



Inspiring Girls To Follow Their Dreams

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Kathryn Sandercock, rising senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, gives a speech to 12 teams at the opener to the Virginia Little League Majors Softball State Tournament. This summer she pitched for the US Junior Women's National Team.

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News

Summer on Capitol Hill

Katie Burnham of McLean served as a summer intern for U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-02). As an intern, Burnham gained experience working in Washington, where she attended committee hearings, lead tours, and assisted office staff. She is the daughter of Chris and Courtney Burnham and will be a sophomore at Miami University of Ohio this fall.

"I learned so much about how a congressional office operates and how to effectively communicate with constituents. It was really beneficial to attend hearings, work with legislative aids and shadow the Congressman," Burnham said.

Wilson said, "As a former intern, I know firsthand the benefits of interning in Congress, and want to provide the opportunity for students from across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. I am grateful for all young people



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katie Burnham with U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina.

who give back to their community by completing a Congressional internship, and am confident in their future success."

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Another Murder-Suicide in McLean

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Helen Lorena Hargan, 23, shot her mother, Pamela Denise Hansen Hargan, 63, in her home at 6708 Dean Drive in McLean and then shot herself in a murder-suicide on Friday, July 14, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

Officers went to the home shortly after 2 p.m., after a caller reported that someone in the home might have been killed.

"I don't know the identity of the caller," said Don Gotthardt, a spokesperson for the department. "My information is that they had some familiarity with one of the occupants in the house. Whatever information the caller had led them to be concerned for occupants in the house. The call was basically, you know, 'Check on the welfare, that there might be somebody dead in the house.'"

Several unsuccessful attempts were made to communicate with anyone in the home and a reverse 911 call was placed to neighbors, asking them to remain inside their homes, according to police.

"They made numerous attempts to make contact with the folks in the house, even by bullhorn," Gotthardt said.

When all the communication attempts were unsuccessful, police officers entered the house and found the two bodies. By 8 p.m., the department published a blog post about the murder investigation and that there was no threat to public safety.

A MEDIA BRIEFING was conducted about an hour after the blog post was published.



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

On Friday, July 14, detectives with the Fairfax County Police Department worked through the night to determine the identities of the women, whose bodies were found in the home at 6708 Dean Drive in McLean, and the sequence of events leading to their deaths.

"We weren't here, we left the house around 1 o'clock," said Jennifer Jeannot, who lives in a house next door to the crime scene with her family. Her family had gone to a movie theater for a matinee screening of the new "Despicable Me 3" movie, she said.

Jeannot was preparing to throw a birthday party at the home the next day and she and her husband were working on last-minute chores as detectives worked on the scene next door.

She and her husband have been living in

their home for 10 years and Pamela Denise Hansen Hargan didn't move next door until her home was built about three years ago, according to Jeannot. The victim lived in the home with another one of her daughters and her granddaughter, according to Jeannot.

Like the Jeannots, other neighbors who had gathered outside the crime scene after the media briefing didn't hear any commotion at the house and had no idea what happened or which people who lived in the home had been killed.

"This street has a lot of kids, so sometimes [the granddaughter] would mix in with the others, but most of the time, we wouldn't see her," said Rusty Payne, who lives across the street from the crime scene.

The granddaughter, who is 7-years-old, attended school a block away at Kent Gardens Elementary on Melbourne Drive, according to Jeannot.

The child was not home at the time of the incident and is safe with her mother, according to the police.

"We didn't speak very regularly, just kind of over the fence about our dogs and their dogs," Jeannot said of the family next door.

All of the five dogs that lived in the home have also been accounted for, according to police.

"They'll comb that house meticulously for any shred of potential evidence, collect that, continue with canvasses and probably ... continue with canvassing and gathering information tomorrow, but they'll be here throughout the night," Gotthardt said.

THE NEXT MORNING, the police released the identities of the decedents and the circumstances involving their death.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Virginia conducted autopsies on Saturday, July 15, to make an official determination of the cause and manner of death, according to police.

This is the second murder-suicide to happen in McLean this year, after police determined Hong Chen, 52, fatally shot his wife Shirley Shou, 48, and son James Wenjie Chen, 16, before killing himself in their McLean home at 1339 Windy Hill Road in January.

When entering Claude Moore Colonial Farm, you are entering the year 1771, four years before the American Revolution. Reenactors will stay in character and ask you and your family to help them with their work.



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Reenactors put chickens on a spit to roast over a wood fire this weekend at Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

Welcome to 1771 in McLean

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Stepping into Claude Moore Colonial Farm is walking back into the history of America when it was still a colony of England. The year is 1771, four years before the American Revolution and reenactors fill the farm paths wearing bonnets, hats, and gowns made by hand.

The costumed interpreters stay in character as they serve spit-roasted chicken, meat pies, beer, lemonade, and sausages. The farm family enjoys visitors and takes pride in doing all of the farm work by hand just as it was in 1771.

There are also some places of historical importance to the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, including: Tolston's Mill, six miles west; The Falls Church, eight miles east; The

Tobacco Warehouse, three miles to the east; and the Town of Alexandria which was a day's walk away or 15 miles — the nearest town to the farm in 1771.

The farm itself includes cattle, chicken, corn, flax, a garden, geese, hogs, and orchard, pond, tobacco, and turkeys.

NOW, THE FARM focuses on education

and events for children and families to engage with history. "This is a great learning experience for the kids. It involves all of the senses," said Melissa Wilcox, a U.S. military spouse at the event Saturday.

"It's great to learn about the history of our country," said Ryan Repass. His mother,

Claude Moore Colonial Farm preserves living history for young and old.

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 5

OPINION

Help Prepare Children in Need for School

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

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.

EDITORIAL

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. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. 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.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying 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. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

Where To Give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children 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.

❖ **Cornerstones** will work to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,000 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. 7-11, 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. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. 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. For more information, contact Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 571-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html.

❖ **Britepaths**, 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. 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," write BTS 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 703-273-8829. Visit www.britepaths.org.

Drop-off sites until Aug. 5:
— Cinema Arts Theatre At Fair City Mall, 9650-14 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031
— Cox Farms 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville, VA 20120
— Del. Kathleen Murphy Constituent Office, 6888 Elm St., Ste 1C, McLean, VA 22101
— GAP Solutions, Inc. 205 Van Buren St, Herndon, VA 20170; Drop off in Suite 205
— Gathering Grounds Cafe At University Mall, 10637 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Dr. Gene Sweetnam, OD 5204A Rolling Road, Burke, VA 22015
— Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

— Pure Performance 3805 Pickett Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Quest Diagnostics 14225 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151
— Solaris Laser and Skin Care 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180
— Spine and Joint Institute 9990 Fairfax Blvd. #115, Fairfax, VA 22030
— STEM exCEL 4010 University Drive, #104, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Sugar Mama's Ice Cream 11208 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030
— Union Bank Burke 6050 Burke Commons Road, Suite A, Burke, VA 22015
— University Mall Theatre At University Mall, 10659 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032
— Westminster School's Camp Griffin 3819 Gallows Road, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ **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. Drop off supplies through Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or visit facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive/

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service** is able to buy supplies at a value that beats retail price. Every \$1 donated by July 27 can purchase \$2 worth of school supplies. 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 will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). www.nvfs.org/support/back-to-school/

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity

❖ **Apple Federal Credit Union** www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. www.fcps.edu/

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** accepts online donations and backpack donations. Check website for more details. Deliver Backpacks to WFCM (July 17-Aug. 11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) to WFCM's Office at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151. Please bring backpacks to the back door of the Food Pantry. wfcmvva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/

— MARY KIMM

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McLean CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Brad Rivera, 52, a business owner, and Elizabeth McClung, 51 a construction project manager, visited with the First New Jersey of the Continental and donned the apparel of the 1770's.



Adrienne Conroy, 48, with Historical Hounds came to the event this past weekend at Claude Moore Colonial Farm. She is dressed in a handmade gown that was typical for the era.

History Revisited at Claude Moore Farm

FROM PAGE 3

Daphne Repass, a U.S. Military Spouse said “we like it because we can talk to people from the time period.”

Reenactors from all parts of the country also come to Claude Moore Farm to take part in the living history event that was held this past weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

Brad Rivera, 52, a business owner, and Elizabeth McClung, 51, a construction project manager visited with the First New Jersey of the Continental and donned the apparel of the 1770's.

“I love it, though there's not enough of us, it's a family. Women always wore a white cap of some kind and this one is a bit fancy,” said McClung.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), helped to pass a bill in congress approving the Land Exchange at the Farm. “The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean is a living history museum that portrays family life on a small farm at the birth of our nation,” she said.

Comstock helped the farm resolve a land dispute involving the Federal Highway Administration and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Phillip C. Zane, President, Claude Moore Colonial Farm said, “we are very grateful that this transfer of land is being completed as it has allowed the Farm to have free and open vehicular access. We sincerely



From left: Lydia Repass, Chloe Wilcox, Caitlyn Wilcox, and Ryan Repass pose for a picture at Claude Moore Colonial Farm on Saturday.

thank Congresswoman Comstock for getting this accomplished.”

Similar legislation about land transfer adjacent to the George Washington Parkway was presented by Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA).

Adrienne Conroy, 48, with Historical Hounds came to the event this past weekend at Claude Moore Colonial Farm. “Reenacting is a fun way to learn about history, and fun for people to see us. It makes history live for people because it's not a boring book or a teacher,” she said. “The kids are going to remember that!”

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Summer Book Clubs for Children

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.

humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages

penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out.”

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them

out. “Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment,” he said.

“The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project,” said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said. “Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.”

“Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, “Bill Nye, the Science Guy”] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].”

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a

lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

“If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”

**— Julie M. Esanu,
Lower School Librarian,
St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School**

they’d look.”

Offer an opportunity for children have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Melissa Parks, of McLean, was named to the dean’s list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.).

Russell Goldman, of McLean,

graduated from Wesleyan University (Middletown, Conn.) with a B.A. in film and theater.

Yongsun Lee, of Falls Church, graduated from Wesleyan University (Middletown, Conn.) with a B.A. in sociology.

Kritika Singh, majoring in bioengineering, was named to the dean’s list for the spring 2017 at Northeastern University (Boston, Mass.). Singh is a member of the University Honors Program.

Rebecca Weil, of McLean, was named to the dean’s list for spring 2017

at Georgia State University.

Camille Ruley, of McLean, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in animation and motion media from Emerson College (Boston, Mass.).

Rachael Moxley, of Falls Church,

was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Moxley was initiated at Virginia Tech.

Trevor Rocks, of McLean, was awarded a B.S. in robotics engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.).

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION



Maggie Mosby and Maya Pashai rising sixth graders pose for a picture during a break in Wacky Wednesday at the Summer Strings Camp.



Daniel Platteborse, a rising sixth grader concentrates hard on reading sheet music at the Summer Strings Camp.

A Well Orchestrated Summer

Spring Hill Elementary music teacher coaches children on string skill

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Walking up to a game of kickball, Wacky Wednesday at Summer Strings Camp wouldn't seem to be about speed reading sheet music at all. Also an orchestra full of students in goofy costumes wouldn't seem to be productive at all, or would it?

Ruth Donahue is the orchestral leader, and supervisor of the children enrolled in this summer session of Summer Strings Camp. She has also been the Orchestra Director at Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean for 30 years.

"I have played with the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra, and the Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra. But enough about me," she said.

When she was 9 years old, she used to play flute but because she was tall, her teachers suggested the cello. "My mom encouraged me to try it and I'm grateful that it was the cello," she said.

Donahue started these camps in Oklahoma. "I can see the difference in the kids who did the summer camp because their level of playing goes up and they're more prepared in the fall," she said.

Kavya Srikumar, 10, a fifth grader at Spring Hill Elementary school is one of these students. "Her teacher is Ms. D and there's a great music program. She doesn't want to do regular violin, but just explore and we can take it further if she chooses," said her mother Ekta Srikumar, 43, a doctor.

"Two hours is really good, they are relaxing so it's enough practice it's not overwhelming," said Srikumar.

In the orchestra this summer there are mostly violin players, viola and cello. "We don't have any bass players," said Donahue.

According to Donahue, Wacky Wednesday, Messy Monday, and kickball helps to keep it interesting



Orchestra Director at Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean, Ruth Donahue directs students who are learning to read sheet music during the Summer Strings Camp.



Alan Fu and Danny Pashai, rising third graders play violin for Wacky Wednesday during the Summer Strings Camp.

during the program. "It's because I give them so much music," she said.

Bradley Kim, 17, and Daniel Tran, 18, of McLean High School are helping out with the week-long camp this summer. They used to play in the orchestra at the Summer Strings Camp when they were younger. "It was fun," said Kim.

"It's good practice and a good time," said Tran.

The camp is sponsored by Music Masters, a local music store in Vienna. This year's Summer Strings Camp ran July 5-13. It culminated in an orchestral performance held this past Thursday at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

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Kathryn Sandercock, rising senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, poses for a picture outside of McLean High School with her parents Colin and Trish Sandercock. This summer she was in Oklahoma pitching for the US Junior Women's National Team.



Kathryn Sandercock, rising senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, pitches for the US Junior Women's National Team this summer in Oklahoma.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Inspiring Girls to Follow Their Dreams

Former McLean Little League star returns from US Junior Women's National Team to talk to Virginia Little League softball players.

BY COLIN STOECKER

Kathryn Sandercock walks forward at the McLean football field at McLean High School to give a speech to her old little league team, the McLean Majors Softball Allstars, about playing for the US Junior Women's National Team this summer.

Sandercock, 16, a rising senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, is a product of coaches, parents, and a youth little league softball program in McLean that has sent three teams to the world series and won it once.

The summer of 2013 Sandercock was 12 years old. That year the McLean Allstars under manager Gerry Megas won the Great Falls district, the Virginian State Championships, the Southeast regional tournament in Georgia, and went on to place second in the Little League World Series in Portland, Ore.

Gerry Megas still manages the McLean Majors Softball Allstars. Last weekend was

the Virginia state tournament and his team, which Kathryn used to pitch for, played Saturday and Sunday in McLean.

"I am extremely proud of Kathryn; she was the main pitcher for our team at age 12. She started good and got better every year. She works hard. I asked her to talk to the girls and we were fortunate to get her," said Megas.

Kathryn started playing softball when she was 8 years old. She and her sister used to play in the driveway with their dad. "I had good hand-eye coordination and it all started with little league," she said. "I always had a dream to play Division One softball but it progressed into who I am and I love it."

Her parents have been intensely supportive of her softball playing. "I wouldn't be where I am without them. One time my dad set up a charter jet to get me and two teammates to the Little League World Series in Georgia on time," said Sandercock.

Colin Sandercock, attorney by day and youth softball coach for much of Kathryn's

career said, "I grew up playing sports, my dad was in the pro-baseball system for the Boston Red Sox and then World War II happened."

Being raised in an athletic family has worked to Sandercock's advantage, but according to her father her success is due to her own hard work. "The reason we have supported her is that we recognized the ability and the desire to play softball," he said.

Sandercock has verbally committed to playing at James Madison University as their 2018 pitcher. She continues to work with a pitching coach in Richmond, Rita Lynn-Gilman.

This summer in Oklahoma, Sandercock has been playing for the Junior Women's National team. "It's basically the junior Olympics," she said. But Kathryn's ultimate goal is to play on the US Olympic softball team.

She also coaches other girls in her own backyard on how to pitch in her free time. "Gerry sends the little league pitchers over



Kathryn Sandercock (right), a senior at Bishop O'Connell High School, poses with a current McLean Allstar player, Maddie White, 12, a rising eighth grader at Saint Luke in McLean. Sandercock gives back to her old team by helping coach future pitchers.

and I help them with their technique," she said. "In college I really want to study coaching or psychology," said Sandercock.



Gerry Megas, manager of the McLean Allstars, walks with Colin Sandercock. Both men used to coach together when Kathryn Sandercock was on the McLean Allstars and took them to a second place in the Little League World Series.



The Little League District 10 Tournament team looks on while Kathryn Sandercock, pitcher for the US Junior Women's National Team gives a speech about going for your dreams.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005.

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.

"Summer in the City" Art Show. Normal business hours through Aug. 15 at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513.

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. Visit www.FreeTaiChi.org.

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. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. Park does not sell licenses. 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.

FRIDAY/JULY 21

Stargazing and Snacking on S'mores.

6-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the creatures that fly through the night skies. Ages 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/.

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Harlen Simple band playing rock/funk/blues. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Delta Spur 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 or call 703-893-9401.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Mountain Music Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Slim Harrison and the Barnstormers, American folk



Summer Sunday

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park featuring Slim Harrison and the Barnstormers, Sunday, July 23, at 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

musicians, will be joined by The Rockcandy Cloggers. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Local Honey is a local band featured. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Nitehawks Swing Band. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

MONDAY/JULY 24

AARP Dinner Group. 5-8 p.m. at

Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Drive. AARP has reserved a section of Mylo's Grill for members and their guests to enjoy dinner together with a 15 percent discount on their entire check. Call 877-926-8300 or visit states.aarp.org/MylosGrill.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Meet the Cooking Author. 6:30 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Lecture by John Shields, author of "Chesapeake Bay Cooking," host of the PBS series Coastal Cooking, and owner of the renowned Gertrude's in Baltimore. \$65. Call 703-442-9110.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Daniel Nahmod in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Thought singer/songwriter performs original music with a poetic and evocative message of peace, love, and compassion. \$20. Call 703-281-1767 or visit unityoffairfax.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Wayne Tympanick Quartet. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

LeAnn Rimes 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 or call 703-893-9401.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Big Splash Party. 1-3 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Water games and slide. Visit www.viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Kara and Matty D Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. A couple plays songs from all eras, with vocal harmonies. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Jr. Cline and The Recliners are playing classics and rhythm and blues. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

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July 21-30
 Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.; Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
 Performances at Vinson Hall Retirement Community
 Community Building Ballroom
 1735 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101

Tickets: Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 OR www.McLeanPlayers.org

Audio description will be offered by the Metropolitan Washington Ear on Sunday, July 23, 2017.
 The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
 All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

CONNECT WITH MCP: [FACEBOOK.COM/MCLEANPLAYERS](https://www.facebook.com/McLeanPlayers)

Employment

Job opportunity available for a Teacher's Assistant in a Montessori school in McLean. The classroom age range is 3-6 year olds. Hours are generally 8:15-1:30, M-F, and will begin the last week in August. Experience with children preferred. Interested applicants should send their resume to info@ridgemontmontessori.com

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NEWS

The Arts Council of Fairfax County works with area companies and artists to improve pocket places which generates economic activity on a countywide scale. Pictured here, Tysons Tiles, worked with the Arts Council on their "Imagine Art Here" public art project aesthetically enhancing a park in a Tysons Corner office area.



VITA IMAGES

Nonprofit Arts Boosts Economic Picture

The Arts Council of Fairfax County recently released information from a 2015 study by the Americans For The Arts that stated "the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$271 million in annual economic activity in Fairfax County, supporting 6,220 full-time equivalent jobs."

In Tysons Corner, the Capital One project in a space just north of the McLean Metro station on the Silver Line, is putting in a 1,500 seat performing arts audi-

torium, a black box theater and two classrooms that will be available for public use. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is supporting this effort as part of the bigger picture to generate economic activity. "This highly-anticipated facility will create more jobs in the County, encourage more visitors and accelerate the prosperity of Fairfax County," said Laura Dailey of the Arts Council of Fairfax.

FCPS Students Win National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2017 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Kanishk Singh of Langley High School (diplomatic service), National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.
- ❖ Carlyn Kranking of McLean High School (journalism), National Merit Northwestern University Scholarship.
- ❖ Abhishek Mishra of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science), National Merit University of Maryland Scholarship.
- ❖ Aditi Sundararaman of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit University of

Maryland Scholarship.

❖ Christine Wang of TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

❖ Diana Zavela of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.

❖ Andrew Elaryan of Woodson High School (mechanical engineering), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

❖ Brian Ward of Woodson High School (political science), National Merit Boston College Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,500 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2017. This is the final group of scholarship recipients for the class of 2017.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Dulles Toll Road Nighttime Lane Closures

Starting Monday night, July 17, nighttime lane closures, including intermittent full closures, on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road at Route 7 will occur over the next several weeks in order to remove beams from the old Route 7 overpass, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Single-lane and multi-lane closures on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road will take place each night between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. There will also be total stoppages lasting up to 20 minutes at a time each night between midnight and 5 a.m.

The schedule is as follows, weather permitting:

❖ Monday night, July 17 – Thursday night, July 20: Eastbound Dulles Toll Road

❖ Wednesday night, July 26 – Friday night, July 28: Eastbound Dulles Airport Access Road

❖ Tuesday night, Aug. 1 – Thursday night, Aug. 3: Westbound Dulles Airport Access Road

❖ Monday night, Aug. 14 – Friday night, Aug. 18: Westbound Dulles Toll Road

Drivers should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes.

The work is part of the Route 7 over Dulles Toll Road project, which is scheduled for completion in spring 2018.

BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

THROUGH JULY 31

Backpacks for Students. Various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Christ the King's Team Service is collaborating with Reston's aid to families organization Cornerstones and school supplies collection organization Kids R First to help youngsters in the community. Collections will run through July; drop off in the church lobby. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

JULY 20-22

36th Annual NFED Family Conference. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Westin Tyson's Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. An opportunity for families affected by ectodermal dysplasias to gather information on the syndromes and treatment options; to network with other affected families; and to educate legislators on Capitol Hill about ectodermal dysplasias. Visit www.nfed.org for more.

THROUGH JULY 28

Vendor Application Deadline. Reston Community Center is seeking arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and civic organizations of all cultures for the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH AUG. 18

Artist Application Deadline. Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" should visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30 - 3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org.

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far — and it's not very far — so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

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