

Young Runners

NEWS, PAGE 3

Briana Arroyo, 7,
Madison Arroyo, 4,
Gianna Cooper, 8,
and Mia Hinderman,
6 pose with Prissy the
Clown at the Girls on
the Run's 10th anni-
versary celebration.



Sentence in Gang Case

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Laramie Project' Takes Stage

THINGS TO DO, PAGE 6

CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY USTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

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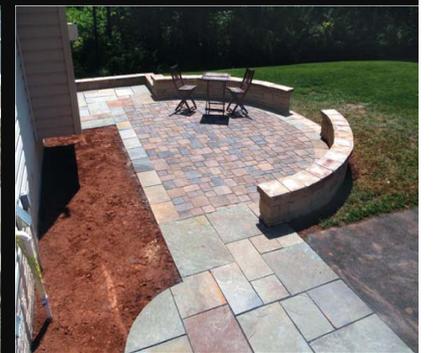
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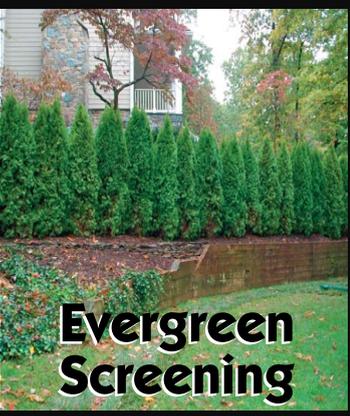
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Girls Run for Their Futures

Girls on the Run fitness program celebrates its 10th anniversary.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Many people run away from their problems when faced with life's challenges, but more than 10,000 area girls over the last 10 years have learned that it is much easier to run to confront them.

The girls learned this lesson and many more through the Girls on the Run program, which consists of self-esteem enhancing education and physical training that culminates in a 5-kilometer running event for girls ages 8 to 13. The Northern Virginia chapter, based in Fairfax, celebrated its 10 anniversary Saturday, April 10 and was recognized for its decade of tireless service with a Commending Resolution from the General Assembly.

"Instilling a sense of confidence and self worth in our girls has a lifetime of benefits."

— Del. David Bulova (D-37)

coaches and staff at Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia for their passion and commitment to our girls," said Del. David Bulova (D-37). "Instilling a sense of confidence and self worth in our girls has a lifetime of benefits."

Girls on the Run Northern Virginia marked the event with an open house at its regional headquarters, located at 10560 Main St. in Fairfax. More than 250 members of the program, many alumni and nearly every program administrator and staffer turned out to tour the chapter's offices and enjoy games and activities like face painting, hair color spraying and glittering. Prissy the Clown was also on hand to entertain the younger children, and parents took part in a raffle for gift

certificates donated by several sponsors such as Smoothie King, Bloomingdale's, Pacer's Running and more.

"The girls had such a great time [at the open house]," said Girls on the Run CEO Catherine Keightley. "The coaches were so glad to be able to invite them here and thank them for being a part of the program."

SEE FOR FITNESS, PAGE 4



Girls on the Run CEO Catherine Keightley speaks to the crowd gathered at the open house.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Three Year Sentence

Man convicted of gang recruitment at Fairfax High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A father and daughter police believed were recruiting students at Fairfax High into a gang have now both been sentenced. In March, the daughter received a month in jail and the father was sentenced Friday to three years in prison.

City of Fairfax Police arrested Theodore Alonzo Olds, 43, and his then 17-year-old daughter in September 2009. Former City of Fairfax residents who'd moved to Bristow, they were both charged with gang participation.

"The defendant came from New Jersey and was a five-star general in the gang."

— Marc Birnbarm, assistant commonwealth's attorney

When Olds pleaded guilty, Jan. 20, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Marc Birnbaum detailed the case against him.

"In May 2009, Fairfax County and Fairfax City Police learned that the Bloods street gang was active at Fairfax High," said the prosecutor. "Source No. 1 stated that the Elm Street Piru set [of the Bloods] had been active in Fairfax County for three years, since 2006."

According to the source, said Birnbaum, "The defendant came from New Jersey and was a five-star general in the gang. His daughter was a three-star general. The source said there were 20-30 members in the gang here." Members paid dues of \$80/month and, said Birnbarm, "The defendant admitted 'blessing in' new gang members from Fairfax High School."

Meanwhile, also in May, School Resource Officer Shawn Sutherland investigated several cases of larceny and fraud at Fairfax High. Furthermore, added Birnbaum, confidential sources told police that "the gang makes money by committing crimes, such as larcenies and robberies, at [Olds'] direction."

SEE GANG, PAGE 5

Candidates Meet with Voters

City Council candidates gather Thursday, April 8 to make their pre-election pitches.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Elections are often marked by contentious debate and diverging political ideologies, resulting in negative tones and acerbic exchanges. However, the candidates vying for Fairfax City Council on Tuesday, May 4 are bucking that trend and standing in a united front in the name of the betterment of the city.

The 10 candidates running for seats on City Council, led by six incumbents, gathered Thursday, April 8, at American Legion Post 177 on Oak Street to introduce themselves and answer some of the most pressing questions on the minds of the voters. While each candidate had a defined platform to run on, the city's economic health

and viability dominated the discussion.

"I deeply care about this community and the future we have here," said event attendee and former Planning Commission Chairman Tom Ross. "I really think it's important that we elect thoughtful folks who understand the community and aren't afraid to invest in its future, and I would say that we're fortunate to have the list of candidates that we have."

The event, which drew about 70 attendees and was broadcast on Cityscreen-12, opened with a 4-minute opening statement from each candidate. Then, audience members were asked to write a question for the candidates on a note card and during a short break, the cards were collected and five total questions were parsed. The questions were then posed to each candidate, who had

1 minute to answer. Following the questions, each candidate gave a 1-minute closing statement to conclude the event.

The incumbent candidates, Mayor Robert Lederer, Joan Cross, Dan Drummond, Steven Stombres, Jeffrey Greenfield and David Meyer, used the opening segment to highlight their accomplishments over the course of their previous terms and outline their vision for the potential next ones. Each of the incumbents echoed a similar belief that the council was successful in most of its ventures, especially in budget affairs. However, all six acknowledged that their work is far from complete and asked for another term to get it done.

"There has been no greater honor in my lifetime than serving as your mayor for the last eight years," Lederer said. "We started out in 2002 with downtown as a bunch of parking lots and old buildings and we ac

SEE CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 4



From left, three Vaudevillians Jerry Hyland (Kevin Place of Arlington), George Lewis (Art Kullatti of Reston) and May Daniels (Nicole Boyd of Fairfax) decided to head for Hollywood in a scene from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's production of 'Once in a Lifetime.'

Classic Comedy at TJ

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology proudly presents the Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman comedy "Once in a Lifetime" this weekend. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson is located at 6560 Braddock Road, near the intersection of Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike, in Alexandria. Tickets will be on sale at the door.

Set in 1927 soon after the success of the first talking picture, "Once in a Lifetime" tells the story of three vaudeville actors who talk their way into big jobs in Hollywood. They present themselves as elocution experts to train actors as they transition from silent films to talkies and take hilarious advantage of the situation.

Guilty Plea in Abduction

A 26-year-old Fredericksburg man has pleaded guilty to abducting a 23-year-old Fair Oaks woman he met online. He is Dennis Gregory Rother, 26, of the 300 block of Holly Corner Road.

According to Fairfax County Police, on May 23, 2009, he visited her in the 12100 block of Elm Forest Way. Around 10 p.m., he reportedly carried her into a bedroom and ordered her to disrobe. Police said Rother then grabbed two knives, blocked the door with a piece of furniture and smashed several things inside the apartment.

He then told the woman to put her clothes back on, grabbed her arm and forced her outside into a car. Still allegedly holding the knives, he ordered her to drive away.

However, as they passed a George Mason University patrol officer, the victim managed to get the officer's attention and he began to follow them. At a stop sign near Stoughten Road and Stonewall Avenue, the woman jumped out of the car and ran to the officer.

After an investigation, police charged Rother with aggravated sexual battery, abduction, felony destruction of property, assault and being drunk in public. On Sept. 15, 2009 in General District Court, Judge Penny Azcarate sent his abduction charge to the grand jury and the other charges were dropped.

Following his grand-jury indictment, Rother was slated for a jury trial. But instead, on March 22 in Circuit Court, he pleaded guilty to abduction. Judge Robert Smith then set his sentencing for June 25.

— BONNIE HOBBS

For Fitness, Self-Esteem

FROM PAGE 3

After an hour of socializing and playing, the local dignitaries arrived to present the resolution and to convey their gratitude and respect for the program and its mission. Bulova and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) read the resolution aloud and then presented Keightley with a plaque acknowledging the resolution and the anniversary. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) also reached out to his colleagues to honor the group and presented a resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This program has grown exponentially in our community and has proved its value by the number of girls in the program and the dedication of their coaches and families to the healthy living ideals that Girls on the Run promotes," Connolly said.

The program, while far-reaching now had humble beginnings and cautious expectations when launched in 2000. According to Keightley, the chapter consisted of 21 participants at two Fairfax County schools and was more of a home-based organization that promoted itself strictly through word of mouth. Today, however, the program has served more than 10,000 girls, operates out of 200 elementary and middle schools in the region, including 100 in Fairfax County and currently has 3,144 girls participating this spring.

"By word of mouth and the spirit of the girls, [the chapter] just kept growing," Keightley said. "Now, we really have a business and we're more of a community partner instead of a volunteer-based, home-based organization. We were organically-grown and a well-kept secret, but with 3,100 girls now, we're not so secret."

Those 3,144 girls currently in the program are taking part in the same 10-week curriculum that the

program has followed since its inception. According to Keightley, the participants meet twice a week at their schools to take part in classes that teach lessons about building self-esteem and living a healthy lifestyle. Keightley said that specific lessons focus on cyber-bullying, teamwork, community service and how the media portrays women and why the girls should not buy into that image.

Throughout the 10 weeks, the girls also do running drills and other physical training in preparation for the culmination of the program, the Girls on the Run 5K run. Keightley said that the running is not only a fun distraction from the daily grind of school, but also serves as a metaphorical goal for the girls to aim for during their time in the program. Last fall's run was in Reston and drew 6,200 participants, and this spring's event, slated for May 23 at George Mason University, is expected to have more than 7,000.

"It's so much fun because you're learning as you're running," said Emily Ryan, 10. "You're learning about things like not spreading gossip, but you're learning how to run, too. Plus, you make so many friends here and you have so many people to talk to."

After the resolutions were presented, the participants were treated to cupcakes and other snacks, but not even sweets could distract the girls from playing with all of their new friends. The scene, said program coach Margaret D'Esopo, was just another reminder of how much the program means not only to the girls' future, but to their everyday lives as well.

"It's absolutely fabulous," D'Esopo said. "From season to season, you just see these girls come out of their shells and be comfortable in their own skin and take pride in everything they do. They have learned that they can't give to others unless they give to themselves first, and it's such an inspiration."

Girls on the Run

Go to www.gotrnova.org for more information on Girls on the Run, including locations, activities, program fees and more. Financial assistance is available for girls that need it.

City Council Candidates

FROM PAGE 3

accomplished what other councils took 30 years to do, and we did all of it at the direction of the community. A lot of good has happened, but we have a lot ahead of us. Council came together, made tough decisions and this year will be tougher but we're looking forward to working with you on it."

Stombres agreed with Lederer's assessment, saying that the city has received recognition for its work, namely the Forbes Magazine ranking the city as the third best place to live in the country, but that rankings and awards mean nothing moving forward.

"As a result of our efforts, the City of Fairfax has received numerous accolades," Stombres said. "We are justifiably proud of those achievements, but this election is not about what we have done, but what we are going to do."

THE CHALLENGING candidates, on the other hand, used their time to introduce themselves to the community, giving personal background and explaining why they should be elected. Michael DeMarco,

chairman of the city's Economic Development Authority, said that the experience gained in that position and from his 20 years in marketing for Exxon Mobil gives him the ability to diagnose the city's financial woes and develop a strategy to solve them.

"The City of Fairfax is at a crossroads, and we have to choose what direction to move in," DeMarco said. "Let's face it. Economic growth is inevitable, and we need to help it in a positive way."

"We all have one thing in common: we love care about this place."

— Councilmember David Meyer

resident and a veteran of several branches of the armed forces, is seeking to revise real estate tax assessments, abandon two-way traffic on North Street and Main Street and slow high-density development. The fourth and final challenger, Ellie Schmidt, executive vice president of Cardinal Bank, is running on a platform of lower taxes and measured spend

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Gang Recruitment

FROM PAGE 3

Police originally charged Theodore Olds with recruiting people into the gang, but he was sentenced April 9 on three counts of gang participation, plus three counts of adult participation in a gang containing juveniles. In his argument, Birnbaum asked Judge Charles Maxfield to put Olds behind bars for 12 years.

"In this courthouse, both in Circuit and Juvenile and Domestic Relations cases, it doesn't take long to see the pervasive, detrimental effect that gangs have in parts of this community," said the prosecutor. "What you have here is an individual recruiting young people into that life, into gangs. That demands a serious penalty, not only for this defendant and the safety of the community, but also to send a message that gang activity will not be tolerated and serious penalties will be imposed."

However, defense attorney Neal Olesker said the gang wasn't violent and didn't commit felonies. He also said his client was forced into the gang at an early age and didn't recruit people. Olesker, who'd argued for no more than 13 months in prison, said Olds had "already left the gang and the area and started a new life [before his arrest], but the past came back to haunt him."

IN THE END, the judge had the final say. "This is something that's been going on for a long time," he told Olds. "You're not a young man and you knew what you were doing."

Then, on each charge, Maxfield gave Olds 24 months in prison, suspending 18 months of each sentence. That left him with six months to serve on each count, and Maxfield ran each sentence consecutively, for a total of 36 months. He also placed Olds on three years active probation, following his release. Furthermore, he told Olds, "You are not to associate with any active gang members."



PHOTO GALLERY!

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:

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THINGS TO DO



PHOTO BY GEORGE BURKE

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) plays the Arraignment Judge in the Providence Players' production of 'The Laramie Project.' The show marked Connolly's 12th appearance with the Providence Players, including roles as an Irish policeman in 'Arsenic and Old Lace' and the taxi driver in 'Harvey.'

Politics Takes the Stage

Congressman joins a cast of play about aftermath of Matthew Shepard's death.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Main Street in Laramie, Wyo., came to the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church last weekend, as the Providence Players of Fairfax performed "The Laramie Project," a three-hour play telling the story of the small town's upheaval following the brutal assault and murder of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard in 1998 by two other Laramie residents.

Playing an arraignment judge for three performances of the play is U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), and while not his first foray onto the stage, it might be his most politically relevant role.

"It's a riveting play," he said of "The Laramie Project," and despite only being available for a handful of appearances due to his hectic schedule on Capitol Hill, he was glad that director Tina Thronson was willing to give him the small part. The arraignment judge appears on stage only for a brief while, reading the charges against the two men found guilty of killing Shepard.

Connolly was in Congress last fall when the Hate Crimes Prevention act was passed, during which Shepard's mother, Judy, was in attendance. In what was widely seen as a historic moment guaranteeing tougher sentencing regulations for crimes committed against gays based on their sexual orientation, Connolly was horrified to hear U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx

(R-N.C.) call Shepard's death a hoax while his mother was in the room.

"I wanted to make my own statement," Connolly said about his decision to approve the bill. "I've always been a strong supporter of anti-discrimination legislation. I just think intolerance and discrimination against any group is wrong."

"The Laramie Project" is not a typical theatrical production with scenery or dialogue. Instead, the story of Laramie following Shepard's death from the perspective of residents, cops, detectives, college staff, the local bar owner and bartender, friends of the accused, local reporters and members of clergy. Using more than 200 interviews collected over the course of a year by the New York City-based Tectonic Theatre Project, the play has been performed in cities across the country for the past 10 years. While the cast typically consists of only a handful of cast members to portray dozens of characters, it is clear that the Laramie of 1999 is gone.

Shepard's attack is referred to in a number of ways: "the incident," "the attack," "the gay issue" or simply "what happened to that boy." In one of the early jaw-dropping moments, an actress reenacted the role of the person who found Shepard, bound and tied to a fence.

"Halloween was coming up," the character said, hands clenched, eyes unblinking. "I thought it was a dummy. I saw his chest moving up and down and thought it was some kind of mechanism. It wasn't until I saw his hair that I knew it was a person."

But while Shepard was clinging to life in the Poudre Valley Hospital, the University of Wyoming had its annual homecoming parade, which included a contingent of 200 people wearing armbands in support

"I just think intolerance and discrimination against any group is wrong."

— U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

SEE 'THE LARAMIE PROJECT', PAGE 18

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send announcements to fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 15

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Earth Day: Birthday! 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Earth Day stories, songs and activities. Age 2-5 with Adult. 703-249-1520.

Neil Innes (Monty Python, Rutles). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association: Herend China. 10:15 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Room 111, Fairfax. Seymour Lazerowitz will display and speak about pieces from his collection. Free; annual membership fee required to attend subsequent meetings. 703-359-2487.

Singer/songwriter Livingston Taylor. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 16

The NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Christopher Johnston. 8 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with Marlisa del Cid Woods of the U.S. Army Orchestra and works by Beethoven and Glazunov. Adults \$15, seniors and teens \$10, age 12 and under free. 703-569-0973.

Moscow Festival Ballet: 'Giselle.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The tragic tale of the heartbroken peasant girl. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$27-\$54, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu. Youth through grade 12 half price.

"The Music Man." 7:30 p.m. at Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. \$10 students and seniors, \$15 adults. Family Packages \$50. 703-352-0925 ext. 524.

Fairfax Five & Dime 5K/10K Race. 8 a.m. The race begins and ends at Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Registration fee \$20. Proceeds benefit Appalachia Service Project. 703-591-3120 or www.fairfaxfiveanddime.com.

Singer/songwriter Livingston Taylor. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Lecture by Ohio Historian C. L. Gray on the Legacy of Gens. Lee and Jackson. 2 p.m. Sons of Confederate Veterans Frank Stringfellow Camp #822, at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Open to the public, admission \$5. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@att.net.

Moscow Festival Ballet: "Coppelia." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the

Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A young villager falls in love with a life-size dancing doll. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$27-\$54, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu. Youth through grade 12 half price.

"The Music Man." 7:30 p.m. at Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. \$10 students and seniors, \$15 adults. Family Packages \$50. 703-352-0925 ext. 524.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Community Paper Shredding Event. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Shredding by Secured Shred's mobile document destruction vehicle. Free. Boxes or paper bags of household documents only. 703-764-0456 or FreeShredEvent@BurkePresChurch.org.

Jason Reeves and Chelsea Lee. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Future CD Release and Murphy's Kids. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Master Class with Capt. Michelle A. Rakers, assistant director of the U.S. Marine Band. 2 p.m. at George Mason University School of Music, 4400 University Drive, MSN 3E3, Fairfax. Free and open to the public. www.fairfaxband.org.

City of Fairfax Band: Spotlight on Women in the Arts. 8 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Capt. Michelle A. Rakers, assistant director of the United States Marine Band, conducting. \$13 adults, \$7 seniors 60 and up, age 18 and under free. www.fairfaxband.org.

Tea Party with Winnie-the-Pooh and Friends. 1:30 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Tea and cookies will be served. Bring a favorite stuffed animal. \$12 per person. Reservations are required at 703-941-1065.

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Led by viola and violin soloist Julian Rachlin. Edvard Grieg, Beethoven, Schubert and more. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 3:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$30-\$60, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

Audubon Bird Walk. 8:30 a.m. at Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. A nature walk at one of Fairfax County's newest dedicated "green" spaces. Woods, meadows,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

a pond and vernal pools provide an abundance of wildlife. Register at info@audubonva.org or 703-256-6895.

"The Music Man." 2 p.m. at Paul VI Catholic High School, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. \$10 students and seniors, \$15 adults. Family Packages \$50. 703-352-0925 ext. 524.

The "Bunny Eat Bunny" World of Children's Publishing. 2 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Authors and illustrators will share their inspiration, motivation, and expectations and help you find yours. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Jammin' 4 Haiti. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. jamminjava.com.

Roman Candle, Paper Bird and Tao Seeger Band. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Animal Lovers Event. 1-4 at the Fairfax City Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Brochures, magazines, books, pamphlets, handouts, information pertaining to animals, pets, wildlife. Free. 703-293-6227 or 571-236-9056.

MONDAY/APRIL 19

Noah's Ark Animal Workshop. 3:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Make a special spring stuffed animal. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy. Play the game. 6-14. 703-644-7333.

Bedtime Stories: Snazzy Socks. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450

Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about socks. Wear your snazziest pair. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/APRIL 20

Evening Book Discussion. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "My Life in France" by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Geography of Bliss" by Eric Weiner. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Guns, Germs and Steel" by Jared Diamond. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Reading Across the Centuries. 6:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Rhinoceros" by Eugene Ionesco. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Evening Book Discussion Group. 6:45 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "My Name is Red" by Orhan Pamuk. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Sara Watkins and Jesse Harper. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 21

Writers' Roundtable. 6 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Needlework Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls. Age 9-11 and their mothers. 703-249-1520.

DC101's Last Band Standing. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.

Pre-Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m. at Center for Education at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Young children experience and learn about the four R's through puppetry and music from Junkyard Pirates and The Wolf Trap Jazz Trio. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 22

Swing Into Spring Jazz Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit School, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Vocalist Nancy Scimone, guitarist Steve Herberman and bassist Victor Dvoskin. \$10. Proceeds benefit Christ House Shelter in Alexandria. 571-232-1873 or LiveJazzConcerts@verizon.net.

Tales for Twos: Mudlicious. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about mud. Age 23-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Adrian Belew: Painting with Guitar (An Electric One Man Show). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$30. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 23

The Virginia Opera presents The Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.



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OPINION

Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts

By ELIZABETH MURPHY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Three years ago the arts and cultural community of Virginia embarked on a great adventure. The Virginia Council on the Arts convened the heads of the major arts organizations of the Commonwealth to encourage us to take more leadership on behalf of the entire cultural sector. Despite the many challenges facing our individual agencies, we all agreed that we needed a high visibility project to demonstrate the breadth, diversity, and intrinsic value of the arts to state decision-makers in Virginia.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The 23 major arts organizations of Virginia selected a theme, picked a time period, and invited all artists and cultural agencies of the state to create programs on the common theme during a defined time period with a statewide and regional marketing campaign. Thus was born our first endeavor: "Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts", with planning underway three years ago. The celebration began March 1, continues through June 30.

THROUGH THE regional meetings, local gatherings, email list-serves, and speeches and presentations at every possible opportunity, we invited every artist in the state, every arts organization, history museum, library, college, and university to join the statewide celebration of women in the arts. As of this writing, we have listed more than 2,000 events on our Web site www.vamindswideopen.com. (Altria, Dominion Power, SunTrust Bank, the Norfolk Southern Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Virginia Tourism office have all made significant financial contributions to the statewide marketing campaign.)

Referendum on Election Day

To the Editor:

I have reread Mary Kimm's editorial ["Cuccinelli Misleads on Costs," Connection, April 8-14, 2010] and still cannot find where Ms. Kimm writes what it really costs the attorney general's office to file court papers questioning the constitutionality of President Obama's healthcare legislation.

If you claim Ken Cuccinelli is misleading us (i.e. lying) about the costs of his court action, shouldn't you be able to tell us what the real cost was? Does anyone at The Connection know? Did anyone even ask, or is it just your assumption that he is not telling the truth?

Would it lend any perspective to Ms. Kimm's editorial to add that Virginia was one of 11 states that have challenged the new health

care legislation?

Ms. Kimm suggests: "Perhaps we need a referendum to decide if and when Virginia will spend time, resources and image on challenging federal actions?"

While we are opining on the importance of citizen input, perhaps "we" should have held a referendum on the healthcare legislation in the first place, that U.S. Rep.

LETTERS

Gerry Connolly (D-11) voted for twice, without holding a single, advertised, in-person, fully open live town hall meeting for his constituents.

While Connolly was holding what he called "open" meetings on health care at gated communities and senior retirement developments, his leading challenger Keith Fimian (R) held an open advertised healthcare town hall meeting at the Fairfax County Govern-

ment Center. Go figure.

Maybe Connolly can share his thinking behind this in his next Connection column.

Fortunately, for all of those who may be unhappy with the work Mr. Connolly has been doing, there is a referendum scheduled. It will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, Election Day.

Rob Paine
Fairfax

AG Defends Constitution

To the Editor:

I would like to bring the editor's attention to a few facts regarding Virginia's lawsuit challenging the individual mandate in the recent federal health care package.

First, Virginia is in good company: 18 states have filed lawsuits against the health care legislation

Minds Wide Open

Northern Virginia arts organizations host many local events for statewide celebration. See www.vamindswideopen.com for more:

The Light in the Piazza, April 19, Arena Stage, Arlington, www.arenastage.org
Lucy Kaplansky, April 23, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
The Bobs, April 28, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Exhibition: Beautiful - Virginia Women Artists and the Body, April 29, Greater Reston Arts Center, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Bonnie Rideout, April 30, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Women in the Arts, May 1, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Fairfax, www.fairfaxsymphony.org
Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre Mini-Festival, May 6, Greater Reston Arts Center & Hub Theatre, Reston, www.restonarts.org
Lindsay Mac, with Special Guest Margot MacDonald, May 16, Focus Music, Alexandria, www.focusmusic.org
Carmina Burana with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, May 22, The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Guests, Alexandria, www.alexsym.org
Sheryl Crow with Special Guest: Colbie Caillat, June 17, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Natalie Cole, June 24, 2010, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Gallery Exhibit Inspired by Teresa Pollak's "Grace

Street in the Spring", April 13-May 16, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com
Virginia Celebrates Women - Gallery Exhibit, April 13-May 16, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Alexandria, www.potomaccraftsmengallery.com
MINDS WIDE OPEN Art Show La Femme, April 19-May 16, Arlington Artists Alliance, Arlington, www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org
The Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess", April 23-25, Virginia Opera, Fairfax, www.vaopera.org
Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde, April 24-May 5, The Little Theatre of Alexandria, Alexandria, www.thelittletheatre.com
Cats, Jun 18-20, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Riverdance: Farewell Tour, June 2-6, The Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Vienna, www.wolftrap.org
Female Shorts: Film and Video Showcase, June 3-6, Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery & The Art League Gallery, Alexandria, www.torpedofactory.org
Color & Body, Mar 31-April 25, Workhouse Arts Center: Karen Kozojet Ching, Traci Oberle & Eileen Olson, Lorton, www.workhousearts.org
WomanMade, May 1-30, Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, Alexandria, www.torpedofactory.org
Miscalled Simplicity, May 21-22, Empty Chair Theatre Company, Arlington, www.emptychairtheatre.org
Curves, May 5-Jun 7, The Art League, Alexandria, www.theartleague.org

What will Minds Wide Open accomplish? First and foremost, we hope to raise the visibility of the arts industry in our state. Of equal importance is building more collaboration within the Virginia arts and cultural community. We hope that "Minds Wide Open: Virginia Celebrates Women in the Arts" will lead to many more partnerships and alliances within the entire cultural sector of our state.

Plan to attend as many of our wonderful events as possible between now and the end of June. Visit our Web site at www.vamindswideopen.com.

so far, both Democrats and Republicans.

Second, in this lawsuit, the Court is being asked a simple but profound question: Does the Commerce Clause give the Government the power to require us to engage in commerce? If the government does have this power then they can require us to buy any product they deem appropriate.

From reading your editorial ["Cuccinelli Misleads on Costs," Connection, April 7-13, 2010], is this question what you deem to be an embarrassment to Virginia?

The Virginia Health Care Freedom Act, declaring an individual mandate to purchase health insurance illegal, was passed with bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Delegates.

Are those members an embarrassment to Virginia?

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

The Attorney General of Virginia takes an oath to defend the United States and Virginia Constitutions. In this case, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is fulfilling that oath by challenging, along with other States, this unconstitutional overreach of power by the Federal Government.

This definitely is an appropriate use of internal office resources. Unless, of course, the editor believes defending the Constitution is an embarrassment.

Michael Melillo
Fairfax

Cost-Cutting Measure

To the Editor:

Thank you for your well-written editorial ["Cuccinelli Misleads on Costs," Connection, April 8-14, 2010] concerning the latest embarrassment Attorney General Cuccinelli has heaped upon Virginia.

If his staff has no more meaningful work to occupy their time than to institute frivolous lawsuits — a state challenging provisions

of federal law that won't impact individuals for years to come as contrary to state law, lacks Constitutional requirements of being a case in controversy and brought by one with standing and violates long standing decisions on Federal supremacy — then either they are not discharging their duties as outlined by you, or if there is no such work needed, they are over-staffed. If it's the latter, I propose as a needed, cost-cutting, immediate staff cuts starting at the top.

Barry Finkelstein
Burke

Molehill Out Of a Mountain

To the Editor:

I am sorely disappointed by our newly elected governor regarding his proclamation that April is Confederacy History Month. I am an African American who lives in Northern Virginia and am not a supporter of such a proclamation. More importantly, I am opposed to a proclamation that initially conspicuously omitted that horror of slavery.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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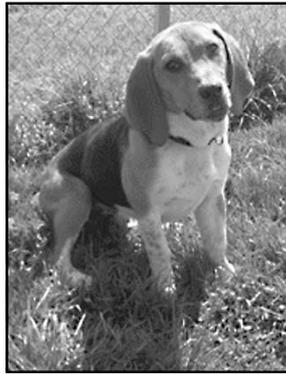
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OPINION

Defining Issue of Civil War

Virginia won't progress if it ignores its own history.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN
D-34

All Virginia is now aware of the flap over the recent proclamation of "Confederate History Month" by the Gov. Robert McDonnell (R). The governor's original proclamation was a superficial paean to an era that never existed. He has correctly moved to retract that statement with one more historically accurate.

But what did actually happen in that defining era? Why was that event such a transformative one in the history of this state? Let's review the basic facts:

1. The defining issue of the Civil War was slavery. In college, I wrote my senior thesis on Virginia secession. As research, I read the Minutes of the 1861 Secession Convention in Richmond. Every single speech, when you got past the useless pontificating (Lord will it ever change?), it was clear that the overwhelming focus of the secessionists was preserving the "peculiar institution" in those counties with significant slave populations. Their fear of free-soil Republicanism drove their vote for secession. Need confirmation? Listen to Abraham Lincoln. His second Inaugural Speech, the greatest words spoken by a U.S. president, spoke to the suffering of the Civil War as a penance upon all Americans brought on by "unrequited toil" and "the bondsman's lash." He was referring to slavery. But he didn't need to mention that to his 1865 audience. It was obvious. Slavery was not just the biggest issue between the states. It was, in the end, the only issue.

2. Virginians fought on both sides. The Commonwealth produced the South's greatest heroes and finest leaders (Lee, Jackson, Stuart, etc). Their names and legendary feats are part of our shared history. However, one-third of the pre-war population also fought for the Union. Most of these folks were from the western counties, which were largely free soil by 1861. Some eastern Virginians just stayed loyal to the U.S., including thousands of ex-slaves who joined the Army of the Potomac and fought at Petersburg and other major battles. One of the best U.S. Army generals, George Thomas (a.k.a. "the Rock

of Chickamauga") was a Virginian. In Virginia, this was truly a Civil War.

3. Virginia actually formed a unionist government. The non-secessionist rump of the Assembly reformed in Alexandria during the War with delegates from the loyal western counties. At that time, they voted to form a new state (West Virginia). In one of the great political blunders of history, the loyalist Assembly chose not to include the "northern counties" of Fairfax and Loudoun despite the fact they were contiguous and under Union occupation. Those counties remained part of Virginia, a fact with enormous ramifications for both states.

4. After the War, most veterans moved on with their lives. My great-great-grandfather Thomas Moore of Fairfax fought with Lee all the way until Appomattox.

COMMENTARY

After that, he returned to Fairfax (his house is the "Moore House" on North Street). In his first act, he walked to the Courthouse and swore allegiance to the Union. Why? He was a Mexican War veteran and wanted to get his pension restored. Gen. Billy Mahone, one of Lee's fiercest divisional commanders, went back to Norfolk and started the "Norfolk & Western" line. A few years later, Mahone ran for governor on the "Re-adjuster" ticket, which won with a black-white voting coalition. Lee, of course, became a college president. Most veterans weren't out wearing bed sheets or flying Rebel flags after the war. Most wanted to put the terrible experience behind them.

5. The Jim Crow Laws and One-Party Rule Came Later. The first few years after the Civil War were a relatively open time politically. The old structures of slavery had been swept away. The U.S. Army was an unchallenged occupier. The U.S. Congress was passing amendments to end slavery and guarantee rights (and those were somewhat enforced). Black members were elected to the Virginia General Assembly immediately after the War. It was not until after 1876, when Reconstruction ended, that the bad days of Jim Crow laws and "poll tax" really took over.

My point is that there is a lot to remember and celebrate as Virginia approaches 150 years from the Civil War. I'm proud of this state and our community's connection to its history.

We have gotten better with age. And we can do better down the road. But we won't accomplish that if we ignore our own history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

After reading all the press on this issue, I have concluded that this "oversight" or "mistake" probably happened due to a combination of three reasons. First, maybe Gov. McDonnell's (R) true nature has emerged. Although he ran as a moderate and won my county, he is still the same guy who authored a misogynist thesis in his youth. Is it truly far-fetched to think that a misogynist can also be racially insensitive? Second, Gov. McDonnell does not have one minority serving as a senior advisor. In-

stead, those closest to his ear are Caucasians who would proudly identify themselves as "The Real Virginians." Had he had one minority whispering in his ear, the proclamation probably would have been a non-issue. Again, further evidence of this administration's racial insensitivity and failure to notice the changing demographics of Virginia and our nation. Third, Gov. McDonnell's current staff is not ready for prime time. In short, they are not ready for the demands that a national campaign (V.P. perhaps?) would require.

Although he won Virginia decisively in 2009, the rest of the na-

tion will not soon forget or overlook that Gov. McDonnell once intimated that "women should be barefoot in the kitchen" and that he can easily forget and dismiss the horrors of slavery.

With these turn of events, Gov. McDonnell has since issued his mea culpa and is hoping that he can make a molehill out of this mountain that he has created. Unfortunately for Mr. McDonnell, I don't think the voters will be fooled twice.

K. Roberta Jennings
Fairfax

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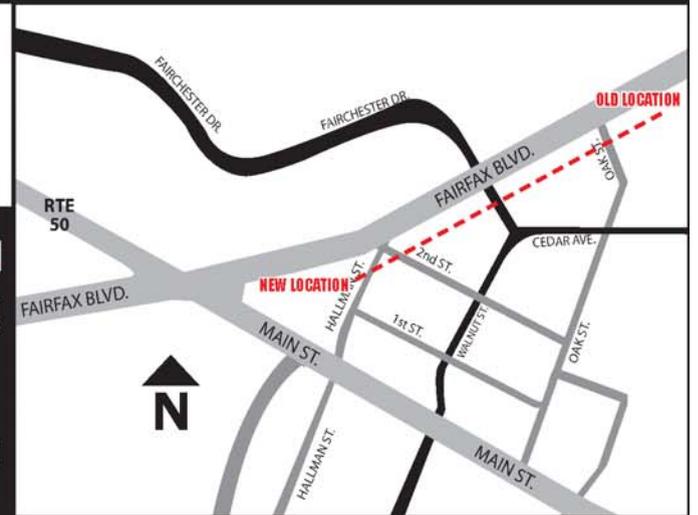
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Council Election

FROM PAGE 4

ing.

"I'm ready to take the next step and serve the entire city to make this the best place to live possible," Gaines said. "I know I can make a difference but can only do so if you help me May 4."

THE FIRST QUESTION POSED during the question and answer segment asked the candidates about their plans to ensure the economic health of the city while maintaining the quality of essential programs and services like public safety and road maintenance. Nearly every candidate agreed that the city must intensify its efforts to attract businesses in an effort to spur economic development, though several different solutions were offered.

DeMarco proposed implementing changes to zoning and code enforcement to make it easier for businesses to move into the city. He also called for mixed-use and transportation-oriented development so there would be a balance between commercial development and open, green space. Drummond said that a small-business foundation is the best route for balanced economic growth. He proposed that the city be aggressive in attempting to secure stimulus funds to use on projects that would enhance city infrastructure. Meyer, on the other hand, said that he supports high-density development, but only in selected areas that would be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods.

"We need the right mix of residential and commercial development," O'Dell said. "We also need to have a careful and reliable analysis of what businesses would create high-paying jobs that are sustainable, and we need to make sure we don't tax our businesses to death."

While each of the questions elicited different responses and divergent solutions to many of the city's challenges, all of the candidates were in accordance in their desire to see the city prevail. They may be political opponents, they said, but they are all also City of Fairfax residents and all have a stake in the future of the community.

"We all have one thing in common: we love care about this place," Meyer said. "We care about this community and care about being in this community with each other and the best years of this city are yet to come."



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For Love of the Game and Charity

Public Safety Football League team, raises money for charity through football.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County firefighter Steven McFarland used to play on the Fairfax High School field as a member of the school's football team.

On April 10, he took to that field again, but this time with the D.C. Generals, a National Public Safety Football League team composed of police officers and firefighters from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

The chance to play organized football again isn't the only reason McFarland suits up.

"This isn't just about playing football," he said. "It's about raising money. That's the whole reason we're doing this."

On April 10, the Generals opened their third NPSFL season against the Orlando Guardians. Twenty teams from around the country participate in the NPSFL, and games are designed to raise money for various



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Members of the D.C. Generals and Orlando Guardians, two teams in the National Public Safety Football League, pray after their game. The two teams are composed of police officers and firefighters.

charities.

The Generals, a non-profit organization, use the proceeds from games and various raffles to raise money for the D.C. Firefighters Burn Foundation, the Concerns of Police Survivors and the City of Fairfax Firefighters Benevolent Fund.

"It's just a privilege to be with people from all the other jurisdictions" said Fairfax

firefighter and Generals linebacker Brandon Winfield. "We work hard for our charities to help raise money."

Putting together a football team consisting of public safety officers from the tri-state area isn't an easy task.

McFarland said scheduling practice can be tough. Some team members drive from as far away as Baltimore.

"This isn't just about playing football."

— Steven McFarland

"It's usually just three days a week," he said. "But we have guys coming from all over and the majority of practices are in Maryland."

The team also travels cross-country to play games. Winfield said the farthest the team has traveled is to San Diego.

"Each person is responsible for their own airfare," McFarland said. "But the host team is responsible for putting us in a hotel for two nights and [for providing] us with a practice field."

While the league's goal is to raise money, the players exhibit the kind of intensity one normally sees on a football field.

Coaches chew out players for mistakes, emotions run high on the field as the physical game ramps up and, despite the friendly nature of the contests, trash-talk is abundant.

The games can become so intense that rivalries have developed between teams.

The most famous is between "New York's Bravest," the New York City fire department team, and "New York's Finest," the New York City police department team.

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 15

Speedster on Track and Soccer Field

Fairfax's Liz Nguyen uses indoor track to improve her soccer game.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

At the youth level of soccer, most players might let their coaches handle their development, opting to let an adult take charge to help advance their soccer careers.

Fairfax sophomore Liz Nguyen didn't let a coach tell her how to improve her game. Instead, she decided that in order to become a better soccer player, she had to play less soccer.

"I felt like I could be even better [at soccer]," she said. "I used to play year round, but now I don't."

A former member of a premier Chantilly travel soccer team, Nguyen decided indoor

track would serve her better than travel tournaments and continuous offseason soccer games.

She also wanted an activity in which she could put her sprinting speed to more use than chasing balls.

"I chose track because of my speed," Nguyen said. "I guess I am fast. I played travel soccer, but I thought that track would take me further. So now I'm doing high school track and soccer."

It's Nguyen's quickness that makes her a threat to opposing defenses.

In an April 12 match against Langley, her speed helped her earn an assist on the game's lone goal.

The assist showed the best of her two sporting worlds, a keen soccer sense and her quickness.

As a pass flew at her, Nguyen headed the ball toward the right corner of the field, sprinted to collect it and fooled her defender with nifty step-over move.

She then lobbed it to freshman Stefanie



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Liz Nguyen and Stefanie Spitz pose for a photo after the Rebel's 1-0 victory over Langley on April 12. Nguyen assisted on Spitz's goal in the game.

Spitz who finished the play with a lob shot, giving the Rebels a 1-0 advantage.

"I was looking for Liz to make a quick pass and try to get a shot off," Spitz said. "I just swung at it and it was one of those shots

that got above the keeper's hands."

It's no surprise she could outrun her defender with just a few quick bursting steps,

SEE NGUYEN, PAGE 15

Video Coverage

Watch video of Liz Nguyen's assist on Stefanie Spitz' goal and other highlights at www.connectionnewspapers.com.



Juniors division team the Astros pose for a photo with head coach Mike Andersen.



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Mike Disano and the Dominion AA Giants pose for a photo with their homemade banner.



On April 10, at Chilcott Stadium in Fairfax, the Fairfax Little League kicked off its season with a parade and games. Here, the Muckdogs, coached by Mike Jawish, featured one of the most creative team names and banners at the event.

Spring Is Really Here

Fairfax Little League starts 2010 season with parade, ceremony.

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5 Qs with Fairfax soccer player Meg Murphy

Q: What sort of music do you like to listen to before a match?

A: Basically anything. Slow songs, fast ones, mainly hip-hop and alternative.

Q: If you could be any athlete for a day, who would you want to be?

A: Probably would want to change places with [Washington Wizard] Gilbert Arenas. He seems like a goofy guy, even with the scandal.

Q: Are you a big Wizards fan?

A: I was, but not so much anymore now that they have started playing bad.

Q: What's your favorite thing about playing for the Fairfax soccer team?

A: It's the girls. They're all very fun, and I enjoy hanging out with them.

Q: Where will you be going to college next year?

A: Yes. I committed to George Washington University. I'm very excited to go there because it's my dream school.



REED S. ALBERS

Meg Murphy

— REED S. ALBERS

SPORTS

Nguyen

FROM PAGE 13

after all, the 55-meter dash is one of her best track events.

Her teammates also recognize the abundant speed she possesses, sometimes relying on it at critical moments in a match.

"She really helps us," Spitz said. "Sometimes when we're looking for quick touches, she can make outside runs that will beat the defenders and give us breakaways."

Although Nguyen has placed a larger focus on track, training for the Fairfax indoor track team hasn't hampered her ability to play soccer.

"During the summer, when I'm not playing soccer, I just train for track," she said. "It's not hard to [go back to soccer]."

Fairfax head coach Nick Maclean said the amount of conditioning and training Nguyen does for track in the offseason makes her a perfect fit for the right midfield position.

"In her position, you have to work up and down the lines. When we get the ball back, she can all of a sudden be on the other side of the field," Maclean said. "She's just really fast and in really good shape. You need players to get up and down the line, and she does that very well."

Football

FROM PAGE 13

The Generals said they've pegged the Philadelphia Blue Flame as the team to beat.

"Philadelphia is our biggest rival," Winfield said. "We have some tight games with them."

Even though the Generals lost their season opener with a 17-7 loss to the Orlando Guardians, the Fairfax players still viewed it as a victory.

"This is just a great way to give back to the folks who matter to us," said Joe Merritt, Fairfax firefighter and offensive lineman. "This is just one way of doing it for them."

Video Coverage

Watch video of the D.C. Generals in action at The Connection Web site, www.connectionnewspapers.com.

COLLEGE NOTES

Stanley Alexander Beckwith of Fairfax recently graduated from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester. He graduated with a bachelor of music degree in applied music.

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COLLEGE

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2009 semester: **Amina Adem, Stephanie Alexis, James Allen, Armun Asgari, Scott Bacon, Catherine Barsanti, Anna Baukin, Erin Benefiel, Amanda Betzold, Randall Bowen, Blair Bowers, Katherine Bowles, Chelsea Brown, Alexandra Busch, Elaine Bussjaeger, Briana Calhoun, Kristen Cicala, Mary Cipperly, Christina Connor, Sarah Fargis, Emily Fischer, Brandon Ford, Jacob Forer, Lindsey Gay, Meghan Griffith, David Hagemeyer, Sara Hanlon, Christina Hargrove, Erica Hwang, Courtney Hyde, Sarah Ingram, Brandon James, James Kalina, Natalie Lauri, Megan Learn, Caitlin Lugo, Angela Marino, Katharine McCoy, Caroline McGraw, Max Oppenheimer, Kaylene Posey, Marissa Robinson, Caitlin Romig, Ashley Sammler, Patrick Sheridan, David Shuman, Nicholas Stahl, Emily Taylor, Andrew Tran, Christina Tuliszka, William Tuohy, Jessica Vara and Henry Watsky.** To qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a semester course load of 12 graded credit hours or more and earn a GPA of 3.500 to 3.899.

The following students from Fairfax recently graduated from James Madison University: **Kimberly Brown, Mary Cipperly, Michelle Gonzalez, Mallery Monroe and Andrew Plaugher.**

The following students from Fairfax made the president's list during the fall 2009 semester at James Madison University: **Kathleen Coffey, Ryan Geddes, Holland Henn, Richard Knoche, Lauren Lamore, Rebecca Marksteiner, Sofiane Mouloua, Andrew Pham, Katherine Still, Elizabeth Visosky, Candace Workman and Lourdes Ruiz Ulloa.** To qualify for the president's list, a student must carry a semester course load of 12 graded credit hours or more and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above.

Alix Ginsberg of Fairfax, a sophomore at Syracuse University, has been accepted to participate in the Semester in Washington Program (SIW) at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. This semester students can anticipate meeting with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, officials at The White House, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Politico and the committee headquarters for both parties. Ginsberg has accepted an internship with the Public Affairs Council and will participate in the program's legislative practicum in which she will work as part of a team of students under the tutelage of a professional lobbyist in developing a lobbying plan for the Education for All Act.

Charles Henry Wetzel, a resident of Fairfax, has earned an associate in arts degree from Excelsior College.

Kelly Green Polinsky, a resident of Fairfax, recently earned a bachelor of science degree from Excelsior College.

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THURSDAY/APRIL 15

Glazer-Kennedy Insider's Circle Monthly Meeting. 8:30 a.m. at 4041 University Blvd., Room 201, Fairfax. Social media, membership sites, content sites, niche marketing, information marketing, search engine optimization and more. First timers free. 877-IBA.GKIC.

Fimian-Herrity Debate. 1:30 p.m. at Greenspring Retirement Community, Hunters Crossing Conference Center, 7430 Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Keith Fimian and Pat Herrity will debate ahead of the June 8 primary election to choose the Republican candidate for Virginia's 11th District congressional seat. John McCaslin, host of America's Morning News radio show, will moderate. 703-923-4690.

THURSDAY/APRIL 22

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Pursuant to Decree of the Circuit Court of King George County, Virginia, dated July 16, 2009, entered in the Chancery matter now pending before the Court under the style of Adam M. Steil V. Alexander P. Steil, the undersigned Special Commissioners were authorized to sell the hereinafter described real estate at auction; and pursuant thereto, notice is hereby given that the following described real estate:

All that piece, parcel or tract of real estate with all improvements thereon, commonly known as 2101 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22303, having Tax Map Identification Number of 83-1-14-E-1A and being more accurately described as:

Lot 1-A, Block E, Section 3, Huntington, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 549, page 182.

BEING the same property conveyed to Adam M. Steil and Alexander P. Steil, by deed dated September 27, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 12258, page 353.

shall be sold to the highest bidder; however, subject to confirmation by the Court, on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. on site at the property. The property shall be sold AS IS and shall be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. The successful bidder shall be required to deposit 10% of the bid price by Certified Check payable to the General Receiver of King George Circuit Court. Closing on the sale shall take place within 30 days of confirmation of sale by the Court.

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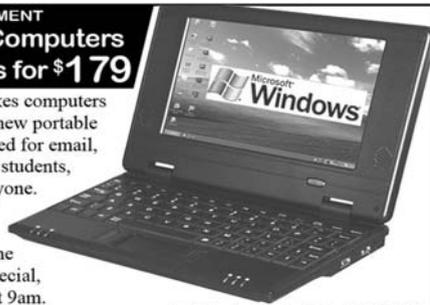
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THINGS TO DO

The Laramie Project

FROM PAGE 6

of Shepard and his family. By the end of the parade, one character recalled, the number of marchers wearing armbands at the end of the parade had doubled.

Thronson, who brought together her cast and had the play onstage in roughly 12 weeks, lived in Laramie for 16 years, moving to Fairfax County the year before Shepard's death.

"This is about civil rights and human rights" she said of the play. "What happened to that poor boy, it says something about who we are as a society and the myth of the west, the way of life in the city versus in the country. It's terrible what happened to him, and I don't want to play down that what happened to him happened because he was gay."

Pointing to the Hate Crimes Prevention Act as an example of the many strides that have been taken to prevent or discourage crimes against homosexuals or grant them equal standing under the law, Thronson said that much remains to be done, possibly starting with the repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" provision that prohibits openly gay men and women from serving in the military and calls for the dishonorable discharge of those who admit to being gay.

At a time when the U.S. is fighting a war on multiple fronts, the government is preventing and firing of gay service members from doing their jobs, Thronson said. "Those soldiers are a kind of human resource, and they're being marginalized because of their sexual orientation."

Connolly said later that when "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" comes up for a vote, which may happen later this year, he'll vote to repeal it.

"I just think it's a nonsensical policy," he said. Having openly gay service members "isn't a problem in Germany, Israel or Canada, our NATO allies," he said. "I don't think it'll be a problem here."

But Thronson also wanted to make sure to portray the people of Laramie as who they are, not taking the easy road out and portraying them as caricatures, which may have been an easy thing to do.

"I know these people, I lived with them for 16 years," she said.

And the people of Laramie were just unfortunate to find themselves in the situation, she said. It's why she chose not to include a photo of Shepard in the images that flash on a screen throughout the play. "Matthew is everyone's son," she said. "This is really every town. Because it could happen anywhere."

The emotional play took its toll on the cast, many of whom have participated in Providence Players productions in the past.

Ari Post and Jimmy Gertzog, who each played several characters in the play, said

this was some of the heaviest fare they'd faced onstage.

"It's really rare to be onstage all the time," said Post, who acted through high school. He wanted to be part of this production "for personal reasons," adding that it "touches on pieces of my life like it does for a lot of people. It's an issue we're still dealing with."

Gertzog called his roles "challenging" because all the actors remained on stage for the vast majority of the play.

Knowing that the play dealt with real people from a not-too-distant past made the play a totally different experience for Zurri Conroy, who played a local reporter and Muslim student challenging the idea of discrimination in Laramie. "I remember hearing about Matthew Shepard when all this happened, which makes this really personal. This happened when I was in high school," she said.

Mario Font has been in "The Laramie Project" before, but wanted to take it on again in order to recite the recollection of a gay man watching the homecoming parade and witnessing the growth in support for Shepard in the course of an hour.

"When I rehearsed the lines, the tears just started," he said. "I managed to pull it together for the performance, but it was tough. It's important to do this play so people won't forget. It's been 12 years and often, with time, things fade away. It's important not to forget."

The importance of the play, to Susan Kaplan, "is to keep at the forefront that this is discrimination. People cannot be complacent."

She wanted to be involved in the play because it is timely, given the numerous gay/civil rights issues on the Hill right now, she said.

"We weren't sure what kind of response or audience we'd get, but it's been rewarding," she said, considering the audience for Friday evening's performance was nearly at capacity.

Leta Hall played police officer Reggie Fluty, one of the responding officers who treated Shepard when he was first discovered and later had to be tested for HIV because Shepard was HIV positive and her gloves were torn and may have come in contact with his blood.

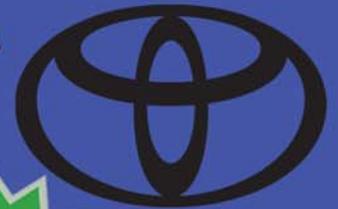
This production "The Laramie Project" also marked the acting debut of Smitty Connolly, Connolly's wife who has spent many years working behind the scenes, he said. She plays two residents of Laramie and the Mormon home teacher of one of Shepard's killers, Aaron McKinney; a woman who helped him become a clergy member in their church later to be disowned by the faith for his actions. Despite his actions, Smitty Connolly's character said, he deserved to have some comfort while facing life in jail.

See the Show

The Providence Players of Fairfax will present "The Laramie Project" this Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the Providence Players box office at 703-425-6782.

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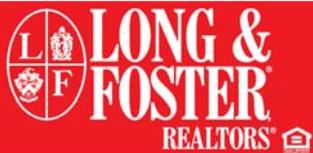


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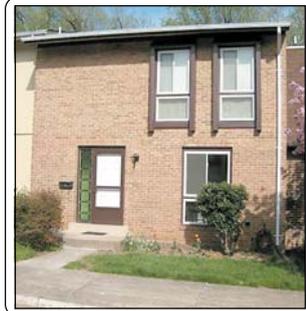
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