

McLean CONNECTION

McLean High students arrive on FCPS busses for the commencement exercises at Constitution Hall on Tuesday, June 17.

Ready for the 'Concert of Their Lives'

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Transformations Exhibit Opens with Full Crowd

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Memories of a Bittersweet Year

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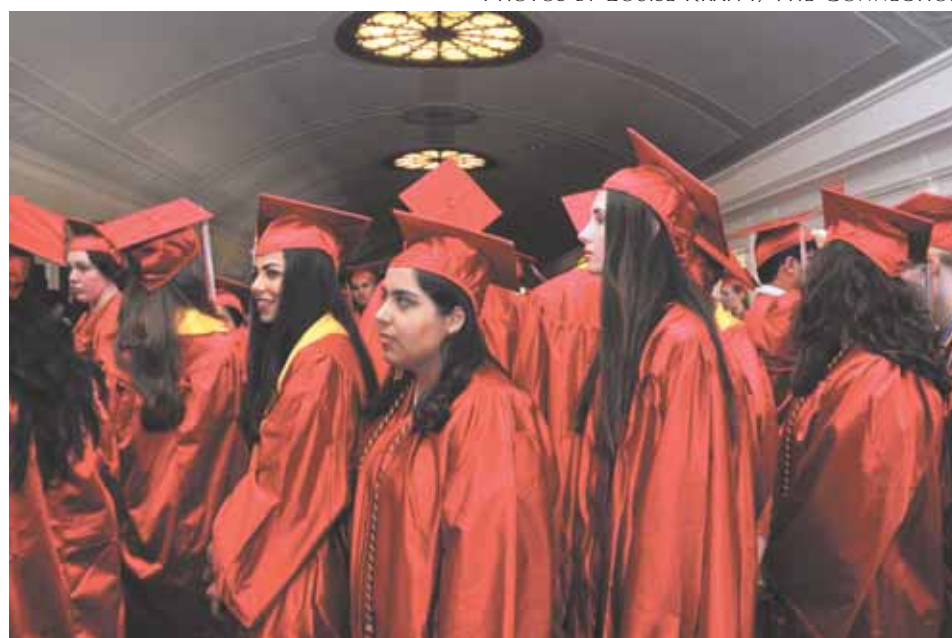
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Kimia Zadegan delivers the student address to her classmates.



The senior class advisors call the students into line for the processional.

Class of 2014 Ready for the 'Concert of Their Lives'

McLean High graduation speakers talk geek acceptance and music.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

The world is run by geeks. At least according to Dr. Dino Patti Dajalal, former Indonesian Ambassador to the U.S., during his graduation speech to McLean High School's class of 2014 at Constitution Hall June 17.

Dajalal, a self-proclaimed geek, said his studious nature is what got him into his dream job.

"My advice to you, McLean class of 2014: develop your geek power," he said.

During the afternoon ceremony, nearly 500 students received their diplomas and recognition for committing to the military, placing in an honor society and receiving the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

During Dajalal's speech about geekiness and life truths, he described the difference between clever and wise as the difference between achievement and fulfillment.

This was one of three discoveries he said he found in his life full of expanding outward.

The other two were to never let anyone take you away from your parents and to be at peace with yourself.

"As you try to conquer the world, the most important space to conquer is inside," he said.

A speech about the geek life made way for one about creating melodies with memories.

"Graduating from McLean leaves us with an impression of finality, but we are not finished," said student Kimia Zadegan.



Nicole Ellen Bruner advances to the stage to receive the first of the two faculty awards.

Zadegan is a member of the English Honor Society, French Honor Society, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Society and is a recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence.

The memories she referred to those made in the halls and classrooms of McLean High - not just the big memories like the first day of school or prom. Rather than wish they were still in high school, she hoped the students would use the memories to make their lives better in college and beyond.

"Our little memories are the ones that make our lives that much more satisfying," she said.

However, she said the melodies they are creating with their lives are not finished yet.

"It's our class's age to take our bands on the road and give the concert of our lives," she said.



Samuel Stone Clayton is awarded the second of the two faculty awards by McLean principal Ellen Reilly.



McLean High School teachers Kate Haefer, Nathan Sendgikoski, Saadia Shaikh and Julia Murdock pose for photos in the wings outside of the Hall.

GRADUATION 2014

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



The Statesman Singers directed by Keri Staley sing 'Go The Distance' by Alan Menken & David Zippel, arranged by Ed Lojeski.



Marshall High School students of the Class of 2014 proceed to the stage to receive their diplomas from school Principal Jay W. Pearson.

Facing a 'Real World'

Marshall High 2014 graduates told not to be afraid of rejection and 'real world.'

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Ryan McElveen knows something about second chances.

The Fairfax County Schools board member talked about hair loss, rejection and motivation during his speech for Marshall High School's Class of 2014 graduation June 18 at Constitution Hall.

The first time McElveen ran for the school board, he was not voted in. However, when the winner of the election was disqualified, he got his second chance and ran for the position again.

"I was given a second chance, and second chances don't come along often in life," he said.

McElveen is a researcher for The Brookings Institution John Thornton China Center and the youngest person to be elected on the FCPS school board.

"Don't sit back and wait for your turn, because your turn may never come," he said.

His stories were all about accepting that rejection will be a part of the students' lives, and these students will experience rejection worse than they did in high school - being rejected by their dream school or by someone they had feelings for.

"Grow thick skin, don't take things too personally and ignore the haters," he advised.

The faculty speaker, teacher Dean Wood said the best advice he ever received was to not wish the days away. He also learned - from being in Boy Scouts - to make every place a little bit better than how you found it.

"Don't wish that college started tomorrow," he said. "Don't wish you were all on your own. That's going to come soon enough. Right now, listening to me, your parents are wondering where the days went when you were five years old. Don't wish the days away and don't wish that your real life will start tomorrow."

He noted that the now alumnus of the high school are some of the hardest working people he has known, and to not worry about people who pressure them about how the real world will be hard.

"I used to hate it when people would say, 'What are you going to do when you go out into the real world?'" he said. "Believe me, Class of 2014, I've seen you work harder than many of the people I know have been in the alleged real world with. High school wasn't a game for you. It was hard."

He said college is supposed to be hard, and that's what makes it worth it.

"And if it's hard, it's the real world," he said. "Don't let anyone belittle your accomplishments in high school by asking about the real world. This is the real world and you killed it for the last 12 years. You're not about to start the race. You've been running ever since you got up on your wobbling little feet."



Daniel Joseph LaBarbera arrives on stage to receive one of the two 2014 Statesman Awards.



Lilian Grace Roth was also awarded one of the two 2014 Statesman Awards.



Marshall High School senior class officers Samuel Criscitello, Emma Heiden, Karim Saoud and Hayleigh Walton reflect as the Statesman Singers perform a musical selection.

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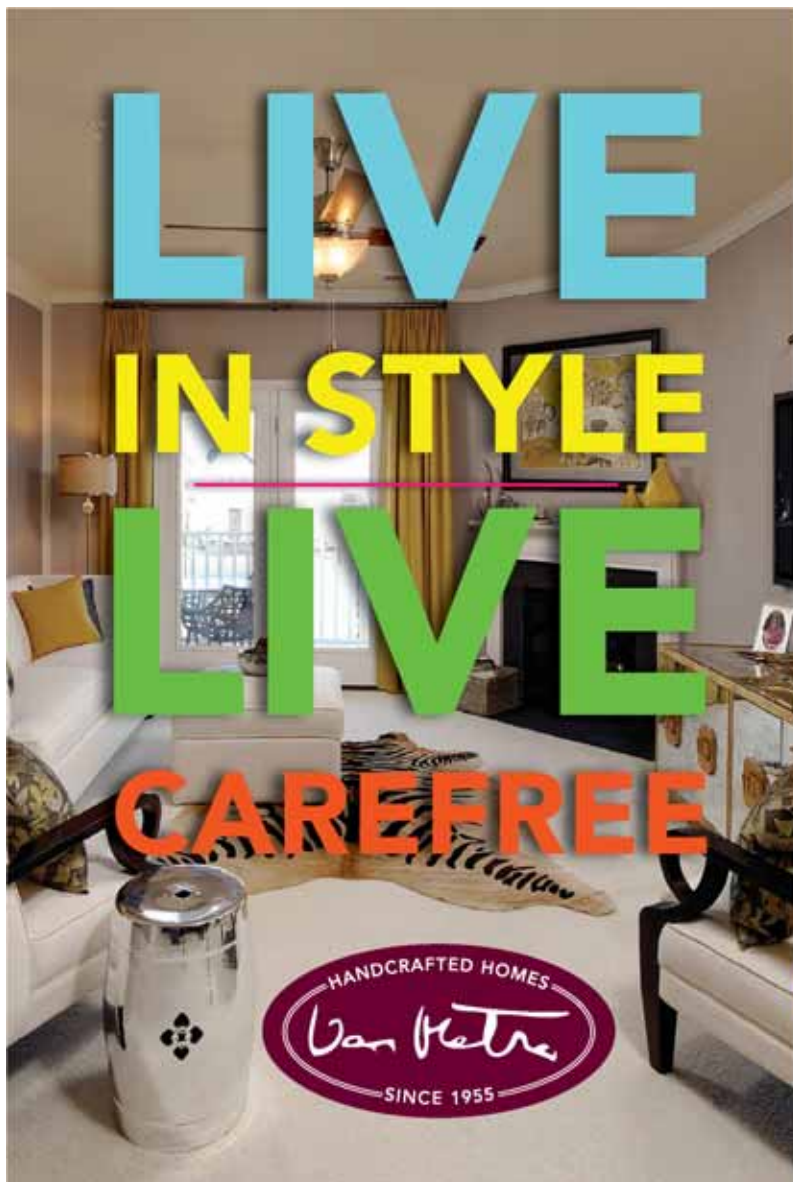
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A Perfect Attendance

McLean High graduate Catherine Overberg clocks in perfect attendance K-12.

RACHEL STONE
THE CONNECTION

Graduating from McLean High School on June 17, Catherine Overberg sealed in her perfect attendance record for thirteen full years of school. That's right—not a day missed, not even an hour.

With a schedule packed with honor societies and varsity softball, Catherine remarked that she simply woke up and did what she needed to do each day. "It was kind of a mistake," she explained, "I didn't do it on purpose... it just happened!"

Her medical appointments were always scheduled after school, and neither vacations nor sports ever conflicted with the FCPS schedule. During cold and flu season, Catherine makes sure to keep healthy; her robust immune system



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA SNYDER

FCPS Graduate Catherine Overberg attended a grand total of 2,340 full days of school. Her achievement became the subject for her college essays, and she will attend Christopher-Newport University in the fall.

has never required a prescription.

"In the beginning of the year, when teachers explain the make-up work policy, I guess I've learned to zone out," she joked. Her teachers have even depended on her for updates after their own absences. But she won't complain about snow days, especially after this year.

For a girl who didn't skip even Senior Skip Day, however, she received little official recognition. Springhill Elementary granted her the giant PANDA award for six years there, and McLean High bestowed the Cal Ripken award in the same vein, for attendance within that school only. But FCPS does not make special record of such occurrences, and Catherine was disappointed by the void of scholarships that award a feat such as hers. With change, those who follow her will at least be officially recognized at convocation or graduation.

But for now, her friends are happy to poke fun over continuing the trend in college, in the Honors Program at Christopher-Newport University. "Just skip your first class!" they're saying," but then she smiled, "But I probably won't."

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Silver Line to Open July 26

The Silver Line metro stations will be open July 26.

A press release was issued Monday stating the latest developments in the new metro line.

"We have set the opening date for the Silver Line as Saturday, July 26," said Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles in the press release. "The five new Silver Line stations will open to customers at noon, and the first Silver Line train will depart Wiehle-Reston East, bound for Largo Town Center, at that time."

Trains will run every 6 minutes during rush hour and every 12 to 20 minutes during off-peak times, according to the statement.

Phase I will mark the opening of the McLean, Tysons Corner, Greensboro, Spring Hill and Wiehle-Reston East stations.

Hunter Mill District Supervisor and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Principal Director Catherine Hudgins said the community is ready for the stations to open.

"I think it has progressed to the point that it is safe and reliable," she said. "I know, in the non-service hours, they will have the opportunity to do additional work."

She said residents should stay informed as the stations gets ready to open for a possible opportunity for a "sneak peek."

"This is opening our corridor in a significant way," she said.

Tysons Corner will be home of the majority of the new metro stations.

"We are delighted that Silver Line service is about to start, and that everyone in DC Metro area can soon enjoy all the excitement in Tysons," said Tysons Partnership Executive Director Michael Caplin in an email.

Charity Champions Dinner to Support MPA

A fundraiser for McLean Project for the Arts has been announced

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

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WEEK IN MCLEAN

FROM PAGE 6

by HBC Realty Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support McLean Project for the Arts. Enjoy dinner and know that approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

MPA is a non-profit visual arts center founded in 1962 to exhibit the work of emerging and established regional artists. In addition to its program of high

quality, professionally-curated art exhibitions, MPA presents special traveling exhibitions from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. MPA offers art classes for children and adults taught by professional art instructors. MPA also presents the Art Reach program for area schools, gallery talks, and day trips to area museums and galleries.

Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty, The Simmons Team of George Mason Mortgage LLC, Betty Sparkman and Chris Lara of Reveal Remodel, Kevin Dougherty of Pillar to Post Home Inspections, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Moe Jebali of Pulcinella Italian Host, and One to One Fitness Centers.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Computer One-on-One. 4 p.m.
Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basic of the Internet, Word or Excel. Adults. Call for appt. 703-242-4020.

Spectacular Science. 2:30 p.m.
Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science. Ages 6-12.

2014 Annual McLean Orchestra Meeting. 6 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234

Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Highlights will feature reports on the financial condition of the Orchestra, a summary of artistic achievements, administrative developments, challenges addressed and those we face, and a vision for the future.

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

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OPINION

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.

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.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

—MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

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. 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

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 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.

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

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.

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 create 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.

McLean
CONNECTION

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VIEWPOINTS

McLean High Graduates: Where do You See Yourself in 10 years?

— REENA SINGH

Klare Keenan, 18, McLean. Attending Longwood University.

"Hopefully I'll be interning somewhere for psychology, because that's what I'm majoring in."



Donghao Huo, 18, McLean. Attending Northern Virginia Community College.

"Hopefully I'll have a job. Maybe in Hong Kong."



Kiersten Gillis, 18, McLean. Attending Virginia Tech.

"I want to be a veterinarian one day."



Owen Comer, 17, McLean. Attending Virginia Military Institute.

"I expect to be in the Marine Corps."



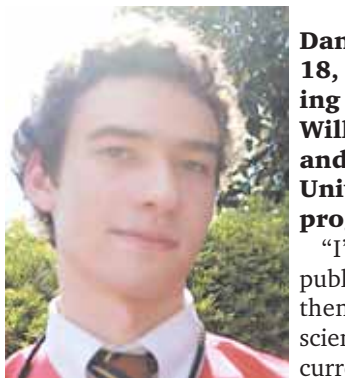
Marissa Chaney, 17, McLean. Attending Radford University.

"Hopefully I will be working with a magazine company and doing makeup and hair for celebrities. That's what I really hope to do."



Daniel Bachman, 18, McLean. Attending The College of William and Mary and St. Andrews University joint program.

"I'm hoping to have published a few books by then. It's usually about science fiction with more current issues."



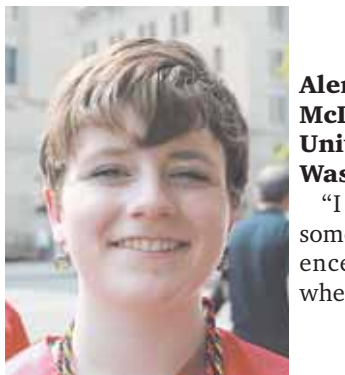
Madiha Gill, 18, McLean. Attending The College of William and Mary.

"I see myself doing a PhD in economics, maybe. If I go down that route, maybe get a job at the World Bank or IMF."



Alena Sheehan, 18, McLean. Attending University of Mary Washington.

"I hope to be doing something in animal science. It could be anywhere."



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Seth McNair of McLean, a student at Landon School in Bethesda, Md. will participate in the 2014 U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Summer Seminar program. USNA invited a select group of approximately 2,550 young men and women from around the nation and abroad to attend the Naval Academy Summer Seminar program this year. Summer Seminar is a fast-paced leadership experience for rising seniors in high school. This program helps educate, motivate and prepare selected students who are considering applying for admission to USNA.

For more information about the Naval Academy, visit: www.usna.edu or the USNA Admissions Facebook page.

Longfellow Middle School students **Aaditya Singh, Franklyn Wang, and William Sun** have qualified to the United States of America Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO) 2014. The USAJMO is an invitation only competition where the MAA invites the top scoring 230 students (10th graders and below across the US) based on a combination of their performance in the AMC-10 and AIME competitions. See more at: <http://www.maa.org/node/79/#USAMO>

Courtney Cross, of Great Falls, graduated from Bishop O'Connell high school. She is a sophomore at Villanova University and was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013.

Matthew Kent, of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at Carnegie Mellon University for the fall semester of 2013.

Lindsay Weber, a 2010 graduate of James Madison High School, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013 at Radford University.

Julian Kell, of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at University of New England for the fall semester of 2013.

Aline Dolinh, 15, is a sophomore at Oakton High School in Vienna and has been appointed as the National Student Poet by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Dolinh will participate in readings and workshops at libraries, museums and schools in Virginia as well as create community service projects to expand their reach while increasing engagement in the literary arts.



Bands for Bikes Benefit Concert-Huge Success

Bands for Bikes organizers, **Morgan Poirier** and **Jack Lichtenstein** (Cooper Middle School students) stand in front of a shipping container full of nearly 200 used bikes collected at the Bands for Bikes Kids Benefit Concert held on June 7 at the Old Fire House. The boys also raised over \$1,000 from concert ticket sales to ship the bikes to Tanzania this summer through Wheels to Africa (501c3).

Senior SGA representatives Katharine Altman, Timothy Claude and Brian Plunkett join class officers treasurer Will Gent, secretary Courtney Cuppernull, vice president Edric Wung and president Jonathan Meyer on stage.



Students applaud at the conclusion of the graduation procession.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Memories of a Bittersweet Year

Langley Class of 2014 graduates, remembering the two who died.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

They said their goodbyes with a little bit of old and a little new. More than 400 Langley High School seniors moved their mortarboard tassels from right to left Tuesday, June 17, at Constitution Hall, marking their transition into alumnus of their high school. “No matter what happens, we will forever be a part of the fraternity that is the Langley Class of 2014,” said class president Jonathan Meyer during the student address. The graduation was a bittersweet one, with many references to the two students that committed suicide in February. Although the graduation speakers interspersed jokes throughout their speeches, there was nary a dry eye among students and parents by the time the diplomas were being handed out. Meyer’s speech began as an ego boost to the class of 2014, with vocal chants stating how great the seniors are and how students are heading to seven of the eight Ivy League colleges. “We would have had students go to all eight Ivy League schools, but one of them is

Brown, and we don’t see color,” Meyer’s said jokingly. However, his speech ended with a quote from one of the students who committed suicide this year, bringing the student community together to mourn and seek change within the school. “We are all each other’s friends, and we’re all each other’s family,” he said. Principal Matt Ragone relayed how his favorite song, Don McLean’s “American Pie,” is actually about the 2014 graduates even though it was written in 1971. “One of the lines is ‘February made me shiver,’” he said. “Buddy Holly died in February, and that’s when we had our tragedy.” He said it relates to the tragedies LHS has gone through in the last year and how the community gathered to heal together. “It’s about the loss of innocence,” he said. “It’s about young people.” Although the song keeps stating, “this will be the day that I die,” he said, it shows how alive the singer - and the class of 2014 - is. “Class of 2014, every time I hear the song, I will think of you,” he said. “You guys will live forever.” Fairfax County School Board member

Ryan McElveen talked about rejection and Twitter, sprinkling hashtags throughout his speech. “You’re graduating from a world full of rejection, far removed from the rejection you experienced in high school,” he said. McElveen is a researcher for The Brookings Institution John Thornton China Center and the youngest person to be elected to the FCPS school board. He talked about losing all of the hair on his body to a rare disorder his senior year in high school. He remembers shopping for a hairpiece at that age at a wig shop filled with elderly women. “Let me tell you, you have not experienced true angst until you try to fit a mortarboard over a hairpiece,” he said. He said he was rejected by his hair and rejected by the public the first time he ran for the school board. However, he said he dated his wife and pursued the school board position again because he was not afraid of rejection, just like the students in the audience shouldn’t be afraid of it. “Go out and live your life on the edge of what’s possible,” he said. “Go out and get rejected.”



Class president and vice president Jonathan Meyer and Edric Wung lead the procession into Constitution Hall.



Senior SGA representatives Katharine Altman, Timothy Claude and Brian Plunkett join class officers treasurer Will Gent, secretary Courtney Cuppernull, vice president Edric Wung and president Jonathan Meyer on stage.




Mirelle Iverson and Garrett Collier gather in the wings of the hall for the call to line up for the procession.



Class officers Courtney Cuppernull and Will Gent practice their stage handshake.



Langley senior Aram Tahmassian stops for a breakfast snack at a hot dog stand outside of Constitution Hall on Tuesday morning.



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July 12: USA & Alexandria Birthday Celebration

July 12-13: Fort Ward Civil War Reenactment Weekend

July 19: Cinema Del Ray, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2"

July 19: Comcast Outdoor Film Festival, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"

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Second Thursday Art Night at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/JUNE 26

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists drop in to meet for coffee. 703-759-2759.

FRIDAY/JUNE 27

McLean Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 2-Nov. 21. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mcleanmkt.htm

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear Sarah Bennett Swanner and some soulful blues. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Handel Giulio Cesare. Check website for exact showtimes (also on Sunday, June 29 and Tuesday, July 1). Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. www.wolftrap.org/

Kayak Tour Island Hopping. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Explore the upper Potomac River islands by kayak. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm>.

Look at the Stars! Observatory Open. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Turner Farm Park, Springvale Road, Great Falls. Come to the observatory park for Friday Night viewings. www.analemma.org.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Learn and play! Ages 5-18.

SATURDAY/JUNE 28

Great Falls Farmer's Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Don't forget to bring your recyclable bag. www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.

Oakton Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. www.smartmarkets.org/

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Faith Baptist Church Parking Lot, 301 Center Street South, Vienna. www.viennafarmersmarket.com.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find a gathering of cool cars – antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here. 703-759-2759.

Colvin's Dance for Everyone. 6:30-11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Beginner West Coast lesson, intermediate lesson and 'Dance for Everyone.' \$12. 703-435-5620.

The Seekers – Soft Rock. 5-7 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free outdoor event. 703-288-9505.

Beethoven's 9th. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Triumphant performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" masterpiece and more by preeminent singers and one of the world's leading orchestras in its only 2014 DC-area appearance. Tickets: \$25-\$65. www.wolftrap.org/

SUNDAY/JUNE 29

Tysons Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NADA Campus, Greensboro & Westpark Drive. www.tysonspartnership.org

Intro to River Kayaking. 1-1:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This introductory level course covers river hazards, water safety and paddling basics. Ages 14+. \$28-43. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm>.

Concert on the Green – Rock/The Dusty 45's. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, Georgetown Pike & Walker Road, Great Falls. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of live music. gfvcca@aol.com.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear The Tonics and some bluesy-rock. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Diana Ross. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Motown's supreme legend has inspired generations of singers with an endless stream of No. 1 hits from "You Can't Hurry Love" to "I'm

Coming Out." Tickets: \$35-\$60. www.wolftrap.org/

Handel Giulio Cesare. Check website for exact showtimes (also on Tuesday, July 1). Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. www.wolftrap.org/

2nd Annual Tour de Tysons Bicycle Races. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Jones Branch Drive, Tysons Corner. Ten bicycle races, food trucks and vendors. The Tour de Tysons is a fun experience for the whole family – compete or simply enjoy. Visit www.tysonspartnership.com for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 30 – JULY 9

Teen Yoga. 5 – 6 p.m. Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost is \$60/session. No previous experience required. Please bring a yoga. To register, email JidoFAH@aol.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 30

Top Secret. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Amazing magic tricks, silly puppets and music with Steve Somers. All ages.

American Giants of Science. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Meet America's most famous inventors and see them come to life onstage with Bright Star Theatre. Age 6-12.

Top Secret. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Amazing magic tricks, silly puppets and music with Steve Somers. All ages.

American Giants of Science. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Meet America's most famous inventors and see them come to life onstage with Bright Star Theatre. Age 6-12.

TUESDAY/JULY 1

Pilobolus. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Wild creativity and daring, athletic modern dance. Tickets: \$10-\$48. www.wolftrap.org/

Handel Giulio Cesare. Check website for exact showtime. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. www.wolftrap.org/

THURSDAY/JULY 3

Crosby, Stills & Nash. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk royalty of Woodstock reunite in musical celebration of one of the most creative supergroups in rock 'n' roll history. Tickets: \$35-\$60. www.wolftrap.org/

FRIDAY/JULY 4

McLean's Fireworks Show. 8 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Great Falls Fourth of July Celebration. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Walk/run, parades, festivities, fun and food. Fireworks at Turner Farm Park on Saturday, July 6. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit www.viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/JULY

Diamond Alley Celebrate Great Falls Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an evening of live, free, contemporary and classic hits.

SUNDAY/JULY 13

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the Village Jazz Band.

The Remedy Celebrate Great Falls Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green, Great Falls.

McLean Community Center Presents 4th of July Fireworks Show at Langley High

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on Friday, July 4, on the sports fields at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike. The grounds will open at 8 p.m. The fireworks show will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be presented on the rain date, Saturday, July 5, at 8:30 p.m. Smoking, pets, fireworks, sparklers and alcohol are not allowed on school grounds. The fireworks display will be provided by East Coast Pyrotechnics. MCC Governing Board Chair Chad Quinn will be the guest speaker and the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington will present the colors.

A free shuttle bus service will be avail-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

Independence Day Celebration will be held on Friday, July 4, on the sports fields at Langley High School.

able from St. John's Episcopal Church (6715 Georgetown Pike) and MCC (1234 Ingleside Ave.), beginning at 7 p.m. A handicap-accessible bus will be available at both sites.

For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.mcleancenter.org.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Celebrate Great Falls float makes its way down Columbine Street during the annual Great Falls Fourth of July parade last year.

July 4th Festivities in Great Falls

July 4th is right around the corner. Here are the activities taking place in Great Falls on that day:

*Freedom Memorial 5K Run/Walk. 8 a.m. The Great Falls Trailblazers are bringing the Annual 5K Walk/Run to our local trails. Join us at the Freedom Memorial on the Library grounds. From there, go off-road on the Lucy Hanes Trail, along Arnon Chapel and past Great Falls Elementary before heading back to the Freedom Memorial.

*Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department INOVA Blood Drive. 8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. The Great Save Lives, Give Blood. Everyone who completes the donor screening procedure will receive a free donor t-shirt. Photo ID required. Allow one hour for donor visit. Call 866-256-6372 to schedule your appointment.

*Little Patriot Parade. 9 a.m. Great

Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Babies and Toddlers up to age 5 are welcome to parade their finest patriotic display around the Green. Awards for "Young George Washington," Little Miss Betsy Ross," and "The Star Spangled Family."

*Main Parade. 10 a.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. See the floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Be sure to spot the winning floats for Best Neighborhood, Best Business and Best Organization.

*Festivities and Fun. 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. After the parade, enjoy burgers, dogs and snow cones along with music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green with your Great Falls neighbors.

There will be no fireworks this year.

VIEWPOINTS

Marshall High Graduates: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

— REENA SINGH



Sarah Atayeva, 18, McLean. Attending MacAlester College.

"I'll hopefully be working for the foreign service, hopefully as a diplomat. Since I'm studying Chinese, maybe in China, but I know multiple languages."



Alex Dittmann, 17, University of Illinois - Urbana.

"In the next 10 years, hopefully I will be finished with grad school, although you never know how long that will take. I hope to be doing some post-doctorate work."

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION



Johnathon Hoynes, 18, Falls Church.

"I want to work in the private sector - public sector. I want to work in cyber security, so maybe in the military. Whatever is best."



Rebecca Hendricks, 18, Falls Church.

"I hope to be a marine biologist by that time. Hopefully, I'll be married and have a house."

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NEWS



From left, McLean residents Dorothy McFayden, Joanne Muir, and Tovey Bachman observe Jo Fleming's "Tree House" made of acrylic.

PHOTOS BY RACHEL STONE/THE CONNECTION

Transformations Exhibit Opens with Full Crowd

**MPA Summer Exhibit
June 12- Aug. 2.**

BY RACHEL STONE
THE CONNECTION

"Transformations: From One Thing to Another" opened at the Emerson and Atrium Galleries in the McLean Community Center with a reception on June 12, attracting the pensive and the liveliest of artists, students, and community members from the D.C. Metro area. The exhibit features a collection of art encompassing the themes of change, evolution, and development.

From depicted dreams to weathered hands, and naturalistic scenes to a live portrayal of reading a book in one's bed, the exhibit showcased the idea that Darwinism is not exclusive to animals alone, but is present in every instance of daily life.

Gallery Juror Jack Rasmussen commented on the "interesting theme, because it's a metaphor for art itself." Art, he explained, is a transformation of subjects, materials, and ideas as it comes to fruition. Rasmussen is the Director and Curator at the American University Museum at the Katzen, and a heralded figure for art in the DC Metro Area. He awarded cash prizes to five artists from the exhibit, remarking on their unique perspective of sometimes unseen change in the occurrence of life.

With cuts of cheese perhaps accompanied by wine, visitors perused the exhibit freely. "This is an undervalued gem of a space," said Charles Sthresley as he observed the diversity of pieces, the senior lighting designer at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The McLean Project of the Arts (MPA) hosts only one juried show in the summer, and a total 16 shows a year. The non-profit visual arts center was founded in 1962, and offers classes to all ages taught by professional art instructors. Funneling in the work of



Megan Rhodes with Max Kochev of McLean before painted steel fixture "Roots of Winter Wheat: from ten days to full maturity" by Dayla Luttwak.



From left, artist Timothy Makerpeace with Timothy Rooney and John Straub, in front of Makerpeace's charcoal "Coal Terminal" within the center of the exhibit.

contemporary artists from the Mid-Atlantic region, the MPA's exhibitions are respected beyond just the McLean community.

Transformations: From One Thing to Another will be open until Aug. 2, at the Emerson and Atrium Galleries in the McLean Community Center. For more information, visit www.mpaart.org or call 703-790-1953.

OPINION

100K Reasons to Find People Homes

BY MAURA WILLIAMS
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FACETS

Sandara was scared of her spouse so she fled and left her life and job behind. Tom suffered from an undiagnosed disease that cost him his job, home and life savings. These unfortunate events led to both becoming homeless and living in the woods of Fairfax County. That's where on a cold winter morning volunteers organized by FACETS and other local nonprofits found them while participating in the 100,000 Homes Fairfax:



Maura Williams

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A Home for All Campaign, which is part of the national 100,000 Homes program, which counts, photographs, and interviews the chronically homeless in an effort to end homelessness.

Fairfax County has nearly 2,900 people who are homeless—14 percent of whom are chronically homeless. Over the course of three mornings, our volunteers met and interviewed more than 400 people who are chronically homeless. The findings were used to create profiles of people to ensure that each individual experiencing homelessness is counted and that their progress in finding housing and services can be better tracked.

Supporting the County's 10-year plan to end homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign is focused on building efficient local systems that target resources to individuals who are most vulnerable. Campaign partners are committed to getting half of the people most vulnerable who are chronically homeless in supportive housing in three years—which will save money and possibly lives.

Already we have seen success. With the data collected by staff and volunteers, we were able to connect Sandara and Tom with services that have helped them regain their lives, safety, and dignity. Less than a year later, we celebrated with each of them and 16 others at a housewarming celebration, hosted by FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County.

During the housewarming, we welcomed these neighbors experiencing homelessness into their own apartments through our new program called TRI-UMPH II Housing, which also provides supportive services. These recent successes have propelled the community to meet our goal of 50 people housed in a year—and we still have two years to go for this campaign with a goal of housing 50 people each year!

We also had the chance to celebrate the program's nationwide success. Last week, I attended an event in DC with Becky Kanis, the director of the national 100,000 Homes program, to announce a major milestone as the 100,000th person—a vet who has been homeless from Arlington, Va.—moved into housing through this ambitious effort. In announcing the milestone, she emphatically declared: "We can forever dispense with the Neanderthal view that people don't deserve or aren't ready for housing."

Although the "100,000" number sounds big, it's the people part that makes it special. Through this campaign, we are able to put a local face on homelessness with real stories about real people. Some are grandmothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and friends. Many work and others have protected our nation. When we met them, they lived in cars, encampments or on the streets, but they continued to smile and seemed hopeful that our caring community would help find them a home. And for 100,000 of them and counting, we have.

LETTERS

Supervisors' Failure

To the Editor:

Fairfax County, the most populous and affluent jurisdiction in the D.C.-metro area, has failed to respond to the challenge that it faces to significantly support good, safe, secure and affordable homes for

its current and future residents. And, has thus jeopardized its future economic vitality. Despite strong advocacy by many constituencies in the public and private sectors, the current Board of Supervisors has failed, with few exceptions, to consistently advance the cause of affordable homes in Fairfax County, despite multiple proposals to surmount that prob-

lem. Let us hope that a new generation leaders among the voters and the Board of Supervisors will arise to solve that challenge.

Conrad Egan
Oakton

The writer is the recently resigned co-chair of the Fairfax County Affordable Advisory Committee.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those

with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

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SPORTS

2013-14 High School Sports Season Produces Memorable Moments

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.

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, Stonewall 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.

In golf, Connor Messick, Juhee Bae, Vishal Giri and Mike Sciorra helped Chantilly win the Virginia 6A state championship. Sciorra won the individual state title, and Bae won the girls' state championship.

In field hockey, Westfield won the first state title in Starr Karl's decorated coaching career, which includes more than 300 wins in 24 seasons. The Bulldogs defeated two-time defending champ First Colonial 2-1 in the Virginia 6A state final.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Joey Sullivan and the McLean baseball team reached the state semifinals in 2014.

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."

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."

The Wakefield boys' basketball team won the 5A North region championship and advanced to the Virginia state tournament for the second consecutive season. The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team repeated as Patriot District/Conference 7 champions. The Herndon boys' basketball team won the Conference 5 championship and finished with a 23-3 record. The West Springfield girls' team reached the state tournament for the fourth time in five years. The South Lakes boys' and girls' basketball teams won Conference 6 championships.

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. In Maryland, the Wootton girls' team won a state championship, edging rival Churchill. The Wootton boys' team finished runner-up.

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.

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.

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.

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 program 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. In Maryland, the Wootton boys' team finished 4A state runner-up.

In tennis, the Lake Braddock boys' team defeated Langley in the Virginia 6A state final. The Oakton girls' team finished state runner-up. Oakton's Adrien Bouchet won the boys' singles championship, and Lake Braddock's Jacob Daugherty and Long Huynh won the boys' doubles title. Oakton's Lizzie Stewart won the girls' singles title and Stewart and Lindsey Le won the girls' doubles championship for the Cougars.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL STONE/THE CONNECTION

Monarch butterflies were released as a symbol of freedom from oppression, and hope for the future.



WCCW Founder Dongwoo Lee Hahm, left, sits on a butterfly-shaped bench with Comfort Women Survivor Il Chul Kang, right.

Comfort Women Memorial Highlights Human Trafficking

New Peace Garden
a beacon of hope
for victims.

BY RACHEL STONE
THE CONNECTION

When members of the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues unveiled a new memorial on May 30, they also illuminated the issue of local human trafficking in Northern Virginia. Elected officials including Supervisor John Foust, Japanese and Korean representatives, and human rights activists gathered to remember the women and girls who were forced into sexual slavery during WWII. Now the memorial stands sunlit on the back lawn of the Fairfax County Government Center, as a reminder for today's community to take a stand against these crimes against humanity in their own neighborhoods.

The unveiling ceremony comprised a cer-



Grace Han Wolf, who co-chaired the memorial committee, reminded the audience of an applicable lesson, "All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing."

emonial ribbon cutting and butterfly release, artful performances, and a series of congratulatory and solemn remarks. The

recent words of President Obama were repeated by Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues President Christine Choi, "Any of us who look back on the history of what happened to the Comfort Women here ... have to recognize that this was a terrible, egregious violation of human rights. Those women were violated in ways that, even in the midst of war, was shocking."

Comfort Women survivor Il Chul Kang bore testimony of being kidnapped from her Japanese home to "serve" the military men who were stationed in South Korea. Many comfort women have since forgiven the Japanese for these actions, but are abashed it has taken over 50 years to address these wrongdoings. Del. Mark Keam (D-35) recognized the timely anniversary of D-Day. "We can't undo the past ... but we can ensure that this never happens again," he said, "Those women didn't die in vain."

"We as a community must care for each other," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Inquiries about building the memorial initially began in her office, and the recent ceremony was the culmination of 18 months' advocacy by Washington Coalition for Comfort

Women Issues. The project not only pays respect to the county's prominent Asian community, but also underlines its own authentic issue with human trafficking.

"Nobody really wants to talk about it," said Grace Han Wolf, who served as honorary co-chair of the coalition's Memorial Peace Garden Committee. "With two international airports and the nation's Capitol, no one thinks twice about seeing a multi-ethnic group of women in this area." But these are silent, often unseen crimes nestled in homes and shopping centers. And they won't go away without the consciousness of the community. "Be on the lookout. Don't be complacent; be vigilant," she said.

The website www.justaskva.org is the ultimate resource of 24/7 telephone hotlines and awareness information for the state of Virginia. The county has also collaborated on the Polaris Initiative, offering resources devoted to alleviating the issue of human trafficking in the area.

The Polaris Hotline can be reached at any time, any day of the year at 1-888-373-7888. Call 911 in case of immediate emergency. Crime tips can also be reported to 703-246-4006.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's Respite Care Volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adults a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon, needs a volunteer mosaic instructor and knitting instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lewinsville Senior Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean, needs a certified volunteer Zumba instructor and an office assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteer On-Call IT Specialists are needed to help older adults. Schedule is flexible. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Bailey's Senior Center, 5920 Summers Lane, Falls Church, needs office assistance with the front desk and

data entry, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Franconia, Reston, McLean and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and

click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Wakefield Senior Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale, needs a volunteer art teacher, certified instructors for Zumba Gold and Pilates, a coin collector to lead groups, an experienced canasta player to lead groups and Spanish-speaking interpreters. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center, 5690 Sully Road, Centreville, needs a certified personal trainer to work with older adults, for one hour two days per week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, needs social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Find out more about the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lcombudsman.

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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.

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

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