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Police Release Use of Force Review

Review explained at latest Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission meeting.

Nearly a year ago, Fairfax County sought an outside opinion on its police department's use of force. That July 2014 commission went to the Washington, D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum.

The organization gained access to unredacted files and case information going back ten years, as well as police academy training sessions and other areas of the department while conducting the review. While not pursuing cases currently under investigation, the review team did look at use of force cases and deadly force cases.

The concept then was to compare Fairfax County's policies and practices to other jurisdictions and best practices, and make recommendations for how the county could improve.

Fairfax County published the completed review report online the weekend immediately after they received it. The following Monday, June 22, Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson attended the meeting of the Fairfax County Police Practices Review Commission to give an overview of the document.

THE REVIEW includes 71 recommendations, spanning 92 pages. It and Wexler are generally positive about Fairfax County's police.

"This is a good department that wants to be better," said Wexler, "not just good but one of the best in the country."

If the organization's recommendations are implemented, the review text states, it would "significantly enhance the [Fairfax County Police Department's] internal operations and its ability to serve the community in ways that build trust and cooperation, while increasing the professionalism with which use-of-force incidents are handled in the county."

Wexler chose five main areas for improvement to highlight in his presentation of the review. These included more comprehensive use of force training for police officers that is scenario-based, holistic and would be implemented department-wide.

The second area was a recommendation to explore implementing a policing practice called the Decision Making model, adopted from use in Scotland and across the United Kingdom.

"What they've done is designed a format for officers to look at any given situation," said Tom Wilson, and answer, "What is your threat?" This method, Wilson and Wexler said, is a crucial part of any effort to de-



Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler (right) and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson speak to the ad hoc commission on June 23.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Commission chairman Michael Hershman asks Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler follow-up questions after his presentation over the forum's report on Fairfax County police use of force.

escalate a situation. It requires officers to slow down or take a step back.

Next were recommendations for police recruit training. The review organization found new Fairfax County officers were first given firearms training, rather than starting "with the most significant principles of policing," Wexler said.

"They ought to hear... about the sanctity of human life, those terms, before being handed firearms."

The fourth area was how Fairfax County responds to people who are emotionally disturbed or have mental illness. According to Lt. Col. and commission member Tom Ryan with the police department, 43 percent of officers have received Crisis Intervention Training to better handle such situations. Police Chief Edwin Roessler has stated his goal of having 100 percent of officers trained, which Wexler said the review fully supports.

On improving use of force policies, the Police Executive Research Forum recommendations include prohibiting officers from shooting at moving vehicles, investigating all cases where deadly force was used regardless of if the officer hit the target,

making sure electronically controlled weapons are used appropriately, prohibiting chokeholds and discontinuing the use of the "precision immobilization technique" for stopping moving vehicles.

"The department is already doing a lot," Wexler said, "and we have suggestions for how they can do more."

Commissioner Eric Clingan of the NOVA Law Firm asked how long Wexler expected it would take to "change the culture" with respect to the recommendations from the Police Executive Research Forum, and what kind of monitoring should be done.

Wexler responded that changes would have to come both from Fairfax County Police leadership and the training academy. "I don't think the leap is that far to go," he said. "The department is already going in that route."

Commissioners John Lovaas, a Reston resident, and Sal Culosi, father of Dr. Salvatore "Sal" Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, asked if citizen oversight and use of Special Weapons and Tactics teams were covered in the review. Wexler said those topics were "not part of the scope" of the review.



Subcommittee member Jose Santos of Great Falls asks for the Police Executive Research Forum's opinion on how Fairfax County Police release information. "There's a knee-jerk reaction," he said, "a reluctance to air out their dirty laundry."

In answering a commission member, Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova explained this review was separate from the outside review of police policies for releasing information, something the supervisors decided to move forward with earlier this year. That review, being a budget item for the new fiscal year in Fairfax County (July 1), has not moved forward much.

"I'm disappointed in the timing," Bulova said. "It's no excuse."

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION by Wexler and Wilson, Dr. Steve Band spoke to the commission on the "human element" — the psychological and biochemical effects of being a police officer faced with life-threatening situations.

"It's 'Oh sh-t, that awareness of extreme vulnerability,'" said Band. "Once you jump on that continuum, it's like deer in the headlights. Gaining control of that situation requires muscle memory and committing to action."

The meeting concluded with reports from each of the five subcommittees — Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting, and Independent Oversight and Investigations — all of which have different deadlines for submitting recommendations to the full commission.

Monday, July 27 is the next date scheduled for the meeting of the full Ad Hoc commission at the Fairfax County Government Center. Chairman Hershman said county staff is working on securing an alternate location that would be convenient to residents that may have difficulty reaching the government center.

The full text of the Police Executive Research Forum review of Fairfax County police use of force and practice can be found through the county website's pages on the ad hoc commission, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission, or directly at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/materials/fairfax-county-police-dept-final-report-june19.pdf. Dr. Band's presentation is also available on the commission website.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHY YATES

Cara Yates received a medal recognizing her feat of never missing a day of school.

Ms. No-Miss

South County graduate completes attendance streak.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Cara Yates has never missed a day of school. Ever. From kindergarten on, the South County High School 2015 graduate kept a perfect attendance record the whole way.

The Fairfax Station resident was recognized with awards after finishing sixth grade at Silverbrook Elementary School, eighth grade at then-South County Secondary School and now 12th grade at the high school.

"It was a lot of luck, to be honest," said Cara's father Randy. All the typical reasons a student might skip — illness, sports practice or competition, travel — never had an impact.

Illness: "She hardly ever got sick," Randy said. "If she did, it seemed like Friday night, over the weekend or summer time."

Sports: Cara played field hockey, basketball and softball for South County, but practices, games and tournaments always took place outside of school hours.

What about getting home late from games, with a pile of homework left to do?

"Some days I wanted to stay home," Cara said, "but I knew it would probably make things harder in the long run, I'd have to make up work."

Once Cara made it long enough to start receiving awards, her parents used the streak as a teaching tool.

"As the days went on," Randy said, "we talked about the importance of being loyal and doing your best."

Cara also saw a big academic payoff from her attendance consistency: good grades. Cara graduated with just over a 4.0 grade point average.

"What's helped me is I am on a strict schedule most of the time," Cara said. "When I was in season, it was lot easier to get homework done and study. I had to set times to get things done after games and practices."

"And paying attention in class is important," Cara continued. "It helps with my time management — getting the info I need in school."

South County assistant principal Michael Pflugrath has known Cara for several years. "She not only has

SEE YATES, PAGE 5

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Cara Yates

Yates

FROM PAGE 4

the work ethic to come to school every day without exception, but she also consistently performs at the top level," Pflugrath said in an email.

Cara was a member of the 2014 Virginia High School League state champion softball team and in 2015 received the All-South County Team Award, given to just ten student-athletes.

"Cara embodies the meaning of our school motto, 'Excellence in all Endeavors,'" he added. "Cara is the kind of person you want your kid to be friends with. She leads by example and sets the standard for work ethic and commitment."

The work ethic was Cara's driving force, not motivation for an attendance medal. "It never really was a goal," said Cara, "just a thing I was doing. It wasn't hard to not go to school. I never thought about missing a day — I knew I had to go."

And the ethic is rubbing off as well. Cara's younger sister Emma hasn't missed a day of school through eighth grade.

"We're really proud of them, all the way around," said Randy. "They have to do all the work, we push them a little."

Cara plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall and major in marketing management.

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Wakefield Farmers Market. 2-6 p.m. Wednesdays, May 6-Oct. 28. 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. 703-321-7081. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefieldmkt.htm>

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax. www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

In Jail: Don't Confuse Mental Health Services with Treatment

14 mental health service members at the disposal of 1060 inmates.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
THE CONNECTION

A young man with ruffled hair and tired eyes peers out through the rectangular window of his single cell door. His gaze drifts across the green-tiled dayroom of the acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

The high ceiling of the dayroom reveals a second floor of single cells, the entire facility currently occupied by 45 incarcerated men. The young man's eyes catch an observer's and he nods in greeting. Besides this subtle gesture, the dayroom is quiet and still. The tiny cell windows above and below are brightly lit and faceless.

The women's acute mental health facility is structurally similar yet compressed, holding 19 inmates. Both spaces contain central open spaces filled with metal tables and attached chairs. This is where supervisor Steve Weiss, the director of jail-based behavioral services within the ADC and his 14 team members of the Community Service Board sit down with each of the current 64 inmates to provide mental health services. But along with serving those in acute care, the 14 CSB team members provide mental health services to the jail's general population, serving a total of 1073 inmates within the last six months, according to CSB Communications Director Belinda Buescher. During that time, the jail held an average of 1060 inmates.

"In a perfect world we would have a much larger staff and we would have a presence 24/7. If we did that with the existing staff that we have now we would be spread so thin and services would be so diluted that we couldn't respond effectively when we are here," Weiss said.

Sheriff Deputy J. Perkins who works in the facilities explains the Sheriff Department's involvement with the facility's mental health care. He points to "Ob-Logs" short for "Observation Logs." "These are 15 minute checks because it's high observation ..." Perkins said. "It's just another piece of the puzzle in reference to their mental health status." Some of the check ups documented in the logs include whether or not an inmate takes their medication, what meals they're eating and when they're sleeping. "This gives you a real good picture in reference to how well they're doing or if they're deteriorating."

Checking on these individuals frequently and extensively is a necessity when servicing mental health issues, because a state of mind can alter drastically even over the course of a few minutes. Weiss explains that these circumstances mean that the inmates who are prioritized for care changes daily. "We come up with a list every day of who we must see based on the severity of need, and then what we do from that point on depends upon the urgency of the situation."

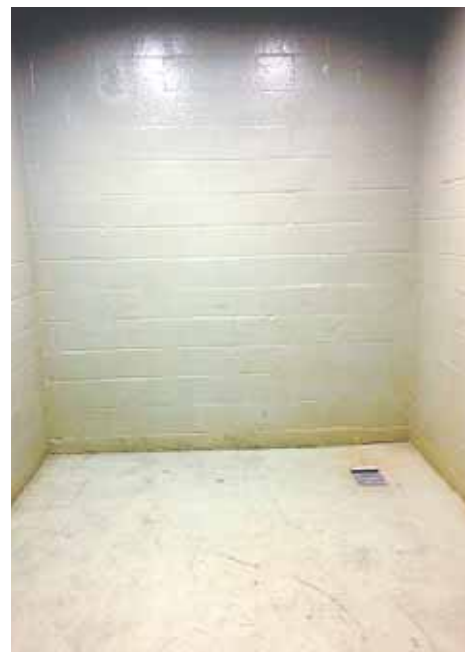
Weiss has worked in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center for 11 years, and before that, in other mental health facilities. When



Men's dayroom of the Acute Mental Health Facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.



Single cell in the women's acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.



Holding cell in the basement of the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

"I don't really like to leave the impression that there is any equivalency between what we do here and what the person should receive or what they might receive in a hospital or in proper mental health treatment"

— Steve Weiss, director, jail-based behavioral services

Weiss retires in a few weeks, no one will be hired to fill his position, reducing the CSB staff from a total of 14 to 13. Psychology textbooks, behavioral therapy manuals and other informational texts about the human mind line the shelves of his office. Despite Weiss's knowledge and sensitivity toward mental health, he is adamant about referring to the services that his team provides as just that — services, not as treatment.

"I hate using the word treatment," Weiss said. "... People often believe, it's surprising — lawyers, police, family members especially, think 'Boy, I hate to see this person go to jail but at least they'll get treatment over there.' I don't really like to leave the impression that there is any equivalency between what we do here and what the person should receive or what they might receive in a hospital or in proper mental health treatment we want to do as much as we can for as many people as possible, but our objective is really not to provide primary treatment, it's rather to engage, stabilize, and to transition."

The CSB staff consists of social workers, psychologists, or psychiatrists who engage inmates by providing therapeutic group and individual sessions. Some of these sessions include goal-specific outcomes, such as substance abuse therapy. Other sessions may begin with confronting the most basic and important of mental health issues — figuring out what's wrong, and the needs of the individual. Weiss says that a benefit these services within the jail is that "There's no such thing as a no-show in jail for an appointment ... there's 100 percent show rate, that doesn't mean that people are always cooperative. ... There are instances where this is the first time when you're [the CSB staff] able to get a clear picture of what's going on. As crappy as life is in jail, it's the most stable that somebody has been."

Stabilization doesn't always occur.

"ONE OF THE FIRST stumbling blocks is the fact that often when people have an illness, whether it involves substance use or

SEE MENTAL HEALTH, PAGE 9

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OPINION

Safe Planning for Independence

Talking and planning about celebrating July 4, and throughout the summer months.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

This is true for the young adults over 21 living with you, and unfortunately also for many teens who are under 21. More on that below.

For all revelers in independence: Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is an alternative safety net.

On the night of Saturday, July 4, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30), beginning at 10 p.m. for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2014, more than 150 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possi-

bly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

On July 4, historically, nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths in the U.S. are caused by drunk drivers; more than 20 percent of the drunk drivers involved in those deaths during the 2013 July 4 holiday had blood alcohol concentrations of nearly twice the legal limit, said Kurt Erickson of WRAP.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Talk with your teens about the problems of binge drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

This is a message important for the tail end of graduation season and good for the whole summer, which is the time of the highest risk for teen drivers.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 62,500 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

Call for Pet Connection Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 22, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 15.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to Pay for Medicaid Expansion?

To the Editor:

State Delegate Ken Plum's latest commentary on Medicaid expansion ("Political Prospects for Medicaid Expansion," The Connection, June 4) is not the first time he has written on the subject, but he has yet to explain how Virginia would pay for this.

If one understands the proposal correctly, the federal government will fund the program using "federal funds" (a euphemism for taxpayer dollars) the first two years, with Virginia then starting to pick

up increasingly larger shares of the program in out years. Virginia's tab would start with 10 percent of the cost after the first two "teaser" years paid by those Federal funds and then progressively increase.

Given Governor McAuliffe's own previously announced multi-year deficit of \$2.4 billion, \$882 million over the next two years, and potential state employee lay-offs, where would that money come from—even for the ten percent? Law enforcement? Education? Transportation? Higher taxes?

What happens when the Medicaid expansion becomes a line item in the Virginia budget for perpetuity?

As a delegate, Del. Plum has fiduciary and fiscal responsibility to manage the budget for all Virginians.

Those favoring a Medicaid expansion in the State—predominantly Democrats—who write such commentaries, do not discuss cost specifics—i.e., how to pay for it—when it would become a permanent line item in the Virginia budget. Currently, commendable

altruism exceeds the reality of the balance in the state's checkbook—as confirmed by Governor McAuliffe's own projections. Republican-led fiscal prudence and fiduciary responsibility on this issue is the correct course of action for Virginia.

Chris J. Krisinger
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Burke

Editor's note: Virginia's contribution would be capped at 10 percent.

A Huge Step for Virginia Healthcare

To the Editor:

I would like to graciously thank everyone involved in making The Commonwealth of Virginia the 30th state to screen all newborns for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), commonly known as the bubble boy disease. Babies with SCID appear healthy at birth, but without early treatment, most often by bone marrow transplant from a healthy donor, these infants cannot survive. It has taken the efforts of many to finally reach this historic moment for the Commonwealth, and all those who have

been involved richly deserve to be applauded.

The Virginia Genetic Advisory Committee and its subcommittee, the Virginia Newborn Screening Committee, approved the addition of SCID in 2011, subsequently sending the recommendation to the Commissioner of Health. A SCID Planning Workgroup began preparing all additional facts required by the Commissioner in 2012 after which a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) was signed by the Commissioner and approved by the

Board of Health. The progression for the NOIRA was, by statute, a lengthy and arduous process which required that it be reviewed by the Offices of Planning and Budget, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health, the Cabinet Secretary and the Governor on 3 different occasions.

During this time, the NOIRA had to cross the desks of two different governors, requiring a new approval each time.

Mandating screening for SCID will prevent infant fatalities and avoid potential expensive lifelong

care that places an enormous burden on families and society. This law takes a huge step forward for Virginia healthcare policies, and I am grateful that all Virginia babies will now have the chance at a healthy life.

It is my hope that every state includes SCID on their newborn screening panel immediately to save lives. Thank you all for making this day a reality here in the Commonwealth.

Barbara L. Ballard
Clifton

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PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Andrea Pino, Annie Clark, Sandy Bromley, Aviva Kurash, and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, take questions from the audience after a screening of “The Hunting Ground” on June 10 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Failure to Help

Pino and Clark, subjects of “The Hunting Ground,” Answer Questions at GMU.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Andrea Pino and Annie Clark answered questions from the audience after a showing of “The Hunting Ground” on Wednesday, June 10 at George Mason University in Fairfax. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) introduced the film and Pino and Clark. “I saw the film during session...[It’s] the perfect opportunity to educate the community” about this issue.” She contacted Pino and Clark, two of the main subjects of the film and who both recently moved to the area, about a screening.

The opening scene showed high school seniors waiting for their college acceptance notification while Pomp and Circumstance played in the background. Following the elation of the students were sobering tales of sexual assault experienced by the subjects. Pino was assaulted in 2012 at party when she was pulled into a bathroom and her attacker slammed her head against the wall. She was attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Clark is also a graduate of UNC.

“When you’re scared and you don’t know what’s happening to you, you just stay there and hope that you don’t die. And, that’s when I was hoping that I had more than just 20 years to live,” said Pino, as she told her story.

After the sexual assault, the victims faced another violation—that of their trust. The colleges they attended and law enforcement refused to take action against their attackers and even refused to believe that they were raped. The systems that are supposed



From left, Andrea Pino and Annie Clark, two of the main subjects of “The Hunting Ground,” take questions from the audience after a screening on June 10 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

to protect victims are now barriers to action, said Clark.

During the question-and-answer panel with Clark, Pino, Filler-Corn, Aviva Kurash of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and domestic violence coordinator for Fairfax County Sandy Bromley, Clark said that there is a lack of leadership from college presidents. There is a “collective problem of no one getting up and saying this happened,” she said.

Pino and Clark filed a Title IX complaint against UNC after its continued indifference to known sexual harassment on campus. The U.S. Department of Education launched an investigation against UNC. As of January, there are 95 postsecondary institutions with open Title IX sexual violence investigations.

Pino and Clark traveled the country helping university activists and survivors file

Mental Health Service

FROM PAGE 6

mental illness or both the illness itself prevents them from understanding that they’re ill,” he said.

Weiss describes this condition as “anosognosia” or “lack of awareness” which according to the Treatment Advocacy Center, is a condition that affects 50 percent of individuals with schizophrenia and 40 percent of individuals with bipolar disorder. “Because of what’s wrong with you, you don’t see anything wrong with you,” Weiss said.

This among other untreated symptoms of mental illness may result in the inability to pursue treatment after being released from jail, despite the Jail Diversion programs in place for continuing care. This increases the chances of individuals with mental illness repeating offenses and being placed right back within the limits of the Adult Detention Center’s CSB services, to which Weiss describes as a “catch all.”

In Weiss’s perfect world, people with mental illness wouldn’t end up in jail. Yet besides the fact that there aren’t enough beds available in state hospitals, there are also civil liberties that prevent a person with mental illness to be placed forcibly within a mental treatment facility. “For a lot of different reasons, people come to jail when the problem really isn’t criminal activity,” Weiss said.

He provides a hypothetical situation, “If I know that Sam can’t make good decisions for himself, and can’t care for himself, I can’t just say, ‘I’m putting Sam in a hospital.’ There are laws that protect people.” So when Sam starts to act out of control and the police are called, he can’t be taken to a hospital, but he can be taken to jail.

“It is not about this chunk or that chunk, all of them are equally important, the chain is only as strong as its weakest link,” Weiss said. These “chunks” or services include the utilization of Crisis Intervention Training on behalf of the Fairfax County Police, the availability of Jail Diversion options such as substance abuse treatment and outpatient programs, and increasing the support of post-incarceration options, such as hous-

ing, and placement within mental health treatment facilities.

“What we need to do is understand that this is a systemic issue ... there needs to be seamless movement,” Weiss said. “I am in favor of more service in the jail — but that is a reflection of the failure of everything else.” He reiterates that the issue of mental health treatment within the community is, “A single problem with different pieces.” Weiss can only work to improve one.

WEISS SPENDS his days not only with the inmates, but with family members and friends who are also affected by this system. On the upside, these interactions make up his favorite part of the job. “It’s always being able to make something a little bit better for the person who is incarcerated or for the person that cares about them ... always, there’s never any question about that.”

But with love comes heartbreak, as Weiss describes the difficulty in seeing individuals whose, “only crime really is being mentally ill.” He spoke to one such individual, a young man who was refusing therapy or medication “due to severe paranoia.”

Weiss was trying to convince him to apply to receive disability checks. After lots of time and persistence Weiss received, “the smallest sliver of a maybe” from the man “which I’m sure by today is going to be a no.” Weiss sighs, “But — it’s not always a no.”

Back in the lobby of the Adult Detention Center, a woman sits in the one of the plastic chairs and bounces a baby on her knee. Besides thumping the heel of her clog, she holds her body stiff as she looks above the baby’s bobbing head and through the doors leading into the Detention Center. Weiss said, “When people come here, whether they’re in the lobby worrying about the person inside or whether it’s the person inside the jail — they’re at the worst point in their life, and sometimes the smallest thing can make a very big difference sometimes it’s saying to a mother — ‘I promise you your son is going to be OK, we’re watching him.’”

Title IX, Clery and other federal complaints against their colleges. They founded End Rape on Campus to help with their activities.

In Virginia, there were 322 sexual offenses reported by universities and colleges in 2013—9,531 nationwide, 18 at GMU and 7 at the NVCC Alexandria Campus.*

During the winter session Filler-Corn was co-patron, along with Del. James Massie III (R-72), of the bipartisan HB 1785, which was signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe in March. It requires that an agreement between campus police force and law enforcement agency to notify the local attorney for the Commonwealth within 48 hours of beginning any investigation involving felony

criminal sexual assault occurring on campus property or other property related to the institution of higher education.

“This is clearly an epidemic. It’s an issue that needs to be resolved,” said Filler-Corn.

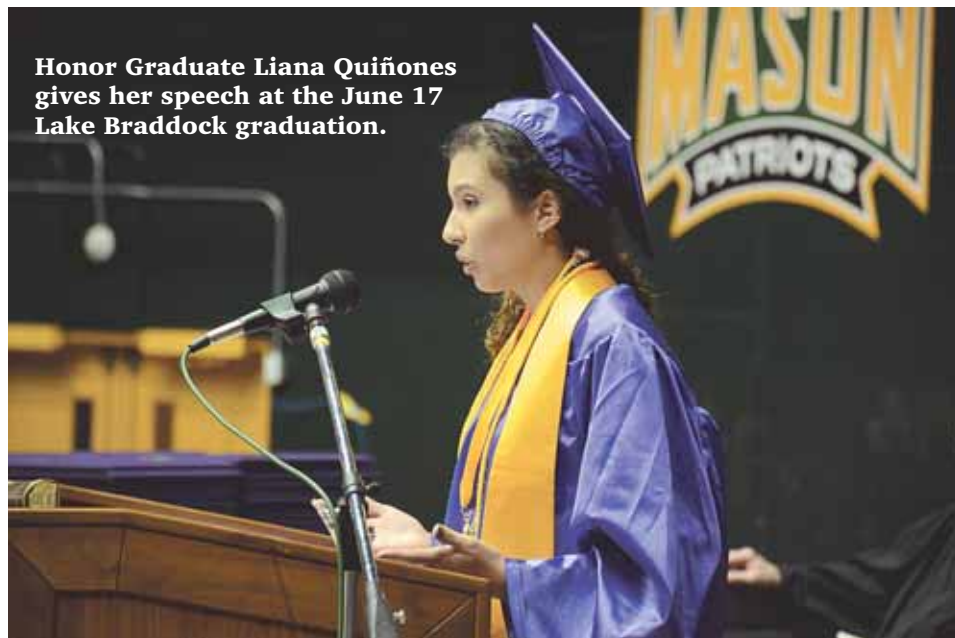
“We can’t talk about rape till we talk about sex,” said Pino, who advocates for more sex education. “How are we raising young boys? Are we teaching them about consent?”

“The frame of orientation should be from ‘Don’t get raped’ to ‘Don’t rape,’” said Clark.

“The Hunting Ground” is being shown in college campuses and is not currently on wide release.

*Four- and two-year, nonprofit, postsecondary institutions. Statistics from <http://ope.ed.gov/security/>.

GRADUATION 2015



Honor Graduate Liana Quiñones gives her speech at the June 17 Lake Braddock graduation.

Bruins Burst Forth

Lake Braddock Secondary School Commencement held June 17.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Purple robes flooded the floor of the George Mason University Patriot Center basketball arena as Lake Braddock Secondary School graduates processed to their seats.

In his acknowledgements, Principal Dave Thomas recognized 114 students who received the Civic Seal, 24 who are planning to serve in the military, 10 who are receiving Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarships and three who have appointments to the major service academies.

"I'm extremely grateful for your dedication to community and school," Thomas said.

Speaking to the class as a whole, he referenced President Abraham Lincoln's thoughts that each person has three names: One is inherited, one is given by parents and one is what you make for yourself.

"Reflect on the type of person you want to be," said Thomas, "and go for it."

Senior class president Nathan Zelalem drew from a more modern source in his remarks: "As the great philosopher and poet Katy Perry once said, 'Baby you're a firework, come on show 'em what you're worth.'"

In her speech, Honor Graduate Liana Quiñones spoke about the "absent awards," intangible achievements like overcoming the awkward, painful and wonderful high school experience that the graduating class can list among their other certificates and honors.

"These are the absent awards and they are infinite," she said. "These achievements can't be captured by cords alone. There's no way for diplomas to capture what it has meant to us individually."

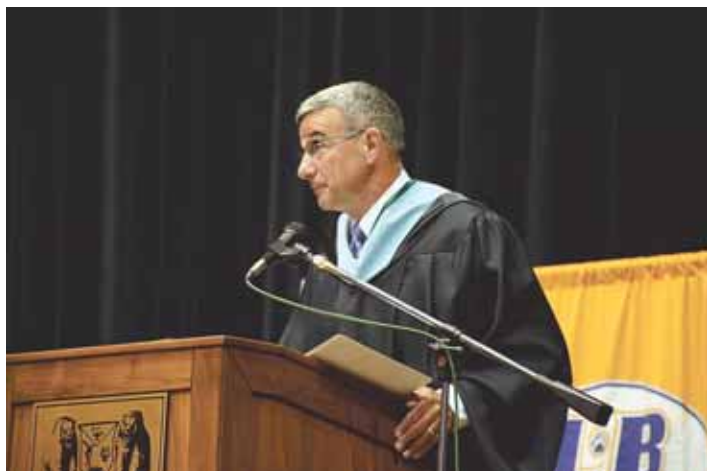
Lake Braddock's keynote speaker was former athletic director Mark Martino. "Raise your hand if you'd rather be looking at your phone than looking at me," he said.

Among his pieces of advice, Martino stressed that while "technology is the crux" of the world the students are graduating into, it's important to learn to pick your head up from the screen once in a while. He encouraged them to take a public speaking course in college.

"It's inevitable you'll have to hold an intelligent conversation with someone," he said, "without looking at your phone."

After Martino's speech, senior class executive board member Madison Shock explained the class gift of a new flagpole for Lake Braddock's football field.

Retired athletic director Mark Martino delivers the Lake Braddock graduation keynote speech.



VIEWPOINTS

What advice would you give next year's senior class?

— TIM PETERSON

Matthew Lefkowitz plans to attend Virginia Tech and study biomedical engineering. "Never give up. Just keep conquering any obstacles."

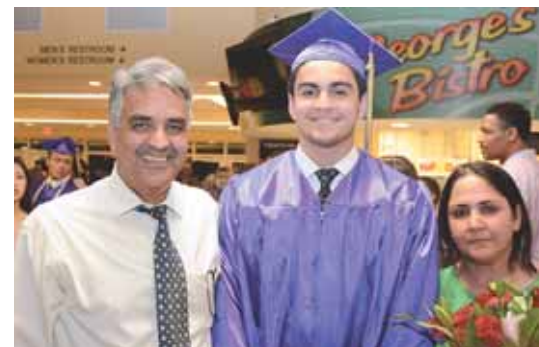


Linh Buckley plans to attend Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. and study nursing. "Do your college applications early so you have less stress first semester."

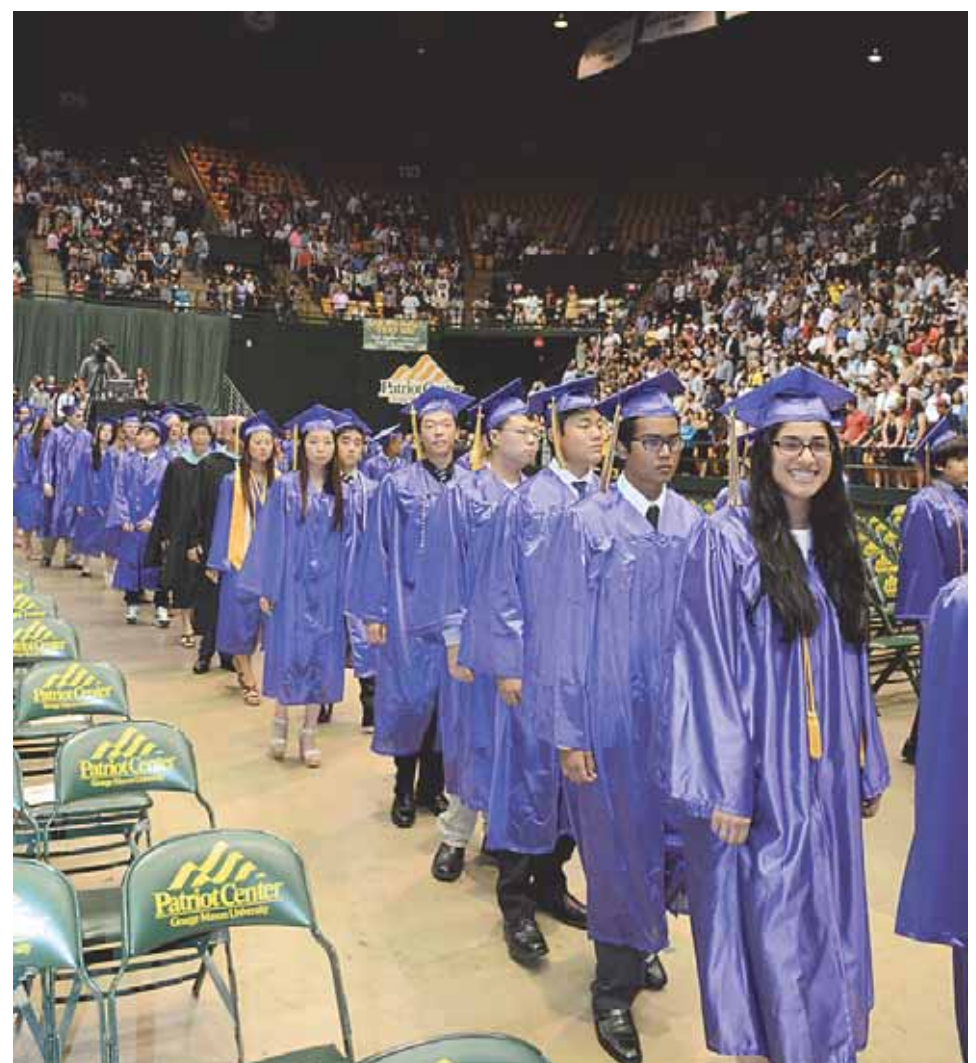


Grace Allas plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University and study physical therapy. "Cherish every moment — it goes by fast."

Ryan Alexander plans to attend Old Dominion University and study physical therapy. "Take easy classes senior year."



(Center) Omar Rakin plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College, then George Mason or Virginia Commonwealth University and study information technology and engineering. "Have fun."



Lake Braddock graduating seniors process into the George Mason University Patriot Center on June 17.

GRADUATIONS 2015

VIEWPOINTS



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE ALKIRE/THE CONNECTION

South County's senior class student council gathers for a photo before the ceremony.

Saving the Best for Last

South County class of 2015 graduates at the Patriot Center.

BY CAROLINE ALKIRE
THE CONNECTION

George Mason's Patriot Center echoed with whistles and applause from the watching crowd, as a sea of students in navy blue graduation robes emerged to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance."

"They saved the best school for last," student council president Katie Cummings' voice boomed over South County's class of 2015 on June 22.

The class of 2015, full of Ivy League college-goers and division one athletes, cheered in agreement at the beginning of the ceremony. From a golf state championship to a solid philanthropic front, this group of students stood united over all of their accomplishments.

"What makes us special is that we were very close and there's not many cliques," said Katie Cummings, student council president. "We all bond, and encourage one another."

MANY STUDENTS in the crowd graduated with honors (above a 4.0 GPA), and fellow honor graduate Meghan Depue stood during the ceremony and spoke to the entire graduating class.

"Making a difference is a daily goal," Depue said. "In high school we made a difference by supporting our peers and attending sporting events. I look forward to making a daily difference in the next stage of my life."

Kaitlyn Wischum, the class of 2015 co-sponsor, has been following the seniors since they were freshmen. Wischum was impressed by "the eloquence" of Depue's

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Young family members in the crowd cheer on the graduates.

speech, and is awestruck at how big of a difference the class of 2015 made on their peers and the community.

"They are extremely mature, both in their school spirit and in their need to give back," said Wichum. "They've set a really high bar for the younger classes."

With a visit from Jason Sturm, a Crossfitter and soldier with an amputated leg, and a speech from Matthew Ragone, South County's new principal, the class of 2015 spent their final moments as high school students soaking in the knowledge of inspiring people.

AS MORE THAN 500 graduates walked across the Patriot Center stage, parents and teachers cheered and screamed in excitement. Finally, the class of 2015 stood and threw their caps into the air, the last of all the Fairfax County schools to graduate.

"I am truly impressed with your collective ability to create meaningful connections with people," Principal Ragone said. "In four years you have extended coexistence to collaboration, and I am so proud of the class of 2015."



A student from the class of 2015 poses with her diploma moments after walking across the stage.

Where are you going next; where do you see yourself in five years from now?

Jose Lopez:

"I will be going to NOVA. In five years I hope to be in a nice house and I want a job where I can work with computers. That is what I want to study in school."



Marin Tettelbach:

"I am going to Longwood University. After school I hope to be teaching either somewhere in Fairfax or somewhere south like North Carolina. I want to teach elementary education and special education."



Darius Colemam:

"I am going to NOVA, and in five years I want to be a professional basketball player. I would love to play for the Washington Wizards."



Tyler Bunch:

"In five or 10 years I see myself as a successful businessman, a musician and a great friend. I will be attending Northern Virginia Community College."



Twin brothers Hayden & Evan Burke:

Hayden (left): "I will be attending Auburn University next year. I have no idea what I want to do in five years, but I hope to be living in Atlanta, Ga. doing something that I like."

Evan (right): "I want to teach music in five years after college. I am going to Auburn and will be majoring in music education."

— CAROLINE ALKIRE

GRADUATION 2015



Robinson's Executive Council poses together on stage before the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE ALKIRE/THE CONNECTION

Danzan Delgertosgt's family cheers him on with large cutouts of his face. Delgertosgt's family sat at the top of the stadium to avoid blocking the view of others.

Clanking Into the Future

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE ALKIRE/THE CONNECTION

Robinson student speaker Katherine Wilson celebrates "the generation of hope and change."

BY CAROLINE ALKIRE
THE CONNECTION

From a fire to a One Direction break up (in the words of student speaker Katherine Wilson), the Robinson class of 2015 survived it all. With a district championship, two state championships and a Cappies Award, this graduating class had so much to celebrate.

Decked out in hues of white, royal blue and yellow, 740 students gathered at the Patriot Center on June 16 at 9:30 a.m. to say goodbye to high school and hello to bright futures.

"Our class is unique in that we're very diverse activities-wise. Almost everyone is involved at Robinson, whether it be in sports, music, art or a club," said Brent Yantis, member of the Robinson senior class Executive Council and future Virginia Tech Hokie. "Everyone in the class of 2015 was willing to get out there and participate. We upheld what Robinson is all about."

Athletes, scholars, leaders and future military members marched across the stage to accept their high school diplomas: 212 Robinson students graduated with a 4.0 GPA or higher, their gold honor medals jangling as they walked across the stage. "Keep clanking into the future!" Principal Matthew Eline urged.

Of the vast number of graduates, one student, Katherine Wilson, was chosen to give a speech at the beginning of the ceremony. After moving around for most of her childhood—Wilson lived in Detroit, Maryland,



Class speaker Katherine Wilson poses with a mentor before her speech.

Africa and Egypt—she finally settled in Northern Virginia at Robinson Secondary halfway through her sophomore year of high school and found her home.

"We are the generation of hope and change," Wilson told her classmates during her speech.

After competing with 16 other applicants and presenting her speech in front of a panel of teachers at Robinson, Wilson was given the honor of addressing her peers on stage at graduation. She told her class that at Robinson she learned "we' is much stronger than 'I.'"

"These kids brought me in when I was the new girl from Africa," said Wilson. "They were so kind and accepting, so I was honored to speak on their behalf."

Other students also spoke about the accepting nature of Robinson's 2015 graduating class.

"Our class is special because we all support each other," said Katie Pearson, also a member of the Executive Council, and a future Hokie. "Sports teams go to music events, and everyone supports each other no matter what anyone is involved in."

With diplomas in hand and tassels turned to the left, the graduating class of 2015 stood and threw their blue caps into the air, and Principal Eline's note of advice rang true.

"Don't ever forget where you come from," he said. "You are a Robinson Ram, and you will always be a Robinson ram. It is your time to change the world."

VIEWPOINTS

Where do you go next; where do you see yourself in 10 years from now?

—CAROLINE ALKIRE



Sabrina Lingeman

"I will be attending the University of Virginia. In five or 10 years, I hope to be in medical school or finishing up medical school. I want to be a doctor for infectious diseases and tropical medicine."

Kayla Mathews

"I'm very excited to go James Madison University in the fall. I hope to be out of college with a job in five years. I'm going to major in business and environmental science, so hopefully my job will have something to do with those subjects."



William Barlow

"I'll be at Virginia Tech next year, and I'll be majoring in chemical engineering. After college I hope to be interning or working for an engineering company, possibly Audi."

Roxana Modhha

"I'll be at George Mason University in the fall. In five to 10 years I'll hopefully be in medical school and getting my doctorate degree so I can become a pediatrician."



Marcus Denham

"I will be going to West Point. After that I expect to be a commissioned officer in the army for my entire career, and location wise I'll be happy to serve wherever the army takes me."



PHOTOS BY THOMAS FRIESTAD/THE CONNECTION

Advocate Melanie Santiago and ECD Team Leader Erin Hansen stand with a collection of elementary age students from the Barros Circle community. Each received a certificate for their academic performances over the past school year.

Academic Achievers Awarded

FACETS hosts dinner in celebration of A, B-earning K-12 youth.

BY THOMAS FRIESTAD
THE CONNECTION

Smiles flashed in between bites of dinner at the Sherwood Community Center, where over one hundred students in grades K-12 gathered with their families to receive certificates for A-B report cards Wednesday, June 3. These students were beneficiaries of the FACETS nonprofit's Education and Community Development (ECD) program, which offers enrichment programs to students living in four local low-income, subsidized communities.

ECD Team Leader Erin Hansen said the event was to recognize both students who excelled in classes and those who required more concentration to succeed.

"This is not only the culmination of the hard work of students, but also the parents, volunteers, certainly FACETS staff and the community as a whole," Hansen said. "Just being able to see the development of these kids through their report cards and being able to celebrate that is a great connection for the community to come together and

say 'we did this together.'"

Maura Williams, FACETS deputy executive director, said the nonprofit, founded in 1988, encompasses multiple programs to serve homeless individuals and families or those at risk of homelessness. She said the Academic Achievement Party has taken place for the past four years, and has grown so much since its inception that the nonprofit had to seek out a larger venue for this year.

"We're working toward breaking a cycle of poverty in Fairfax County," Williams said. "If we see youth and adults making achievements that will eventually help them and their families get out of poverty, that's something we really want to honor and make a big deal out of it, so that's why we hold this event each year."

Graduating senior Shanquell Marshall was the first student to speak at the event in lieu of FACETS' executive director in its history. Marshall, who will be attending Old Dominion University in the fall, encouraged her peers to always try their hardest and to set goals during their academic careers.

"Don't let one bad grade get you down, because there will always be five more opportunities for good grades to take its place," Marshall said. "There are many hard days and hard tests in high school, but keep pushing forward until you reach your ultimate goal, whatever that may be."



ECD Team Leader Erin Hansen congratulates students, parents and FACETS staff for their work over the school year to begin the Academic Achievement Party.

"FACETS' mission is to open doors for youth and families," Hansen said.

Graduating senior Shanquell Marshall offers a message of encouragement to her fellow students near the event's end.

"Being at the top of your class is awesome, but trying your hardest and getting the grades you worked for is just as great," Marshall said.



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A message from the
Virginia Housing Development Authority



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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 15.



SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JULY

7/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
7/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools
7/22/2015.....Pet Connection
7/29/2015..Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

AUGUST

8/5/2015.....Wellbeing
8/12/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
8/19/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School – Private Schools
8/26/2015.....Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

SEPTEMBER

9/2/2015.....Wellbeing
Labor Day is Sept. 7
9/9/2015..HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes
9/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Open Houses

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

SUNDAY/MAY 31- AUG. 30

Stars on Sunday Concert Series. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia. Concerts are free to attend and are perfect for families, a special date or a relaxing afternoon of music and dance.

FRIDAY/JUNE 19-SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Summer Reading Program. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Come to the library all summer for books and events. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

THURSDAY/ JUNE 25

Preschool Science 123. 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Mad Science presents fun experiments. Ages 3-6 with adult. Sign up each child and adult separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Children can stop in with an adult and learn early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Brain Games at the Library. 2 p.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Children 8-12 can stop in and have fun and win prizes with board games and card games that challenge thinking and build skills. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

Chapter Book Chat: Storytime for Bigger Kids. 4 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Come listen to a chapter book read aloud. Ages 8-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Author Event: Martha Jefferson Randolph. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Author Dr. Billy Wayson will discuss the world of Martha Jefferson Randolph and her famous father, Thomas Jefferson. Wayson illuminates life at Monticello via family correspondence. Book sale and sign. Teens and adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

FRIDAY/ JUNE 26

Classic Tails. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop children's early literacy skills with stories, song and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. Register each child and adult separately. All ages welcome. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Game On! 6 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Food and movies. Grade 6-12. Teen. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Oct. 30. Giant Parking Lot, 5955 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Vendors products include fresh organic honey and hand held pies and rolls.www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstownemkt.htm

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 26-JULY 5

World Police & Fire Games. Thousands of athletes from 70 countries will converge in Fairfax County for 10 days of competitions. Entertainment and activities will be hosted by Reston Town Center during the games. Fairfax2015.com

SATURDAY/ JUNE 27

Creative Writers Club. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join for sharing, discussion and feedback on fiction, poetry and non-fiction works. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13-18. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 9-Oct. 31. 10500 Page Avenue,

Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com.

SATURDAYS/JUNE 27-AUG. 22

Burke Arts in the Parks. 10 - 11 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-323-6601.

Fairfax's Government Center Farmers Market. 3-7 p.m. Thursdays, May 7-Oct. 29. Ten vendors including a Middle Eastern delicacy bakery and custom organic ice cream shop.Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/governmentcntr-mrkt.htm

SUNDAY/JUNE 28

Railroad Artifacts Photography Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Volunteers will offer tips on editing and photo composition of railroad artifacts. Workshop is free but regular Museum admission rates apply. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Space is limited. Register by sending your name to events@fairfax-station.org.

Fairfax Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, May 10-Oct. 25. 10500 Page Avenue, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsatursdaymarket.com/

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive, Fairfax.www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, May 3-Nov. 8. Featuring fresh produce, a Swiss bakery and potted plants and herbs. VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lortonmkt.htm

MONDAY/JUNE 29

Uno, Dos, Tres Con Andres. 10:30 a.m. Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Sing and move with music and dance from Latin America with Andres Salguero. All ages. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

The Kindercise Show. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. All ages. Sign up each adult and child separately. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

Sheep Dog Detectives. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Kaydee Puppets presents Dudley Dog and friends, who solve crimes in a fun show. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>

Gymboree: Infants! 10:30 a.m.- 11:15 a.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Gymboree instructor presents play-based activities. 4-8 months with adult. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/po/>

MONDAY/JUNE 29 - FRIDAY/JULY 3

Bond: An Unauthorized Parody. 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. A typical adventure, yet an original story, Gavin Robertson plays a variety of characters with minimum staging and maximum effect. With original music by collaborator Danny Bright, this is one spy story you won't see on the big screen... Run, don't walk to this fantastic show. Tickets: \$10-\$30.

TUESDAY/ JUNE 30

Sheep Dog Detectives. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Kaydee Puppets presents Dudley Dog and friends, who solve crimes in fun a fun and fast paced show. All ages. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Paper Mache Art Workshop. 2:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Create a unique form from gooeey paper in this unique workshop that celebrates the traditional art of mache, from making a mirror form to a hollow sculpture. Teens. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

Pokemon Club. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring your Pokemon trading cards to trade or play the Pokemon game. Age 6-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kp/>

WEDNESDAY/JULY 1

Fair Lakes Farmers Market. 3:30-7 p.m. 4501 Market Commons Drive,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Woodson High School's Color Guard marches in last year's Fairfax City Independence Day parade.

July 4th in Fairfax County

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Historic Pohick Church 4th of July Tours. 1-3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Costumed history docents will give free guided tours of the historic colonial church. <http://www.pohick.org>

July 4th in Paradise. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Open for normal business hours with live music and food available throughout the day. <http://www.paradisesspringswinery.com>

Fairfax's Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks. 10 a.m.-10:30 p.m. in the Downtown Fairfax Historic District. Independence day parade, historical tours, games, entertainment and fireworks begins at 7 p.m. www.fairfaxva.gov.

Mount Vernon's An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Daytime fireworks in patriotic colors fired over the Potomac River at 1 p.m. The event also includes an inspirational naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military re-enactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all and a visit from the "first" first couple, "General and Mrs. Washington." www.mountvernon.org.

Vienna 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show. 12-9 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna. Free event with food and drink, music, family games, children's entertainment and more. Fireworks show begins at 9:15 p.m. <http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=894>

McLean 4th of July Fireworks Celebration. 8 p.m. Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Food and music. Shuttle buses will be available at St. John's Episcopal Church at the McLean Community Center. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events>

Great Falls 4th of July Celebration & Parade. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Village Centre Green, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. 5K walk/run, blood drive, Little Patriot Parade, and floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade. Fireworks start after dusk at Turner Farm Park. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org>.

Herndon 4th of July Celebration. 6:30 p.m. Bready Park, Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. A family-fun event featuring games, arts and craft activities, bingo, food face painting, balloon artists, and fireworks. Fireworks show is choreographed to music and begins at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m. www.herndon-va.gov.

Lake Fairfax Fireworks Spectacular. 4-8 p.m. Lake Fairfax, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Live music, enjoy the Water Mine park and more. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>

Firecracker 5K for the Troops. 8 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. A 3.1 mile race, live music, face painting, waving flags, and free massages. praces.com/firecracker/

Fairfax.www.greentowns.com/initiative/farmers-market/fair-lakes-farmers-market-fairfax-va.

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Patriotic Floral Design Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Create a centerpiece in red, white and blue just in time for your Fourth of July holiday picnic. The centerpiece includes flowers, flags and patriotic trim. \$35/person plus \$25 supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Independence Day Fireworks & Concerts. 5:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's event features "The Sixth Generation;" fireworks; games and children's activities; a variety of food trucks and beer and wine garden; and extended evening gallery hours. "The Sixth Generation" is an authentic 1960s rock band that never fails to

delight audiences with their family-friendly, fun and upbeat performances.

Youth Jazz Concert. 8-9:30 p.m. Little River United Church of Christ, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The concert will showcase the veritable talent of these Monterey-based high school honor ensembles.

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Free Art of Movement Classes on the Quad: Pilates. 8 a.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Enjoy free, drop-in Art of Movement classes featuring pilates. No experience is necessary, bring your own mat.

SUNDAY/JULY 5

Stars on Sunday Concert Series: Just Wingin' It Bluegrass Band. 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Featuring a lineup of performances that showcase the diversity of talent and culture in Northern Virginia.

NEWS

World Premiere at Hub Theatre

"Leto Legend" a heartfelt comedy about a supermom.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"I am intrigued by the modern day super-heroines. There has been a shift in superheroes that have gifts simply bestowed on them to ones who have to work and train really hard to become heroes, and these hard workers tend to be female," said Helen Pafumi, artistic director, Hub Theatre.

Pafumi added, "It's just plain fun to direct a play about a super-heroine." She will be directing the brand new, all female-cast, "Leto Legend" by Kristen LePine, the Hub's summer offering.

LePine's "Leto Legend" began as a reaction and commentary to things I read, heard, and personally experienced about balancing career and family, and the pressures (fair and unfair) we place on ourselves and others on a quest to be "super."

The comic play compares "contemporary super-women to mythical ones" as it features, Charlie, a contemporary mom and comic book creator with Leto, her mythical/comic alter-ego, noted LePine. The new comedy asks how does Charlie do it all? Is there even a way she can stop herself? After-all, can juggling all she does, really be healthy?

Carolyn Kashner plays two characters — Nike Jones and Hera. According to Kashner, "Nike is this extremely hip, slang-slinging web personality." She is very active on social media and in the Comic Con sphere. Hera is the "Queen Diva of badness" with plentiful super powers.

Valerie Fenton plays both the Charlie and Leto characters. Fenton calls them mirror image reflections; both "single mothers who also have commitments to their respective careers; struggling to balance" everything. And they are up against "preconceived notions and prejudices against them from others." For Fenton, the comedy touches upon "a very timely issue in our society" as women battle to be "empowered to have both motherhood and career."

"Leto Legend's" design team includes Hub veter-



Carolyn Kashner as Nike Jones in the Hub Theatre production of "Leto Legend."



Valerie Fenton as Charlie in the Hub Theatre production of "Leto Legend."

Where and When

Hub Theatre presents "Leto Legend" at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Performances: July 10 – Aug. 2. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$30. Call 1.800.494.8497 or visit www.thehubtheatre.org/

ans such as scenic designer Robbie Hayes, costumes by Deb Sivigni, lighting by Jonathan Alexander and Matthew Nielson's sound design. The team will provide audiences with magic and surprises accomplished with lighting, sound and projections including new sensor technology to make for "some pretty cool spectacles," said Pafumi.

LePine has set out to have "laugh and enjoy the epic aspects of the productions – the blending of the two worlds. I hope they want to continue to the conversation about work/family issues, and I hope when they leave they are kinder to themselves and others."

"Leto" is going to be a "blast" of a show, added Fenton.

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon. Saturdays, May 2-Nov. 21. 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burkemkt.htm

Springfield Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. www.smartmarkets.org

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Year round. Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/FarmersMarket.html

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Faith Baptist Church Parking Lot, 301 Center Street South, Vienna. www.viennafarmersmarket.com

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Volunteers have been registering to assist at the 2015 Fairfax World Police and Fire Games at 1800 Cameron Glen Drive in Reston. More than 10,000 police and fire rescue personnel from all over the world will compete in the games, which run from June 26 to July 5 at locations in Fairfax County.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

World Police and Fire Games Coming to Fairfax County

The World Police and Fire Games are coming to Fairfax County June 26-July 5.

Athletes will compete in more than 60 different events in locations around the county and surrounding areas. Events include archery, basketball, dodgeball, tug of war, wrist wrestling and many others. All events are open to the public free of charge, though boxing and bodybuilding require a complimentary ticket due to space restrictions at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

The opening ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 26 at RFK Stadium. Seating tickets are required. Complimentary tickets are available at fairfax2015.com.

The Athletes Village will be held in Reston Town Center and offers food, games and live music, among other forms of entertainment, for both credentialed athletes and the general public.

On Friday, competition will begin with the police motorcycle street competition (7 a.m. at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly), tennis (8:30 a.m. at George Mason University and Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax), and 5-on-5 basketball (10 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Mason University).

The closing ceremony will be held in Vienna at 6 p.m. on July 5 at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

For a schedule of events and more information, visit fairfax2015.com.



At Reston Town Center, preparations are being made for the 2015 Fairfax World Police and Fire Games. The games will take place Friday, June 26, through July 5 at 53 venues, and Reston Town Center will host the Athletes Village.

Lake Braddock Football Qualifies for National 7on7 Tournament

Kyle Edwards helped the Lake Braddock football team reach the 2014 6A North region semifinals in his first season as the Bruins' starting quarterback.

Now a rising senior, Edwards said he feels comfortable and confident as he prepares for his second season at the helm. On June 21, he led the Bruins to the semifinals of the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic at Westfield High School. Reaching the tournament final four earned Lake Braddock a berth in the 7on7 University National Championship Tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

"It's good," Edwards said, "but we wanted to win this last one."

Lake Braddock lost to Chantilly in the semifinals. The Chargers finished runner-up, falling to John Champe in the tournament final.

The Bruins finished 2-1 in pool play, outscoring opponents 79-63.

Edwards, a dual-threat quarterback, led Lake Braddock to a 10-3 record in 2014.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Rising senior quarterback Kyle Edwards helped Lake Braddock reach the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic semifinals on June 21 at Westfield High School, and earn a spot in the national tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

"I just feel comfortable," said Edwards, a three-sport athlete at Lake Braddock. "I just feel confident. Last year was sort of a grow-

ing process and this year it's like, OK, I've been here before. ... It feels more like a leadership role."

Greg Quigley is entering his eighth season as a member of the Lake Braddock coaching staff. During his time with the Bruins, he said he has seen quarterbacks thrive with multiple seasons in the team's offensive system.

"I see [Edwards'] reads and progressions on the field are better," Quigley said. "... Everybody that's played in this system two years, their first year they struggled a little bit or did OK. The second year is really their coming-out year. They're able to pick it up, they see the field better, they know where the receivers should be, they know what the routes are, they know what the defense is and what routes are going to beat that defense, and I think that's what Kyle is starting to figure out now."

Quigley said rising senior receiver Trey Stephens also performed well Sunday.

"He did great," Quigley said. "He stepped up. He's a physical kid. If somebody tries to push him around, he's right back with them. ... He'll do real well for us this year."

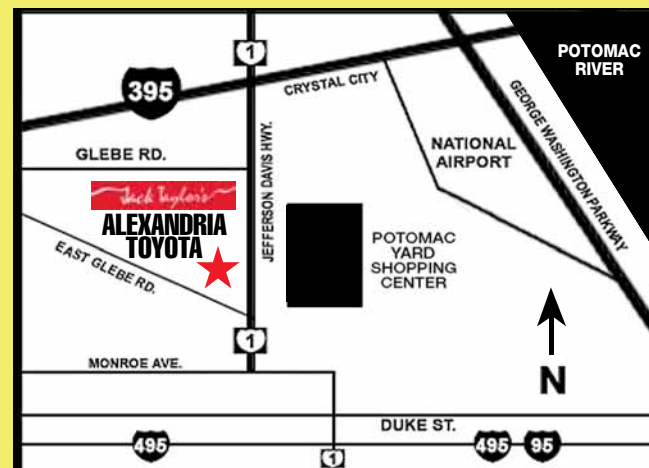
— JON ROETMAN

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VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

CARTER LUMBER OF VIRGINIA, INC.,
PLAINTIFF,
v.
DANIEL ROBINSON, et al.
DEFENDANTS.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this suit is to recover money damages for breach of contract. It is ORDERED that Daniel Robinson and Alaric Holdings, LLC appear at the above-named court on July 30, 2015 at 8:30 A.M. to protect their interests. David M. O'Dell, Clerk June 10, 2015

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MONDAY/JUNE 29

English Conversation. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice speaking English with others. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get library-related electronic resource questions answered for eBooks and compatible devices. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

TUESDAY/JUNE 30

Tuesday Morning English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice English with others to improve speaking skills. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Person Centered Dementia Care. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. It's hard to keep individuals with dementia active and engaged; learn to gear activities to them to make your time together enjoyable, frustration free, and memorable. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Are They Doing That On Purpose? Understanding Behaviors. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join us for this free program at 1:30 pm. Come and learn strategies for communication and dealing with difficult behaviors. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

ONGOING

Senior Outdoor Pickleball, April-October, Wednesdays 8-10 a.m. Audrey Moore Wakefield Park Fairfax County, Courts 9 & 10, Beginners welcome. No cost. Email Gerald Rhoads at geraldrhoads6701@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax.

Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax.

One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups. Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax.

The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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