

All Aboard!

NEWS, PAGE 2

Writing Their Way Back

NEWS, PAGE 3

More Than 200 Attend First Budget Hearing

NEWS, PAGE 4

Jim Davis, of Fairfax, is the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum's Show Coordinator bringing the eight to 10 volunteers together to exhibit their train modules.



The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum filled with N Trak gauge trains and rails.

All Aboard!

Nestled off Fairfax Station Road is a historic gem that combines the history of the Civil War with model trains.

On the third Sunday every month, the N Trak volunteers bring together their N gauge train sets and create a new configuration to delight the visitors of all ages. Jim Davis has the task of coordinating the layout and filling the main train station. Volunteers engage the visitors with personal stories and deep insights about the historical significance of this railroad station.

Originally built in the early 1850s this station served the residents of Fairfax Court House, now known as Fairfax City and was on the rail line running from Alexandria to Gordonsville. Eventually this line was extended to Charlottesville and then Lynchburg in 1860.

The Union Army destroyed the original train station in 1862 after the second battle of Manassas during their retreat. The Union Army returned after the Battle of Antietam in late 1862 to rebuild the station and serve as the Army's logistical supply base. Fairfax

Model Train Show at the Railroad Museum

The Potomac Module Crew (PMC) members will have a two day HO scale modular train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Saturday May 2, from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, from noon to 4 p.m. They will be joined by a custom built LEGO train display. The museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at: www.fairfax-station.org www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or phone 703-425-9225.

Station was the center of emergency treatment and transport for the wounded.

Up the hill, Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield", a 40 year-old unmarried government clerk tended to the wounds of the soldiers at St. Mary's Church. The Confederate Army burned the train station again in 1862 and Clara Barton and her two aides barely escaped.

Over the course of 40 years five train stations were built, the last in 1903. This sta-



The Falck Family of Burke visiting the gift shop. From left: August, Catherine, Stephanie and Chris Falck.

tion operated until 1973 when the Southern Railroad decided to close Fairfax Station.

With the help of volunteers, and funding from the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, the Virginia chapter of Associated Builders, and Dale Lumber, the station was disassembled and re-created at its present site. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum was dedicated in

1987 and opened in 1988.

When visiting the gift shop, take time to look through the photographs assembled by Phil Scruggs that highlight the actions of the union soldiers. There are also samples of cannon balls and rail spikes for visitors to hold.

— TERRANCE MORAN



Kip Petzick of Fairfax, showing his hobby to his students David Seitz of Chantilly, Timothy Park of Centerville, and Josie Rios of Alexandria.



Grandfather Steve Jewett spending time with his grandson Jakob Jewett, age 5, of Burke, learning about trains.



Phil Scruggs of Burke holding a photo of Clara Barton tending to two union soldiers.



Martin Cervantez is the resident military veteran artist at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



Joe Merritt's abstract acrylic work on canvas "Itineris" is an expression of moving forward somewhere, even if the destination is unknown.

Writing Their Way Back

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

"This is going pretty deep for me," said Lewis Walls. "But it's going to bring me a lot of closure too."

Walls, a veteran stationed at Fort Belvoir, stood behind a spotlight music stand in front of an audience that filled the Vulcan Gallery of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

He proceeded to read a tragic and visceral first-hand account of two military units being attacked on tour in the Middle East, the injuries he sustained and the "hell" of war.

Walls' emotional performance was one of many on the evening of April 3, the culmination of a weeklong writing and visual art workshop run by the Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization Warrior Writers.

Around 15 local service members and veterans read poems, essays and short stories that expressed feelings of before, during and after deployment, killing men, administering aid, being injured and being sexually assaulted.

The walls of the gallery were adorned with their visual work: screenprints on "Combat Paper" made of shredded and pulped old military uniforms.

"We're not art therapists," said Warrior Writers director Lovella Calica. "Our goal is to create community and give guidance in art-making."

After serving in Afghanistan in 2008 and 2009, Joe Merritt said having a different community built with art was a "key ingredient" for his recovery and others. "It's always having someone to reach out to."

Merritt, a veteran from Denton, Maryland stationed at Quantico, started working with Combat Paper in 2012 as part of his Post-traumatic stress disorder therapy.

Through the art, he said, "I'm able to communicate part of myself, stuff you can't say over dinner."

Stephanie Jones, stationed at Fort Belvoir and part of the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Unit, said speaking in front of the group was hard. "Most of my writing I didn't share," she said. "It helped to get some stuff



Stephanie Jones reads a personal poem at the Warrior Writers and Combat Paper performance night.



Lewis Walls shared a wartime experience he wrote out as part of the Warrior Writers workshop at the Workhouse Arts Center.



John Allen's piece centered around a wolf was inspired by a writing prompt at the Warrior Writers workshop.



Men and women at the Workhouse Arts Center workshop created "Combat paper" canvases out of old military uniforms shredded and run through a pulper machine.

on paper."

For John Allen, U.S. Army and stationed at Fort Belvoir, reading his short story about

a wolf was just "like giving a class" on base. "I have a mental checklist," he said, that includes posture, inflection and pacing.

Allen praised "inspiration cards," writing prompts used to get expressive juices flowing during the workshop.

The Workhouse Arts Center has been pursuing a military and the arts initiative that also includes an exhibition of photography by Colonel Gregory Gadson (USA, Ret.) called "Life in the Infrared" and the addition of former military illustrator and war documentarian Martin Cervantez as a resident military veteran artist.

Cervantez, a Mason Neck resident on medical retirement from the U.S. Army, was previously artist in residence for the U.S. Army Center of Military History. He said he seeks to express passion in abstraction and brings awareness to different ideas through his artwork.

With his residency in Building 6, he hopes to involve more of the local military community in art-making and experiencing at the Workhouse. "This is right in their backyard," he said.

For more information on current and upcoming exhibitions, visit www.workhousearts.org.

More Than 200 Attend First Budget Hearing

Schools, libraries, economic development authorities and others seek more funding while tax-hawks call for reductions.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

More than 200 people packed the Fairfax County Government auditorium Tuesday, April 7, and 60 speakers were scheduled to testify before the Board of Supervisors on the advertised budget. The hearing began with a presentation by School Board Chairman Tamara Derenak Kaufax.

Members of the Fairfax County School Board sat in the front row, gave a standing ovation, and remained standing as Kaufax finished her testimony to begin the budget hearings.

“Budget reductions come with a price — the price should not be our children’s future. This budget does not meet all of the school system’s needs and it certainly does not adequately fund our shared vision of excellence for our schools and students,” said Kaufax.

The Fairfax County Public Schools requested \$14 million more than is in the proposed budget.

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 188,000 students.

Kaufax cited statistics and trends that challenge the school system. “We would be the sixth largest school division in Virginia, if you counted just our free-or-reduced-price meal population; or the ninth largest if you only counted our English for Speakers of Other Languages population,” she said.

NEARLY 53 PERCENT of the proposed \$3.8 billion county budget is slated to be transferred to the schools.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said that while the schools didn’t ask for everything they needed or get everything they wanted, that the amount of the proposed transfer from the county to the schools was closer to the amount requested than anytime in memory.

“We appreciate that you rolled up your sleeves, and we rolled up our sleeves,” said Bulova.

Supervisor Jeff McKay called it “unconscionable” that the state doesn’t adequately fund the schools. “We will have the same conversations year after year after year,” he said, if the Board of Supervisors and School Board don’t advocate together in unity. “We need to march together,” he said.

Familiar faces advocated for a reduction in spending and taxes, such as James Parmalee of Centreville, and Arthur Purvis, of Vienna.

There were also advocates who encouraged an increase in taxes to ensure that funding will address the needs of all of Fairfax residents.

Steven Davis, chairman of the Economic Development Authority, said the county is experiencing record office vacancy rates, which pushes down commercial property values and, with it, the proportion of taxes paid by the commercial tax base, shifting

more of the burden onto residential taxes.

Maintaining Fairfax County’s AAA bond rating is critical, Davis said. “You send a signal to businesses around the world that Fairfax County is one of the best managed jurisdictions in the world,” he said. “We all know it has taken decades to build a product that gets businesses here and keeps people here.”

Brian Engler, of the Fairfax Library Foundation, and Charles Fegan, of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, addressed the cuts to the library system. Libraries are part of educating the county’s young people, and provide a myriad of other services to residents of all ages despite significant cuts in recent years, they said.

TWO ADDITIONAL HEARINGS were scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 8 and 9 with dozens more speakers ready to testify.

On April 28, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt its FY 2016 Budget and tax rate, including budget transfer to the school system. The School Board is scheduled to adopt its budget on May 21, 2015.

The FY 2016 Budget becomes effective July 1, 2015.

Virginia Department of Transportation estimates about 25,000 potholes have been repaired in Northern Virginia so far in 2015.



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Pothole Picture

Two “p”s become prominent and problematic this time of year: pollen and potholes. The Virginia Department of Transportation can at least do something about the latter, if not the former.

“One of the busiest times for filling is right as the winter ends,” Virginia Department of Transportation spokesperson Jennifer McCord said in an email. “The constant freeze and thaw throughout the winter usually results in a burst of potholes.”

According to McCord, state maintenance crews and contractors have already filled over 25,000 potholes in Northern Virginia; Virginia is on pace to match its total of around 146,000 filled last year statewide.

Repairing potholes fall under the \$256 million Northern Virginia maintenance program, which also includes grass mowing, patching, paving and snow removal. That program covers most roads in

Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, as well as interstates and primary roads in Arlington.

Citizens can report an existing pothole or file a claim if their vehicle was damaged as a result of encountering one. The Virginia Department of Transportation customer service line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 800-367-7623 (ROAD), while the website for reporting a problem is www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp.

Claim-processing time can be lengthy, McCord said, as the claims department must examine factors such as whether or not the pothole in question was already scheduled for repair and if there was reasonable time for the repair to occur.

For more information about pothole repair, visit www.virginiadot.org/info/fac-potholes.asp.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRANSURBAN

From left: Richard Bowers, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department chief; Jeffrey Katz, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department; Jennifer Aument, Transurban Group general manager North America; Mike Wendt, Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association president and Dana Powers, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

‘Drive to Donate’ on Express Lanes Raises Nearly \$80,000 for Fire and Rescue Departments

Transurban, operator of the I-95 and I-495 Express Lanes, designated March 21 for a “Drive to Donate” campaign. All tolls collected on that day from the nearly 40 miles of lanes stretching from the Dulles Toll Road to Stafford County would be donated to local Fire and Rescue departments.

With over 20,000 drivers using the lanes that Saturday, Transurban raised nearly \$80,000 for the donation. On Friday April 3 at the Transurban Express Lanes Operations Center in Alexandria, Transurban Group General Manager North America Jennifer Aument presented checks of over \$26,000 each to the Fairfax County, Prince William County and Stafford County Fire and Rescue Departments.

“As safety is the top priority on the Ex-

press Lanes, it was important to us to support our local fire and rescue organizations,” Aument said in a statement. “This donation is one way we can thank our local heroes for keeping the communities surrounding the Express Lanes corridor safe each and every day.”

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief Richard Bowers said their donation will help fund life-saving fire, rescue and emergency medical services equipment. “Thank you for the contributions that will make a difference in the lives of our residents and those that pass through our community on a daily basis,” he said in a statement.

— TIM PETERSON

NEWS

Girl scouts deliver diapers to WFCM's food pantry. The adults in the back, from left, are: WFCM director Lauren Sterling, troop leader Deborah Forbes, and Food Pantry manager Terri Kelly. The girls in the front (from left) are Anni Werthmann, Kirsten Mikolashek, Madeleine Lorey, Sara Haworth, Yanna Willett, Kathryn Lorey, and Phoebe Wong.



PHOTO BY BY KIM WERTHMANN

Clifton Girl Scouts Collect, Donate Diapers

Clifton Girl Scout Troop 4617 collected and delivered more than 5,000 diapers to local charities that help new mothers in need. When the fifth graders began planning their Bronze Award service project, they decided they wanted to help women who were expecting or caring for new babies. They knew from watching their own parents care for younger siblings how much help mothers with babies need, and they could easily imagine how much more difficult the task would be without adequate support or resources. The troop contacted the Gabriel Project, a Catholic charity that assists women in crisis pregnancies, and

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, an organization that runs a food pantry and supports families in need. They learned that one of the greatest challenges facing new mothers is affording diapers. The girls reached out to their schools and churches and were able to collect diapers from St. Clare's Catholic Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Clifton Presbyterian Church, and Oak View Elementary School. The girls delivered the diapers to the Gabriel Project and WFCM and received a tour of WFCM's food pantry, which deepened their understanding of the needs in Fairfax County.



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a petition
demanding
widening
Route 1 to the
Northern
Virginia Transit
Authority.



Surovell, Krizek Deliver Petition Urging Route 1 Widening

Following a public meeting held March 31 at the South County Government Center to discuss the different projects the Northern Virginia Transit Authority is considering, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) and 44th District House of Delegates candidate Paul Krizek submitted a petition to the Transit Authority demanding the widening of Route 1 be made a higher priority.

The proposed project would spread Route 1 to six lanes between Napper Road and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

In a statement on April 6, Surovell announced the petition had garnered nearly 500 signatures and would be delivered directly to the Northern Virginia Transit Authority.

"We received hundreds of comments from residents and commuters who described how this congestion keeps them on the road and takes countless hours away from their family," Surovell said in a statement. "Furthermore, this project will also lay the ground-

work for a substantial section recommended for significant transit improvements in the U.S. 1 Multimodal Transit Alternatives Study which was completed in October, 2014."

Also in a statement, Krizek referenced the community support for the widening project he observed at March 31 hearing.

"This bottleneck is not just an inconvenience for those traveling along the Corridor but affects our quality of life, ability to attract new businesses and the ability for our emergency personnel to do their jobs," Krizek said. "I sincerely hope that the NVTa will prioritize funding for the widening of U.S. 1."

Surovell is currently running for the 36th District Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Toddy Puller. According to the Virginia Department of Elections, he will face Republican candidate and Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman as the Democratic party direct nominee.

—TIM PETERSON



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

AREA ROUNDUPS



POLICE PHOTO

Suspect wearing dark hood/cap.

Two CVS Pharmacies Robbed on Easter

Detectives are investigating two incidents of armed robberies involving CVS stores in Fairfax County on Sunday, April 5. The first incident occurred just after 4 p.m. at the CVS, 9009 Silverbrook Road in the Lorton area. A man approached the pharmacy, demanded a variety of drugs and revealed a pistol to the technician. He took the medications and fled. The suspect was described as white, mid 20's, between 5 feet 7 and 5 feet 9 inches tall, and thin. He wore a black hooded sweatshirt with the hood pulled over his head. He may have been driving a dark silver pickup truck, westbound on Silverbrook Road. A second crime took place around 10:30 a.m. at the CVS at 5652 Pickwick Road in Centreville. Similarly to the earlier crime, a man demanded a variety of medi-

cations, revealed a pistol, but fled prior to grabbing the drugs. The suspect was also described as white and thin. He wore a dark hoodie, black pants, and white sneakers. He wore a black beanie underneath the hood. Detectives are investigating whether or not these incidents may be related. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637)** or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477).

Quarry Reconfiguration Approved for Supervisors Hearing

After previous deferrals, the Fairfax County Planning Commission approved proposals from the Fairfax County Water Authority and Vulcan Construction Materials to reconfigure a quarry in Lorton for storage of between 16 and 17 billion gallons of water.

With the Commission approval, the proposals progress to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors hearings scheduled for April 28, according to the County's Land Development Services.

Vulcan's proposal includes a 148.27-acre expansion over previously approved Natural Resource Overlay District. The Water Authority's plan would expand the land area of the Griffith Water Treatment Plant in Lorton to facilitate the quarry's transition as well as boost the capacity of the treatment plant.

—TIM PETERSON

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OPINION

A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research,
vote. And vote again.

EDITORIAL

Sherwood Regional Library.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23.

Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at

Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey. The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

There are similar chains of musical chairs happening in the Mount Vernon district, with District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) retiring, and Democrats Jack Dobbyn, Dan Storck, Candace Bennett and Tim Sargeant seeking the Democratic nomination to replace him. Democrats will choose their candidate in a primary June 9 at usual polling places; Republicans have scheduled a canvass on May 16 at

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot including district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON

TWITTER @MARYKIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failing Those Most in Need

To the Editor:

My name is Maurine Houser and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the younger sister and guardian of my 57-year-old brother Kim Houser. Until recently, he resided at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Kim is non-verbal, non-ambulatory without assistance, has the cognitive ability of a nine month old and is medically fragile.

Your article states that the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has provided a multitude of community placement options for family members. However, it has been my experience and others that the placements offered are inappropriate and do not have the skills or supports necessary for the medically disabled and behaviorally challenged population remaining at the Northern Virginia Training Center to survive. Not only are the placements unrealistic, they are not in Northern Virginia. My brother was offered placements in Williamsburg and Petersburg, Va., that were not in line with the standards of care suitable for him. My other alternative was to allow the State of Virginia to relocate Kim to the Central Virginia Training



CONTRIBUTED
Kim Houser

Center in Lynchburg, Va., which the state intends on closing in 2020 and ultimately start the process of discharge all over again.

I came to realize unless I was proactive on behalf of my brother, his future would be severely

compromised. Through my own research and efforts, I connected with Good Neighbor Community Services who are now caring for my brother in Spotsylvania, Va. The discharge process was extensive, cumbersome and extremely emotional. None of the professionals could predict the future of the Medicaid Waiver, which is now my brother's source of funding, nor anticipate how he would react to a new home, staff and routine. The discharge process encompassed a seven-month period; including but not limited to 20 state employees.

I feel fortunate I have found a provider that will take good care of my brother. However, I fear that the remaining residents will not be so lucky. How can moving someone's severely disable child hundreds of miles away not be in violation of the American with Disabilities Act? The populations at the training centers are aging and many individuals have elderly parents who will be unable to see their children due to travel constraints. Similarly, Virginia remains glaringly non-compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's findings as highlighted by

the increase of individuals waiting for Medicaid Waiver funds and services. The process of deinstitutionalization in theory may work for most individuals but for those who are the 1 percent a hasty, underfunded, unsupported process will result in catastrophe as did the rapid deinstitutionalization and nonexistent funding for the mentally ill.

Maurine Houser
Reston

Consider Taxpayers

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey.

We want to protest the increase in the projected total rate of \$1.1135 (includes storm water tax and infestation prevention tax). We believe that this projected rate should be no more than the inflation rate. We have had increases in our real estate taxes that have more than doubled the inflation rate for the last eight years.

In the past eight years, our real estate taxes have increased from \$5,752 to a projected \$7,774 for 2015 for a whopping 32 percent increase. For the same period of time, inflation increased 15.4 percent as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their figures show a projected rate for 2015 as 2 percent, 1.6 percent for

2014, 1.5 percent for 2013, 2.1 percent for 2012, 3.2 percent for 2011, 1.6 percent for 2010, minus 0.4 percent in 2009, and 3.8 percent in 2008. These statistics show that our real estate taxes have increased twice the inflation rate for that eight year period. This is outrageous. Our current assessment is projected to increase by 3.99 percent while the inflation rate is projected to increase by 2 percent for this year.

According to the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA), the residential real estate taxes increased \$3,359 between FY2000 and FY2016. This simply means that, during this period, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation increased almost 40 percent during this 16-year period while the residential real estate increased 140 percent or more than three times the inflation rate. How can you really justify increasing real estate taxes more than three times the rate of inflation? For decades, the County Board has been raising the budget and taxes more than two to three times the inflation rate. Isn't it time to give the county taxpayers a break?

In conclusion, we feel that the real estate tax rate should be rolled back to the current rate of inflation. We look forward to your comments. Thank you for your attention.

Charles McAndrew
Linda McAndrew
Oak Hill

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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OPINION

Register to Be an Organ Donor

BY JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

More than 123,000 people across the country are in need of an organ transplant, and more than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. Every ten minutes someone is added to the organ donor waiting list. Every two seconds someone is in need of blood. In the time it will take to read this, another person will be added to the waiting list and another 300 will be in need of blood.

Tragically, 18 people die each day waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. And while more than a third of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, less than 10 percent actually do so.

April is National Donate Life Month and I would like to encourage you to participate — 120 million Americans are registered organ donors, and you can help save lives by registering to join them.

To help increase the number of registered donors throughout Virginia, a coalition of more than 16 organizations from around the Commonwealth—including Fairfax County's very own Inova Transplant Center and Washington Regional Transplant Community—formed Donate Life Virginia. At its website, DonateLifeVirginia.org, you can sign up for Virginia's organ donor registry, find more information about organ donations, and also read stories of those who have donated organs as well as those whose lives



have benefitted from organ transplants. Remember that you can also register through the DMV when applying for or renewing your driver's license.

You can also donate blood to those in need through a simple, safe process. Typically, the entire process takes 15 minutes, and includes registration, a briefing on your medical history, a mini-physical, the donation itself, and refreshments. In matter of 15 minutes, you could be saving the

lives of three people. Several blood drives are held throughout the community every month, and I encourage you to use this month to consider making a donation. To find a blood drive near you, please visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Donate Life Month will be the focus of the Braddock Neighborhood News this month, which airs on Channel 16 on Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

During National Donate Life Month this April, we remember those who have received or continue to wait for lifesaving donations. This is also a time to celebrate the strength that organ recipients inspire in us. And we should also take this time to honor and commemorate those donors who have saved so many lives. I am hoping to encourage you to attend one of the several blood drives in our community and to consider registering as an organ donor. It is this kind of selflessness and generosity that makes Fairfax County such a great community, and this is yet another way for us to continue in that tradition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Robinson Lacrosse Deserves a Better Headline

To the Editor:

Jon Roetman should have titled his front page article ("Confident or Cocky"? - The Connection, March 26, 2015) "Hard Work Plus Perfect Practice Equals Champions." There is no arguing that cocky teammates can be the downfall of a successful sports season. However, training tirelessly to become so good you have the right to become cocky....that's another matter.

As the mother of an elite softball player, I know the innumerable hours of repetitious practice, the personal training to stay in top physical condition for the sport she loves, and the mental fortitude it takes to be a fearless

champion....all that plus handling intense high school course work and being a part of family obligations...that is what is missing from Jon Roetman's article.

The Robinson lacrosse team deserves to have a better headline.

In Northern Virginia, the pressure on high school students to be the best, work the hardest, aim for elite college scholarships, and make a name for themselves amongst the thousands of students here is very high. Whether it's an added sport, band, debate or theater, there is outside training involved that is intense and time consuming. These students achieve their goals through sweat,

tears, and life lessons beyond their years. It is amazing to me that when a team reaches their goal both as individual athletes and incredibly successful teammates, they are referred to as perhaps "cocky"? What a negative word to use on young men who have handled everything so well and found success on the field they love. The word should have been "congratulations" for a team who has found the right members, the right coach, and the right chemistry to have a season to remember for the rest of their lives.

Nancy Ohanian
Burke

CAREGIVING

Have fun, learn something new, and unleash your creative spirit! Fairfax County, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and AARP Virginia invite you to celebrate the **Creative Aging Festival in May 2015**. This month-long festival features over 100 events including art exhibits, dance, musical performances, poetry readings, lectures, wellness programs and classes in watercolor, woodworking, knitting, clogging, tap, piano, photography, & more! Find the events calendar at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Creative Aging Festival!

Fairfax County presents **Legal Tools for Caregivers: WEBINAR**. As a family caregiver you may need to make legal and health care decisions for a


loved one. This free Webinar will cover durable powers of attorney, trusts, guardianship, and advanced medical directives. Join us on Wednesday, May 6, Noon-1 p.m. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County will sponsor **Strategies for Managing the Stress of Caregiving** on Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, **Falls Church**. Find out more about this free event and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County presents **"Alive In-**

side" Movie and Discussion on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-Noon. This free movie focuses on the Music & Memory program's ability to combat memory loss and restore meaning to the lives of those with Alzheimer's disease. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Dr., Ste. 100, **Fairfax**. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Get the facts about health insurance for older adults at Fairfax County's free presentation on **Medicare 101**. Tuesday, May 19, 3-4:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., **Fairfax**. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm.




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HomeLifeStyle D.C. Design House

McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

THE KITCHEN was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple,

but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun.

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia countryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Even the chandelier is peacock, and the Sisal rug features blue stenciling, while

green and blue stripes on the back of the closet tie everything together. Meanwhile, accessories give the space a contemporary feel. "Because this area of McLean is so cosmopolitan, we wanted to give a nod with stylish, hip vases, barware and details that move the space forward into the next decade while complimenting the past," said Wedderburn.

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.



The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

PHOTOS BY ANGIE SECKINGER/
D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "deliver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

One of the design challenges Benton faced on the second floor was creating an aesthetically appealing area rather than a simple connection between two spaces. He decided to transform the walls into a dramatic backdrop using wallpaper by Cole and Son that features silhouetted stems of cow parsley against an etched background.

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the

interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery."

Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

From the wooden poster bed and canopy to the rug and art, Cooke

D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, Va., will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

♦ **Last day:** Sunday, May 10, noon-5 p.m.

♦ **Admission:** \$30. Purchase tickets at www.dcdesignhouse.com or at the door.

used neutral hues throughout the room. He drew inspiration from the home of the late fashion designer Bill Blass, which was, "done in a monochromatic color story ranging from white and parchment, to caramel, chocolate, espresso and black," said Cooke.

Transforming this grand house into a home was a mammoth undertaking, but one designers say was well worth the effort.

"It is an honor to be a part of this amazing group of designers," said Wedderburn. "The great thing about the group is that everyone is wonderful and helpful to each other. There is a special camaraderie here and we are all drawing inspiration off each other."



With eight paintings adorning the walls, the powder room looks like an art gallery. Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill wanted the space to be both practical and functional.

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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Film Fest Comes to the Mosaic

**Northern Virginia
Film Fest, April 13-19.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

“C reating a slice of Hollywood in Northern Virginia” is what the inaugural Northern Virginia International Film Festival is setting out to become for local and independent filmmakers and audiences, according to Fernando A. Mico, festival director.

“We’re bringing a corner of the arts and entertainment world that is, in our opinion, underrepresented in Northern Virginia,” Mico said, “And we’re bringing it here in a big way!”

The nearly week-long festival will be held at the Angelika Film Center in the Mosaic district of Fairfax County. It will feature movies and screenplays of every size, genre and budget from filmmakers from Northern Virginia and around the world. Festival director Mico has a clear goal. He wants to provide an opportunity for filmmakers and screenwriters to have their cinema work available and screened before audiences who would not have the opportunity to view them without the Northern Virginia festival.

The Film Festival will have screenings



COURTESY PHOTOS

“The Last Song Before the War” co-producers, from (left): Andrea Papitto, Leola Calzolari-Stewart and Kiley Kraskouskas.

from early afternoon to late evening with Question & Answer sessions with filmmakers. For attending filmmakers there will be panels and forums from professionals in the fields of entertainment law, movie distribution, crowdfunding, film production and cinematography.

Opening night will showcase local Northern Virginia talent. The festival will conclude with awards decided by a panel of judges.

One Northern Virginia filmmaker who will have a film shown is Kiley Kraskouskas, producer and president of Thinking For-

Where and When

Northern Virginia International Film Festival at the Angelika Film Center and Café at the Mosaic, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Festival runs April 13-19. Ticket starts at \$11 with additional ticket packages available. For information and tickets call 703-960-1970 or visit <http://www.novafilmfest.com/>



Fernando Mico, festival director, Northern Virginia International Film Festival.

ward Media. Kraskouskas is a longtime member of Women in Film and Video (WIFV).

Kraskouskas will screen “The Last Song before the War”^oa feature-length documentary that included her road trip to the legendary Timbuktu, Mali, with her co-producers to record Grammy-award winning musicians playing in the dunes of the Sahara. The Timbuktu festival was silenced after 2012 with the destabilized conditions in that part of the world. The film has received funding from crowdsourcing and the National Endowment for the Arts. Kraskouskas will also lead a panel discussion about crowdsourcing “which has revolutionized the funding landscape and access to capital for everyone” said Kraskouskas. “It has democratized funding opportunities”.

The Film Festival is working in conjunction with the Los Angeles-based Action on Film International Festival with its producer Del Weston.

Robinson Junior Nominated to Join Future Medical Leaders

Natalie Hessler, a junior at Robinson Secondary School, has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, on June 24-26.

The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal.

Hessler was nominated by Dr. Connie Mariano, the medical director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Robinson Secondary School based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the three-day Congress, Hessler will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what is to expect in medical school; witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles;

Natalie Hessler in her junior year photo.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

be inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

The Academy offers free services and programs to students who want to be physicians or go into medical science. Some of the services and programs the Academy offers are online social networks through which future doctors and medical scientists can communicate; opportunities for students to be guided and mentored by physicians and medical students; and communications for parents and students on college acceptance and finances, skills acquisition, internships, career guidance and much more.



Natalie Hessler, left, with her younger sister Ashley after they finished a musical performance.

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that we must identify prospective medical talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career. Based in Washington, D.C. and with offices in Boston, Mass., the Academy was chartered as

a nonpartisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to the service of humanity as physicians, medical scientists.

For more information visit www.FutureDocs.com or call 617-307-7425.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was established to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study. Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations. Her parents are Scott and Kim Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more than 30 years.

From examining the genes in the monkey flower, to exploring the Rev. Martin Luther King's political, social and theological beliefs, to epilepsy therapies, to sustainable tourism, 38 University of Virginia undergraduates will pursue 36 grant-funded research projects this summer. Thirty-five of the proposals received Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards and another student has had his research underwritten by the Stull family of Dallas. This marks the 16th year of the program, which helps further a key component of the U.Va. student experience: hands-on research.

The research awards support students who present detailed plans for projects that have been endorsed by a faculty mentor. In February, a Faculty Senate committee selected the winners, who receive up to \$3,000. Faculty mentors who oversee the projects receive \$1,000.

This year's Harrison Undergraduate Research Award winners and their research topics include:

❖ **Megan Harper, 21, of Fairfax**, a third-year neuroscience and computer science double major, who is researching a form of epilepsy called "absence seizures," which result in small lapses of consciousness. She will focus on thalamocortical circuit activity and how changes in thalamic ketone body concentration affect absence seizure activity.

❖ **Emily Ji, 20, of Fairfax**, a third-year double major in neuroscience and economics, who is researching mutations in the gene encoding for Mecp2, a protein that may be connected to Rett syndrome, an extremely debilitating

neurodevelopmental disorder.

Four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have won **national awards in the 2015 Scholastic Writing Awards Competition**. Sixteen FCPS students won regional Gold Key awards, and 29 students won regional Silver Key awards.

❖ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Flash Fiction, "A Defector and Family's Guide to the Aftermath of Defection from North Korea." Dabich won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

❖ Peiqi Wang of Carson Middle School for Critical Essay, "A False Dichotomy: Privacy and Security in the Digital Age." Wang won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

National Silver Medal award winners were:
❖ Mei Baek of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) for Poetry, "Grandmother." Baek won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

❖ Samiksha Kale of Kilmer Middle School for Poetry, "3-2-1 Fun, My Spark of Inspiration, The Jewel of India, Wretched Soul." Kale won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

Regional Gold Key award winners are:
❖ Colleen Flanagan of Herndon High School for Poetry.

❖ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Short Story and Poetry.

❖ Tara Abrishami of TJHSST for Poetry.

❖ Suzie Bae of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Pooja Chandrashekar of TJHSST for Writing Portfolio, Critical Essay, and Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Richa Gupta of TJHSST for Poetry.

❖ Joyce Hong of TJHSST for Short Story.

❖ Ahnaf Khan of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Anna Weidman of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

❖ Jonathan Zheng of TJHSST for Humor.

❖ Cleo Elizabeth-Robertson of Woodson High School for Poetry.

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Mark your calendars: The Virginia Historic Garden Tour - an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth. Each spring visitors are welcomed to Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. The Clifton and Fairfax Station Garden Tour is on Tuesday, April 21. This self-drive tour features stables, vineyards, a world-class garden, Georgian-revival architecture, and a 10,000 square-foot contemporary home with a vanishing edge swimming pool – four private homes with gardens and two stables in all. Tour ticket includes a tea at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Advance Ticket Sales: \$30. www.vagardenweek.org. Mail a self-addressed, stamped legal-size envelope, along with your check, payable to The Garden Club of Fairfax by April 1 to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-978-4130 or email fairfaxtickets@vagardenweek.org. Visit www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com for a list of local retailers selling tickets.



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

“Healing Chronic Pain by Changing Muscle Memory.” 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Hear from Nancy Shaw, myofascial pain therapist and author of Simple Changes to End Chronic Pain about why trigger point therapy alone is not enough to permanently change your pain cycle. She will show you some examples from her 32 years of clinical and personal experience learning from Janet Trevell MD who developed the technique and treated JFK for his back pain. An interactive presentation will allow for audience questions and participation. <http://nancyshawpainclinicandinstitute.com>. A book signing period will follow the presentation. Please bring your own book or purchase one when you arrive. Call 703-452-3831 to register for free presentation.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: A Civil War Portrait. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the end of the Civil War, the Fairfax Symphony Pops Orchestra and over 100 singers from choruses throughout the area come together to tell the story of this historical milestone through music, narration, and photography. Featuring music of the era from Stephen Foster to Battle Hymn of the Republic as well as such popular songs as Danny Boy & Annie Laurie with special guest narrator Allison Seymour of Fox 5 News.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Table Top Model Trains. 1-4 p.m. 1200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge Model Trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Admission is free for Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15 and \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Rose Bush Planting Workshop. 2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Rose bush planting workshop conducted by Arlington Rose Foundation. Learn how to plant in pots or beds and the best rose varieties to grow for this area. Wear gloves and bring your pruners. Free. 703-371-9351.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Fairfax Antique Arts Association Meeting. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker this month is George Evans. He has been teaching classes on clock repair at the Fairfax Senior Center for many years. He will give a talk entitled 'How to Take Care of Your Grandmothers Clock', followed by a Q and A. Participants are encouraged to bring a treasured clock and have your questions answered by an expert.

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Richard J. Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christopher Johnston, conductor. Music by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Holst, and Scott Joplin. Tickets at the door \$15, students \$10, children 12 & under free. Sponsored by NOVA College and the Reunion Music Society. Call 703-569-0973 for information.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Annual Spring Faire. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. The Woman's Club of Springfield is sponsoring the event. There's something for everyone - jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more! Free admission. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany House to help victims of domestic abuse. Information about us: www.womansclubofspringfield.org; 703-451-2467 (The Pink Elephant thrift shop)

Way Out West. 2 and 7 p.m. The Fairfax Jubilee, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubilee will perform their annual show, this year entitled "Way Out West." A Western tale surrounded by songs of the American West, and supported by guest artists

including international level quartets and the Bella Nova women's chorus. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for details and tickets.

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Get on your dancing shoes and come out to the Workhouse for an evening of social ballroom dance led by one of our instructors. Bring a friend, a date or a group and enjoy a casual, fun night out.

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

NTRAKScale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/APRIL 21

House and Garden Tour hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax for Historic Garden Week in Virginia. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Clifton/Fairfax Station area. Known as "America's Largest Open House," Historic Garden Week in Virginia is the oldest and largest statewide event of its kind in the nation. With the coordinated effort of 47 member clubs, 3,400 volunteers statewide, 32 house and garden tours featuring 200 private home and gardens and 50 historic landmarks take place over 8 consecutive days. All proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic public gardens such as Mr. Vernon, Kenmore and Monticello. To restore and preserve historic public gardens since 1929 in Virginia including a new initiative to help the Virginia State Parks. We will be partnering with Mason Neck State Park (Lorton) to provide funds to install new exhibits in their Visitor Center. Find out more or to buy tickets: www.vagardenweek.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Mothers, Daughters and Special Friends Tea. 2-4 p.m. Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Join the Historic Pohick Church Decent Guild for their annual Signature Tea. The theme this year will be "Mothers, Daughters, and Special Friends." New children's tours of the historic church for our young guests will be held before the tea beginning at 1 p.m. The special afternoon tea with a Colonial Living History program follows the tours at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Seating is limited. For reservations and more information please contact Helen Parker at 703-497-5927 or email at helenandjeffp@verizon.net.

Spring Fest 2015. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Spend the day at the historic Workhouse Arts Center learning about environmental projects and programs, tasting food from around the world, playing games, and riding ponies! Don't miss Billy B! on the main stage. Other activities include a petting zoo, rock climbing walls, bounce houses, face-painting, plant sales, wagon rides, and dozens of exhibits and vendors. Admission is free; some activities require a \$5 wristband. For more information, please visit: <http://www.springfestfairfax.org/>


ONGOING

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. www.smartmarkets.org.

First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild. 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or www.artguildofclifton.org/.

Saturday Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. church@sovgracefairfax.org or www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com.

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AmeriCorps volunteer Britney Neuhauser helped take apart bikes.



From left, AmeriCorps volunteers Anthony DiCesare and Declan Devine working on bikes that will go to Morocco.

Taking Apart Bikes for a Good Cause

Volunteers prep bikes for a young adult's shelter in Morocco.

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

On Thursday, April 2, Volunteer Fairfax's Volunteers for Change Program and young people from AmeriCorps helped take apart used bicycles. These bikes will go toward helping low-income people and communities in the country and around the world. This effort is made possible through Bikes for the World (BFW), an Arlington-based nonprofit that collects the bikes. Their latest set of bikes will go to Morocco to benefit an organization called Darna.

The bikes are shipped in containers that are 40 feet long and can hold approximately 500 bicycles as well as new and used spare parts.

"This is our first container loading to Morocco," said Yvette Hess, BFW's outreach coordinator.

Darna, a shelter located in Tangier, Morocco, provides a safe place for women, young girls and boys whose lives are at risk. Bike recipients are trained on how to maintain the bike. The boys will learn how to assemble the bikes and distribute them there as well.

"People are trained not just in bike mechanics, but also in business," said Hess.

BFW's mission is to make it possible for low-income people and communities in the country and around the world to have access to quality used bikes. The idea is that these bikes will improve the quality of life by providing transportation, and enable recipients to gain skills in bike maintenance.

Since its inception, BFW has donated over 100,000 bikes to domestic projects like Kristi's Christmas in Fairfax and Phoenix Bikes in Arlington, and to international projects in the Philippines, El Salvador, Kenya, Barbados and Costa Rica. The impact of the effort includes job creation since the bikes have to be reassembled and reconditioned in the recipient



Lorton resident, James Reno, left, helped load a container with bikes to be shipped to Morocco.

country, and educational opportunities since the bikes can be used for transport to and from school.

"It's pretty cool volunteering," said AmeriCorps Volunteer Jessica Abrams of the project. "This is a unique project outside of our normal nine to five work schedule."

Sometimes donated bikes cannot be used, but still have functioning parts, like pedals. Rather than discard the entire bike, the functioning pieces are shipped in the containers along with the partially disassembled bikes, and used to benefit communities in the recipient country.

In the summer, the number of bikes in BFW's warehouse increases, but still, they are always looking for more bikes to be distributed.

"We're trying to reach out to apartment buildings to get their abandoned bikes," said Hess about efforts to increase the numbers of bikes they have.

For more information on how to volunteer, donate or organize a collection, visit <http://www.bikesfortheworld.org/>.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

APRIL

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

4/29/2015.....Spring Outlook 2015

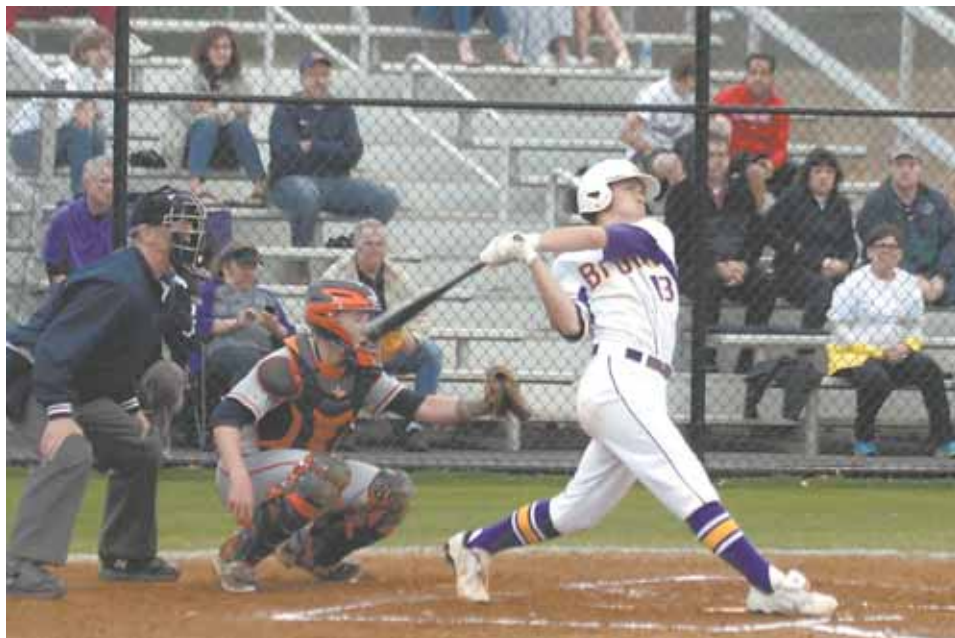
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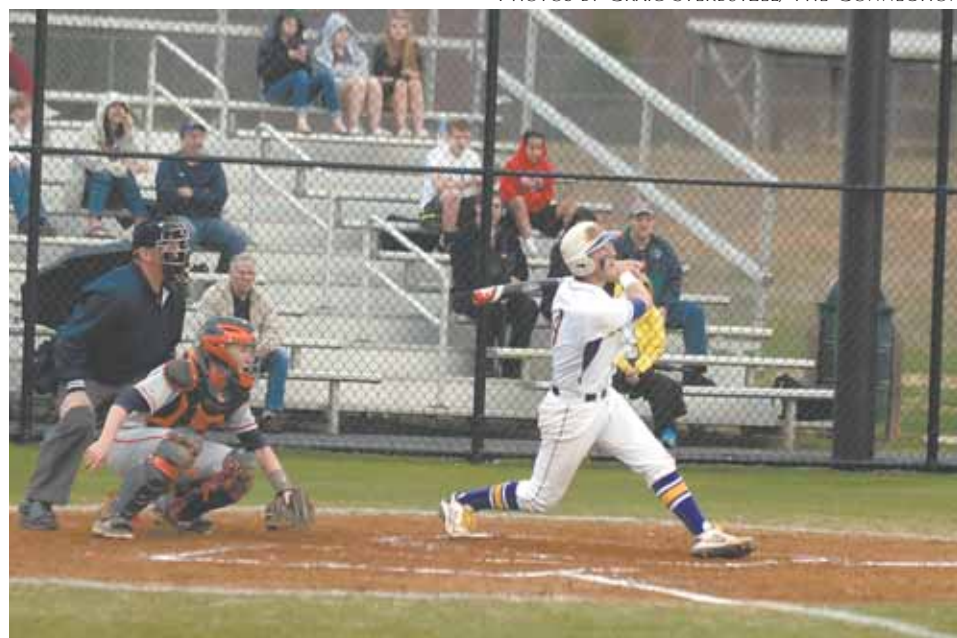
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SPORTS

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Lake Braddock shortstop Nick Neville hit his first home run of the season against West Springfield on Tuesday.



Lake Braddock senior Matt Supko drove in a pair of runs during the Bruins' 7-1 win over West Springfield on Tuesday.

Lake Braddock Baseball Motivated by Sub-Par 2014 Season

Bruins beat defending Conference 7 champion West Springfield.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The decorated history of the Lake Braddock baseball program is chronicled on three banners hanging on the outfield fence.

To the left is a display of district championships. To the right is a list of region titles. In the middle is recognition of the Bruins' lone state championship, captured in 2012.

Lake Braddock enters every season with expectations of adding to its ledger of accomplishments. Last year, however, not only did the Bruins fall short of adding "2014" to any of their banners, Lake Braddock failed to qualify for the region tournament.

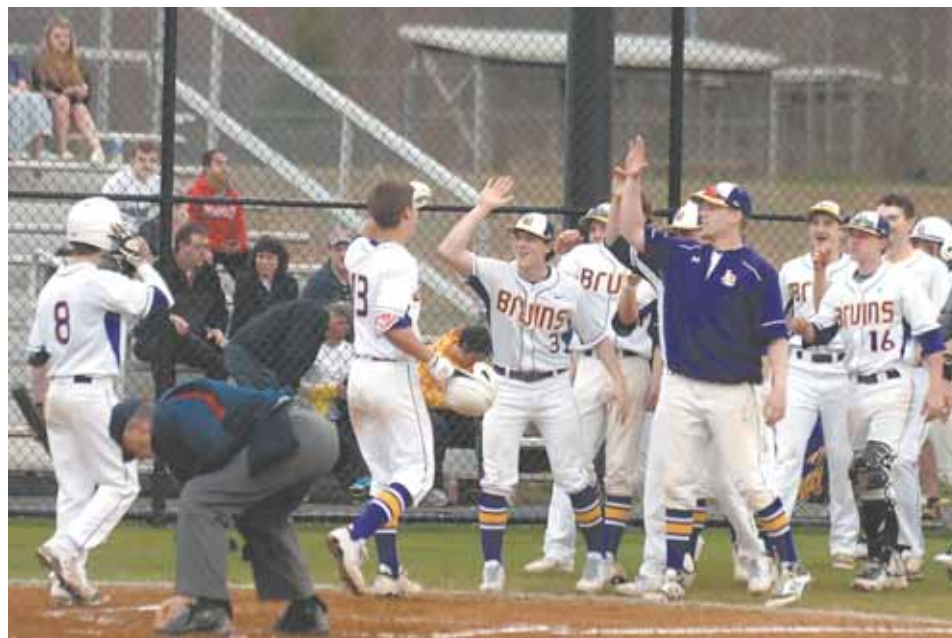
The defending 6A North region champions were one-and-done in the Conference 7 tournament, ending their season with a 3-2 loss to Annandale in the opening round. The Bruins lost twice to West Springfield, West Potomac and South County during the season and finished with a 12-9 record.

One week later, head coach Jody Rutherford and new pitching coach John Thomas had the Bruins in the weight room, working to assure such a shortcoming didn't occur again.

The loss to Annandale "made me hungry," Rutherford said. "You take some things for granted. I think we underachieved a little bit last year and we weren't going to let that happen again this year."

Nearly 11 months after Lake Braddock failed to qualify for the 2014 region tournament, the Bruins are back to playing like contenders. On Tuesday, they thumped defending Conference 7 champion West Springfield 7-1 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Bruins improved their record to 7-1 in 2015, including 2-0 in the conference.

LAKE BRADDOCK opened the year with four straight victories before losing to



Nick Neville (13) is greeted by his Lake Braddock teammates after leading off the bottom of the first inning with a home run on Tuesday.

"I think we underachieved a little bit last year and we weren't going to let that happen again this year."

— Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford

Oakton, 7-5, on March 30. The Bruins responded by beating defending 6A North region champion Chantilly (8-1), Freedom (6-2), and the rival Spartans.

"I feel like the chemistry with this group is way better," Rutherford said. "Really, man for man, starting with me, I told the guys I didn't do a good job last year. I could have done a lot of things better. I didn't handle the adversity well and I took ownership in that and I said they needed to take ownership in things that they needed to do better."

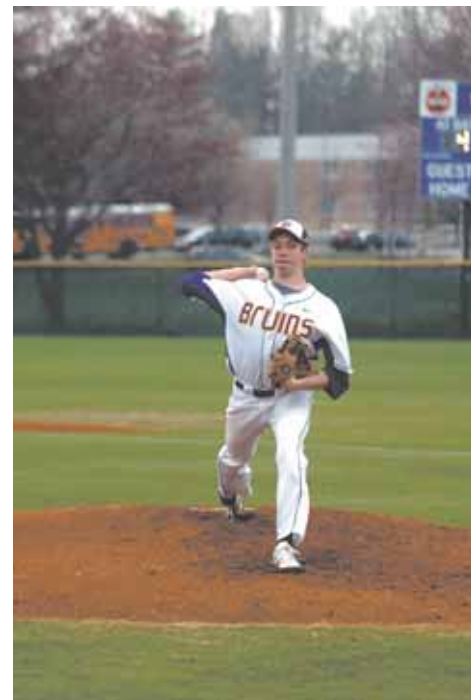
The pitching staff has been a strong point early in the season, led by juniors Wade Strain, Ryan Mullins and Andy Shreves.

Strain got the start against West Springfield on April 7 and earned the win. The right-hander allowed six hits and one unearned run while striking out six in six innings. He did not walk a batter.

Strain surrendered just two hits in his final four innings on the mound.

"[West Springfield] squared up some balls in the first inning and [Strain] just competed," Rutherford said. "After they got on him, he competed. Last year, same situation. He started against them. He got hit hard and he didn't battle through it. Today, he battled through it."

"After that, he was really pretty dominant."



Lake Braddock pitcher Wade Strain earned the win against West Springfield on Tuesday, allowing one unearned run in six innings.

Senior shortstop Nick Neville said he appreciates Strain's strike-throwing approach. "It makes it 10 times easier," Neville said. "If you get a guy throwing balls out there, you kind of get on your heels sometimes [and] that's when you get an error and a big inning happens. But Wade works really quick. He always pounds the zone. You know what's coming."

While Strain's approach helps Neville stay focused in the field, Neville returned the favor by giving his pitcher an early lead against the Spartans.

Leading off the bottom of the first inning, Neville cranked a 2-1 pitch over the fence in right-center field for his first home run of the season and a 1-0 lead.

"I was just kind of looking for a fastball on that count, 2-1, and I got a pitch that I could

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 19

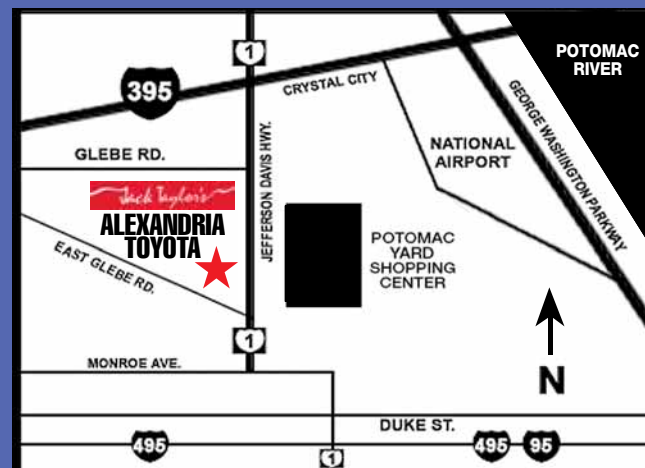
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1. 1.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.48 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. Finance Cash incentive from Toyota in addition to special APR financing if vehicle is purchased and financed through Toyota Financial Services. Incentive will be applied to the down payment. One incentive per finance transaction. Finance incentive is available on approved credit to qualified customers through Toyota Financial Services. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for details. Offers do not include dealer fees. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details.

2. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details.

3. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.

4. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.



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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.

Good is not
good, where
better is
expected.
-Thomas Fuller

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between (4157) Tony Stefano and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: seasonal decor, boxes, totes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on Friday April 24, 2015 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

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SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Suicide Prevention Seminar. 7-8:30 p.m.

Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300
Stratford Avenue, Fairfax.

Recycle for AFH. 12-4 p.m. Petco Chantilly,
13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.
In case you're not aware, it's not a good idea to
simply "throw away" your old technology. Most
technology devices are full of things that are
really bad for the environment: arsenic, heavy
metals, and all sorts of exotic toxins that will
leech into the ground if disposed of in the
landfill. By recycling to benefit with AFH, you'll
be working with a knowledgeable company who
will ensure that your "dirty laundry" gets
disposed of properly. If you bring anything with
a hard drive, you can erase it first, or the
recycling company can wipe it back at their
facility. They can also remove it for you while
you wait, and you can dispose of it yourself. This
is a great opportunity to get rid of that old VCR,
8-track player, 10 year old computer, old cell
phones, etc. The items don't have to be working
either! See more at: <http://www.aforeverhome.org/event/recycle-for-afh/#sthash.Z6ixaNld.dpuf>

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Dementia and Legal Concerns: Capacity,
Guardianship & Healthcare Decision
Making.** 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center,
3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. An elder
law attorney will lead this discussion to help you
get all of your legal needs in order. Call 703-204-
4664 to RSVP and for more information.

Baseball

FROM PAGE 16

drive," Neville said, "and I didn't miss it."
How does missing the region tournament
last year affect this team?

"Obviously, last year is last year," said
Neville, a three-year varsity player, "but at
the same time we feel like we have some-
thing to prove this year and we feel like we
can surprise some people."

Senior center fielder Colin Brechwald
went 3-for-4 with a double against West
Springfield. Senior right fielder Evan
Eschenburg was 1-for-3 with three RBIs and
sophomore second baseman Ethan Rolland
finished 2-for-4.

JUNIOR CATCHER Logan Driscoll and
freshman designated hitter Will Reid each
had a single. Senior first baseman Matt
Supko drove in a pair of runs and junior
left fielder Nate Contrino had an RBI.

Supko, a four-year varsity player who
underwent Tommy John surgery following
his sophomore season, pitched a scoreless
seventh inning, striking out two.

"It's hard to forget about [missing the re-
gion tournament]," Supko said. "We defi-
nitely think back to the games — we lost to
West Springfield twice last year. The top
three teams in our district we lost to twice.
We definitely use that as motivation."

Lake Braddock returns to action at 6:30
p.m. on Friday, April 10 with a road game
against West Potomac. The Bruins are then
scheduled for three straight home games
against Woodson (April 14), St. John's
(April 15) and Annandale (April 17).

"Every year, we're trying to win a state
championship," Neville said. "I think I've
got 20 guys behind me that believe the
same thing."

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Centre View South
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