

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne
Newington

Take a Hike!

NEWS, PAGE 10

Hikers cross Accotink Creek via a footbridge during an outing with the Northern Virginia Hiking Club on Sunday, Oct. 26.

Poll Position

ELECTION 2014, PAGE 3

Springfield Launches Global Shoebox Project

NEWS, PAGE 8



2014 FCFT President's Award

*for Outstanding Advocacy
for the Employees of FCPS*



Karen Garza Superintendent, FCPS
Ramona Morrow President, FCCPTA
Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District)
Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield District)
Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill District)
Patty Reed (Providence District)
Sandy Evans (Mason District)
Dan Storck (Mount Vernon District)
Tammy Derenak Kaufax (Lee District)
Ryan McElveen (At Large)
Janie Strauss (Dranesville District)
Ilryong Moon (At Large)
Ted Velkoff (At Large)

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers would like to thank all of the 2014 award winners listed above for their consistent advocacy, proactive communications, and support of our workforce over the past year. We publicly acknowledge their efforts to make a difference in the lives of FCPS employees. Thank you for caring about us; it matters and is appreciated.



NEWS



The 11th District incumbent Gerry Connolly (left), Burgermeister Greg Burkheart of Vienna (center) and Delegate Mark Keam practice their Deutsche at Vienna's Oktoberfest celebration.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Ann Juliano of Bristow, Suzanne Scholte of Falls Church and Janet Gorn of Montclair enjoy the late afternoon sun at a campaign event in Gorn's backyard.

Poll Position Local academics following the 11th Districts race say there's really no substitute for the strength of incumbency.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Despite low public opinion of President Obama and a minimally productive Congress, representative Gerry Connolly has plenty going for him as the incumbent seeking re-election in Virginia's largely democratic 11th district.

Republican challenger Suzanne Scholte and independents Marc Harrold (Libertarian) and Joe Galdo (Green) have been trying to use that unproductivity to their advantage, citing their lack of experience in elected office as affording an advantageous, fresh perspective.

"They're not only not hearing us, they're not taking the time to listen to us," said Scholte. "I think we see that in the partisan shift, the bitterness in how people are dealing with each other."

And though that's not a bad strategy, local academics following the race say there's really no substitute for the strength of incumbency. Especially when you've made yourself as a household name like Connolly has.

"Once he fended off a serious challenger in two separate election cycles, when people thought he was vulnerable, that established

the perception he's one of those hard-to-beat incumbents now," said Mark J. Rozell, acting dean and professor of Public Policy for the George Mason University School of Policy, Government and International Affairs.

Connolly won his first two congressional races by 12 points (2008) and 26 points (2010).

And now that he's stuck around, proven himself a winner, "most voters differentiate between Congress as an institution and their own incumbent member," said Rozell. "It doesn't necessarily weaken any incumbent who may have the favor of his or her constituents," he continued.

Scholte has come after Connolly for being "completely out of touch with people in this district." Connolly has countered that, "there's no excuse for people seeing you as getting distant. I come home every night. When I pick up my dry cleaning I'm in my constituency. When I grab a meal, it's in my constituency."

"And as long as Connolly can present himself as an authentic representative who's out there fighting for his people," said Rozell, "fixing the problems with hyper bipartisan ships, that protects him a good deal."

INCUMBENCY COMES with superior

name recognition and funding, both factors making it that much more difficult for outsiders to pull an upset.

As of an Oct. 15 OpenSecrets.org report, Connolly had raised \$1,886,601, spent \$986,053 and had \$1,768,494 in cash on hand.

Scholte, by contrast, had \$42,856 on hand, raised \$224,457 and spent \$182,601. Harrold was reported with \$6,547 raised, \$4,583 spent and \$1,962 on hand. Galdo wasn't part of the report.

Toni-Michelle Travis, GMU associate professor of Government and Politics, agrees with Rozell that the race is "pretty clear-cut."

"He's doing all the right things, but I wouldn't say he's got the seat indefinitely," she said. Travis cited changing demographics in Northern Virginia as something incumbents shouldn't sleep on in future elections.

According to the Office of Elections, there are 25,122 new voters registered in Fairfax County since Nov. 5, 2013. That figure includes transfers as well first-time registrants.

"Every incumbent's got to be very attentive to it," said Travis. "This could erode, this could begin to change because of the new voters. That's tripped up many, includ-

ing Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, who used to represent Vienna."

Travis believes a shift could come in "sort of purple" Northern Virginia, and issues like immigration have the potential to "become real change" in favor of a challenger, at least one with more election experience.

"It's a training ground," said Travis, "because these things shift in Northern Virginia. Maybe next time [Scholte] might prevail."

As well, Rozell doesn't discount the value of third-party candidates in the electoral process.

"They can force major candidate to address different issues that might get ignored otherwise," he said, "add something important to the debate that's going on."

HARROLD AND GALDO have highlighted the need for more government transparency as well as pragmatic planning for simplifying the tax code, among other issues.

"Unfortunately for them," said Rozell, "voters remain strategic creatures, under the belief that they'd be throwing their vote away otherwise. It somewhat becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Visit Elections.virginia.gov to see the new requirements for voter identification required at the polls on Nov. 4.

Just Days Left for Voting Early, Absentee

Virtually every voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, which includes voting in-person absentee at a variety of locations from now through Saturday, Nov. 1. After that, vote on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4 at your assigned polling place.

There are many reasons that voters are allowed to vote absentee, but the most broad of these applies to almost anyone with a job: "Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation,

will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for eleven or more hours of the thirteen that the polls are open (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

You can download an absentee ballot and mail it to your local voter registration office, or you can vote "absentee in person."

In person absentee voting is available at the Fairfax County Governmental Center and multiple satellite locations.

❖ **Office of Elections**, 12000 Govern-

ment Center Pkwy, Conf. Rooms 2/3, Fairfax, 22035

Now through Oct. 31, Monday thru Friday - 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

❖ **Satellite Voting Locations:**

Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, 22310

Dolley Madison Library - 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, 22101

North County Human Services Bldg. - 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190

West Springfield Governmental Center -

6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, 22152

Mason Governmental Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003

Mount Vernon Governmental Center - 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria 22306

Sully District Governmental Center - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly 20151

Monday - Friday, through Oct. 31, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more, call 703-222-0776 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>

High Schools to Start Later Next Year

School Board approves later start times.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Phyllis Payne has been fighting for more sleep for a decade. On Oct. 23, it all paid off. The co-founder of Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal - or SLEEP - saw the Fairfax County Public School Board approve to move high school start times ahead by 30 minutes, 11-1.

"This means the school system is getting a policy on what is best for the kids," she said after the vote. "It's been a labor of love."

She said she was proud of Superintendent Karen Garza and the board members for approving the motion. The change means that high school start times will be between 8 and 8:10 a.m. next school year, about a 30 minute push forward. Middle School start times will be 7:30 and elementary start times will remain unchanged.

The only board member to not vote yes on the proposal was Sully District board member Kathy Smith.

"I was really hoping when this process started that I could be in a place where I could vote yes," Smith said.

She said many of her constituents did not want school start times to change, and she wanted to be the one voice for them.

"I have once been a lone no vote on the board, and it's not easy," said Hunter Mill District board member Pat Hynes. "I want to mention it, because we are models for our students always."

SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS became emotional as they talked about the reasons they supported it - whether they supported it along with Payne for the past decade or decided more recently to approve the proposal.

Mason District board member Sandra Evans, who is also a co-founder of SLEEP and made the motion for the proposal, said some students are picked up as early as 5:45 a.m.

"Sleep deprivation is a public health crisis," she said.

With more sleep, she said, students would be at less of a risk of depression, attendance loss, low test score and car accidents.

During the public comment period, mother of three Karen Keys-Gamarra spoke about pulling her three boys out of bed to wake them up every day of their school years.

"As I jostled my sons repeatedly during those predawn hours, pulling off their covers while rushing to prepare breakfast, I instinctively knew something was wrong," she said. "I knew that these brutally early start times could not be healthy."

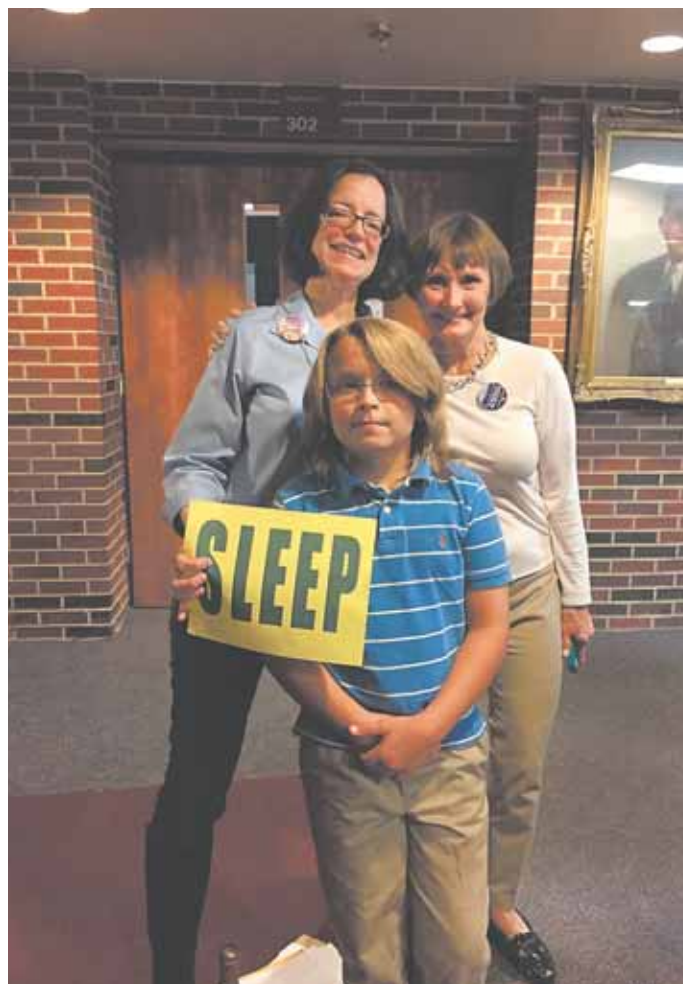
Two of her sons have already graduated, but the third one is a sophomore at Madi-



Members of SLEEP, or Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, celebrate after later high school start times were approved by Fairfax County Public Schools School Board.

Later school start times advocates Phyllis Payne, former Executive Director of SLEEP Terry Tuley and Oakton Elementary sixth grade student Thomas Tudan, who will be able to benefit from later high school start times in the future.

PHOTOS BY
BETH TUDAN



son High School and will benefit from the later start times next year.

"It's not about taking away teens' electronics, forbidding caffeinated drinks or forcing them to go to bed early," she said. "It's about hormones, body clocks and circadian rhythms. Trust me, my husband and I could and would make our boys go to bed early. But we could not make them sleep."

The impact will be even bigger for disadvantaged and students with disabilities, according to Sheree Brown Kaplan with Fairfax Alliance for Appropriate School Edu-

cation.

"This has been a long time coming," she said after the motion was approved. "This isn't about saving money. It's about the kids."

During her speech in the public comment portion of the meeting, she said disadvantaged students feel the effects of sleep deprivation more than other students do.

"An insufficient sleep can exacerbate certain mental illnesses like bipolar disorders and anxiety disorders, leading to higher rates of problem behavior in school, loss in

structural time and academic failure," she said. "

Although the cost for the first year was originally projected at \$30 million, board members credited Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation Jeffrey Platenberg for helping reduce the cost to \$4.9 million.

Springfield District board member Elizabeth Schultz said the cost per student per day is 15 cents.

"If we can't invest 15 cents per student per day in just one year, and that's not the advertised cost, to improving the social, emotional, health, physical academic, athletic and extracurricular activities, nevermind the sacrosanct time that children need to spend with their family, then we do not have our priorities straight," she said.

Schultz also thanked who she called the naysayers - the people who came before the board disapproving of the measure. Because of those who questioned each step along the way, she said, a proposal that met many of those concerns could be formed. While she said this is not a perfect solution, it is the best solution for now.

"This is just a starting point," she said.

DR. GARZA noted that there are some things to work on to make later start times run smoothly next year, but said there was nearly a calendar year to make sure those items can be resolved. While she knew there are many teachers working outside the county who will have to wake up just as early as before to fight traffic coming to school and stay later rather than being with their families, she said many of those teachers still supported the change because it was the best decision for the students.

"I know that FCPS employees and teachers care so deeply about our children and what's best for our children," she said.

At large board member Ryan McElveen said he once fought against later high school start times while he was in high school because it gave students more time in the evenings for homework and extracurricular activities.

"As we know, history moves in arcs and we are at another arc," he said.

Although Student Representative Harris LaTeef will not be able to benefit from the change, he was excited for the classes below him. In past meetings, he said this proposal would be the most important one during his tenure as student representative.

"As I said before, we can provide students with a top notch, rigorously designed education, but if we don't have our physical and mental health in check, the education the county provides us really has little meaning," he said. After the proposal passed, supporters jumped out of their chairs, cheering and hugging one another. The next five to 10 minutes of the meeting was an impromptu break for board members and the public alike.

"It's probably going to take me a little while to process it," said Payne. "I was definitely in tears for the first few minutes. It's a little overwhelming."

NEWS

Cub Scouts crossing monkey bridge.



PHOTO BY BEN ROYSTON

TASTE OF
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3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Embassy Suites Springfield
for tickets and more information, visit
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The Rotary Foundation West Springfield

Area Scouts Participate in Fall Camporee

The Old Dominion District Fall Camporee was held Oct. 17, 18, and 19 at Sky Meadows State Park. Six hundred seventeen Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture scouts and Scouters from Old Dominion, Colonial, and Occoquan Districts participated in this Pioneer theme campout.

Boy Scouts competed in making structures from just tree limbs, bamboo, and rope including a zip line, gateways, catapults, and monkey bridges. Cub Scouts had chariot races, rocket launches, first aid, readyman, archery and other events to complete achievement badges and have fun. Varsity scouts hiked, rode horseback, and enjoyed other high adventure events. The Order of the Arrow (scout honor society) demonstrated their Native American inspired ceremonies and dancing.

One of the stations that received much activity this year was Jamboree Over the Air (JOTA). Scouts talked with other scouts around the world over Ham Radio, the Internet, and via Morris Code. Over 120 Cub and Boy Scouts participated this unique event.

Boy Scout troops hosted Cub Scout packs during meals throughout the camporee to demonstrate scout cooking skills and explain all the fun things that you can do in a troop and in scouting as they get older.

Sunday the scouts completed their camping event with a service project to remove a non-native invasive grass for the park naturalist.

The Boy Scouts of America Old Dominion District serves Seven Corners-Annandale-Springfield-Lorton areas of Fairfax and Arlington counties. To find a scout unit in your neighborhood go to www.BeAScout.org.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Saturday 9-5pm: Bazaar continues with Readers, Astrology Readings and Aura Photos/Consultations

Sunday 10-4: Silent Auction Closes at 1:00 pm.... Bazaar and events continue SUPPORT OUR ONGOING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE for local charities, your donation of non-perishable food will earn you raffle tickets or prizes throughout the weekend!!!

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OPINION

Change for the Better in Fairfax County Schools

Later start times, full-day Mondays; who knows, next maybe gifted-and-talented programs for poor students?

Who says big bureaucracies can't make big changes? One year into the tenure of Karen Garza, we have two huge changes that between them impact almost every single student, every family with children in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Last week, the Fairfax County School Board voted to move high school start times all after 8 a.m. beginning next September. Garza, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, announced this summer the implementation of full-day Mondays, another previously insurmountable task.

A plan emerged that made this possible for under \$5 million (original estimates were wildly and prohibitively higher) while keeping elementary school times the same (or within 5-10 minutes). The goal is to move middle school start times later in the future.

Change comes in mysterious ways. Part of the support for this change comes from the science.

The American Academy of Pediatrics this fall: "A substantial body of research has now demonstrated that delaying school start times is

an effective countermeasure to chronic sleep loss and has a wide range of potential benefits to students with regard to physical and mental health, safety, and academic achievement.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly supports the efforts of school districts to optimize sleep in students and urges high schools and middle schools to aim for start times that allow students the opportunity to achieve optimal levels of sleep (8.5–9.5 hours) and to improve physi-

EDITORIAL

Voting

Every year is Election Year in Virginia, and this year, the ballot is short but important. Turn out to vote for U.S. Senate, member of the House of Representatives, and a few questions.

You can vote absentee in person between now and Saturday, Nov. 1; after that, vote on Election Day, Nov. 4, at your assigned polling place. Bring photo identification with you, the rules have changed.

cal (eg, reduced obesity risk) and mental (eg, lower rates of depression) health, safety (eg, drowsy driving crashes), academic performance, and quality of life."

We commend the leadership of the advocacy group SLEEP in Fairfax, which never gave up, even in years when this change appeared impossible.

We suspect the key ingredient is new leadership at the top at FCPS, Karen Garza.

A superintendent across the river, Joshua Starr, will have to ask himself what's holding up such changes in Montgomery County Public Schools.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

For information, contact State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901, Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194, email: info@sbe.virginia.gov; or visit <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

You can read previous Connection coverage at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/>

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote Yes on Transportation Bond Referendum

To the Editor:

On Nov. 4, Fairfax County residents will vote on a Transportation Bond Referendum. The League of Women Voters supports the Bond Referendum and urges voters to approve it.

If accepted, the Bond would fund three types of projects:

❖ Spot Road Improvements: These include adding or lengthening turn lanes; upgrading turn signals and signage; constructing walkways and providing crosswalks; and making popular destinations more accessible.

nations more accessible.

❖ Pedestrian Improvements: These include building missing sidewalk and trail links; adding and improving signalized crosswalks and other pedestrian-friendly intersection improvements.

❖ Bike and Trail Improvements: These include developing new bicycle facilities, constructing trails, adding bicycle parking, and making popular destinations and mass transit more accessible.

These upgrades would increase

the capacity of our transportation network by allowing it to carry more people, whether they drive, walk, bike or take mass transit. Go to fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/ for information about cost, project details and answers to other frequently asked questions.

Here's something else to consider: Fairfax is one of only 32 counties in the United States with a AAA Bond Rating. This allows the County to borrow at lower interest rates. And because Fairfax has access to other funding

sources, this Bond represents only 7 percent of the cost of these improvements.

The League of Women Voters urges you to vote on Nov. 4. And we encourage you to say YES to the Transportation Bond Referendum. We believe that these projects will reduce congestion and make it easier and safer for all of us to get to the places where we need and want to go.

Julia Jones and Helen Kelly,
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Vote 'Yes' on Transportation

To the Editor:

We are writing about the Nov. 4 voter referendum on transportation bonds for Fairfax County. The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a diverse coalition of individuals and public, community, and business organizations that have joined forces to improve community health by mobilizing resources, increasing awareness, and promoting change.

The Partnership has identified investments in infrastructure that support physical activity as a major priority in its community health

improvement plan. Investments in facilities and pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists benefit everyone through enhancing safety, providing active transportation options, providing opportunities for routine exercise, expanding access to recreational opportunities, and improving quality of life. Improvements funded by the bond will also permit more "Safe Routes to School," or opportunities for children to walk or bike to school.

The goals and objectives of both our plan and the transportation

bond issue are aligned in encouraging a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and improving connectivity throughout the county. Residents who are able to incorporate exercise in their daily lives will incur fewer health care costs and be more productive employees, thereby contributing to the county's economic success. Please support the bond by a "yes" vote on Nov. 4.

Marlene Blum and Julie Knight
Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax/Co-Chairs

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Farmers Market Ends Thursday

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fair Oaks; the season's last market is Oct. 30.

Don't Drink and Drive

This Friday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m., seven police agencies from Northern Virginia will team up in all jurisdictions to conduct saturation patrols detecting and arresting drunk drivers on Halloween. Called "Extra Eyes for DWI's," the effort will involve police officers and resources from the City of Falls Church, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Town of Vienna, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax, U.S. Park Police and Virginia State Police.

Time to Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 a.m.; so before going to bed Saturday night, residents should turn back their clocks and watches one hour.

Police Officers Involved in September Shooting Return to Duty

Fairfax County police have released information regarding the officer shooting of an armed suicidal man on Sep. 8.

According to a statement from the police last week, Sgt. Joseph Furman, a 24-year veteran from the Operational Support Bureau and PFC Gene Taitano, a 15-year veteran from the Franconia District Police Station were initially placed on administrative duties following the shooting.

Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh concluded there was "no criminal liability" with regard to the officers involved, the statement said. The armed man reportedly raised his gun, which prompted fire from both officers.

Since they've been cleared, Sgt Furman and PFC Taitano are allowed to go back to full duty status.

The shooting occurred at the 7000 block of Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield United Methodist Church. Police at the scene locked down Garfield Elementary School and evacuated the church, calling in a SWAT unit and negotiators.

Police still have not released the name of the suicidal man, who they said was in his 60s. After the shooting he was taken to a local hospital in "serious but stable condition" and has since been released.

— TIM PETERSON

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News



Children prepare to start the 1K fun run.

Colorful Costumes at Goblin Gallop

The 21st annual Goblin Gallop was Sunday, Oct. 26, at Fairfax Corner.



Caysen Chadha, 6, as a Ninja warrior.



Landon Peacock, 26, of Alexandria, won the 5K race in 15:15. A professional artist, he runs 40 miles/week to stay in shape.



Runners at the start of the 5K race.



The Butterfield siblings, Jaime, 4, and Joslyn, 1.



(From left) are Ryleigh Line and Doug Kaspar.



Harry Smith is warm and cozy.



Kim and Brian Haugli and daughter Juli, 4.



(From left) are the Gray brothers, Cillian, 5, and Callum, 2.



The Pike family as X-Men: (Adults, from left) are Andrew, Hannah, Caleb, Judy, Naomi and Dan; and children Aidan, 9, Rowan, 6 and Bishop, 3.

History Unveiled

FROM PAGE 8

when I was doing the research and I made sure each chapter was built around one."

The most pertinent quote of all, he said, is in Chapter 10, "Halsey Knows the Straight Story."

Calling it the book's "most remarkable chapter," Rems said it was based mostly on his own, independent research and "on the most amazing letters in the Marine Corps archives in

Quantico that had never been seen before by anyone other than the correspondents."

Initially, he'd planned to write a book about the Bougainville campaign in the Solomon Islands. "But this startling, new information about the general was a prelude to it," he said. "And when I realized nobody had done a complete history of WWII in the South Pacific, I saw a great opportunity to do so."

Those who've read "South Pacific Cauldron" have praised his writing

style and, said Rems, "People who know their military history have weighed in on what a good book it is. But I wrote it to be read especially by veterans and their families. It's serious history, but with more than enough of interest to attract the average, intelligent reader."

Knowing that career military personnel and military-history buffs would be among his readers, he felt "a serious obligation to tell this story with sufficient detail and ad-

equately authority. This was a war of many, small-scale actions that added up, so I had to tell the story in that detail. I didn't want to broad-brush history."

Another element making this book special, said Rems, is the attention he gives to the Australian military.

"If there's anything we don't know about, it's their critical contribution to the war in New Guinea before enough American troops could get there," he said.

He's spoken about his book on talk radio, at Arlington's Army-Navy Club, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and at GMU's "Fall for the Book" event in September.

REMS began writing it in late 2009 and finished in mid-2013. Hardest, he said, was the preface, explaining its contents and why people should care about it. His greatest satisfaction was bringing to light "an important piece of

WWII history, in Chapter 10, because of the insight it provides into Admiral [William] Halsey, one of our leading WWII figures."

He was also pleased to highlight the Australians' important contribution to the war in the South Pacific and to "at last be able to construct a cohesive history of this critical battleground of WWII." Basically, added Rems, "It's a damn good book and an exciting story."

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Northern Virginia Hiking Club (NVHC) members hike Lake Accotink Trail in Springfield, on Sunday, Oct. 26.



Signs direct hikers to and from Wakefield Park and Lake Accotink Park, a six-mile hike from Annandale to Springfield.

Take a Hike!

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Shortly before 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, the parking lot by the softball field at Wakefield Park in Annandale filled up and several people approached Stefan Eom, of Annandale, the leader for the six-mile Wakefield to Lake Accotink hike organized by the Northern Virginia Hiking Club (NVHC).

Several people recognized each other from previous hikes with the group, while others hung back by themselves or in small groups.

Navneet Munday, of Herndon, is new to the group and this is her first hike—a level D—with NVHC. The club organizes its hikes from A, difficult to D, easy. “I’m trying to get to a point where I can build up,” she said.

NVHC offers hikes for almost each level every weekend and posts them on its website. But, it is transitioning to Meetup. “Meetup has kind of given some new life” to a lot of hiking clubs that were aging out, attracting new hikers with different ideas, said Marie Burton, of Silver Spring and Alexandria. One hike in which she participated highlighted a campaign to call attention to a manmade lake in Maryland that was a water supply for Washington. “Some of the hikes are a little bit more purposeful,” she said.

Dave Gibson, of Fairfax, has been with the club for almost 15 years. He said that Meetup has infused the club with younger members, who have taken positions as hike leaders, like Eom, who joined earlier this year.

THE GROUP started the hike after a short announcement by Eom, who took the lead, while another hiker volunteered to be last to make sure that no hikers were left behind.

The paved trail ran parallel to Accotink Creek, with portions behind Springfield residences. To make it a circuit hike, the group first bypassed Lake Accotink Trail and picked



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

NVHC hikers reach Lake Accotink Park from Wakefield Park on Sunday, Oct. 26.

“We don’t want to see anything but nature.”

— Nancy Totten of Herndon

it up in the neighborhood of Danbury Forest Drive. Once on the trail again, the tall trees and vegetation provided cover and fall colors enough to insulate the hikers to the proximity of the suburbs.

“We don’t want to see anything but nature” on hiking outings, said Nancy Totten, of Herndon. On a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains, she and her family saw a mother bear with two cubs. “They were just there and they

were so cool...We just felt really privileged.”

But Gibson has seen more than just nature on the Lake Accotink Trail. As part of Fairfax County Park Authority’s Park and Trail program, which operates like a neighborhood watch for parks, he has been alerted to issues with the park trails. “One time I got a report that there was some graffiti on the trail,” he said. He found red paint on trees upon investigation.

Recently, several Western national parks have been discovered vandalized by drawings and paintings tagged with #creepyttings, which have been traced to social media accounts belonging to a person in New York. The National Park Service is investigating the case.

CONVERSATION FLOWED FREELY as similarly paced hikers paired off, sharing stories about previous hikes. Gibson shared a story about facing off with a mama moose in Granite Canyon in Wyoming 50 years ago. Marivic Llacuna, of Fort Washington, shared her experience of hiking the Inca Trail in Peru. “It rained the entire time but it was still fun, though. It made it more challenging so you appreciated it more,” she said. And, TJ Burnside Clapp, of Arlington, recalled nearly being blown away by high winds while hiking the Green Mountains in Vermont.

Clapp brought her dog Oz to the hike. “I got the dog so I can go hiking a lot more,” she said. Her favorite places to hike in the area are the trails in Great Falls Park. “There are great views” in Great Falls, she said.

Pam Cooke, of Fairfax, missed the group’s Corbin Cabin hike scheduled last Oct. 12 so she and her husband did it the following week on their own. But, “it’s nice to meet up with a group of people to find out new trails,” she said.

Northern Virginia Hiking Club has about 650 members. For more information, visit its Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/NVHC-Hiking/>.

CALENDAR

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

THROUGH FRIDAY/OCT. 31

Pumpkin Patch. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Pumpkins are available from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily until Oct. 31, when the patch closes at 6 p.m. 703-569-9862.

THROUGH FRIDAY/NOV. 3

Adventures in Learning. 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. This program is open to all adults age 50 or better. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. \$30. www.scfbva.org or 703-323-4788.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812. Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8, 2015

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events. Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

FRIDAY/OCT. 31-SATURDAY/NOV. 1

Interstate Haunted Maze. 7-10 p.m. Interstate Service Group, 8601 Morrisette Drive, Springfield. Interstate Haunted Maze event supports ECHO, a nonprofit organization that helps provide for those in need in Northern Virginia communities. admission is any non-perishable food donation.

FRIDAY/OCT. 31

St. Peter’s in the Woods Pumpkin Patch. 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station. St. Peter’s in the Woods Annual Pumpkin Patch is a community outreach fundraiser. Pumpkins and Gourds of all sizes available for purchase. Come buy a pumpkin and help support community outreach.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Bring family history stumps to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227, option 6. Adults, Teens.

The National Acrobats of the People’s Republic of China: Cirque Peking. 8 p.m. George Mason

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With a combination of traditional and modern music, colorful sets, and imaginative props, the National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China is among Asia's most acclaimed ensembles. \$29-\$48. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/NOV. 1

The Robinson Marketplace. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 5305 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Shop at over 80 vendors at the Holiday Market, raffle and silent auction sponsored by the Robinson Secondary School PTSA. Visit www.robinsonptsa.org.

Free Choral Event: Durufle's Requiem Mass. 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's in the Woods Church, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Performed by the choirs of St. Peter's in the Woods, St. John's McLean, and students of GMU. www.stpetersinthewoods.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 1- SUNDAY/NOV. 2

7th Annual South Run Arts and Crafts Show. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. This is an annual favorite for visitors looking for holiday gifts and unique hand-crafted items. Beautiful jewelry, intricate woodworking, photography, painting, glasswork, clothing, dolls and pottery to purchase. Admission is \$3, and free for children 12 and under. Visit www.nvhg.org. or call 571-278-9621.

Cabaret Series: Heroes Cabaret. 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Songs

and music of heroes and anti-heroes. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 2

Nate Hausmann Author Talk. 2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. j.talks event. Author with autism shares his story. \$11/\$9/\$7. 703-323-0880.

New Orleans Legends: Featuring the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and Allen Toussaint. 7 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Join us for an evening of music. The legendary jazz and New Orleans R&B pianist Allen Toussaint recently received the highly prestigious National Medal of Arts by President Obama in recognition of his seminal influence on New Orleans music. Tickets: \$29-\$48.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 5

F-150 "Drive the Future of Tough" Consumer Event. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Ted Britt Ford, 11165 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Customers can test-drive the new 2015 F-150. 703-218-4644.

"South Pacific Cauldron." 7 p.m. George Mason Regional Library, 70001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Author Alan Rems, a 10-year volunteer at the Fairfax Regional Library, will discuss and sign his book, "South Pacific Cauldron," It's about WWII in the South Pacific, plus the cover-up of a Marine Corps general's death.

FRIDAY/NOV. 7

Martha Graham Dance Company.

8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$28-\$46. For more information call 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Christmas Craft Fair and Bake Sale.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. New Hope Church, 6905 Ox Road, Lorton. Begin your holiday shopping early. Crafts, artwork, holiday items, inspirational items, soaps/scrubs, jewelry, baked goods, jams/jellies, candies/nuts/fudge, raffles, stuffed animals, food, etc. Free. Doris Lama, 703-644-0139/571-234-7322.

I'll be Seeing You with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Based on actual letters from Mr. Frazier's family written during World War II, the evening includes songs of the era by Gershwin, Kern, Carmichael, Ellington, and more. Tickets \$25, \$45, \$60. Students ages 6-25: free fairfaxsymphony.org

Annual Christmas Craft Bazaar.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Handcrafted jewelry, ornaments, glass art, bath and body, purses, Spirit wear, pins greeting cards, needle work, children clothes, fabric art and blankets.

Fairfax County's 10th Annual History Conference.

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The theme of the conference is "Fire, Flight & Fury!" The War of 1812 in Fairfax County-200 years later.

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Election Preview I10/22/14
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NOVEMBER

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.

Wellbeing.....11/5/14
HomeLifeStyle.....11/12/14
Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I.....11/19/14
A+11/25/14

Thanksgiving is November 27.

DECEMBER

Wellbeing.....12/3/14
HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays.....12/10/14
Hanukkah begins December 16.
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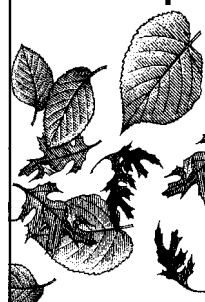
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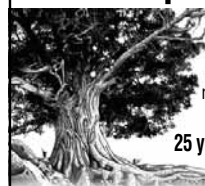
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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26 Antiques

26 Antiques

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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DC TO RICHMOND
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Passenger Rail Public Meetings Planned
Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
(DRPT) **Nov. 5, 6, 12, or 13** for a public meeting to discuss
Washington D.C. to Richmond-Southeast High Speed Rail, to
improve intercity passenger rail for faster, more reliable connections.
DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and
services for persons who require special assistance to participate.
Contact the Title VI compliance officer at 804-786-4440 or TDD 711.
Comments will be accepted until Dec. 5. An online meeting is
available at: **www.DC2RVArail.com**

DRPT
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 30

Walk-in Ebook and Computer Clinic. 10 a.m.

Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker
Road, Burke. Help with downloading library
eBooks. Bring device and its account ID and
password. Help with basic computer skills.
Adults. 703-644-7333.

Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax
Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Get
library-related electronic resources questions
answered. Includes help with eBooks and
compatible devices. Adults. Bring library card,
eBook reader and laptop. 703-293-6227.

SATURDAY/NOV. 1-SATURDAY/NOV. 22

NVRC Collecting Blankets for Refugees.

Several Fairfax County locations. Northern
Virginia Regional Commission will collect
blankets to help Syrian refugees. For more
information, go to www.helpsyrianrefugees.net/

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Recycling Event. noon-5 p.m. Petco, 13053 Lee

Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Recycle
outdated electronics and save a dog's life.
Questions on what to bring,
info@aforeverhome.org. [www.facebook.com/
events/362845497196002/](http://www.facebook.com/events/362845497196002/)

SATURDAY/NOV. 15.

NAACP Branch Election. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 9002
Burke Lake Road, Burke (behind Kings Park
Library). Election of branch officers and at-large
members of the Executive Committee. To vote in
the branch election, you must be a member in
good standing and branch membership must be
dated before Oct. 16, 2014. A form of ID is
required. 703-591-4488.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Twenty-five students from Fairfax County
Public Schools (FCPS) have been named 2015
National Achievement Scholarship program semi-
finalists in an academic competition for Black
American high school students conducted by the
National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).
The students represent 12 high schools in FCPS.

The semifinalists are:

- ♦ Annandale High School: Yonatan Ayele.
- ♦ Edison High School: Maxine Morgan and Sha-
lom Yiblet.
- ♦ Fairfax High School: William Sampong.
- ♦ Hayfield Secondary School: Camryn Bishop,
Reese Cloud, and Dominique Edwards.
- ♦ Lake Braddock Secondary School: Leul
Berhane-Meskel and Kinaya Hassane.
- ♦ Langley High School: Leah Yirga.
- ♦ Madison High School: Rachel Bostick, Jesse
Ernest, and Benjamin Jackson.
- ♦ Marshall High School: Natascha Whyte.
- ♦ South County High School: Maya Armstrong
and Olivia Jones.
- ♦ Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and
Technology (TJHSST): Azeez Abdikarim, Arielle
Ampeh, Rebecca Clark-Callender, Theodore
Richardson, Hannah Wied, and Rollin Woodford.
- ♦ West Potomac High School: Zoe Smith.
- ♦ Woodson High School: Robert Cuyjet and
Daniel Pryce.

The semifinalists will compete for more than 800
Achievement Scholarship awards, worth \$2.5 mil-
lion, to be awarded next spring. The awards will
be supported by corporations, professional organi-
zations, foundations, and funds from the NMSC.
To be considered for a scholarship, semifinalists
must advance to the finalist level by fulfilling ad-
ditional requirements.

**Jacob Augelli, an eighth grade student at
Robinson Secondary**, finished in fourth place
overall in the 2014 United States Geography Olym-
piad, junior varsity division. The competition
consisted of two parts: a written exam and a quiz

THURSDAY/DEC. 4-SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Huge Holiday Book Sale. Times vary. Richard
Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street,
Springfield. Come and find those perfect books,
CDs and DVDs for the holiday. Call for hours,
703-451-8055.

ONGOING

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.

The women's show choir is interested in new
talent to perform at various Northern Virginia
community sites. Practices are Wednesdays
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle
Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email
gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those
interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to
the county (those informed on fun, creative
weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax
County Ambassador icons hidden throughout
the fxva.com website in order to join the
ambassador team; those who find all five hidden
pins will receive a complimentary gift.
www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30
p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community,
4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or
Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to
work on balance and core muscles for injury
prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

**American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and
AED.** Various times, at 2720 State Route 699,
Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital
or print materials and continued education on
Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-
110. www.redcrossna.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups.

Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church,
5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are
for those caring for someone with dementia or
for those interested in learning more about
providing care giving to a person with a disorder
that affects memory and cognition and may
impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-
8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

bowl tournament; Augelli placed sixth in the exam
and tied for seventh in the quiz bowl tournament;
overall scores were compiled by averaging each
competitor's ranking for each part. Over 70 junior
varsity students from as far away as Guam com-
peted in the written exam and in a preliminary quiz
bowl round, while those with high scores advanced
to the final quiz bowl round. Questions ranged in
difficulty from naming countries by their capital to
identifying obscure islets in the North Atlantic. The
top four varsity students earned the right to rep-
resent the USA at the 2014 International
Geography Olympiad in Krakow, Poland, this sum-
mer. The Geography Olympiad was sponsored by
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and HISTORY, com-
monly known as the History Channel, which also
sponsors the National History Bee and Bowl. For
more information on the competition, please visit
www.geographyolympiad.com.

The Citadel has recognized **Cadet Martin
Krawczak** of Springfield on the school's dean's
list for his academic achievement during the spring
semester. Recognition on the South Carolina mili-
tary school's dean's list is reserved for students who
were registered for 12 or more semester hours and
received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with
no grade below a C for the previous semester's
work.

Yihan Zhou, Fairfax, earned a place on the
Deans Honor Roll at Fort Hays State University,
Hays, Kan., for the spring 2014 semester. Zhou is
a junior majoring in general studies. To be eligible,
students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit
hours and have a minimum grade point average of
3.60 for the semester.

Cadet Carson Giammaria, son of Rick and
Kim Giammaria of Lorton, graduated from the U.S.
Military Academy on May 28. Giammaria gradu-
ated from Hayfield Secondary School in 2010.
While at West Point, he concentrated his studies in
Engineering Psychology. He was commissioned as
a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army within the
Armor branch and will report to Fort Benning, GA.,
to attend Ranger School. Upon completion, he will
be stationed in Germany.

SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax field hockey team won its sixth consecutive Liberty District/Conference 6 championship on Oct. 27.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax senior Charlotte Duke, left, scored a goal against Madison in the Conference 6 tournament championship game on Oct. 27 at Fairfax High School.

Fairfax Field Hockey Wins Sixth Straight Title

Rebels beat Madison to capture Conference 6 championship.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

When time expired in the first half of Monday's Conference 6 field hockey tournament final, the goose eggs on the scoreboard initially signified Madison had escaped the opening 30 minutes unscathed against five-time defending champion Fairfax.

"Almost," Fairfax senior Charlotte Duke said after the game.

While time ran out, play would continue as Fairfax had earned a penalty corner in the closing seconds. The Rebels capitalized when senior defender Mackenzie Burnett found the back of the cage for the third time this season, giving Fairfax a 1-0 advantage.

"Before [head coach Amber Beaudoin] told us all to press up, I was thinking to myself, time is out, how great would it be to put one in and go into the second half with a leg up," Burnett said. "It just happened that I got to the ball and I turned and I felt the goalie on me and I just placed it. I feel that that really gave us a push in the second half."

Duke added an insurance goal in the sec-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Senior captain Cori Black and the Fairfax field hockey team defeated Madison 2-0 on Oct. 27.

ond half and Fairfax won its sixth consecutive Liberty District/Conference 6 championship with a 2-0 victory on Oct. 27 at Fairfax High School.

The Rebels got off to a slow start against the Warhawks during their regular-season meeting on Oct. 9, but eventually scored a pair of second-half goals to win, 2-0. On Monday, the teams were again on the verge of entering the second half locked in a scoreless tie, but Burnett's goal gave the Rebels

a boost entering the break.

"I think we knew that if we didn't score then," Duke said, "then it would be a bad halftime for us and [Madison] would have more confidence knowing that they survived half the game without us scoring, once again."

The Rebels started their championship run when Burnett was in the seventh grade. No. 21 didn't want the streak to end on her watch.

"It's our six-peat, so it felt like more pressure," Burnett said, "because you didn't want to be the team to break the streak."

Does this title feel any different than the previous five?

"They're all different," Beaudoin said. "They're different kids, they have different personalities. This group is a group of fighters. ... We've had injuries all year and people just step in and they play. I love this group."

The Rebels fought their way to a 16-3 record this season with a roster loaded with talented and experienced seniors. Last year, the Rebels finished region runner-up and earned a berth in the state tournament. This year, Fairfax hopes to make another deep postseason run. The Rebels faced Robinson, the No. 4 seed from Conference 5, in the opening round on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

"We have a lot of pride in our school and our team," Burnett said, "and we [want] to show that out on the field."

Fairfax's Burnett, forward Duke, senior forward Trisha Le, senior midfielder Olivia Cummings, and senior defender Cori Black each earned first-team all-conference honors. Junior midfielder Victoria Brzezynski, senior midfielder Meg Robertson and sophomore defender Molly Tenerelli were named to the all-conference second team.

The winner of Wednesday's Fairfax/Robinson game will face the winner of Battlefield/Lake Braddock in the region quarterfinals on Thursday, Oct. 30.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

SoCo Football Demolishes Woodson

The South County football team remained undefeated with a 69-6 drubbing of Woodson on Oct. 24.

The Stallions (8-0) have outscored their last four opponents 252-51, scoring at least 56 points each game and surpassing 60 three times.

South County will host Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31.

Lake Braddock Thumps T.C. Williams

After suffering its second two-point loss of the season, the Lake Braddock football team responded with a 52-7 victory over T.C. Williams on Oct. 24, improving its record to 6-2.

The Bruins two losses came against West Springfield (16-14) and Robinson (19-17).

Lake Braddock will travel to face undefeated South County on Friday, Oct. 31.

West Springfield Improves to 6-2

The West Springfield football team beat Annandale 35-10 on Oct. 24, giving the Spartans three straight wins and six in their last seven games.

West Springfield will travel to face T.C. Williams at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1 before concluding the regular season with a Nov. 7 home game against Woodson.

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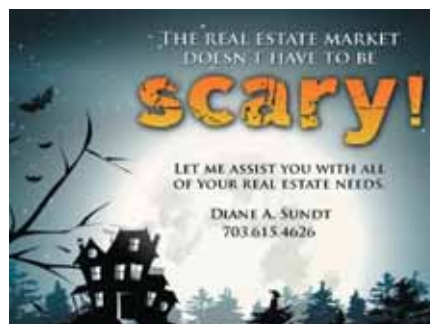
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