

# Great Falls CONNECTION



Young equestrian, Jenna Zimmerman, takes up the reins as Youth Ambassador of the 2017 Washington International Horse Show. Zimmerman, 16, of Great Falls, is one of 26 local teens attending schools in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. to serve on the 2017 WIHS Junior Committee presented by Signature Academics.

## Youth Ambassador

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Mike Terpak Blues Explosion kicked off the summer series running from June 4 to Aug. 20 at the Great Falls Village Centre Green.



The Great Falls Village Centre Green was filled with guests of all ages to enjoy the sounds of Mike Terpak Blues Explosion.

## Great Falls Gathers for ‘Concerts on the Green’

The charming gazebo and shops surrounding the Green, graced with blue skies and Blues sounds, made for a picturesque summer night. A picture perfect scene lay before the Mike Terpak Blues Explosion on June 4 as they kicked off the summer concert series, titled “Concerts on the Green” in Great Falls. Checkered picnic blankets, dads throwing footballs with their kids and not a grey cloud in sight set the backdrop for the first summer concert.

Members of the Mike Terpak Blues Explosion include Bill Kotapish on virtuoso guitar, Brian Alpert on drums, Jerry Stewart on bass guitar, and Mike Terpak on the dynamic organ and vocals. The band is based out of Washington D.C. and showcases an electric blues and R&B sound. They performed Ain’t No Sunshine, Come Together, Thrill is Gone and many more songs from

their Blues and R&B set list that persuaded audience members of all ages to twist and shout to the music. “I love playing all-ages gigs because kids are kids having fun. And everyone is here because they want to be here, which is great. And we even have nice weather this year,” bass player Jerry Stewart said.

The band will be playing next at The Winery at Bull Run on June 9 and June 14 from 6-9 p.m. The concert series has spanned over 20 years, with an estimated 300-400 people of all ages attending each concert. The June 5 concert was sponsored by Roz Drayer, TTR Sotheby’s International Realty; her sixth time sponsoring the event. The next “Concerts on the Green” event is Sunday, June 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. with Scott Kurt and Memphis 59 performing, their music dubbed a blend of Tom Petty and Rascal Flatts.

— ERIN MURPHY



PHOTOS BY ERIN MURPHY/THE CONNECTION

An estimated 300-400 people attended the opening of the “Concerts on the Green” summer series, running from June 4 to Aug. 20.

## Riverbend Park BBQ Raises More Than \$4K

Approximately 100 people showed up to grill in support of the Riverbend Park in Great Falls on Saturday, June 3.

The benefit was organized by the Friends of the Riverbend Park (FORB) and featured barbecue by Mookies of Great Falls.

“We do not have a final bill from the caterer, so we don’t know what our net profit will be, but we raised around \$4,500 in registrations and donations,” said Hugh Morrow, president of the Friends of Riverbend Park, who lives less than a mile from the park.

Boat rides on the Potomac and s’mores by a campfire were also offered.

“Riverbend Park has a wide range of programs and activities appealing to almost every one of all ages,” Morrow told the gathering. “I urge you to explore all the programs and opportunities available here at Riverbend, either online or by talking with the staff here at Riverbend



Many supporters of the park showed for the barbecue benefit. From left: John Callow, Riverbend Park manager; Julie Gurnee, Riverbend Park visitor services manager; Hugh Morrow, president of the Friends of Riverbend Park; Roberta Longworth, executive director of the Fairfax County Park Foundation; and Timothy Hackman, Dranesville District Representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Park.”

Admission for adults was \$50 per person, \$25 per child under 21 and \$125 per family of three or more. The money raised at the benefit will be used to support the park’s summer programs and supplement funding the park receives from the Fairfax County Park Authority.

“There was a real sense of community,” Morrow said. “Most of the people who attended were longtime supporters of Riverbend Park.”

The FORB is a small organization, but it makes a large financial impact for the park.

Its efforts have sustained college interns for the park, funded field trip scholarships for underserved school children, equipment for park staff — snow plows, canoes, bass fishing boat, telescope, office furniture — and exhibit cases for the visitors’ center.

Since 2007, the FORB’s donations have totaled more than \$150,000.

PHOTO BY LESLEY HACKMAN



# Democratic Candidates for Governor Run to the Left

Two candidates try to ignore moderate records and repackage themselves as hardcore progressives.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**R**egrets? Candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor have probably got a few. But Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam has too few to mention. During a debate on NBC4 late last month, Julie Carey asked the lieutenant governor what kind of mistakes he's made that he regrets during a recent televised debate, Northam did not talk about about his two votes for George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004. And he didn't talk about



Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam and former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello (D-5) debate in Fairfax County.

taking money from Dominion, the utility that wants to build controversial pipelines through the state. "Well I tell you I don't really have any regrets, Julie," said Northam. "But what I did learn was when I started in Richmond in 2008 as a senator ..."

And then Northam told a story

about his efforts to get a smoking ban passed in Richmond after initial opposition from Republicans. One of the old verities of political life in Virginia is that if you're explaining, you're losing. And the lieutenant governor was not about to start explaining his support for Republicans. And he wasn't about

## Ralph Northam

Age: 57  
Currently: Virginia's 40th Lieutenant Governor; previously served in the Virginia Senate  
Bachelor's Degree: Virginia Military Institute  
Medical Degree: Eastern Virginia Medical School  
Place of birth: Nassawadox, Va.  
Profession: pediatric neurologist

## Tom Perriello

Age: 42  
Served one term in U.S. Congress, Va. 5th district  
Bachelor's Degree: Yale University  
Juris Doctorate: Yale Law School  
Place of birth: Ivy, Va.  
Profession: attorney

to start explaining the \$40,000 he's accepted from Dominion and its executives during his run for governor. So he changed the subject.

"Not sure that qualified as a mistake," responded Carey. "But let's try you Mr. Perriello on that."

That's when former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello (D-5) talked about an issue that his critics have been focused on since the day he announced his candidacy earlier this year: a vote he made during his time in Congress to deny federal funding for abortions in taxpayer-subsidized health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. Supporters of Northam have been using Perriello's vote in favor of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment as a way to highlight Northam's long history supporting women's reproductive rights.

"That amendment and the eventual compromise was highly restrictive, said Perriello during the NBC4 debate. "And in working with reproductive justice advocates since then understanding just how much of a step backwards it was in that space."

**THAT EXCHANGE** reveals a curious phenomenon in the race for the Democratic nomination this year. Both candidates are trying to run to the left, abandoning their previously moderate or even center-right positions on a number of issues. So which candidate has a more difficult transformation? Opinions are divided. Virginia Tech political science professor Robert Denton says Perriello will have a more challenging time selling voters on his new progressive

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# Three Republicans Running for Governor Offer Dueling Tax Plans

Cut taxes or raise taxes? GOP primary debate offers an unusual array of options.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**Y**ou know that old saying that nothing is certain in life but death and taxes? Here in Virginia, there's another certainty: Every year is an election year.

This year features a primary fight between three Republicans running for governor, each with his own separate and distinct tax plan.

"Well this is really more of a conversation than Republicans usually have about taxes," said Stephen Farnsworth is a professor at the University of Mary Washington. "You have a candidate willing to increase taxes, a candidate willing to abolish the income tax and then, I guess, the Goldilocks plan, which is in the middle."

The Goldilocks in this campaign is former Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie. Back in March, he outlined a proposal that would lower the state income tax rate on people who make more than \$17,000 a year from 5.75 percent to 5.15 percent. For someone making more than \$60,000 a year, that would mean about \$400 less in taxes a year.

Gillespie's proposal relies on revenue growth rather than spending cuts to pay for the tax cuts.

"Our rates were set in 1972," said Gillespie during the one and only debate of the primary season. "They have not come down in 45 years, and other states around us have been moving."

The idea is classically Republican: cut taxes and predict that will turbo charge the economy, creating jobs in the process. It's the kind of trickle-down economics that fueled the rise of President Ronald Reagan back in the 1980s. Gillespie is selling the tax cut plan as a clean break from the last four years of Democratic leadership in the Executive Mansion, a move to the center right for a state that's sharply divided.

"It would also result in hard-working Virginians who have had stagnant wages but rising costs over the past three, four, five years when our economy has been stagnant having nearly \$1,300 more in our pockets to spend as we see fit."

**ONE IDEA** that's not classically Republican is raising taxes. But that's what state Sen. Frank Wagner (R-7) wants to do with the



## Ed Gillespie

Age: 55  
Experience: Chairman of the Republican National Committee and counselor to the President in the George W. Bush administration  
Bachelor's Degree: The Catholic University of America  
Place of birth: Mount Holly Township, New Jersey  
Profession: lobbyist



## Corey Stewart

Age: 48  
Currently: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Prince William County  
Bachelor's Degree: Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service  
Juris Doctorate: William Mitchell College of Law  
Profession: attorney



## Frank Wagner

Age: 61  
Bachelor's Degree: U.S. Naval Academy  
Military service: nine years in U.S. Navy  
Place of birth: Ruislip, England  
Profession: businessman

gas tax. He's proposing a plan that would raise the gas tax in an effort to raise money for building roads while avoiding high-cost tolls that have become prevalent in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads.

"I can't remember a Republican candidate for statewide office in Virginia running on a tax increase," said Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University. "And

there probably aren't a dozen nationally in the last decade or two decades who have run on a tax increase like Frank Wagner is right now."

Meanwhile, Wagner is suspicious of Gillespie's tax proposal. Specifically he's critical of how it's been sold. For example, Gillespie's plan would save \$1,300 a year for families that make more than \$100,000 a year. But that's well under the median household in-

come in Virginia, which is \$65,000. On the campaign trail, Wagner has attacked Gillespie's plan as an irresponsible giveaway to the rich — one that isn't rooted in experience in government.

"Let me tell you something," Wagner said during the debate. "It's easy to say that when you're sitting here and you've never been in state government."

To solve the problem, Wagner is proposing raising the gas tax to pay for buildings roads. The proposal echoes an earlier era in Virginia politics, when Gov. Harry Byrd suggested using the gas tax as a way to finance building roads while avoiding debt. In Wagner's plan, raising the gas tax would avoid higher tolls on roads in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Plus the proposal is built on a sliding scale, which would mean the tax would actually decrease when gas prices rise.

"We have an \$18 billion deficit in the Virginia Retirement System. We have a Rainy Day Fund for a recession that should be at \$2.4 billion. It's down to less than \$300 million right now."

**REPUBLICANS USUALLY** run  
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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## PEOPLE



PHOTO BY WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

### Youth Ambassador

Young equestrian, Jenna Zimmerman, takes up the reins as Youth Ambassador of the 2017 Washington International Horse Show. Zimmerman, 16, of Great Falls, is one of 26 local teens attending schools in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. to serve on the 2017 WIHS Junior Committee presented by Signature Academics. The 59th Annual Washington International Horse Show will be held Oct. 24-29, at Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [wihs.org](http://wihs.org).



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- Identifying resources to offer additional support



**Vivek Sinha, MD,** is the Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer of Bellevue Medical Partners. Dr. Sinha's "House-Call" practice provides care to patients in their homes or assisted living residences.



**Mikki Firor** is the president of Trovato, LLC, a dementia consulting company. Mikki provides education, support and guidance to help families and professionals navigate the diagnosis, prognosis and full experience of dementia.



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# OPINION

## Vote On or Before June 13

### In-person absentee voting continues through June 10.

**O**n June 13, every Virginia voter has the opportunity to vote in the Primary Election to choose the candidates for their chosen party for governor and lieutenant governor.

Ralph Northam and Tom Perriello are vying to be the Democratic nominee for governor.

**EDITORIAL** Ed Gillespie, Cory Stewart and Frank Wagner are seeking the Republican nomination for governor.

For lieutenant governor, Justin Fairfax, Gene Rossi and Susan Platt are seeking the Democratic nomination.

Bryce Reeves, Glenn Davis Jr. and Jill Vogel compete for the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor.

In Fairfax County, there are primaries for

Democrats in two delegate seats as well, the 67th District and the 42nd.

In the 67th, three Democrats, John Carey, Karrie Delaney and Hannah Risheq face off for the right to run against incumbent Del. Jim LeMunyon (R).

In the 42nd, long-time Del. Dave Albo (R) is giving up his seat; two Democrats and three Republicans are seeking to be on the November ballot to replace him. The Democrats, Tilly Blanding and Kathy Tran, will appear on the primary ballot.

The Republican candidate for the 42nd District will be chosen by GOP party canvass on June 10 at South County Middle School, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eligible voters of the 42nd district will choose between Steve Adragna, Michael Drobnis and Lolita Mancheno-Smoak.

The filing deadline for independent and non-primary party nominees is June 13 at 7 p.m. for the November general election.

For in person absentee voting, available through June 10, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm). For more information on voting in Fairfax County including sample

ballots, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm)

### Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 18, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos. Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday). You can also email photos to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).



**Chairman Sharon Bulova enjoys the offerings at the Ramadan dinner with (left) Mustafa Akpinar, CEO with the Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue and Intercultural Understanding and (right) Emre Celik, president with Rumi, organizers of the event.**



**The Kilic family of Vienna, from left, Cemal, Erdal, Yasemine and Emine, at the American Turkish Friendship Association Ramadan Iftar dinner at the Government Center.**

## A Meal Among Neighbors

### American Turkish Friendship Association and County dine together for Ramadan.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**raditionally speaking, the reporter wanders the perimeters of an event, then dashes in to get the scoop with a key subject, a quote or two and maybe a photo. Then it's back to the sidelines to scout out the next newsworthy moment.

#### UP CLOSE

There were certainly a lot of tra-

ditions being observed at the Ramadan Iftar dinner at Fairfax County Government Center on May 31, organized by the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) and hosted by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova — but the reporter as pure observer was not one of them.

Instead, demonstrating the spirit of friendship that ATFA seeks to promote, this reporter was “adopted” for the event by the Kilic family of Vienna — father Erdal,

mother Emine, daughter Yasemin, and son Cemal, who have been in the country since 2015. While the actual assignment was attended to, with interviews, photographs and hasty scribbling of highlights from speeches, in between it all, however, Ermine kept urging “come, sit down with us, eat” as she pointed to the plate she had put together for the new “family member.”

**THE EVENING** marked the third time that Fairfax County officials have hosted the joint community outreach. The Iftar is the evening meal when Muslims end their daily fast at sundown during the holy month of Ramadan. After a

brief introduction and some insight into the meaning of Ramadan by Zeynep Cakmak of Clifton, Bulova welcomed the hundred-or-so attendees, comprising all ages, ethnicities, and religious beliefs.

Citing “our diversity as the greatest asset in Fairfax County and what truly makes us special,” Bulova said it was “appropriate” to host the dinner at the Government Center. “This is the gathering place for our community and we welcome all of our neighbors here.”

Iman Mehmet Ayaz of the Institute of Islamic-Turkish Studies in Fairfax, thanked Bulova and the

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## Great Falls CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# Race to the Left

FROM PAGE 4

persona.

"He has to explain that at the time I wasn't countering my beliefs, attitudes or values related to abortion," said Denton. "But I was looking at my constituents in the Fifth Congressional District and therefore trying to represent them."

Others aren't so sure. University of Mary Washington professor Stephen Farnsworth says Northam is in a more perilous position explaining his votes for Bush.

"The anger that you see among Democrats really I think is going to create a sense that the votes for Bush were more problematic," said Farnsworth.

"Perriello may be better able to explain away the very conservative nature of his old congressional district."

Perhaps the more thorny issue for Northam is his position on the controversial pipelines Dominion wants to build in Virginia. Despite being asked multiple times on the campaign trail, the lieutenant governor has yet to take a stand one way or the other. Northam says the multibillion projects could create jobs and boost the economy.

"Obviously we want the pipeline to be built with science and transparency," Northam said during the first debate in April. "We also need jobs in the commonwealth of Virginia."

Perriello has made his opposition to pipelines a centerpiece of his campaign, and he's pledged to reject campaign contributions from the utility. Perriello says all that money Dominion plans to spend on the two pipelines in Virginia could be put to better use.

"I've opposed these two pipelines," he said during that first debate. "I believe for a fraction of that \$6.7 billion, we could put tens of thousands more people to work on clean energy, energy efficiency, localizing food production and other measures."

**THE DEBATE** over guns has also been a sticking point in the Democratic primary. On the campaign trail, Northam has criticized Perriello for changing his position on the National Rifle Association, a group that once endorsed his campaign for Congress. During one of the televised debates this year, Northam turned to Perriello and reminded voters that he has received support from the NRA during a time when

## Top Northam Donors

- ❖ \$200,000 from venture capitalist Michael Bills of Bluestem Asset Management LLC
- ❖ \$110,000 from Henrico-based Common Good VA, a committee set up by Gov. Terry McAuliffe in March 2014 to raise political donations during his time as governor
- ❖ \$77,000 from Thomas DePasquale of the software company Outtask LLC
- ❖ \$52,500 from Conrad Hall, retired president and CEO of Norfolk-based Dominion Enterprises
- ❖ \$50,000 from Washington-based DGA Action, a super PAC funded by Democratic Governor's Association

## Top Perriello Donors

- ❖ \$500,000 from Sonjia Smith, Charlottesville philanthropist
- ❖ \$250,000 from George Soros of New York-based Soros Fund Management LLC
- ❖ \$230,000 from the New York-based activist network Avaaz Foundation
- ❖ \$125,000 from Alexander Soros, New York executive and philanthropist (son of George Soros)
- ❖ \$75,000 from Courtney Smith, financial advisor with New York-based East Rock Capital

concerns were mounting over gun control in America.

"That was since 2010," said Northam. "You served in Congress from 2008 to 2010. That was after the Virginia Tech tragedy. What has changed about the National Rifle Association between 2010 and 2017?"

Perriello responded that times have changed.

"Well, you know, you and I have both have all done guns. You know that. You were a deciding vote after Virginia Tech on something that prevented Fairfax and other communities from being able to demand fingerprinting on concealed carry permits. That was a deciding vote. There was never a moment where I was a deciding vote for the NRA."

Both of the candidates support free community college for Virginia students, although they differ on how to finance it. Northam says no tax increase would be needed to finance his plan; students would engage in public service to pay for free community college in high-demand areas.

"If they become certified in one of these areas, then they will give one year back in public service at which time they will get paid," said Northam. "So it's not like they're out there working for free."

Perriello says a tax increase will be needed, especially for those making more than half a million dollars a year. He says that would allow people who attend free community college to have the dignity to come home at night and tuck their children into bed.

"We don't need people giving back in service," said Perriello. "We have a private sector with jobs ready to hire people if we help them just a little bit to get that certificate and have the dignity of the kind of job they can support a family with."

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# Students Speak Out about Hate in Their Schools

**“A Space for All: A Conversation about Ending Prejudice in our Schools” forum held at the Temple Rodef Shalom.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

Classmates used the Nazi salute, exclaiming “Heil Hitler” to greet her. The next day, other classmates threw pennies at her, implying Jewish people like her are cheap and gestures reminiscent of the Holocaust are a joke.

“If this is happening to me, it’s probably happening to other people,” Havi Carrillo-Klein, a junior at McLean High School, said of her experience of anti-Semitism.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington and the Temple Rodef Shalom of Falls Church hosted “A Space for All: A Conversation about Ending Prejudice in our Schools” forum with students to talk about their recent experiences of hate and bias in Arlington and Fairfax county public schools on Wednesday, May 10.

Students from McLean and Langley high schools in McLean and J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church participated.

“We’re all here because we know that this is a very urgent conversation,” Jeffrey Saxe, a rabbi with the temple, said during the event.

“We know that over the last year, there are many students who have felt challenged, who have felt unwelcome or mistreated in some way around their school community.”

Carrillo-Klein got help from her assistant principal. She also confronted her classmates to express how their anti-Semitic actions made her feel.

**RESOLUTIONS** that right wrongdoing and put victims at ease are not always the ending for every instance of harassment.

“I have to say that I am not shocked, but very saddened that perhaps the No. 1 issue that we have dealt with at the Jewish Community Relations Council in the last six months has been helping parents to deal and grapple with anti-Semitism and other expressions of bigotry and bullying in their children’s schools,” Guila Franklin Siegel, associate director of the JCRC of Great Washington, said during the event.

Siegel told the crowd that she and her organization have not just been hearing increased complaints from parents about anti-Semitic incidents, but also bullying and harassment of immigrants, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and other minority students.

“Children cannot learn if they do not feel safe,” she said.



**High school students sit in the front row of the Jewish temple and wait to talk to the forum about their experiences with bullying and harassment. From left are Langley High School student Jed Prickett, McLean High School student Jack Reed, J.E.B. Stuart High School students Sara Mohamed and Marafi Badr and McLean High School students Havi Carrillo-Klein and Carmen Beadie.**

Carmen Beadie, a gender-nonconforming junior at McLean High School, also spoke out against hate they endured in school. This prejudice was allegedly perpetrated by a health teacher.

Beadie prefers to use gender neutral pronouns like they, them and their. Beadie has received push back on gender identity and self-expression.

“I remember it very clearly,” Beadie told the audience about an incident which took place over a year ago. “It was in front of my whole class.

He was talking to the whole class, but I remember he looked at me directly in the eyes and said, ‘No matter how you cut your hair or how you dress, you’ll always be a girl and nothing can change that,’” Beadie told the audience.

The class just stared at Beadie, who didn’t know how to respond.

“I just said, ‘Thanks for your input,’ and just stayed quiet for the rest of class,” Beadie said.

Beadie told the crowd how tiring it is to defend yourself and that many previous complaints of inappropriate behavior by the teacher had gone without action from the high school’s administration.

“I realized it was not really about me anymore,” Beadie said. “It was about other kids that could be affected. I didn’t have it that bad. I’m actually quite lucky for the support that I found at McLean.”

Beadie eventually told the band director. Now the individual is barred from teaching health, according to Beadie.

“I’m afraid,” Beadie said. “Honestly, preparing for today was a little bit scary because I don’t want it to get back to me. I don’t want to get in trouble for this because he’s a pretty intimidating guy.”

Like Beadie and Carrillo-Klein, four other students stood before the audience and talk about their mistreatment, ranging from a coach preventing a student and her teammates from playing mid-season on the J.E.B.

Stuart High School softball team because they were wearing hijabs to other stories of Islamophobia and anti-Semitic incidents that produced gasps from the crowd.

Before the students shared their experiences, a panel talked about strategies for combating prejudice.

**THE PANEL** was moderated by Michael Shochet, senior cantor with the Temple Rodef Shalom, head chaplain for the Fairfax County Police Department and member of the Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee, which was created in 2015 to improve relations between public safety agencies and the communities they serve. The panelists were:

❖ Mary Ann Panarelli, director of intervention and prevention services for Fairfax County Public Schools;

❖ Brenda Wilks, assistant superintendent of the Department of Student Services and Special Education for Arlington County Public Schools; and

❖ Steven Gordon, assistant attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and civil rights coordinator for the Eastern District of Virginia

Panarelli talked about the school system’s Restorative Justice Program in Discipline.

The project is a formal and facilitated process that brings victims together with perpetrators of wrongdoing to discuss incidents with a purpose of creating an agreement for reparation of harm. “It is a voluntary process and it is critical that it remain voluntary,” Panarelli said. “I cannot force a child to participate in a restorative justice process. If the child is saying, ‘I didn’t do this,’ it makes no sense to put them into a restorative justice process.”

An advantage of this process, according to Panarelli, is that the parents of all students involved are invited to witness the conferences that occur during the program, when other forms of discipline usually requires confidentiality that bars schools from



**McLean High School student Havi Carrillo-Klein speaks out about her experience with anti-Semitic harassment from classmates.**

disclosing specific information about other students to victims and their parents.

“They sort of see the process unfold ... and they are part of that process,” she said.

The process has been extended to criminals.

Police officers with the Fairfax County Police and Herndon Police Departments, including school resource officers, are now allowed to use the restorative justice process to resolve crimes when they are committed by students on and off school grounds, according to Panarelli.

“Let’s say somebody stole a [smart]phone,” she said. “Well, that’s a felony because of the cost of the phone. So, a 13-year-old, they may not want to charge with a felony because they took someone’s phone. This is giving police officers a chance to refer crimes to restorative justice rather than making formal complaints with the courts.”

However, student victims of harassment have rights under the law, which Gordon outlined for the audience.

“Bullying is a significant issue in school and the federal government has done studies,” Gordon said. “Surveys indicate that nationwide, 22 percent of students grade six through 12 have experienced bullying.”

Gordon explained to the audience the legal differences between harassment and bullying.

Harassment under the law only pertains when people are being discriminated against for their race or color, national origin, sex and religion, according to Title 6 of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits this kind of discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

“Bullying that does not relate to a protected class is not harassment under the federal law, however, it is still wrong and it is still something that you can report to the school administrators and psychologists,” he said.

This leaves Beadie without legal recourse



**Carmen Beadie, a gender-nonconforming junior at McLean High School, spoke out against hate endured in school regarding gender identity and expression, which is not protected under federal law.**

under federal law, as gender identity and sexual orientation are not federally-protected characteristics.

Panarelli told the audience that when FCPS investigations do not rise to the definition of harassment under the law, “we would still go forward to ensure that a student who was the target has things in place to feel safe.”

Actions that make students feel unsafe and harassed do not have to be physical attacks.

“Harassment is unwelcome conduct based on a protected class that can include verbal abuse such as name-calling, epithets, slurs, graphic or written statements, threats, physical assaults and other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful or humiliating,” he said.

Gordon spoke about how the U.S. Department of Justice handles reports of harassment at schools.

“What we care about is how is the school division responding to this conduct,” he said.

He explained that once school divisions are notified of harassment — whether through complaints or through reasonable oversight and supervision where school officials should have known about the conduct — they are required to act. It is a potential violation of civil rights statutes if school divisions do not take appropriate steps, especially if attending school becomes a hostile environment for the victims, according to Gordon.

According to Gordon, schools should communicate corrective actions to the victims and have an evaluation process in place that includes speaking to victims to determine whether the actions were successful.

Gordon encouraged parents of children in Arlington and Fairfax county schools to contact him directly if they think harassment is occurring at their schools that is not being addressed correctly by school officials by emailing him directly at [steve.gordon@usdoj.gov](mailto:steve.gordon@usdoj.gov) or calling him at 703-299-3817.

## Call to Prevent Teen Sex Trafficking

**Walk/Run for Freedom raises awareness of teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.**

BY ALEX PENA  
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds gathered Saturday morning on the south lawn of the Fairfax County Government center to participate in the Just Ask Walk/Run for Freedom. Participants either ran two miles or walked one to increase awareness and prevent teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

After a brief warm-up involving Zumba and salsa dancing, three speakers greeted the attendees and talked about why they were here today. Jodi O’Hern, Schools Sector chair for Just Ask and the organizer of the event, said, “We have a problem in this county and in the United States that a lot of people want to put in the closet. A lot of people don’t want to talk about this issue,” she said. “But the only way we’re going to eradicate this issue ... is if we start talking about this issue.”

Teen sex trafficking has been reported in every public high school in Fairfax County, along with many middle schools and some elementary schools. Most of the people trafficked in Fairfax County don’t come from foreign countries, they are county residents.

Many believe that trafficking involves kidnapping and taking a child away from their families, but most victims live at home while they are being trafficked. They are typically trafficked right after school, unbeknownst to their parents.

O’Hern said this is part of the reason they have a hard time getting people to understand the issue.

“People think that it’s like the movie ‘Taken’ but it’s not at all,” she said. “It’s just regular kids in regular circumstances.”

Detective Bill Woolf, of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, said that if he has learned one thing in his many years of fighting trafficking, it is that prevention is possible.

“That is our whole goal here, to educate everybody about the realities of trafficking,” he said speaking to the crowd after O’Hern. “Prevention does work. And it starts with all of us here talking about the issue.” Deepa Patel, executive director of Trauma and Hope, a counselor for victims of trafficking, discussed how traumatic and damaging the long-term consequences can be. Having worked in the intervention phase of the problem, Patel described how victims have difficulties forming relationships and suffer from things like paranoia and depression, issues which are often left untreated.

“Now we have to start looking at it from the prevention angle. That means talk-



**Hundreds gathered Saturday morning on the south lawn of the Fairfax County Government center to participate in the Just Ask Walk/Run for Freedom.**



**Teen sex trafficking has been reported in every public high school in Fairfax County, along with many middle schools and some elementary schools.**



**More information about how to prevent trafficking and how to get help is available at [www.justaskprevention.com](http://www.justaskprevention.com)**

ing to others, having those uncomfortable conversations,” she said. “Once we can kind of build this bigger community, we can ourselves work together to eradicate this problem.”

**TRAFFICKERS TEND** to prey upon vulnerable children who either have low self-esteem or a difficult home life, and can spend up to 6 to 9 months grooming a victim. Many of them meet victims online on a variety of social media websites, but they also go to public places that are popular with children such as shopping malls and sporting events. “Traffickers give these kids a false sense of security,” O’Hern said. “They

make them think that they’re their friend, but in the end their number one goal is to exploit these kids.”

O’Hern said that parents should be aware of tell-tale signs that their child might be falling victim to trafficking. Children may start to dress differently, alienate themselves from their friends, and also start to receive expensive gifts. Human trafficking is the fastest-growing sector of organized crime and the third largest criminal enterprise in the world, according to the FBI.

More information about how to prevent trafficking and how to get help is available at [www.justaskprevention.com](http://www.justaskprevention.com).



# Getting Hurt in the Gym

## Prevent and treat workout injuries.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

While sustaining an injury isn't on anyone's list of fitness goals, a recent study by the Center for Injury Research and Policy shows an increase in gym-related injuries in recent years. Corrective exercise is among the strategies for recovering from workout-related injuries, but fitness experts are also emphasizing prevention.

"Generally speaking, at some point it's good following an injury to perform corrective exercises to rehab injured muscles," said Joel Martin, Ph.D., Exercise, Fitness and Health Promotion Graduate Program coordinator and assistant professor of Kinesiology at George Mason University.

"Depending on the stage of the healing process the exercises may focus on getting blood flowing to the injured area, regaining strength in injured muscle or correcting poor movement patterns that contributed to the injury."

One of the most common causes of sports or workout related injuries is performing an exercise incorrectly, says Martin. "You

should take the time to learn proper form and seek the help of an exercise professional for advice as to how to perform various exercises," said Martin. "Investing the time to learn how to move well at the beginning of an exercise program will pay off in the long run."

Failing to do warm-up exercises before a workout and increasing the intensity of the exercise too quickly — either within the exercise session or across multiple exercise sessions — are among the leading causes of workout injury, says Martin. Not following safety procedures is another.

"Some of the most serious exercise injuries happen from not using common sense," he said. "These can come in a variety of forms, but may be due to trying to show off, not wearing proper shoes or equipment for the exercise mode, exercising in unsafe environments, or not using a spotter for heavy lifts."

Even with safety measures in place, Parker Bryant, a personal trainer based in Bethesda, Md., tells his clients that injuries can happen, even to the most cautious athletes. "For many common injuries, especially a muscle that's sore because it's been over-used, I usually advise clients to apply ice for about 20 minutes several times a day to reduce any swelling and to rest the injured body part," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEOFF ROBISON

**Geoff Robison of Custom Kinetics in McLean shows a client how to use corrective exercise.**

For those dedicated to fitness, being told to rest can be hard to hear, says Geoff Robison of Custom Kinetics in McLean, but he says that it is possible to be active while recovering from an injury. "One of the hardest things for a runner with an injury to hear is that they have to stop running," Robison said. "But one of the worst things you can do when you have an injury is lay down and not move. Movement, when done properly, can be very healing. It can bring blood flow and realign your body."

Exercise can be used to help heal some workout or sports related injuries, says Robison. "Everyone who walks in our door gets taken through an assessment," he said. "Whether it's low back pain, a knee problem or shoulder pain, we find the root cause of the problem."

Once the problem is identified, Robison and his team of trainers work to create an exercise program that is designed to decrease pain and build fitness.

One example that he uses to explain his therapeutic strategy is knee pain, which he says is one of the injuries he sees most often in clients. He observes the client's movements to help determine the cause of the problem. "Maybe it's coming from the foot, because the foot is not strong enough, so your knees cave in when you squat," he said. "Maybe your glutes [gluteal muscles] are weak or maybe your quads [quadriceps] are weak. Strengthening these muscles can help stabilize the leg and help relieve knee pain."

Robison builds an exercise regimen that is designed to address a specific issue or injury. "One exercise that I might use is the clam shell where clients lie down on their side and open and close their knees," he said. "When it's a case of muscle overuse, I might use a foam roller or resistance bands to loosen and strengthen the muscles."

Bryant says that an injury can be an opportunity to try a new type of workout. "For example, if you're a runner, but your knees are bothering you, stop running for a while and try swimming to give your knees a rest," he said. "After you're been pain-free for more than a week, you're probably healed. When you do return to your normal exercise routine, don't dive in with the same intensity as before your injury. Gradually work your way back so that you don't reinjure yourself."

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# Taxes Dominate GOP Race

FROM PAGE 4

on cutting taxes. And although Gillespie has a moderate plan for cutting taxes, another candidate in the race has an extreme proposal, one that some Republicans are calling unworkable. Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart wants to eliminate the income tax.

"Virginia hasn't had a significant surplus in revenues, unanticipated unaccounted for revenues, in 10 years," said Stewart during the televised debate. "Ed's plan is completely dependent on that. It hasn't happened. It's a charade."

Stewart's solution? Ask state departments to identify how they would slash their budgets 30 percent, and then use those cuts as a menu to reduce spending.

"My tax plan is dependent on a cut in spending," he said. "We are going to reduce the rate from 5.75 percent to 4.75 percent in a single year."

Within a decade, Stewart says, the income tax would be eliminated altogether.

"That's wishful thinking," said Republican strategist Dan Scandling. "That's not going to

## Top Gillespie Donors

- ❖ \$1.5 million from Let's Grow Virginia, a Henrico-based PAC, funded in part by Hilton Worldwide and Carly Fiorina's super PAC
- ❖ \$100,000 from Dwight Schar, a McLean-based homebuilder with NVR Homes
- ❖ \$50,000 from Florida-based private prison company GEO Group, which operates Lawrenceville Correctional Center, Virginia's only private prison
- ❖ \$50,000 from Edward St. John of the Maryland-based commercial real-estate agency St. John Properties Inc.
- ❖ \$40,000 from Richard DeVos of the Michigan-based investment management firm Windquest Group (husband of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos)

## Top Wagner Donors

- ❖ \$205,000 from Wagner's Senate campaign committee, funded in part by the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus and the Republican Party of Virginia
- ❖ \$23,000 from William Magann of the Portsmouth-based concrete contractor W.F. Magann Corp
- ❖ \$10,000 from Stephen Ballard of the Virginia Beach-based general contractor S.B. Ballard Inc
- ❖ \$10,000 from Kenneth Allen Hall of the Virginia Beach-based Hall Pontiac GMC
- ❖ \$10,000 from Virginia Beach-based commercial real estate firm Pembroke Enterprises

## Top Stewart Donors

- ❖ \$429,000 from Stewart's Prince William County committee, funded in part by the Republican Party of Virginia and the Republican Party of Prince William County
- ❖ \$35,000 from Christopher Ekstrom of the Texas-based private equity firm Ekstrom Properties LLC
- ❖ \$30,000 from Manassas-based information technology company Progeny Systems Corp
- ❖ \$20,500 from Charles Robbins of the Newington-based home health care company CR Associates
- ❖ \$10,000 from Ahmet Aksoylu, an Oakton-based Realtor with Aksoylu Properties

happen because what are you going to replace it with? Are you going to do something on property

taxes and push it all onto the localities? I don't think that's going to go over very well."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**TD Bank officials present a check to The Arts of Great Falls board members for accounts opened during the Grand Opening of the Great Falls branch.**

## TD Bank Supports Great Falls Art Foundation

**O**n Friday, TD Bank of officials and staff gathered in Great Falls to present a check for \$15,900 to The Arts of Great Falls board members and local artists. The amount was the result of a special offer during TD Bank's Grand Opening in February, where \$150 from every account opened was contributed to The Arts of Great Falls charitable foundation. "This amazing support is beyond any amount we could have thought possible!" said Richard Kelly, chairman of The Arts of Great Falls Foundation. "TD Bank has been unique in the way they have come into the community, listened to what is important in Great Falls and supported those areas." Kelly continued, "Their sub-

stantial financial support will allow us to keep offering art classes locally, and put on community art events and activities." Community support is not new to TD Bank, they began reaching out in Great Falls when construction began on the branch late in 2016. They have participated in and sponsored the Great Falls Farmer's Market, became a top-level sponsor of the July 4th Fireworks in Great Falls, contributed to Great Falls Trail Blazers, created a Petite Gallery in the new branch for local artists to exhibit artwork, and held a free raffle to give away two original oil paintings of the Great Falls. TD Bank looks forward to continuing to be a part of the community.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Art at the Library.** Various Vienna artists work on display in June at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Reno Number Eleven Steam Locomotive is one of five pictures supplied by the Vienna Arts Center. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**"On the Bay" Photographs.** Normal business hours through July 1 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit [oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/](http://oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/) or call 703-759-2759 for more.

**"Slice of Life: Great Falls."** Normal business hours through July 1 at in the TD Bank, 9901 Georgetown Pike. Jill Banks exhibits her oil paintings during bank opening hours seven days a week including "First Friday Art Walk" on June 2 until 7 p.m. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com).

**Julie Cochran Photography.** Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Sunny Days Art.** Artists exhibition through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Sunny Days exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Free Tai Chi.** Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located

directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit [www.FreeTaiChi.org](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org) for more.

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia,** a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**First Sunday Jazz Brunch** 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit [www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/](http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/)

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. [Historicviennainc.org](http://Historicviennainc.org)

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free admission.

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**Gentle Yoga.** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free



PHOTO BY  
KEN FRYE

## Art at Meadowlark

**Various times through June 30 at the Meadowlark Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Ken Frye is the Vienna Arts Center artist of the year. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).**

introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater

fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

**Art Classes** at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. A variety of classes are available. Visit [www.greatfallsart.org](http://www.greatfallsart.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 8

**Griffin House Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. \$20 or \$25 door. Call 877-987-6487 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 9

**Julia Brennan and Ruth B Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com).

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring the Vienna Idol Finals. Free. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**Meet the Artist.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. the Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet Rosemarie Forsythe and learn about her exhibit titled "Conceptual Illuminations" which runs through July 1. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com).

**Family Fun and Soccer.** 2-6 p.m. at Great Falls Nike Park, 1199 Utterback Store Rd, Great Falls. Games, prizes and food to benefit the Nike 7 Turf Fund. \$40. Visit [www.greatfallsunc.org](http://www.greatfallsunc.org).

**Meet the Author.** 6 p.m. at the Tysons Corner Barnes and Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE XX

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THE CONNECTION  
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# Park Authority: Stop Horseplay at Scott's Run

**T**he Fairfax County Park Authority and Police Department hosted a briefing to announce stepped up enforcement and education efforts at Scott's Run Nature Preserve on Friday, May 19.

This site over the past several years has drawn large, unruly, often underage crowds that refuse to obey site rules, damage natural resources, refuse to follow staff direction, produce piles of trash and endanger themselves and others, Judy Pedersen, a spokesperson for the park authority, said in a media advisory.

During the briefing, officials outlined safety and enforcement issues happening at the preserve:

- ❖ Prevalent underage drinking
- ❖ Large piles of trash, including glass and coolers
- ❖ Swimming at the waterfall, which is against the law and extremely dangerous
- ❖ Swimming in the creek, which

is a health hazard. Storm runoff from the Tysons area washes human and animal waste into the creek. Because of the sources of pollution, waters have the potential of

being hazardous to human health.

- ❖ Park and animal control staff work to enforce the countywide leash laws.
- ❖ Digging up of wildflowers

- ❖ Rowdy park visitors who intimidate hikers, families and threaten staff.

"In the last couple of seasons, we've seen an escalation of some inappropriate behavior here at the park," Sara Baldwin, deputy director of the Park Authority, said in a video posted to the Fairfax County Government Facebook page. It has received more than 3,000 views.

"We wanted to educate the public here today on the rules and regulations and situation that we're having here at Scott's Run and hoping for their support," she said. "We want people to enjoy their parks, but we want people to enjoy our parks appropriately."

There is no Fairfax County Park Authority staff based at the preserve, which sits along the Potomac River, just upstream from the American Legion Memorial Bridge, according to Pedersen.

However, in the video, Baldwin warned that police will start patrolling the preserve to enforce rules.

In conjunction with the briefing, volunteers from the community cleaned the park from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"They picked up probably close to 50 bags of trash here at the park," Baldwin said.

— FALLON FORBUSH



Fairfax County Spokesperson Jeremy Lasich interviews Sara Baldwin, deputy director of the Fairfax County Park Authority, about planned police presence for Scott's Run Nature Preserve in a video posted to the Fairfax County Government Facebook page. It has received more than 3,000 views.

PHOTO IS A SCREEN GRAB



The staff of Langley High School's Saxon Scope, led by Editor-in-Chief Ashley Long (center), pose around its ASPA First Place certificate. This year, the students focused on design and writing harder-hitting articles that discussed topics that were more meaningful to the community at Langley.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA MITRO

## Langley Student Journalists Receive Top Ranking

**T**he American Scholastic Press Association ranked Langley High School's newsmagazine as one of the top-scoring high school publications in the country for the 2016-2017 school year. Langley's Saxon Scope received a first-place ranking in the contest.

Journalism teacher and advisor Christina Mitro was notified of the ranking in May in a letter from Richard Plass, chair-

man of the judging committee for ASPA. "We have a very talented group on staff this year who work really hard to make the magazine great," said Mitro. "That is very helpful and inspiring as an advisor."

For the ASPA contest, each high school newspaper and yearbook was scored on a point system and was awarded a first-, second- or third-place ranking in its classification.



The Cooper Middle School team at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition, May 23-27 at Michigan State University.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Competing in World Finals

**T**he Cooper Middle School team of Jackson Frankel (grade 8), Lexie Gagnon (grade 8), Colin Montie (grade 7), Sophia Montie (grade 8), and Matthew Zheng (grade 8) competed at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals tournament May 23-27 at Michigan State University. More than 830 teams from 15 countries took part in the creative problem solving competition. The Cooper team placed 14th out of 52 teams in their age division

competing in the technical challenge.

The challenge required the team to engineer a robot that could "learn" and replicate human motions and include the robot in a humorous skit.

The team could not use any kits to build the robot and was limited to a \$145 budget for their entire presentation. The judges loved their creative use of used pizza boxes to build their set and props and the pun-laden skit.



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**OPINION**

# A Meal Among Neighbors

FROM PAGE 6

county for “making us feel included. These days it is extra meaningful to be welcomed and made comfortable, here at the center of our government.” Ayaz added that having such a diverse group at the Iftar dinner reflected the “true spirit of Ramadan.”

In addition to the chairman, representatives from all branches of county law enforcement and safety agencies and other departments were on hand to show their neighborly support. Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) was also in attendance, as were Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), and deputy county executive for public safety, David Rohrer.

Watts, who was hosted by a local family during a 2008 visit to Turkey, said it was “so sad what is happening in that extraordinary place.” With the tensions and unrest in their native country, and the spike in anti-Muslim sentiment that many Turkish immigrants have faced in their new homeland, Watts is saddened that many “must feel like no place is home. That’s why it is all the more important to be here as part of the bridge to connect people.”

Mustafa Akpınar, CEO of the Rumi Forum and an organizer of the event, agreed that of late “it seems like we are all on double shifts on our mission to be part of the community, but we love diversity and we celebrate it.”

Back to the Kilic table, where Emine carefully described each of the delicacies that she had picked out for my enjoyment, while still telling me that she, too, worries about the state of affairs in Turkey. “But

we are so glad to be here, where things are so possible.”

Cemal, a smiling and anything-but-shy 11-year-old, was happy to talk about a wide range of subjects; why we are gathered here — “to better learn to communicate with each other” to cars — “Sorry, I am more for Lamborghini than Ferrari.”

Yasemin spent her first year here studying primarily in Turkish while she perfected her English — which seemed pretty perfect already. The 16-year-old student at Oakton High School is exploring the paths her future might hold. “I like math, for sure, but lately I am thinking about politics, or the law, something that I can do to help everyone have a better life.” She also loves to write — “I am working on a book” — so journalism is also a possibility.

**ALL AROUND US**, people were talking, laughing, and just getting to know each other a little better. The Imam’s call to prayers after the meal was the only pause. The gathering continued for many, once everyone had come back together.

Time to go and actually write the story, despite pleas from Emine, Yasemin and Cemal (dad Erdal was off meeting and mingling with other groups) to stay a bit longer and chat. Duty calls, but not before receiving an invitation to attend a Turkish cooking class with Emine and a class in Ebru, the traditional Turkish “marbling” art form with Yasemin.

No regrets on breaking with journalistic tradition on this one occasion, and learning some new ones with a room full of neighbors.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

Author Gene Barr will be signing copies of his book, "A Civil War Captain and His Lady: A True Story of Love, Courtship, and Combat." Visit [stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238](http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238) or call 703-506-2937 for more.

**Thomas Pandoffi in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Great Falls UMC, 10100 Georgetown Pike. Pianist Thomas Pandoffi. \$40. Visit [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org) for more.

## MONDAY/JUNE 12

**Musician Alex Hassan.** noon-3 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Hassan will be playing melodies from the era between World War I and World War II. \$10 required by June 6. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

## THURSDAY/JULY 13

**Tyler Hilton and Kate Voegele Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401 for more.

**The McLean Historical Society.** 7:30 p.m. at the Balls Hill Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Historian Jim Lewis who will address "The Evolution of the Fairfax/Loudoun County Boundary Line & J.E.B. Stuart's Most Difficult Achievement During the American Civil War. Free and open to the public. Call 703-356-8223 for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 14

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Rocknocoeros. Free. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

## JUNE 14-AUG. 15

**"Summer in the City" Art Show.** Normal business hours at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 16

**Chillin' on Church.** 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

**Artists Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Artist Davi D'Agostino will be on hand to talk about his work. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) for more.

**Casey Abrams Trio.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 17

**White Ford Bronco Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401 for more.

**Wesley Stace Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. He's touring in support of Wesley Stace's John Wesley Harding, recorded with The Jayhawks at Flowers Studio in Minneapolis. Visit [www.jamminjava.com/](http://www.jamminjava.com/) or call 703-255-1566 for more.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 18

**Father's Day Golf Tournament.** 8 a.m. at Oak Marr Golf Complex, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Compete in closest-to-the-pin contests, and prizes will be awarded for the top three places in all three divisions. \$65 per team. Call 703-323-1641 for more.

**American Legion Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more.

**Rosi Golan Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Previewing new album "Collecting Bullets." \$15-25. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 22

**James Arthur Concert.** 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401 for more.

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# I Hope I'm Right



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having been a cancer "diagnosee" now for eight years and exactly three months — as I sit and type on May 27, 2017, a lifetime considering the original "13 month to two-year" prognosis I was given on February 27, 2009, I have learned much about cancer that I didn't know. In fact, I've learned everything about cancer I know now because previously I knew nothing. Growing up I heard/experienced very little about cancer. My parents were healthy as was my immediate family (aunts, uncles, cousins).

And even though I spent many Sundays with my parents visiting my grandparents in nursing homes, the diseases/afflictions I remember hearing most about were diabetes, Parkinson's, Leukemia and high cholesterol. Never cancer or any condition that I associated with cancer. I realize now how lucky we all were. I wouldn't say I took good health for granted, but I might have taken it as a given. Not any more.

Everyday I wake up, as my father used to say, is a good day; and ever since I was diagnosed in early 2009, most days — all things considered, and I do consider all things, have been good days. I have been extraordinarily fortunate in how my body and mind has reacted to being diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Rarely have I ever gone one step forward and then two steps backward.

Oh sure, the early hairless days of heavy-duty chemotherapy (infused for six hours every three weeks) were challenging, but it was a process I had to endure — so far as I knew (I know a bit more now and there are many more choices/protocols than ever before).

It reminds me of a long-ago M\*A\*S\*H episode in which "Hawkeye" met a South Korean woman after she drove — a Cadillac — into the 4077th. She needed medical help for her family. Col. Potter ordered "Hawkeye" to return with the woman back to her home.

Begrudgingly he went along, mistakenly thinking she felt a sense of entitlement. After a short time treating her family he learned how wrong he had been. Later that day, "Hawkeye" saw the woman walking up a nearby trail carrying buckets of water on a pole. When he asked her why she was doing that (getting the water that way, from wherever); she replied: "Because that's where the water is."

It struck him — and apparently — it struck me, too. As a cancer patient/survivor, that has always been my approach/attitude. "Next man up," a common sports refrain; no excuses, keep moving forward.

Over the years, I have met many cancer patients; at the Infusion Center, at conferences, at work and at play. And I may be biased (no 'maybes' about it), but I have to say, we're a fairly hearty and resilient bunch. Getting diagnosed with a terminal disease — frequently out of the blue, is not exactly the stuff of which dreams are made. Quite the contrary.

Nevertheless, many of the cancer patients I've met seemed to have faced their demons and are standing tall against the worst kind of adversity. Bette Davis is often credited with the quote: "Old age is not for sissies." Well, neither is cancer. It seems to be for everybody, everywhere. Unfortunately, cancer is an indiscriminate, equal opportunity destroyer; all ages, all races, all ethnic groups, all populations.

According to "Medical News Today," "One in two people will develop cancer in their lifetimes." So getting cancer is either a matter of time, inevitable or a random-type miracle if it doesn't affect you. For many of us who've been affected already, we've come to learn that cancer isn't the automatic death sentence it used to be, especially for us lung cancer patients. The research dollars and enthusiasm going into defeating this scourge are at their most significant in decades, perhaps ever.

Now is not the time to give up hope. It's time to embrace it.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.





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