

Movement Determined to 'Save the Park'

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Sara Moorad

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PHOTO COURTES'

February 26 - March 4, 2015

Say hello to Law Professor Simba

Moorad, J.D.



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Community Foresight

Park Authority passes on commercial proposal for Burke Lake Golf Park.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

urke resident Meg Hanrahan likes Topgolf in Alexandria. "To go out on a date with my husband," she said, "but it's not some place I want to go when I want to mentally prepare to go out on a course and play 18 holes."

A bar-lounge atmosphere of is also not one in which she would consider leaving her three daughters, once a little older, to hit buckets of balls themselves.

Hanrahan is president of the Burke Lake Women's Golf Club, which uses the course, range and clubhouse at Burke Lake Park.

Recently, members of the community held a public meeting to discuss the unsolicited proposal the Fairfax County Park Authority received from KC Management to upgrade Burke Lake to a facility with an increased structural footprint and parking, reminiscent of the golf center in Kingstowne.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) attended the public meeting and then scheduled an additional meeting with Park Authority staff to follow-up.

"It was clear this isn't going to happen without significant impact to the community and without raising the prices for golf, to use the driving range," said Herrity. "Those are both unacceptable to me and to the Park Authority. I didn't have to do any arm-twisting.'

In his newsletter released on Feb. 23, Herrity lead with the headline "Top Golf Bottom Option for Burke Lake" and announced that he and the Park Authority would not be going forward with the proposal from KC Management.

Fairfax County Park Authority director Kirk Kincannon was not available for comment, but Judith Pedersen, a spokesperson for the parks, said in a statement, "We were concerned about the scale of the project which seemed too large for the site."

THE FACILITIES, which date back nearly 60 years, are overdue for upgrades and are slated to receive them per Park Bonds passed in 2008 and 2012. KC Management submitted its proposal under the Virginia Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act, to build and run facilities on public land.

These also are changed, slightly, to remove Topgolf, beginning as the paragraph following "THE FACILITIES"

But members of the community bristled at the idea of the larger complex being proposed. Homeowners created a "Save Burke



The driving range at Burke Lake Park is uncovered, but in season offers "dew-chasers" the opportunity to tee off early in the morning.

Lake" Facebook group as well as a Change.org petition to raise support of opposing the proposal. Bob Vitti, one of the senior golf instructors at Burke Lake, sent the petition to his 1200-odd roster.

#"I think it did something in terms of the significant count on the petition," said Vitti. "A lot of folks had the same perspective I do."

#Referring to the Kingstowne center, he continued, "I don't have anything against it, it's a nice facility for its own goals, mission, environment. This is just not the environment for this type of service."

Among the major concerns of Vitti and Hanrahan were that the proposed new facility wouldn't open early enough to accommodate the strong culture of dawn-rising "dew-chasers," that more alcohol available on the property would require more adult supervision of minors than currently exists at the park, and an increased structural footprint would take away from the natural beauty of playing in the park itself.

"You look at it and think goodness isn't this gorgeous," said Hanrahan. "We're so blessed to have such an amazing park we can play golf at, even if your game is stinking it up."

HERRITY said the Park Authority will go back to planning for the park's upgrades and expects concept plans to be ready to share with the public sometime this summer. He also sees the whole situation with the unsolicited proposal as an opportunity to grow organized support for the park.

"We don't have a Friends of Burke Lake Park currently," he said, referencing other non-profit organizations such as Friends of Lake Accotink Park that help maintain and protect county natural resources. "What I'd like to see happen is take this energy created around this proposal and create a friends group."

Movement Determined to 'Save the Park'

Since the beginning of February, the Movement has generated a petition with more than 8,900 signatures and counting to save the Park.

> By Marissa Beale The Connection

hen the anonymous letter showed up in our neighbor hood mailboxes many of us began to wonder and worry. A few of us started talking and soon a meeting was scheduled with Pat Herrity and the Park Authority," said Leigh Claypool, committee chair of the Save Burke Lake Park Movement. "We were assured by the PA that they do not like KC Management's proposal either. However, they have spent more than two years in negotiations with them."

From runners on the local high school



Terri Siggins, cocoordinator of the Save Burke Lake Park Movement.

cross country teams, to small business owners, professional golfers and mothers, community members are concerned about a proposal from KC Management, LLC that could potentially change the atmosphere of a more than 60-year-old park in Fairfax County.

Burke Lake Park has been described as one of those few places in the County where you can go and escape the hustle and bustle of Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia area.



Supervisor Pat Herrity speaks at the meeting. There is a petition to stop plans for construction at Burke Lake Park.

"They are turning it into a late-night bar atmosphere instead of a family-friendly driving range," said Fairfax County resident and co-coordinator of the Save the Burke Lake Park Movement, Terri Siggins. The Movement began when members of the community found out news about the proposal through an unknown source. Since the beginning of February, the Movement has generated a petition with more than 8,900 signatures and counting to save the Park.

Back in 2008 and 2012 the public voted

on proposals to restore the clubhouse and driving range at the Park. According to the Fairfax County Government website, the 2008 Park Bond includes funding to replace the existing Golf Course Clubhouse at Burke Lake Park Golf Course. The 2012 Park Bond includes funding to upgrade and expand the existing driving range at Burke Lake Park Golf Course. However, both of these plans are different from those listed in the proposal by KC Management, according to the Save Burke Lake Park movement. "We believe the atmosphere is not appropriate for a public park," said Siggins. "[The proposal] would create a bar atmosphere targeted more toward entertainment rather than golf.

"Under KC's design, the entire current driving range will be redesigned. Artificial turf, lighting and additional parking spaces would also be included in the design. There is concern that this would get rid of established oaks and the current green area in the Park," she said.

The public can get involved by signing the petition, writing to Supervisor Pat Herrity, or by contacting the FCPA. Concerned individuals can also Like and Follow the "Save Burke Lake Park" Facebook page to get news and updates on next steps.

News

Community Reviews Plans for Silas Burke Property

embers of the Burke and West Springfield communities were invited to review the plans of Sunrise Development, LLC to build an assisted living facility on the property of the Silas Burke House. The meeting was held Tuesday, Feb. 24 at the West Springfield Government Center.

Sunrise Development has applied for the property to be rezoned to accommodate the more densely populated living space they intend to build.

Though some have expressed concern for the well-being of the nearly 200-year-old former residence of Silas Burke himself if a new building were to go up nearby, Sunrise's proposal includes a guarantee that the house, "accessory structures" like the iconic windmill and immediate surrounding property, will be protected and maintained.

"The neat thing there is we're able to preserve the Silas Burke house in perpetuity," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), "without a big investment from the county, in a very tight fiscal time."

— Тім Peterson



The rendering from Sunrise shows the existing Silas Burke house on the left, with a concept for the Sunrise community behind the house on the right.

Bulova to Create Transparency Review Commission

Group would include citizens, legal community and other organizations.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

hen Alexandria resident Natasha McKenna was removed from life support and died on Feb. 8, the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office posted a release on the county website. It was an update to an earlier post on Feb. 5 that explained McKenna was an inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center who experienced a "medical emergency" on Feb. 3.

McKenna was scheduled to be moved to the Alexandria Adult Detention Center that day. When she fought against deputies transporting her, they used tasers to restrain her. At that point, the Fairfax County Police Department was notified and an investigation of McKenna's "in-custody inmate death" began. February 19, the Police Department released another update, an 800-word description of the events leading up to McKenna's arrest and death.

She had called Fairfax County police herself on Jan. 25 to report being assaulted. Officers accompanied her to a hospital and through a record check discovered an outstanding arrest warrant for assaulting an Alexandria police officer back on Jan. 15.

Though the officers involved have yet to be named, the content and amount of information released in under two weeks since McKenna's death is comparable to that which it took the county over a year to release following the officer killing of Springfield resident John Geer.

According to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova, that was indicative of the board's commitment to "making a stronger effort than before to make sure that we're putting out as much info as possible."

Amid Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, writing letters to the county as to why Geer's investigation has taken so long and how it's been handled, as well as public pressure from organizations such as the Justice for John Geer Facebook group and Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Bulova previously announced the board

would seek outside expertise to examine its policies for releasing information on police action.

AT THE FEB. 17 MEETING of the board, supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) introduced a draft policy for transparency that had been making its way to the Fairfax City Council.

"You don't have to look far to find a good policy on transparency," said Herrity. "If this had been enforced, we wouldn't have had a lof of the problems with the Geer case".

That Fairfax proposal mandated a release of basic facts, any conflicting information and confirmed identities of individuals involved with the incident — all within 72 hours of the incident itself.

"There were some good recommendations," Bulova said, "but I'm not sure that is the only thing that we want to consider. We're prepared to take a look at a number of models and best practices, to include the one the city of Fairfax is considering."

February 20, Bulova took another step and announced the creation of a new commission, made up of citizens, members of the legal community and other organizations such as the NAACP, to review police policies.

"This gives the community an opportunity to take part in our review," said Bulova. In her release, the Chairman named Michael Hershman, founder of the Fairfax Group and a citizen appointee to the Board of Supervisors Audit Committee, chair of this commission. She plans to bring it before the Board in its March 3 meeting for endorsement. At that time, Bulova has said she will also announce the rest of the commission's membership.

Though the commission is a step, Herrity remains critical of the Board's lack of open discussion on the Geer case and others involving excessive and or lethal force by police officers.

"The most disturbing thing to me is we haven't had a Public Safety Committee meeting in well over a year," he said. "I don't know why not, there's not a good answer. And too much of the board's discussion has been in closed session. We need to get out into open session and have a dialog on our policies and practices and get them fixed."

BULOVA'S COMMISSION will have the opportunity to review both the county's search for "independent expertise" on releasing information on officerinvolved incidents and the Police Department's policies and training regarding use of force.

VOLUNTEERS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** will discuss using the Internet to help with caregiving on Tuesday, March 10, 7-8 p.m. Register atwww.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/caregiver.htm. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs volunteer Bilingual English/Spanish activity leaders, a Canasta Player to lead a group and certified instructors for classes in Pilates, Chair Exercise and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs instructors for **Mosaic Art** and Jewelry Making. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals in Centreville, Annandale and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center in Annandale needs Spanish**speaking** social companions and a lunch assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Contact Emmy Thompson at 703-324-7404, TTY 711, orMaura.Thompson@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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Burke Connection & February 26 - March 4, 2015 & 5



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News

Local Swimmers Shine at States

wimmers from 36 high schools from around Virginia competed in the Virginia High School League 6A state championship held in Richmond on Feb. 20. Divers from each team competed the day before. Athletes first raced in a morning prelims session to qualify for a finals competition that evening. At the end of the night, the top five overall points-winners for girls were Langley, Oakton, Robinson, West Potomac and Chantilly. On the boys side, first through fifth place went to Oakton, Robinson, Langley, Frank W Cox High School (Virginia Beach) and Patriot High School (Nokesville).

For more final results of the meet, visit www.swimtechusa.com/Vhsl.

—Tim Peterson

Photo by **Tim Peterson** The Connection



Robinson junior James Jones (center) checks the time board after winning the boys 50-yard freestyle in a time of 20.19 seconds. The Robinson boys team finished second overall behind Oakton at the Virginia High School League 6A championship meet in Richmond.



Irish Music & Dance Show Sunday, March 1, 2-5 p.m. Auld Shebeen Pub in Fairfax City Featuring Mai Hernon & Celtic Font and The Ganley Sisters direct from Ireland

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OPINION Managing Mental Illness in Jails

Natasha McKenna's death provides window on national concern.

national report released on Feb. 11 highlighted the prevalence of people with mental illness incarcerated in local jails.

"Serious mental illness, which includes bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression, affects an estimated 14.5 per-

cent of men and 31 percent of women Editorial in jails — rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population.

... While most people with serious mental illness in jails, both men and women, enter jail charged with minor, nonviolent crimes, they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time." See vera.org.

Natasha McKenna, a woman with a long history of severe mental illness, died on Feb. 8, five days after being repeatedly shocked with a taser, restrained, hooded and forcibly removed from her cell by six deputy sheriffs "pursuant to its protocols for managing combative inmates.³

McKenna, a small woman according to press

reports, had been held in the Fairfax County Detention Center since Jan. 26, on a warrant from the City of Alexandria. Fairfax deputies were forcibly extracting her from her cell so she could be transported to the Alexandria jail. Here is part of the police release on the incident:

"During the struggle to restrain McKenna, a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team deployed a conducted energy weapon (Taser) on McKenna. While being restrained, deputies placed a spit net (which is designed to restrict and prevent spitting) on McKenna.

A nurse from the ADC medical staff was present at that time to check on her prior to transport and cleared her for

transport. Deputies attempted to put her in a medical transport chair, but McKenna continued to be combative and was moved to a restraint chair for transport."

To understand a little of what was happening, search for images of "spit net" and "prisoner restraint chair."

When the emergency response team was getting ready to load McKenna into a vehicle, 'medical personnel from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office checked McKenna and determined she was experiencing a medical emergency."

McKenna never regained consciousness.

The incident was recorded on video, but "the video is currently retained as evidence by detectives from the Fairfax County Police Department and will not be released at this time."

Less than two weeks after McKenna's death, the public knows a lot more about the details of this incident than previous cases involving the Fairfax County Police, but questions of what happened, how and why, greatly outnumber answers.

It is standard operating procedure in the United States to warehouse disruptive people with mental illness in jails. A 2006 Special Report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that 705,600 mentally ill adults were incarcerated in state prisons, 78,800 in Federal prisons and 479,900 in local jails, according to the National Institute for Corrections.

We have to ask what constitutes humane, effective treatment for people with mental illness, and often substance use disorders, who end up in jails. Are the brutal images of Natasha McKenna's handling a common experience for people with severe mental illness in jails? While deaths resulting from such incidents are rare, they do occur. What can be done to provide treatment?

> — Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Breastfeeding is About Life

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

As a fairly new Virginia resident, I like reading your summaries of county and state government actions that impact us all, including the General Assembly's crossover bills featured in your February 19-25 issue. I'd like to share one more. HB1499 protects mothers who breastfeed their babies in public; Del. Dave Albo is one of the co-patrons. With its passage in both chambers and a promised signature from Governor Terry McAuliffe, the Commonwealth will become the #48 state in the U.S. to support breastfeeding mothers and their right to feed their babies wherever necessary – be it a restaurant, rec center or retail store or any other public or private space where nursing moms find themselves needing to feed their children.

The grassroots coalition, VA Alliance for Breastfeeding Laws with its leaders Rebecca Geller (a local attorney and mother) and Kate Noon, should be commended for this family-focused effort. Concerned moms and dads from all breastfeeding is recommended by over the state contacted their legislators, visited Richmond, and testified in support of the bill dur- 1-year old. ing its various committee hearings.

When babies are hungry, they need to eat. As nursing mothers, breastfeeding. I can share that 8 Surke Connection Sebruary 26 - March 4, 2015

we shouldn't be scared into using a designated lounge, public bathroom, or, worse yet, be told to leave the premises. Nursing is about sustaining human life. It's about growing a little human being into an adult. It's about life.

Studies by medical experts prove breastfeeding is best for babies. There are numerous health and emotional benefits to the baby and the mother. (The World Health Organization spells these out: http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/ exclusive_breastfeeding/en/) There are economic advantages as well, as families and the Commonwealth (when helping our families through WIC and other supports) do not have to spend money on formula. About 80.5-percent of new Virginia moms breastfeed their babies at birth (CDC, statistics by state, 2014 report). By 6 months, it's only 53.7-percent who exclusively breastfeed or do a combination of breastmilk and formula to nourish their babies. By 1 year, it's 27.4-percent. Yet, the American Academy of Pediatricians at least until a baby turns

I am a mother as well as a volunteer who helps moms with

women experience many "boobytraps" in their breastfeeding journey that cause this statistical plunge. There are medical issues and societal issues. Not being able to breastfeed in public – or feel comfortable doing so – is one of those traps. When babies are infants, they are often eating every 2-3 hours. Not being protected to nurse in public, some women "shelter in place" in their homes. Yet, moms still need to

Oversight Needed in **Police Shooting Cases**

To the Editor:

Kudos and thanks for your recent editorials voicing the concern of many Fairfax County citizens in connection with the investigation of police shootings.

James Madison said of government that we must "oblige it to control itself" through checks and balances, including vigilant oversight of administration.

It is difficult to conceive where the Virginia Freedom of Informa-Board of Supervisors oversight is more needed than over a groupeven a group as honorable and courageous as our police officersentrusted to exercise coercive powers, up to and including life

work, shop, take care of our families and carry on with daily life. Being restricted on where we can "legally" nurse in public makes breastfeeding success and life in general a little more difficult. And we don't need to make life more difficult for mothers; we need to support them for success! I'm so glad we'll finally have a law on the books to do just that.

and death.

tion Act.

Anna Custer-Singh Lorton

The Board of Supervisors should

fulfill that oversight function,

starting with investigative hear-

ings into the reasons for the se-

crecy shrouding the shootings

State Sen. Barbara Favola and

our new Del. Kathleen Murphy

may also wish to consider whether

to propose statutory changes to

Bruce Ellis Fein

See Letters, Page 9

Great Falls

identified in your editorial.

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Letters

Monkey **Business** Is Deadly **Business**

To the Editor:

Maybe I missed hearing about it the last time a monkey attacked its owner.

But I sure remember each time an estranged husband or boyfriend blows away his wife or girlfriend and her innocent children. I feel the pain and disgust in my gut.

Apparently Virginia lawmakers don't have that same reaction because they voted to kill legislation that would ban convicted domestic abusers, stalkers or those convicted of sexual battery from having guns. But they did pass a bill to make it illegal to own a pet monkey because monkeys can sometimes be violent.

Virginia's illustrious forefathers-Washington, Madison and Jefferson-would hang their heads in shame at the shenanigans that went on in the Virginia legislature this session over gun laws. Our not-so esteemed lawmakers killed any efforts to make our communities safer from gun violence. They even killed a bill that would make it illegal for a 4-year old to have a gun!

Talk about monkey business. The Senate bill to take away guns from stalkers, sexual batterers and domestic abusers was approved by voice vote in committee but later reported out as dead.

After media inquiries, the committee voted again to pass the bill but it was sent to another committee to die.

Other gun safety measures died in committee when the chairman held an emergency hearing which limited public testimony.

Transparency in government anyone? Supporters were scrambling to follow the bills but the NRA lobbyist always seemed to show up in the right place at the right time.

In the House, lawmakers killed the domestic gun violence bill even after two women who were victims of domestic gun violence begged them not too.

Next time a domestic abuser in Virginia shoots his wife or girlfriend or a child we can thank the mostly white, male Republican rural lawmakers who sit on the Virginia committees that kill gun safety bills.

> Linda Falkerson Reston

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Bark and Call

Mobile pet grooming comes to you.

By Abigail Constantino THE CONNECTION

arzi Sharifi started HoPPooH in Fairfax, a mobile pet grooming service, in 2013. With her two vans and groomer, Sara, HoPPooH—which means little dog or dog in Persian—will come to the pet owner's door to groom and style man's best friend...or his cat.

HoPPooH's area of coverage is between 10 to 12 miles of its base. Sharifi said that her business provides convenience for her and for her clients. "I can choose my clients, make my own hours."

She has learned a lot since she first started, such as accepting clients that are not more than 75 pounds. She once had a German shepherd in the van that started "growling and barking" at her. "It was very dangerous for me," she said. But her confidence has grown. "I'm really good at grooming dogs, especially poodles.'



Marzi Sharifi of HoPPooH in Fairfax with her dogs and her mobile pet grooming vans. Sharifi recently acquired a second van for her growing business.

Sharifi, a Persian-American, has a background in videography. It was this background that got her started in pet grooming. As a volunteer at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Sharifi created a video about one of its dogs, Gaston, an American pit bull terrier mix, for Best in Shelter's first virtual dog show. The video won first prize and \$50,000 for AWLA. "I have always loved animals," she said. To learn

more about HoPPooH, go to http:// www.hoppooh.com/.

When Sam Met Frodo

"Sam and Frodo are both rescue cats. Frodo, the big orange guy with the furry feet, came from Home Alone Feline Rescue in 2011. He is part Maine Coon and part American bobtail. Lou and I had been thinking about getting a second cat as a companion for Frodo when I ran into Lee District School Board member Tammy Koufax at a community event in Springfield in August 2013. Tammy and her kids were fostering a litter of feral kittens that had been found behind a restaurant in Washington D.C. When Lou and I saw Tammy's photo of the smallest kitten, a tiny tiger tabby, we fell in love. Eventually, so did Frodo, once she got over Sam trying to steal his toys and occasionally snatching his treats away. We love watching the two cats chase each other around. Animals add so much to your life!"





Sharon Bulova with her cats Frodo and Sam.





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Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own. Email cats@lostdogrescue.org.





www.ConnectionNewspapers.com www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Fairfax County Animal Shelter Gets Creative to Save Lives

C ince 2013, Fairfax County ronment. Older cats sometimes with a placement rate of animals take them home for 30 days of TLC above 90 percent. Last year alone, nearly 2,500 animals were adopted, which is nearly double the adoptions just two years ear-

With more than 4,500 animals coming through its doors in 2014, the shelter implements creative or the shelter itself on social meways to find homes for the many homeless cats, dogs, guinea pigs, rabbits and other small animals. Here are just a few of the new ways the shelter can save more lives:

*"Fosters" help animals in a variety of ways, both long term and short term. There are 150 foster families who provide temporary housing to pets needing a break from the shelter. In addition to caring for puppies and kittens as well as animals recovering from surgery shorter time periods. Fosters take take a dog home for the weekend, from the stress of the shelter envi- All of this helps shelter pets be

has been the largest jurisdic- wait many months to find a per- \bigvee tion in the United States manent home, so foster families while waiting

*The shelter has a robust social media presence. More than 20,000 people follow the shelter on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. And more than half the shelter's adopters say they first saw their pet dia. In the past, a pet with a special medical need would have waited months for an adopter. Now that same pet usually finds a home within days of its pictures and story being shared on social media.

*Some 300 volunteers give daily love, enrichment and exercise to homeless pets. Dogs play in groups, go on off-site walks and get kennel breaks four or five times every day. Treat dispensing toys, stuffed and frozen Kong toys and other or illness, foster families can take enrichment items keep shelter dogs an animal into their home for busy throughout the day. Cats and small animals get to enjoy play dogs on one-hour field trips or can time in one of the shelter's cat rooms every day and are constantly to give it a much-needed break cared for by dedicated volunteers.



Caitlin Rose and Cathy Connolly, daughter and wife of Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) respectively, handle a cat at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

happy, healthy and ready to meet their new families.

are sometimes empty spaces on the space, they take in animals from under-resourced and overburdened shelters in D.C. and rural Virginia. In 2014, nearly 500 dogs and cats were transferred into the shelter, where they were adopted to loving homes.

tivities, including classes for adults

and kids, dog obedience training, Scout badge programs, birthday Because the shelter has been so parties, a book club and a pet loss successful at placing animals, there support group. To learn more about shelter programs or to view adoption floor. Whenever there is adoptable animals, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ animalshelter

Want to know how to help your local shelter? In addition to volunteering, fostering and donating, all shelters in the area have Facebook pages. By following your local shel-In addition to adoptions, the ter, you can help spread the word shelter offers a variety of other ac- about all the great pets waiting to meet their forever families.

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12 Surke Connection Sebruary 26 - March 4, 2015



"My dogs, Fern and Otter, both adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter love to come to work with me at the shelter. They enjoy greeting visitors and just hanging out. When they're not 'working,' they love playing with each other and taking me on long hikes. Proof that shelter dogs come in all shapes and sizes, with and without spots."

- Kristen Auerbach, Director of Communication and Outreach at Fairfax County Animal Shelter







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Entertainment

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

- Garden Talks with Master **Gardeners: Winter Beauty in** the Garden. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria Learn about garden trees, shrubs and grasses that add instant beauty and interest throughout the cold winter months. \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring using code 290 102 9001or call 703-642-5173.
- Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. All ages. Register each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333
- Bricks 4 Kidz. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn, build and play with LEGO bricks. Content designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, inventions, and amusement parks. Ages 5 to 10. 703-249-1520.
- John Aulabaugh. 7:30 p.m. Old Firestation #3, 3988 University Drive, Fairfax. Specil musical fundraiser for Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. Aulabaugh's new album, "Of Sins Present and Past," highlights addiction and recovery. \$10, \$20 online, \$12 at the door. http:// johnaulabaugh.com/shows_page/ oldfirestationno3/.
- **United States Army Band** "Pershing's Own" Downrange. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999



The Irish are coming! Wild West Irish Tours is sponsoring a free Irish Music & Dance show at the Auld Shebeen Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax City on Sunday, March 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. The show will feature dancers Sandra and Laura Ganley, from County Roscommon, Ireland along with singer, Mai Hernon, who hails from County Sligo, Ireland and her group, Celtic Font. For more information call 571-236-9650 or visit www.wildwestirishtours.com.

University Drive, Fairfax. Downrange embraces TUSAB's newest mission as a strategic public relations asset for the U.S. Army, and stands ready to entertain audiences at home and around the world. The men and

women of Downrange are not just "present and accounted for," they are constantly on the move and on the frontline - setting the popular-music entertainment standard for The U.S. Army Band and the United States

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Collectors Showcase Fundraising Event. 7:30-10:30 p.m. W-16



2014-15 Men's Basketball

Buy Your Tickets Now! Final home game of the season

Wednesday, Mar. 4, 7 p.m. - George Washington Sponsored by 📚 MainStreetBank





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Available wied dates through December 30, 2015. United number of norms available for this promotion. Limit one (1) \$100 resort credit per night. See website for complete terms and conditions

GAYLORD NATIONAL

McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Features the best in visual arts from all the Artist at the Workhouse. Ticket information available at www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

- Seeds Workshop: Starting from **Scratch**. 9:30 - 11 a.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Judy Zatsick, Green Spring's own propagator/horticulturalist, teaches the ins and outs of starting your own seed collection. \$22. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring using code 290 187 4201or call 703-642-5173.
- Wag a Tale. 10:30, 10:45, 11 and 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Need a little practice reading or just love dogs? Register to read to one of our therapy dogs. Ages 5-12. To register visit http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/
- branches/kn/. Teen Advisory Board (TAB) **Meetin**g. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Ages 13 to 18. 703-249-1520.
- Reading Buddies. 11:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Pick a few of your favorite books and share them with your reading buddy. You read to them or they can read to you. Reading buddies are adult and teen volunteers. Ages 4 to 8. 703-249-1520.

Fractured Fairy Tales: Writing Workshop. 1:30 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join Young Adult

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



♦ Burke Connection ♦ February 26 - March 4, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 14

- author Kristin Bailey as she makes mistakes so you don't have to. Learn how to edit your writing and avoid common pitfalls by reading messed up fairy tales. Then as a group, we will make them right. This workshop will focus on the common writing issues of passive voice, blocking, and dialog open to both teen and adult writers. 703-249-1520.
- Polar Bear Reading Club Wrap Up Party. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Come and celebrate the end of the Polar Bear Reading Club with Jonathan Austin, juggler, magician and unicyclist extraordinaire. Register each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333.
- separately. 703-644-7333. Dessert on Broadway. 1:30 and 7 p.m. Lake Braddock High School Cafeteria, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Entertainment and dessert provided by the Lake Braddock High School Choir. \$20. Send emailed request to
- Ibdessertsonbroadway@gmail.com.
 Indoor Flea Market and Lunch. 9
 a.m.-1 p.m. Green Acres Center, 4401
 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Don't break
 the bank! Find that special treasure
 many booths of odds and ends to
 browse through! Hosted by the
 Young at Heart Senior Center.
 Donations accepted after Jan. 1.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

- Irish Music & Dance Show. 2-5 p.m. Auld Shebeen Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The show will feature dancers Sandra and Laura Ganley, from County Roscommon, Ireland along with singer, Mai Hernon, who hails from County Sligo, Ireland and her group, Celtic Font. 571-236-9650.
- www.wildwestirishtours.com. **Capitol Steps**. 7 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Capitol Steps are a Musical Political Satire group that performs all over the country. They put the MOCK in Democracy and will feature their latest album "How to Succeed in Congress Without Really Lying." All proceeds support the Robinson Drama Boosters and the 2015 ANGP. \$35, \$30 for 10 or more at robinsondrama.org. Contact scamby@verizon.net for more info.
- Appetite for Art. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Food has been a

- Faith 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.

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 central theme in art for centuries. Experience these two great pleasures together in a sumptuous selection of food-filled masterpieces which express cultural and social values by depicting the rituals, customs and symbolism of food and dining through the ages. Bon appetit! After the program, enjoy a traditional English tea. Reservations required. \$32. 703-941-7987.

Winter Lecture: Teeming with Nutrients. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Jeff Lowenfels explains how plants eat and what to feed them. You will be rewarded with an organic garden that is the envy of the neighborhood. A book signing follows the lecture. \$10 for advance registration, \$12 for out-of-county registrants or at the door. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/greenspring using code 290 182 4701 or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 7-8 SPRINGPEX '15 Stamp Exhibition.

- Saturday, 10 a.m. 6 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. -4:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School Cafeteria, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. 45th Annual Philatelic Stamp Show hosted by the Springfield Stamp Club. Features free kids stamp activities, show covers, 26+ dealers, U.S. Postal Service Station and club tables. Free. www.springfieldstampclub.com.
- SATURDAY/MARCH 7 Workhouse Cabaret Series:

Heroines of the Stage and Screen! Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 8 p.m. Some of Broadway's most beloved characters and some of the most memorable music are written for the leading ladies. Garden Under Glass: Terrarium

Workshop. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Shake off the winter chill by creating a garden under glass. Miniature plants, lush mosses, stones and whimsical figures will bring a smile and remind you of warmer days. Care instructions included. \$38/person plus \$25 supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring using code 290 185 8201 for the program and code 290 185 8202 for the supply fee or call 703-642-5173.

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 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

election of 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

While it's winter in Virginia, it's summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Learn why seasons differ around the globe. Sample chocolaty treats, both icy and hot. Enjoy a story about chocolate, then scout the gardens for signs of winter and spring. \$6 per child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring using code 290 102 8901 or call 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts: Hot and Cold. 11

a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens,

Winter Lecture: Hellstrip Gardening. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Improve that patch of old turf on the streetside of the sidewalk by growing a hellstrip garden. Evelyn Hadden offers guidance on turning languishing, neighborhood parking strips into thriving, curbside gardens. Hadden addresses street trees, plants, poorsoil, laws and covenants, and pedestrian traffic. A book signing follows the lecture. \$10 per person for advance registration, \$12 for outof-county registrants or at the door. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/greenspring using code 290 185 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 5-8

"Doubt: A Parable." 7:30 p.m. Old Town Village, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$17 in advance. Remaining seats, if available, will be \$20 at the door, one hour prior to performance times. Free parking is available. The production runs approximately 90 minutes, and a brief, talk-back session with the actors and directors will follow each performance. Buy tickets at: http:// fairfaxcitytheatre.ticketleap.com/ doubt-a-parable/.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

- Workhouse Cabaret Series: Heroines of the Stage and Screen! Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Matinee 1 p.m. Some of Broadway's most beloved characters and some of the most memorable music are written for the leading ladies.
 Film: An Ordinary Hero: The True
- **Story of Joan Mulholland.** 2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. You'll hear firsthand from the Freedom Riders that took part in this movement.

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.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015 The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON FAIRFAX COUNTY REGION The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help hundreds of at-risk youth every day right here in Fairfax County.

Casino Night is a fun-filled evening featuring:

- Full complement of staffed gaming tables including Texas Hold 'em, Black Jack and Craps, Roulette
- Fabulous dinner buffet * open bar * amazing raffles, live and silent auction
 Celebrity Emcee with music and dancing.

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102 • On the Silver Line

Tickets: www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night/



Friday, March 6, 2015 6:30-11:30pm Tickets: \$95.00 per person, \$175.00 per couple Special Overnight Guest Room Rate at the Ritz-Carlton for Friday March 6, 2015 -- \$119.00

We invite your organization to consider sponsorship opportunities for our 2nd Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region Casino Night. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help boys and girls of all backgrounds build confidence, develop character, and acquire skills fundamental to becoming productive, civic-minded, responsible adults. BGCGW provides a safe and positive environment for our youth.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

3/11/2015......HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout 3/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools 3/25/2015...Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout			
Easter Sunday is	April 5		
4/8/2015	HomeLifeStyle		
4/15/2015	A+ Camps & Schools		
4/22/2015	Real Estate Pullout – New Homes		
4/29/2015	A+ Camps & Schools Pullout		
4/29/2015	Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining		
& Gifts I			

MAY

5/6/2015	
5/6/2015	Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II
5/6/2015	Wellbeing
Mother's Day is M	lav 10

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Alexandria Gazette Packet Arlington Connection Burke Connection Centre View Chantilly Connection	Fairfax Connection Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection Great Falls Connection McLean Connection Mount Vernon Gazette	Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
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Sports

South County Boys' Basketball Wins Conference

No. 7 (lowest) seed Stallions upset No. 1 Woodson in 3-OT classic.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

embers of the South County boys' basketball team could have quit long ago. They could have thrown in the towel during the regular season, when injuries contributed to a 3-9 conference record and the lowest seed in the Conference 7 tournament.

But they didn't.

After upsetting T.C. Williams and Lake Braddock to reach the conference championship game, the Stallions could have laid down when trailing by eight points in the fourth quarter against top-seeded Woodson. But they didn't.

And after having a conference championship ripped from their grasp when Woodson star Eric Bowles buried a 3-pointer at the buzzer to force a second overtime period, the Stallions could have lowered their heads and accepted that they were fortunate just to be there.

But they didn't.

Instead, South County played with the same mental toughness that helped the Stallions turn a sub-par season into a championship opportunity.

Despite trailing at some point in all four quarters of regulation and each overtime period, South County captured the first conference championship in program history with a 91-86 triple-OT victory over Woodson on Tuesday night at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

With the score tied and less than 2 minutes remaining in the third overtime period, South County sophomore Garrett Reaves knocked down a clutch 3-pointer, sparking a 10-2 run that secured the Stallions an improbable piece of history.

"It's overwhelming," South County freshman guard Isaiah Borders said. "We came from the seventh seed. ... We worked hard to get here and we finished it out."

South County's hard work nearly went for naught.

The Stallions led 72-69 in the closing seconds of the first overtime period when Woodson's Bowles, who had just missed a potential game-tying 3-point attempt, got another chance at the top of the arc.

This time, the Conference 7 Player of the Year came through, sending the game into double OT with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

THE STALLIONS were struggling emotionally as Woodson grabbed a two-possession lead early in the second overtime period.

South County guard Chu Chu Enechionyia answered with a 3-pointer, cutting the Cavalier lead to 76-75 with 2:02 on the clock, 16 Surke Connection Sebruary 26 - March 4, 2015



The South County boys' basketball team won the program's first conference title on Tuesday, beating Woodson in the Conference 7 championship game at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

when head coach Travis Hess called a tournament MVP. timeout.

'Our kids were clearly down, but Chu Chu hit a big 3 and it cut it to one and I called a timeout and said, 'OK, now we have to officially let it go,' because even I was harboring it," Hess said about the fallout from Bowles' game-tying 3-pointer. "... I wear my emotions on my sleeve. I was bummed because we had the game won and every one of our kids knew it. And for us to not fold is really a testament to how tough our kids are and how far we've come from the team that we were in November."

Borders, South County's leading scorer with 29 points, fouled out during the second overtime period, but the Stallions managed to stay alive, tying the score at 79 and forcing a third OT.

"Our whole playoff motto is we never get too high and we never get too low," South County senior guard Brandon Berry said. "We always stay even. We were saying no matter what happened this game, we were always going to stay at that one level even. Even after Isaiah fouled out, after Eric hit the shot, because we staved even, we were able to battle through that adversity."

Borders, a 6-foot-4 freshman guard, scored 18 of South County's 28 first-half points, including 12 of its first 14.

"He's a phenomenal talent," Hess said. "He's got things he needs to improve on, but a freshman in a conference championship game to go for [29] points is amazing. He has all the talent in the world and I look forward to developing his talent because I think he could really be a special player in the next couple of years for us."

Berry, a second-team all-conference selection, finished with 12 points and was named

"He has come such a long way and, more importantly, he's a great young man," Hess said. "I'm beyond proud of him. He's an amazing kid and had a great season and when you can combine his leadership with the talent of Isaiah and the rebounding of Veronta [Jones] — all of the pieces that we have have finally come together at what is the most important time in the season. For a coach, there's nothing more rewarding and satisfying than that."

Jones finished with 13 points for South County and Reaves added 11.

The Stallions' successful postseason is a far cry from a sub-par, injury-riddled regular season. First it was senior guard Jason Remy suffering an Achilles injury prior to the season.

Then it was 6-foot-6 center Ish Hussein suffering a knee injury early in the campaign. Enechionyia missed time with back trouble and senior guard Tanner Gregory sat out during conference play with a high ankle sprain.

South County finished the regular season with a 10-12 record.

"It was an up-and-down ride throughout the season," Berry said. "We had some guys with season-ending injuries and stuff like that, but we really pulled together as a team and I'm really proud of these guys."

Borders said he felt the Stallions' fortunes start to change when they defeated Woodson 54-52 on Feb. 10, late in the regular season.

"The game [where] we beat Woodson the first time," he said. "That's when we knew we were on a roll and it started from there."

After receiving the No. 7 seed in the Conference 7 tournament, South County edged

No. 2 T.C. Williams 59-55 on Feb. 19 in Alexandria, earning a berth in the 6A North region tournament. Four days later, the Stallions traveled to Burke and thumped No. 3 Lake Braddock 78-61 on Feb. 23 in the conference semifinals.

"I think we're capable of making it to the state tournament," Berry said. "I think we've proven that we're one of the better teams in the region - big wins over TC, Lake Braddock and now Woodson. I think the sky's the limit for us."

IT TOOK HESS TWO SEASONS to lead the Stallions to their first conference championship. Prior to coaching at South County, Hess led Langley to four Liberty District titles and two region championship game appearances.

"Coach Hess is amazing," Berry said. "He's done everything. He's stayed up late nights putting in game plans, he's come to practice early [and stayed] late. When it comes to [college] recruiting, he's really making sure guys [are] getting their stuff done. He's a great coach and even better man and the amount of respect I have for him is unbelievable."

South County's Borders and Gregory were named to the all-tournament team, along with Woodson's Matt Ayoub, Tyler Wilson and Bowles.

Bowles led the Cavaliers with 29 points. Wilson scored 26 points and Ayoub added 25

South County will host Chantilly in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Thursday, Feb. 26. Woodson, which won the previous two big-school region championships, will host Robinson.

"We're capable of some big things," Borders said. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Sports

Robinson Wrestlers Riggs, DePasquale Win State Championships

Rams place third in team standings.

By Jon Roetman The Connection fter eliminating the final obstacle in his path to a second state championship, Centreville senior Tyler Love eliminated the source of the ribbing he had received in recent weeks.

Love repeated as the Group 6A 195-pound champion, pinning Colonial Forge's Cameron Houston in the finals during the VHSL state wrestling tournament Feb. 20 at Robinson Secondary School. After posing for pictures on the medal stand, Love used the electric razor he brought to the meet to rid himself of the lip fuzz he sported during the postseason.

Along with a state title, Love won Conference 5 and 6A North region championships with the 'stache. But did he still receive a hard time for the facial hair?

"Absolutely," Love said. "All the time. I couldn't go anywhere without catching crap for it."

ALL JOKES ASIDE, Love's performance Friday put the finishing touch on a spectacular high school career. Along with two wrestling state titles, Love was a standout linebacker for the Centreville football team and helped the Wildcats reach the state final during his junior and senior seasons. Centreville won in all in 2013, finishing an undefeated season with a victory over nationally-ranked Oscar Smith in the championship game. In 2014, Centreville lost in overtime to Ocean Lakes in the season finale.

"It's pretty frickin' good," Love said of his high school career. "Obviously, four rings would have been nicer."

Love will continue his wrestling career at the University of Virginia - one of the reasons Love said he was motivated to continue working after winning his first wrestling title.

"It wasn't hard at all," Love said about finding motivation. "I know I'm moving to the collegiate level and I have to always keep on getting better."

Did the second state title feel any different than the first?

"It feels better," Love said, "because it's hard to repeat anything, as we saw in football.'

Love was part of a Centreville trio that earned enough points to finish second in the team standings. Victor Echeverria won the 113-pound title, beating Battlefield's Matthew Asper via 8-4 decision, and Michael Vu finished runner-up in the 132pound bracket.

Colonial Forge dominated the competition, producing a winning score of 147. Centreville finished runner-up (57.5), followed by Robinson (51), Westfield (48) and Battlefield (47).

"It's amazing," Love said of Centreville placing second. "I'm so proud of Vu and Vic." Centreville's Conference 5 foes Westfield

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Robinson wrestler Austin Riggs won the 145-pound state title on Feb. 20 at Robinson Secondary

Robinson's Cole DePasquale won his second state championship on Feb. 20.





and Robinson each produced two individual state champions, as well.

ROBINSON'S Austin Riggs won the 145pound title, beating Thomas Dale's Corey Leonard, 5-4. Riggs trailed by one in the closing seconds before scoring two points for a reverse, sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

"I just got his wrist and it just really opened it up," Riggs said. "His hips came off a little bit — just a little bit of an opening and I took it." DePasquale won the 182pound title - his second state championship - via 3-1 sudden victory over Hayfield's Antonio Agee.

"With your family and friends cheering you on and that roar at the end," DePasquale said, "everything just feels right."

Westfield's Justin Yorkdale pinned Vu to win the 132-pound title - Yorkdale's second state championship.

"Michael is a really tough kid," Yorkdale said, "but I pinned him twice before - I pinned him in the regional final — so I was pretty confident." Yorkdale said it wasn't easy to get back to work after winning his first title.

"The first one is definitely ... so fulfilling," he said. "... [After] I won my first one, the offseason, that was really hard. You're coming off a big win — that's your main goal in high school, to win a state title and now what do I do? ... It's definitely tough to push yourself."

Westfield senior Austin Knies defeated Stafford's Sebastian Silva via 1-0 decision to win the 285-pound title. Knies missed the 2014 postseason after dislocating his

right kneecap prior to the conference meet, making Friday'svictory that much sweeter.

"I got injured and I started to lose faith if he would ever get there," Knies said. "... The lowest point was actually watching states [in 2014]. I watched where I would have been. As it progressed, I was like, 'Oh I could have beaten him, I could have done better there.' It was really hard for me to watch the state tournament. I felt like I had wasted the golden egg that I had been given where I had a really good chance of doing well at states."

Robinson's Austin Riggs won the 145pound championship and Cole DePasquale repeated as 182-pound champion.

Due to inclement weather concerns, the VHSL condensed the two-day state tournament into a one-day tournament. The competition lasted until after midnight.

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Bulletin Board

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

English Conversation Group. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ library/branches/lo/.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

- Boating Safety Class. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. State required powerboat safety class provided by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Includes textbook, certificate and card, free membership in Boat US and West Marine discounts. \$40. Contact herpomp79@gmail.com or 703-362-7079.
- **TTA Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$52K. Adults. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/kn/.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Friends Annual Meeting. 6-8 p.m. Hear about the biggest ship collision of the 20th century, the Andrea Doria, at 7 p.m. Refreshments served.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

March NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 Meeting. 11:30 a.m. American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) luncheon meeting. Lunch at noon (cost-\$11), followed by a presentation on "Elder Law" given by Evan Farr, Certified Elder Law Attorney & Three-time Best Selling Author. Chapter 737 meets on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. Membership is open to all federal employees, retirees, spouses and survivors. For more information on the benefits of NARFE membership visit www.NARFE.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Caregiver Bootcamp! Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a special day-long training event. The bootcamp will include presentations from experts in the fields of financial planning, medical issues, legal needs, and caregiver support. There will be a small fee for this session and lunch is provided. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

ONGOING

- Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.
- 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 concrete?@cox.net
- 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.redcrossnca.org.

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