



Fairfax CONNECTION

Fairfax to Celebrate July Fourth

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Tessa Bechert holds her
Fairfax Award. More than
600 students graduated
from Fairfax High.

'Find Your Own Meaning'

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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'Find Your Own Meaning'

More than 600 students graduate from Fairfax High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

As Juliana Zamora's name was read, last Wednesday, June 15, in Fairfax High's field house, a huge roar erupted from her classmates. That's because hers was the final diploma awarded – meaning that, within seconds, she and her classmates would become graduates.

Garbed in royal blue caps and gowns, the more than 600 seniors turned their tassels, triumphantly tossed their hats into the air and headed outside, into the world. First, though, came their graduation ceremony and some sage advice from school Principal Dave Goldfarb.

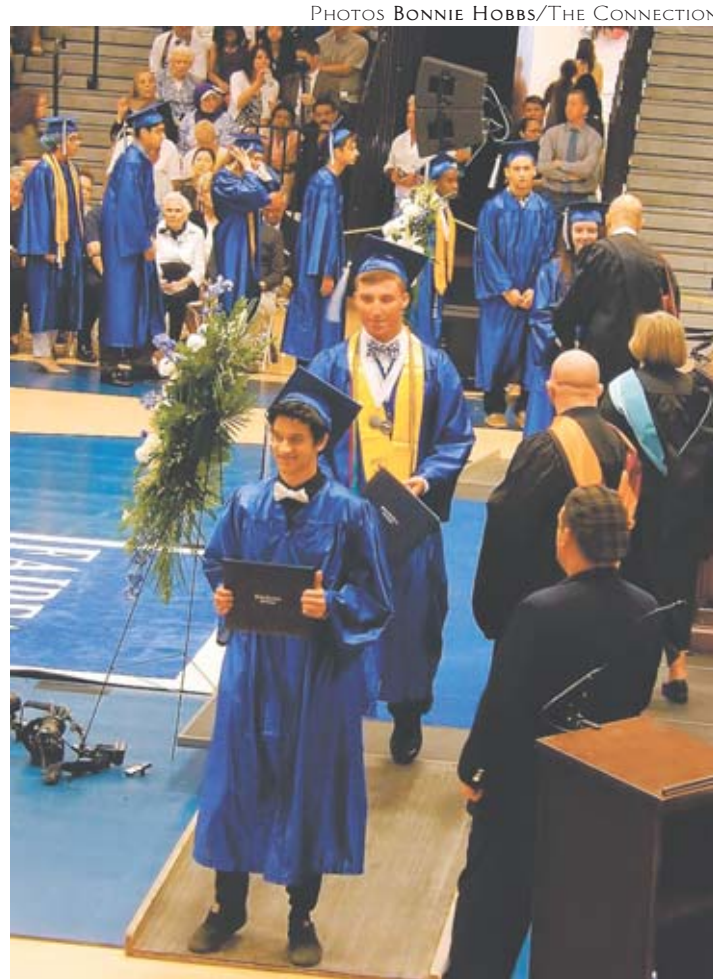
"You've been in this field house many times," he said. "Yet when you leave here today, something different awaits you. The people here – parents, guardians and grandparents – have supported your growth. And they're here to celebrate this milestone with you and see you take your first steps toward independence."

Goldfarb then had the students applaud their families, plus their teachers, counselors and other school personnel who saw their potential and were "mentors and role models" to them. He also told them a surplus of information is available to their generation, but they should filter it and its sources and not accept it without full consideration.

He urged them to: "Consider what you want to be, and what you love and value. These answers are your core values and roots and will shape how you see the world. You see news stories about tragedies and crimes, and it's hard not to lose your way. And when you're scared, you tend to not think clearly and be as grounded as you'd like. But bad things don't happen all the time. People work in soup kitchens and help others every day, and these stories are important, too."

"As I look at you, the Class of 2016, I see examples of kindness, service, family, courage, inspiration and hope," continued Goldfarb. "As you establish your identity, take time to ask questions and find your own meaning and what's important to you. How you see the world is a choice only you can make."

"As you go forward and get older, you'll change and have different friends and passions. But don't lose sight of what you [care about] and always keep a stronghold onto who you are and what makes you happy."



Students receive their diplomas, including (in yellow) Most Outstanding Senior Michael Breslin.



Grad Sammy Sarraj with his family (from left) brother Zach, dad Ali, mom Rouda and sisters Naya and Deema.



Friends (from left) Lynn Chaar, graduate Sara Al Shaer and Merna Ibrahim.



Principal Dave Goldfarb (center, in black) with the graduating seniors.

This year, 95 seniors earned a 4.0 GPA to become honor graduates, and speaking on behalf of them was Imogen Hendricks. "Enjoy the present and the process because we haven't made it, yet," she told her classmates. "There's a Japanese saying that 'Perseverance is power,' and power is about fail-

ing and getting back up, over and over. You square your shoulders and continue to your destination."

As an oboist, she said, "The importance of perseverance is not lost on me. I wanted to play pretty solos and only did so maybe

10 times, but that's OK. There are always moments that make everything worthwhile; Class of 2016, this is one of them. Seeing the seas of blue caps and gowns, I think

SEE FAIRFAX HIGH, PAGE 4

NEWS

Fairfax High Graduation

FROM PAGE 3

about all our achievements and the rush of adrenaline I'd get performing at halftime, plus supporting our theater department and athletic teams."

Hendricks is also excited for the opportunities to come, saying, "Anyone with a goal learns to push through obstacles. We're all recovering from something, in one way or another, and we continue to remember the [Fairfax] Rebels we've lost along the way. It's OK to care and to pause and take care of your body and brain. It's not giving up; it's just moving forward a little slower."

"We're a little scared and the world is big; we have many options. But we'll take [today] as a moment of rest and celebration so we can take the world by storm. But I encourage you to dance, jump headfirst into something, tell people you love them and take time to breathe. We control our futures; we are strong and we've made it this far – we have persevered."

Hendricks then listed three things they've learned in high school: "1. There's nothing wrong with coming in second; there's pride in finishing, at all; 2. We can cope and let obstacles roll off our backs; and 3. We're

not finished; we're just beginning, and that's terrific."

Next came the presentation of four awards. The Senior Award, given to the senior best representing that class, went to Mike Breslin. He was captain of the football, swim and lacrosse teams, plus editor-in-chief of the school paper, the Rebel Roar. In addition, he tutored his teammates.

City Mayor Scott Silverthorne, Fairfax High Class of '84, then presented three other awards. Christine Faunce received the Service Award. She was drum major in the school band this year and, said Silverthorne, "She'll bring her drive and excellence to Virginia Tech."

The Faculty Award went to Hannah Hipolito, who helped the Korean Club grow and raised money for the Red Cross to help natural disaster victims worldwide. And Tessa Bechert received the Fairfax Award. She was in leadership class for three years, was on the varsity field hockey, lacrosse and indoor track teams and was class president in ninth, 10th and 12th grades.

Then came the awarding of the diplomas, followed by cheers and hugs – and just like that, the seniors became graduates.

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Stem Gun Violence Epidemic

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-IL)



COMMENTARY

Last week, America woke to what has become an all-too-common nightmare. A man driven by hate and armed with assault weapons carried out our nation's worst mass shooting. In its aftermath 49 were dead, 53 injured, and communities across our country were left violated, vulnerable and wondering, "How this could happen again?"

It's a scene repeated too often in our country. 49 murdered in Orlando. In December, 14 were killed in San Bernardino. A year ago, nine were murdered during Bible study in South Carolina. Twenty innocent children and six teachers were gunned down inside a school at Sandy Hook. Thirty-three were lost at Virginia Tech — including five bright, young, talented students from our community. Twelve were killed in an Aurora movie theater. The list goes on.

We must have an honest conversation about the hate that is brewing. This time a man stole the lives of 49 people, many of whom identified as LGBT, and all of whom were celebrating and supporting inclusion, progress and freedom. The attacker's homophobic intent has been lost in the media coverage. Some have painted this

as an issue of terror, but we must be reminded that so much of the blood shed to gun violence has been at the hands of those who claim no allegiance to Islam or ISIS. America's dark history of mass killings has come from problems of mental illness to proclamations of white supremacy, and it's a fallacy to attribute the continuous violence to "Radical Islam."

In the wake of these almost weekly tragedies, the response from Congress is as predictable as it is disappointing. We offer our thoughts and prayers. We hold a moment of silence; anything to distract from the central cause, and common instrument, of these crimes. How many more must die before Congress acts?

This is a problem for which there are solutions. Expand universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. Reinstate the assault weapons ban. Close the gun show loophole.

But the gun lobby and the Republican Majority it controls stand in the way of each of these reforms. For example, the NRA opposes expanded background checks for gun purchases even though majorities of gun owners and NRA members support them. The NRA

even opposes the CDC funding for research on gun violence and its effect on public health despite the fact that more than 30,000 people die in gun related deaths annually.

In 1994, Congress passed the Assault Weapons Ban, restricting certain types of weapons and capping the size of ammunition magazines. However, in the time since the ban has been allowed to lapse, these weapons of war have become a common tool for the mayhem unleashed in these mass shootings. Do I think an assault weapons ban would prevent all crimes? Of course not; but certainly our Founding Fathers did not envision AR-15 semi-automatic rifles when they drafted the Second Amendment.

In a shocking video, Virginia Tech survivor Colin Goddard demonstrated just how easy it is to skirt background checks. Without even a photo ID or background check, Goddard was able to purchase an AK-47. Closing the gun show loophole, which allows private dealers to forego background checks required of licensed dealers, would stem the flow of illegal weapons.

When we marked the three-year anniversary of Sandy Hook, I said if more politicians viewed the safety of the American people as more important than pleasing the NRA, reason would prevail and the club of gun violence victims and their families would not continue its unrelenting growth. Instead, our ever-more-frequent moments of silence and inaction speak volumes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leaving the Judging to God

To the Editor:

"Whoever kills a person ... it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind." (Qur'an, 5:32)

The tragic event which took place early on June 12 at the hands of a despicable and deranged individual breaks my heart. The blatant disregard for the value of human life is shocking. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Orlando community, and especially with the families and friends of the victims. This goes against anything and everything that my religion and my allegiance to America, as a citizen of this great country, stands for and represents. Islam gives no one the right to violently cut short the lives of innocent people, or judge them for the way they choose to live. I don't drink alcohol and consider adultery a sin, does this mean I should kill those who drink or have affairs? Just as that makes no sense, neither does killing anyone for their sexual orientation. Islam teaches me to leave the judging to God and to focus my energy on attaining God's pleasure by showing compassion and serving all of His creation in whatever capacity I can.

I condemn all terrorist activity, everywhere. This is true regardless of where it happens and who it happens to because I love all of humanity. My love for humanity is not reserved only for Muslims nor only for Americans just because I, myself, am an American Muslim. My heart bleeds for every atrocity and every injustice inflicted on my fellow mankind, and I stand against any type of bigotry and discrimination towards any group or community. Why then does the media try to make me feel compelled to always publicly apologize for any and all unfortunate events that take place?

Let's please clarify that I am in no way responsible for the actions of any person in this world besides myself. No one. Not even my own children. I will work hard my entire life to teach them right from wrong and instill a love for service to humanity in their hearts, but in the end they alone are answerable for their actions. Everyone is solely responsible for their own deeds. "And no burdened soul can bear the burden of another; and if a heavily laden soul call another to bear its load, naught of it shall be carried by the other, even though he be a kinsman (Quran, 35:19)."

After the Virginia Tech or Sandy Hook shootings did the media turn to the killer's religion or community looking for condemnation or

an apology? No. And I'm glad they didn't because every sane person understood that the monster responsible for each tragedy was just that, a monster who represented evil alone. So please extend the same compassion to us! Why isn't it possible for someone of Asian/Middle Eastern descent who just so happens to be affiliated with Islam simply be a misguided insane madman executing a personal vendetta against mankind, and not tarnish an entire religion by being wrongfully portrayed as a devout believer waging a "holy" war, until and unless there is clear evidence otherwise?

Love for all, hatred for none.

Aisha Khan
Herndon

Harmful House Bill

To the Editor:

Last week, the U.S. House decided that keeping our air safe is not important and passed a bill to restrict implementation of the new standards for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter and lead. The "Smoggy Skies Act" (HR 4775) is an irresponsible attack on the Clean Air Act. This bill would double the time between EPA re-

views of harmful pollutants (from 5 to 10 years) and caters to corporations that want permits to pollute at levels beyond national health standards.

The standards in place protect our health and environment, and should be based on science, not considerations of cost and "technological feasibility" for companies that put profits before people. The connection between climate change and health, particularly asthma, is well established. Pumping more climate change pollutants into the air is impacting ozone pollen levels, increasing asthma attacks and allergic reactions. Richmond, Virginia, leads the list of the worst cities for asthma and allergy sufferers, and the health effects will only worsen.

Smog pollution already sends thousands of children to emergency rooms each year and costs Americans billions in health care costs, lost productivity and even premature deaths. Even more disconcerting is that smog pollution disproportionately hurts low-income communities and communities of color. Preventing attacks like HR 4775, and implementing the Clean Power Plan, is the next essential step in protecting our health.

Kelsey Crane
Reston

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NEWS

Volunteer Fairfax Hosts Gyeonggi Volunteers

On Monday, June 13, a contingent of citizens from South Korea pulled up in a touring bus to the small grey cottage on Page Avenue in Fairfax, headquarters of Volunteer Fairfax. As part of their travels from Korea, the group had requested a meeting with the regional volunteer center to learn best practices from their American counterpart.

As the regional volunteer center, Volunteer Fairfax receives a fair number of requests each year for information sharing from other state, national and international

volunteer organizations. Volunteer Fairfax considers it part of their mission to serve as a resource whenever, wherever possible. Emily Swenson, chief operations officer, says "It is an honor that the expertise of our 40-year old center is sought out by far-flung operations. Volunteering is local and global!"

With the aid of a translator, Swenson and Janet Davison spent the morning with the group led by Gyeonggi team leader, Gim Gyeongil.

Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.



PHOTO BY ANGELA STARLING

Gyeonggi Volunteer Center members from South Korea visit Volunteer Fairfax.

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.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

NVTA Workshop. 7-9 p.m. Providence District Office, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In-person meetings are designed to capture feedback from a broad range of participants. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Type Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to search for the public workshops.

Public Hearing on Monopoles and Towers Zoning Ordinance. 3:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Board of Supervisors Hearing. fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

Community Forums on Community Accessibility. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Review of the forum information to develop an action plan that addresses community recommendations, barriers, and service gaps. disabilityservices@fairfaxcounty.gov. 703-324-5874.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 13

Mental Health Resources for Local Youth. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Conference Center Rooms 9, 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Learn about the integrated network of community-based services and supports to meet the challenges of youth with serious mental health. Register at fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/cic. 703-324-3453.

Corrections

❖ Regarding the June 8 recount for the City Council election, since there was less than a half percent difference between the votes for Jeff Greenfield and Nancy Loftus, the City pays the cost of the recount.

❖ The dance during Fairfax Academy's Annual Awards was "So She Dance." The article incorrectly cited the name as "She Who Dances."

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Honor graduates with a 4.0 grade point average or higher are recognized at Robinson's June 15 graduation.

Rams Reaching Goals

Robinson holds graduation June 15.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

The students may have been graduating, but their principal assigned one more book for them to read. Robinson Secondary's Matt Eline sent each 2016 graduate on their way with a copy of Brian Tracy's "Achieve Any Goal." He made goals the theme of his address to the young adults on June 15 at George Mason's Eagle Bank Arena.

Goals, Eline said, "are dreams you write down." Eline also encouraged each of them to share their goals with other people, and celebrate with them when goals are achieved.

Eline highlighted the boys and girls swim and dive, and lacrosse teams, all of which captured state championship titles this year. These, he said, were people with goals.

He also called out the school's 157 International Baccalaureate diploma candidates. "You're awesome," he concluded. "You will change the world."

Student speaker Nathan Park took a pop culture reference as his focus: the mantra "Treat Yo Self" from the popular NBC sitcom "Parks and Recreation."

"It's easy to anticipate the worst," Park said. He encouraged his fellow graduates to "be excited about your day."

Robinson graduate Kjell Lindgren, class of 1991, provided the keynote address. Last October, Lindgren spoke to Robinson students from the International Space Station, where he was serving as a NASA flight engineer.

"We're all on journeys," he said. "You need a map to help you get to your destination."

Lindgren told the story of following his dream to become an astronaut, from an overeager 11-year-old boy living in England, to becoming medically disqualified from being a pilot.

Undeterred yet redirected, he decided to pursue aerospace medicine. Eventually he was re-tested and cleared for flight. In 2009 he was one of nine Americans chosen to go to space.



Robinson Secondary School Principal Matt Eline gives a graduation speech to seniors about achieving their goals.



Robinson Class of 2016 student speaker Nathan Park reminds his classmates to "Treat yo self."



Members of the Robinson Singers and Select Women's Ensemble perform "Bring on Tomorrow" at the school's June 15 graduation in Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University.

"What was once one of the most devastating things was actually a blessing," Lindgren said.

Finally, the astronaut encouraged the

newest graduates from Robinson to serve.

"How can I serve today," he suggested they ask themselves. "Keep the focus off you, and on others around you."

VIEWPOINTS

What is your favorite memory from high school?



Matt Schleifer plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh and study biomedical engineering.

"Winning states for swimming this year, both boys and girls. Last year we came close. It was great to get one last victory."



Julia Baird plans to attend Penn State University and study early childhood education.

"Getting to hang out with all my friends all the time."



Vivian Luong plans to attend James Madison University and study elementary education.

"The paper toss, our senior prank. You count down and then throw all the papers you've collected from the top of the lockers. It's the one senior prank we can do and it represents that we're done with high school."

NEWS

Fairfax Celebrates July 4

The 50th annual Independence Day Celebration starts with a parade at 10 a.m. in Downtown Fairfax.

But various events are happening throughout the city.

The Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center Open House (10209 Main St.) will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Ratcliffe-Allison House Tours (10386 Main St.) will be open from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Superhero Fest at the SunTrust Parking Lot (across from Fire Station #3) will start

at noon, giving you chance to meet and take photos with your favorite superheroes. There will be a firefighter competition at the Old Fashioned Fireman's Day at 12:30 p.m. at 4081 University Drive.

The evening show starts at 6 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. There will be special surprises and a variety of entertainers lined up.

Fireworks start at around 9:40 p.m. Find out more, including road closures and updates, at <http://fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration>.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

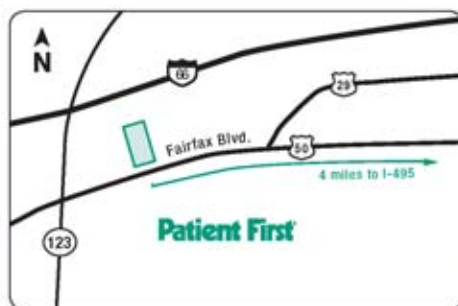
West Springfield High School's marching band at a previous City of Fairfax Independence Day celebration.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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ONGOING

Mestey Films Productions presents: **Live Onstage: The Wizard of Oz in Fairyland.**

1 p.m. Workhouse W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Every Saturday from July 2-30. Children's theatre production combining the stories of "The Wizard of Oz" with "Aladdin," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Snow White." \$14.50 adults, \$11.50 children 12 and under. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Color Me Happy. 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays July 18, Aug. 15. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Discover your inner Picasso. coloring pages from books designed especially for adults. Coloring pages, pencils and markers provided. Free. 703-978-5600.

Lovers and Madmen. June 18-Aug. 19. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Features local artists. epicurecafe.org.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

Peace: Our True Nature: Watercolor Batik by Amy Rivard. June 8-July 9. Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-9 Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Visitors will encounter watercolor batik paintings on Kinwashi rice paper, created by Rivard in the spirit of the present moment. amyrivardpaintings.com.

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Davi D'Agostino. Through July 2. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes classic fine art oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. 703-409-0919.

THURSDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY/JUNE 23, 27, 28

Open Auditions: "Amadeus." 6:45-9:45 p.m. the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Fourteen roles are open for production of "Amadeus," running Sept. 30-Oct. 15. For more details, visit www.providenceplayers.org or email providenceplayers@cox.net.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Daddy Meet Up. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Burke Gymboree Play and Music, 6045 Burke Centre Parkway #204, Burke. Meet other dads with child 0-5 years old. Relax with special open gym activities for dad and child. Refreshments. 703-249-1327.

Help Me, Wanda! 8-9:30 p.m. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Join veteran rock n' roll cabaret artist Toni Rae Salmi and her band The Wandmonium for a freewheelin' tribute to the Queen of Rockabilly, Wanda Jackson. \$10. helpmewanda.bpt.me/.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" Kick-Off. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Relive the magic of Harry Potter on June 24 at 7PM with special events and activities that are sure to conjure a magical experience for the most modest Muggles to the wisest Wizards. 703-278-8527.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 24-25

SkateFest/Sake for a Cause. Friday. 5-10 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wakefield Skate Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. In addition to "Sk8 For A Cause" and the Skateboarding Competition, the festival will feature a live DJ, food, vendors, prizes, giveaways, moon bounces, and much more for the whole family. <http://skatefestfairfax.com/2016>. 703-425-5400.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Sherryn Craig Author Event. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade

Drive, Fairfax. Author of "Midnight Madness at The Zoo." 703-278-8527.

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. With bluegrass music and food. Free. visitfairfax.com. info@nvrg.org.

Hope and Health Festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sponsored by Lorton Community Action Center, South County Cares, and INOVA. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, kids' games and activities will be available to all in attendance. LortonAction.org. 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

Gymboree Play Day. 2-7 p.m. Gymboree Play and Music, 6045 Burke Centre Parkway #204, Burke. Families with children 0-5 years old are welcome to drop-in for play activities, flying parachutes, blasts of bubbles, art, music, balloons, Sheriff's department child ID program, touch a truck. 703-249-1327.

Kidz Korner. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Variety of Children's activities and entertainment. fairfax.gov/parksrec. 703-385-7858.

Relaxation Workshop. 4-6:30 p.m. 6429 Clifton Road, Clifton. NVTRP is hosting a Relaxation Workshop, which includes yoga, art, and a ride in our pastures. \$75. nvtrp.org

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 25-26

Vienna Wireless Society National Field Day. 2 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Local amateur radio operators ("hams") will join thousands nationwide on the weekend of June 25-26 to show off their amateur-radio and emergency-communications capabilities. To learn more about amateur radio, visit viennawireless.net/ or www.arrl.org/newham.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

National Christian Choir. 6 p.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Concert will feature selections from NCC's newest album, "Glory - A Celebration of God and Country." The concert is free; an offering will be received. 703-383-1170. jccag.org.

Sunday Afternoon in the Park. 4-6 p.m. Old Town Square, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Shepherd's Pie Céilí Band will be performing, enjoy music, dancing, and singing. 703-385-7858.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

Weekday Outing: United States Botanic Garden. 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, enjoy a day at the U.S. Botanic Gardens. Bring lunch. \$10/\$14. Must preregister. 703-537-3060. Michele.Endick@jccnv.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Fireworks at the Workhouse. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Workhouse Full Campus, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. An Independence Day celebration featuring art exhibits, food trucks, local craft beer and wine, live music and fireworks. Free admission, \$10 parking in Vulcan Materials lot (free shuttle provided). All ages. Feel free to bring blankets and lawn chairs. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

Historic Pohick Church First Saturday Tours. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Costumed guided tours of the historic colonial church. The church's most famous congregants included the Washingtons, the Masons and the Fairfaxes. Free. Located at the corner of U.S. 1 and Telegraph Road, close to Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall. www.pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

TUESDAY/JULY 5

Using FamilySearch. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. An introduction to this genealogical site. Bring laptop or tablet. To register, click on Events at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 6

NVTRP Open House. 4:30-6:30 p.m. 6429 Clifton Road, Clifton. Come out to learn more about NVTRP and participate in a sampling of some new potential programming. Interactive sessions include, equine-assisted learning, art therapy, gardening, and yoga. nvtrp.org.

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PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION

Graduates in procession past the W.T. Woodson Band conducted by Brett Dodson.

Encouraged to 'Make the World Smile'

W.T. Woodson High School Class of 2016 celebrates graduation.

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson High School had nearly 600 graduates in the Class of 2016 which celebrated commencement Saturday, June 18 at Eagle Bank Arena. Parents, friends and family was expressed their joy in cheers, screams, plastic hand clappers, football rattles and a solitary, illicit, air horn blast. The students batted small summer beach balls and a large gold and black one with "Class of 2016" emblazoned on it, before they were caught and collected in the back. The playful atmosphere was not surprising when students, James Caldwell's and Arthur Richard's, opening welcome began with "...High School was tight!"

Student Blake Phillips in his "Charge to the Class" shared Woodson's difficulties and triumphs. Woodson's artists, athletes and academics "together faced rocky relationships. Some of us didn't make it out of the other side," Phillips said, referring to the students who died by suicide, a loss still felt by many of the graduates. There was a moment of silence to remember "...those would should have been in these seats." Phillips urged that the class remember the "things school has done to make us stronger together than individuals, victimized."

Principal Scott Poole shared a letter given to him by a sixth grader, written for the graduating class. A candid and accurate summary of life in school, it was met with laughter from the graduates and visitors. "Congrats on finishing high school. That's



John Kook, Hannah Park and Andy Park on top of Hansol Chang making sure graduate Jenny Park sees them using height, signage and exuberantly yelling her name.

like 13 years of school. I can barely finish 7 days." Woodson's Class of 2016 "encourage(s) me to reflect on the world and my place in it," said Poole.

"It's all about the hustle," said guest speaker Adam Bradley, founder and president of Lead 'Em Up, a sports coaching program, as well as being one of the hosts of the Hardwood Hustle Basketball podcast. "Healthy hustle requires continuous calibration," he cautioned. "Who we're hustling with is often more important than what we are hustling toward."

"Whatever path you choose, I ask that in the process, you make the world smile," said Bradley. "The world's not scary, it is exciting with opportunities around," which Bradley encouraged Woodson's Class of 2016 to explore while remaining "kind and optimistic."

Woodson Graduates on What's Next



Jenny Park: "I'm going to George Mason, staying here, to study psychology." Leaving high school Jenny is looking forward to "meeting new people at a new school."



Carli Strandberg is going to Christopher Newport University to study musical theater. Although she will miss attending Woodson's chorus she's glad that she's "done with standardized tests."

Emma Pascal, Claire Bubeck and Jordan Lynn:

Pascal and Bubeck have known each other since second grade and made friends with Lynn in art class. Pascal will continue her studies at VCU arts. Bubeck will attend Otterbein pursuing a degree in studio art. Lynn will attend Lycoming College to study art as well. All three are glad high school is done. Lynn summed it up as being "excited about the new experiences of being on my own."



Graduate Alfredo Molina plans to work at his cousin's auto body shop using some of the skills he honed through school and is looking forward to "being more independent and joining the workforce." Molina poses with his brother, Cadet Estuardo Molina of the JROTC, Grandmother Jesus Ruiz and mother Edna Molina.

Jairon Hernandez, Harrison Spilman and Jonathan Aguilar

have known each other since freshman year. Hernandez leaves for the Marines in October. Spilman plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College for 2 years to pursue a degree in civil engineering. Aguilar has also enlisted for the Marines and will leave at the beginning of September. All three will enjoy having "more free time" now that high school is over while Aguilar is particularly glad about the "no homework" part of no more high school.



SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock boys' soccer team won the Conference 7 title.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield gymnastics team won the Conference 7 championship.

Top Sports Moments

The following is a look back at some of the top moments in Fairfax-area high school sports during the 2016 winter and spring seasons.

Robinson Boys', Girls' Lax Repeat as State Champions

The Robinson boys' and girls' lacrosse teams continued their recent dominance by repeating as state champions.

The boys' team took home its third consecutive state title with a 14-2 victory over First Colonial on June 11. The Rams finished the season with a 20-2 record and did not lose to a Virginia opponent. Robinson also won Conference 5 and 6A North region championships.

The girls' team won its second straight state title with a 13-9 victory over Woodson on June 11.

The Rams finished with a 21-0 record and has not lost to a public school opponent since 2014. The Rams also repeated as conference and region champion.

Lake Braddock Boys' Soccer Wins Conference 7 Title

After the Lake Braddock boys' soccer team failed to hold a 3-1 lead in the Conference 7 championship game, Bruins senior Nico Quashie came through in overtime.

Quashie scored late in the second five-minute overtime period and Lake Braddock defeated T.C. Williams 4-3 to win the conference title on May 20 in Alexandria.

Lake Braddock entered the game having won 10 of its last 11 contests. The Bruins took a 2-0 lead into halftime thanks to goals by Ahmed Abdalla and Quashie. TC cut the

lead to one in the second half, but the Bruins increased their advantage to 3-1 with a goal by Nico Ortiz DeZarate in the 54th minute.

After giving up two more goals, Lake Braddock re-grouped in overtime and won.

The Bruins finished the season with a 14-4 record, including a season-ending loss to Langley in the 6A North region quarterfinals.

West Springfield Gymnastics Wins Conference Title

Sophomore Abbie Levine and freshman Hannah Dotson led the West Springfield gymnastics team to its first conference/district championship since 2007, a region runner-up finish and a trip to the state meet.

At the Conference 7 meet on Feb. 4, Levine finished first in all-around, Dotson took second and West Springfield won the team competition with a score of 143.2. The Spartans finished more than one point ahead of second-place Lake Braddock.

At the 6A North region meet on Feb. 13, Levine placed third in the all-around and qualified for states. Dotson finished sixth in all-around but qualified for states on bars with a second-place finish. Freshman Alex Marsden qualified for states on beam, finishing in a sixth-place tie. The Spartans finished runner-up behind Yorktown and earned one of two team berths to the state meet.

During the team competition at states on Feb. 19, West Springfield took third out of four teams in the 6A competition, finishing ahead of 6A North region champion Yorktown.

The following day, Dotson earned all-state honors with a sixth-place finish on bars during the individual competition. She produced a score of 9.325.



PHOTO BY AARON LUNDMARK/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson girls' lacrosse team went undefeated in 2016 and repeated as state champion.

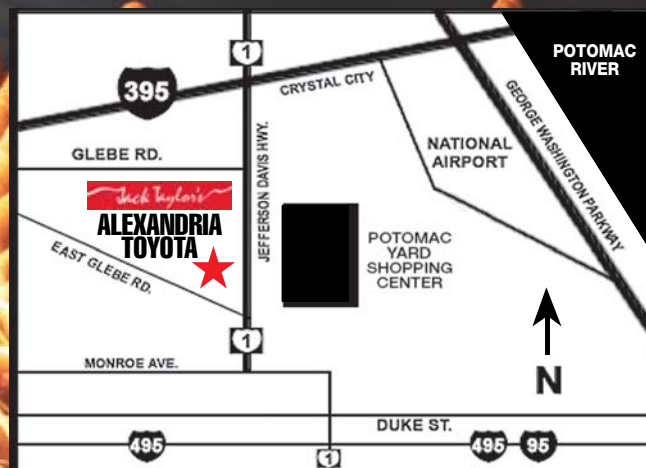


PHOTO BY AARON LUNDMARK/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team won its third consecutive state championship.

Jack Taylor's ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

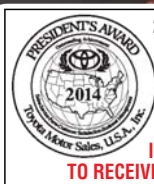
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children**
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Aging With Grace Director

Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, VA is seeking a director of Aging with Grace (AWG). The AWG Ministry serves adults 50+ by providing a diverse selection of group activities, lecture series, and community support. The AWG Director is responsible for planning new and continuing activities, counseling and ministering to AWG members, and recruiting and welcoming new AWG members. The AWG Director should have knowledge or experience in the areas of social work and gerontology and be comfortable working in a church environment. Knowledge of Fairfax County elder care programs and opportunities is a plus. The Director should also be willing to drive a small bus. Proficiency in computer technology is required. The AWG Director should also be knowledgeable about geriatric care resources and be able to work with families making palliative care and hospice decisions. The position currently set at 20 hours per week with a salary of \$26,000 per year. Contact Human Resources: Linda Hitchens at aging@gracepresby.org

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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117 Adoption

Adoption

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Black Dog Studios LLC trading as Pinot's Palette, 2727-I Merrilee Dr. Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for an Art Instruction license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Christine Reas, Member

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

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.
-Ethiopian Proverb

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Caboose II, LLC trading as Caboose Brewing Company, 8301 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Winery <= 5000 gallons license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Matthew Greer, managing 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.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

STATE OF WISCONSIN OUTAGAMIE COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
FAMILY COURT BRANCH

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:

GREG S. VANDER HEIDEN
Petitioner,

and

HUYNH BICH VANDER HEIDEN
Responder-Mother.

and

MIKE NGUYEN
(a.k.a. TUAN QUIC NGUYEN)
Respondent-Father

TO: Mr Mike Nguyen
4112 Mangalore Drive, Apt 102
Annandale, VA 22003

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Motion Hearing will be held in the above matter as follows:

BEFORE: Honorable Richard Rowland, Family Court Commissioner

**PLACE: Outagamie County Justice Center
320 South Walnut Street
Appleton, WI 54911**

DATE: June 27, 2016

TIME: 3:45 p.m.
Dated at Appleton, Wisconsin this 6th day of June, 2016
BY THE COURT

Richard Rowland
Family Court Commissioner
Outagamie County, State of Wisconsin

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Davison Army Airfield Hazardous Tree Removal

Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508, and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, 32 CFR 651. The EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed removal of trees on Davison Army Airfield airfield proper that violate the primary surface, approach-departure clearance surface, transitional surface, taxiway clearance, and apron clearance safety areas to ensure pilot safety and to comply with regulatory guidance outlined in Unified Facilities Criteria 3-260-01, Airfield and Heliport Planning Design, and Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77.

The EA is incorporated by reference in the Draft FNSI. Based on the EA, the Army has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would have no significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on the quality of the human or natural environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

A copy of the EA and Draft FNSI are available for review and comment at the following libraries: Fort Belvoir Van Noy Library, and Fairfax County Public Library at the following locations: Lorton Branch, Sherwood Regional Branch, and Kingstowne Branch. The documents are also available at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp>. Comments on the EA and Draft FNSI should be submitted to Mr. Felix M. Mariani, Fort Belvoir DPW Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, or usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil. Comments must be received no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

Purpose of notice: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the filling of wetlands and streams in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Public comment period: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: June 24, 2016 to July 25, 2016

Permit name: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

applicant Name, address and permit number: Fairfax County-Department of Public Works and Environmental Services; 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, Virginia 22035; VWPP No. 15-1292

Project description: Fairfax County-Department of Public Works and Environmental Services has applied for a new permit for the Huntington Run Levee. The project is located in Huntington Park, parallel to and between Arlington Terrace and Cameron Run (waterway) at the northern end of Liberty Drive in Fairfax County, Virginia. The permit will allow the applicant to construct a 2,800-foot long earthen levee capped with a concrete I-wall and associated infrastructure including a pump station, interior drainage and storm sewer system, outfall channels, high flow diversion culverts, and a runoff storage ponding area. The proposed activity would affect 1.04 acres of tidal and nontidal wetlands and 1,391 linear feet of tidal and nontidal streams. The activity proposed in the permit will affect unnamed tributaries to Cameron Run in the Potomac watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the affected area, the applicant would purchase 2.16 wetland credits and 738 stream credits from a DEQ approved mitigation bank that is authorized to sell credits to the permitted impact site and/or the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. DEQ's preliminary decision is to issue the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Allison King; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193; Phone: 703-583-3909; E-mail: Allison.King@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed.



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