

Fairfax senior gymnast Rachel Barborek won the all-around competition during her final home meet on Jan. 10. She produced a score of 38.325.

Barborek Dominates In Final Home Meet

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Fire Department Presents Planned Capital Projects

NEWS, PAGE 2

Fire Department Presents Planned Capital Projects

They include fire station, training-center needs, plus traffic preemption.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During a Dec. 2 joint work session of the Fairfax City Council and Planning Commission, Fire Chief Dave Rohr presented his department's proposed FY 2016 CIP (Capital Improvement Program). He said the funds are needed for three projects:

- ❖ Fire Station 33 feasibility study, including the initial design and land evaluation. "It's a continuation of a project already in place," said Rohr. "A feasibility study is already underway and we're having a study done to determine the future needs of the fire station, or if it should be rebuilt."

The fire station is at 4081 University Drive in Old Town Fairfax. Rohr said the study should be awarded in January, with the results back to the department by spring or summer. He requested \$250,000 for this project for FY '16, saying it's important to "continue the momentum."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fire Chief Dave Rohr

- ❖ City of Fairfax Public Safety Training Center.

"The current center is on Colonial Avenue, and the fire and police departments and the Department of Public Works use it for meetings," said Rohr. "We could also have offices there or move the fire station there



The Fire Department patch

temporarily if we needed an emergency operations center."

But the facility currently has no security or fire-detection systems, so he's requesting \$45,000 to have them installed.

- ❖ Traffic preemption improvements and maintenance

"I'm excited about this," said Rohr. "It's a joint request between the police, fire, public works and transportation departments." An ongoing initiative, the goal is for improved response times to emergencies and involves the conversion to a GPS-based system. The FY '16 price tag is \$100,000.

"It will increase the safety of the citizens,"

"It's a joint request between the police, fire, public works and transportation departments."

— Fire Chief Dave Rohr

said Rohr. "It provides a green light for responders during emergencies and improves patient outcome. The current system is infrared or line-of-sight, but could give false positives. So we'd like to switch to an all-GPS technology system, instead. It works better and is also more easily repaired."

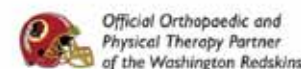
He said Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax counties are all moving toward GPS technology. "If this project's not funded, we'd continue throwing good money into old technology," said Rohr.

Furthermore, he added, "This request is part of a five-year program to upgrade the [City's] intersections, starting with Fairfax Boulevard, and all apparatus assigned to Fire Station 33 and its fire vehicles that don't have it. It'll include the Main Street corridor, Kamp Washington and other important intersections. Altogether, the Fire Department is asking for five years and half a million dollars."

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Legislators Meet Constituents

General Assembly Fairfax delegation holds public meeting prior to session start in Richmond.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Justin Dolan addressed the state delegates and senators from his wheelchair rather than the podium. The 34-year-old Falls Church resident has cerebral palsy, and received an Individual & Family Developmental Disabilities Support waiver.

"I can use my waiver to fund a staff person to help me with my daily care needs, when I can find someone who wants to work for \$11.47 an hour with no benefits," Dolan said. "The thing I really need is enough support for me to move out of my mom's house and live in the community with friends, but the waiver doesn't provide that."

Dolan asked for a reduction of the waiver wait list, a redesign of the waiver system itself to offer increased services. He was one of more than 70 speakers given an opportunity to address a panel of delegates and senators about to travel to Richmond to begin the 2015 General Assembly session.

The forum took place Jan. 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova was first to speak, addressing the importance of funding K-12 education in Fairfax County.

"We're pleased both the General Assembly and Governor [Terry] McAuliffe were able to protect K-

12 from recent funding cuts," she said. "In the longer term, we still need your help."

Bulova cited the more than 52,000 students in FCPS that qualify for free and reduced lunch, a figure she said outnumbers the total population of all but four school divisions in the state.

FCPS School Board Chair Tammy Derenak Kaufax followed Bulova, claiming the current K-12 funding isn't serving the community well and decrying teachers' salary ranking with respect to the cost of living.

"I urge you to work on the SOL, reducing the impact of that assessment on students," she said.

More than 70 members of the public were each given three minutes to address the delegation. Though the subject matter varied from social services for mental illness and substance abuse disorders to filling circuit court judge vacancies, one common theme was the lack of resources, people trying to do more with less.

Several individuals spoke out about the closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTR), a state residence serving people with intellectual disabilities. Opened in 1973 at 9901 Braddock Road, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities plans to close the center in March 2016 in favor of a more community-based system.

"The quality of life has been been compromised by degrading services," said Judith Korf of Reston. Korf was at the forum representing the Parents and Associates of the Northern Virginia Training Center. "We need to keep it open in a smaller and more effective footprint."

Jonathan Damm of Reston used his three minutes to raise the issue of toxic turf fields at FCPS schools. His main concern was children being exposed to chemicals on ground-up tire rubber used to make the fields. "We need to ban the use of crumb rubber," he said. "There are alternative materials that could be used, but they're more expensive."



Sean Corcoran of Fairfax (left) speaks with Del. Mark Sickles (R-43) following the Fairfax delegation public forum.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Chris McHugh (left) of San Francisco, legal guardian of his brother Joseph who lives at the Northern Virginia Training Center, speaks with Del. David Bulova (D-37) following the Fairfax delegation public forum.

VIEWPOINTS

What brought you out today?

Julia Stephens of Fairfax:



"I'm with Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services. In seven months of operation,

our crisis texting program in response to the number of suicides in schools has had 2,100 texting conversations."

Al Francese of Clifton:



"I'm here with Centreville Citizens for Rail, advocating for eight-car Metro trains, a second

tunnel under the Potomac and a dedicated long-term funding source."

Teresa Champion of Springfield:



"I'm here with the Virginia Autism Project, pushing for the governor to pardon

Reginald 'Neli' Latson. Latson is a young man with autism and intellectual disability who needs treatment rather than punishment."

Grace Reef of Burke:



"I'm here with Child Care Aware of Virginia. Our top priority is that children not die in child care. Safety is

an issue with providers that can be unlicensed until they have over six unrelated children."

David Marks of Fairfax:



"I'm here with the Fairfax Bar Association. We need to pay for our judges. They have a

massive caseload. It's justice denied to our citizens."

Debbie Kilpatrick of Clifton:



"I'm here as president of the Fairfax County Council of PTA. Fairfax County is an

excellent place to live, work, raise children and grow old. We need to continue to invest, and explore funding options."

Teresa Elder of Springfield:



"I'm here supporting HB 1445. My son Tommy is 22 and has had a seizure disorder since he was six months

old. I've seen the benefit of medical marijuana. We're not talking about recreational marijuana."

Richard Kennedy of Lorton:



"Most marijuana fears have been disproved. It has amazing benefits, it's better than

consume. Kids shouldn't use it, but prohibition isn't helping."

Connor (left) and Sharon (right) Cummings of Fairfax:



"I'm here supporting SB 957, closing a loophole regarding autism. Early intervention is

responsible for much of my son Connor's success today. Education for parents is needed to help them understand their children."

Suzette Kern of Springfield:



"I'm here as the secretary of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services

Board, supporting early intervention services for infants and toddlers."

General Assembly Session Approaches

Delegates, senators, community leaders reflect on priorities.

By TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

With the sentencing of former Virginia governor Bob McDonnell fresh on their minds, many northern Virginia members of the delegation to the state General Assembly expect ethics reform to be a focal point at the session beginning Jan. 14.

"I'm hoping we're going to take what was a painful experience to watch into a positive 2015," said Del. David Bulova (D-37). "It gives us a chance for asking how do we do things better down in Richmond, and to minimize the chance someone falls into that same trap."

McDonnell was found guilty on corruption charges, of receiving gifts in return for political favors, and sentenced to serving two years in prison.

The General Assembly addressed ethics last year, including a bill more tightly regulating legislators' travel, according to Del. Mark Sickles (R-43).

"When we tackled that last year, a significant number in the General Assembly really felt that however ill-advised, the governor wouldn't be convicted," said Del. Vivian Watts (D-39). "The conviction made everyone realize it doesn't matter how Virginia laws have been on the books more on gentleman's honor than letter of the law. You can be convicted under federal standards of behavior and we need to take a very strong look at what we're doing."

BUDGET BALANCING AND MEDICAID EXPANSION will also draw attention, according to legislators. The assembly will massage a two-year budget that was passed in a 2014 session.

"Our economy has been soft the last two years and we have required deposits to make into our rainy day fund, Virginia Retirement System, all sorts of bills to pay," said state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "There will probably be cuts across the board; almost every state agency with a three-to-five percent reduction, is probably what the governor will be seeking."

"Expanding Medicaid may be a fight, but it's already been fought," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), referring to the special session in September 2014 when the General Assembly opposed a bill that would take advantage of federal assistance under the Affordable Care Act.

"Except it's not free," Albo continued. "I would love to take care of the 400,000 people, what the bill basically seeks. The federal government says they have money

to pay 90 percent. Just the 10 percent share for Virginia is \$230 million. We're already in the hole before we walk into the General Assembly. Where are we going to find \$230 million?"

Others disagree, that passing on the federal money is too much of a missed opportunity.

"It's the right thing to do," said state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37). "If people could vote without political consequences, it's the right thing to pass. But if you touch anything to do with Obamacare, you will get challenged in a primary. I'm not optimistic. We've already lost over a year now where the government pays 100 percent."

CONTINUED FUNDING for transportation and social services are hopes from some of northern Virginia's civic and business leaders.

"We're blessed, as recipients of some top of the line road projects in the greater Springfield area over past 10 years," said Nancy-jo Manney, executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. "Maintenance of those nice roads is key. If we don't have the infrastructure maintained, adequate to future growth, businesses won't come, and won't stay."

Holly Dougherty, executive director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce echoed the sentiment that past transportation improvements have been well-received, but continued work such as road width consistency along U.S. Route 1 from the Beltway to the Prince William County line, as well as re-synchronizing the highway's traffic lights, is imperative. "Congestion relief will help economic development, things that give the best return to Virginia taxpayers. That will help our businesses so they're more competitive in this part of Fairfax County."

Whether or not they already receive much funding from the state or county, non-profit executive directors like Meg Brantley at ECHO in Springfield will be watching the budget cuts carefully. "If they did something, cut away Medicaid, that would mean community-based organizations would need to pick up the tab for more medical programs than they do now."

Robert Petitti, executive director at Koinonia in Franconia, said another angle to watch is whether the state can earmark money for social services agencies and side-step the county, where he believes money gets lost.

"The money that's given out typically isn't geared for non-government organizations," he said. "It could be done, it's just do the politicians have the will do it?"

"The non-profit community can't be looked upon to take the slack for providing services," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread in Fairfax. "We're already stretched to the bone for doing more with less. We need to talk about a revenue stream, a new one, but I don't know what that would be."

Delegates, Senators List Top Priorities



Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

Bills/Causes

❖ Bill S696 would put a strict limit on gifts by banning tangible or intangible gifts over \$100, other than from friends or family.

❖ Working on a homeowners' bill of rights, so people that live in a homeowners' association are afforded due process, are notified about hearings and have a right to be heard.

❖ Bill assisting small businesses in being targeted for government contracts. To qualify as "small" they would have to both generate less than \$10 million in revenue and have 300 employees or fewer.

❖ Petersen co-host a town hall meeting with Del. David Bulova Jan. 31 at Fairfax City Hall, 9-10:30 a.m.



Del. David Bulova (D-37)

Bills/Causes

❖ Introducing legislation regarding the difference between a "tangible" and "intangible" gift, and making sure there's a cap on both types.

❖ Working on getting away from schools being ranked on an A through F scale. "That doesn't tell the whole story," said Bulova. "Let parents come in and assess all the strengths and weaknesses, the progress students making, parent-student ratio."

❖ Introducing legislation that would limit how companies like Uber and taxis use personal information.

❖ Bulova will co-host a town hall meeting with state Sen. Chap Petersen Jan. 31 at Fairfax City Hall, 9-10:30 a.m.



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)

Bills/Causes

❖ Two bills on child care reform, including a focus on requiring fingerprinting and a background check, and closing the threshold loophole that allows homes with six or fewer unrelated children to operate unregulated.

❖ Ensuring campus sexual assaults are handled properly. HB1433 would require local law enforcement and campus agencies to report cases to the Commonwealth attorney's office within 48 hours. "It's all about sharing information and making sure every stone is looked under," said Filler-Corn.

❖ Budget, ethics and congressional redistricting will come up at Filler-Corn's mid-session office hours, Jan. 24., 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea in Springfield.



Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)

Bills/Causes

❖ Minimum wage bill: "It's so critical to get money in the hands of people who will spend and not invest it," said Marsden. The three-year proposal would raise wages \$.75 first year, \$1.10 the second year and \$1 the final year, reaching \$10.10. "It keeps everyone on a level playing field. Maryland and D.C. already have higher minimum wages."

❖ Bill averaging legislators' salaries used for calculating retirement over 10 years, as opposed to the current method based on the final three years of service. Marsden says this would minimize the temptation to lure legislators to administrative positions to "manipulate the balance of power."

❖ Working on getting the Department of Corrections, state police to provide the 24,000 registered sex offenders in the state more information on rules such as where they can live and how they can travel.

❖ Senator Marsden will host a town hall meeting at 10 a.m. on Feb. 7 at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.

Fairfax Teen Competes in National Video Contest

Marlaina Horewitz, a student at Frost Middle School in Fairfax, will advance to the American Bankers Association (ABA) national competition, Lights, Camera, Save! Her video, "This twin saved, this twin did not," was selected by Burke & Herbert Bank as a great demonstration of the value of saving.

As a participating bank in the ABA competition, Burke & Herbert Bank challenged students across the area to submit a 90-second video that would inspire teens to use money wisely and promote the value of saving. The Lights, Camera, Save! video contest gave students, aged 13-18, the opportunity to explore creative ways to communicate the importance of saving money.

The Bank will recognize Marlaina's hard work with a \$200 gift card. Her Civics teacher, Jason Simoni, also will be awarded a \$100 gift card for his support. Also being recognized with a \$50 gift card each are two runners-up: Lozie Goolsby III and McKenzie Beeby, both from West Potomac High School.

Students in the national competition can win \$1,000, \$2,500 or the grand prize of \$5,000, plus a scholarship for an educator from their school to attend the Jump\$tart National Educator Conference. Winners will be announced during America Saves Week in February, 2015.

Fairfax Adult Softball Seeks Teams for 2015

FAS, the Nation's largest ASA, non-profit adult softball league is urging teams to join ASAP in order to enjoy the spring discounted team rate. Contact Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) before March 1, 2015 to ensure your spring evenings are filled with fun, camaraderie, and a spirit of competitive challenges every game night.

FAS is currently accepting applications for adult softball teams and free agents. Men's, Women's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Elite, Senior's (age 50+), and Social Coed leagues are available this spring. Applications are accessible via the FAS home page at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com. For further information, call 703-815-

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



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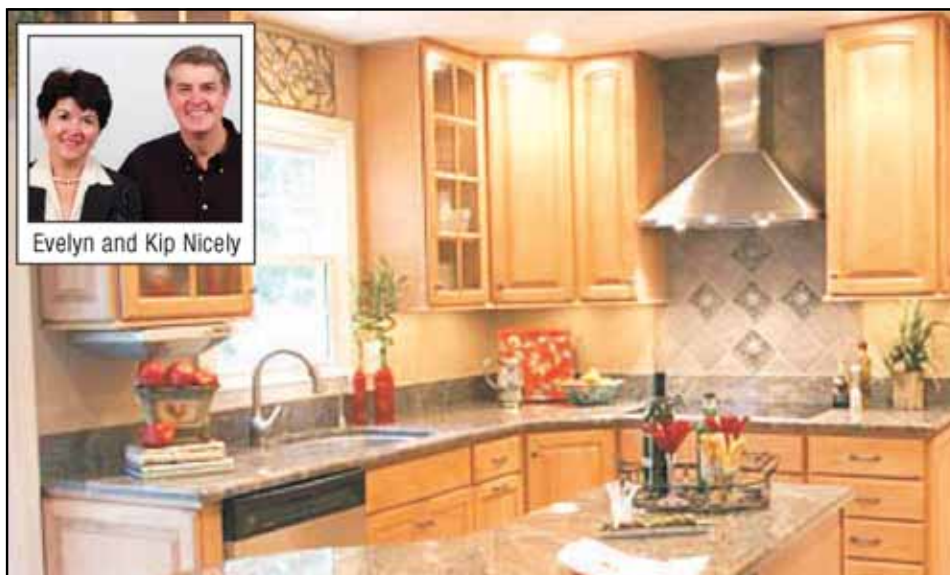
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Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

BY MARTINA LEINZ
PRESIDENT, NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF
THE BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN
VIOLENCE

Legislators convening for the 2015 Virginia General Assembly session this month have a great opportunity to make the Commonwealth a safer place for us all by voting in favor of the modest and responsible recommendations recently put forth by Governor Terry McAuliffe regarding gun violence prevention.

Governor McAuliffe has proposed six key pieces of legislation intended to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals. Three of the initiatives are regarding criminal background checks at gun shows. Currently, only Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers are required to run criminal background checks prior to selling or transferring firearms. Private sellers are exempt from this requirement leaving the door wide open for criminals to easily gain access to guns.

One of McAuliffe's proposals would make unlawful purchases more difficult by prevent-

COMMENTARY

ing gun shows from advertising that they are not required to conduct background checks. Another proposal would give the State Police statutory authority to process voluntary background check requests of private sellers. The most substantive of the three proposals would close the existing loophole and require background checks for all purchases at gun shows.

None of these three proposals goes far enough. Ideally, criminal background checks would be universal; required on all firearms transactions including online sales. They are, however, a step in the right direction and would do much to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Another proposal is to return the limit of handgun purchases to one a month so the Commonwealth won't hold the dubious distinction of being one of the most prolific gun-running states in the nation. Other initiatives include a bill to keep guns from people subject to protective orders and one to revoke concealed handgun permits for parents delinquent on child support payments. This later proposal would affect the roughly 9,000 parents with

such permits who are delinquent collectively on child support payments of over \$15 million.

These six modest proposals would be very effective in reducing violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. None of the proposals would prevent law-abiding citizens from owning weapons and none would infringe upon Second Amendment rights of responsible adults.

With the Republicans controlling both the House of Delegates and the Senate, there are bound to be disagreements with any legislation proposed by Democratic Governor McAuliffe. However, everyone should agree to these modest proposals to keep Virginians safe. It is not a partisan issue; it is a simple matter of public health and safety.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility. I sincerely hope the General Assembly embraces that responsibility and votes accordingly. If you agree, please contact your elected officials and tell them you are counting on them to vote in support of all proposals to curb gun violence in the Commonwealth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Shouldn't Spray Against Fall Cankerworm

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to a recent letter to the editor about Fairfax County's Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program.

I am a professional entomologist and I have been in charge of the U. S. National Insect Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, a Fairfax County resident for 21 years, as well as a biologist experienced in conservation. I have been following the issues regarding the program in Fairfax County to spray *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk), a kind of biological insecticide, to control a native moth, the Fall Cankerworm (scientifically, *Lepidoptera: Geometridae* or *Inchworms*).

Bt was first used to control *Lepidoptera* (moth) pests of agricultural crops; however, this naturally-occurring bacterium was found to be deadly to all moths and butterflies (*Lepidoptera*). Since this discovery there have been many types of Bt developed, but those used against moths are still deadly to non-target species, including native species. However, the areas in Fairfax County being sprayed are not crops or timberlands for harvest, but rather forests, parklands, neighborhood gardens. These are places to preserve wildlife and nature, and to protect them for the benefit of not only Fairfax County residents, but also for all Virginians and visitors. Without scientific monitoring or

surveys, we do not know how many or even which native species live in any particular area being sprayed. Therefore, to inadvertently spray this deadly microbe, even if the intention is to target certain areas, is not prudent.

The letter writer does acknowledge that spraying Btk can kill other kinds of caterpillars, "... but only if they are up and eating the first baby leaves." However, it is well known that plant chemicals that often prevent insects eating certain plants only are present in older leaves (for example, tannins in Oak leaves); therefore, many species of caterpillars are only able to eat, and even prefer, what he calls "baby leaves." He also claims that research shows that spraying increases the diversity of other species of butterflies and moths. However this research is apparently about the Gypsy Moth, a non-native (invasive) species from Asia. Reducing Gypsy Moth numbers could indirectly benefit other, native insect species. However, spraying to kill the native Fall Cankerworm is likely to severely harm many (as yet undetermined) native species of butterflies and moths and may even increase diversity of other non-native pest species potentially harming the fauna and flora of Fairfax County. Getting rid of the Fall Cankerworm will eliminate a potentially vital food source for many migratory and resident birds, as well as rep-

tiles, amphibians, predatory insects, and other wildlife that rely on caterpillars for their survival. His assertion that "birds can safely eat the dead caterpillars" is misleading because in spring (when the spraying actually takes place), many insectivorous birds need to find enough live caterpillars to feed their nestlings or fuel their northward migration and it is not clear if they would even eat dead caterpillars.

Episodic population outbreaks ("infestations") of native species such as the Fall Cankerworm are part of the natural ecological rhythm of our forests and woodlands, so why disrupt it? Based on previous research I have done (for example with Elms) and observations of the natural history in the forests of the northeastern USA, I do not believe that occasional and/or partial or even complete defoliation of most native eastern forest tree species will cause tree death. The severe defoliation from by Gypsy Moth in the 1970s demonstrated that only very severe and repeated defoliation over many years truly killed native trees; our local Fall Cankerworm outbreaks are natural and nowhere as severe and will not become so.

The far wiser approach to this problem would be for Fairfax County to sponsor some scientific surveys, to determine which species of butterflies and moths are

present in the intended treatment areas, i.e. the biological diversity. Also advice to homeowners about how to monitor and/or treat their gardens would be helpful.

I have discussed this Fall Cankerworm issue with several experts on butterflies and moths at the Smithsonian and the USDA and they all agree with my statements above.

In conclusion I feel strongly that Fairfax County should cease spraying against Fall Cankerworm, because such spraying does more harm than good to the ecosystems and neighborhoods of Fairfax County.

David G. Furth, Ph.D.
Department of Entomology
Smithsonian Institution

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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LETTER

A Silent Crisis

To the Editor:

Hunger is a silent crisis in the USA. Every day, children in every county in the United States wake up hungry. They go to school hungry. They turn out the lights at night hungry. "I thought, if I wasn't hungry during class I'd be able to actually focus on what we were learning," said Kathy, 10. As many as 17 million children nationwide are struggling with what is known as food insecurity. To put it another way, one in four children in the country is living without consistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy life. The consequences and costs of child hunger make addressing this issue an economic and societal imperative, in addition to an obvious moral obligation. I hope this article enlightens you and would love to see you all serving the poor and striking out the hunger in our country.

Boyapati Srita
Fairfax

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5

9007 or email office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com. Grab your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors and sign up today.

Tai Chi Expert to Hold Seminar in Fairfax

Tai Chi instructor David Cohen is hosting a weekend seminar by world-renown Tai Chi teacher Richard Clear Feb. 7-8 at Green Acres Center in Fairfax, with a special session exclusively for Tai Chi instructors Feb. 6.

Among the topics Clear will include in the seminar are fa jin, spiraling, "four ounces moves a thousand pounds" and dissolving force.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7-8 at Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The session on Feb. 6 will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at Green Acres Center.

Tai Chi is a gentle, internal martial art that can be practiced by those with a wide range of fitness and flexibility levels.

For more information about Clear's seminar, contact David Cohen at 703-638-0172.



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RIGHTEOUS OR OUTRAGEOUS?

My boss thought our three game ticket plan was outrageous. I thought it is righteous. So what do you think: righteous or outrageous?

BY ANDY RUGE, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Here's what you get in the three game plan:

1. **Our very best three games.** The three game plan has our three very best games:

- Nationally-ranked rival VCU? Yep, February 4, see you here.
- Homecoming against Richmond? Of course, February 14.
- Frequent NCAA tournament contestant Davidson? Check, January 24.

These are the games people want to see anyway. With this three game plan, however, you can lock up better seat locations than the single game buyer.

2. **Free gifts.** Heck, everyone loves free stuff, so we included it. At the Richmond game you get a Mason Basketball koozie. At the VCU game you get a Bobblehead of Mason legend George Evans. At the Davidson game, you get a George Mason bobblehead. For each three game package that you buy you get those three gifts.

3. **Best seat locations.** When buying single-game tickets to our best game, you're hoping there are good seats left. Bringing the family? For the big games it's tough to get 4 seats together. And don't forget those high service fees. With this three-game pack you know you've got the good seats, to the good games, already in-hand. No questions asked, no worrying, you know you've got 3 chances to see one of the top-5 basketball conferences in the country, right here in Fairfax. You get big-time basketball at small-time prices.

When I look at the three game plan, it is indeed outrageous. And righteous. It costs start at just \$22 per game (\$66 total) and youth (12 & under) are just \$12 per game (\$36 total). You can buy the three-game mini-plan today by calling your Personal Account Representative, Alyssa, at 703-993-3491 or visit GoMason.com/hoops today.



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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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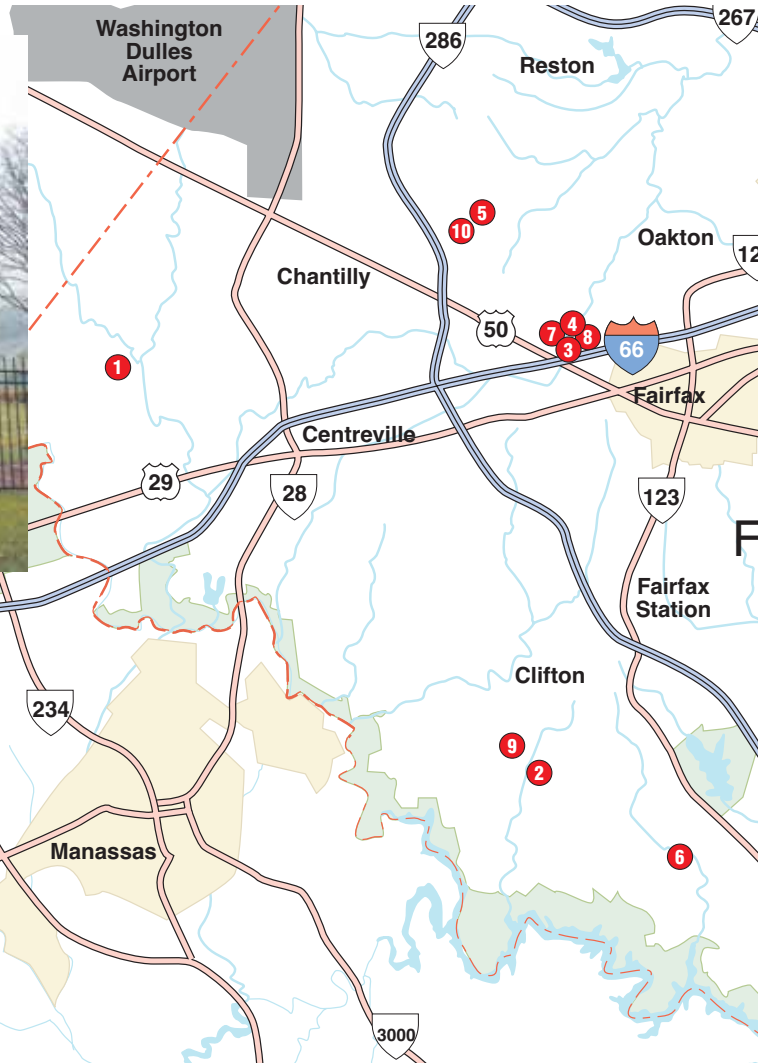
3 3802 Millard Way, Fairfax — \$1,700,000



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1 15604 JILLIANS FOREST WAY	6	1			CENTREVILLE	\$2,650,000	Detached	5.59	20120	CARDINAL FOREST	06/30/14
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3 3802 MILLARD WAY	5	5	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,700,000	Detached	1.21	22033	THE OAKS	02/18/14
4 11394 AMBER HILLS CT	5	5	2		FAIRFAX	\$1,626,036	Detached	1.08	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	01/24/14
5 3438 FAWN WOOD LN	6	5	2		FAIRFAX	\$1,545,000	Detached	1.14	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	11/24/14
6 7904 OAKSHIRE LN	6	6	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,495,000	Detached	5.00	22039	THE ENGLISH HILLS	04/30/14
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10 3514 ROSE CREST LN	5	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,350,000	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	05/23/14

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HomeLifeStyle

Backyard Dreaming

Local tastemakers say winter is the best time to plan an idyllic backyard retreat.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Spring may seem light years away from the frigid January temperatures, and lounging in your backyard is probably the last thing you want to do at the moment, but landscape designers say now is the time to start planning a summer retreat.

"January is a good time to start thinking about your backyard," said Alex Ikenson, co-owner of Home Escapes, located in Herndon. Home Escapes, which had specialized in hot tubs and outdoor furniture, merged recently with Urban Retreat, an indoor furniture and accessory company.

"A lot of things we sell are special order and take a few weeks to come in, so you don't want to start too late," said Ikenson.

From swim spas to fire pit tables, options for outdoor landscapes are plentiful.

"People now are spending more time at home and less time going on vacation, and making their backyards more of a living space, creating a living space," said Rosanne Tsantes, sales manager of Home Escapes.

"Outdoor furniture companies have responded to the surge with beautiful pieces of furniture."

Touted by industry insiders as comfortable, durable and easy to maintain, the array of outdoor fabrics on the market rival their indoor counterparts.

"The whole industry has expanded to true designer furniture and fabrics. There are hundreds of beautiful fabrics available," said Tsantes. "If you were to pick out aluminum furniture, you could choose from at least 10 frame colors, where it used to be just black and green. We have brush tones with gold tint, antique tones, ... There are some really gorgeous finishes."

Accessories can be customized to fit virtually every budget and space as well. "Everything is made to order," said Jodie Labovitch, an interior designer with Urban Retreat. "They're not pulling it off the shelf."

Outdoor fire pit tables, powered by gas, are crowd-pleasing accessories that come in every size from compact coffee table to dining room table. Styles run the gamut from rustic to sleek.

"The tabletops can be porcelain or alu-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROSANNE TSANTES

Swim spas, upscale furniture and fire pit tables are among the options in outdoor furnishings for those who want to create a backyard living space.

minum, stone or granite," said Tsantes. "There is even an artisan top that looks like carved leather. Now you can go into your back yard and feel like you're on vacation somewhere in the islands."

Adding the resort-like feel are swim spas, the large cousin of the ubiquitous hot tub.

"A swim spa allows you to exercise, even during the winter, by swimming against the current," said Tsantes. "They are like hot tubs, only about 12-16 feet long and eight feet wide. You can run out in the winter and swim and then sit on the spa bench, just like you would in a hot tub."

Even those who don't have an expansive backyard can create cozy retreats.

"Outdoor furniture companies are making pieces for those with small spaces to those with huge Great Falls homes with a large backyard," said Tsantes.



Options for outdoor décor, including swim spas and fire pit tables, abound at a newly formed showroom in Herndon.

"Indoor and outdoor furniture are now blending," said David Cintorino, president of Home Escapes. "People are using their outdoor spaces like indoor spaces, that is a current trend. Outdoor furniture companies are creating furniture to keep up with that trend."

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**SPECIAL
OFFER**

Honoring Harlem Renaissance

Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio come to GMU Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

In the years following WWI, Harlem became the heart and soul of the African-American Community in New York. It was an exceptional time. A new generation that included returning black veteran soldiers from WWI and those arriving from other parts of America were seeking a fresh life. They brought forth great artistic creativity and social flux that became known as the "Harlem Renaissance."

With "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey," gifted actress, singer and dancer, Jasmine Guy, along with the notable bassist Avery Sharpe and his trio will entwine song, movement, imagery, dance and dialogue to transport audience members back to a prolific period of originality and social activism.

In a recent telephone interview, Guy indicated "Raisin' Cane" it is a story for everyone, "It is the story of America. I want the audience to feel uplifted and inspired as they take in the performance and after as well."



PHOTOS BY GUDRON STONE FOR NBAF/

COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Avery Sharpe and Jasmine Guy in "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey."

Written by playwright and musician Harry Clark, "Raisin' Cane" has an original musical score by Avery Sharpe. His musical trio includes John Blake on violin and Kevin Sharpe on percussion. There will also be theatrical projections further illustrating those stirring times.

"Raisin' Cane" takes inspiration from the ground-breaking 1923 novel "Cane" by Washington, D.C. born Jean Toomer. The book is a series of short stories and poems about the African-American experience in America, both urban and rural. One section of the book focuses on urban life in Wash-

ington, D.C.

"I will be telling a story to the audience. A story of hopes and dreams," said Guy. "It is about not just particular people, but how the Harlem Renaissance influenced American and still does." Giving voice to the words and deeds of eminent individuals such as poet and novelist Langston Hughes (who lived in Washington, D.C. in the mid-1920s), novelist and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston (who attended Howard University in the early 1920s), poet Countee Cullen and early Civil Rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois, Guy noted that the production will be



Jasmine Guy (pictured) and the Avery Sharpe Trio present "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey" at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, on Saturday, Jan. 24.

Where and When

Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio present "Raisin' Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey" at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 440 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29-\$48. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

high-spirited, moving storytelling. It will not be dry history.

Guy indicated she will "bring the audience right into the performance" with a lively evening meant "to entertain and educate."

With "Raisin' Cane" Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharp Trio will tie together many diverse strands to illustrate how "we are all Americans, we all know and experience pain and suffering and we all are inspired to live our lives."

Remembering the Simple Pleasures of Life

Sovereign Grace Co-op Drama presents "Our Town."

Step back and take a breath of fresh clean New Hampshire air, as you meet the characters inhabiting the small town of Grover's Corners. Some of them might be a bit like you. Could you laugh out loud picturing yourself as a part of the rambunctious Gibbs family, or perhaps begin to think deeply about everything as a part of the Webb family? You surely can, because author Thornton Wilder took the most universal "everyday" joys and struggles we experience and put them into the lives of the characters in his signature play, "Our Town."

Wilder does so to remind audiences of great treasure that our days hold for us. Moments that make being alive so special are not always big events. Rather, a hug, a smile, falling in love, or even something as simple as "seeing a sunrise over the mountain," or tackling a challenge - these are the moments we truly hold most dear. So, instead of striving toward the big milestones, he encourages us to immerse ourselves wholeheartedly in whatever little adventure we



Posing in character are members of the Black, Briggs, James, Lorence, Ludwinski, Mika, Mills, Okada, Schaaf, and Thorson families who make up the cast of Sovereign Grace Co-op's 2015 production of "Our Town."

may be having, right now.

"Our Town," often described as the greatest American play ever written, is a 1938 three-act play by American playwright Thornton Wilder. It tells the story of the fictional town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens. "Our Town" is a wonderful example of a play commenting upon itself (metatheatre). The play is set in the actual theatre where it is being performed, with minimal scenery and props to enhance this effect. The main character, the stage manager, played by Anna Briggs, is the interpreter for the evening, informing the audience of almost every detail of the goings-on in this fine community. Miss Briggs, a

senior, enjoys the inherent complexities of this role "because I get to interact with both the characters and the audience."

One of the most poignant themes might be best summed up in the realization that the character Emily makes when she says life should be valued, "every, every minute." Leah James, the talented newcomer who plays Emily, when asked what she thought of being in this production, said, "I love the story line and the important lesson it teaches." Sovereign Grace Co-op Drama club has been performing together for seven seasons, and each member delights in working together to bring quality plays to the community. William Mills, who plays the professor, belligerent man, and a baseball

player said, "I am really happy with the cast this year. They exhibit a lot of talent, and they work hard to become their characters. Plus, it is a pleasure to work with them. I look forward to the final production."

This club, comprising homeschool students in grades 7-12, was created out of a joy for the performing arts and a desire to give students confidence to share things that matter to them with anyone, anywhere. Some of the students have gone on from this club to arts programs in college, and others have begun their own troops, performing for local children on a regular basis. The ongoing aim is to bring community members closer through the presentation of uplifting, entertaining plays.

"Our Town" is for all who have experienced even one day of joy, love, and life. Experience a treasured moment with the cast at one of their three shows.

Performances will be held in the main auditorium of Sovereign Grace Church, 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax on Jan. 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. They will also have a matinee on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door: \$8 for adults, \$5 for ages 3-17.

—ANNA BRIGGS
AND MARLENE MIKA

ENTERTAINMENT



View Drink This! The Workhouse Arts Center's International Cup Show on display through Feb. 2. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show.

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 MONDAY/FEB. 2

Drink This! The Workhouse International Cup Show. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Sunday-Tuesday 12-5 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8

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/JAN. 16

Frozen Movie Sing-Along and Craft Event. 6 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Do you want to build a snowman? Bring a parent and your friends before the movie to make snowflakes, craft an Olaf, put together a Frozen necklace, and also either Sven reindeer antlers OR an Elsa tulle cloak to make and take home. A Smorgasbord of cheese sandwiches, Olaf noses (carrot sticks), and FROZEN Ice cream cups will be served. If you prefer, or if allergies are a concern, you are welcome to pack food of your choosing or eat before the party. Fee: \$12 per child (Deadline to register: Wed, Jan. 14). parksrec@fairfaxva.gov

The Friday Morning Music Club. 11a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A community of music lovers and musicians, the Friday Morning Music Club, Inc., has promoted classical music in the Washington area for over 120 years. FMMC's public concerts—now held throughout the week—provide performing members with a host of outlets for their talents as well as delighting audiences in Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. All concerts are free and performed as a public service.

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Rabbi Sam. 2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Rabbi Sam, a mix of comedy and drama, tells the story of Sam Isaac, a rabbi who wants to reinvent American Judaism, and the havoc that erupts in

the congregation that hires him. Some can't stand him. And, of course, some can't stand each other! The ordinary, suburban synagogue in the play is struggling with what every American religious community struggles with — how to make sense of an old-world tradition in the crazy improvisation that is America. Tickets: \$34 premium reserved, \$29 adults, \$24 J members or seniors (65+), \$19 under 30. Box Office: 703-537-3000. boxoffice@jccnv.org. www.jccnvarts.org

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

Make Your Own YouTube Video.

11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of creating your own content for YouTube. Ages 12 to adult. Bringing your own laptop is recommended. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/JAN. 20

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Stories for Threes to Fives: Hats, Scarves and Mittens. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about warm clothes for cold days. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 22-24

Our Town. 7 p.m. Sovereign Grace Co-op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. Become immersed in a classic American story about truly enjoying everyday life. \$8 for adults; \$5 ages 3-17. <https://www.facebook.com/OurTownSovGraceCoop> or email mchiaty@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 22-25

Hairspray: The Broadway Musical. Thursday and Friday- 7:30 p.m. Saturday: 2 & 8 p.m. Sunday: 3 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. In 1962 Baltimore, plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance program. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colorful array of characters. Tickets: \$12.

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Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. A brief presentation at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Fairfax County

Monday, January 26, 2015

Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14)
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Bull Run Elementary School Cafeteria (Entrance #1)
15301 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20121

Thursday, January 29, 2015

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 1st Floor, Occoquan Room
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

If any of the above meetings are cancelled due to weather, the alternate date will be **Thursday, February 5, 2015** at the VDOT Northern Virginia District office in Fairfax.

Prince William County

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Battlefield High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #4)
15000 Graduation Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169

If the above meeting is cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Wednesday, February 4, 2015** at the same time and location.

Find out about plans to transform 25 miles of I-66 between U.S. Route 15 in Haymarket and I-495/Capital Beltway to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7:00 p.m. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.transform66.org, at the meetings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Preliminary plans, project schedule, and right-of-way, environmental and civil rights information will be available for review and public comment at the meetings.

Comments can be provided at the meetings on comment cards or to the court reporter. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-66 Corridor Improvements" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-297, P101 Federal Project: NH-066-1(300) UPC: 105500

Fairfax Gymnast Barborek Dominates in Final Home Meet

Senior wins all-around by more than 3 points.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Saturday marked the final home meet in Fairfax senior captain Rachel Barborek's high school gymnastics career.

She would make it a memorable afternoon.

Barborek was honored, along with fellow senior captain Ally Farrington, prior to the Jan. 10 meet at Fairfax High School. She then proceeded to win each of the four events and finish first in the all-around competition with a career-best score.

She even won the senior handstand contest prior to the award ceremony.

"It was awesome," Barborek said. "I couldn't have asked for a better meet. Everything came together so perfectly. Every meet before this, I've had an off event, but today I had all on events. It was really great."

Barborek finished in a first-place tie with McLean's Calista Pardue on floor with a score of 9.55. She finished alone in first place on beam (9.675), bars (9.525) and vault (9.575). The result was an all-around score of 38.325, more than three points better than second-place Carolyn Brown-Kaiser of McLean (34.6).

"I think this is the best Rachel has done in the past two years that I've coached her," Fairfax head coach Marissa Gaines said. "This is the strongest she's looked ... and she was on fire."

Perhaps the biggest surprise of Barborek's afternoon was her performance on vault — the event that has plagued Barborek in the past.

ON THIS DAY, aided by a slowed approach on the runway, Barborek flipped a Yurchenko Pike and celebrated with a burst of exuberance.

"I've had trouble flipping that vault," Barborek said. "It's a mental problem and I did it today without a problem. It was crazy."

Barborek, who is also a member of the Fairfax swim and dive team and pole vaults for the track team, was a Level 10 club gymnast with Capital Gymnastics, but quit after her sophomore year. This is her third year as a member of the Fairfax High gymnastics team (she didn't compete for the Rebels as a sophomore). Last season, Barborek placed fifth in the all-around at the VHSL state meet. Now a senior, Barborek has her sights set on bringing home the all-around state title.

What makes Barborek such a successful gymnast? "Her determination," Gaines said. "No matter what, she just keeps fighting for what she wants and she stays motivated."

Along with Barborek's individual success Saturday,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax senior Rachel Barborek finished first and tied for first in all four events during a Jan. 10 gymnastics meet at Fairfax High School. She also won the all-around competition.

Fairfax produced the highest team score in its history, as well. The Rebels amassed a total of 125.825, finishing runner-up to McLean (139.45).

Barborek said the addition of her mother, Susan Barborek, to the Fairfax coaching staff has helped the team improve. Susan Barborek was a gymnast at the University of Michigan.

"It's been better than I expected," Susan said about her experience as a first-year Fairfax assistant coach. "We have a really good group of girls. It's nine or 10 girls and they all work hard."

Fairfax placed fifth at the Conference 6 meet last season, narrowly missing a top-four finish and a berth in the 6A North region meet. The

REBELS have their sights set on qualifying for regionals this year.

Along with Barborek, Gaines said sophomore Madeline McDuffy, freshman Anna Whetzel and freshman Kathleen Summers have been standouts for Fairfax.

Whetzel placed sixth on vault (8.8) and floor (8.1) on Saturday. Summers finished fifth on vault (8.825). McDuffy did not compete due to injury.

Fairfax is scheduled to compete in meets at Washington-Lee High School on Jan. 22 and Jan. 24. The Conference 6 meet is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 2 at McLean High School.

Lake Braddock junior James Butler scored 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds during a loss to T.C. Williams on Jan. 13.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Butler has Big Night in Loss to T.C. Williams

Six-foot-8 Lake Braddock's junior finishes with 28 points, 13 rebounds.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

James Butler and his 6-foot-8 frame gave T.C. Williams fits Tuesday night. The Lake Braddock junior finished with a game-high 28 points and 13 rebounds.

But while Butler and the Bruins had a distinct size advantage, the Titans used a combination of speed, defensive pressure and deadly perimeter shooting to earn their fifth consecutive victory.

T.C. Williams defeated Lake Braddock 69-58 on Jan. 13 in Burke. The Titans scored the game's first 10 points and led 17-6 at the end of one. Butler opened the second half with back-to-back buckets, cutting the T.C. lead to five, but the Titans responded with a 19-6 run to pull away.

T.C. Williams led by double digits for the entire fourth quarter.

The win improved the Titans' record to 6-4, including 4-1 in Conference 7, while the Bruins dropped to 10-3, 3-1.

"We're playing great, we just let this one get away from us early," Butler said. "They're a fast, athletic team. ... They're one of the best teams in the conference."

Lake Braddock fell short, but it wasn't due to lack of effort from Butler. No. 42 scored 12 of the Bruins' first 15 points and had 20 points through three quarters. Butler opened the fourth quarter with a bucket and a pair of free throws, but it wasn't enough.

Butler could have surpassed his career high of 30 points if he had shot better than 8 of 14 from the free-throw line.

Butler was on the Lake Braddock varsity last year as a sophomore and saw limited time as a freshman. Now a junior, Butler said he has been more offensive-minded this year.

"[I] started off offensively strong and it's carried over the rest of the season," Butler said. "I'm a major part of the offense and I take it as a responsibility. I have to produce. If I don't produce it's like I affect the team negatively."

Ten of Butler's 13 rebounds were offensive.

Senior forward Reagan Jones, listed at 6 feet 6, finished with 13 points and nine rebounds. Sophomore guard Corey Pelham had seven points.

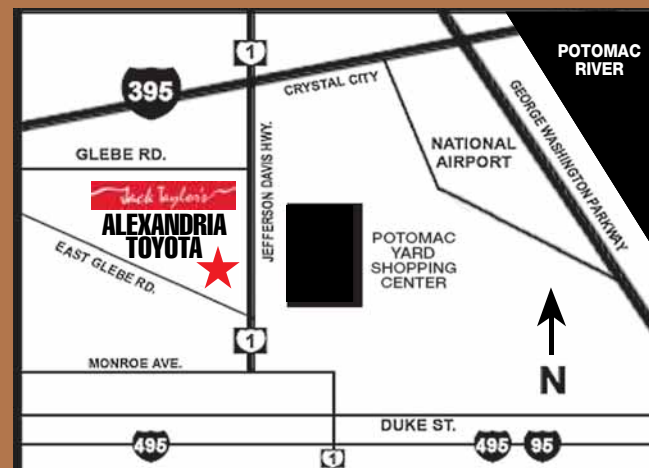
Lake Braddock will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION
JANUARY 19, 2015**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Trattoria Villagio, located at 7145 Main Street, to include and authorize the use of outdoor music, specifically sound (music) that will be distributed via Trattoria Villagio's outdoor wall mounted and rock speakers, located within the controlled area of the patio, and to be played/heard at a controlled decibel level no greater than 70 dBA. The application for the proposed amendment to Trattoria Villagio's special use permit, is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Trattoria Villagio's special use permit, to authorize outdoor music.

21 Announcements

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FRIDAY/JAN. 16

14th Annual Preschool Fair. 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Over 20 local preschools will be in attendance. Come to find the right preschool for your child. Visit www.burkemomsnorth.org for a list of participating schools and to contact organizers. There will also be a Silent Auction with items from local businesses during the fair. All proceeds from the fair will benefit Comfort Cases. www.comfortcases.org
Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Search for your ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults.

SATURDAY/ JAN. 17

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.
Tips for Buying & Using a New TV. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Tips for buying and using a new TV: What to look for & what to watch out for. Presented by the Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services. All Ages.

TUESDAY/JAN. 20

Afternoon Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. To Try Men's Souls: A Novel of George Washington and the Fight for American Freedom by Newt Gingrich. Adults. 703-978-5600.
Great Decisions Seminar. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 703-978-5600.
Evening Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho. Adults. 703-978-5600.
Pohick Evening Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Fall of Giants by Ken Follett. Adults. 703-644-7333.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others

FAITH NOTES

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Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.
The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

Is Forgetfulness a Problem? 1:30 p.m. Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. What is normal aging versus dementia? When is it time to seek help? A discussion on signs of dementia and testing currently available. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.
Genealogy Using Military Records. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Exploring military records and pension files for your veteran ancestor, with an introduction to federal records of the National Archives and Records Administration. Adults. 703-978-5600.

THURSDAY/JAN 22

Spanish Conversation Group. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice and improve your Spanish with a native speaker. Adults. 703-978-5600.
Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. BHS Fundraising Chair Cindy Bennett will speak on the 1918 murder of Eva Roy in Burke. In addition, we'll have a short "State of the Society" address and a very brief video about the history of Burke School.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Library Tech Help. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop.

a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided.
Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.



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