



# Fairfax CONNECTION

## 'Just Happy'

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 5

Toby, a 9-year-old mystery breed is Sang Han's first and only pet. They enjoy a walk in Fairfax on Thursday, July 14. Toby became part of Han's family when he was 3-months-old. Han has learned that "people, even friends have different moods, but Toby, he's just happy, wagging his tail and always greets me when I come home."



## Students Win Silver Medals at Nationals

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## Our Daily Bread Changes Name To Britepaths

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CONNECTION  
FAMILIES





## Brianna and Koda

**Brianna and her pal Koda. Brianna has been dealing with a syndrome called POTS since she was a teenager. Koda was a rescue pup that had to have his leg amputated when he was born due to a birth defect. They support each other.**

## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### Investigation of Assault by Tainted Food

Police responded to a report of an assault that took place around 9:40 p.m. at a Dunkin' Donuts, located at 2946 Chain Bridge Road. An investigation determined that a group of teenagers had previously been given donuts that would be discarded at the close of business each day. They went to the store on Monday, July 25 and requested more donuts. The employee initially refused several times, but told them to return later and he would give them some. Prior to sharing the donuts, he allegedly sprayed them with a cleaning solution that contained bleach. The juveniles ingested anywhere from one bite to a whole donut. When they realized the food may have been tainted, they contacted police — according to FCPD Public Affairs Bureau.

No one required medical attention. A criminal investigation was launched and is ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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/JULY 28

**Blood Drive.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. NVAR Blood Drive, 8407 Pennell St., Fairfax. Sign up by emailing [gkruchko@nvar.com](mailto:gkruchko@nvar.com) today. Go to [www.nvar.com](http://www.nvar.com) for more information. Questions call 703-207-3207.

#### ONGOING

**Burke Lake Seniors Golf League** seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

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# Students Win Silver Medals at Nationals

They participated in an FCCLA competition in California.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

When local students Christian Heiche, Chloe Kim and Laura Stravach flew home from California recently, they did so with something new around their necks – silver medals. They won them at a national competition in San Diego, where their advisor, Susan von Schaack, was acknowledged, as well.

Kim and Heiche, who just graduated from Lanier Middle School, and Stravach, a rising sophomore at Fairfax High, all participated in Students Taking Action for Recognition, or STAR. They did so, July 3-7, at the Family Career and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference, FCCLA, in San Diego.

More than 4,500 students competed in the STAR events, which represent college- and career-readiness skills taught in Family and Consumer Science classrooms. Stravach, Heiche and Kim were in the Promote and Publicize category, and their project focused on promoting the FCCLA organization and mission in their schools and local community.

**BACK IN FEBRUARY**, they held an FCCLA week at Lanier. Working together, they created an online survey that students took at lunch to see how much they knew about FCCLA. They then analyzed the data. They also had Lanier students take a trivia quiz and answer questions about FACS.

“We wanted to get more members, while teaching the students what FCCLA is” explained Heiche. “Then we put this information on a poster to show to the judges at States and Nationals.”

Throughout the year, FCCLA programs and competitions enrich student learning, improve self-esteem and serve students with a wide range of ability levels, economic situations and cultural backgrounds. STAR Events are based on the belief that each stu-



(From left) Students Chloe Kim, Christian Heiche and Laura Stravach won silver medals at Nationals.



Lanier teacher Susan von Schaack, center, is honored by Sandy Spavone, FCCLA executive director, and Peter Martinovich, an educational consultant at Goodheart-Willcox.

dent is a winner. Competition, evaluation and recognition all emphasize cooperation as the basis of success. Both students and adults work together to manage events and evaluate other participants.

The 2016 National Leadership Conference gave Kim, Stravach and Heiche the chance to attend leadership and program training and hear national speakers. They also got to meet the National Executive Council, as well as explore colleges and careers.

The conference’s theme was “Empowered,” aimed at inspiring attendees to make the right choices and commit themselves to making a positive impact within their families, schools, and communities. Stravach was one of the conference participants who attended the Leadership Academy

program.

During the national conference, she was recognized as a graduate of the FCCLA Advisor Academy. Von Schaack was honored for being a teacher who makes significant contributions to the organization.

“We are proud to honor the recipients of the FCCLA Advisor Academy Certificate of Completion as outstanding leaders in their communities, schools and states,” said FCCLA Director of Membership Leah Buller during the event. “Advisor recognition plays an important role in highlighting the accomplishments and efforts of FCCLA’s educators.” FCCLA helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, and work issues via Family and Consumer Science education.

Katherine Miller says teaching and directing theater at Paul VI was “the best job in the world.”



PHOTO BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

## ‘Need More Balance in My Life’

Paul VI Theater Director Katherine Miller ‘graduates.’

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

fun.”

After 13 years at Paul VI High, Theater Director Katherine Miller is retiring – but don’t tell her that. “I’m not retiring,” she said, “I’m graduating.”

When her children were younger, she taught part-time at Franklin Intermediate School and St. Joseph Catholic School. But when the theater teacher job at PVI opened up in 2003, she applied and got it.

“When I started, the principal knew I hadn’t taught high school,” said Miller. “But he told me, ‘You’re going to make mistakes, but just roll with them.’ And that was very liberating.”

Then, about a month later, one of her students slid into the school’s brand new podium while rehearsing a scene. “It flew off the stage in slow motion, end-over-end, and onto the floor – exploding into a million pieces – except for the school seal,” she said. “But the school wasn’t upset at me or the student. They just bought a new podium and went on, and I thought, ‘This is a good place to be.’” Recalling her favorite PVI plays, “Arsenic and Old Lace” came to mind first. “It’s a wonderful show, we had great kids and we probably had my favorite set of all time,” said Miller. “It was beautiful – the interior of a house – with five working doors, two staircases and a full bay window with a window seat.”

She also loved “The Pink Panther” because it turned out exactly the way she wanted it to. “It’s a dumb show, but gosh, it’s funny,” she said. “Each show had its strengths and challenges, but they’ve all been

MILLER also enjoyed it when her son Jake was a student there. “He had no interest in theater, at all,” she said. “He was on the freshman football team, but broke his arm. So in the second semester of his freshman year, we did ‘You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown’ in the round. The dads built an arena stage with risers on all four sides, seating 120 people, and my son auditioned for the show.”

“The people in charge of the music cast him as Linus, and I was shocked,” continued Miller. “I had never heard Jake sing before. But he loved acting and stuck with theater, all four years. He took all the acting classes and did very well – and he even won a Cappie for Best Comic Actor for ‘Pink Panther.’”

She said the toughest part of her job was the “very long hours, and it’s one of the primary reasons I decided to leave now. I still love teaching and directing theater, but I need more balance in my life. We rehearse till 6 p.m., build sets on weekends and often have Sunday rehearsals.”

Still, said Miller, “Teaching theater is so much fun. Teachers in other classrooms are working – and I’m looking for rubber snakes or swords. And it’s very satisfying seeing how pleased the students are with themselves when they do something well.”

She doesn’t lie to or flatter her students, she said. “So when I tell them they did something good, they can believe it,” said Miller. “And they know I mean it. I tell them: ‘You control what you can control, know

SEE THEATER, PAGE 7

# School Board Work Session Draws Transgender Regulation Protesters

**T**he Fairfax County School Board was scheduled to discuss new regulations for addressing daily life at school for students who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming at July 21 work session held at the school system's Gatehouse Road headquarters in Falls Church.

The week of the session, however, newly elected School Board Chair Sandy Evans announced in an FCPS release that implementation of the regulations would be put on hold while a court case elsewhere in Virginia involving a transgender student's bathroom usage is decided.

The topic was therefore removed from the July 21 work session agenda.

The regulations are an implementation strategy for the words "gender identity" being added to the school system's non-discrimination policy in May 2015.

Regardless, a group of demonstrators, clad in red mostly, showed up at the

Gatehouse facility around 5 p.m. to voice their opinion against the regulations. Some stood along Gatehouse Road flashing signs that called the regulations unlawful, or threatening to non-transgender students.

Inside the building's lobby and cafeteria, other demonstrators in red appeared at first to be penned in by a row of security detail. But eventually they were let through to the meeting.

Robert Rigby, a West Potomac High School Latin teacher and leader of the employees' LGBTQ organization FCPS Pride, was present in support of the regulations.

FCPS spokesperson John Torre said the work session was open to the public, as all work sessions are.

The School Board meets again July 28 for its regular business meeting. The transgender regulations were not on the agenda as action items or new business as of going to print.

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Security initially formed a line between demonstrators and the hallway to the Fairfax County School Board work session on July 21, but eventually they were allowed through.**



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CONNECTION FAMILIES  
PET CONNECTION

### 'Just Happy'

Toby, a 9-year-old mystery breed is Sang Han's first and only pet. They enjoy a walk in Fairfax on Thursday, July 14. Toby became part of Han's family when he was 3-months-old. Han has learned that "people, even friends have different moods, but Toby, he's just happy, wagging his tail and always greets me when I come home."



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA TECCO/THE CONNECTION



### Unconditional Love

Wesley, a West Highland terrier, walks with owner D.C. Montalvo in Fairfax on Thursday, July 14. Montalvo's previous dog passing away was a great loss. Wesley gave Montalvo the new connection she needed. Montalvo met Wesley as he was just chillin' amidst the chaos of other dogs in a pet store. Wesley continually gives Montalvo unconditional love and affection.

### Solo - a Good Neighbor

Margaret Jones, of Fairfax Station, shares her pictures with Solo: Solo was the only pup in the litter, which for a German shepherd is somewhat rare. "He's a gentle dog, and likes to greet the kids in the neighborhood as they get off the bus from school. He is two years old, and has recently received his AKC canine good citizen certificate. He plans to become a therapy dog," writes Jones.



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# OPINION

## Help Children Arrive at School Prepared

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

**T**he first day of school each year is fraught with anticipation and anxiety. Many local students will be concerned about what they wear, who they will see, what it will be like. They've already had multiple shopping trips, online and otherwise, to be sure they have the supplies and extras they need.

We live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing is Aug. 5-7, 2016. Purchases of most school supplies, clothing and footwear are exempt from the Virginia sales tax. Each

eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. See [www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday](http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/sales-tax-holiday).

### Where to give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since 2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See [collectforkids.org/resources](http://collectforkids.org/resources).

❖ **Cornerstones** is working to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,500 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 8-12, 2016, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or [volunteer@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:volunteer@cornerstonesva.org). Visit [www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/](http://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/)

❖ **United Community Ministries'** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 5. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. If your group needs to make special arrangements for a large

donation, please contact Emily Griffin. For more information, contact Emily at [emily.griffin@ucmagency.org](mailto:emily.griffin@ucmagency.org) or by 571-255-8973 or visit [www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2016.html](http://www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2016.html).

❖ **Britepaths**, formerly OUR DAILY BREAD, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Please donate by Aug. 5. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to "Britepaths." Please include "Back to School" in the memo line of the check. Mail to: Britepaths 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. If delivering in person, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except for holidays. Call ahead at 703-273-8829. Visit [www.britepaths.org](http://www.britepaths.org) for more.

❖ **FACETS** is seeking to equip more than 300 students in need with backpacks filled with supplies. Use the checklist at the link below as a guide for purchasing backpacks and supplies. Place purchased supplies in backpacks or other bags and deliver to FACETS. For financial donations, please cut and mail form by Aug. 12. Drop off supplies through Aug. 12, 2016, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or [JDantonio@FacetsCares.org](mailto:JDantonio@FacetsCares.org) or visit [facetscares.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/SchoolSupplyFlyerFY17.pdf](http://facetscares.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/SchoolSupplyFlyerFY17.pdf)

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service.** Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies (we unfortunately cannot accept these items after use) will be accepted on July 29, 3-6 p.m.; and Aug. 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13926 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Buon Appetito and Cafein; please note storefront windows are whitewashed). Contact Pam Boyle at 571-748-2537 or visit [www.nvfs.org/backtoschool](http://www.nvfs.org/backtoschool).

## Fairfax CONNECTION

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## PETS

### Making a Case for Pet Adoption

Lucky kittens Flame and Pixie found a home in Reston with Jesse and Margo. These little ones were born in Abingdon, Va. and dropped off at an overcrowded shelter that euthanizes all unadopted cats every Thursday. Fortunately, the Feline Foundation of Greater Washington swooped in and a series of volunteers shuttled the babies to Reston. They stayed with a foster family until Feline Foundation of Greater Washington (FFGW) June Adoption Fair at Just Cats Clinic, where they met Jesse and Margo.





# Theater Director 'Graduates'

FROM PAGE 3

your lines, enter on time and in character and put your props down on the props table. You leave the other stuff up to God.”

She said it's been wonderful teaching in a Catholic school because “The Catholic faith unifies us and it becomes a common culture. So when there are tragedies or disasters within the school family, it pulls us together and gives us great strength and reminds us why we're here.” So what's given her the greatest satisfaction at PVI? “It's nice when kids come back and remember their time here fondly,” said Miller. “I've also enjoyed giving them the opportunity to do live theater and, for the most part, they're very grateful.” Rising senior Tommy Kelleher said she taught him about improvisation and “how to physically come out of my shell. She said to act, not just for the performance, but for rehearsal, too. I looked forward to her class, and I'm sad to see her go because she's a good theater teacher and helped me grow as an actor.” Classmate Andrew Conley said that, as a freshman new to acting, Miller cast him in the chorus of “Guys and Dolls” and he was thrilled. “I liked having time to work on a character, and I saw how the core skills I was learning translated to a real show,” said Conley. “I'm also sad she's leaving because she's familiar with my acting abilities and knows where I need to improve.” However, said Miller, “It was never my objective to turn out professional actors, but to give students a fun activity and let them become part of the community of theater. It's like a family, with all the ups and downs; it's real life. This isn't pretend theater; the tools we use are real – which means

they've got to use them right and carefully.”

She said acting before an audience can be the most exciting thing her students will ever do. “I tell them it's like jumping out of an airplane,” said Miller. “If you've packed your parachute correctly and practiced jumping, odds are, you'll be fine. And I especially like that, when we do shows with different races or ethnicities, the differences don't matter.”

**FOR HER**, she said, teaching and directing theater at Paul VI has been “the best job in the world. The people are great, the school is supportive and everything I do is fun. But I've been here 13 years and I want to take some time off for a while and visit my mom in Northern California. My husband teaches at Marymount University, and we want to be able to travel in odd months, not just in the summer.”

Eventually, Miller might become a teacher's aide or substitute teacher or work in a library or bookstore. “But it'll be something with regular hours,” she said. “There are neighbors who don't know I exist.” Meanwhile, she's “grateful to the school for giving me this opportunity. It's been the best job I've ever had, and I feel good about leaving now because my friend, choreographer and assistant director, Kathy d'Alelio, will take over as director. So I'm leaving the program in good hands.”

Miller said she'll “miss the kids, the classes and all the laughing we do. The teachers here – and the ones in the plays with us – have become good friends. Even the Saturday set-builds were fun. But I won't miss worrying about things here – I'll just find something new to worry about.”

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# Honoring Brave Companions

**Paws of Honor provides  
veterinary care for  
retired K-9s.**

BY DANIELLE GRAE  
THE CONNECTION

Some of our nation's security forces receive no benefits upon retirement—K-9s. Twenty-eight retired K-9s are patients of McLean based 501c not for profit Paws of Honor, which pays 100 percent of its retired K-9s' veterinary expenses. Paws of Honor opened six months ago, and according to the organization's founder and president, Bod Youngblood, Paws of Honor expects to serve 60 to 80 dogs by the end of the year.

"We believe these pets should be taken care of and not just discarded at the end of their service life. I mean, they've been jumping out of planes, they've gone to Afghanistan. They're tired, they're sore, and they're worn out" Youngblood said.

Youngblood had the idea for Paws of Honor when he saw K-9s injured in the aftermath of the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

"They mostly came in with burnt paws. They had respiratory issues from the smoke and the jet fuel. They hadn't been sleeping in two or three days," Youngblood said.

Human officers receive benefits for their entire lives, whereas K-9s receive no benefits when their service is over. Without Paws of Honor, owners must choose to take on the financial burden, give away their partner or euthanize it.

Youngblood estimated each retired K-9 costs on average \$1000 per year in veterinary expenses. The K-9s live on average two to three years after retirement.

K-9s participating in Paws of Honor have worked for the CIA, FBI, Pentagon, Secret Service, Homeland Security and state police forces.

"They keep our soldiers safe," Vice President of Paws of Honor and COO of Old Dominion Animal Health Center Cassie Browne said. Youngblood said retired K-9s at Paws of Honor have done multiple war tours, jumped out of planes and automobiles, parachuted and searched for explosives.

One retired K-9 in the program is Buddy, owned by his former partner, Detective for the Loudon County Sheriff Department David Orr. Orr worked as an Explosives Detection Canine Handler for Loudon County from May 2012 until Buddy retired in 2016 at six-and-a-half years old due to seizures.

"What [Paws of Honor does] is invaluable. I don't know of any departments that actually cover any medical expenses for K-9s when they retire. And that's where Paws of Honor comes in to fill that void" Orr said.

Youngblood hopes Congress will extend health care benefits to retired K-9s, but until then Paws of Honor needs to raise enough funds to care for its patients.

Paws of Honor is based in McLean in Old Dominion Animal Health Center, which has donated space



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION

**Retired Explosives Detection K-9 Buddy and his partner Detective David Orr of Loudon County outside on a beautiful day.**



**Retired Explosives Detection K-9 Buddy proudly displays his collar.**

and veterinarians. Paws of Honor is seeking donations. Without further donations, the organization may be forced to turn away retired K-9s. Paws of Honor plans to hold fundraisers where the public will be able to meet some of the retired K-9s and see them perform tricks. Tickets will be on sale in August. Paws of Honor also receives donations at [www.pawsofhonor.org](http://www.pawsofhonor.org) and features photos and background stories on some of its K-9s.

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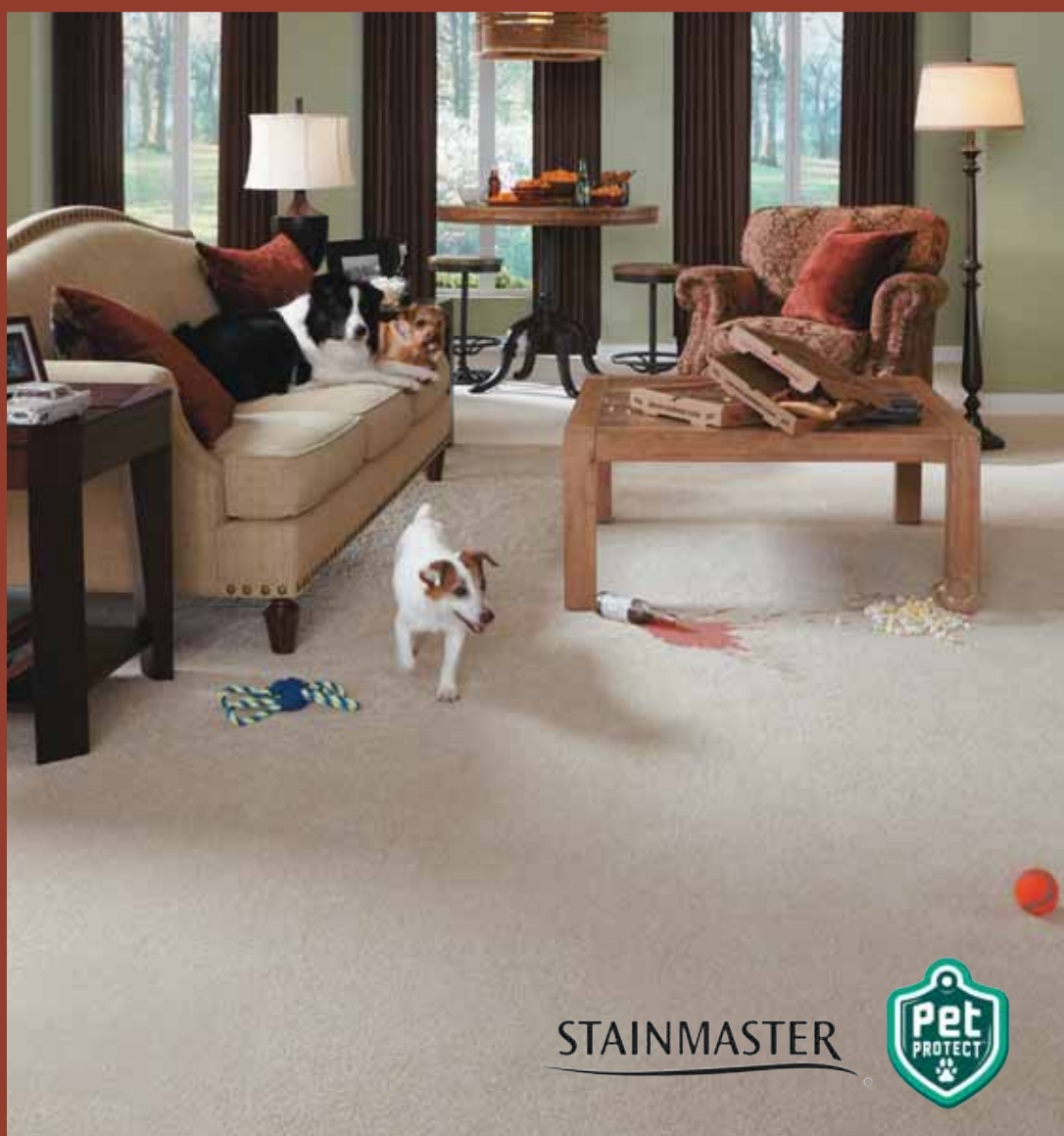
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STAINMASTER







PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Executive Director Lisa Whetzel (center) announces the name change of Our Daily Bread to Britepaths at Tower Club Tysons Corner.**

## Our Daily Bread Changes Name to Britepaths

**F**airfax-based non-profit Our Daily Bread has changed its name to Britepaths.

Executive Director Lisa Whetzel said, "We are so excited to make this momentous change. Our organization has significantly evolved over the last 32 years, and our board of directors and staff felt it was time for a change. Our programs and mission remain the same, but we've refreshed our name, logo and look to reflect who we are today and what we strive to be in the future."

The organization's board and staff unveiled the new name, logo and website at a launch event at the Tower Club Tysons Corner.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova was the featured speaker at the launch event.

Britepaths was founded in 1984 and provides tailored services for the working poor and those in crisis in Fairfax County. The organization serves around 2,000 households per year through stability and resilience services, and another 3,000 households during the holidays. They're working to serve at least 2,500 Fairfax County Public School students in need this fall through the Collect for Kids Back to School Program.

More information is available at <http://britepaths.org>.



**Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel (left) and board member Catherine Read (right) accept a check for \$500 from Diane Hill of the Falls Church Rotary Club to benefit the Britepaths Collect for Kids Back to School Program.**



**The crowd of people at the Evenings on the Ellipse at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax.**

## Evenings on the Ellipse in Fairfax

**D**oc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra entertained the crowd on Thursday, July 14 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. during an Evenings on the Ellipse concert on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center. The 34-year-old band played big-band favorites in hot, 95-degree temperatures to a thrilled crowd. During the concerts, two of Fairfax County's wineries — Paradise Springs and Bull Run Winery — provide generous tastings of their premium reds and whites. Bands perform for free on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, in the back yard, located at 12000 Gov-

ernment Center Parkway in Fairfax. In case of rain, they go indoors. The schedule for the remaining of the summer is as follows:

- ❖ July 28 — Caravan of Thieves (Gypsy Swing)
- ❖ August 4 — Leonard, Coleman & Blunt (Motown)
- ❖ August 11 — The Sixth Generation (1960s Rock)
- ❖ August 18 — The United States Navy "Commodores" (Jazz)
- ❖ August 25 — A Tribute to Simon and Garfunkel performed by Aztec Two-Step (Folk)

—STEVE HIBBARD



**The Imperial Palms Orchestra plays a tune.**



**Chou Chou, the wife of Doc Scantlin, sings to the crowd.**

**Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra performs at the Fairfax County Government Center.**



PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION



# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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.

## ONGOING

**Evenings on the Ellipse.** 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/>

**Storytime in the Park.** Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-385-2712.

**Wednesday Morning Tai Chi.** 6:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. At the pergola. 703-385-2712.

**Rock the Block!** 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come any way you can - walk, run, ride your bike or drive! You don't want to miss out on this brand new concert series! Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and or blankets to sit on. Kids - wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

**Redder Blood.** Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 8-31. New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax, Virginia 22031. A premiere co-production between the Hub Theatre and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, written by Helen Parfumi. Follows character Sadie, a woman who hears the voice of God. \$20-\$30. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). [thehubtheatre.org](http://thehubtheatre.org). 703-537-3000.

**The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. [springfieldtowncenter.com](http://springfieldtowncenter.com).

**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](http://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](http://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](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**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](http://fairfaxgardening.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Th Pohick Church Docent Guild will host a Garden Party on Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Historic Pohick Church.

**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](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise.** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. Contact Chris Moore at [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo** (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 25-29

**Art Classes.** Call for times. Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. For details and registration information, call 703-250-6930 or go to [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com).

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 28-30

**"The Music Man."** Check for show times. Sydney Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown. Road, Fairfax. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/the-music-man.html>

## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Evenings on the Ellipse.** 5:30-7 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Caravan of Thieves. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/>

**Art Workshop, Oil/Pastel** July 29 - July 31, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., 7135 Main Street Clifton at the Acacia Lodge. Spaces available. Award winning artist eager to

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## SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Mount Vernon Nights: The United States Air Force Celtic Aire (Celtic).** 7- 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performs classical Irish melodies and favorite songs with traditional Celtic instruments. The premier folk ensemble of the U.S. Air Force. Free. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-584-2900.

**BRYC 50th Celebration.** 4-8 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Games, Prizes, Dunk Tank, Inflatables. Adult/ Alumni Games. Free. [Laurabryc@gmail.com](mailto:Laurabryc@gmail.com).

## SUNDAY/JULY 31

**Nation's Capital Model T Ford Club.** 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Model T cars will be on display. \$2/\$4. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org). 703-425-9225.

**Burke Historical Society Meeting.** 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. "Burke: Summer of 1916." [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com).

## MONDAY/AUG. 1

**"The Greatest Sports Heroes A to Z."** 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Performed by Bright Star Touring Theatre as part of the Summer Reading Program. For more information, 703-339-7385.

**Children's Performance Series.** 10:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Mr. Skip. Free. [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

## MONDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 1-4

**Art Classes.** Call for times. Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. For details and registration information, call 703-250-6930 or go to [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com).

## TUESDAY/AUG. 2

**"The Greatest Sports Heroes A to Z."** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Performed by Bright Star Touring Theatre as part of the Summer Reading Program. For more information, 703-249-1520.

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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

## AUGUST

8/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle  
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 8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

## SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is September 5

9/7/2016.....Wellbeing  
 9/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout - Real Estate & New Homes  
 9/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses  
 9/28/2016.....Connection Families: Fall Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection



## EDUCATION



Amy Burke, board chair of the Children's Science Center Lab, and executive director Adalene "Nene" Spivey watch Emily Brunner, 15, of Falls Church take on the robotic arm challenge after programming the device to play the "Happy Birthday" song on a xylophone following a Sunday morning ribbon cutting in Fair Oaks Mall. Brunner participated on her school's robotics team at George C. Marshall High School.

# Mall STEM Lab Celebrates First Birthday

Children's Science Center Lab celebrates with cake, a new robot, aquarium and checks worth \$125,000.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Some children go to the shopping mall because their moms have to run errands or it's a nice place to hang out with

friends.

Who knew Fair Oaks Mall is a go-to place to conduct science experiments, program a robot and make stuff out of a 3-D printer?

Nearly 700 children and adults found out Sunday, July 25, as the

Children's Science Center Lab celebrated its first birthday as a premier destination in this region for opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math education.

Board Chair Amy Burke says 80 percent of learning happens outside the classroom. She believes the museum is an informal education facility that reinforces learning in school.

"And it's fun," adds Burke, the mother of two boys who also works as a consultant for technology policy and government relations.

The lab received two huge corporate gifts worth \$125,000.

Lab visitors saw two new exhibits, an aquatic life display and a robotic arm challenge.

The small aquarium holds colorful fish like some of the sea creatures featured in the popular 2003 Disney-Pixar movie "Finding Nemo" in a room designed for kids ages 5 and younger.

This Discovery Zone offers a tinker shop that introduces young minds to engineering and design concepts. It is earmarked for the \$75,000 birthday gift from Herndon bank Northwest Federal Credit Union.

The robot exhibit in the adjacent gallery performs tasks users can program from four tablet computers installed around a booth. McLean commercial and government technology consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton gave \$50,000 for this interactive display. Visitors can help the Children's Science Center Lab find a name for the new robot through Sept. 5. The winner will receive a birthday party at the museum.



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Arlington toddler Palmer Sadowsky finds a live version of cute clown fish from a beloved children's movie Sunday at the Children's Science Center Lab in Fair Oaks Mall. Palmer turns 2 years old this week.

Visitors can also sit at a bar and order a science experiment from a "STEM tender" who brings their ingredients and offers assistance if patrons need help with instructions shown on the Amazon Kindle electronic reading device at their station.

"It's fun and they don't even know they're learning," said museum marketing director Dorothy Ready.

Ready said the facility can fit 90 kids per field trip and many schools must send their students in separate groups. These "capacity constraints" are the reason why Spivey spoke to a crowd Sunday morning about the museum's 10-year expansion plan with a new center under construction soon in Loudoun County at the Dulles Town Center.

This million-dollar STEM education facility runs on corporate and private donors, annual memberships of \$150 a year for a family of four, birthday parties and a \$12 general admission.

The 5,400-square-foot Children's Science Center Lab has an annual operating budget of \$1.2 million — according to museum executive director Adalene "Nene" Spivey — and employs 12 full-time and 20 part-time staff. The museum also boasts 300 active volunteers.

The museum also continues to

thrive on its STEM education roots through a portable classroom in a van donated by Volkswagen that delivers science projects to area schools.

"We started as a mobile lab," Ready explained. She said it took five years of fundraising to grow the van into a museum.

Spivey said the Children's Science Center Lab had at least 50,000 visitors throughout its first year and garnered 900 family memberships. The demonstrations change on a rotating basis. Part of her display criteria is "they are so fun, the adults want to play with the exhibits."

More activities held elsewhere in the mall focused on health and fitness in preparation for a special event to promote STEM education nationwide. Retired U.S. Army Col. Tim Hoffman of Warrenton will bike 4,200 miles across America to promote the initiative and raise money for the Children's Science Center Lab from Aug. 1 to Oct. 25. Participate in his cause online at [www.afceanova.org/transamerica-cycle-for-STEM](http://www.afceanova.org/transamerica-cycle-for-STEM).

The Children's Science Center Lab is open every day in Fairfax from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Level 1 entrance at 11750 Fair Oaks Mall. Parking is between Lord & Taylor and Sears. Call (703) 648-3130 or visit their website at [www.childsci.org](http://www.childsci.org).



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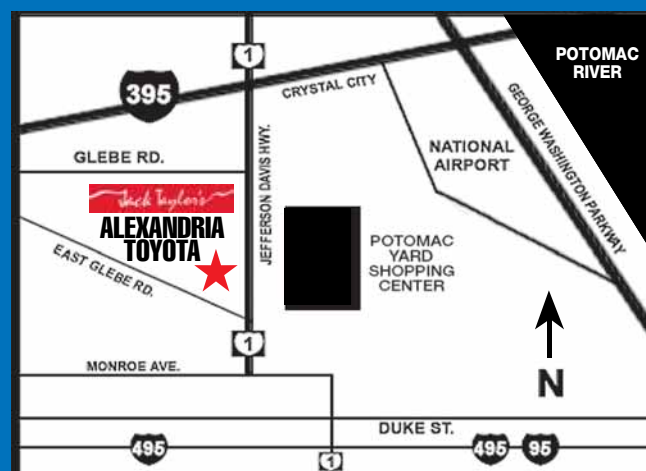


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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL**  
**\$29<sup>95</sup> \$49<sup>95</sup>**

NON-SYNTHETIC. SYNTHETIC. 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**  
**QUALITY HAND-WASH VACUUM & WAX**  
Recommended Every 6 Months  
**\$139<sup>95</sup>**

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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Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield 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. 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.

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## 21 Announcements

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Banyan Tree Grill, LLC trading as Banyan Tree South Asian Grill, 3987 Pickett Road, Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22031 is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverage. Sunil Kavi, Owner. NOTE: Objection 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 by calling 800-552-3200.

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