

Flying

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Yorktown freshman Juliette Mitrovich helped the Patriots win the National District title on Jan. 25.

County Reveals
Aquatics Bids

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The \$15 Million Congressman

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

WINTER FUN



The bird feeding area outside the center.



Jeanne Ockerman and her daughter Katie have fun in the nature center's playroom.



PHOTOS BY CORRIN REID/THE CONNECTION

Daniel Ockerman points to the diagram of his favorite snake.

From Outdoors to Indoors: Explore Nature

Winter fun doesn't always have to mean braving the harsh outdoor elements or spending money on equipment for winter activities.

The Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, located at 625 Carlin Springs Road, is an interactive, educational resource center with a variety of informative reptile displays, books, toys, bird feeding areas, and more. The nature center is open to the public; donations are accepted.

Nature Programs

The Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation offers the following nature and history programs for February.

To register, call 703-228-4747 or go online at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us/wsc/webtrac.wsc/wb1000.html?wbp=1>

What Animals Leave Behind

Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Children 6 and up. Ever wondered what animals leave behind and why? Learn about the most common evidence of animals, scat, and what it tells us about those animals. Spend some time outside on a secretive scat investigation and come back in to make your very own scat and track ID bandanna to take home with you. Dress in layers for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. For

more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207.

\$7 fee due upon registration.
Program #622824-P

See, Hear, Sketch: Flight of the Falcon

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 - 3:30 p.m.
Children ages 8 and up. Register child only. Examine the wing shapes, feather patterns, talons, head and other features of falcon anatomy that allow these winged predators to hunt at flight speeds as great as 200 m.p.h., and then explore ways to depict them on paper using pencil or chalk. We will focus on falcon species common to Arlington. Basic drawing materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own sketchbooks or pencils. Note: This program is intended for older children and is not suitable for those under the age of 8. For information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington, VA 22207.

\$5 fee due upon registration.
Program #622824-J

Adult Bird Walk

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 9 - 11 a.m.
Adults. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for an informal walk through Long Branch and Glenclaryn Parks in search of resident and migratory

birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides. For more information call 703-228-6535. Meet at the parking lot at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204.

Free
Program #622944-C

Flying Squirrel Lore & More

Saturday, Feb. 8, 6 - 7 p.m. Program #622954-F

Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 - 7 p.m. Program #622954-G

Saturday, Feb. 22, 6 - 7 p.m. Program #622954-H

Families. Register children and adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Flying squirrels are found throughout the wooded neighborhoods of Arlington, but are seldom seen. Learn about these nocturnal acrobats. After an indoor presentation, we'll tiptoe outside to see these little pixies glide in for an evening meal. For more information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA 22204.

\$5 fee per person

Notable Nature: Winter Stories and Sketches

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
Families. The whole family is invited to join us at long Branch for a lesson in nature journaling. We'll begin

by constructing our own nature journal and listen to stories about spring just below the surface. We'll also take a walk outside looking for some early signs of spring to sketch in our journals. Information: 703-228-6535.

Free
Program #622954-J

Second Sundays - Remove Invasive Plants

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2 - 4:30 p.m.
Adults, families, and teens. Keep the park free of destructive invasive plants. Work parties are held every month and are making a real difference. We are starting to see the return of wildflowers in areas once covered in ivy. No registration required. Free. Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207.

Free

Stop the Squash! Salamander Patrol Training

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Adults. Every year, with the first "warm" rain, a dangerous journey begins. Wood frogs, toads, and spotted salamanders that have spent the winter hibernating begin to move to our ponds - crossing driveways, parking lots, and sometimes roads. Come learn about Arlington's amphibians, and

SEE NATURE PROGRAMS. PAGE 11



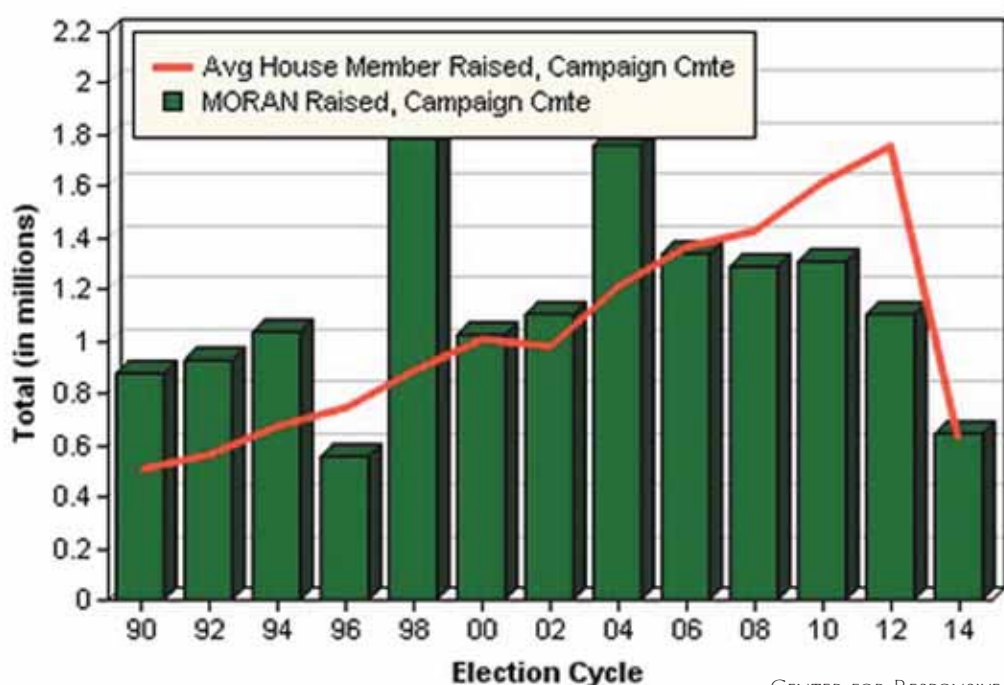
The walkway leading to the nature center building reveals a little snippet of the natural hiking scene in the midst of an urban landscape.



The snake exhibit at the center.



A variety of exhibits fills the Long Branch Nature Center.



CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS

The \$15 Million Congressman

During his years in Congress, Moran raised and spent about \$1 million each campaign cycle.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

One of the first things that happened after U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) announced he would not be running for reelection this year was that he cancelled a fundraising event. The fundraiser, scheduled for Jan. 24 at the Art and Soul Restaurant on Capitol Hill. Ostensibly it was to raise money for his reelection campaign, a lunch with suggested contributions ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. But after the congressman announced he would not be seeking a 13th term in the House of Representatives, the event was canceled.

Across the 8th congressional district, it's the end of an era. For more than two decades, Moran has led a financial juggernaut. During his career in Congress, according to campaign-finance data compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, Moran raised \$14.8 million and spent \$13.8 million. Donors included leaders in real estate, the military-industrial complex, lobbyists and information technology. For most

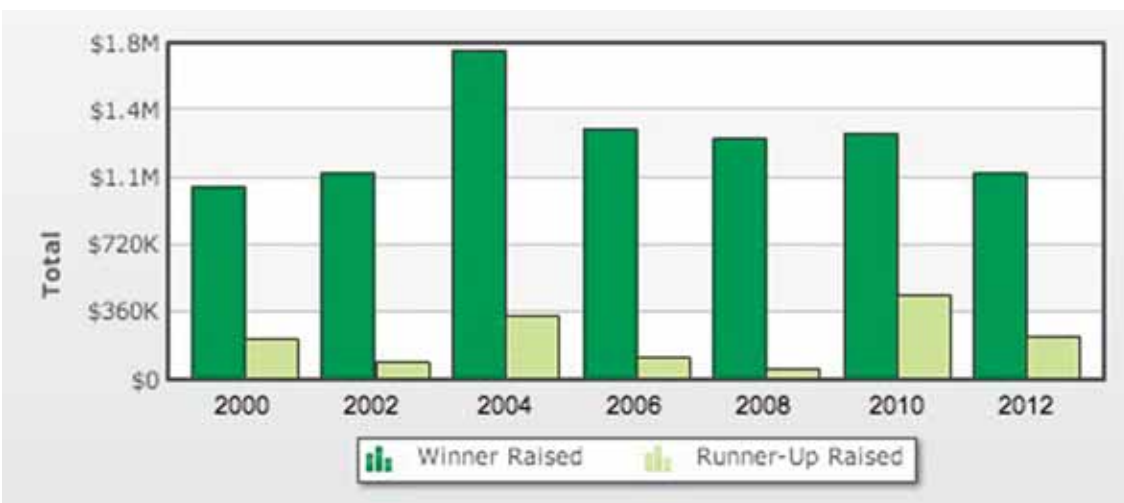
of his time in Congress, Moran raised more than the average member of Congress for what was essentially a safe Democratic seat with marginal opposition. Through a spokesman, Moran declined to be interviewed for this story.

"There's no doubt that money plays far too great an influence in politics at all levels, and we in Virginia are learning that perhaps more painfully than people in other states these days," said Stephen Farnsworth, political professor at the University of Mary Washington. "But politicians receive money from people who want to stay on their good side, and it is unilateral disarmament for an incumbent to refuse to take money from people who want to give it to them."

Last week, federal prosecutors indicted former Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell with public corruption charges that he and his wife accepted lavish gifts from the CEO of a dietary supplement maker in exchange for promoting his company. McDonnell's defense is that he did nothing wrong, and that politicians often work on behalf of their political supporters. Before the system of congressional earmarks was ended, members of Congress would frequently seek earmarks for campaign contributors.

"It's kind of like the chicken and egg," said Geoff Skelley, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "Do you promise them certain things and then they give you money or do they come to

SEE CAMPAIGNING, PAGE 9



CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS

County Reveals Aquatics Bids

Arlington leaders change position on secrecy of bids but still refuse to reveal expectations.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

New documents released by Arlington County officials show the four bids for the new aquatics center at Long Bridge Park range from \$81.9 million to \$82.8 million. County Manager Barbara Donnellan describes these as "significantly higher" than the estimate from county architects, although Arlington leaders still refuse to say what the estimates were.

When asked about the bids earlier this month by Connection Newspapers, county officials said the amounts were secret and they would be concealing them from the public. But last week, Arlington leaders changed course. In a Jan. 21 memorandum, county officials explained information read aloud during the bid process is

FOUR BIDS AT LONG BRIDGE PARK

- Christman/Apex, a Joint Venture Partnership: \$82.8 million
- Gilbane Building Company: \$82.5 million
- Balfour Beatty Construction, LLC: \$82.2 million
- Hess Construction + Engineering Services, Inc.: \$81.9 million

part of the public record and should not be concealed from the public.

"We have not had requests in the past to provide this data, and initially understood that it could not be made public," explained the unsigned memorandum. "This has been clarified and we recently learned that the information read aloud during the bid opening can be made available to the public prior to contract award."

The bids range from \$82.8 million to \$81.9 million. Reston-based

SEE BIDS, PAGE 9

Crowded Primary

Race to fill Jim Moran's seat has a number of early candidates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

For those keeping score, the number of candidates running for Congress in the 8th Congressional District is quickly becoming a crowded primary. Several candidates have already formally announced, and a number of others are working behind the scenes to formally announce soon. Because the seat features the most Democratic parts of Northern Virginia, all of the action will take place in advance of the June primary.

That's five months away, which means that the campaign season is already starting to melt the snow off the ground.

The district, which stretches from McLean to the Mason Neck, is a reliably Democratic district. In 2012, Moran beat his Republican challenger with 65 percent of the vote. Democratic incumbent Presi-

dent Barack Obama won with 68 percent of the vote. That means an intense amount of interest will be invested in the upcoming Democratic primary. The first Democrat to announce was Bruce Shuttleworth, who challenged Moran during the 2012 Democratic primary. Moran beat Shuttleworth with 75 percent of the vote.

"As a straight white married father, it may come as a surprise that I am considered a diversity candidate," said Shuttleworth in a written statement announcing his candidacy. "I'm a fighter pilot and a feminist, and I believe that it is the behavior of men more than women that will determine the quickest path to equal rights."

Other early candidates to throw their hats into the ring were Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) and Del. Charniele Herring (D-46).

SEE PRIMARY, PAGE 9

OPINION

For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:
2013

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612
2012

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

EDITORIAL

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election

in District 6 to replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Ethics and Marriage Equality Dominate News

By ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

The major news story that broke last week was the 14-count felony indictment filed against former Governor McDonnell and his wife for ethics violations. There is no question that public confidence in government officials has diminished. The people of Virginia expect accountability from their elected officials, and my colleagues and I have invested a lot of time and effort in crafting legislation to meet that expectation. Many provisions I proposed have been endorsed by the Senate Rules Committee.

Last week also marked a big victory for pro-



ponents of marriage equality in Virginia when Attorney General Mark Herring announced that, after a thorough legal review, he concluded Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage violates the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution. Virginia has a proud history as the birthplace of the Bill of Rights, but too often our Commonwealth has been on the wrong side of history, as we were in Loving v. Virginia in 1967 arguing against interracial marriage. It is exciting and refreshing to see Virginia waking up from history and looking forward, not backward.

Several of my other legislative proposals have made progress. One of these bills (SB27) would reinstate the option for individuals to receive their tax refunds in the form of a pa-

RICHMOND REPORT

per check instead of a pre-loaded debit card. Consumers around the state complained that the debit cards being used were fraught with fees and not consumer-friendly, and I am pleased to report this bill passed unanimously through the Senate.

Another bill I've co-sponsored with Senator Bryce Reeves of Fredericksburg (SB96) would prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. These e-cigarettes contain nicotine and have addictive properties. We need to regulate them in the same manner as we regulate traditional cigarettes by not allowing their sale to children.

I have also introduced legislation (SB663) to establish a mental health pilot program at eight community college campuses around the state. This bill would provide important services given the alarming increase in violent tragedies at campuses around the country.

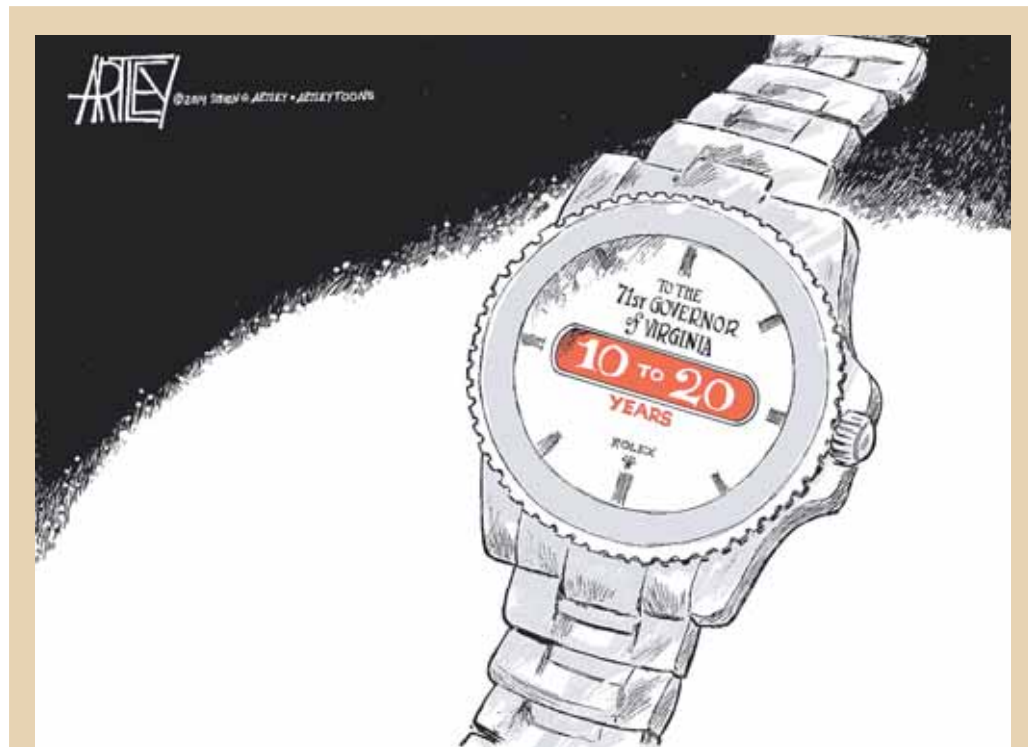
Thanks to all who attended the Mt. Vernon Town Hall Meeting last Saturday with Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell. For those who could not make it to that one or who live in other parts of the district, there are two additional Town Hall Meetings:

❖ Lee District: Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Kingstowne Thompson Center (6090 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria) with Del. Mark Sickles, Sen. George Barker and Sen. Toddy Puller.

❖ Alexandria/Arlington: Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Charles Houston Recreation Center (905 Wythe Street, Alexandria) with Del. Rob Krupicka.

If you're in Richmond between now and March 8, please stop by my office and see me. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov or call 804-698-7530 with your thoughts on legislation or state-related matters. I am active on Facebook and Twitter (@AdamEbbin) and more information is available at www.AdamEbbin.com, where I encourage you to sign up for my email updates.

It is an honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.



STEVEN G. ARTLEY/THE CONNEC

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns, call: 703-778-9410
arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor
703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael Lee Pope
Reporter
703-615-0960
mpope@connectionnewspapers.com
@MichaelLeePope

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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WINTER FUN

Winter Fun for Every Age and Interest in Arlington

Places to go,
things to do.

BY JENNIFER BENITZ
THE CONNECTION

Winter weather may make getting out and about a little harder, but it will not stop Arlingtonians from having fun. Whether enticed by sports, art, literature, movies or music, Arlington has a plethora of exciting activities to beat, or embrace, the cold.

Sports enthusiasts of all ages can embrace the cold at Kettler Capitals Iceplex, situated atop the Ballston Commons Mall parking garage. While it's not quite a getaway from the wintry weather, Kettler is a state-of-the-art facility that offers fun activities in an indoor rink — everything from public skating, to figure skating and hockey programs to broomball. It is also the home to the Capitals' practices, which are open to the public to watch. Visit www.kettlercapitalsiceplex.com for schedule information for public skating hours and rates, programs and events; the practice information for the Capitals is posted on capitalstoday.monumentalnetwork.com.

Just down the street from the iceplex, in



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BENITZ/THE CONNECTION

Artisphere is located at 1101 Wilson Boulevard in Rosslyn, and is accessible via foot, car or metro.

the Virginia Square neighborhood, is the Central Library of the Arlington Public Library. For book lovers, nothing quite feels like a relaxing winter day like curling up with a good book — and what better place to do so than the Arlington library? This library offers a range of services, activities and books to entertain every interest, age and educational need, while providing an open, welcoming atmosphere with abundant seating, tables and computers for everyone to enjoy. Book clubs, computer lessons, author talks, art exhibits, language

conversation classes and many other services are provided to serve various learning levels and ages.

In addition, after-school clubs, homework help and reading programs are offered for Kindergarten through fifth grade students, volunteer opportunities, young adult books and more homework help are available for middle and high school students. With several other branches throughout Arlington County, the library is accessible to all residents. Visit library.arlingtonva.us for additional information.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BENITZ/THE CONNECTION

The Central Library of Arlington Public Library is located on Quincy Street in the Virginia Square neighborhood of Arlington.

FOR A MORE VISUAL set of entertainment, Arlingtonians can visit Artisphere — a space in Arlington for creative spirits. Located on Wilson Boulevard in Rosslyn, just two blocks from the Rosslyn metro station, Artisphere is easy to get to by foot, metro or car. With various galleries and performances, Artisphere offers a lot of visual stimulation for the eyes and mind, from visual art to theater to live music. A cafeteria area, complete with a bar (cash only) that

SEE PLACES TO GO, PAGE 11



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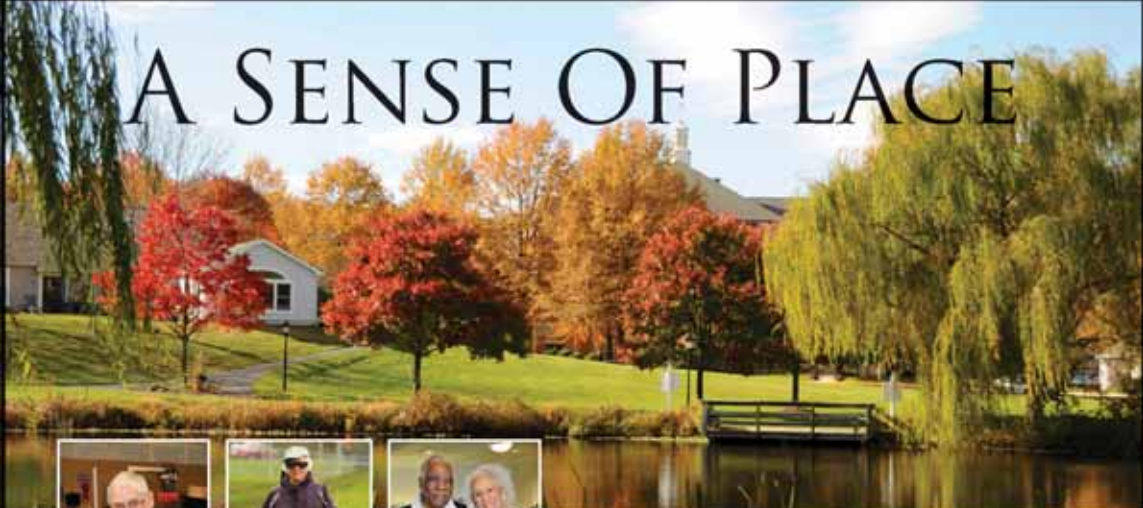
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WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon Thursday. Photos are welcome.

ONGOING

Comedy. Every Saturday at 3 p.m. at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd., children can enjoy ComedySportz for Kidz. \$10. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Comedy. Every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. is ComedySportz ("clean") and at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday is the Blue Show ("unclean"), both at Comedy Spot, in Ballston Common Mall, 4238 Wilson Blvd. \$15 each. Visit www.comedyindc.com or 703-294-LAFF.

Poetry Series. 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Open Mic Nite. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. every Wednesday at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Sign-up times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring instruments, fans and friends. Featured musicians will perform from 9:30-10 p.m. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for 1st place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Theater Performance. See "Bang the Drum Slowly" at Gunston Theatre Two, 2700 S. Lang St. The show runs Jan. 10-Feb. 1 with shows Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit americancentury.org or 703-998-4555 for tickets.

Art Exhibit. See "Everything You Are Looking For" by Alicia Eggert through Feb. 2 in the Terrace Gallery at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd. The exhibit draws on her background in sculpture, design and dimensional studies. Free. Visit artisphere.com or call 703-875-1100 for tickets.

Theater Performance. Mount Olivet Players presents "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" Jan. 25-Feb. 8. Performances are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Dinner theater for Saturday shows at 6 p.m. Located at 1500 N. Glebe Road. Dinner is \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit mountolivetum.org/event/alice or 703-527-3934 for reservations.

Art Exhibit. See "H2O - Encaustic Paintings by Marilyn Banner and Photography by Peggy Fleming" from Jan. 17-Feb. 13 in the Barry Gallery at the Reinsch Library at Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Free. Visit marymount.edu/barrygallery or 703-284-1561.

Theater Performance. See the "Silent Shakespeare" adaptation of "Twelfth Night" through Feb. 16 at Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$35, with a student, senior and military discount. 866-811-4111 or visit www.synetictheater.org for tickets.

Art Exhibit. See "Evidence of Civilization," featuring Arlington artist Marsha Slater, through Feb. 24 at Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. See photographs, paintings, ceramics and more. Free. 301-299-7087.

Art Exhibit. See "Visions of the Future" at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Runs Feb. 3-28. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org or www.galleryunderground.org.

Art Exhibit. See the gallery members'

show at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Runs Feb. 3-28. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org or www.galleryunderground.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Easter Island Today: Images by Arlington Photographer Greg Embree" at Cherrydale Branch Library, 2190 Military Road. Runs through April 7. Hours are Monday and Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesdays 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Art Exhibit. See "CSA: Forty Years of Community-Sourced Art" at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Free. Runs Jan. 22 through April 13. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800 for hours.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Theatre Classes. Encore Stage & Studio is holding classes and mini camps for children in grades K-8 at on Saturdays at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road and Tuesdays and Wednesdays after-school at Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Visit www.encorestageva.org for a list of classes.

Choral Rehearsal. Encore Chorale's spring season will start Jan. 14 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Langston Brown Senior Center, 2121 Culpeper St. Anyone over the age of 55 can participate. Registration information is available at encorecreativity.org, or by calling 301-261-5747 or via e-mail to info@encorecreativity.org.

Register Now. Winter and Spring break classes are open for registration at www.arlingtonartscenter.org. There will be weekend workshops for children, and more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

Nanny Club. 10 a.m.-noon at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 25 months-5 years. Free. 703-228-5260.

Stop in for Stories. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5946.

Kids Club. 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children in grades K-5 can enjoy activities and more. Free 703-228-5710.

Family Story Time. 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6548.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Steve Weddle will talk about his novel "Country Hardball." Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Drop-in Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30-11 a.m. or 11:15-11:45 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children age 25 months-5 years. Free. 703-228-6545.

Drop in Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-6330.

Drop-in Storytime: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5715.

Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s. 11:15 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children age 2-5. Free. 703-228-5715.

Film. 3-4:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Watch "Venus" (2006). Free. 703-228-5710.

Bilingual Story Time. 4:15 p.m. at



DJ Neekola will return to provide music for Crystal Couture 2014 events.

Fashionista Fun

Crystal Couture, the fashion show and high-end bargain retail pop-up, returns to Crystal City in February. More than 50 boutiques, designers and fashion retailers come together under one roof. This one-stop shopping experience lets guests browse discounted offerings on the rack and on the runway. Enjoy sips

from the Celebrity Cruises bar, free 5-minute makeup and hair makeovers, chats with fashion consultants and music by DJ Neekola. Crystal Couture takes place Tuesday-Saturday, Feb. 4-8, 6-10 p.m. each night at 11th floor of 251 18th Street South (use Blue and Yellow Metro Lines to Crystal City Station). Free and open to the public. Visit www.CrystalCity.org. Guests who take photos during the event and post to Twitter or Instagram using #crystalcouture and tagging @ccbid will be eligible to win a prize.



FILE PHOTOS

The final runway walk for the 2013 swimsuit line by Brazilian designer D'Milikah.

HOSTS:

Feb. 4: Philippa B. Hughes Pinkline Project

Feb. 5: Hot 99.5's Danni (6-8p.m.)
Bindhi Pamarth / Elle White (8-10 p.m.)

Feb. 6: DC Modern Luxury

Feb. 7: 94.7 Fresh FM's Tommy McFly

Feb. 8: 95.5 WPG's Guy Lambert and Kate Michael of K Street Kate

Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children can enjoy stories, songs and crafts in English and Spanish. Free. 703-228-5990.

Teen Authors Club. 4:30 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Teens can bring works-in-progress or imagination and chat about writing, writer's block and more. 703-228-6545.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can discover nature through a themed program. \$5 due at registration. 703-228-6535. Program #622914-F.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to 1 year old can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5260.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-5946.

Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5946.

Story Time: Wobbly Walkers. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N.

McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 13-24 months. Free. 703-228-5260.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Tall Heights will perform. \$12. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Chinese New Year Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Enjoy live performances, fashion show, food, crafts, parade and more. Free. Visit www.chinesenewyearfestival.org or 703-868-1509.

Volunteer Work Day. 10 a.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Volunteer helping with indoor or outdoor projects. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook or 703-528-5406.

Drop in Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

Get Ready for Groundhog's Day. 1 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 N. Marcey Road. Learn about groundhogs and the traditions of Groundhog's Day. Snacks will be provided, and weather permitting, a hike will be an option. \$5/person. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook or 703-528-5406 to make reservations.

Music and Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. at

NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Teatro de la Luna presents "Moonlight Tangos: a special night of tango music." \$30/adult; \$25/student, senior. Enjoy music by Claudia Gargiulo and Ramon Tasat. Visit www.teatrodelaluna.org or 703-548-3092.

RowRemix. 7-10 p.m. at Pentagon Row Ice Rink. Guests will skate on the newly renovated ice rink set to music by a live DJ. Every week, register to win an iTunes gift card. \$7/12 and under; \$8/13 and older; \$3/skate rental. Visit www.facebook.com/PentagonRow or www.pentagonrow.com/visit/visit-the-ice-rink for updates.

MONDAY/FEB. 3

Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Glencarlyn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6548.

Drop-in Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-6545.

Presentation. 1 p.m. at Woman's Club Clubhouse, 700 S. Buchanan St. Kyra Hicks will talk about Martha Ann Ricks, starting when she was a young slave girl and continuing through her 50-year quest to see Queen Victoria and present her with a quilt. Free.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-

228-5946.

Drop in Family Storytime. 6:45 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6330.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Maureen Klovers will discuss and sign her memoir "In the Shadow of the Volcano: One Ex-Intelligence Official's Journey Through Slums, Prisons, and Leper Colonies." Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

Books on Tap Book Club. 7:30-9 p.m. at Westover Beer Garden, 5863 Washington Blvd. Free. 703-228-5260.

TUESDAY/FEB. 4

Story Time. 4:15 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5260.

Drop-in Story Time: Over 2s. 4:30-5:15 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-6330.

Teen Book Club. 5 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. High school students can discuss a book. Free. 703-228-5946.

Paws to Read. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children in grades K-5 can read to therapy dogs for 15 minutes. Each dog is part of PAL. Register for a slot by calling 703-228-5710.

Family Story Time. 6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-5946.

Fiction Book Club. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Discuss "Margot"

by Jillian Cantor. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5

Nanny Club. 10 a.m.-noon at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 25 months- 5 years. Free. 703-228-5260.

Stop in for Stories. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-5946.

Children in the Garden. 3 p.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. Children in grades K-5 can enjoy a hands-on program. Free. Register at the library or call 703-228-5260.

ASL Club for Children. 4 p.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children in grades K-5 can learn American Sign Language through activities, songs and rhymes. Free. 703-228-5710.

Lego Club. 4 p.m. at Glencarlynn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. Children in grades K-5 can build with legos. Free. 703-228-6548.

Kids Club. 4 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children in grades K-5 can enjoy activities and more. Free 703-228-5710.

Family Story Time. 6:30 p.m. at Glencarlynn Library, 300 S. Kensington St. For all ages. Free. 703-228-6548.

THURSDAY/FEB. 6

Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Shirlington

FARMERS MARKETS...

Clarendon Farmers Market. Year-round, has locally produced breads and pastries, organic vegetables, flowers, soap, sorbet and more. Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Courthouse Parking Lot, 3195 North Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Also year-round on Wednesdays from 3-7 p.m. at Clarendon Metro Station. Visit www.Clarendon.org. Call 703-812-8881.

Arlington Farmers Market at Courthouse. Adjacent to the Arlington County Courthouse Parking Lot, at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. This is a 'producer only' market with more than 30 producers. From January through March, the market is open on Saturdays at 9 am, closing at noon. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for a list of vendors.

Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. For children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-6545.

Drop-in Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 N. Military Road. For children up to age 5. Free. 703-228-6330.

Drop-in Storytime: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5715.

Drop-in Storytime: Over 2s. 11:15 a.m. at Aurora Hills Library, 735 S. 18th St. For children age 2-5. Free. 703-228-5715.

Bilingual Story Time. 4:15 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children can enjoy stories, songs and crafts in English and Spanish. Free. 703-228-5990.

"Defying Gravity" Event. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Celebrate the sixth anthology in the Grace & Gravity series of fiction written by local women and edited by Richard Peabody. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m.

at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to 1 year old can enjoy stories. Free. 703-228-5710.

Story Time: Baby Steps. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children up to age 1. Free. 703-228-5260.

Story Time: Over 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children age 25 months to 5 years. Free. 703-228-5946.

Story Time: Under 2s. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Children up to age 2. Free. 703-228-5946.

Story Time: Wobbly Walkers. 10:30 a.m. at Westover Library, 1644 N. McKinley Road, suite 3. For children age 13-24 months. Free. 703-228-5260.

Wine Tasting. 6:30 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

First Fridays in Westover. Starting at 5 p.m., extended hours, merchandise sales and more at Westover Village, on Washington Boulevard between N. McKinley Road and N. Longfellow Street.

Opening Reception. 5-8 p.m. meet some of the artists of "Visions of the Future" at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. The works are by future Arlington Arts Alliance Gallery members. Runs Feb. 3-28. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org or www.galleryunderground.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Drop in Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Columbia Pike Library, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. Children up to age 5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-228-5710.

RowRemix. 7-10 p.m. at Pentagon Row Ice Rink. Guests will skate on the newly renovated ice rink set to music by a live DJ. \$7/12 and under; \$8/13 and older; \$3/skate rental. Visit www.facebook.com/PentagonRow or www.pentagonrow.com/visit/visit-the-ice-rink for updates.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent St. The National Chamber Ensemble will perform Schubert and more. \$30/adult; \$15/student. Tickets at <http://tickets.artisphere.com>, 1-888-841-2787 or at the door.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 3 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Discuss "Little House in the Big Woods" by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Free. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com or 703-300-9746.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at Rock Spring Congregational Church of Christ, 5010 Little Falls Road. Free, donation is suggested. Visit www.rockspringucc.org.

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SPORTS

Yorktown Gymnastics Wins National District Championship

W-L wins Invite title, places second in district standings.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Yorktown gymnastics team sat and waited for the announcement of the team results following the Barbara Reinwald W-L Gymnastics Invitational on Jan. 25. As it turned out, the Patriots finished less than three one-hundredths of a point behind W-L for first place.

There was one more announcement to be made, however, the results of which likely washed away any frustration felt by Yorktown gymnasts.

While the VHSE's six-class realignment eliminated districts, members of the former National District decided to keep tradition alive by using the W-L Invitational as a de facto district championship meet.

The W-L Invitational used a top-three scoring format. The Generals came out on top. A top-four format was used to determine the district champion. Yorktown finished first, ending W-L's streak of four consecutive district titles.

"It means a lot to them, I think, because they've been so close this whole year," Yorktown head coach Joanne Price said. "Other years, we've known [W-L has] been a clear winner, but this year [the Patriots have] always known that they could. I think it means a whole lot to them and a big boost to their self-confidence to actually do it."

W-L went undefeated in regular-season meets during the previous four seasons, won four district titles, two region championships and twice placed state runner-up. This season, Yorktown handed W-L a regular-season defeat when the Patriots placed first at a home meet on Jan. 8. On Saturday, the Patriots added a district title.

Yorktown finished with a score of 137. W-L finished second with a total of 136.7, followed by Mount Vernon (117.85), Hayfield (98.4), Wakefield (93.1) and Edison (34.925).

The Patriots will graduate just one senior from this year's team. Freshman Juliette Mitrovich placed fifth in the all-around with a total of 34.55. She placed third on floor (8.9), ninth on beam (8.55), 12th on bars (7.8) and tied for third on vault (9.3). Fresh-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

man Olivia Zavrel finished first on beam (9.225) and second on bars (8.85). Junior Cecilia Girvin placed sixth on vault (9.25) and seventh on bars (8.3). Junior Sophie Zidlicky finished fifth on bars (8.425).

"We've had some good teams, but it's been a little while since they've been collectively good like this," said Price, who has coached

at Yorktown for more than a decade. "We've had a lot of bright spots, but this team's had more depth than I've seen in a long time."

W-L didn't take home the district title, but the Generals did win the W-L Invitational, posting a score of 104.975. Yorktown finished second with a score of 104.95, followed by T.C. Williams (102.95), Mount

Yorktown High School has been selected as a semifinalist for the 2014 GRAMMY Signature Schools Award. Yorktown is one of 123 schools nationwide selected as a semifinalist. Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year.

Jessica Neupane, the daughter of Ram and Goma Neupane of Arlington, was inducted into Randolph-Macon Academy's chapter of the National Honor Society. Jessica is a junior at Randolph-Macon Academy.

Vernon (91.225) and West Potomac (90.825).

"The kids really wanted to win the invitational," W-L head coach Joe D'Emidio said. "They worked real hard for it."

W-L freshman Sylvia Shea placed third in the all-around with a score of 35.275. She finished second on floor (9.15), fourth on beam (8.9), eighth on bars (8.225) and 10th on vault (9).

"I think she is really coming along," D'Emidio said. "Her transition from club gymnastics (Arlington Aerials) to high school gymnastics is coming along really fast. ... She's an outstanding club gymnast. High school is a little different. It's more of a team type of an atmosphere. She did really well. ... She's getting better every meet. She's getting more comfortable with high school gymnastics. As for a freshman, she's becoming a star in the school."

"We've had some good teams, but it's been a little while since they've been collectively good like this. We've had a lot of bright spots, but this team's had more depth than I've seen in a long time."

— Yorktown gymnastics coach
Joanne Price

Annie Hatcher placed first on vault, earning a 9.625 for her Pike Tsuk.

"She nailed it tonight," D'Emidio said. "It was a beautiful vault. With that type of vault, she's a state contender."

Hatcher also placed fourth on floor (8.85) and fifth on beam (8.75).

Sophie Hatcher placed second on beam (9.175) and third on bars (8.575) for W-L. Allie Webster finished seventh on vault (9.2). Jennifer Laredo was eighth on beam (8.6).

Wakefield's Leah Corts finished eighth in the all-around with a score of 33.675. She placed fourth on bars (8.55) and sixth on floor (8.8).

Yorktown and Washington-Lee, now members of Conference 6, will compete in the conference championship meet is at 6 p.m. on Feb. 3 at McLean High School.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Application Deadline. Graduating Arlington county high school seniors can apply for a Fund for Teachers, Inc. scholarship. They must have shown a genuine interest in the field of education and plan a career in that field. Visit acsfft.org for information and applications.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is noon Thursday before publication. Photos are welcome.

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Meet the Chairman. 6-8 p.m. at George Mason University's Arlington Campus in Founders Hall, 3301 N. Fairfax Drive. Jay Fisette will take questions from the audience. \$20. To register for this event, visit the Leadership Arlington web site at www.leadershiparlington.org or 703-528-2522.

Blood Drive. 2-7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. The drive is an INOVA blood drive and will be collecting whole blood. Walk-ins welcome or call 703-698-3885 to schedule an appointment.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Lecture Series. 11 a.m.-noon at 601 S. Carlin Springs Road. "The Aging Eye" with Dodge Perry, OD, NOVA Vision Center. Explore the causes and treatments for various age-related vision problems. Free. RSVP to 703-558-6859.

County Reveals Aquatics Bids

FROM PAGE 3

Christman/Apex had the highest bid, and Gaithersburg-based Hess Construction had the lowest bid. Although Donnellan said those are “significantly higher” than estimates from county architects, Arlington leaders repeatedly declined requests to make this information public. They cite the same law they previously said should make the bids secret.

“Unfortunately, that’s not public information,” said Jane Rudolph, director of the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation. “It’s based on Virginia procurement rules.”

THE AQUATICS CENTER has been a source of controversy since it appeared on the ballot in 2012 as a bond initiative. County records say the total cost of the project is expected to be \$79.2 million.

County Board member Jay Fisetete says he made a presentation to the Arlington Committee of 100 in October 2012 outlining annual operating costs of the park as somewhere between \$700,000 and \$2.5 million. More recently, county officials acknowledged that the operating cost of the facility has more than doubled to \$3.8 million a year — a figure that has caused some con-

sternation.

“When you convert that 2012 dollars to 2020, which the latest figures were,” said Fisetete, who is now County Board chairman, “and when you take out an error by the staff of including the Phase One, which they should not have done, the high range from my presentation a month before the vote and the most recent one by staff is 15 percent.”

When asked about the county’s unwillingness to share basic information about what Arlington leaders anticipated the construction bids to be, Fisetete had little to say. He referred questions to senior members of the county staff, who said that they remain unwilling to share information with the public.

“I don’t think there’s anything I can add to what is written,” said Fisetete.

THE LONG BRIDGE Aquatics, Health and Fitness Facility has been designed to be a regional draw to Arlington, that could host international competitions. In addition to the 50-meter competition pool, the facility will have teaching, family and therapy pools as well as “wet classrooms” and “party rooms.” Donnellan describes the center as an “ambitious project” to transform a “once-industrial wasteland” from a brownfield to

an “iconic gateway.” But leaders in neighboring Alexandria are also planning a 50-meter pool. Now Arlington leaders are refusing to release basic details to the public about what the expectations were for the bids.

“I don’t know why they are not releasing the information,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the State and Local Government Leadership Center at George Mason University. “Somewhere, there’s a big problem here and I’m sure they are doing everything they can to get to the bottom of it and then to figure out what do and how to come back.”

County leaders say they hope to be able to bring a contract to County Board members this spring, just in time for the project to be part of the budget season. Meanwhile, budget officials say the county is facing a potential budget gap of \$20 million to \$25 million in the next fiscal year, which will mean projects like the aquatics center and the streetcar proposal are certain to take center stage.

“I think we should circle back to our community and have perhaps a difficult but I think very important conversation and discussion about the aquatics center — how it will benefit Arlington, and what it will cost — before we move forward,” said County Board member Libby Garvey.

Crowded

FROM PAGE 3

“We must have a proven progressive leader as our Democratic nominee in the 8th District,” said Hope in a written statement announcing the creation of an exploratory committee. “We also need a nominee who will be ready to be effective on day one and able to build the necessary seniority that will be so crucial to our region.”

Herring said she will step down from her position as chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia to run for the seat.

“Today we need leaders who are willing to champion progressive values while still being able to reach across the aisle to find common-sense solutions for the challenges our nation faces,” Herring said in a statement hours after Hope issued his statement. “If elected, I will continue the good works of Congressman Jim Moran to foster the economic development of Northern Virginia, address the needs of our veterans, work for access to affordable healthcare, and protect the privacy of a woman and her healthcare decisions.”

This week, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) became the latest addition to the scrum.

“I will bring meaningful federal, state and local experience to a very divided Congress as well as the ability to work with people across the political spectrum,” said Sickles in a statement announcing his candidacy.

Other candidates expected to announce soon are former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille and state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30).

\$15 Million Cost to Congressional Campaigning

FROM PAGE 3

you once they realize you are an established force working for them? I think it’s probably a little of both.”

CRITICS OF MORAN’S fundraising efforts point to Moran’s support for the PMA Group, the now shuttered Arlington lobbying firm whose offices were raided by the FBI in November 2008 as part of an investigation into a “pay to play” scheme. The group’s founder, Paul Magliocchetti, pleaded guilty to making hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign contributions through “straw donors,” although the House ethics committee cleared Moran of wrongdoing. Republicans tried to use the scandal against Moran.

“Jim Moran has engaged in a career of pay to play,” said Republican Patrick Murray, who ran against Moran twice. “He gave taxpayer dollars to institutions or companies or people and then got campaign contributions in return.”

In 2011, conservative author Peter Schweizer wrote a book titled “Throw Them All Out” that argued members of Congress engaged in insider trading. The book included an allegation that Moran dumped shares in dozens of companies the day after a closed-door meeting with Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson on Sept. 16, 2008. Along with many of the other members of Congress featured in the book, Moran says Schweizer got his facts wrong.

“I was never at this meeting where supposedly insider information was disclosed,”

Moran said during a 2012 debate with Murray.

ELECTION CYCLE after election cycle, Moran raised massive amounts of cash — swamping the competition. In the 2008 cycle, for example, Moran raised \$1.3 million. Republican Mark Ellmore raised about \$57,000. Ellmore now says the Republican Party abandoned him, adding that he might have been able to capture more than 30 percent of the vote if leaders in his party were willing to spend a little more money supporting him and his candidacy.

“You know going in what the challenge is, and you know that you are not going to have the resources to get your message out,” said Ellmore. “So we were just dead in the water because we had no chance to win at

all, and we knew that going in.”

Moran’s campaign-finance reports show he raised most of his money from what Dwight Eisenhower called the military-industrial complex, businesses that rely on contracts from the Department of Defense. The list includes some of the heaviest hitters in the industry, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and Raytheon. As one of the senior members of the House Appropriations Committee, Moran had a reputation of working for these business interests, many of which are located in his congressional district.

“It’s not necessarily quid pro quo,” said Skelley. “By generally supporting the defense industry, he’s gotten their backing in elections and received support from them.”

Saint Ann Catholic Church

<p>SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy</p>	<p>DAILY EUCHARIST:</p> <p>Weekdays Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM Saturday, 8:30 AM</p>
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Confused and then Infused



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since March 6, 2009, nearly five years now, save for nine months when I was taking an oral chemotherapy medication at home, every three weeks I have been infused with some sort of chemotherapy drug. In that time, I have certainly become familiar and fairly well-known to the various staff at The Infusion Center. What follows is the most recent exchange with the receptionist in Oncology, as best as I can recall it.

Receptionist: "Hello, Mr. Lourie. How are you?"

Me: "Lovely. Happy to be here."

Receptionist: "That's nice."

Me: "Actually, I'm not happy to be here. I mean I'd rather not be here. But since I'm here, it's better that I'm here than not here, as in unable to get here because I'm not here anymore."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "Really? Because I'm not sure I understand. I know what I'm thinking, but...What I mean to say is that I don't want to be coming here to the Infusion Center, because that means I'm being treated for cancer. But if I do have cancer, I guess I'm happy to be still alive, in order to be able to get here for treatment."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "I think I'm confused. I don't want to be coming here because I have cancer. I'd rather not be coming here at all. But since I have cancer, I suppose I'm glad I'm able to still get here. I think I'm going around in circles."

Receptionist: "No, you're fine. I understand completely."

Me: "Really. 'Cause I'm not sure I do. It seems like I'm talking to myself, repeating myself. I'm a writer and often I use double-enders in my column, which seems sort of what I'm doing here. Although I'm not intending it. I was more realizing/thinking aloud as to why I was here, whether I wanted to be here and the reasons why I was fortunate - so to speak, to even still be here and/or how unfortunate I was to be here being treated for terminal lung cancer - as opposed to being healthy and not needing to be here. I feel as if I'm rambling here. Am I making any sense?"

Receptionist: "Not to worry. (Smiling, laughing.) I do understand exactly what you're saying."

Me: "I'm not sure I do. Maybe I should just stop talking and sit down and wait for Ron (my oncology nurse) to come and get me."

Receptionist: "Ron's running late. He's stuck in traffic. He'll be here soon."

Me (to myself): Great (chagrined.) I suppose I should probably stop pacing then and just sit down and try to relax. I'm here. I'm checked in. Besides, I have to be ready for my blood pressure check. If my vitals (and/or lab results, appearance, etc.) are not normal, protocols will prevent any infusion today (which has happened to me twice; very disappointing, especially considering that you think your life depends on receiving the treatment that day). If the patient doesn't pass muster, however, the oncology nurse has no choice: there will be, to invoke the "Soup Nazi" from "Seinfeld": "No chemo for you."

Fortunately, for this infusion, I have once again managed to "Pass the audition," as John Lennon so famously joked at the end of the live roof-top version of The Beatles' song "Get Back" at the end of the "Let It Be" album.

Life goes on though - for me, thank God!, despite my confusion. Thanks to the staff for continuing to take me in stride.

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

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OBITUARY

Nathan F. (Red) Holeman
7/16/1925 - 12/19/2013

Survived by wife Lois; daughters, Joni, Kathy and Gayle; sisters, Janet Walker and Joyce Fowler; 8 grandchildren and a great grandson. At the time of his death he was living in Sterling, VA. Memorial service was held on February 8, 2014. Graveside service in July at Arlington National Cemetery. Contributions to Memorial Fund of CTK Lutheran, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066-2416. www.colonialfuneral-home.com.

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WINTER FUN

Places To Go, Things To Do

FROM PAGE 5

provides beer and wine service, and an open floor plan with an abundance of seating, provides a quiet, calm space for visitors to sit and chat, read or eat, and, not to mention, take in some great views of their surroundings. The galleries are free, while scheduled events have a ticket cost. Parking is free after 5 p.m. during the week, and all day on weekends. For additional information on upcoming calendar events, tickets and programs available, visit www.artisphere.com.

For movie-goers and live entertainment enthusiasts, Arlington Cinema 'N' Draffhouse is a unique theater experience. Located on Columbia Pike, the draffhouse offers movies and events, including live music and comedy, on a daily basis. Attendees get to sit in large, comfortable seats while receiving tableside service with a full restaurant and bar menu — making a trip to the movies an enjoyable experience for both the eyes and the taste buds. The the-

ater also offers \$2 movie nights on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the occasional Wine Night that provides movie-goers with the option of wine tasting. (On a side note, attendees must be 21 or older unless accompanied by a parent and/or guardian before 9 p.m.; only 21 or older after 9 p.m.) All onsite ticket sales are cash only. Look at arlingtondraffhouse.com for full details on upcoming movie showings and events.

WHEN THE COLD cannot be beaten, embrace it. One Arlington site that provides a number of enjoyable activities in this winter weather is Pentagon Row, located on South Joyce Street in Pentagon City.

With an outdoor ice rink, stores, restaurants and live entertainment, Pentagon Row has something to offer for everyone. RowRemix provides music lovers with a live DJ performance every Saturday night through Feb. 22 from 7-10 p.m. Just a few blocks from the metro and close to major highways, the area is easily accessible. For more information, visit pentagonrow.com.

Nature Programs for February

FROM PAGE 2

sign up to be added to our "safety patrol" list, for a 1 or 2 hour shift some night in late March or early February (we can't predict the evening(s) more precisely). Information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207.

Free
Program #622844-G

Pola Negri Movie Morning

Friday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Teens and Adults. Get in the mood for Valentine's Day with our very own smoldering silent screen star. Pola Negri was a siren who took Hollywood - and its leading men - by storm. Legend has it that she once lived at Gulf Branch when it was still a private home. We'll be screening "Passion" (but of course) starring Pola as a French courtesan during the days of revolution. Learn a little about her life, and enjoy this exciting movie. Coffee, tea, and sweets will be served. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd, Arlington, VA 22207.

\$5 fee due upon registration.
Program #622844-H

Third Sundays - Remove Invasives

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 - 4 p.m.

Agnes 9-Adult. Not all plants are good for the environment. Children and adults will learn what these trouble-some beasts look like and can help rescue the park from these alien invaders. No registration required. Information: 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA 22204.

Free

Precious Metals: Silver

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 4 - 5 p.m.

For ages 8 - 12. Register child only. Learn how silver is mined from the earth and used in jewelry and other valuable objects. See some samples from silver mines and hear stories from our own American West about famous silver mines and strikes. For more information: 703-228-3403. Meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207.

\$10 fee due upon registration.
Program #622824-H

Hanssen Spy Talk

Saturday, Feb. 22, 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Adults. The infamous spy and traitor Robert Hanssen worked in secrecy all around the nation's Capitol for years before being discovered. Some of those clandestine affairs were conducted here in the woods of Long Branch Nature Center. Join us on the anniversary of his capture as we unfold the dramatic story of this notorious spy and his eventual downfall and arrest, including the FBI's nature center operations. For more information call 703-228-6535. Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd, Arlington, VA 22204.

\$5 fee per person.
Program #622944-F

What's the Attraction?

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 4 - 5 p.m.

Children ages 3.5-5. Join us for fun, hands on learning as we discover the North and South Poles - of magnets. You'll be drawn in by their mysterious properties of attraction. For more information call 703 228 6535. Meet at LBNC.

\$5 fee due upon registration.
Program #622914-Z

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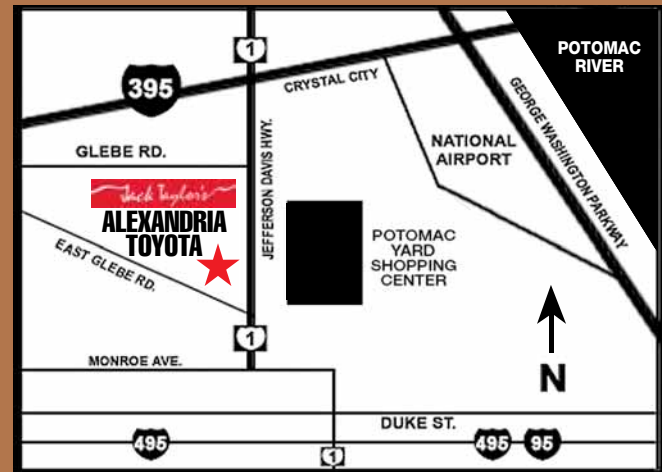
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