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Kenmore Middle School students who participated in a Community Celebration at the Phillips Gallery in Washington D.C. included, back (from left): Lucy Slevin, Tanya Sanchez, Jilene Penhale; middle row: Deborah Melendez-Jimenez and Sarah Kodama, and front row: Gracia Luoma-Overstreet and Belinda Vu.

Eisenberg Won't Seek 4th Term

Announcement brings an end to decades of public service.

By DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Del. Al Eisenberg (D-47) announced last week that he would not run for a fourth term in the Virginia House of Delegates, after decades of public service at the federal, state and local levels.

Eisenberg, 62, has served in the House of Delegates since 2003 and, before that, was an Arlington County Board member for 15 years.

In a speech on the floor of the House, Eisenberg said that he is stepping down because "I see new opportunities to explore and hopes to fulfill. I believe I must pursue them while I still have the spark to open new doors."

After leaving the General Assembly at the end of the year, Eisenberg said that he would focus on his passion: the Civil War. "The human drama of the War fascinates [me]" he said in his speech. "[I've] marveled at how ordinary men and women accomplished extraordinary things and yet remained ordinary people. In the future, I plan to take a more active role in connecting the citizens of Virginia with that

history, which is all around us. I want to help Virginians see how the Civil War has hallowed our past and enriched our heritage."

EISENBERG WAS first elected to the Arlington County Board in 1983 in a race he won by only 299 votes. He won three subsequent re-election campaigns before resigning from the board in early 1999 to become the deputy assistant secretary of transportation under President Bill Clinton.

Prior to joining the board, Eisenberg was a staff member in the U.S. Senate and a conservation activist.

Eisenberg's colleagues said that he would be remembered as a leader whose main priority was the well-being of those who are most vulnerable.

"[Al] decided to make the announcement now because that's when he decided not to run again. Nothing more than that."

— Fred Clarke,
Eisenberg Chief of Staff

"He's advocated for policies that strengthen and revitalize our urban areas, protect the air and water and put people first," Del. Bob Brink (D-48) said on the House floor.

State Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31), who served with Eisenberg on the Arlington County Board, praised his political courage and willingness to sacrifice in the name of public good.

"He was willing to vote for the first homeless shelter [in Arlington] when that was a brave vote to take," she said. "There are at least three [homeless] facilities located within two blocks of his own home. It gives him a great deal of credibility. It was certainly OK [with him] that they were in his back-

Al Eisenberg

Party: Democrat
First Elected: 2003
Term Expires: 2009
Age: 62
Birthplace: Jersey City, N.J.
Family: Wife (Sharon Davis), two sons
Occupation: VP for Government Affairs, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Web site: www.aleisenberg.com



FILE PHOTO

Del. Al Eisenberg (D-47) won't be running for reelection.

"I see new opportunities to explore and hopes to fulfill."

— Del. Al Eisenberg (D-47)

yard."

Eisenberg's announcement ends months of speculation about his political future. Since the last general election in November, as a handful of candidates prepared campaigns to challenge him, Eisenberg refused to say whether he would seek reelection.

Eisenberg did not grant a request for an interview about the timing of his announcement. But, in an email, his chief of staff Fred Clarke wrote that Eisenberg "decided to make the announcement now because that's when he decided not to run again. Nothing more than that."

Eisenberg will serve out the rest of his term, which lasts until the end of this year.

LOCAL POLITICS

Now that Del. **Al Eisenberg** (D-47) has announced he won't seek another term in the House of Delegates, the focus shifts to whom his successor will be. At least four candidates are vying to capture the Democratic nomination in the 47th district, and one more is waiting in the wings.

Miles Grant was the first to throw his hat into the ring. Grant is a local blogger who wrote for the now-defunct Web site Raising Kaine, which advocated for liberal candidates and causes. He also

started the blog *The Green Miles*, which focuses on environmental issues. Grant officially entered the race in mid-November.

Adam Parkhomenko is another contender for the 47th district seat. He is a 23-year-old college student at George Mason University who was active in the presidential campaign of former U.S. Sen. **Hillary Clinton** (D-N.Y.). After the campaign, Parkhomenko started an online movement to encourage then-Democratic nominee Barack Obama to choose Clinton as his running mate.

Patrick Hope entered the race to succeed Eisenberg earlier this week. Hope is the chairman of Arlington's Community Services Board and has years of experience working with the intellectually disabled community. The ARC of Virginia, a local advocacy group, recently awarded Hope for his efforts in this area.

Andres Tobar, the executive director of the Shirlington Employment and Education Center, also announced his candidacy this week. He was instrumental in the campaigns of both School Board member **Emma**

Violand-Sanchez and County Board Member **Walter Tejada** (D). If elected, he would be the first Latino member of the Virginia General Assembly.

Alfonso Lopez has not officially entered the race yet. But he has indicated that he is seriously considering doing so. Lopez is the state's top lobbyist on Capitol Hill, a position he was appointed to by Gov. **Tim Kaine** (D). He is also the deputy chair of the Arlington Democratic Party.

County Board To Weigh Diversity Plan

The County Board is considering a plan designed to make Arlington more diverse and inclusive. The plan is based on a series of public discussions that were held late last year, in which hundreds of Arlingtonians gathered to speak about immigration, discrimination and other issues.

Among the recommendations in

the plan is the creation of more opportunities for non-English speakers to learn English and for English speakers to learn a new language. "One thing the community repeated was that ... language barriers can be a challenge," said Raina Rose-Tagle, a leader of the task force that organized the discussions, which were known as Diversity Dialogues.

The discussions were the brainchild of County Board member Walter Tejada (D).

Tejada said that his goal in initiating these discussions was to avoid the kinds of heated debates that have occurred in other parts of Northern Virginia. "The issue of immigration was discussed in a very ugly manner in other parts of the commonwealth, some not far

away from Arlington," he said. "The issues of race relations ... at times make people uncomfortable in their seats. But we have to talk about them."

County Manager Ron Carlee will review the Diversity Dialogues plan and give input to the County Board next month.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

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PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF LLOYD WOLF

Draped plastic fabric adorned Kenmore Middle School as part of the Christo-inspired art.

Phillips Recognizes Students' Work

Students from Kenmore Middle School participated in a Community Celebration at the Phillips Gallery in Washington D.C. on Saturday morning.

The education staff at the gallery had worked with teachers at Kenmore Middle School and a D.C. school, the Bruce-Monroe at Parkview, to design and implement a cross-disciplinary curriculum interpreting works at the Phillips.

Shauna Dyer, Focus coordinator at Kenmore, and art teacher Jeff Wilson

worked with 7th and 8th grade students in designing, fabricating and installing an environmental installation using the exhibit by Christo and Jean Claude "Over the River, a Work in Progress" as the starting point. Math, geography and the environment were a few of the overlapping disciplines that the team of students encountered in this project.

"The students considered many possible environmental installations in response to the school's architecture. After much experimentation they selected an outdoor instal-

lation to enhance the environment. The students developed and implemented an aesthetic and engineering plan to create an abstract, repeating pattern of draped green and gold plastic fabric [the school colors]. They made a formal presentation to the school administration, learning from Christo and Jean Claude's process of inspired persuasion. The project was approved."

The completed environmental installation at Kenmore was on view from late November to late December of 2008



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

Chris Leo, Sarah Kodama, Katie Atkins, William Bates, Dagny Hankins, Vladimir Guerra, Rodrigo Ventiades-Orihuela, and Glenn Avila at the Phillips Gallery in Washington D.C. on Saturday morning.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LLOYD WOLF

Belinda Vu, Juwan Buckner-Wolcott, and Angelica Jimenez working on the installation at Kenmore Middle School.

Foltz Trial Begins

Ex-convict, accused of felony abduction, could face life in prison.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

After several delays and legal disputes, the trial of David Foltz began earlier this week.

Foltz, 41, stands accused of abducting a woman on the side of a road near his Falls Church home last year with the intent of sexually defiling her. Fairfax County Police allegedly witnessed Foltz commit the abduction, which occurred on Feb. 6, 2008.

In the weeks leading up to the alleged abduction, Fairfax Police detectives had been conducting surveillance on Foltz with the use of a GPS tracking device placed on his van. They believed that Foltz — an ex-convict who had been convicted of a 1986 rape and had recently been released from prison — was connected to a series of sexual assaults that had been occurring in eastern Fairfax County.

According to Fairfax Detective Erik Stallings, all of the assaults had the same modus operandi. "The attacks were unique," he said, "Because they were physical and sexual assaults but they never rose to the level of rape." Foltz has not been charged with any of the assaults that took place prior to the Feb. 6 incident.



David Foltz

With the use of the GPS data, the detectives discovered that Foltz's van had been in the vicinity of a sexual assault and began physically following him. The next day, Feb. 6, detectives allegedly witnessed the abduction.

FOLTZ'S LAWYERS do not dispute that, on Feb. 6, he assaulted the victim. But they do deny that his intent was to sexually defile her.

In the year since his arrest, Foltz's court-appointed lawyers have filed several motions challenging the Fairfax County Police Department's handling of the case. They argued that the use of the GPS device was unconstitutional because the detectives did not attempt to obtain a warrant.

Arlington County Circuit Court Judge Joanne Alper disagreed, saying that a warrant is not necessary to place a GPS device on someone's car, as long as the surveillance takes place on public roads. The case is be

SEE TRIAL BEGINS, PAGE 10

For Arlington Residents, Green Is Good

BY ROB WILE
THE CONNECTION

Environmentally-conscious Arlington residents packed into the Walter Reed Community Center last weekend for the county's first "Speed Greening" event.

The event featured three speakers — from the green-roofing, home insulation, and energy-efficient lighting industries — promoting energy conservation. It was designed to showcase ways in which Arlingtonians could improve energy efficiency in their homes and condos.

The workshop's title, "Speed Greening," referred to the "speed-dating" style of the workshop: audience members rotated through each of the 20-minute presentations, which were repeated three times.

Lynne Schaver, a science teacher and condo owner, said she enjoyed that each speaker presented a different area for potential green renovations. "The lighting presentation gave me something to focus on immediately, the insulation for short term change, and the green roofing for the long term," she said.

She added that she plans to buy a home with her husband in the next few years. "I think we've been swamped with ideas of what to do. These speakers essentially gave us more manageable tasks," even if some of them were more expensive than others, she said.

But Lawrence Nightingale, another condo owner, came away from the workshop confused. "I came here to see whether there would be any traction in the presentations, or whether it would just be ideas," he said. "Like most things in life, it was somewhere in between. The lighting presentation was very hands on; I can go to the store today and make those changes by the end of the week. Green roofing, on the other hand — I can't just do that in a weekend."

During their talks, the three speakers discussed how their technologies could reduce overall energy use. In his presentation on green-roofing, Greg Long, president of Arlington-based Capitol Greenroofs, criticized American developers and homeowners for being more concerned with upfront costs than the long term value of their homes.

"Most roofs these days are designed to be torn down," he said. "The products are being bought from Home Depot. With higher-performance material, you can actually reduce labor costs and have a 20-to-40-year lifespan."

Lou Sagatov, a home renovation expert based in Falls Church who specializes in insulation, explained how — when one adds up all the spaces, vents and ducts in the average home — the amount of heat and energy being lost is equivalent to having a window open all the time. Like Long, Sagatov recommended that people switch to green insulation products that cost more up-front but produce long-term sav-



PHOTO BY ROB WILE/THE CONNECTION

More consumers are switching to compact fluorescent bulbs like the ones being demonstrated by Jason Holstein, president of Amicus Green Building Center in Kensington, Md.

ings.

Jason Holstein, owner of Amicus Green Building Center in Kensington, Md., demonstrated several different types of high-efficiency light bulbs, some which can last up to 10,000 hours. However, he said it usually takes 18 months for the buyers of these compact fluorescent light bulbs to recoup the costs. He also said they must be recycled at specialized locations because they contain mercury.

The presentations were the latest in the ongoing Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions, also known as Fresh AIRE, which began in 2007.

Yorktown Contract Under Budget

The Arlington School Board awarded a contract for the construction of a new Yorktown High School last week. The contract came in at 31 percent less than what was previously projected.

The contract was awarded to Hess Construction, of Gaithersburg, Md., at a cost of \$64.7 million. Schools officials originally estimated the cost of the contract to be almost \$95 million.

The cause of the savings is the collapsing of the Northern Virginia real estate market. With less demand for projects, construction companies are lowering their prices.

The awarding of a contract for the Yorktown project almost didn't happen. In November, Arlington Superintendent Robert Smith had recommended that the project be delayed six months. Smith was concerned that the county would be unable to sell bonds for the project due to the national economic crisis. However, the School Board rejected Smith's recommendation. Construction on the project is set to begin this semester. The project is being constructed in phases, which will allow students to remain in the building.



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"She influenced every decision in my life."

— Pam Quanrud, Bozman's goddaughter

Honoring a Leader

Friends, family, colleagues remember life and legacy of Ellen Bozman.

By DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Pam Quanrud is an Arlington native currently living in Warsaw, where she serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Poland. She took a 10-hour flight home on Friday, only to turn around and fly back to Warsaw on Sunday, so she could attend the funeral of her godmother, Ellen Bozman.

"She influenced every decision in my life," Quanrud said.

She was one of several hundred people who attended a memorial service for the former County Board Member that was held this weekend at the Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ. The church was forced to open up two overflow rooms to accommodate all who wished to pay their respects to one of the region's most influential and consequential politicians.

BOZMAN DIED of cancer earlier this month at the age of 83. At a time when women rarely ventured into the public sphere, Bozman left her fingerprints on nearly every major decision made in Arlington County over the last half-century.

She was a key player in Arlington's fight against school segregation in the 1950s and '60s; she was instrumental in the county's policy of clustering development along Metro's Orange Line, which led to the creation of the thriving Rosslyn-Ballston corridor; she led a study of latchkey children that prompted Arlington Public Schools to create an extended day program; and she single-handedly created Arlington's annual Neighborhood Day celebration.

"I do not believe that any other single person had the impact on Arlington that she had," state Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31) said.

WHIPPLE CONSIDERED Bozman to be her political mentor. When she first moved to Arlington as

a new bride who knew no one, Bozman sought her out and encouraged her to get involved. "She would see a need, figure out a way to do it [and] get people to help her," Whipple recalled.

During her 24 years on the County Board — the longest of any board member in Arlington history — Bozman was a mentor to dozens of local politicians and activists. County Board Chair Barbara Favola (D) credits Bozman with her entry into public service. Jim Whittaker, the executive director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, said Bozman approached him as well when he was a business owner in the late 1980s.

"She was always interested in what we were doing and what we could do more of," he said. "She would inspire us and challenge us to do more."



Ellen Bozman was remembered as a groundbreaking leader in Arlington County.

IN THE LATE 1950s, Arlington was one of the few parts of Virginia to open its public schools to African-American students, bucking the statewide machine of former U.S. Sen. Harry Byrd. Only a few years earlier, Bozman had moved to the area after graduating from Northwestern University. But she quickly became ensconced in the fight against racial segregation.

"It was shocking for people to see this middle-class white woman from Illinois saying 'Yes, our children should all be in school together,'" Quanrud said. "It sent a real ripple through the community."

"One can only imagine the names that Ellen was called to her face and behind her back," said the Rev. Janet Parker, the head of Rock Spring Congregational.

Bozman's husband, Bill, said that she was driven by a deep belief that racial segregation was unjust. "She knew it was simply wrong to have segregated schools, it was absolutely wrong," he said. "Most of Virginia at the time that thought it was the only way to have schools."

THE BOZMANS were married for more than 50 years, with three children and four grandchildren. Ironically, Ellen Bozman came from a relatively apolitical family in Springfield, Ill., her husband said. In fact, he always harbored suspicions that his in-laws leaned Republican.

It was at Northwestern that Bozman truly came of age. She was involved in a public works sorority there

SEE BOZMAN RECALLED, PAGE 10



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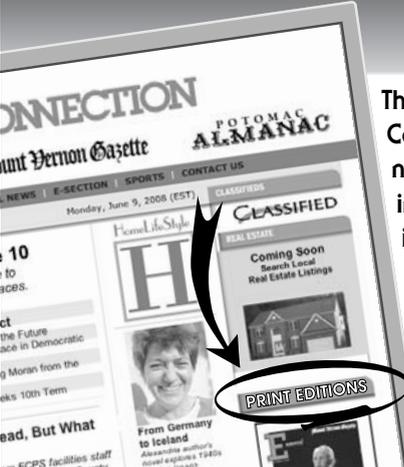
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OPINION

Progress In Steps

To the Editor:

I am writing to discuss my position on the smoking ban proposed by Governor Kaine with regard to your article "Calling for Smoking Ban" on Jan. 13.

The Virginia Department of Health tells us that second-hand smoke kills 1,700 Virginians every year and that second-hand smoke is five times more dangerous in restaurants than in homes. It's past time that we act, and that's why I am proud to join Governor Kaine in advocating that Virginia join the 28 other states that have banned smoking in public places.

Over a decade ago, one of the first pieces of legislation I carried in the General Assembly banned smoking in emergency rooms and nursing homes.

And, recently, on April 4, 2007, I voted for Governor Kaine's proposed smoking ban (HB2422), but we were out-voted by the Republican majority. That ban — like the one proposed today — protected the public health of patrons in bars and in restaurants. I am a committed supporter of this full ban.

But, I do continue to believe that that progress must be a priority on this issue. I would rather ban smoking in restaurants and exempt bars than pass nothing at all. When it comes to matters of public health, I believe a certain dose of pragmatism is warranted, rather than delaying action further and leaving restaurant patrons and staff to continue suffering from second-hand smoke.

I hope this clarifies my position.

Brian Moran

Former Delegate from Alexandria and Fairfax
Candidate for Governor

Support Pickens Plan

To the Editor:

Are you aware that the U.S. imports 70 percent of the 21 million gallons of oil it consumes per day and that U.S. demand constitutes 25 percent of world oil production? In 2008 alone the U.S. spent \$475 billion on imported oil. Oil imports not only compromise our political interests, they are economically unsustainable and contribute to global warming. Expert geologist and founder of Mesa Petroleum T. Boone Pickens has the solution to our oil addiction. The Pickens Plan would:

- ❖ Create millions of new jobs by building the infrastructure to generate at least 22 percent of our electricity from wind and solar;

- ❖ Build a 21st century backbone electrical grid;

- ❖ Provide incentives for homeowners and the owners of commercial properties to weatherize their buildings and implement other energy saving measures; and

- ❖ Use America's natural gas to replace imported oil as a transportation fuel. Notice that the Pickens Plan doesn't depend on expanded nuclear facilities, breeder reactors, or so-called "clean coal."

That's because these expensive and risky technologies aren't needed to meet America's energy needs. What is needed is a commitment to energy efficiency and renewables, with production of bridge fuels to make the transition to a sustainable economy. To find out more about the Pickens Plan, please visit: <http://www.pickensplan.com/>.

Audrey Clement, Ph.D.
Arlington

Encourage Reading

To the Editor:

(The following open letter was addressed to President Obama.)

If you accomplish only one thing during your term, let it be this: teach America how to read. I don't mean, teach us how to give a cursory glance at a menu or scan the back of a cereal box. We are more than capable of living lives based upon marginal literacy. I mean, teach Americans how to love stories and words and how to truly examine the message a writer is trying to convey in any piece. Unfortunately, it seems that the majority of our nation has forgotten how delve into written sources and ask themselves insightful questions about what they read — if they even read anything beyond the microwave directions on the back of frozen TV dinners.

I know I sound snarky and even cynical but surely you, as an educated man, recognize the literacy crisis our country faces. According to a study conducted by the Jenkins group, a custom book publisher, millions of our fellow Americans never even read a single book after graduating from high school. The CIA World Factbook may report the U.S. literacy rate as 99 percent, but their definition of literacy only requires the recognition of a few hundred words — not thousands and certainly not hundreds of thousands. To give you some perspective about how low of a threshold that literacy rate is, consider this: 171,476 currently used words exist in The Second Edition Oxford



In Service to Literacy

Bob Ryan, The Reading Connection Board Chair; Erica Kraus, The Reading Connection Board Member, and Sue Pyatt, owner, Kinder Haus Toys, gather in front of the more than 1,000 children's books collected Monday, Jan. 19, to benefit TRC's literacy programs. The book drive was held in conjunction with President Barack Obama's call for a National Day of Service to celebrate the service and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Located in Clarendon, Kinder Haus Toys has been owned and operated by Pyatt and her family since 1982.

Dictionary, with an additional 47,156 obsolete and 9,500 derivative words — and the book certainly does not include all of the slang, jargon, compound, and foreign words English speakers use.

This is why it is crucial that you teach America to treasure books and revere libraries. Teach Americans that assigned reading is assigned for a reason. We as a nation must learn to read a variety of different forms and genres: creative non-fiction, novels, poetry, short stories, newspaper articles, 'zines, newsletters, and more. We don't have to agree with everything, or even most of everything that we read, but we should read as often as we have the time and energy to invest, if only to point out why we don't agree with what we read and why. We need to spend less time in front of the television or fiddling with our iPods and more time with our noses buried in books and newspapers.

I don't have to explain the merits of reading to you but I will anyway for the sake of emphasis. Reading improves our comprehension of complex ideas, helps us define our personal opinions, exercises our imagination, develops our capacity for compassion, and ultimately molds us into more critical and emotionally attuned thinkers. In order to encourage readership and increase literacy in our country, I ask you to expand upon former First Lady Laura Bush's notable tradition of promoting literacy. Please do your best to ensure that:

- ❖ Every school — both public and private — should have its own library with a spectrum of age-appropriate material large enough for every student to check out a

book on at least a weekly basis.

- ❖ More churches, homeless shelters, and other places of refuge have book and magazine collections.

- ❖ 'Zine and other independent press festivals happen at least once annually in every state in America.

- ❖ All doctors' offices and other waiting rooms contain a reading collection of some sort.

- ❖ Posters, billboards, and other ads promoting literacy appear prominently across the country.

- ❖ Every child, regardless of which school system they attend, has at least one current textbook that they can bring home to study every night.

- ❖ Story time is regularly scheduled at all public libraries.

- ❖ Even more bookmobiles tour the states.

- ❖ More elementary and middle schools employ a literacy specialist or reading tutor made available to any child who needs extra help reading at his or her grade level.

- ❖ Librarians and English/Literature teachers receive higher pay and more benefits.

In the words of President Clinton, "Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the 21st century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens." I hope that your administration will cherish this sentiment as much as my fellow promoters of literacy and I do. I look forward to seeing what you will do.

Christine Stoddard

English/Creative Writing major
Virginia Commonwealth
University
Arlington resident

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BULLETIN BOARD

Know of something missing from our community calendar? E-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome. For more volunteer opportunities, classes, announcements visit www.arlingtonconnection.com and click on Community.

ONGOING ITEMS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is holding a Valentine's event. Participants in "Have a Heart" can make a donation and have a card with original artwork sent to a loved one with the message that a gift to Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance program has been made in their honor. **Deadline is Feb. 6.** To participate 703-841-3838 or e-mail sodwyer@ccda.net.

CRIME REPORT

The following reports come from the Arlington police department. For the most up-to-date crime reports, visit www.Co.Arlington.Va.Us/police and click on daily crime report.

ABDUCTION-ARREST, 800 block of S. Frederick St. On Jan. 14 at 7 p.m., a man confronted a woman in front of her apartment. He forced her to the basement level of the building. During this time, he also threatened her with a knife. The suspect was apprehended by police. A male, of Silver Spring, Md., was charged with abduction, attempted malicious wounding, and interfering with an emergency phone call. He was held without bond.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Meeting, 7 p.m. at Drew Model School, 3500 S. 23rd St. Learn about homeownership and placing a down payment. Hosted by Nauck Civic Association and Habitat for Humanity. Free. Visit www.habitatnova.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Money Talk, 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Women can take on their finances. \$20 includes textbook. 703-228-6417.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Open House, 9 a.m.-noon at The Jefferson, 900 N. Taylor St. The Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute will hold an open house. Refreshments provided. Visit www.arlingtonlri.org or 703-841-0647.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING-ARREST, 5000 block of Columbia Pike. On Jan. 16 at 9 p.m., a man was leaving a club with his girlfriend when he was confronted and assaulted by four suspects. The victim was stabbed in the stomach during the fight. One suspect was apprehended by police. A male, 41, of Arlington, was charged with malicious wounding. He was held without bond.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY-ARREST, 2300 block of S. Eads St. On Jan. 18 at 11:30 p.m., three women were in a verbal argument, which escalated into a physical fight. Two females, 22 and 24 respectively, of Alexandria, were both charged with assault and battery and released on summons.

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101 WAYS TO HAVE FUN

This is the last part of a four-part series on 101 Ways. If you have noticed something that was not included that should be, send an e-mail with all the information to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com and it will be added.

Flip a Switch, and Say Happy Holidays!

Light Up Rosslyn
WJLA Building
1100 Wilson Blvd.

Welcome the winter season with a bright and festive start during the "Light Up Rosslyn" celebration each December. The event features the Beltway Brass and Metropolitan Chorus as musical entertainment all leading up to the flipping of the ceremonial light switch. Call 703-522-6628.

Celebrate a Family-Friendly Mardi Gras

Clarendon Mardi Gras Parade
Along Wilson Blvd. in Clarendon

Go all out in the revelry that is the annual Mardi Gras Parade organized by the Clarendon Alliance. The boisterous event celebrates in a family-oriented style with beads, candy and balloon hats for children. The parade also features more than a dozen floats and a vibrant display of colorful costumes.

Expand Your Mind

George Mason Speakers Series
communityrelations.gmu.edu/

speakersbureau

With George Mason University's campus right in the county's backyard, Arlingtonians have the opportunity to hear lectures from some of the area's brightest minds. From January to April of this year, George Mason professors will be speaking on topics ranging from the ruins of Mount Vesuvius to the ethical implications of landmines. To find out more, contact the Mason Speakers Coordinator at 703-993-8761.

Hit the Pool

Masters Swimming
Washington-Lee Pool
1300 North Quincy Street

To find fellow swimmers who are serious in the pool, look no further than the Arlington Masters Swimming Club. These local swimmers practice at the Washington-Lee High School pool Sundays through Thursdays. The group is open to swimmers of all ages and skill levels. Call 703-778-2009 or go to www.arlingtonmasters.com for more information.

Get In Touch With Nature

Potomac Overlook Regional Park
2845 North Marcey Road

Located just a few hundred yards from the Potomac River, Potomac Overlook Regional Park is a serene, 70-acre hideaway in the heavily urbanized Washington area. The park features live animal exhibits

and its Naturalist staff conducts a variety of programs on the environment. New this year is a guided canoe tour through the park's marsh. To find out about upcoming events at Potomac Overlook, visit www.nvrpa.org/parks/potomacoverlook or call 703-528-5406.

Planet of Sound

Planet Arlington Festival
www.arlingtonarts.org/planetarlington

The Planet Arlington arts series showcases arts from around the world right here in Arlington County. Every year in late summer, the series holds a world music festival on the Netherlands Carrillon in Rosslyn. In 2008, Congolese salsa star Ricardo Lemvo, the Celtic band Solas and Chinese jazz-fusion virtuoso Yang Ying graced the Planet Arlington stage. This year's festival hasn't been scheduled yet, but for more information visit Planet Arlington's Web site.

Fresh from The Farm

Ballston Farmer's Market
www.ballstonvasquare.org

In the middle of a vast skyscraper canyon, the Ballston Farmer's Markets is an oasis of food and fun. The market typically begins in mid-spring and runs through the summer into early fall. This past year, it was operated out of Wellburn Square near Ballston Metro Station. Visit the site of the Ballston-



PHOTO COURTESY BALLSTON-VIRGINIA SQUARE PARTNERSHIP

Some of the many items offered at the Ballston Farmer's Market.

Virginia Square Partnership.

Fishing Fever: Catch It!

Trout Fishing
Four Mile Run
703-228-4400

Each year in late winter, Arlington County stocks Four Mile Run

and its tributaries with hundreds of fresh trout. Families are invited to come out to the stream and catch the fish. Anglers over the age of fifteen must have a Virginia State Fishing License. For more information, call the County's trout fishing hotline at 703-228-4400 or visit the Arlington County Parks and Recreation Web Site at www.arlingtonva.us.

CALENDAR

Know of something missing from our community entertainment calendar? Send it to *The Arlington Connection*, e-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTING:

Arlingtonian **Teresa Oaxaca** has artwork on at Hermitage Design & Gallery, 6831 Tennyson Drive, McLean. The exhibit runs **through January**. Visit www.hermitagedesigngallery.com or 703-827-0066.

See "East Meets West" at Century 21 Redwood Realty, 1711 Wilson Blvd., from Feb. 6 through Feb. 28. Art by Arlington Artists Alliance. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com

The **Arlington Artists Alliance** has a winter show **from Feb. 2 through Feb. 27** at Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Over 20 artists display oil paintings and more. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com for more.

Arlington Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Office of the City of Reims present "Crossing Glances:

Regards Croises Arlington & Reims: Sister Cities" from Jan. 23 through March 28 at Ellipse Arts Center, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive. Photographs by John Babineau of Arlington and Cecile Bethlehem of Reims, France. Free. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

Students from Kenmore Middle School are exhibiting their artwork at The Phillips Collection Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. The student artwork included in the exhibit was inspired by The Phillips Collection's current exhibition, "Christo and Jeanne Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress." The community celebration is open to the public and the student exhibit can be viewed **through March 8**. Call 703-228-6004.

ONGOING:

The **Arlington Farmers' Market** takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon year round. Located at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for more on the market and vendors.

Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy Street, presents "Hubble Vision" **through Sunday, Feb. 22**. Enjoy a

multimedia show featuring the best and most exciting Hubble images. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens & children 12 and younger. For more information, call the Planetarium office at 703-228-6070.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

Better Backyard. 6:30 p.m. at Central library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Get tips on creating or improving the habitat. Free. 703-228-6427.

Where is the Bear? 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-5 can learn about bears. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Wild Ones: Under the Ice. 4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 6-10 can learn about what lurks in the dark water. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Film Watch. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Persuasion." Free. 703-228-0322.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Lunchtime Concert. Noon at Ellipse Arts Center, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive. Free. Visit www.fmmc.org or 703-228-7710.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through walks, stories and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Theater Performance. 7 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Spring Road. Yorktown High School presents "The Imaginary Invalid." Free. 703-228-5414.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Murder Mystery. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Murder Mystery. 6 p.m. at Mount

Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Movie Night. 6 p.m. at Ballston Regal Cinemas, 671 N. Glebe Road. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington presents "Hotel for Dogs." See adoptable dogs and other animals and see a movie. See www.awla.org.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Coyotes and Stars. 10:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families with children 5 and up can learn about the stars and coyotes. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SUNDAY/FEB. 1

Murder Mystery. 2 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth

mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org.

Many Moons. 7 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Families with children ages 7 and up can learn about the moon. \$2/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

Movie Watch. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "It's Just Me ..." Free.

Stars Tonight for February. 7:30 p.m. at The David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy St. Tour the mid-winter skies of Ground Hog Day. \$3/adult; \$2/senior, child. See www.apsva.us/planetarium or call 703-228-6070.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Iota Club and Café. Hear Willie Breeding with Federal Reserve Collective. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Recycling Coordinator. 7:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Join this program. Free. RSVP, 703-228-6427.

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Moby's House of Kabob Restaurant, 300 N. Washington Blvd. in Clarendon. The Arlington Green Party will meet. Free. E-mail jreeder123@msn.com for more.

Bird Walk. 9:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults can go on an informal walk in search of birds. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Gemstone Club-Amethyst. 2:30 p.m. or 4:15 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 7-11 can learn about this stone and take one home. \$5/child. Reservations required, 703-228-3403.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Annette Gordon-Reed will discuss her work "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family." Free.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Endangered in Virginia. 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can learn about plants and animals struggling to survive in Virginia. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Opening Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. see "East Meets West" at Century 21 Redwood Realty, 1711 Wilson Blvd. Art by Arlington Artists Alliance. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com.

Murder Mystery. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Storytime Classics. 4:15 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-8 can learn about Old Mother West Wind. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Workshop. 7 p.m., see "Crossing Glances: Regards Croises Arlington & Reims: Sister Cities" from Jan. 23 through March 28 at Ellipse Arts Center, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive. Photographs by John Babineau of Arlington and Cecile Bethlehem of Reims, France. Free. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

Murder Mystery. 6 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Workshop. 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Noah Williams will lead an art workshop. 703-228-6321 to register.

Growing Up a Bird. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 4-6 can learn about life with flowers. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

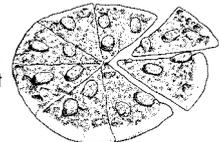
Icy Invertebrates. 11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 8-12 can learn about insects that can survive in winter. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Slithering Serpents. 3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families with children ages 5 and up can learn about these animals and meet some up close. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

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NEWS

Trial Begins for Ex-Convict

FROM PAGE 3
 ing tried in Arlington County Circuit Court because all crimes committed in City of Falls Church are tried in Arlington.

Foltz's lawyers also argued that Fairfax County Police mishandled evidence relating to Foltz's arrest. A photo taken at the time of the arrest shows Foltz wearing a pair of blue latex-style gloves. Christopher Leibig, Foltz's lead defense attorney, said that those gloves have been lost by the Fairfax County Police. "The gloves are missing," he said. "There's no way to tell [where they are]."

Leibig said that there has been conflicting testimony as to how the gloves got on Foltz's hands. Foltz testified that the officers placed the gloves on his hands after apprehending him and then removed the gloves a few hours later before turning him over to the custody of Falls Church Police. Fairfax Officer Shelley Broderick said that the department does not have a policy of placing gloves on the hands of suspects after an arrest.

According to court documents, the victim in the Feb. 6 abduction testified that her attacker was not

wearing gloves. But Leibig said that some of the other sexual assaults in which Foltz was suspected did involve an attacker who wore gloves.

"The whole thing is extremely strange," Leibig said. "There is simply no way to determine what happened to the gloves. Every officer said that they didn't know." Fairfax County Police would not comment on the details of this case.

Alper denied Leibig's motion to dismiss the case based on the disappearance of the gloves. She ruled that there was no evidence that the officers acted in bad faith and there was no evidence that the gloves would be exculpatory.

IF FOLTZ is convicted, he would face an automatic sentence of life imprisonment due to Virginia's "two strikes" law. The law mandates a life sentence for anyone who commits a violent sexual offense after being convicted for a separate violent sexual offense.

Foltz's lawyers argued that his conviction for the 1986 rape should not be brought up during the trial but were again overruled

by Alper. "It is very, very difficult for him to get a fair trial considering the fact that the jury will be told he has a prior rape conviction," Leibig said. "We're going to try our best."

Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney Frances O'Brien would not comment on the details of the case. "We don't engage in the practice of commenting on cases that are in litigation ... on the eve of a trial," she said.

Foltz's lawyers have said in court that they do not intend on having him take the stand in his own defense.

Bozman Recalled

FROM PAGE 5

and made friendships that lasted for the rest of her life.

After graduating, she moved to Washington D.C. and took a job at the Office of Management and Budget, which was then known as the Bureau of the Budget. While there, she administered a typing test to a prospective intern who she had met earlier. That intern, a particularly poor typist, was Bill Bozman.

"To this day, we still do not know how he passed this typing test," their son Bruce Bozman said. "But somehow he did."

AFTER MOVING to Arlington in 1950, the Bozmans quickly became involved in local civic affairs. After leading the landmark study on latchkey children, Bozman was elected to the Arlington County Board in 1973.

Richard Barton worked with Bozman as chair of the Arlington Democratic Party in the 1970s. He said her campaigning style was deceptively effective. "She was extremely low-key," he said. "She wasn't one of those dramatic, backslapping people. You could see her move through a crowd ... and talk to people very quietly. By the time you got out ... she had covered the entire room and everybody said 'Oh, isn't Ellen great?'"

What many remembered about Bozman was her preternatural ability to find consensus and bring people into the system. "She created a web, she strung us all together," Quanrud said in the eulogy she delivered for her godmother. "As we leave here today, I hope we realize how connected we are in finding the Arlington Way."

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SPORTS

Gymnastics Doomed in Arlington?

Fairfax County might cut the sport amidst budget deficit and area coaches fear Arlington could do the same.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

It was just five years ago that Joe D'Emidio watched the best high school boy's gymnastics team in the country celebrate by getting word that their sport would no longer be offered the next season.

It was a stunning development for D'Emidio, then the coach of both the boy's and girl's gymnastics teams at Washington-Lee, as a team of all stars

that included several Arlington standouts watched their sport get eliminated due to the budget constraints of other areas.

"When we got back, they cut boy's gymnastics in Fairfax County," recalled D'Emidio, who now does double duty as the girl's coach at both Washington-Lee

and Wakefield. "Arlington had the budget for it, but they were like Joe, who are you going to compete with?"

Flash forward to the present and there's a growing fear that girl's gymnastics in Arlington could suffer the same fate — with Fairfax County now deliberating over a budget proposal that would eliminate the sport entirely from the high school level due to a reported \$170 million shortfall.

Last Saturday's Washington-Lee Invitational was a perfect example of the uncertainty facing county officials and gymnastics coaches alike. Of the seven schools competing, four were from Fairfax County. Since the first preliminary 2009-10 Arlington budget isn't to be released until the end of February, nothing has been determined yet. But that has just meant a lot of anxious coaches, students, and parents.

"Once it goes, I doubt they'll ever bring it back," said D'Emidio, who started coaching at W-L in 1976.

BOTH D'EMIDIO and Yorktown coach Joanne Price have already dis-



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown's Natasha Koermer finishes a routine during last Saturday's Washington-Lee Invitational. With Fairfax County debating whether to get rid of its girl's gymnastics programs, there are concerns over what teams Arlington schools will compete against in the future.

cussed contingency plans for next season should Fairfax no longer have girl's gymnastic programs. All three Arlington schools will still be able to compete against teams from Loudoun and Prince William County, but both coaches said they will have to cut their schedules in half, from eight or 10 meets a season to three or four.

And even though the Arlington Public School Board has not had any discussions about what, if any, sports could succumb to budget concerns amidst a weak economy, the thought process of Fairfax County will be taken into consideration.

"We're not going to make decisions based on what other school systems do, but it is something we have to look at," said Debbie DeFranco, APS's supervisor of physical education and athletics. "Arlington doesn't have to follow suit, but it will make us re-examine things because Fairfax [County schools] are our biggest competitors."

Fairfax's preliminary budget also proposed cutting indoor track, but signs point to that sport being off the chopping block for the time being.

W-L Invitational Results

Although there were concerns over whether there would be another Washington-Lee Invitational in the future, the controversy didn't seem to affect area gymnasts. Jefferson won the seven-team competition with a score of 98.075, followed closely by Yorktown (2nd place) and Washington-Lee (fourth place).

W-L's Jazmine Woodson came in second place in the vault competition with a score of 9.1, while Yorktown's Kelly Duncan wasn't far behind notching a score of 8.8 to finish in a tie for fourth place.

The Generals' Samantha Sachs scored the highest scores in both the bars and beam competitions with scores of 8.75 and 8.675, respectively. She also finished in second place in the floor exercise, which gave her enough points to win the all around competition. Yorktown's Duncan came in fourth place overall in the all around competition.

But what has many gymnastics coaches around the area irked is the reasoning behind Fairfax County's decision making. Bill Curran, Fairfax county's director of athletics, has characterized girl's gymnastics as a "dying sport" in high school with plenty of opportunities at the club level.

THIS LOGIC IS WRONG, according to most coaches, because many of these club gymnasts have to practice all year-round and being able to compete at the high school level is their only opportunity to represent their schools and be recognized by their peers.

"When they are applying for colleges it looks like they didn't do anything to contribute or they didn't do athletics when they spent hours upon hours — probably more than most sports — in the gym," said Price.

And of the four coaches interviewed Saturday, none had more than a couple of girls on each squad that competed at the club level. Carly Meyer, the gymnastics coordi-

SEE GYMNASTICS CUT?, PAGE 12



Yorktown coach Joanne Price (right) and her Patriot team are worried about the fate of their sport with Fairfax County proposing to eliminate it from the budget entirely. When Fairfax County got rid of boy's gymnastics five years ago, Arlington followed suit.



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SPORTS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown boy's coach Rich Avila (center) thinks the key to the stretch run of National District play depends on what team can make the best adjustments.

Arlington Basketball Heats Up

With playoffs around the corner, all-Arlington match-ups take on greater meaning.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Turn the channel to a college basketball game these days and there's no doubt some kind of riveting conference matchup pitting two teams battling for tournament position is under way.

Head to a local Arlington gym in the next couple of weeks and it's the exact same scenario. With round two of the all-city matchups beginning Tuesday night when Yorktown and Washington-Lee meet in both girl's and boy's basketball, the pressure has been ratcheted even more thanks to postseason seeding implications.

Heading into Tuesday's game with the Generals, the Yorktown boy's (9-8 overall, 5-2 National District) are tied with Stuart and just one game ahead

of Wakefield (12-5, 4-3). The Patriots lost to district-leading Mount Vernon (12-4, 7-0) last Thursday, but get another shot at the Majors in the season's final contest. Yorktown and Wakefield meet this Friday night in a boy-girl doubleheader beginning at 6 p.m.

And now that Yorktown, Washington-Lee (2-14, 1-6), and Wakefield are seeing each other for a second time, changes will be made.

"Opponents start making adjustments to you, so you gotta make adjustments to them," said Yorktown coach Rich Avila. "The second time around, games are decided by who makes the better adjustments."

The Lady Patriots are no different from their male counterparts. The National District girl's competition has been dominated by Mount Vernon, which also defeated Yorktown (10-6, 5-2) last Thursday. But the Patriots still sit just two games behind the Majors and just a half-game behind second-place Edison.

"We'll definitely go back and watch the tapes from when we played them in the first round and adjust our defense and we have different plays that we might use," said Yorktown girl's coach Kim Cordell.

And although Washington-Lee (4-12, 3-4) and Wakefield (0-6, 0-17) haven't had as much success, the second half of district play allows them the opportunity to act as spoilers.

Will Girl's Gymnastics Be Cut?

FROM PAGE 11

nator of the Arlington Aerials club program, said to even be a part of their recreational team, participants had to be a level four gymnast and "a lot of the high schoolers who do the sport are not equivalent" to that. The club program is more exclusive and can cost up to \$310 a month.

Proponents of the sport say officials throughout Virginia should take into account Title IX issues and look towards cutting freshmen team programs, rather than seeking to eliminate an entire

varsity sport. The Fairfax County school board is holding an additional public comments hearing Tuesday night, after the Connection's press time, before a final budget decision is made in May.

For now, everyone involved with Arlington gymnastics can only hope that what took place in the past doesn't take precedent in the future.

"I'm an optimist, and I'm looking at keeping the program going," said D'Emidio. "I'm planning ahead for next year and for this invitational to be in our gym once again."

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Buy Low, Drive High



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I did something with my wife, Dina, the other day that I haven't done in a very long time. I filled up her car with gasoline for under \$25, and that's with the reserve fuel light on!. Meaning her car wasn't merely low on gas, it was be-low, with very few miles to spare before low was empty and the side of the road was in our sites. A sight that, due to the reduction in the price of a gallon of gasoline (regular was \$1.79 at my local service station this morning), I won't be seeing anytime soon since I can afford to buy before the fuel light illuminates.

However, if I am to stop — and then write — outside my own selfish joy, I suppose I must be concerned about why the price of gasoline is so low; concerned that business is so challenged, shall we say, nation and worldwide; worried that unemployment is increasing, nation and worldwide; and understanding that the declining consumption of fossil fuels are all less than encouraging signs. Signs that the economic bottom has still not been reached and that consumers can't even tolerate the current price (presuming of course, that if the oil companies could charge more and still sell more, they would). I guess, if I understand correctly, if I was paying more, it would be because consumers/businesses are consuming more (and presumably can afford to pay more) and consuming more means the economy is growing and the price would likely increase to reflect the increasing demand (Capitalism at work). And increased demand is a good thing, right?

The cumulative effect for me though, at this moment in time, seems to be new-found money. Money that is now available after gassing and heating up that only a few short months ago was not available. This change gives me more money to spend, but not money to spend on necessities, rather money to spend on "discretionaries." And the more money consumers have to spend on "discretionaries," the more money is spread around and it's that spreading around that makes the world go 'round (at least in my house).

Still, I can't hide my glee at the notion of cheap — relatively and comparatively — gasoline even though intellectually I have come to understand that if "things" weren't so bad economically-speaking, gasoline and to a lesser financial degree, home heating oil, wouldn't have to be so low in order to find buyers for the oil from which these products are refined.

Nevertheless, as bad as those "things" are, I can't imagine how much worse it would be for consumers if the price of gasoline and/or home heating oil were to return anywhere near their '08 peak. But I suppose that couldn't happen unless there were actual buyers increasing their demand which, with a slowing, maybe even contracting world economy, there simply doesn't appear to be. As such, since many consumers/businesses can't afford the price of gasoline/home heating oil at its present level, it seems unlikely to rise appreciably so I suppose I can keep smiling, especially so if I still have a job.

However, if something dramatic were to happen to the supply, then that would be another story, literally, and probably another column or two as well.

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

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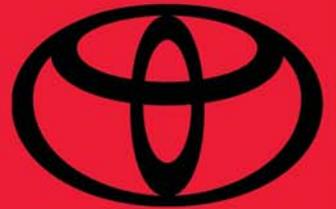
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