

Burke CONNECTION

Fresh and Delicious Date Night

GOING OUT, PAGE 12

Christian McCarty, of Burke, surprised his wife Kara with the Chef's Table Date Night at the Workhouse Arts Center. "I had no idea what I was doing tonight until I walked in here," said Kara.

Expanding the Fountain of Knowledge

NEWS, PAGE 3

Lord and Lady Fairfax Crowned

NEWS, PAGE 4



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Expanding the Fountain of Knowledge

Mental health, excessive police force and civilian oversight dominate Ad Hoc Police Commission public forum.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Deborah Moronese of Vienna said a disagreement with her son over his use of Wi-Fi in their home prompted him to call Fairfax County Police. When officers arrived on a night in January earlier this year, Moronese said they interrogated her, followed her up to her bedroom, handcuffed her, dragged her back downstairs and screamed at her to stay seated.

"I was absolutely outraged," she said, adding that she had "no idea what they were trying to accomplish" and officers "physically, mentally berated me in front of my son." Moronese said she wasn't arrested, nor was anything resolved.

Her story was one of 20 presentations during a May 18 public forum of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Citizens had the option of signing up in advance or on the night of the meeting.

The commission began meeting in March after being established by the Board of Supervisors to review police practices for use of force, the release of information and how officers interact with mentally ill individuals.

The county was facing increasing public outrage over how it handled information regarding the death of unarmed Springfield resident John Geer. Geer was shot and killed in August 2013 by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres, however Torres' name and details of the incident weren't released until earlier this year.

Remarks from the public speakers followed brief reports from several subcommittees of the commission that have already held public meetings. The concerns of families coping with adult children with mental illness was a recurring theme at the forum.

Commission chairman Michael Hershman said that while the commissioners represent a great depth of experience, "We're not the fountain of all knowledge. We want to hear from the public in Fairfax County, the concerns, recommendations you might have."

George Becerra of Burke expressed concern about the composition of the commission, as well as the tight timespan in which they've been tasked with providing a report and recommendations on a breadth of issues to the Board of Supervisors.

Larry Bussey of Reston asked the commission to examine and make recommendations regarding the "disproportionate contacts of Black and Hispanic youth with the juvenile justice system." Police have "race neutral policies with disproportionate outcomes." Black youth are referred to the juvenile justice system at a rate four times higher than white youth, he said.



American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia Executive Director Claire Guthrie Gastañaga speaks to the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on May 18.

Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia executive director, addressed public safety problems from a national perspective, including the overincarceration of people with mental illness. She also spoke about the need to "shift from a culture of secrecy to a culture of transparency." Without a shift in the current paradigm, Gastañaga said, "trust is going to be something that we won't see." Yani Yancey of Reston said, "While it may be true that most people feel safe and protected by police in Fairfax County, there are more who feel the reverse every time there's another incident like the one that inspired this commission. It doesn't help that both the police department and Fairfax County's elected officials appear more concerned with covering up bad acts, bad policies and bad cops than they are with addressing bad acts, bad policies and bad cops."

Carol Bashore of Annandale has an adult son with an eight-year history of mental illness. She spoke about how valuable crisis intervention training for officers "has been invaluable to families like mine that rely on police in domestic situations when my son's behavior rises to the level we need help. Police are the first responders in a mental health crisis." When calling the police during an episode, she said it's crucial to request officers who have had that specific training. "We've been blessed to have them respond each time — each could've had a far different and very detrimental outcome," Bashore said. She continued that she was "repeatedly impressed by the calm demeanor officers who've helped us many



Michelle Evans, formerly of Burke, tells a personal story of her arrest for a domestic crime and subsequent legal challenges with Fairfax County Police. She said there's a need for civilian oversight of the Police Department and changes to Virginia Freedom of Information Act exclusions.

times have used." Bashore called for additional training for officers because "the skill of communicating with someone in a psychotic state does not come naturally."

Joanna Walker of Oakton is the mother of a 27-year-old with bipolar disorder. "We've had many experiences, some including with the Adult Detention Center and with the police," she said, "some of which could've gone better had people had more training."

Michelle Evans, formerly of Burke, said that she was abused by her husband and then falsely arrested for domestic abuse herself after she called 911. "The Fairfax County Police Department continues to revictimize me in order to protect an officer that made a litany of mistakes then perjured himself in a court of law to conceal his misconduct," she said. Evans called for civilian oversight of the police department and "drastic changes to Virginia's [Freedom of Information Act] exclusions that allow police departments to conceal and withhold information from citizens."

Mary Tracy of Mount Vernon said: "I'm here tonight because I believe our police department is not quite the poster child our leadership would have us believe. We may not have riots on the street, but there's a growing perception the police department leadership is arrogant and out of touch." Tracy recommended body cameras for officers, prohibiting arrest quotas, ensuring citizen complaints are heard and establishing a citizen oversight body.

Michael Pendrak of Annandale advocated

for additional crisis intervention training and training tools for police officers. This, he said, would help shift the paradigm "from command and control back to protect and serve."

Gordon Dean of Herndon is the father of a young woman with schizophrenia. He was critical that in the police department there are "not nearly enough officers who can safely deal with mentally ill individuals." Dean also addressed the difficulty of obtaining details from the police about events involving mental illness, even ones that occurred in their own home.

Phil Boughton of Mount Vernon told the story of Fairfax County Police officers entering his home with guns drawn, looking for his son with bipolar disorder who had failed to appear for a court date. "Right now I would invite 98 percent of them over to my house for dinner," he said, referring to officers in his local Mount Vernon district, "so that's not the problem here. The problem is there's a few of those folks who have way too much testosterone, I think they're attack dogs." Boughton is a former Navy pilot. "I didn't fly fighters over Vietnam to be threatened by a Fairfax County police officer," Boughton said, adding that one officer threatened to shoot his dog. His letter to the police chief detailing the incident was never answered. "I wanted to be sure the leadership knows that some of these [officers] are out of control."

Burnette Scarboro of the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria wanted to call attention to "profiling that still exists, particularly for our African American males," she said. "I don't get to sleep until my son reaches his destination. Please don't let this be buried under the more higher profile cases that do exist."

Mariane Herndon of McLean referenced a recent public hearing on a noise ordinance. She requested that "the Police Department and Animal Control officers make it their practice to indicate statistically the breakdown of animal-related [noise] calls that they receive on an annual basis and break them down as to whether they are for domestic or wild animals."

Robert Rowan of McLean said his own experiences with Fairfax County Police have been good, but he was disturbed that the police would resist a civilian oversight board. He said that there should be a return to "the basics — We the people." Rowan continued that this is a "country of laws, not of the individual. The Police Department has to embrace that fully. The way that's done is transparency."

Heather Davies is the parent of a W.T. Woodson student, and became involved in mental health issues after a student died of suicide there. She said she's "concerned that while there's a need for diversion" for individuals with mental health problems away from jails, there also "needs to be thought put into treatment services." She suggested

SEE POLICE, PAGE 7

NEWS

Lord and Lady Fairfax Crowned

Donna Goldbranson and Richard B. Chobot are Braddock's Lady and Lord Fairfax.



The Board of Supervisors named the 2015 Lords and Ladies Fairfax on Tuesday, May 12.

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. announced the 2015 Lords and Ladies Fairfax at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

"The tradition of honoring Lords and Ladies Fairfax began in 1984 to recognize exceptional citizens of Fairfax County," according to Celebrate Fairfax. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from each district who have demonstrated superior volunteer service, heroism or other special accomplishments.

Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook named Donna Goldbranson and Richard B. Chobot as this year's Lady and Lord Fairfax for his district.

"Donna Goldbranson is a champion for young adults with lifelong disabilities," said Cook.

Goldbranson developed Specially Adapted Resource Clubs (SPARC) to meet the growing need for inclusion services in the community and dreams of bringing the program to each district in Fairfax County.

SPARC, her legacy, tackles the question "What will my adult child with disabilities do after school graduation."

She used 20 years of experience in advocacy and "team building abilities to pull together diverse organizations and stakeholders to bring about this unique day support program for young adults with multiple disabilities," said Cook. "This challenging effort required entrepreneurial insight, boundless energy, and commitment to build the powerful partnerships needed to realize this dream," he said.

Richard B. Chobot moved from New York State for a three-year assignment in 1975 with his wife Mary Chobot.

"Forty years, two doctorates, two children and two grandchildren later, they live in the Red Fox Forest neighborhood, serving as president and secretary of their civic association," Cook said.

Chobot serves as a member of the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee

(CCFAC) and is the Chair of the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (CoA), focusing on the completion and implementation of the 50+ Community Action Plan.

Chobot is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Men's Club and the Men's Spiritual Group at Holy Spirit Church.

He and his wife are co-coordinators of the Holy Spirit Parish Transportation Ministry and members of the Bellarmine Choir, Catholic Campus Ministry at George Mason University.

The Lords and Ladies will be honored at a special dinner hosted by Great American Restaurants, Celebrate Fairfax, Inc., and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

**Providence:
Peggy A. Koplitz
and Paul J.
Wexler**

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth named Peggy A. Koplitz as her Lady Fairfax and Paul J. Wexler as her 2015 Lord Fairfax.

Koplitz served as the Providence District representative to the Library Board from November 2005 to this year, and was the vice chair for the board and chairman of the Personnel Committee.

In 2007, Koplitz "helped to open the long awaited Oakton Community Library, the only library in Providence," said Smyth.

"When community concerns were raised in 2013 about the reorganization of the Fairfax Public Libraries and the discarding of books, she stepped forward to join the Ad-Hoc Floating and Discards Committee, instrumental in identifying ways to clarify policies and practices to address public concerns as well as questions raised by the Friends of the Library groups," said Smyth.

Koplitz was a library media spe-

cialist and curriculum specialist with Alexandria City Public Schools and a member Emeritus of the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, which works with schools and universities to help teachers use the library's vast collection.

For 35 years, Wexler devoted his career to advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. "He has worked closely with families, board members, colleague agencies, regulatory authorities, committees and task forces to support legislative efforts to improve services and procure proper resources," said Smyth.

Wexler, a sibling of a man with Down Syndrome, "has a keen awareness of both individual needs and family concerns, enabling him to develop a strong empathy and understanding of challenges faced in daily life and long term planning," said Smyth.

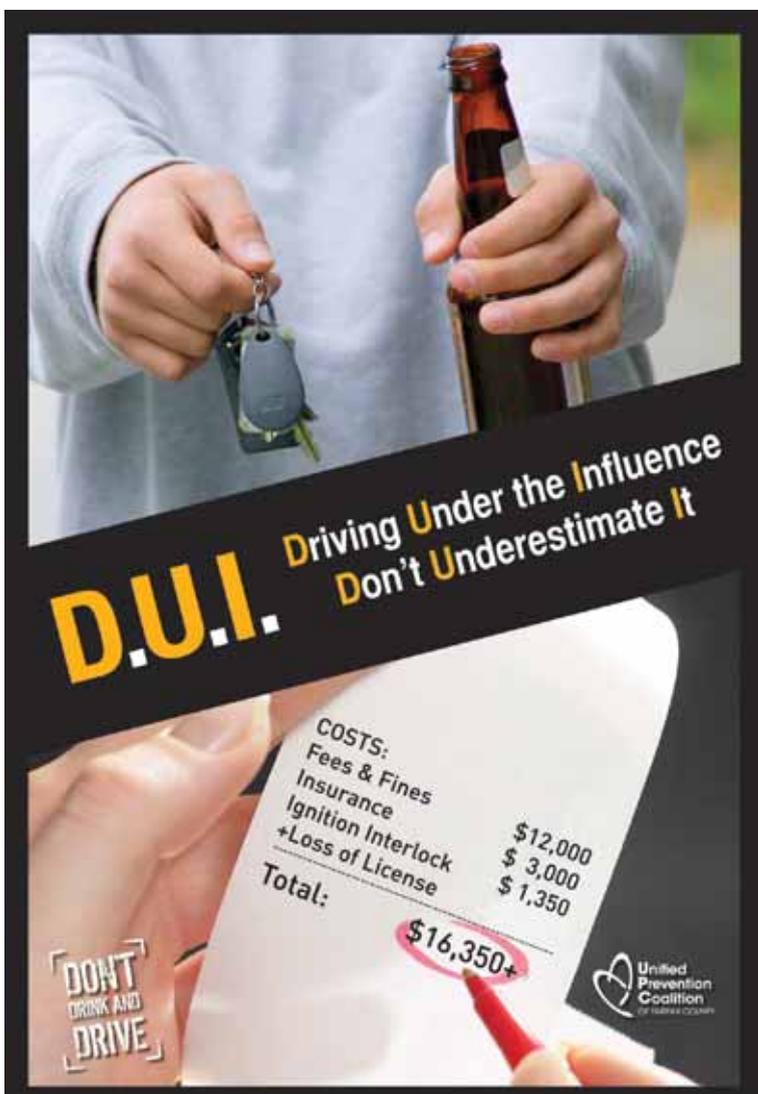
Wexler became the Executive Director of Central Fairfax Services, Inc., (CFS) in 1986 and in July of 2010, CFS affiliated with Service Source, which raises and distributes funding for programs that serve people with disabilities. He is an active volunteer with local civic groups, including Civitans and Scouting.

**At Large: Kate
Hanley and Lt.
Col. John P.
McAnaw**

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova named Katherine K. Hanley, former Board Chairman, as this year's At-Large Lady Fairfax.

Hanley was first elected to the Fairfax County School Board, then the Board of Supervisors as the Providence District Supervisor and then as Board of Supervisors Chairman.

SEE LORD AND LADY, PAGE 5
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Community Partners: City of Fairfax Police Department; Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County; Fairfax County Department of Transportation; Fairfax County Police Department; Fairfax County Public Schools; Fairfax County Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving; George Mason University (GMU); GMU University Police; Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) - Annandale Campus; NOVA Police Department; Towns of Herndon and Vienna Police Departments; Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control



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NEWS

Lord and Lady

FROM PAGE 4

"During her tenure, Ms. Hanley worked tirelessly with other members of the Board, not only advocating for education, but also for human services and affordable housing. In recognition, a homeless shelter for families, was named after her. Recently additional transitional housing units called 'Kate's Place' were built adjacent to the shelter," said Bulova.

Hanley was instrumental in the establishment of the Revenue Stabilization fund along with a significant investment in building Fairfax County's Information Technology infrastructure, said Bulova. "She was also a great proponent of transportation initiatives, helping to position the Silver Line for federal funding."

After leaving the Board of Supervisors, Hanley served as Secretary of the Commonwealth, and is now on the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, the Fairfax County Electoral Board and the Community Services Board. She has led the bipartisan election commission, the committee on the meals tax, an effort that brought together disparate, competing groups who came up with a near unanimous vote to bring a report to the Board of Supervisors, said Bulova.

Bulova cited Lt. Col. John P. McAnaw's love for history, love of country and love of service reasons she named him the 2015 Lord Fairfax.

"Lt. Col. John P. McAnaw is well known for his tireless work to preserve history in Fairfax County," said Bulova. "His love of our past earned him a Lifetime Achievement Award from the History Commission for his decades of service as a Civil War Historian."

The Park Authority honored Lt. Col. McAnaw by naming a Recreation area for his significant preservation efforts.

A veteran serving in leadership roles within VFW Post 8469, Lt. Col. McAnaw is the past President of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable. He helped lead the effort to preserve Ox Hill, an important Civil War site. In addition to this, he is also a Board Member of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and has served as a historian for a number of local organizations in Fairfax County.

In his Kings Park West community, Lt. Col. McAnaw has served as Chairman of the Parks committee, leading numerous efforts to mobilize scouts and volunteers to build and maintain trails throughout the parkland surrounding Royal Lake.

— KEN MOORE

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(From left) Del. Eileen Filler Corn (D-41), SCA President Ben Lajoy and Principal Ryan Richardson just moments before the ribbon was cut and children rushed onto the playground.



PHOTOS BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

(From Left) Sixth grade students Cole Mitchler, Haven Townsend, Maggie Edwards and Megan Smith enjoy their new playground.

New Playground at White Oaks Elementary

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

White Oaks Elementary School has a brand new playground for all the community to enjoy. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Friday, May 8, and was attended by parents, students, teachers, community members and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) who was there to assist at the ceremony.

"I'm thrilled to be a part," said Del. Filler-Corn. "This is definitely a highlight."

The children lined up in front of the playground, eagerly anticipating the moment when the ribbon would be cut, as Principal Ryan Richardson gave opening remarks. The event was also held in conjunction with

the annual PTA picnic and there was even a table where students could get free henna tattoos, painted by alums of White Oaks Elementary School.

The new playground affords students more space to run around and play, which was a bit difficult in the past. The sixth grade class, alone, is made up of 160 students.

"No one used it last year," said sixth grade student Haven Townsend about the school's old playground. "I feel like everyone is getting more activity."

"The most amazing thing is how the big kids have taken to the swings," said sixth grade teacher Barbara Borrelli.

The playground opening marked the end of this year's Teacher Appreciation Week as well, during which the PTA treated the teachers to special breakfasts and lunches.



Students waited to receive henna tattoos while enjoying the new playground as well.

Del. David Bulova Announces Re-Election Campaign for 37th District

Del. David Bulova (D-37) announced his campaign to seek re-election to the Virginia General Assembly at a May 17 event held at Brion's Grille in Fairfax.

"It is an honor to represent the community where I grew up and where I am raising my own family," Bulova said in a statement. "This year I was proud to work on successful legislation to increase funding for our local roads, reform our educational Standards of Learning, strengthen our ethics laws, and make it easier for small businesses to start and thrive."

"There is still more to do and I am looking to a positive, issues-oriented campaign," his statement continued.

The 37th District includes the city of Fairfax, stretches east along Interstate 66 and Fairfax Boulevard to Pickett Road, west along Lee Highway to parts of Centreville and south along Ox Road into Fairfax County as far as the Norfolk Southern Railroad.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BULOVA

From left, Del. David Bulova (D-37) is joined at his re-election campaign announcement by his daughter Josette and mother, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Bulova's family, colleagues from the General Assembly, other elected officials and supporters joined Bulova for the an-

nouncement.

"David is one of the most thoughtful, dedicated, and competent state legislators I have

ever known," said Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne. "We need to keep David in the General Assembly, where he is respected by Democrats, Republicans and independents alike."

Bulova serves on the General Laws, Education and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees in the General Assembly. In addition, he's a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, State Water Commission, Joint Commission on Health Care, Housing Commission and Virginia War Memorial Board.

"David's understanding of water-related issues and the environment is an extraordinary value to our Commonwealth," Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) said in a statement.

A map of the 37th District is available through the Virginia General Assembly website at redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/2010/DistrictMaps.aspx.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Mary Tracy of the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria speaks at the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on May 18. She recommended body cameras for officers, prohibiting arrest quotas, ensuring citizen complaints are heard and a citizen oversight body.

Police Commission Holds Public Forum

FROM PAGE 3

the possibility of using the Northern Virginia Training Center as a temporary drop-off point for mentally ill individuals to receive treatment rather than going to jail, or redeveloping the facility (scheduled to close in March 2016) as a location for enriched mental health services.

Cody Claxton of Vienna recommended the Board of Supervisors ban all civil forfeiture. He also called out the “excessive” use of special operations units “for domestic disturbances or to raid poker games in McLean.” He added, “We’re citizens, not targets.”

Dan Heily of Great Falls called for Internal Affairs to be a separate career service for officers and that the head of Internal Affairs be on the level of Chief of Police. As to the work of the commission, he said, “Given that so many of your members have a vested interest to protect, I suggest the following: Produce a majority report that states all procedures are fine. Then produce a minority report by those without a vested interest and have that minority report to contain improvements.”

John Lovaas, an alternate Commission member for Nicholas Beltrante, said, “It was a pretty interesting sample, people talking about interactions with officers not interested in protecting and serving but showing power.”

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova agreed that “It was a great opportunity, I enjoyed listening, hearing these perspectives.”

Bulova said in response to the calls for a civilian oversight body, “I’m interested to hear from the members on models that have been effective in other jurisdictions. It’s something our board has been reluctant to do.”

Whether the board being provided with strong examples could turn the tide, Bulova said, “That could be the case.” She added they would seek incidences of “what would the oversight board look like, how would it work?”

After the final speaker, commission chairman Michael Hershman said the forum, “has been everything I hoped it would be. I’ve learned a lot. It’s given me, my fellow commissioners a lot to think about, a lot to work with.”

Hershman continued, saying by the end of the meeting, he hoped citizens “will walk away thinking you still can contribute.”

The next meeting of the full Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission is scheduled for Monday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. All meetings are open to the public. More information, including video of previous meetings, agendas and materials presented, can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

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Remembering on Memorial Day 2015

On Memorial Day, take at least one minute to reflect on those who have died.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the line of duty in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,800 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

EVERY YEAR before Memorial Day, *The Connection* names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the *Arlington Connection*. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, Va., died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February, 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Va., died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Va., died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Va., died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2014, with military operations winding down in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two military service members from Virginia. Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

C. Prasnicki, 24, of Lexington, Va., died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

A FEW WAYS TO PAY TRIBUTE ON MEMORIAL DAY

- ❖ **Monday, May 25, Arlington National Cemetery, National Memorial Day Observance** to honor America's fallen military service members. 10:30 a.m., prelude by U.S. Marine Band. 11 a.m., Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to be followed by an observance program hosted by the Department of Defense in Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater. Free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to be at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or seated in the amphitheater by 9:30 a.m. Free parking and shuttle in the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center's parking lot from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ❖ **OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE** at 12:01 p.m. This Memorial Day, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) will lay a wreath before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 12:01 p.m. and urges people across the country to pause for a national moment of silence to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- ❖ **Alexandria - May 25, 11 a.m. - Memorial Day Ceremony** - Versace Plaza/Memorial in Alexandria, Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701 Commonwealth Ave.
- ❖ **Arlington - May 25 - Air Force Association's Memorial Day Ceremony, 9 a.m.** commemorative Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m., at the Air Force Memorial. - 1 Air Force Memorial Dr., Arlington
- ❖ **Herndon - May 25 - Herndon Memorial Day Observance** - Town of Herndon Memorial Day Observance, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 10 a.m.



Call for Father's Day Photos

At the beginning of the month, we printed Mother's Day photos, and we call for photos for Father's Day. Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, 2015 and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos as soon as possible, with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 15.

You can submit your photos online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday>. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 8

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhruz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Taron Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church; Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Lunch 'N Life. 12-2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Join for the next Lunch 'N Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The program will feature Mr. Knox Singleton, CEO of INOVA Health Systems speaking on Current Health Issues. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by May 15. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation

is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. Visit www.scfbva.org for more information.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Keeping up With Kids. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics with our one-on-one technology volunteer about the social networking tools that can help you stay in touch with your kids and grandkids. Adults.

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Fairfax/GMU \$849,950

Open Sunday 5/24 1-4

One-of-a-kind custom home w/ Japanese tiled roof, premium 1 acre lot w/ spectacular Japanese gardens, traditional Tatami room w/ shoji screens, 4,200+ sq ft, 4BR, 3.5 baths, fin bsmt, eat-in kit, fresh paint, high ceilings, sec sys w/ 8 hi-def security cameras, 2 car GAR & walk to GMU.



Alex/Old Town \$879,950

Open Sunday 5/24 1-4

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McLean/Chain Brg Wds \$1,294,950

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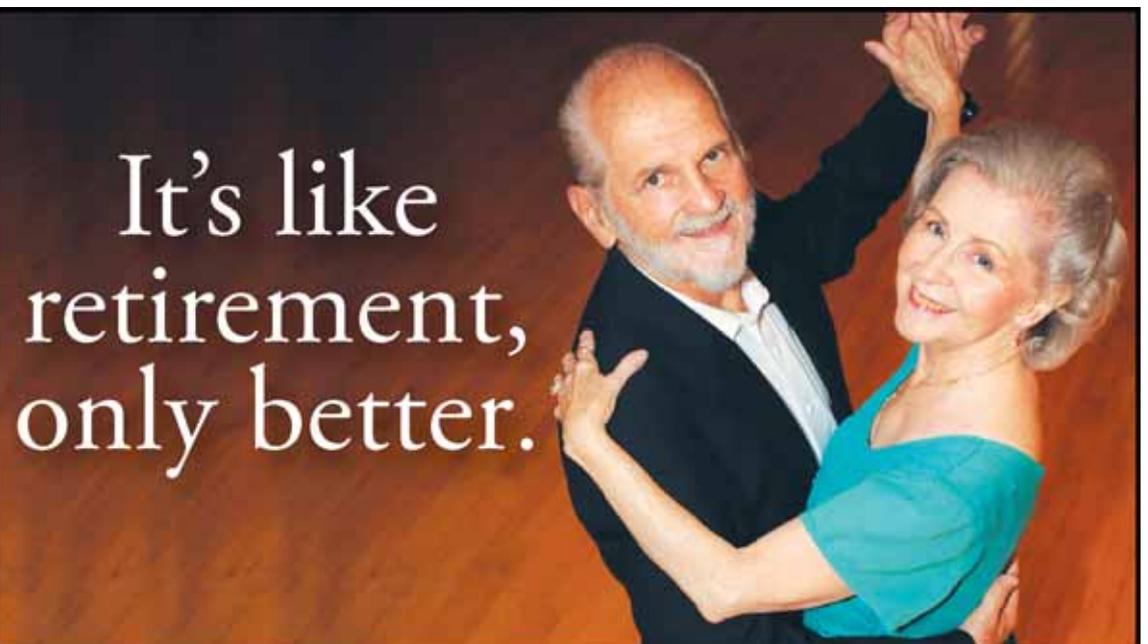
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Parents' Role in Educating about Alcohol and Drugs

Suggestions for talking to teens about staying safe.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Graduation, prom and the summer before heading off to college are some of the highlights of a teen's high school experience. While the season brings landmark events, it can be marred by the consequences of engaging in harmful activities.

Parents can play a pivotal role in keeping teens safe. The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County reports that teens cite their parents as the leading influence for them not to drink, and say that it is not difficult to get alcohol from their family home, older siblings or friends. Initiating a dialogue with teens about the dangers of unsafe behaviors such as drinking and drug use can be daunting for some parents.

"We know that teens who receive consistent messages from their parents about their expectations that their child not use alcohol are much less likely to use," said Diane Eckert, deputy executive director, Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County.

The season brings celebratory activities and less supervision, and therefore more opportunities to take chances, said Eckert. It's critical that parents "sit down with your teens and talk with them about your expectations," she said. "With less structure and more excitement, teens can find themselves taking more risks, so it's important for parents to be involved."

Conversations about safety during activities where teens will have more freedom can be difficult to navigate. "For sure those are hard conversations," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Parents want to be careful not to drown out the fun times that prom and graduation also represent. It's about finding balance. Part of it is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

The dialogue should be factual and non-threatening. "Ask open-ended question about what is going on at school and with their friends," said Best. "It easier to open those conversations when you're not talking about your child, and you're collecting information about what is going on at school and with their friends." Best is author of "Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture" (2000 Routledge), which was selected for the 2002 American Educational

Studies Association Critics' Choice Award.

Difficult conversations are made easier if there is a history of open, honest communication between a parent and child. While parents should make their expectations for their child's behavior clear, Best warns against lecturing or talking down to a teen. "The prom should not be the first time that these conversations occur," she said. "It's really important that kids to be able to express their feelings and have an active role in the conversation. Trust has to be built into the relationship in order for that to happen."

A concrete plan for ensuring safety should be part of the conversation. "Kids are often in situations where alcohol is being consumed and they may not be the ones consuming it," said Best. "So safe driving arrangements are important."

"The good news is that a lot of kids are opting out of drinking and greater awareness around the potential for sexual assault," said Best. "The message has to be communicated in advance and schools have a role to play in that."

In Arlington, School Resource Officers are collaborating with local high schools to focus on alcohol use prevention and awareness programs now that prom and graduation season is underway. Programs such as "Drive to Stay Alive" and "Prom Promise" are in place to educate students in having a safe and fun prom season. One of the roles

TIPS FOR KEEPING TEENS SAFE

Help make prom and graduation night safe for teens by following these tips:

- ❖ Do not serve or allow alcohol at any party you are hosting; an adult who provides alcohol to a minor is breaking the law and risking that teen's life.
- ❖ Know where your teenager is attending a party; verify there will be parental supervision, and that it will be alcohol-free.
- ❖ Make it clear to your teen(s) that you do not approve of their drinking alcohol.
- ❖ Report underage drinking parties by calling the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. Your call can be anonymous and may prevent injuries or a fatal car crash.
- ❖ Educate your family on the risks associated with underage drinking and its proven harmful effects on the brain. The legal drinking age is 21, and students who wait until their early 20s to drink are 84 percent less likely to develop an addiction than those who start earlier.
- ❖ Make sure your teen has a plan for the night and that you know what it is.
- ❖ Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- ❖ Know who is driving — if it's a limo, check their policy on not allowing any alcohol in the vehicle and driving any teen who clearly has been drinking.
- ❖ Encourage your senior to attend their school's All Night Graduation Celebration.

— UNIFIED PREVENTION COALITION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

of the officers is to provide positive guidance to students "and to act as positive role models both inside and outside the school environment."

Kathy Ely, spokeswoman for Connelly School of the Holy Child, an all-girls school in Potomac, Md., says her school, as well as most schools, have safety plans in place. "We understand the pressures that these girls are under, and work hard to educate them about effects not just now but for their future," she said.

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SCHOOL NOTES

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.



CONTRIBUTED
Bershadsky

FCPS Students Capture Awards at 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

A student from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) won the Best of Category Award and a first award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, held in Pittsburgh last week. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students also won numerous special awards.

Ava Lakmazaheri of TJHSST earned the Best of Category award and a first award in Robotics and Intelligent Machines for her project, Brain-Actuated Robotics: Controlling and Programming a Humanoid Using Electroencephalography. Lakmazaheri also won several special awards, including:

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.

The Ashtavadhani Vidwan Ambati Subbaraya Chetty Foundation award, that recognizes projects that display outstanding creativity, ingenuity, and have the potential to alleviate the human condition or mark a substantive advancement in the scientific field.

The China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) award, given to the projects that best reflect the originality and innovation of the students' work in all scientific disciplines.

A full tuition scholarship to Drexel University for projects best matching the university's curriculum.

The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) award, given to the best interdisciplinary project that can produce technologically appropriate solutions that meet societal needs.

The London International Youth Science Forum Philip V. Streich Memorial Award.

Clarissa Scoggins and **Rohan Suri** of TJHSST won a third award in the Systems Software category for their project, Development of a Rapid, Accurate, and Private Contact Tracing System Utilizing Smartphone Proximities. They also received a third award from the Association for Computing Machinery.

The following students received special awards:

Matthew Park of TJHSST, American Society for Microbiology third award for Detecting Novel Strains of Lassa Virus via an Interdisciplinary Modernization Based on Genomic Sequencing.

Neal Agarwal of Chantilly High School, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence honorable mention for Self-Driving Car Intersection.

Governor Terry McAuliffe and the

state Board of Education announced on May 19, 2015, that 252 schools and four school divisions earned 2015 Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) awards for advanced learning and achievement. The VIP incentive program recognizes schools and divisions that exceed state and federal accountability standards and achieve excellence goals established by the governor and the board. 109 schools earned the Board of Education Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program. These divisions and schools also met all state and federal accountability benchmarks and made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunities set by the board.

The schools receiving Board of Education Excellence Awards are as follows:

Greenbriar West Elementary, Fairfax; Hunt Valley Elementary, Springfield; Hunters Woods Elementary for the Arts and Sciences, Reston; Keene Mill Elementary, Springfield; Mantua Elementary, Fairfax; Mosby Woods Elementary, Fairfax; Navy Elementary, Fairfax; Robinson Secondary, Fairfax; Sangster Elementary, Springfield; Springfield Estates Elementary, Springfield; Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology, West Springfield Elementary, Springfield; West Springfield High, Springfield; White Oaks Elementary, Burke; Willow Springs Elementary, Fairfax; and Woodson High, Fairfax.

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"

To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father'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 photos, send to:

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GOING OUT



Knife skills are the first lessons taught in the kitchen at Date Night: Chef's Table at the Lorton Workhouse Arts center. From left: Andre and Rose Prince of Reston, Chef Kathleen Linton and Kara and Christian McCarty of Burke.



The couples enjoyed the four course meal they prepared while chatting with Chef Kathleen Linton. The theme for this month's date night was Farmers Market Fresh.

Fresh and Delicious Date Night

BY DOMINIQUE ESCALERA
THE CONNECTION

It was Date Night at the Chef's table in Lorton on Saturday, May 16. Three couples registered for a class and learned how to cook a four-course gourmet meal.

Chef Kathleen Linton teaches the cuisine classes at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. A Chef for 35 years, she has been teaching at the Workhouse for five years.

"It's fun to see the couples' interaction," said Linton. She teaches multiple classes, specializing in ethnic cuisine such as Thai, Spanish and even Southern. She explains that the Date Night classes are different from general stock class. "I like to teach them why food is cooked in a certain way, the theory of cooking. Cooking is about all five senses, especially smell. If it doesn't smell good than it won't taste good," she said.

The kitchen smelled like watermelon gazpacho as Christian McCarty of Burke arrived. He surprised his wife Kara with the Date Night. "I didn't know what I was doing tonight until we got here, and then I



Chef Kathleen Linton serves the main course, Bruschetta Pasta. The pasta dish was made by the three couples at Date Night: Chef's Table at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

still wasn't sure" said Kara, pleasantly surprised.

Knife skills was the first lesson. Chef Linton went to every student, demonstrating the proper way to hold the knife and cut in a sliding motion.

"Not chopping, sliding," said Linton, scolding Reginald Johnson of Woodbridge. "You told on me," he said jokingly, turning toward his wife Tella Johnson. This date night was a birthday present for Reginald.

With all the vegetables, herbs and fruits sliced and divided the class heads toward the stove, heating the onions and zucchini they labored to cut. "I do all the cooking in the house," said Kara McCarty while watching her husband cook vegetables for the second course. "We have three small kids, so its not exactly gourmet."

The salad was prepared, the pasta was boiling and dessert slowly roasting in the oven. The last thing to be made before sitting down to eat was a the Plum-Cinnamon-Honey Coolers. Rose and Andre Prince of Reston got that assignment. Together with Linton they blended sliced plums, cinna-

The Menu

Plum-honey-cinnamon cooler
Watermelon gazpacho
Sautéed summer salad with balsamic glaze
Bruschetta pasta
Roasted peaches with ice cream

mon, a huge dollop of honey and two citrus sodas to make the coolers.

"There's little measuring for this drink," said Rose. "It makes me a tad nervous not knowing how much to add."

During dinner the couples talked about their kids. "Isn't it a rule to not talk about your kids when you're out on a date?" asked Rose to the others, producing a round of laughs. All the couples have children at home and enjoyed a night away from the mac and cheese and sauce-less pasta.

After dinner everyone is required to help with cleanup and packaging the leftovers to take home. "Can you believe you did all that in two hours?" Linton asked as the couples finish cleaning.

Date Night Chef's Table is a two hour event at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center. Classes are held every month on the third Saturday. Chef Linton also teaches other cooking classes at the Workhouse Arts Center. For more information visit <https://reservations.workhousearts.org/Info.aspx?EventID=100>.

McAuliffe Signs Bill to Get Food Trucks Rolling in Virginia

Food trucks, those compact mobile restaurants that have become wildly popular on the streets of Washington, D.C., are getting closer to expanding their tread-print in Virginia. In a May 18 ceremony held in Tysons Corner, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) signed a bill into law that requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board to regulate food trucks operating on specific roads maintained by the state.

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) introduced HB 2042 after hearing from representatives of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, Tysons Partnership in Tysons Corner and the Food Truck Association.

"With the passage of HB 2042, the unnecessary barrier to mobile food vending is removed while maintaining the safety of the roadways," Del. Filler-Corn said in a statement. "It is critical that we give individuals the opportunity to succeed in starting a business here in the Commonwealth, by opening doors and enabling hard-working entrepreneurs to start and grow their dream. But as we know, we must also ensure that it is done responsibly and with everyone in agreement, working together."

Seven food trucks represented the Food Truck Association at the signing.

—TIM PETERSON

Rear from left, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, Executive Director of the DMV Food Truck Association Che Ruddell-Tabisola and Jim Corcoran, President & CEO of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce applaud as Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) signs a bill calling for regulations for food trucks to operate on specific roads in Virginia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rare Raptor Romance in Burke

A Personal Encounter.

BY DONALD SWEIG

Suddenly, there they were. Two adult Mississippi kites circling close together, low over the quiet residential intersection, just off of Burke Lake Road. Someone had told me they were back and I had gone to look for them. Excitedly, I stopped my car almost in the middle of the intersection, and grabbed my camera hoping to get some quick flight shots. Alas, no luck! The birds drifted slowly to the north over the trees, in the direction in which they had nested for the previous two years.

Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) are a common southern raptor from the Carolinas south to northern Florida and west across into Texas and Oklahoma. They are extremely uncommon in Virginia and are confirmed nesters here only in the last 20 years. There may be three or four nesting pairs in Fairfax County and an unknown but small number in Prince William County as well. There is one confirmed nesting in Maryland (at Salisbury on the Eastern shore) there are no confirmed nestings in D.C., West Virginia and New Jersey. It certainly qualifies as a rare raptor in Burke.

Hoping to get more views of the birds that I had just seen circling, I drove a short distance to the nearby intersection, from which I had viewed the kite nests the previous two years. Shortly, one of the local residents, presumably recognizing me from the year before, came out and said, "they're back, three of them." I asked if she had seen a nest. She said she hadn't and went back into the house.

AFTER A SHORT WHILE, one of the kites flew over my head and landed on a naked branch in plain view. Hoping to get a better view for a photo image, I walked slightly down the road and was surprised and delighted to find a second Mississippi kite perched on another naked branch, directly above the first one.

As I was maneuvering to try to get a photo image of both of the kites at the same time, the top bird, which turned out later to be the male, took off and disappeared over the trees. When the male kite returned a few minutes later, I managed to get a couple of flight shots and noticed it was carrying some prey, probably a dragonfly,



© Donald M. Sweig

Two Mississippi kites on branch in Burke, with male carrying food, probably a dragonfly, for pre-mating food exchange.



© Donald M. Sweig

Mating (copulating) Mississippi kites in Burke. The male is the top bird. Notice the rufous in the outer wing feathers of the male.

in its beak.

The male kite went directly to the lower branch where the female kite was perched and did a food exchange. This was clearly courtship behavior. I was pleased to have gotten some good photo images of the food exchange. The male kite immediately flew off again and when it returned for the second time, for another food exchange, I noticed only the last few seconds of the encounter. Annoyed that I had missed another opportunity for some food exchange photos, I resolved not to let that happen again.

In a very few more minutes, I noticed the male kite flying from the east toward the female perched on the branch, and I thought it was coming for another food exchange. I quickly got the perched female in the viewfinder of my camera and was surprised and amazed when the male came back not with food, but to mate. The male kite flew in and landed immediately on the top of the female, which is the mating/copulation position, using its opened wings to stabilize itself. It was all over in about 10 or 15 seconds. I

was amazingly fortunate to have gotten 6 or 8 really good photo images of the copulation encounter. (In past years I have observed other similar avian mating encounters, including Bald Eagles at Great Falls, Ospreys near Alexandria, and even Peregrine Falcons in Shenandoah National Park. But to see such an encounter, of such a rare bird in Burke Virginia, was quite special for me.)

In all likelihood the female will lay what will probably be two eggs in a nearby nest in the near future.

THE KITES will incubate the eggs for about 30-days until they hatch. The adults will then feed and care for the newly hatched birds for another month or so, until the juveniles are large and strong enough to leave the nest and fly. By late August or very early September, the adults and the juveniles will leave Burke to spend the winter in South America.

But, they will probably be flying about and soaring in the Burke area for the next 90 days or so. Keep your eye on the sky. You might well see a rare Mississippi kite.

PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG



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CALENDAR



The cardboard boat regatta, one of the most popular Springfield Days activities, will be held at Lake Accotink Park on Sunday, May 31.

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-SUNDAY/MAY 21-24

GI Film Festival. Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. The nation's only military film festival. Cinematic stories of mothers, daughters, fathers, wives, brothers and more. GIFF15.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Magic Tree House Club. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Read and talk about story number 15 in the series, Viking Ships at Sunrise. Their magic tree house takes Jack and Annie back to a monastery in medieval Ireland, where they try to retrieve a lost.

FRIDAY/MAY 22

City of Fairfax's Rock the Block. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Square, Old Town Fairfax. Gonzo's Nose, most popular party band in the national capitol area. Perform cover songs, which range from the early 80's up until songs that hit the radio just yesterday.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m. - noon. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke.

Latin Explosion 2015. 7 p.m. GMU Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Yandel, known as part of the urban music duo Wisin y Yandel, is also known for his solo efforts including the hit singles "Hable de Ti" and "Hasta Abajo". J. Alvarez, another Reggaeton artist, recently released his fourth album, De Camino Pa La Cima Reloaded, featuring collaborations with artists Tego Calderon, Wisin and Zion & Lennox. Andy Andy, known for his bachata style of music, will also hit the stage. Additional artists Alexis y Fido, Ivy Queen, Zion & Lennox, De La Ghetto, Angel & Khriz, Yowell & Randy, Messiah, Jory Boy, El Chevo and Sahara. Tickets: \$35-\$185. www.ticketmaster.com.

Springfield Smart Markets Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and veggies.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

OAR Jazz and Wine Festival. 2-5 p.m. The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Tickets are \$50 and guests will enjoy a meal catered by Spilled Milk catering with paired wines. All funds will go to support OAR's programs. Registration: <http://www.oarfairfax.org/employment-opportunities?id=195>

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers markets season.

Canine Cruise. 7 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Treat your canine companion to a special cruise aboard Lake Accotink Park's pooch-friendly pontoon boat. Catch the last rays of the sun as it dips toward the distant lake shore while your dog scans for ducks, geese and other lake dwellers. \$6 per person, no charge for dogs. Limit one dog per person. Children ages 8 and older.

Main Street Chamber Players Spring Concert. 4 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

Memorial Day Events

SUNDAY/MAY 24

17th Annual Ride of the Patriots. 6:30 a.m. Route 29 between Draper Drive and Eaton Place. Fairfax Harley Owners Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson's gathering of the motorcycle riding community will pay tribute to America's servicemen, women and veterans and raise awareness of American POW and MIA soldiers of all wars. After assembling at the Patriot Harley-Davidson on Lee highway in Fairfax, a parade of bikers will follow a route to the Pentagon where it will join other bikers to the National Mall and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial to pay their respect.

MONDAY/MAY 25

Memorial Day Service. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign War Post 8469 and American Legion Post 177.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/MAY 24-25

Art Guild of Clifton Show and Sale. 5-8 p.m. on Sunday. 12-5 p.m. on Monday. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Artists will display and sell works featuring local themes across a range of media. Admission is free for Museum members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15; \$4 adults 16 and older. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/MAY 25

Starkill. 6 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Starkill is an American melodic death metal band from Chicago, Illinois; The members met and began writing materials in 2008, eventually signing to Century Media Records in December 2012. Tickets: \$15-\$17.

TUESDAY/MAY 26

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults.

Pokemon Club. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring your Pokémon trading cards to trade or play the Pokémon game. Age 6-12.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 27

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Join instructor Susan Alverson for music, movement and song. Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Age 1-2 years with adult.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Arts Open House Extravaganza. 4210 Roberts Road, Burke. Celebration of the arts, including poetry and musical performances as well as photography and arts displays. Enjoy free coffee and home-made baked treats sold by Friends of OLLI. Register: 703-503-3384.

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. See "The Very Hungry

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



For the second year in a row Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy girls' choral group placed first in the national competition.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Continuing the Winning Streak

Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy choral group claims first in the nation.

BY JENNETH DYCK,
SENIOR AT FAIRFAX BAPTIST TEMPLE
ACADEMY

This spring, the Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy (FBTA) girls' choral group placed first for the second year in a row in the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS) national competition at Bob Jones University (BJU) in Greenville, S.C. Approximately 2,000 high school students traveled to BJU for the 3-day competition, representing schools from over 30 states.

FBTA 19 high school girls sang "Sound the Trumpet" by Purcell and "Lily of the Valley" by Moses Hogan in Stratton Hall on the college campus.

"The pieces I selected were considered to be Level III—and in some states—Level IV grade literature. Both pieces were very different from each other, but displayed an enormous amount of vocal technique which allowed us to enter competitively," said Audrey Peterbark, FBTA choral director.

With last year's first place trophy and the third place trophy from the year before displayed at FBTA, the girls knew it was possible to take the victory again, but were cautious to keep confidence levels maintained.

"It is very hard to be a national champion and return to the same performance venue. Part of you can say, 'We've done this before; we will for sure do it again.' My advice to the girls in practice was that we have to attack the 'mental' portion of competition. We have to think and practice and perform like we have never done this. That was our only way of being able to compete successfully," continued Peterbark.

On the morning of competition, the FBTA choral group woke to find that the whole Greenville area was experiencing a torrential downpour of spring precipitation. A few wind-whipped umbrellas and soggy choir dresses later, the girls followed Peterbark into the warm-up

building. After ironing out minor details and whispering a fervent prayer for God's hand to be upon them, the girls entered the chapel from opposite sides of the room to converge on the stage's risers and perform their choir pieces.

Friday night at the awards ceremony, Fairfax fans sat in anticipation as the choral group category approached. Suspense turned to jubilation at the announcement of first place, causing students and teachers alike to jump out of their seats in celebration.

"We finally made it after months of hard work—long months! When they announced first [place] I was overjoyed! The Lord blessed us! He was the only reason we were there," said Arianna Viera, sophomore choral member.

"When our name was called, I screamed really loud! I was thankful to God for allowing us to be rewarded for our hard work, and to secure a national title made the trip to Greenville worth it," said Peterbark.

Also, after years of struggle to finally make it to the top, placing second in the national competition was Rebecca Pan, senior, in woodwind solo with her piece, "Rondo Russo" by Saverio Mercadante.

"I was just happy to be there and so thankful God gave me the opportunity to play flute at Nationals," Pan said.

Other FBTA participants who won the state competition to compete at the national level were Dan Austin, senior, for expository preaching; Ricky Schimkus, sophomore, topical preaching; Jenneth Dyck, senior, expository essay; Haven Zakaria, sophomore, classical piano solo; and Alexis Amos, sophomore, sacred piano solo.

"I had fun preaching and listening to other people preach, especially my friend Ricky," said Austin, who plans to study to be a pastor after graduation.

Adding to the celebration, Virginia placed first in the nation for the thirteenth year in a row, taking home the Cup of Excellence as its reward.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Caterpillar,” “Papa Get Me the Moon,” “The Very Quiet Cricket” and “The Mixed-Up Chameleon” by Eric Carle.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 29-31

Workhouse Carnival and Arts Party. 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Rides, games, music, vendors, food and family fun and will take place on the south side of the Workhouse campus. Admission to the carnival is free, including the live entertainment and film screening, however rides and vendors will require additional fees and tickets. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Lights Out on the Bunny Brothers.

11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Have fun learning about energy conservation with this fast-paced puppet show presented by Blue Sky Puppets. Cosponsored by Friends of the Kings Park Library. All ages.

Junior Robotics. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Presented by Bricks 4 Kidz. All the fun of building with LEGO bricks, PLUS the challenge of computer programming! Cosponsored by Friends of Pohick Regional Library. Age 6-8.

Hard Hat Movie Night. 6:30 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join us after hours for family fun and a movie to kick off the next phase of Pohick Regional Library. All ages.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Springfield Days. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., South Run Park, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Springfield Days is

a community wide celebration that includes a 5K run, “Pet Fest” and car show. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

Cardboard Regatta. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Witness the cardboard boat creations race along Lake Accotink’s shoreline at 2 p.m. \$4 vehicle fee. Call 703-569-0285 or email julie.tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 1

Disc Golf II. 5:30 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. An advanced class taking basic disc golf skills to the next level. Students work with a disc golf pro and learn advanced techniques, tricks, and tips that helps lead to a more advanced level of play. Bring your own discs. Register at <http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 4-6

Huge Summer Book Sale. Thursday: 3-9 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Fiction, history, hobbies, vintage, and children’s books, in pristine condition.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 5-7

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday: 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday: 10 a.m.-midnight; and Sunday: 11 a.m.-7p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Musical performances, rides, games and food. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celebratefairfax.com/.

A motorcycle blazes by, flying an American Flag and a Prisoners of War and Missing in Action flag, as part of the Ride of the Patriots on Sunday, May 25, 2014.



PHOTO BY EMMA HARRIS/
THE CONNECTION

Ride of the Patriots Rolls Back Through Fairfax

For the 17th year, the Fairfax Harley Owners Group and Patriot Harley-Davidson are sponsoring a Memorial Day weekend group motorcycle ride to honor service men and women, veterans, prisoners of war and those missing in action from all wars. The “Ride of the Patriots” will take place Sunday, May 24, with riders departing from Patriot Harley-Davidson on Lee Highway in Fairfax at 8 a.m. and continuing to the Pentagon in Arlington.

The send off is scheduled to be preceded by a short parade featuring City and County of Fairfax officials along with state and Congressional representatives, police, fire and rescue departments, other Veterans groups, the Fairfax High School Marching Band and the Firefighters’ Emerald Society Pipe Band — all beginning at Captain Pell’s at 7:30 a.m.

Once they reach the Pentagon, riders will link up with a mass of other bikers for the 28th annual “Rolling Thunder” parade to the National Mall and Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial.

For more information visit www.rideofthepatriots.com.

— TIM PETERSON

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SPORTS

Woodson Boys' Soccer Secures Conference Championship Berth

Cavaliers beat defending state champion T.C. Williams in semifinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The T.C. Williams boys' soccer team was the aggressor early in Tuesday's Conference 7 tournament semifinal match against Woodson, but had nothing to show for it at halftime.

The defending state champion Titans trailed 1-0 despite spending much of the match's first 20 minutes on the attack. In the 48th minute, however, senior captain Ramsey Benzina took a free kick from the edge of the 18-yard box, blasting the ball over a wall of Woodson defenders and into the net for the equalizer. The goal breathed life into the Titans, who to that point had come up empty on the scoreboard against a strong Woodson back line.

But moments after T.C. Williams had seized momentum, Woodson snatched it right back.

JW Clark's header in the 53rd minute proved to be the winning goal as the No. 2 seed Cavaliers secured a trip to the conference championship match with a 2-1 victory over the No. 3 Titans on May 19 at Woodson High School.

"It's a hot day and [Benzina's goal] kind of got our heads down a little bit because it's never good to get scored on when we have the lead," said Clark, a junior forward. "But our team has spirit. We came out firing. We didn't keep our heads down, we just kept on pushing and we managed to get one in."

Senior defender Matt Todd assisted Clark's goal.

WOODSON WILL HOST No. 4 seed West Potomac in the conference championship match Thursday night.

"We're ready," Clark said. "We're so ready. Coach [Andrew] Peck has done awesome things with this squad. It really feels good to get a win against the defending state champs and that really fires us up for the game."

After Clark's goal put Woodson back on top, the Cavaliers limited the Titans' scoring opportunities. Woodson senior captains Alex Furbank and Connor Werrlein, senior Eric Speer, junior captain and first-team all-conference selection Sean Garin, and Todd contributed along the back line. First-team all-conference goalkeeper Brian Breslin made multiple second-half saves.

Woodson held T.C. Williams scoreless during their regular season meeting, a 1-0 Cavalier victory.



Woodson forward JW Clark (5) scored the winning goal against T.C. Williams during the Conference 7 tournament semifinals on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Senior goalkeeper Brian Breslin and the Woodson boys' soccer team advanced to the Conference 7 tournament championship match with a 2-1 win over T.C. Williams on Tuesday.

"If your back line is consistent and your goalkeeper is on top of his game, it just makes everything so much easier because all you've got to do is finish one ball," first-year Woodson head coach Peck said. "[The Titans] got a free-kick goal. They really didn't have any great opportunities in front of the net because our guys were holding the back line."

Sophomore midfielder Ryan Dagley gave Woodson a 1-0 lead with a goal in the 20th minute.

THE VICTORY improved Woodson's record to 9-5-1 and sets up a conference championship match against a West Potomac program Peck guided within one win of qualifying for the state tournament last season.

The Cavaliers defeated the Wolverines 3-1 during the regular season at West Potomac High School.

"Last year's season was a huge disappointment for [the Cavaliers]," Peck said. "They lost in the first round [of the conference tournament]. Basically, they went from a first-round loss to the finals. They're peaking at the right time."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson forward Natalie Stynchula (14) scored her team-leading 15th goal of the season on Tuesday during a 2-1 victory over Lake Braddock.

Stynchula Sisters Lead Woodson to Victory

Cavaliers will face South County for Conference 7 championship.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to set pieces, Woodson girls' soccer head coach Warren Williams has faith in a freshman.

When it comes to goal scoring, a junior has taken the lead for the Cavaliers.

Those two girls happen to be sisters, and on Tuesday, Faith and Natalie Stynchula played significant roles in helping the Cavaliers clinch a berth in the Conference 7 tournament final.

Faith Stynchula assisted Jillian Barnard's first-half goal and Natalie Stynchula added an insurance goal in the second half as No. 2 seed Woodson defeated No. 3 Lake Braddock 2-1 in the conference semifinals on May 19 at Woodson High School.

The Cavaliers will travel to face top-seed South County in the conference championship match on Thursday, May 21.

"I think we did a great job," Natalie Stynchula said. "We were all working together, as usual — connecting our passes, getting it out wide. It was a great effort for our team."

Natalie Stynchula, a junior forward, scored her team-leading 15th goal in the 47th minute, extending Woodson's lead to 2-0.

"The kid's got a nose for the goal," Williams said. "She finds the back of the net consistently. ... She gets half a step and she's willing to take that chance and that's what you want your goal-scorer to do."

In the first half, Barnard, a

senior midfielder, got Woodson on the board with a goal in the 26th minute, finishing a free kick from Faith Stynchula.

"Jillian made the right back-post run and just finished it off," Williams said. "She's a left-footed kid and we've been on her all year use that right foot. She just placed it right in and you can't ask for anything more than that."

Faith Stynchula is the Cavaliers' catalyst during corner kicks. Williams has faith the freshman defender will put the ball where it needs to be.

"The biggest thing when you have a kid taking set pieces is you want them to be consistent," Williams said, "and I know where she's going to serve every ball consistently, and that's all you want from a set piece. Now I can run my set pieces off of where she's going to place the ball."

Lake Braddock junior Ellie Weber scored a goal in the 52nd minute.

"Their No. 20 [is] phenomenal," Williams said about Weber. "She can play for me any day of the week. She's just an outstanding player."

The victory improved Woodson's record to 12-2-1. The Cavaliers will face South County in the Conference 7 championship match. South County defeated Woodson 1-0 during the regular season.

"I think we're ready," Natalie Stynchula said. "We can definitely handle it. We have a lot of work to do together, but we're building."

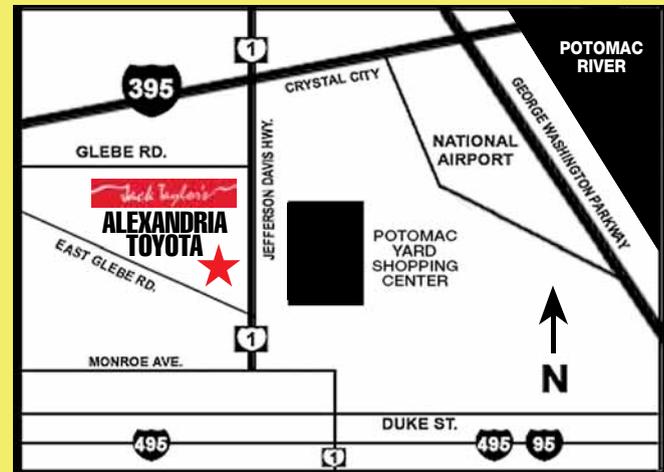
Lake Braddock's record dropped to 7-5-3.

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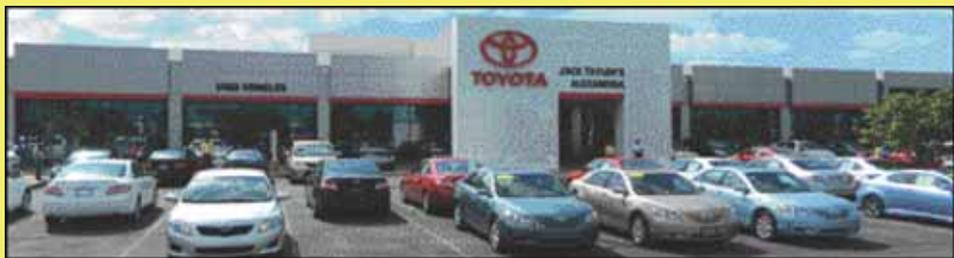
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Public Notice - Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comments on a draft permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a facility to manage hazardous waste as well as two (2) Statement of Basis (SB) regarding proposed remedies for site-wide corrective action, located on the Fort Belvoir facility in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 21, 2015 to July 6, 2015.

PERMIT NAME & NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Management Permit for Storage and Corrective Action; EPA ID No. VA7213720082

PERMIT APPLICANT: U. S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (Fort Belvoir)

FACILITY NAME & LOCATION: U. S. Route 1, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Fort Belvoir applied for a renewal permit to operate a facility that manages hazardous waste on April 21, 2014. One hazardous waste management unit (HWMU) is permitted, known as HWMU 1490, which is Building 1490 that stores hazardous waste in containers. The permit also includes RCRA site-wide corrective action activities, where Fort Belvoir may be required to submit various plans, studies, and reports in accordance with a Project Management Plan and Schedule Requirements approved by DEQ and EPA Region 3. DEQ has prepared a Statement of Basis (SB) dated October 20, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 192 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), which include either No Further Action, No Further Action with Administrative Closure, or Land Use Controls and a second SB dated October 31, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 5 SWMUs designated as A-05, A-08, A-09, A-11, and A-12, that have completed Corrective Measures Studies located on the Fort Belvoir facility. The draft permit will allow the facility to continue to operate Building 1490, the hazardous waste storage facility, and implement RCRA site-wide corrective action activities.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand delivery, e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public also may request a public hearing. To request a public hearing, the request must be in writing; must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing; and must be made within the public comment period. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet and application at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 or the DEQ Northern Regional Office at 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Copies of the permit documents are also available at DEQ Office of Waste Permitting, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Angela J. Alonso, Environmental Specialist II - DEQ Office of Waste Permitting & Compliance - P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218 - Phone: (804) 698-4328 - Fax: (804) 698-4234 - E-mail: Angela.Alonso@deq.virginia.gov

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