15 in advance and \$18 day of. Visit <http://www.artisphere.com/> for more.



PHOTO BY MARGOT SCHULMAN

The Company (Christopher Bloch, Erin Driscoll, Doug Carpenter, and Ed Dixon) sings “The Best of Times (Reprise)” in “Cloak and Dagger,” now playing at Signature Theatre through July 6.

‘Cloak and Dagger’ at Signature

Musical comedy spoof of 1940s film noir on stage through July 6.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Signature Theater is closing out its 2013-14 season with the world premiere of the screwball musical comedy, “Cloak and Dagger,” on stage through July 6. Directed by Eric Schaeffer (“Broadway’s Follies,” “Million Dollar Quartet”), the show is a spoof on 1940s Hollywood film noir.

“Cloak and Dagger” stars third-rate detective Nick Cutter (Doug Carpenter) who is down on his luck when a beautiful blonde bombshell (Erin Driscoll who plays femme fatale Helena Troy) tosses a case into his lap.

The clever and oblivious Nick spends the next 90 minutes racing through every New York City neighborhood (Chinatown, the Bowery, Little Italy, and even a burlesque house) to solve the riddle of the Golden Venus statue. The show is a spoof of Hollywood mysteries with tons of laughs thrown in between.

Written by Ed Dixon, who also did the music and lyrics, “Cloak and Dagger” casts four actors in nearly 20 madcap roles. Dixon himself plays a multitude of male and female characters as does Helen Hayes Award winner Christopher Bloch (“Character Man Two,” Signature’s “Chess,” and “Les Misérables”).

“I wanted it to be a soufflé — lighter-than-air entertainment,” said Dixon, who was inspired by the 1941 film noir masterpiece, “The Maltese Falcon,” starring Humphrey Bogart. He started writing the play more than two years ago while starring in “Mary Poppins” on Broadway. He had seen “39 Steps” and thought the concept was a wonderful idea for a four-person musical.

Dixon called on his old friend, Signature Theater’s

Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer, and presented the idea to him. So last summer they did a one-week reading and the process went very well. Then they decided to produce the show, which has been a joyous experience for Dixon. He calls the play “a light summer fare — something people could enjoy tremendously for an hour and a half.”

As an actor, the immediate challenge for Dixon playing a number of characters on stage was that he was constantly changing clothes and genders. “I also wrote it, so it’s a challenge on every front. And since changing clothes is the thing I like the least of anything in show business, that’s really challenging,” he said.

“But it’s also challenging to always be listening to the play with one part of my brain and creating my performance with another,” he added.

Above all, he said that he wanted to write a really funny musical. “And I would like audiences to go home with sore ribs from laughing,” he said.

For Carpenter, the challenge was having to create so much of the story — he practically carries the entire show himself. “Without much in the way of sets, it’s my job as the narrator to really drive the story and create each location and give them life,” said Carpenter, who studied voice at UNLV and UCLA.

He added, “Mostly I’m hoping people will come, have a drink, and laugh at our ridiculous little show. This is pure entertainment, and it can be very fun if you’re looking for 90 minutes of escape.”

Driscoll said, “I hope the audience has a great time watching this musical. It is fun, witty, fast-paced and hysterical. I hope they hop on the ride and spend the 90 minutes laughing, smiling and trying to figure out “whodunit!”

Performances run Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$40. Tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office at 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington, by calling Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT and online at www.signature-theatre.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Arlington Artist Alliance Display. Noon-4 p.m. Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Three artists display their art suitable for decorating a child's room. Call 703-527-5929.

Summer Safari: River Hike. 1 p.m. Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Join naturalist staff for a hike to the Potomac River. Explore along the way. Call 703-528-5406 for reservations. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook.

Reading Series. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Waterbear Reading Series returns for the summer with four area authors and poets: Dan Brady, Justin Sirois, Meg Ronan and Joseph Young. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

Outdoor Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, North Columbus Street and 2nd Street North. Bowen McCauley Dance contemporary dance ensemble. Free. Picnics welcome, alcohol prohibited. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28-SUNDAY/JULY 6

Hike the Pike. Event kicks off at 2 p.m., William Jeffrey's Tavern. Visit 10 different restaurants and collect all of the stamps to be entered to win prizes. Visit www.columbia-pike.org/events.

SUNDAY/JUNE 29

Cool Creek Critters. 4-5 p.m. Lubber Run Park. Ages 6-10, dress to get wet and spend time exploring waterfalls and looking at creek creatures. \$5. Call 703-228-3403 for more.

Outdoor Concert. 6 p.m. Lubber Run Amphitheater. Arlington Philharmonic will perform their first-ever Pops for Pet concert to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. The public is invited to bring a picnic and their well-mannered dogs. Alcohol prohibited. Free admission. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org.

Firefly Festival. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Celebrate summer's natural lights with events including bug hunts, games, crafts and more. \$7. Call 703-228-6535 for more.

Bird House Raffle. Ends June 29. Enter to win a birdhouse in the shape of the White House. Get raffle tickets at <https://awla.ejoinme.org/?tabid=541773>.

MONDAY/JUNE 30

Author Event. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Matthew Palmer, author of "The American Mission." Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or call 703-300-9746.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

Fiction Book Club. 7 p.m. One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Discussion on "The Other Typist," by Suzanne Rindell. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

THURSDAYS/JULY 3-SEPT. 4

Free Outdoor Movie Series. 7:30 p.m. "The

Loop," Market Common Clarendon, 2800 Clarendon Blvd. Market Common Clarendon presents "Now Playing on The Loop," a series of free outdoor movies on the first Thursdays of July, August and September. Popular movies including The Karate Kid on July 3, The Princess Bride on Aug. 7 and Top Gun on Sept. 4. Admission is free, as well as popcorn, snacks and water. Call 703-476-9377 or visit www.marketcommonclarendon.com for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day Celebration. 1-4 p.m. at The Ball-Sellers House, 5620 S. Third Street. Independence Day is always a special day at the Ball-Sellers House. The house will be open in honor of our national independence. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

4th of July Celebration Concert. 8 p.m. Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive. The United States Air Force Concert Band and Singing Sergeants are holding a concert in celebration of the 4th of July. The theme will be "Star-Spangled Celebration-200th Anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner." Free. Contact United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 5

Outdoor Concert. 8 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, North Columbus Street and 2nd Street North. Mary Ann Redmond. Free. Picnics welcome, alcohol prohibited. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 6

Outdoor Concert. 6 p.m. at Lubber Run Amphitheater, North Columbus Street and 2nd Street North. Two Car Living Room, classic rock, blues and pop. Free. Picnics welcome, alcohol prohibited. Call 703-228-1850 or visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

MONDAY/JULY 7

Meet the Author. 7-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library Auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy St. Author event with Charlie Clark-Central about her book "Arlington County Chronicles." Call 703-228-6321 for more.


WEDNESDAY/JULY 9

YA Book Club. 5 p.m. One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Discussion on "The Raven Boys" by Maggie Stiefvater. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com for more.

Summer Sizzlin' Nights Series. 8 p.m. Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. Natascia Diaz performs songs from the '70s. \$25. Call 703-820-9771 to purchase tickets or for more information.

THURSDAY/JULY 10

Summer Sizzlin' Nights Series. 8 p.m. Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave. Tom Goss, a gay singer-songwriter, spends an evening telling stories and singing. \$25. Call 703-820-9771 to purchase tickets or for more information.



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July 12-13: Fort Ward Civil War Reenactment Weekend
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July 19: Comcast Outdoor Film Festival, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"

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Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.

—Franklin P. Jones

Graduation Embraces H-B Woodlawn's Style



Students and parents take seats in the gym for the 2014 H-B Woodlawn graduation on June 18.



Principal of H-B Woodlawn Frank Haltiwanger prepares to begin the graduation ceremony.



Seniors Biruktawit Assefa and Emma Snead.



Additional seating is carried into the gym for the H-B Woodlawn graduation.



Senior Anthony Pill enjoys a light supper with classmate Jacob Heyn and his brother Nathan at the pre-graduation pot-luck dinner.



Atikilt Woldelarmariam and her husband Mesine Aseffa.



Nora LaValley, Anna Janetos, Margaret Trombly, Arianna Hume and Ksenia Neubert read excerpts from the "Official 2014 Class Survey."



Connor Fox, Jack Schrider, Owen Walker, Victor Fernandez, Joe Rutkowski and David Wien-Kandil share thoughts on the just released "Official 2014 Class Survey."

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

SPORTS



10U Hurricanes Win AAU National Qualifier

The 10U Hurricanes, associated with the Virginia Hurricanes Girls Basketball Club based in Arlington, won the 2014 Potomac Valley AAU DQT 4th Grade Division II National Qualifying Tournament by going undefeated and beating the Matrix in a championship game 26-13. As a result, the 10U Hurricanes will represent the Potomac Valley AAU at the AAU Nationals which will take place in Orlando, Fla. in July. The players for the 10U Hurricanes are Claudia Andrade, Olivia Baptiste, Hannah Boone, Mia Chapman, Morgan Flippin, Dalyha Ghebre, Natalia Johnson, Clare Murphy, Elise Raymond and Ellie Simmons. The team is coached by Steve Flippin and Bill Simmons.

SWIM NOTES

Donaldson Run Thunderbolts Strike Gators

The Donaldson Run Thunderbolts defeated the Mount Vernon Park Gators, 222 - 198, at the first NVSL Division III Meet of the season. The meet was close throughout, with the lead changing many times. The Thunderbolts won eight of the last 12 relays to secure the victory. Double individual race winners for Donaldson Run were (in order of age and event):

Charlie Greenwood, boys 8&U breaststroke and butterfly; TJ Hutchison, boys 9-10 freestyle and butterfly; Audrey Engel, girls 11-12 freestyle and butterfly, and Ellie Belilos, girls 15-18 freestyle and breaststroke. The team's single winners were: Charlie Longnecker, boys 8&U freestyle; Jack Oliver, boys 8&U backstroke; Eliza Gromada, girls 8&U breaststroke; Rachel Conley, girls 8&U butter-

fly; Ella Rigoli, girls 9-10 butterfly; Hannah Ford, girls 11-12 backstroke, Matt Vance, boys 13-14 freestyle; Emily Brooks, girls 13-14 backstroke; Huck Browne, boys 13-14 breaststroke; Julia Fayer, girls 13-14 butterfly; Bryan Meade, boys 15-18 freestyle and Christian Tiernan, boys 15-18 butterfly. DR swept the boys 8&U backstroke with Jack Oliver, William Sloan and Phillip Brooke.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Erin Fox has been named to the University of Dayton's dean's list for the 2014 spring semester.

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation announced winners of the second annual Virginia Teen Driver Safety PSA Contest. **Julia Harris** and **Emily Bennett**, Arlington Career Center, won first place. The Foundation's video contest, which was open to Virginia high schools, challenged students to produce a 30-60 second public service announcement to highlight the dangers associated with distracted driving, exceeding speed limits and a variety of other dangerous driving habits.

The Arlington Historical Society announced the winners of its second annual Historical Essay Contest for Arlington high school juniors. Students were asked to write an original essay on the theme, "Was Arlington County heroic or quixotic in its pursuit of school integration, considering contemporary trends?" The winners were:

First prize - **Noah Kennedy** of Washington-Lee High school;

Second prize - **Audrey O'Donnell** of Washington-Lee;

Third prize - **Allison Jaffe** of Washington-Lee; and

Honorable Mention (\$100 each) - **Wendy Berrios** of Wakefield High School and **Antonio Mestre** of Washington-Lee.

The awards were made possible by Columbia Lodge No. 285, an Arlington masonic lodge chartered in 1905. Visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org for more.

Dina L. Hamami, a sophomore majoring in communication, has made the president's list at Coastal Carolina University.

Sophia Maxstadt, class of 2014 at Washington and Lee University, has earned dean's list status for winter term 2014.

The following area students graduated from the University of Mary Washington:

Michael M. Moorman, cum laude with a B.A. degree in art history. He received departmental honors in art history.

Alice A. O'Brien, magna cum laude with a B.A. degree in English. She received departmental honors in English, linguistics, and communication.

Yorktown High School senior **Hannah Shoultz** received Outstanding Interpretation in the photography category of the National PTA Reflections contest. The Reflections program encourages students in PreK-grade 12 to explore and be involved in the arts. Her work, "Ink Mirage" was judged on interpretation of the theme "Believe! Dream! Inspire!," artistic merit/creativity, and mastery of medium. The Reflections Gallery will recognize all award recipients. Outstanding Interpretation Award recipients will present their work during the annual Reflections Arts in Education Luncheon in Austin, Texas on June 21.

The Washington Academy of Sciences recognized Arlington Career Center teacher **Anne Cupero** with the Bernice Lamberton Award for innovative approaches to teaching science and motivating students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Cupero, a National Board certified teacher, has been a science teacher for more than 25 years and is certified in other subjects including English and social studies. She created a course in forensic science and forensic technologies for Arlington Public Schools and the Virginia Department of Education, which she has also taught at the undergraduate level at Marymount University. In addition to her career with APS, Cupero is an adjunct professor of biology and human biology at Northern Virginia Community College. Visit www.WashAcadSci.org for more.

The following students have graduated from Clemson University: **Anne Geraldine Buckalew**, Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science in financial management; **Sarah McKenzie Eule**, Bachelor of Arts in English; **James Samuel Thornton Nottingham**, Bachelor of Science in marketing; and **Krista Anne Vikander**, Bachelor of Science in management.

Ciprianna Dudding was awarded a Master of Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences at Creighton University.

Leah Meserve has received a B.S. degree Magna Cum Laude from Skidmore College.

Alexandra Symcak, a sophomore majoring in Marine Science, was named to the spring 2014 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University.

Bayard B. Roberts has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Roberts is majoring in mathematics, and is a graduate of St. Mark's School.

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Club Names 2014 Arlington Garden of the Year

A yard filled with waterfalls and a koi pond, native plants, and vegetables grown in wooden pallets next to busy Washington Boulevard won the Rock Spring Garden Club's 2014 Arlington Garden of the Year.

Mary and Steve Jennings' garden at 6033 Washington Blvd. is a certified wildlife habitat with a 2,000-gallon rainwater reservoir below ground. It won first place among 16 entries judged by representatives of the Landscape Design Council of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia.

Mary Jennings, an artist, pointed to irises divided from big clumps at Tuckahoe Elementary School, repurposed furniture pieces and an old faucet perched at the edge of a koi pond as evidence of her recycling mission. "Nothing is thrown out," she said.

Her husband Steve, an engineer, was instrumental in designing the rain garden as part of a project to keep water from the pond and run-off away from the home, she said. The home also was on the Green

Home and Garden tour sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.

Susan and Kevin Murnane won second place for a terraced garden on Lorcom Lane featuring perennials, native plants, and a waterfall that replaced most of the home's grass lawn. The Murnanes also used plants and stones rescued from sites undergoing construction, and planted three different kinds of Mikweed as an offering to the Monarch Butterfly. A bat house is secured up high on the side of the home.

Third place was awarded to Judy and Raoul Wientzen for a secluded garden on North 24th Street enclosed by red bud and weeping cherry trees along with masses of hydrangeas, azaleas and ferns.

Designed as a French "Clos," the garden's flagstone path winds through the property, which includes terraced vegetable gardens and a rain barrel for collecting rain water.

Barry Wood, a former contestant who headed this year's Garden of the Year Committee, said each en-



Mary and Steve Jennings' garden was named the Rock Spring Garden Club's 2014 Arlington Garden of the Year.



Susan and Kevin Murnane's terraced garden won second place.

try was "a winner." The judges toured the gardens during a day-long visit in mid-May following a long, cold winter that made Wood worry no one would enter.

The awards were handed out during the club's June meeting at

the Little Falls Presbyterian Church. More than 100 people attended the program and buffet luncheon and viewed a video featuring photographs of the gardens taken by club member Mary Cottrell.

The contest closed out the 2013-14 garden club year. Meetings will resume in September. More information on the club and the yearly garden competition can be found by visiting the website, www.rockspringgardenclub.com.

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PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT
THE CONNECTION

2013-14 Sports Season Yields Memorable Moments

A look back.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The 2013-14 high school sports season was full of memorable moments and accomplishments, including an undefeated record and national ranking for the Centreville football program, an emotional return to the state tournament for the Woodson boys' basketball team, and the first state championship in the history of T.C. Williams boys' soccer.

The following is a look back at some of the highlights from around Fairfax County, Arlington County and Alexandria.

FALL SPORTS

The Centreville football team crushed the competition in 2013, going 10-0 with an average margin of victory of 38 points during the regular season. The carnage continued in the postseason, as the Wildcats defeated South Lakes, South County, Stone-wall Jackson and Westfield on their way to the Virginia 6A North region championship.

In the Group 6A state championship game, Centreville throttled nationally-ranked Oscar Smith 35-6, capturing the program's first state title since 2000. The Wildcats finished with overwhelming advantages in total yards (338-88), rushing yards (327-14), and time of possession (34:02-13:58).

The victory improved Centreville's record to 15-0 and jumped the Wildcats into the No. 15 national ranking in USA Today.

"It's certainly the best team that I've ever been around in 21 years of coaching high school football," Centreville head coach Chris Haddock said. "... We actually talked to our kids a lot about our place in history and setting a higher standard and that's something that the kids wanted to do. They wanted to make history. I don't know where you place us in the all-time teams, but we're certainly one of the best in Northern Virginia and we're definitely the best at Centreville."

Centreville center Josh Smith, guard Kainoa O'Connor, running back/kick returner AJ Turner, wide receiver/defensive back Charles Tutt, and linebacker Tyler Love earned VHSL all-state honors. Linebacker Chad Wiggins was the 6A North region and Conference 5 Defensive Player of the Year, and quarterback Scott Walter was the conference Offensive Player of the Year. Haddock received conference and region Coach of the Year honors.

While Centreville brought home a state title, the T.C. Williams and Washington-Lee football teams each ended lengthy droughts.

T.C. Williams, known nationally for the 2000 Disney movie "Remember the Titans," qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 1990. The Titans finished the regular season with a 7-3 record and received the No. 9 seed in the 6A North region playoffs.

"It's special," then-senior defensive tackle



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Sam Appel, left, Daquay Harris and the Washington-Lee football team won the 2013 National District title, the W-L football program's first district title since 1975.

Jeremiah Clarke said. "It feels great. You feel excited that you accomplished a goal, that you got into the playoffs, a goal we set from Day One."

T.C. Williams lost to South County in the opening round of the regional playoffs, 51-27.

Washington-Lee defeated Arlington rival Yorktown 10-0 in both team's regular-season finale, giving the Generals their first district title since 1975. Running back Daquay Harris rushed for 227 yards and quarterback Sam Appel scored the game's lone touchdown on a 1-yard sneak.

"It's a community win," W-L head coach Josh Shapiro said. "The community that we work in and love and embrace is successful, but when you carry something like this on your shoulders for 30 years, it weighs on them. I think it's leveling the playing field, saying hey, we can compete with the best. I think it's a huge uplift for the school and the Washington-Lee community."

In cross country, the Chantilly boys' and the Oakton girls' teams captured Virginia 6A state titles at Great Meadow. The W-L girls' team produced the best finish in program history, taking state runner-up. Oakton senior John Stoney won the boys' individual championship, and West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta won the girls' individual title with a meet-record time of 17 minutes, 13 seconds.

"I was just hoping to win," Alcorta said. "I didn't expect to get the course record."

In volleyball, Langley won its first state championship, beating First Colonial in the Virginia 6A final. The Saxons became the first team from the old Northern Region to win a state title.

"I think the fact that most of the players had been to states the year before helped a lot with preparation and the mental aspect of the game," Langley head coach Susan Shifflett wrote. "Obviously, we were very talented, as well. First time I have ever had two outstanding outside hitters (Jessica Donaldson and Rachel Andrejev). Sisi Holderman (libero) really stepped the second half of the season. And of course, there is Alex. That helps a lot."

The St. Stephen's & St. Agnes boys' soccer team won IAC and VISAA state champi-

onships, and finished the 2013 season with a 19-2-2 record.

WINTER SPORTS

Members of the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team dealt with the death of two classmates during the 2014 6A North region tournament. While the tragedies affected the emotions of several Cavaliers, the team found a way to continue winning and eventually captured the program's second consecutive region title.

Woodson secured a berth in the Virginia state tournament by defeating Herndon 63-62 in overtime in the region semifinals. The following evening, Woodson defeated Lake Braddock 66-56 in the region final. The Cavaliers had lost their previous three matchups with Lake Braddock by a combined eight points.

"[I'm] really happy for our kids, really happy for our school community," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "This was a very difficult week. The fact that our Cavalry (student section) was out in such great numbers says a lot about the school community. To give them an hour-and-a-half, hour-and-45-minute distraction tonight, something to feel good about, that's what sports is supposed to be about at the high school level."

In wrestling, Robinson won its third Virginia state championship in four years. Rams' heavyweight Jake Pinkston won his fourth consecutive region championship, reached the state final for the fourth straight year and won his second state title.

Centreville junior Tyler Love, after winning a state title with the football team in the fall, captured the 195-pound state wrestling championship.

In gymnastics, Washington-Lee won its third consecutive region championship and finished third at states. McLean finished region runner-up for the third straight year, and placed second at states. T.C. Williams, fielding its first complete team since the early 1980s, won the Conference 7 championship.

"I just remember being a freshman and having to compete with other teams," T.C. Williams junior Grace Girard said. "Now I have my own girls to compete with and it's a great feeling."

South County's Collea Burgess won the 6A North region all-around title. Hayfield's Molly Overstreet won the individual bars state championship, and Westfield's Katie Freix finished third in the all-around.

In swimming, the Oakton girls' and Robinson boys' teams took home state championships.

SPRING SPORTS

The T.C. Williams boys' soccer team entered the 2014 season with hopes of getting past the region quarterfinals. The Titans took care of that — and then some.

TC won the first state championship in program history, beating Washington-Lee 2-0 in the Virginia 6A state final. Eryk Williamson scored what proved to be the game-winning goal, putting the finishing touch on a brilliant postseason performance for the junior forward, including a four-goal effort during the Titans' 5-2 win over W-L in the 6A North region final.

"It feels amazing," Williamson said. "It's not every day you can be a state champion. It's a really great feeling. We worked really hard and I think all the hard work finally paid off."

The Centreville girls' team reached the 6A championship match, but fell short against Battlefield, 0-0 (4-3), in a penalty-kick shootout. The Wildcats finished region and state runners-up despite winning just three of their first 10 matches.

The South County softball team won the program's first state championship, beating previously undefeated Cosby 4-1 in the 6A final. Stallions pitcher Rebecca Martin finished her high school career with another gem in the circle, tossing a complete-game three-hitter while striking out 10. Catcher Haylea Geer hit a momentum-swinging solo home run in the fourth inning.

"She's been clutch from Day One," South County head coach Gary Dillow said about Martin. "She came in as a freshman and won that 12-inning game against [West Potomac] for our first conference championship with this group. Nothing fazes her. She's always relaxed. She's pitched every clutch game for us the last four years and usually when we lose, it's because we don't score, it's not because she hasn't pitch well."

In lacrosse, the Robinson boys' and Westfield girls' lacrosse teams won state championships. Westfield defeated Oakton 13-11 in the girls' final after losing to the Cougars in the Conference 5 and 6A North region championship games. Robinson started the season 1-3 before closing with 17 straight victories, including a 9-7 win over Langley in the state final. The Yorktown boys' team reached the region semifinals for the first time in their history.

The Bishop Ireton girls' team won WCAC and VISAA state championships. The Cardinals defeated Good Counsel in the WCAC final and upset St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in the VISAA final.

"This selfless group of girls played as a team and won as a team," Bishop Ireton head coach Rick Sofield wrote in an email. "We weren't successful because of one or two or even three or four girls. We were successful because 30 players bought into the same goal and sacrificed to achieve it. It wasn't an accident."

In baseball, Chantilly won the first region championship in program history and reached the Virginia 6A state final. McLean reached the state semifinals, the furthest postseason advancement in their history.

In track and field, T.C. Williams brought home the Virginia 6A boys' state championship. The South County girls' team finished state runner-up.

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"One Less Thing"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Forrest Gump knew when he voiced over: "Mama got the cancer and died on a Tuesday. I bought her a new hat with little flowers on it. And that's all I have to say about that." And if you watched the movie as often as I did (it was one of my mother's favorites), you may also recall "Mama always said you got to put the past behind you before you can move on." However, as regularly as I try to follow Forrest's and his Mama's sage Greenbow, Alabama advice, being a real-life cancer patient, some days are more difficult than others, especially when your oncology nurse calls the you the day before your every-three-week chemotherapy infusion to tell you that some of the levels tested for in your every-three-week, pre-chemotherapy lab work are abnormal (creatinine too high, GFR too low) which may put a stop to the treatment this week. And if there's one psychological crutch I'll admit to having, it's the need to not miss any of my regularly-scheduled infusions or any of the other scans or miscellaneous appointments as a means not to my premature end.

Although this potential blip in my lung cancer trip has happened previously: white blood cell count too low, potassium too high, blood work hemolyzed; which also led to re-tests, new prescriptions, stoppage of treatment, etc., hearing it is never good news. Among other considerations, it means complications and likely delays concerning things that yours truly, as the patient, doesn't want to think it means: trouble with a capital "T." Nevertheless, the experience is not unfamiliar and mostly the results have been overturned on appeal, if you follow my drift. Still, until the new results are posted and/or the new prescription is filled or the infusions continue, it's difficult to put the past behind you because the present won't let you.

After the initial disappointment has passed, Ron, my oncology nurse, and I discuss my options since medically speaking, everything needs to be re-confirmed. I opt for a re-test immediately in the hope that a second test – a day later, that very day in fact – would provide whatever time my body and/or the lab needed to determine that my results did indeed fall within the normal parameters, for me, and so the infusion could go on – in, actually. If the results are unfortunately still too high/too low, we have a plan for that but since neither Ron nor I are inclined to beat the rush and panic now, we'll patiently (no pun intended) wait for the re-test's results. And since my blood work is always "STAT" (a.s.a.p. for you lay people out there), we'll receive confirmation by 4 p.m. this afternoon, more than enough time to still maintain my infusion schedule for tomorrow and move forward, which for those of us being actively treated, is crucial. At least to this patient, it is (in my head, anyway).

Approximately four hours after my conversation with Ron, including the 45-minute drive to the lab, the 30-minute wait to be drawn and then the 10-minute drive home, Ron calls to tell me that he'll see me tomorrow. The re-test came back normal and we can all proceed with the infusion – and caution as usual. Whether you take Roloids or not, you can spell r-e-l-i-e-f now. Now whether a week's delay due to the levels in my lab work would have actually mattered in the short, middle or long term infusion schedule, one certainly can't know. At least now, I can go forward and not worry as much about the past since we're presently on track once again. Life really is like a box of chocolates. Although I like the caramels and soft centers best.

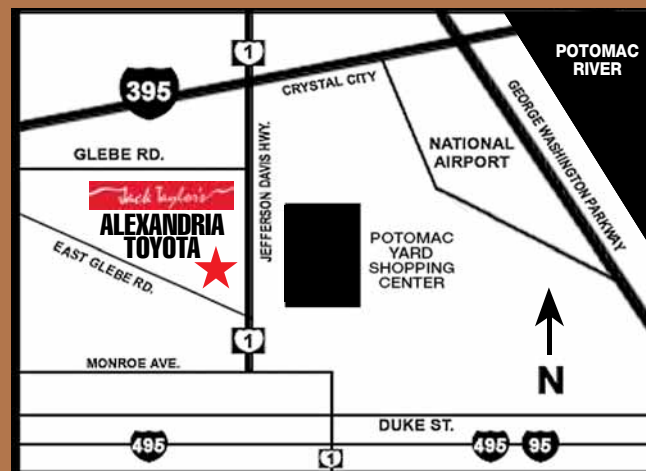
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