

Fairfax CONNECTION

(Standing, from left) are Michael Sulpizio, Zion Jang, Elijah King and Matt Velasco, and (sitting, from left) are Katie Tomney and Rachel Cahoon in a scene from the Fairfax High production of "The Wedding Singer."

CELEBRATING
SPRING IN
THE AREA
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DERBY-Q FESTIVAL

Saturday May 7

2:00 PM–7:00 PM
Old Town Square
Downtown Fairfax

Watch the Kentucky Derby on the Big Screen

CRAFT BEER

Craft Beer Tasting
2:00 PM–7:00 PM

The Scotch Man Whisky Tasting
with Dougie Wylie
2:30 PM & 5:00 PM
(select one time; limited seating!!)

BANDS

2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Moonshine Society

4:30 PM–7:00 PM
Clarence "Bluesman" Turner

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Kids 3 and under enter Free!

Tickets on sale now
www.Derby-Q.com

All under 18 must be accompanied by an Adult 21+ please.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Fairfax County Presents Creative Aging Festival

Fifty free activities and events are planned at fourteen senior centers throughout Fairfax County during the month of May.

County residents and visitors will be able to access a wide variety of interactive arts offerings ranging from African drumming polyrhythms, improv theatre demonstrations, to American acoustic blues history.

The Festival is presented by the Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services in collaboration with the Arts Council of Fairfax County and the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations.

To find an event near your senior center, visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/news/ni2016/2016_creative_aging_festival.htm.

Fairfax Church to Host Barbecue and Car Wash

St. George's United Methodist Church is hosting its 13th Annual Barbecue and car wash on Saturday, May 7. The car wash begins at 9 a.m. at the church's main parking lot.

The pig pull or chicken BBQ will begin at 11 a.m. and will be served on the church deck. Proceeds go to support caring for the hungry and homeless in Fairfax County and repairing homes in the Appalachian region of North Carolina.

The Youth's mission trip to Western North Carolina will depart in July and support for their mission is appreciated.

St George's UMC, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax; 703-385-4550; www.stgumc.org.

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Excludes Special Order Items.



PHOTOS BY REEM NADEEM/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of community residents, politicians and volunteers listened to the stories of FACETS clients during the "Opening Doors" breakfast on April 14.

Fighting Poverty, One Story at a Time

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

When Leroy became homeless because of his addiction, he slept in cars and old buildings.

"I gave up on life during this time, I didn't think anyone cared about me," Leroy said to a group of FACETS volunteers, local politicians and community residents at a FACETS breakfast.

The "Opening Doors" breakfast took place April 14, and brought together hundreds of community members to hear the success stories of FACETS clients, and to learn about those affected by poverty in Fairfax.

FACETS is a nonprofit that provides aid to struggling community members in a variety of ways. In addition to helping the homeless find affordable housing, FACETS also provides hypothermia prevention and response, as well as educational programs for youth and adults.

According to FACETS worker Amanda Perry, homelessness in Fairfax is caused by a variety of issues.

"There is a bigger underlying issue, I think, of just the high poverty level here and the high cost of living. So I think that probably contributes a little bit to the homelessness. It's impossible to have an apartment or a house in this area making minimum wage, which is unfortunately what we see a lot of our households making," Perry said.

As of January 2016, 1059 people were homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church area, according to Fairfax County Government's Point in



Formerly homeless Leroy told the audience about how FACETS helped him begin recovery and find a home.

Time, which monitors and reports on community homelessness annually — 482 single adults and 577 people in families with children make up the most recent total.

Of the 482 single adults experiencing homelessness, 202 suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse, 146 were experiencing chronic homelessness, 37 were veterans and 134 were employed.

Despite the prevalence of homelessness in the area, many residents remain unaware of the extent of the issue. FACETS volunteer and Fairfax native Sarah Foote was one of many residents unaware of the issue, until she researched the topic and volunteered with FACETS.

"I feel like many people assume because the median income in Fairfax County is so high that it's not a problem, it actually makes it that much worse of a problem for everyone who is below that level, because it's that much harder to make ends meet," Foote said.

Although Fairfax County is still battling homelessness, the number of homeless people in 2016 has declined by 12 percent since 2015.

Local resident Valerie Allen has attended FACETS events for years and supports the effort to eradicate homelessness in the community.

"I'm here today because I believe in the cause," Allen said. "They help with homelessness, I've been coming to these events for many years now and it's just growing larger and larger, and I think they're doing awesome work in the area. That's why I'm here, I want to support them."

CHAKA MENEY is a single adult case manager with FACETS. Her responsibilities include working one on one with FACETS clients. Meney worked with formerly homeless Leroy, who spoke at the breakfast about his experience.

"I get to witness that emotion when they open the doors to their home, it can be overpowering and just so wonderful at the same time," Meney said. "And sometimes the clients, they'll cry or they'll give me a hug and say 'Thank you.'"

They just never thought or imagined that they would have that home."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Members of Co. D, 17th Virginia Volunteer Infantry and their rifles will return again.

Hands-On History At Blenheim

Fairfax Civil War Day is this Saturday.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A significant chapter in American history will come to life this Saturday, April 30, during the 16th annual Fairfax Civil War Day. It is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

Civil War re-enactors, displays, a cannon-firing demonstration, hayrides, music, a blacksmithing demonstration, and people dressed up as historic figures will all be part of the festivities. Also planned are guided tours of the first floor of the Blenheim house and its famous graffiti written by soldiers.

Admission is \$5, adults; and \$3, children 12 and under. Children 2 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim Estate. Free parking and full accessibility shuttle service will be provided at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. (Parking is not available at the event site).

Attendees will be able to experience Civil War camp life, as well as a variety of living history presentations. New this year will be games of cricket, which was the type of baseball played back then, and people of all ages are welcome to join in the fun. All of these events take place on a wooded, 12-acre estate that features a home built circa 1859.

There will also be a selection

of rare, historical Civil War documents on display, including vital court documents, plus sketches drawn by a Civil War soldier. Special guests will portray historical figures including Clara Barton, Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, Col. John S. Mosby, Gen. James Longstreet, aeronaut Thaddeus Lowe and preservationist Sarah Tracy.

In addition, re-enactors will demonstrate and discuss a wide assortment of topics including cavalry tactics, African American units in the United States Colored Troops, medicine, blacksmithing with a replica 1862 traveling forge, and the preservation of Mount Vernon. Also slated are talks on a variety of Civil War subjects, such as the Arlington Freedman's Village, slavery and the end of the war.

Another one of this year's highlight will be an exhibit of original art from Private Robert Sneden, who documented the war via meticulous, detailed, pen-and-ink maps and sketches. Civil War documents from the Fairfax County Circuit Court archives will also be on display in the site's Civil War Interpretive Center.

There will also be youth "boot camps" for children, author/vendor tents and wagon rides through soldier camps. Period music will be performed by Dearest Home, which will present a workshop on abolitionist songs, too.

Putting on this event are the City of Fairfax, Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the 17th Virginia Infantry, Company D "Fairfax Rifles." For more information, including directions and parking, go to www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-591-0560.

- ATTENTION -

Fairfax County Public School Employees

If you are a participant in the **Fairfax County Public Schools 403(b) Plan**, we would like to speak with you about our investigation of the fees charged on your **Great-West Mutual Funds**.

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NEWS

Principal Shares 'Lanier Lessons'

Erin Lenart presents her first **State of the School** report.



Erin Lenart

Erin Lenart, principal of Lanier Middle School (LMS) presented her first State of the Schools to the City of Fairfax School Board on March 7. Lenart took the helm of LMS in July of 2015 after Dr. Scott Poole left to become principal of Woodson High School in Fairfax.

Lenart shared her "Lanier Lessons" she has learned in her first semester as principal. Part of those lessons include that Lanier students are "creative and critical thinkers; they care about each other, their community and the environment." Lenart said the

Lanier staff is "dedicated ... constantly seeking to improve alongside each other, their leadership and [the] school."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The presentation continued with the LMS Strategic Plan with three main goals: a multi-tiered support system for all students, eighth graders will pass the reading and writing SOLs or will have a student success plan to have them reach grade level, every student will feel

connected to an adult on campus.

Lenart also asked Julio Dejo, the LMS After School teacher and former FCPS Support Teacher of the Year to talk about the comprehensive after school program.

Over 30 LMS teachers and 15 Fairfax High School students offer clubs such as EcoClub, Math Club, Science Olympiad, Homework Club, sports, art, cooking, and even a card game club.



HOME & GARDEN EXPO

RESTON 2016

April 30, 2016
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Reston Association
Headquarters
12001 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191**

Expo presented by:



Workshop series presented by:



For more information, contact Reston Association's Member Services at member_services@reston.org or 703-435-6530.

Jewish Community Center to Host Holocaust Remembrance Program

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington will be leading community-wide Holocaust Observances for suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia on Sunday, May 1. More than 70 synagogues, houses of worship, and nonprofits, including the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, support this effort each year that brings together over 1,000 diplomats,

elected officials, Holocaust survivors, interfaith clergy, teens and adults in recognition of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which occurs Thursday, May 5.

The program includes artifact exhibits; teen dialogues; intergenerational discussions with survivors; original readings, music and dance created for the commemorations; a community choir; keynote speakers; the intergenerational candle lighting ceremony and Pledges of Remem-

brance. Founded in 1938, the JCRC has maintained a decades-long commitment to Holocaust commemoration, advocacy for survivors and education for future generations. All activities are free of charge with details available at www.jccouncil.org/Holocaust.

In Northern Virginia, the program will be held Sunday, May 1, 4:30–8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. “Justice Dispensed/Justice

Denied” is a mock trial workshop for teens running from 4:30–6 p.m. Professional and youth original art exhibits will be on display and film from the original Nuremberg trials will be screened. B’nai B’rith International’s “Unto Every Person There is a Name,” reading of those who were martyred during the Holocaust will occur from 5–6:30 p.m. with special VIP and youth segments. From 6–7 p.m., Dr. Peter Black will be joined by Holocaust survivor

and ADL “Champion Against Hate,” Irene Weiss in their presentation of “Seeking Justice – 70 Years After Nuremberg.” Irene testified in a Nazi war crime trial in Germany in 2015 and will be doing so again this year. The evening culminates in the Community Commemoration, with originally created music, dance and readings as well as the multi-generational candle lighting by survivors and children of survivors.

Help End Childhood Hunger in Fairfax

Area residents are invited to join the community effort to end childhood hunger in the City of Fairfax by participating in Fairfax Cares.

At this event, set for Saturday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m.–noon, some 350 volunteers will pack 10,000 meals.

They’ll do so at Lanier Middle School, 3810 Jermantown Road in Fairfax.

These ready-to-cook meals will be distributed among the City’s four public schools, to be given to students’ families as needed. Fairfax Cares is co-hosted by City of Fairfax Schools, the nonprofit Generosity Feeds and City Council member Jeff Greenfield, the event’s honorary chairman.

Volunteers of all ages may pack meals; children participating must be supervised by an adult. To volunteer, pre-register at www.GenerosityFeeds.org and click on “find an event.”

Fairfax Cares also seeks corporate and business sponsorships for the event.

Many levels of sponsorship are available, and all financial contributions are welcome and will be recognized.

Ourisman Fairfax Toyota is the event’s platinum sponsor, and the need for food is real. In the City of Fairfax, 32 percent of children in City public schools are on the free or reduced-price meal program, and 14 percent of City children are food insecure and don’t have enough food to eat.

To support its ongoing, child-hunger initiative, the City of Fairfax website lists local nonprofit organizations that seek contributions and volunteer efforts year-round. For more information, call 703-385-7894.

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More Voters Might Not Mean Much More Voting

Governor's action brings Virginia in line with 39 other states.

Last week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements.

This moves Virginia into the mainstream; only 10 states have more restrictive policies about voting for people who have been convicted of felonies. Previously, Virginia had been one of the most restrictive states in terms of restoring voting rights. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

While some claim partisan motivation, with most of those affected presumed to be Democrats, getting these men and women registered to vote and to the polls is unlikely to result in 100,000 new voters in November. Studies show that people who were previously convicted of felonies who are eligible to vote register and

vote at lower levels than the general population, according to the New York Times <http://nyti.ms/26kNrS2>, with a registration rate of around 30 percent and about 20 percent actually voting, although some suggest voting rates of between 10-15 percent. If, as the studies suggest, 55 percent of those would vote Democratic, then likely new Democratic voters would be around 22,000.

While that's a lot less than 200,000, it's also more than the margin of victory in quite a few statewide races. Consider that Attorney General Mark Herring (D) won his race by about 900 votes out of more than 2 million cast. These new voters could have an impact on statewide races.

Districts for members of Virginia's General Assembly are so gerrymandered, it's hard to imagine that the impact of these new voters will be huge in terms of local representation.

In a Democracy, it's better when more people vote.

McAuliffe said: "If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance. We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Again, this action brings Virginia into line with 39 other states, with more than 20 states

having less restrictive policies. For example, on Feb. 9, 2016, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto and restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote. In Virginia, such individuals have to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

— MARY KIMM

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to south@connectionnewspapers.com.

Attending the April 13 working group meeting on the Springfield Senior Center, from left: Christopher Leonard and Evan Braff of the Neighborhood and Community Services; Corazon Sandoval Foley, Founding Chairman of the Burke/West



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bulova Leads Progress Toward Springfield Senior Center

To the Editor:

On April 13, 2016, Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova chaired a working group meeting that laid the foundation for concrete progress toward building a permanent facility for a senior center in Springfield District, the only district without a permanent senior center in Fairfax County. This issue has been the focus of civic activism over several years by the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls, including petition with 1,000 signatures; election (with 4,228 or 19 percent of Springfield votes); Nov. 21, 2015 senior demonstration; and senior testimonies/folk dance per-

formance at the April 7, 2016 public hearing on the budget by the Board of Supervisors.

More working group meetings will be held to finalize agreements among the stakeholders of this important community project in Springfield District. I will continue to update your readers and thank you very much for your support of fairer treatment toward Springfield senior taxpayers and families. Many thanks go to Chairman Sharon Bulova for her outstanding leadership on this important issue.

Corazon Sandoval Foley
Burke

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clean Energy Creates New Opportunities

To the Editor:

This Earth Day, April 22, the United States signed the Paris Agreement, which required unprecedented international cooperation to address climate change by reducing carbon pollution. Even before the agreement is formally signed, countries have been taking action by investing in clean, renewable energy - a necessary step to meet commitments of carbon reduction.

The United States current contribution to climate action includes policies like the Clean Power Plan. Renewable energy innovation has created good jobs here in Virginia to supply clean, reliable power to our communities. Governor Terry

McAuliffe has repeatedly confirmed he will take strong climate action and cut harmful pollution. Gov. McAuliffe recognizes the risks of sea level rise that is already flooding Virginia's coast, threatening military assets, and cultural gems like Tangier Island.

The dirty fossil fuel industry is influencing our representatives in state governments and Congress to try to block the Clean Power Plan and other lifesaving public protections. Our smart economic, political and community leaders are seizing the opportunity that climate action provides to create thousands of jobs, drive innovation, and foster economic growth. This Earth Day, with the signing of the Paris Agreement, I celebrate the chance to protect our economy and our public health in Virginia.

Kelsey Crane
Reston

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTOS BY SUSAN VAN HEDEL

Angus, the dog; Search and Rescue Technician Paul Serzan, Search and Rescue's Lt. Scott Schermerhorn and OLLI Member Stephanie Trachtenberg.

Search and Rescue Team Comes to OLLI

BY MARTHA E. POWERS
OLLI MEMBER

On Friday, April 15, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University was visited by a team from the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team. Lt. Scott Schermerhorn led this informative session, but OLLI members were more enchanted by K-9 team member Angus, a black lab, and his handler, Technician Paul Serzan. (If you heard about a missing 14-year-old autistic girl earlier this month, you should know that Angus and Paul were the ones who found her in just a few minutes, safe and sound.)

The OLLI audience spent a half-hour asking the really important questions: How old is Angus? Five. How long will he work? Until he's 8, or at most 10 years old. What happens then? He'll live with me (Paul) still, as a household pet. How many of the unit's dogs are female vs. male? Just two are female, while the other five are male. Why? The males do a better job because they listen. (This response brought a collective groan from the female audience members.) The class ended with a doggy demo in the field behind TA-3 where, in mere seconds, Angus located the "missing" lieutenant who was hiding behind a tree.

Angus and six other dogs are important members of the Search and Rescue team and, along with dozens of human team members and 50,000 pounds of food and equipment, they travel to man-made and natural disasters worldwide, saving many lives. Virginia Task Force 1 is federally sponsored by the



Search and Rescue Technician Paul Serzan with dog, Angus.

USAID, and comprises emergency managers and planners, physicians, paramedics, and wide range of specialists.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Mason offers hundreds of classes annually. Details are available at www.olli.gmu.edu.



Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project Eastbound Widening Arlington County, City of Falls Church and Fairfax County

Public Information Meetings

Monday, May 9, 2016

Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria
1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria
7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

Meeting Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Presentation: 7 p.m.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host public information meetings for the proposed eastbound widening as part of the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project. On February 10, 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe and members from both parties and chambers of the Virginia General Assembly announced a bipartisan agreement to move forward on a plan to reduce congestion on I-66 inside the Beltway by widening a four-mile stretch from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston. This proposal is intended to address an eastbound chokepoint where traffic merges onto I-66 from the Dulles Connector Road. The meetings will provide information about the Environmental Assessment (EA) that VDOT is preparing for the widening to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To inform the EA, VDOT is conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

Stop by to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

Review project information and project schedule at www.Transform66.org and at the public information meetings.

Give your written or oral comments at the meetings or submit them to Amanda Baxter, Project Manager, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Inside the Beltway" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-417, P101, R201, C501 UPC: 108424



PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

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

www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Fairfax Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable. ~Reminder: Father's Day is June 19~

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From left: The cast of “Into the Woods” is led by high school seniors Madyson Hanton as the Witch, Julia Mahon Kuzin as the Baker’s Wife and Matthew Cook as the Baker. Watch them cross paths with interesting storybook characters May 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. A special child-friendly matinee on May 14 will entertain kids at 2 p.m. followed by Fairy Tale Festival. The Russell Theater is located in Robinson Secondary School at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. Call 703-426-2100 or visit the www.robinsondrama.org.



Robinson Drama Presents ‘Into the Woods’

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

At first glance, it seems “Be careful what you wish for” is a lesson taught by local high school students as they take their audience “Into the Woods” for two consecutive weekends, May 6-14 at the Russell Theater in Robinson Secondary School.

Cinderella wishes to attend the King’s festival, a poor boy named Jack wishes his cow would give milk, a Baker and his Wife wish for a child, Little Red Riding Hood wishes for bread and Jack’s mother wishes for gold.

Which wish shall the old Witch grant to her needy storybook characters in the enchanted forest? Only time will tell.

Exactly three days to the stroke of midnight is what the Witch gives the Baker and his Wife to deliver four ingredients she needs to concoct a magic potion and break their curse of infertility: the cow as white as milk the cape as red as blood the hair as yellow as corn and the slipper as pure as gold

THE BAKER AND HIS WIFE venture “Into the Woods” with their grocery list for an errand that is not as simple as it seems.

Both are hungry like a wolf to make their wish come true — so much it leads them on a bloody caper to snatch clothing from Little Red Riding Hood.

Time and opportunities slip away from the Baker’s Wife during her biological clock’s countdown to midnight as she makes one desperate attempt after another to steal a golden slipper from the elusive Cinderella. Like the witch’s brew, this musical is a dark blend of traditional fairy tales and the Brothers Grimm classics “Cinderella” and “Rapunzel.” Assistant stage manager Quinn Moore, 16, believes the moral of the story isn’t about wishes at all.

“Be grateful for what you have” is the real message as this 10th-grader explains the characters “don’t realize what they have until it’s gone.”

This stage production of “Into the Woods” commands a crew of 52, a cast of 41 and a live orchestra of 17 high school students — directed throughout six performances by Robinson’s drama teacher



Production poster.

engineering next fall at Virginia Tech and Cook is considering his options at the Lewis & Clark College of Arts and Sciences in Portland, Ore., Hanton will pursue her passion for the performing arts and a bachelor’s degree in musical theater in Philadelphia at The University of the Arts.

Cast members agree “Into the Woods” will appeal to fans of gothic novels, fantasy and the popular ABC Television Network show “Once Upon a Time.”

The musical was created in the 1980s by Broadway dream team James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim. Their muse was a 1970s psychological study about the meaning of fairy tales, especially ones written by the Brothers Grimm that can frighten little kids.

This Pandora’s box released several fairy tales “Into the Woods” creators contained by weaving them into a narrative of their own, filled with recognizable children’s storybook characters.

A film adaptation was released at the end of 2014 and received critical acclaim within a few months at the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards.

Learn how wishes can have unintended consequences and find out why the magic potion is so important to the ugly Witch at 7 p.m. May 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. A special child-friendly matinee May 14 will entertain kids at 2 p.m.

Tickets start at \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. The one-day matinee costs \$5 for the show only — or \$10 if kids choose to hang out with the cast and crew afterward during a fun fairy tale festival. For more information call 703-426-2100 or visit www.robinsondrama.org.

Megan Thrift and band leader Andrew Loft.

They are the Rambunctious Theatre Company — a name Thrift coined two years ago to give the Robinson Drama Department a spunky name that pays homage to their school mascot: the ram.

THE CAST of “Into the Woods” is led by high school seniors Madyson Hanton as the Witch, Matthew Cook as the Baker and Julia Mahon Kuzin as the Baker’s Wife.

Each of these veterans can count on their Robinson resume nearly a baker’s dozen, if not more, of theater productions since middle school.

Although Kuzin plans to study engineering next fall at Virginia Tech and Cook is considering his options at the Lewis & Clark College of Arts and Sciences in Portland, Ore., Hanton will pursue her passion for the performing arts and a bachelor’s degree in musical theater in Philadelphia at The University of the Arts.

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A film adaptation was released at the end of 2014 and received critical acclaim within a few months at the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards.

Learn how wishes can have unintended consequences and find out why the magic potion is so important to the ugly Witch at 7 p.m. May 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. A special child-friendly matinee May 14 will entertain kids at 2 p.m.

Tickets start at \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. The one-day matinee costs \$5 for the show only — or \$10 if kids choose to hang out with the cast and crew afterward during a fun fairy tale festival. For more information call 703-426-2100 or visit www.robinsondrama.org.

News

Back to the ’80s in Music, Costumes

Fairfax High presents ‘The Wedding Singer.’

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 63, Fairfax High presents the romantic comedy, “The Wedding Singer,” in the school theater. Based on the movie starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, it’s about wedding singer Robbie Hart, whose bride left him at the altar, and his new love, Julia, who’s engaged to someone else.

“It’s bigger than anything we’ve ever done before, in every sense of the word,” said director Erich DiCenzo. “Each cast member, ensemble included, has an average of six costumes, and there are lots of magical, quick changes that’ll happen right before the audience’s eyes.”

The whole thing will feel like a 1980s rock concert. “From the moment the curtain opens until it’s drawn shut, the audience will be in a time warp,” said DiCenzo. “The theme of the 1980s was ‘Bigger is better,’ and that’s how I’ve addressed this show.

A six-person, featured dance corps will perform lifts that I learned from Broadway choreographers, and the show’s choreographed by students Katie Tomney and Lila Johnson.”

Saying he is extremely proud of “our talented cast and crew,” DiCenzo praised their motivation, work ethic and passion for this musical set in a “totally tubular” time period.

It is for ages 13 and up and, said DiCenzo, “People are going to be blown away by the caliber of the performances and the level of the special effects. Our goal is for audiences to leave saying, ‘I can’t believe this was a high school show,’ and I think they will.”

Senior Elijah King portrays Robbie. “He wanted to be a rock star, but the only gigs he could get were weddings,” said King. “So his profession is wedding singer, and he discovers that’s his calling. He’s extremely animated and feels emotions to their fullest extent. He’s caring and passionate and a good guy. He’s also very funny and likes to have fun with his two buddies who sing with him. He’s close to his grandmother, too, and genuinely enjoys life.”

The audience will also like the intricate set, and there’ll be tricks with the costumes and props that’ll surprise them.”

Playing Julia, a waitress at a banquet hall, is senior Rachel Cahoon. “She’s really caring, has a lot to give and usually puts others ahead of herself,” said Cahoon. “Her goal

THE ROLE is challenging and de-



Rachel Cahoon and Elijah King play the leads in Fairfax High production of “The Wedding Singer.”

manding, but King loves it. “I even had to learn to play a bit of guitar,” he said. “But the character allows me to have fun on stage. I get to sing, dance and act while playing a musical instrument, plus interact with all the other cast members. It’s an absolute blast playing the lead. I’m usually in the dance ensemble, so having this responsibility taught me how to make all my lines and songs truly entertain an audience.”

His favorite song is “Not that Kind of Thing,” a group number containing solos. “It takes place in a department store and has an awesome mixture of singing, great star, but the only gigs he could get were weddings,” said King. “So his profession is wedding singer, and he discovers that’s his calling. He’s extremely animated and feels emotions to their fullest extent. He’s caring and passionate and a good guy. He’s also very funny and likes to have fun with his two buddies who sing with him. He’s close to his grandmother, too, and genuinely enjoys life.”

Senior Elijah King portrays Robbie. “He wanted to be a rock star, but the only gigs he could get were weddings,” said King. “So his profession is wedding singer, and he discovers that’s his calling. He’s extremely animated and feels emotions to their fullest extent. He’s caring and passionate and a good guy. He’s also very funny and likes to have fun with his two buddies who sing with him. He’s close to his grandmother, too, and genuinely enjoys life.”

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THE ROLE is challenging and de-

To Go

Showtimes are Friday-Saturday, May 6-7, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, May 8, at 2 p.m.; and Thursday-Saturday, May 12, 13 and 14, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 via www.fxplayers.org.

Special stage-side, VIP wedding-party seats are \$25 each. Only 24 are available per show, and they including refreshments during the production.

portive of Julia. This part is so much fun, especially since I played someone strict in last year’s spring musical. Holly’s happiness is contagious and makes me feel joyful, myself.”

Berry also leads an extravagant number, “Saturday Night in the City,” that takes place in a nightclub.

“There’s a really cool tech feature in it that I get to do, which is really exciting,” said Berry. “It’s a dance-heavy song happening in New York, so it’s more gritty than the other numbers.”

OVERALL, she said, “This is a love story, all the characters are richly created and the choreography is incredible. And it’s about weddings and will make people feel like they’re actually at a wedding.”

It’s Fairfax’s Cappies entry, and the cast has rehearsed since February. Senior Grace Weaver, the stage manager, enthusiastically described the show’s tech elements.

“We have a stationary, two-level set with a revolving staircase and movable, working parts to identify each scene,” she said. “The scenes take place in a nightclub, an office, churches, a reception hall and a revolving restaurant with pop-up tables.”

Set and light designer, senior Jonah Hurley, is adding color to the lighting for the weddings and also to set the story’s various moods, depending on the type of wedding and scene. Some of the actors will wear wigs representing ’80s hairstyles, and that includes boys with mullets, longer hair and sideburns.

And, said Weaver, “We have 288 different costumes.

The girls will have big hair and wear big, sparkly dresses with bright, eye-catching colors and poofy shoulders. And the boys will be in purposely bad, matching, blue suit-jackets and neckties with piano keys on them.”

She said the audience will like the cast’s energy, the huge set and the background lights changing colors throughout the show. “We’re really going above and beyond for tech, this year,” said Weaver.

“And we’re doing it all ourselves, which is a great learning experience.”

Barbecue, Bourbon, Blues and Brews

Derby-Q is May 7 in the City of Fairfax.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Barbecue, blues music, bourbon and beer — it’s all part of the City of Fairfax’s annual Derby-Q festival. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, from 2-7 p.m. in Old Town Square, at the corner of University Drive and North Street in downtown Fairfax. Highlights of this community celebration will include specialty beer and bourbon tastings, as well as a variety of barbecue vendors. Meanwhile, live blues bands will perform on stage while the crowds excitedly await what’s billed as “The Greatest Two Minutes in Sports” — the Kentucky Derby — to be shown on a big screen.



Moonshine Society will perform at Derby-Q.



Event Logo

site. In addition, no alcoholic beverages may be taken outside of the Beer Garden area. And attendees must be at least 21 to purchase and consume alcoholic beverages. Everyone will be carded, regardless of age, and people must present a valid ID and obtain a wristband before they can buy and consume alcohol. And no one may purchase more than two alcoholic drinks at a time.

Entertainment

From 2-4:30 p.m., Moonshine Society will perform. It was voted as one of “D.C.’s Top Four Favorite Bands,” the last three years in a row, by WAMA (Washington Area Music Association). The band plays modern blues with traces of rock and Southern soul and features celebrity saxophonist Ron Holloway. From 4:30-7 p.m., Clarence “Bluesman” Turner will take the stage. He is described as a “real-deal bluesman” out of Washington, D.C. His style is Down Home Blues that is guitar-driven in the tradition of Albert King and BB King. Turner has also won the D.C. Blues Challenge and The Blue Ridge Blues.

Ticket Packages

Various categories of tickets are available, depending on whether alcohol is purchased. Buy tickets at www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/derby-q/tickets.

General admission tickets are \$10; children 3 and under are free. These tickets will enable people to enjoy the live entertainment and buy food from the barbecue vendors. Everyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult, 21 or older. The beer-tasting ticket packages are \$25 and include free, general admission, a souvenir tasting glass, 10 beer-tasting tickets and one mint julep. There’ll be beers from 10 different breweries, and people may purchase additional beer-tasting tickets after they have entered the event.

The beer-and-whiskey-tasting package costs \$65, and tastings will be held at 2:30 and 5 p.m. This package includes the same thing as the beer-tasting package, plus a scotch-whiskey-tasting event with The Scotch Whiskey Man, Dougie Wylie.

He will present a master class so attendees may take an in-depth look at some of the best of Scotland’s oldest, family-owned-and-operated distilleries. A former farmer and rugby player noted for his charm and banter, Wylie hails from the Kingdom of Fife, an area connected directly to Scottish whiskey.

Only sealed, non-alcoholic drinks may be brought into the event; all alcohol must be purchased on



Clarence “Bluesman” Turner.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CELEBRATE FAIRFAX FESTIVAL



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Celebrate Fairfax! Fairfax Festival will be in the Fairfax County Government Center from June 10-12.

In Living Color headlines the Fairfax Festival on Sunday, June 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Celebrating Spring in the Area

ONGOING

Fleeting Grace: Teachings of Cherry Blossoms. Through May 1. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Campus-wide exhibit inspired by the ephemeral nature of the Cherry Blossoms. Spanning six galleries, artists explore the symbolism behind the flower, including the exquisite transience and volatility in life and beauty. workhousearts.org.

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. April 15-May 9. Various locations. Celebrates three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. fairfaxspotlight.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Springfest Fairfax 2016. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way,

Lorton. Earth Day and Arbor Day event. Family-friendly games, hands-on activities, bounce house, pony rides, farm animals and more. Free. workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Observe the Moon Night. 7:30 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Observe the moon through a scope; see ancient lava flows; enjoy a campfire and stories; and go on a moonlit night hike. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. Canceled if rain. \$8/\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-events-calendar.htm>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 4-5

Springfield Days. 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Multiple

locations in 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/JUNE 5

Cardboard Regatta. 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. Visit www.springfielddays.com for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-5

Workhouse Carnival and Arts Party. 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. This event will raise

funds in support of the Workhouse's arts, education and history programs. Admission to the carnival is free, including the live entertainment and film screening, however rides and vendors will require additional fees and tickets. Parking fee may apply. Contact the venue for updates, <http://www.workhousearts.org/get-involved/special-events/>.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 10-12

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight. Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight. Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.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/.

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

“Fleeting Beauty” by Hilaire Henthorne, the People’s Choice Award Winner for April, will be on display in April at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

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

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/APRIL 28-29

\$5 Jewelry and Accessory Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Atrium, 3600 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit the hospital. <http://www.inova.org/>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

“Healing Voices.” 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Documentary that explores real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. 703-324-7006.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Model Classic 2016. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Scale model exhibit. Also, doll houses, Lego, HO and N scale model railways. Lectures. Free, \$8, \$10. www.novaiipms.org. 703-680-9354.

Royal Lake Campfire Saturdays. Starts between 6:30-7 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. An evening campfire at Royal Lake. Adventure awaits as you explore the woodlands and lake-front spots where wildlife hides and resides, guided by a naturalist. Program ends with a cozy campfire,

bring whatever you like to roast, s’mores provided. Different topics. \$8-\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/psa067-15.htm>.

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Living history programs, infantry and cannon firings, scholarly talks, military drills, cricket games, historic house tours, Civil War era music, wagon rides, youth activities, barbecue and more. \$5/adults; \$3/youth 3-12; Free/2 and under. 703-591-0560 or 703-385-8414.

Fairfax Library Foundation

Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Barnes and Noble will donate 10% of all purchases made by library supporters that day. info@fairfaxlibraryfoundation.org.

“Just One More Game.” 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Story time with author Martha Hamlett. 703-278-8527.

“Sword and Verse.” 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Discussion and signing with author Kathy Macmillan. 703-278-8527.

Family Sports Challenge. 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Challenge GMU Women’s basketball team, Zumba with CC, inflatables obstacle challenges and face painting. Win Prizes and Medals. Free. <http://www.parties2inspire.org/family-sports-challenge-2016.html>.

Fun Fair at Canterbury Woods Elementary. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 4910 Willet Drive, Annandale. Carnival

games, crafts, face painting, bounce houses, raffle prizes/baskets, a bake sale, food trucks, activities for Cubs (4 years and younger), and much more. 703-403-4898. cwespta.org.

International Jazz Day Concert. 1 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Mason Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo I, Afro-Cuban Ensemble, Steel Pan Ensemble and Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble will perform works representing a diverse range of jazz styles. 888-945-2468. cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 1

St. Mary of Sorrows Spring Boutique Craft Sale. Saturday, 4-6:30 p.m. Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Handcrafted, one of a kind, decorator and gift items, Bake Sale Questions? Call Lou: 703-426-8092. St. Mary’s 703-978-4141.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Holocaust Observances. 4:30-8:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Programs and workshops, exhibits, films and readings. Candle-lighting. RSVP 571-331-2554. dlinick@jcouncil.org.

Mother’s Day Marketplace. 1-5 p.m. 6001 Rutledge Drive, Fairfax Station. Catered event featuring 20+ vendors will take place in a gorgeous \$1.2 million dollar Fairfax Station estate. Event sponsored by the new ridesharing company for women, SafeHer. Free shuttle service. www.mothersdaymarket2016.eventbrite.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MAY

Mother’s Day is May 8

5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

Memorial Day is May 30

5/25/2016..Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

JUNE

6/1/2016.....Wellbeing

6/8/2016.....Father’s Day Dining & Gifts

6/8/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

6/15/2016.....A+ Graduations & Summer Learning

6/15/2016.....Father’s Day Dining & Gifts

Father’s Day is June 19

6/22/2016.....Independence Day Preview

6/29/2016.....A+ Adult & Continuing Education

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Junior catcher Mitchell Clarke and the Woodson baseball team had their three-game win streak snapped by West Potomac on Tuesday.



Woodson pitcher Tyler Becklund and others will need to step up while staff ace Randy Prosperi is out after suffering a broken jaw during a win over Lake Braddock on April 21.

Woodson Baseball Runs Into Hot West Potomac Lineup

Cavaliers drop to fifth place in Conference 7 with 5-5 record.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson baseball team entered Tuesday's game at West Potomac having won three straight games and five of its last six, including a 10-7 victory over Lake Braddock on April 21.

The Cavaliers' streak of success came to a crashing halt, however, as the Wolverines teed-off on Woodson pitching for nine extra-base hits.

West Potomac tallied seven doubles and a pair of home runs and took over sole possession of fourth place in Conference 7 with a 7-2 victory over Woodson at West Potomac High School.

The Wolverines blew the game open with four runs in the bottom of the third inning. West Potomac used four doubles — including three straight to start the frame — and a solo home run to take a 5-1 lead.

Woodson left-hander Tyler Becklund suffered the loss, allowing five earned runs in 2 1/3 innings pitched. Senior Clayton Jackson pitched in relief.

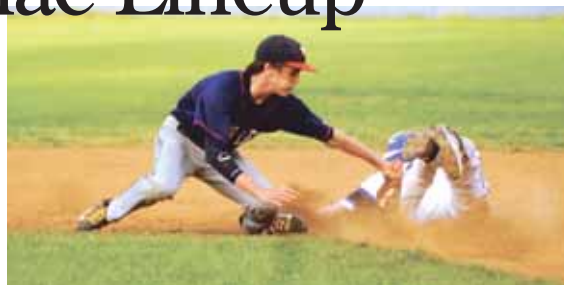
While Woodson head coach Brett McColley praised the efforts of Becklund and Jackson from a season standpoint, he said they didn't have their best stuff on Tuesday.

"[West Potomac is] a team that can hit mistakes," McColley said. "We left some pitches up, obviously. They had a ton of extra-base hits tonight."

Third baseman Peter Donohue was Woodson's most productive hitter on Tuesday, finishing 2-for-3 with a double and a solo home run. Donohue's solo shot came in the second inning and tied the score at 1.

The Cavaliers' other run came in the sixth on an RBI groundout by Jack Donohue. Mitchell Clarke led off the inning with a double.

The loss dropped Woodson's record to 8-7 overall and 5-5 in Conference 7, and moved the Cavaliers into fifth place behind Annandale (8-2), West Spring-



Woodson shortstop Kyle Adie attempts to tag a West Potomac baserunner during Tuesday's game at West Potomac High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Members of the Woodson baseball team congratulate Peter Donohue (23) after the third baseman hit a solo home run in the top of the second inning Tuesday against West Potomac.

field (8-2), Lake Braddock (8-2) and West Potomac (6-4).

Woodson also suffered a blow during its win over Lake Braddock, when starting pitcher and staff ace Randy Prosperi suffered a broken jaw when he was hit by a line drive. McColley said Prosperi is out at least three weeks, putting his return for the postseason in doubt.

McColley said the Cavaliers were "looking for [Prosperi] to carry the team into the playoffs."

Woodson was scheduled to face McLean in a non-conference matchup on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Cavaliers will travel to take on Annandale at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

South County Softball to Face TC, Northern

The South County softball team will travel to face T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29 before hosting Northern at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.

Northern is a powerhouse program located in Owings, Md. The Patriots entered Wednesday's action with a 13-0 record, according to maxpreps.com.

South County improved to 12-3 overall and 8-2 in Conference 7 with a 7-1 victory over West Springfield on Tuesday. The Stallions have won three straight after suffering back-to-back losses against Lake Braddock and West Potomac.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Senior pitcher Aubrey Bates and the South County softball team are 12-3 entering this weekend's action.

Lake Braddock Baseball Blanks Mount Vernon

The Lake Braddock baseball team bounced back from a loss to Woodson with a 16-0 road victory over Mount Vernon on Tuesday.

The win improved the Bruins' record to 12-3. Lake Braddock is in a three-way tie with Annandale and West Springfield for first place in Conference 7 with an 8-2 record.

The Bruins were scheduled to face Riverdale Baptist on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Bruins will host West Potomac at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

Robinson to Honor Girls' Soccer Coach Rike

Robinson Secondary School will honor its girls' soccer coach, Jim Rike, prior to the Rams' home game against Potomac Falls at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, May 2.

Rike is in his 35th season with Robinson and 41st as a coach in Fairfax County. He has a career record of 525-152-61, placing him atop the list for career coaching wins for Virginia public school soccer coaches.

Rike led Robinson to state titles in 1984, 1994, 1996, 2002 and 2008.

Robinson Boys' Lax to Face Landon

The two-time defending state champion Robinson boys' lacrosse team will close its regular-season schedule with a road game against private school power Landon at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

Landon, located in Bethesda, Md., is ranked No. 16 in the latest Nike/Lacrosse Magazine national poll. The Bears are 13-3 heading into Friday's action.

Robinson improved to 12-1 overall and finished undefeated in Conference 5 play with a 10-1 victory over Herndon on Tuesday.

Local Athletes to Compete at Capital Classic

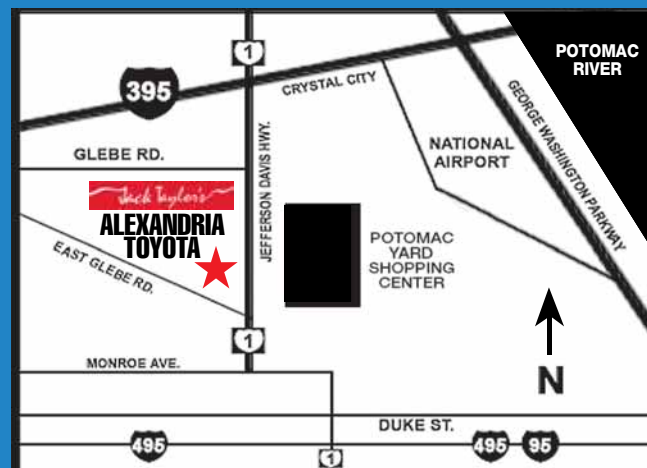
Lake Braddock senior James Butler and West Springfield senior Lewis Djonkam will compete in the 43rd Annual Capital Classic on Thursday, April 28 at Catholic University.

Butler, the 6A North Region Player of the Year and a first-team all-state selection, and Djonkam, a second-team all-state selection, will play for the Suburban All-Stars, who will face the District All-Stars at 6 p.m.

The main event, which features the U.S. All-Stars against the Capital All-Stars, is scheduled for an 8 p.m. tipoff.

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INCLUDES: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with pre-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air Alexandria Toyota's 27 pt inspection & cabin air filters.

SYNTHETIC OIL \$10 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 5/31/16.

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Hand wash exterior door jams, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand-wax or glaze, vacuum carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather, clean dash board, vents, console, door panels & windows, and dress tires.

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All details by appointment only.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL
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INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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INCLUDES: Clean condenser fins, check A/C performance, inspect drive belts for tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.

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TUESDAY NOON

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Concept Restaurant Group, LLC trading as The Block, 4221 John Marr Dr, Annandale, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Arturo Mei, Owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Anita's "New Mexico Style" Mexican Food, Inc. trading as Anita's "New Mexico Style" Bar & Grill, 8015 Braddock Rd, Springfield, VA 22151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Restaurant, (Fast & Casual) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Thomas Joseph Tellez, member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Siam Food, LLC trading as Yindee Thai, 8412 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22152. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises/Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Waraphan Srikongyos Member/President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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-Albert Einstein

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NEWS

Tropical Fruit Smoothie Café Opens in Dunn Loring

McLean resident Trung Tang has worked in food service since starting as a busboy for East Wind in Alexandria at age 14. The 1996 Mount Vernon High School graduate made a career out of serving and managing.

After leaving the Pinkberry frozen dessert franchise, Tang decided to have a go at the business himself and took on a Tropical Fruit Smoothie Café franchise.

Tang opened his cafe on Avenir Place in Dunn Loring in mid-March, bringing with him an established management structure that includes a kitchen manager he's worked with for 13 years. The location joins other area franchises of the same chain operating in Oakton and Seven Corners.

Situated alongside the Orange Theory Fitness studio (Tropical Fruit Smoothie Café opens at 6 a.m. right as class lets out), Tang's concept is following the trends of "fast casual" dining that's intended to be healthy, inexpensive and rapid.

"Customer interaction is what's key," Tang said, "it's counter service but full-service feel."

Smoothie options include 25 predeter-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Shauntel Carter, Larry Calma, owner Trung Tang, Lauren Beck and Abel Ruiz run the recently opened Tropical Fruit Smoothie Café in Dunn Loring.

mined recipes such as the popular Island Green and Chia Banana Boost, though Tang said all are customizable and can be boosted with vitamins, caffeine or protein. In addition to smoothies, the made-to-order food

menu includes toasted sandwiches, wraps and salads. Tropical Fruit Smoothie Café in Dunn Loring is located at 2672 Avenir Place, Vienna.

—TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ 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/APRIL 28

Access to Capital Conference. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Small businesses and entrepreneurs can connect with funders. Find out more or register at <http://www.atc2016.com/>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652.

www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Understanding Mood Dysregulation in

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Encore Chorale Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Medley of romantic Rodgers and Hart pieces, blues favorites by Hoagy Carmichael, and a rousing medley from the Broadway show "Guys and Dolls." Free. encorecreativity.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

"The Champions." 7:30 p.m. Angelika Mosaic, 8200 Strawberry Lane, Fairfax. NOVA Pets Alive! brings this inspirational story about the pit bulls rescued from the brutal fighting ring of former Atlanta Falcon's star quarterback Michael Vick, and the organizations who risked everything to save them. \$14. <https://www.tugg.com/events/93879>.

Star Wars Family Event. 6:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate "Star Wars" and learn to play Star Wars X-Wing. May the Fourth be

Students with Autism Spectrum

Disorder. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, Entrance 1, Room 100, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will cover assessment, and treatment of mood dysregulation in students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Register at 703-204-3941 or <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/resources/events/documents/UnderstandingMoodDysregulationinASD.pdf>.

Lee High School Clean-up. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Building beautification; plant trees, flowers and general Earth Day clean-up. <http://fcps.edu/LeeHS/>. 571-283-3279.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

NVTA Pop-up. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. In-person meetings are designed to capture feedback from a broad range of participants. <http://www.thenovaauthority.org/>.

Blood Drive. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. <https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/index.cfm?group=op&hlc=8025&hostlookupcode=8025>.

with you. 703-278-8527.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

National Day of Prayer Event. Noon-1 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Fairfax Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Pray for America and its leaders. 703-383-1170. jccag.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 6-7

"Into the Woods." 7 p.m. Russell Theater, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Everyone's favorite storybook characters together for a timeless yet relevant piece and rare modern classic. robinsondrama.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

A Special Mother's Storytime. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. In celebration of Mother's Day, read about becoming an expert grandma sitter in How to Babysit a Grandma followed by Mom

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Spring Cleaning/Shredding Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Re/Max 100, 5501 Backlick Road, Springfield. Clear out your closets, make room in the garage, shred old paperwork. Free. 703-642-3380.

THURSDAY/MAY 12

Understanding VA Benefits. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn to navigate the VA's system of paperwork and phone calls to get the services you need. Free. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP or visit InsightMCC.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 18

Northern Virginia Transportation Commission Open House/Public Hearing. Open House, 4:30 p.m. Public Hearing, 6 p.m. Reston Station, 1904 Reston Metro Plaza, Reston. On the multimodal components submitted for FY 2017 funding consideration as part of the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Program. The public comment period is also being extended through close of business on May 23, 2016. novatraansit.org.

School. 703-278-8527.

Author Event. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Sherry Harris's latest title "All Murders Final" is sure to please fans of her mysteries! Help celebrate this latest release by joining us for an author appearance and signing. Light refreshments will be served. 703-278-8527.

Spring Cleaning/Shredding Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Re/Max 100, 5501 Backlick Road, Springfield. Clear out your closets, make room in the garage, shred old paperwork. Free. 703-642-3380.

Book Launch. 2-3:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Author Sherry Harris releases her book "All Murders Final." sherryharrisauthor.com.

Barbecue and Carwash. Carwash, 9 a.m. Barbecue, 11 a.m. St. George's UMC, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Proceeds goes to support caring for the hungry and homeless in Fairfax County and repairing homes in the Appalachian region of North Carolina. The Youth's mission trip to Western North Carolina will depart in July and we appreciate your support for their mission. stgumc.org. 703-385-4550.



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Summer Camps
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Preparing for Sleep Away Camp

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A child's first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort.

"Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust," said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.

"Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding."

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HOMESICKNESS is normal and many campers experience it, can

SEE PREPARING,
CAMPS PAGE 7

"Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful."



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From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they'll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will

“During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost.”

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D.

be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.

“I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right,” said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. “During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish.”

SPECIALTY CAMPS offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

“The name is definitely tongue in cheek,” said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization’s founder. “We teach personal finance, leadership and innova-

tion. We give them life skills that they aren’t learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade.”

RIISING FIFTH- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this summer at Mount Vernon’s Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington’s estate and learn about his legacy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON GAME & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate’s heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

“The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun,” said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. “[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard.”

For More Information

Game and Technology Summer Camps

potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/

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Camp Washington and more at Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/

YOUNG GAME DESIGN aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy’s (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

“We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William,” said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

“We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers.”

MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.

Sail Away the Summer

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Amy Zang says this year all of the Flying Scots were painted in the fall and are looking beautiful. “We’re now doing the bottom paint and then will check all of the boats to be sure they are ready to sail.” Zang is the Director and Owner of the Youth Sailing Day Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina. This year sailing camp begins May 31, the Tuesday after Memorial Day and ends the week of August 15-19th. “There won’t be many kids the first week because some schools are still in session, but we’ll have it anyway.” The classes run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are open to rising third graders through 15 years of age.

Zang says the Sunfish is for beginners and the Flying Scot for intermediates. “But we’re going to continue the Skippers Club this year for those kids who have received their Sunfish license and are ready for a less structured class. It’s more like a club, more get out and play games and have fun on the boat.” She says this really started by accident two years ago and became so popular that they have added another class this year. It is a small class of nine kids who have mastered sailing with instructors hopping on and off.

Sailing campers can move to the intermediate stage with a skipper or crew license. The Flying Scot is a 17-foot boat with five campers plus an instructor. It is a bigger boat than the Sunfish with two sails and heads out to the river. “Some kids learn better with the constant reinforcement of an instructor or they like the immediate feedback.”

“The advanced class sails a Hobie Cat that is harder to sail or some students choose racing 420’s.” Four weeks out of the summer, Adventures on a Big Boat is offered on Catalina 25. “The bigger the boat, it reacts differently.”

Classes are already more than 50 percent full for the summer. “Last year we had the



Sailors rig the Sunfish in preparation for beginning the day’s lesson at Youth Sailing Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina.

best summer ever in my 24 years here or even the 56 years the camp has been in operation.” She continues, “we had just over 1,200 kids. Fantastic. It was due to my staff. If the kids are having fun, they want to sign up for more weeks.” Zang estimates that more than 50 percent of the camp attendees come back, often bringing a friend.

Looking back over the years Zang says she makes constant adjustments. One of these is to have enough instructors to keep up with populations such as learning disabled. Zang is a special education teacher during the school year.

“A number of instructors return every year so we can fine tune their training which makes new instructors this year. “Although Zang has 65 staff on the rolls, on any one day she is juggling 40 sailing counselors, 70 boats and 130 campers in sailing classes. “I tell my instructors everything has to be

in its place to make the camp run smoothly.” Zang says, “I feel blessed and lucky. We are like a family.”

Zang says she is going to four weddings this year of previous counselors—in Argentina, Richmond, Alexandria and British Columbia.

Camp begins at 9:30 am with a half hour discussion on safety procedures and a look ahead at the plan for the day. Morning sailing is from 10-noon with an hour break for lunch, “and if it’s really hot, I turn on the sprinkler.” After a 15 minute recap of the morning lessons learned, they sail again from 1:30-3:40 pm. “The kids do it all. They put the boats together and take them apart.” Zang says on the days they can’t go out because it is too too windy they have come up with ways to occupy 130 kids on land by setting up stations where kids rotate from boat building, to flag making, to other things related to sailing. Zang adds there were only two of those non-sailing days last summer.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Summer counselors at National Marina Youth Sailing Day Camp give the sailors a safety lesson each day before heading for the Potomac.



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Providence Elementary School's STEM Lab was recognized as one of 24 programs worldwide as a program of excellence from the International Technology and Engineering Educator Association (ITEEA).

Sponsored by the ITEEA and Paxton/Patterson, the Program Excellence Award is one of the highest honors given to Technology and Engineering classroom programs on the elementary, middle or high school levels. It is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession and students. The award was presented at the ITEEA annual conference earlier this month.

The Providence Elementary STEM Lab began in 2012. With two teachers dedicated to the lab, it welcomes all students in over 40 classrooms from grades K-6 throughout the year to solve challenging projects using the engineering design process. Each class rotates throughout the lab and spends five continuous days with each rotation solving a different challenge. The students work in teams and collaborate to find the best possible solution to their problem. Failure is encouraged to teach resilience, creativity and determination.

PVI's Scott Allen Named Girls Basketball Coach of the Year

Scott Allen, the Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, has been selected as the 2015-16 American Family Insurance ALL-USA Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

Coach Allen has coached at PVI for 14 years. During the 2015-2016 season, Coach Allen led the Panthers to a 33-1 finish. The Lady Panthers won the Naples Shootout tournament, their 10th consecutive Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association title and third consecutive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title.

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Academic Camps Combine Education and Fun

Local camps help students maintain school skills in a relaxed environment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

One summer Ana Lado created a summer camp activity for students at her neighborhood pool. The Marymount professor set up a picnic area, and included activities and books. Her plan was to engage the students and give them the opportunity to read and build reading skills while still enjoying fun activities traditionally associated with summer.

"I got six kids who were older to read to six kindergartners. I chose kids who had potential, but who were at risk," said Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington. "Reading with a kindergartner or first grader for 15 minutes got the students reading and built their confidence."

This summer Lado and her colleagues at Marymount are offering "3E: Explore, Enrich, Enjoy," one of several area camps with an academic component. Their goal is to enable students to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

Marymount's 3E camp enables campers to choose what they focus on at camp. In addition to traditional camp activities, the camp will include academic projects like exploring science through nature and electronic gadgets, studying math by making boats, language arts by writing their own stories and fine arts by creating plays and cartoons.

For those who want an in-depth review of a school subject and the chance to participate in hands-on summer camp activities, academic camps fill both needs.

"[Academic camps] supplement what students are getting during the school year and allow them to experience subjects and topics that they're not getting in public school," said Dan Stalcup, Associate Director for Fairfax Collegiate, a Herndon-based organization that offers summer programs for students entering third through ninth grade.

Programs at Fairfax Collegiate run the gamut from filmmaking and robotics to engineering and classic children's literature. For example, third and fourth grade students can learn to craft their own short stories during a Story Writing course in Alexandria, Chantilly and Ashburn.

Campers who enjoy reading and want to delve into award-winning novels by authors such as Madeleine L'Engle or Rebecca Stead can take "Reading Newbury Winners" with sessions in Chantilly, Ashburn, Fairfax, McLean and Reston. Students can spend two weeks reading books that have been



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Kara Dedon, a Marymount University graduate student, will be the director of the school's camp.

awarded the Newbery Medal for excellence in literature for children.

Fifth and sixth graders who love math and want to hone their analytical and logical thinking skills can spend their time engaging in chess, Stratego and

other mind-bending activities in the "Brain Games" camp, which will be offered in Chantilly, Reston, Herndon, McLean, Alexandria and Oakton.

Future detectives might enjoy taking a forensic science class in Alexandria, Chantilly, Herndon, Ashburn, Falls Church and McLean. "Students learn about the science in criminal justice, like blood-typing and fingerprinting by actually doing the experiments and seeing them in action," said Stalcup.

"Students get a lot of personal attention because the classes are small, and the instructors either have or are pursuing a degree in the topic they're teaching," said Stalcup. "They're all very passionate about the subject they're teaching."

Academic camps might be a good fit for students who are curious about a particular area of study. "Many parents want something that is both fun and educational, meaning it will help their child keep [busy] and develop skills needed during the school year," said Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University. "I think both parents and



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COLLEGIATE

A fifth grade student learns about the structure of the human heart during a Human Biology and Anatomy at Fairfax Collegiate.

educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

The decision to send a child to a camp that focuses on reading, science, math or another school subject instead of a purely recreational camp is a personal one, says Lado. "There are some kids who can visit their grandparents in Maine all summer and they come back to school in the fall and pick up where they left off," she said. "Then there are other kids who can't pick up easily. Those are the kids who would benefit from an academic program."

Students appreciate the ability to focus on one subject in a relaxed atmosphere in an academic camp. "If kids are taking a subject at a fast-clip pace, but they don't do well, they miss key skills. The next year they

"I think both parents and educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

— Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University.

move to a higher level class, but the same problem still exists," said Lado. "When they take a week or two during the summer and immerse themselves in a subject, they go stronger into the next school year. In camp, it's the only thing they're doing academically and they can concentrate on it."

For example, The Madeira School in McLean is offering summer programs in Trigonometry and Geometry. "These courses are intended for advancement into higher level math classes, and based on our classes taught during the academic year," said Ashley Smith, Associate Director of Communications

at Madeira. "A student who is interested in math and wishes to advance to higher levels will benefit, as well as students who need a refresher or a better understanding before moving ahead."

When choosing an academic camp, parents should look for camps that are not all work and no play. "I want to make sure it has a healthy balance of recreational and educational enrichment activities," said Morris. "If the campers are enjoying the activities and the counselors are skilled, the program should, as a natural effect, promote the building of positive relationships with their peers and their counselors."

Preparing for Sleep Away Camp

FROM CAMPS PAGE 2

help children accept and cope with their emotions.

"Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs," said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child's apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences, particularly positive memories.

"Don't let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp," said Linda McKenna Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving."

Meehan says that developing a few self-soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

"Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone," said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

"Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness," said Meehan. "Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful."

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. "Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child's anxiety worsens or persists," said Meehan.

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Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers

Winners of Awards in the 2015 Virginia Press Association Editorial Contest

First Place Winners

Steve Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustration. Judge's comment: Excellent image to poke fun at a growing problem. Excellently delivered in a single image.

Ken Moore, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Feature writing portfolio. Judge's comment: The writer took individual little stories about the people at the Farmers Market and put them together in a good read. The story on the service for the Latin teacher was particularly moving.

Ken Moore, *Reston Connection* – Feature series or continuing story. Judge's comment: This was an in-depth series, very informative and interesting to read. The subject matter was unique.

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing. Judge's comment: ...an outstanding job on providing an interesting detail around an individual who has passed away. She provides a wonderful context to the lives of people who may be overlooked in the typical press. Her insights into these individuals reflects her research into the subject and her analysis of the character of that individual. When I go, I hope she writes about me.

Second Place Winners

Marilyn Campbell, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing

Jean Card, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Informational graphics

Jean Card, **Sarai Johnson**, **Steven Mauren**, *Arlington Connection* – Special edition

Abigail Constantino, *Fairfax Connection* – General news photo

Steve Hibbard, **Sarai Johnson**, **Hope Nelson**, **Shirley Ruhe**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Entertainment pages

Mary Kimm, *Great Falls Connection* – Editorial writing



Steve Artley



Ken Moore



Jeanne Theismann



Marilyn Campbell



Jean Card



Laurence Foong



Renee Ruggles



Sarai Johnson



Steven Mauren



Abigail Constantino



Steve Hibbard



Hope Nelson



Shirley Ruhe



Mary Kimm



Kenneth Lourie



Tim Peterson



Jon Roetman



John Bordner



Eden Brown



Vernon Miles



Geovani Flores



Kemal Kurspahic

LOCAL MEDIA
CONNECTION

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Kenneth Lourie, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Column writing

Ken Moore, *Great Falls Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing

Ken Moore, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – General news writing

Tim Peterson, *Burke Connection* – Education writing

Tim Peterson, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection* – Business and financial writing

Tim Peterson, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – In-depth or investigative reporting subject

Tim Peterson, *Springfield Connection* – Personal service writing

Jon Roetman, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Sports writing portfolio

Jeanne Theismann, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Headlines

Third Place Winners

John Bordner, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo

Eden Brown, **Laurence Foong**, **Steven Mauren**, **Vernon Miles**, **Shirley Ruhe**, *Arlington Connection* – Special edition

Marilyn Campbell, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing

Jean Card, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational graphics

Geovani Flores, **Laurence Foong**, **Mary Kimm**, **Kemal Kurspahic**, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Editorial pages

Laurence Foong, *Great Falls Connection* – Informational graphics

Vernon Miles, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Government writing

Ken Moore, *McLean Connection* – Feature writing portfolio

Tim Peterson, *Burke Connection* – Breaking news writing

Tim Peterson, *Springfield Connection* – Government writing

Tim Peterson, *Springfield Connection* – Public safety writing