

Great Falls CONNECTION

Gregory Martin from Woodford, Va., demonstrated to fellow scouts the kind of boots that will be needed for their 12-day trip to Sweden for the World Scout Jamboree. Martin is among 36 scouts who have been meeting at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls over the past few months to prepare for the trip.

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PHOTO BY GARY PAN

Thirty-six scouts from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area will be participating in the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden from July 26 to August 7.

Scouting Beyond Borders

Boy Scouts prepare for trip to World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Many scouts in this area have been to the standard places for their outings: Goshen Scout Reservation, Camp Rodney, maybe even as far as Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. But for 36 local scouts, they'll get a chance to take their skills and experience across the Atlantic Ocean for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

The scouts, selected from troops around Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., and even a few as far as Georgia and New Jersey, have been meeting at St. Francis Episcopal Church for the past few months, and they head to Sweden next week.

"It should be a great trip and a great opportunity to learn about other cultures and how they approach scouting," said Garrett Pan of Troop 55, based in Great Falls. He will serve as the senior patrol leader for the group. "I hadn't looked too much at the actual history of scouting, but I'm interested in our own as well as those of other countries. You hear stories about people like [Lord Robert] Baden-Powell, [who first founded the scouting movement] and wonder if every country has someone like that who brought scouting to them."

THE GROUP will be among 1,500 Americans attending the Jamboree, which will host more than 38,000 scouts from around the world. The event will take place in the fields of Rinkaby, near the town of Kristianstad in the southern province of Skane. The site has hosted national jamborees in 2001 and 2007.

"I just hope we're able to meet a bunch of new people, units, leaders and scouts," said Larry McNiece, who will serve as the group's scoutmaster.

"I think we'll all bring home memories that will last a lifetime, and for these kids, in two, three, four years they'll be in college and could study abroad and use the experiences they get with this trip."

Victor Stephenson, who will serve as second scoutmaster for the group, says this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the scouts, since generally only scouts under 18 can gain rank and earn merit badges.

"Scouting is one of the biggest youth movements in the world, and this will give all of us a whole different flavor of scouting," he said.

They will be in Sweden from July 26 to Aug. 7. The group formed Troop 70005 for this trip. Since they come from all over the East Coast and they've only had a few meetings to get to know one another, the trip will be a learning experience for all.

"We're all from different troops, so we all bring different experiences, we've never all been on a trip together," Pan said. "But I think we'll be okay. I'm more worried about the daylight. We're supposed to have good weather, but we're at the time of the year where we'll only be getting about one or two hours of complete nighttime darkness. I can't sleep when it's light, I need pitch black."

FOR JAMSHEED LOVELACE, this will be his first trip in a leadership role. At 20, he's a new adult leader. He said he hopes to be a buffer between the scouts and adults.

"I've never been on a camping trip or even a hike as an adult leader, so this is a pretty extreme way to start," he said. "But I'm looking forward to being responsible for the scouts and I think I'll be able to enjoy myself even with the extra responsibility."

Lovelace remembers going on an international scouting trip to Japan in 2008.

"It was a life-changing trip, just incredible," he said. "There's nothing like traveling like that and being able to bond so quickly with people you've never met."

Troop 70005 will be blogging regularly during their 12-day trip, and the blog can be found at www.crew167.org/WSJ.



PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

Terry Buckler's dog Max, a pitbull-boxer mix, enjoying a game of fetch in the pool with a handler at Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa.

Animal Hospital Hosts 'Dog Days of Summer'

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE
THE CONNECTION

Swimming pools, frozen treats and playing ball are all parts of a traditional summer experience. But this time, it wasn't for people — it was for the dogs.

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa held their third annual "Dog Days of Summer" fundraiser and promotional event, offering free Frosty Paws treats, games of fetch and pool time for all the dogs.

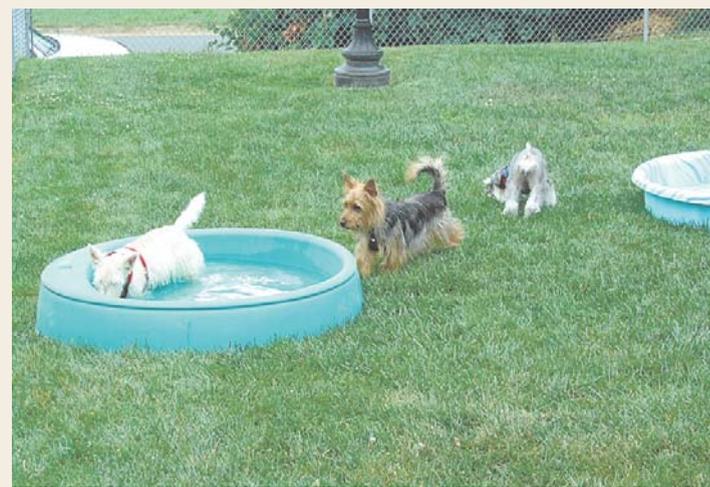
"We just like to get people out with their dogs," said general manager Heather Dallara. "It's also to thank our current clients and introduce ourselves to new ones." She added that the event was also held to support the Marshall Legacy Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the training of mine detection dogs, currently active in 10 countries across the globe according to their website.

"The event has been really successful, we get a good amount of folks coming through as the afternoon stretches on," said Dr. Patti Munizza, a veterinarian at Seneca Hill. "People get to meet us and have fun."

First-time attendee Terry Buckler enjoyed the event because the dogs get "free swimming, play-time and socialization."

"It's just really great," Buckler said, watching Max, her pitbull-boxer mix paddling after a toy in the pool.

But despite the event's focus on man's best friend, there were plenty of things of interest to their people, too. "Seneca Hill offers general medicine, dog day care, vanity fur grooming, a resort and a boutique," said Dallara. Free hot dogs and soft drinks as well as a sidewalk sale of toys, Frontline flea/tick prevention and other products were all part of the attraction.



Dogs could run free in an enclosure to play fetch and socialize.

Troup 673 Celebrates 100th Eagle Scout

Boy Scout Troup 673, sponsored by the Great Falls United Methodist Men's Group since 1962, recently honored a group of young men achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, bringing the total number of Eagle Scouts that the troop has produced to 103.

During its nearly 50 year history, Boy Scout Troop 673 has helped the Great Falls community with its biannual River Bend Road cleanups, served as color guard at the Fourth of July parade and provided assistance with parking and cleanup for the fireworks at Turner Farm Park. The scouts have also provided invaluable service to the Great Falls United Methodist Church by helping with the Annual Bazaar, church cleanups, and lending a hand to help with functions.

MATTHEW MORGAN, son of John and Valerie Morgan of Great Falls, joined the Troop in 2006 after crossing over from Cub Scout Pack 673. He has been involved in troop activities, especially hiking, camping, and service projects. He has been devoted to service; rarely missing opportunities to help with eagle projects, River Bend road cleanup or other community service projects. Matthew performed leadership as den chief in Pack 673 and as patrol leader of the first Appalachian Trail hike across Maryland.

For his Eagle Project, Matthew organized a team to upgrade the landscape of a plot of ground at Great

Falls United Methodist Church.

A senior at Langley High School, Matthew is a member of the German club and has enjoyed the exchange program with German students. His sculpture has been featured in the display cases at Langley. After high school, Matthew plans to enroll at Penn State to study Graphic Arts.

MARK PAULSON, son of Richard and Denise Paulson and the late Cindy Davis Paulson, crossed over to Troop 673 in 2006 from Cub Scout Pack 673. He has attended Boy Scout Summer camp both with Troop 673 and as a provisional camper at other area scout camps. In his trail to Eagle, Mark earned 42 merit badges, Order of the Arrow, the Japanese Interpreter Award, and the World Conservation Award. He has participated in numerous troop backpacking trips, Sea Base in 2008, and on a Philmont High Adventure backpacking trip in 2010. Mark performed leadership as Troop Scribe, Quartermaster, and as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Mark was inspired by his Eagle Scout brother, Andrew, to also earn his Eagle rank at age 16.

Mark's Eagle Project improved and helped preserve the Swamp Trail at Great Falls National Park by constructing and installing raised walkways for the trail. The walkways provide a safer route over the trail



PHOTO BY EYVY PLANTO

Back Row: Jeremy Brooks, Tyler Planto, James Waugh; Front Row: Tommy Grant, Clark Andersen, Matthew Morgan. Not pictured: Mark Paulson.

SEE BOY SCOUT, PAGE 19



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Natural Monument in Shadow of National Monuments

Film on Potomac Gorge presented in Arlington.

BY TOM McCANN
FOR THE CONNECTION

Nearly 100 people attended a screening of “The Potomac Gorge: Along the Wildest Urban River in the World” June 30 at the Worldwide headquarters of The Nature Conservancy in Arlington followed by questions-and-answers with the National Park Service, filmmakers, editors, contributors and others from the community.

Mary Travaglini, senior producer and habitat restoration manager for The Nature Conservancy, opened the screening by calling the Potomac Gorge “one of the country’s gems, with incredible biological diversity and unparalleled outdoor recreational and

educational opportunities. The Gorge is truly a natural monument in the shadow of the national monuments.”

The film explores the natural diversity of the Potomac Gorge, saying it rivals that of Yellowstone or the Everglades in Florida — and all nearby downtown Washington, D.C., and millions of tourists. The 15-mile stretch is home to more than 1,400 plant species and animals from the American shad to the bald eagle. Perhaps the most defining features are the Great Falls, named for the drop in water level of 60 feet over the course of half a mile.

Tom McEwan, one of the first to kayak the rapids of Great Falls in 1975, attended the screening and is featured in the film. He talked on screen and in person about the varied recreational opportunities including kayaking, hiking, rock climbing, walking, running and cycling.

School groups study the Gorge’s diversity in plants, insects, birds and other life that make up their

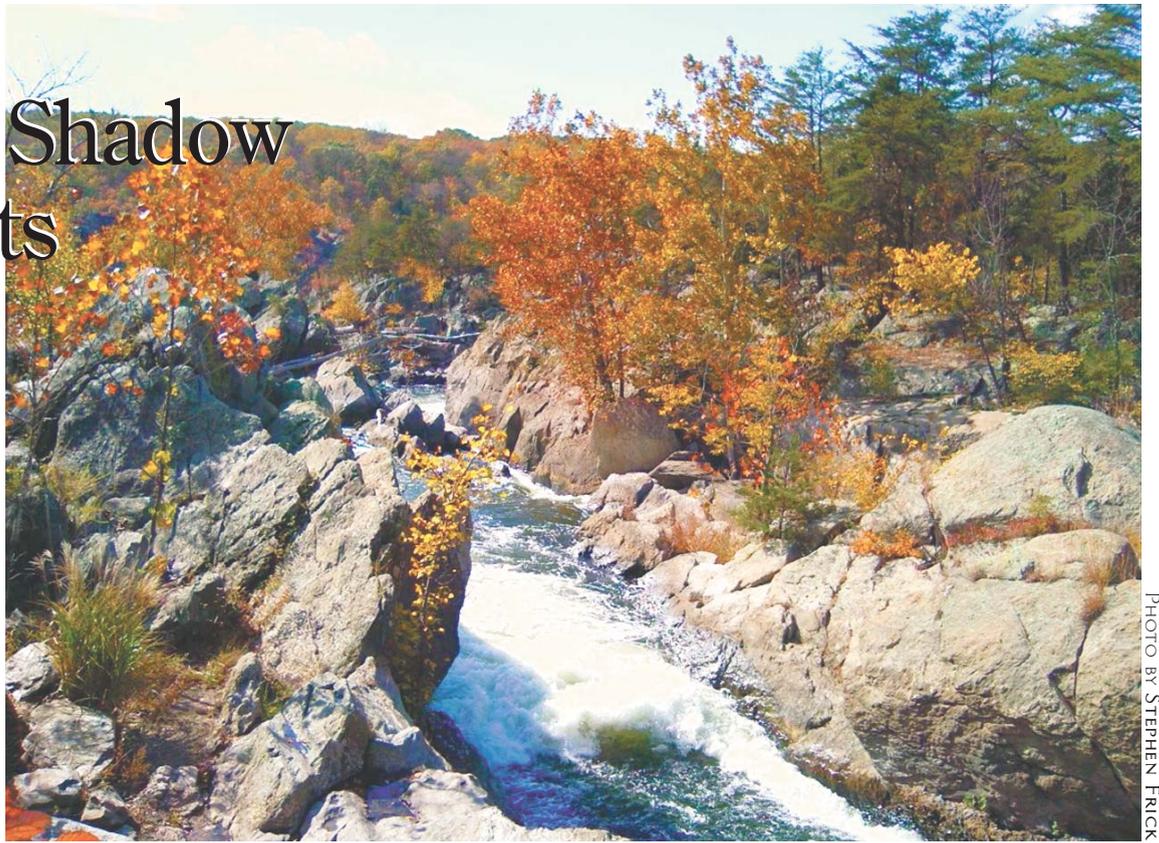


PHOTO BY STEPHEN FRICK

Fall scene at the Potomac Gorge near the Billy Goat Trail at Great Falls. The Potomac Gorge is the 15-mile river corridor from Great Falls to Georgetown, one of the most biologically rich natural areas in the Eastern United States.

“living classroom.” In all, more than 2 million people visit the Potomac Gorge each year. Stephanie Flack, Potomac project director for The Nature Conservancy, reminds viewers that the Potomac provides drinking water

to more than four million residents in the area and urges residents and visitors to better “manage, protect and value the Potomac River.”

Bear Island is one of the most biologically rich areas in the Potomac Gorge, supporting more

than 50 of Maryland’s rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species. Depending on the time of year you visit Bear Island, you might see prickly pear — the

SEE FILM, PAGE 13

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Communication Improves Quality of Life

John Monsul celebrates 600 shows of Communicating Today.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

Each episode of Communicating Today, which airs its 600th program at 8:30 p.m. on July 27 on Fairfax Public Access Channel 10, begins with several blank sheets of paper. From there, John Monsul, Great Falls resident and the program's creator, producer and host, outlines his talking points for the half-hour variety/talk show. During 22 years of producing the show, Monsul has interviewed former governors, business and community leaders, authors, charitable groups, even the King (an Elvis impersonator.)

"In television, reaching 500-plus programs is a commendable achievement; reaching 600 is superlative," said Ayme Pointer, president of the Fairfax Public Access Board of Directors. "The tenacity and initiative for a producer to drive forward over the years, pull together a successful crew, provide ongoing programming, and dedicate his hours to studio and editing time for 600 shows is a milestone few producers reach. I am grateful for Communicating Today's achievement and contributions to community television," she said.

Monsul was approached in 1989 by then-director of Channel 10, Ed Nicholas, who asked him to consider producing and hosting a show.

"Ed and I both belonged to the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. Ed asked me if I had ever heard of Channel 10. I said no. He explained how Channel 10 allows the general public to do shows. He asked me how I would like to be a TV producer. He floored me with this proposal," said Monsul.

After some thought, Monsul came up with the title and the concept for the show. The original concept behind the show was to highlight how people communicate with one another, said Monsul. "My thought was: Wouldn't it be nice if we could improve communications of the people of the world. If we can improve the communication skills of the people of the world, we can eventually improve the overall quality of life."

HIS YEARS OF INTERVIEWING a wide variety of guests has created a catalogue of stories. Monsul's first guest was Doris Ann Martin, then-district governor of Toastmasters. Martin was the ideal first guest, said Monsul, as the goal of Toastmasters meshed with Monsul's goal for his show: to improve communication.

Since that first show, Monsul has hosted former Virginia Governors Linwood Holton and George Allen, representatives of the American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

About hosting the latter group, Monsul said, "It was a great show." Monsul interviewed four recipients of the military honor. The Purple Heart is given to members of the U.S. armed forces who have been wounded in combat. Each of the recipients inter-

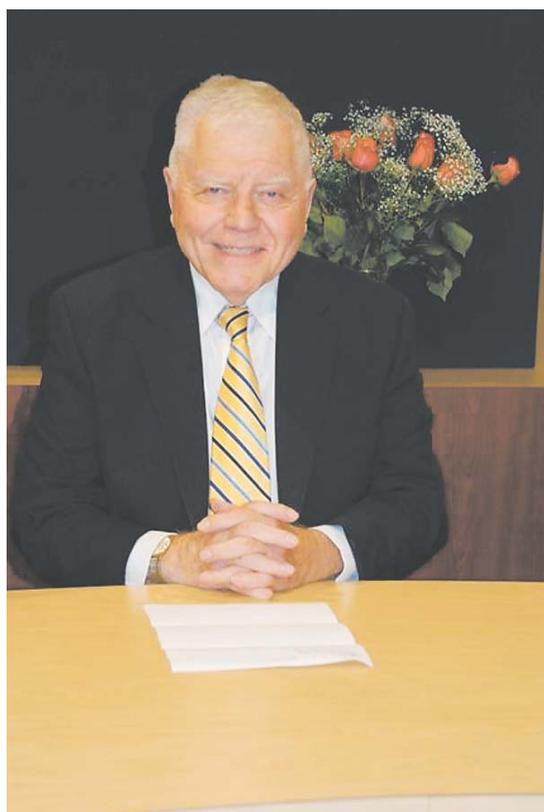


PHOTO BY AMIEE FREEMAN/THE CONNECTION

In 22 years of producing the Communicating Today show, John Monsul has interviewed former governors, business and community leaders, authors, charitable groups, even the King (an Elvis impersonator.)

viewed told about his service and how he came to earn his Purple Heart. At the close of the program, the four veterans made Monsul an honorary member of the Order of the Purple Heart.

On the lighter side he has also hosted Bingo the Clown, a magician, the Bull Run Cloggers and the Reptile Lady.

About the Reptile Lady, Monsul remembers how she brought in a boa constrictor. "Let's hold him up," she said," recalls Monsul. "It took four of us to hold this 100 pound monster."

Since retiring this past year from a career in sales and marketing for a range of major U.S. companies, Monsul says he makes sure to see all broadcasts of his show, even the re-broadcasts. He says that he is his own worst critic, seeing flaws that others would not. He calls the show a labor of love and is pleased to provide this service to the community.

For his years of public service to Fairfax County and in honor of his 600th show, Monsul and his crew have been invited to Fairfax Government Center by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 26 to receive a certification of appreciation.

MONSUL SAYS that he is "very grateful to Channel 10, Cox Communications (Channel 10's parent company), and the hundreds of folks who have helped us to achieve this goal." Also, he says that he would be "remiss if I didn't thank my wife, Dee, for her patience, support and understanding during these many years of producing Communicating Today."

Communicating Today can be found on Channel 10 on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m., with rebroadcasts on Fridays at 6:30 and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Kayla Phillips Joins Collegiate Scholars

Kayla Phillips of Great Falls has accepted membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). She will be honored during an Induction Convocation this fall on the campus of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

"NSCS is more than just a symbol of academic achievement. Membership gives students access to a number of amazing benefits including career and networking resources, scholarships, travel, and service projects both on campus and in the community," said Stephen E. Loflin, NSCS CEO and Founder.

NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the nation's only interdisciplinary honors organization for first- and second-year college students. Membership is by invitation only, based on grade point average and class



standing. NSCS has more than 750,000 lifetime members and 270 chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

For more information about The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, call 202-265-9000 or visit nscs.org

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Leslie A. Hutchings of Great Falls has graduated from Colby College of Waterville, Me. The daughter of Jeffrey and Dayna Hutchings majored in government and was named to the spring 2011 dean's list.

C. Henry A. Davis of Great Falls has graduated from Colby College of Waterville, Me. The son of Christopher and Louise Davis majored in history.

Raymond R. Rielsing IV of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Me. He is the son of Raymond and Sheila Rielsing.

Colleen Wilde of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at the University of New Hampshire of Durham, N.H.

Michael Guberman of Great Falls was named All-ISL and team MVP, and was a four-year letterwinner in baseball at The Governor's Academy in Byfield, Ma. He is the son of Judy Salerno.

Kayla C. May of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 scholastic honor roll at Oregon State University of Corvallis, Ore.

Alexandre Marro of Great Falls has been named to the spring

2011 dean's list at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy N.Y. The senior biomedical engineering major is the son of Robert and Junaidah Marro and a 2008 graduate of Langley High School.

Alison DeFranco of Great Falls was named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Skidmore College. She is a 2009 graduate of The Holton Arms School.

Victoria Roisman of Great Falls received an associate in arts degree and was named to the spring 2011 merit list at Oxford College of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. She is the daughter of Peter S. Roisman and Emily N. Roisman.

Ian Carter-Condon of Great Falls has graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a bachelor of science in general engineering, and has received a commission as a U.S. Marine Corps Second Lieutenant. Carter-Condon has been assigned to Quantico where he will continue training at the Marine Corps Basic School followed by additional training in his area of specialization. The 2007 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology is the son of Jim Condon and Nancy Carter.

Katherine Elizabeth Brown of Great Falls has received a masters of fine arts from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

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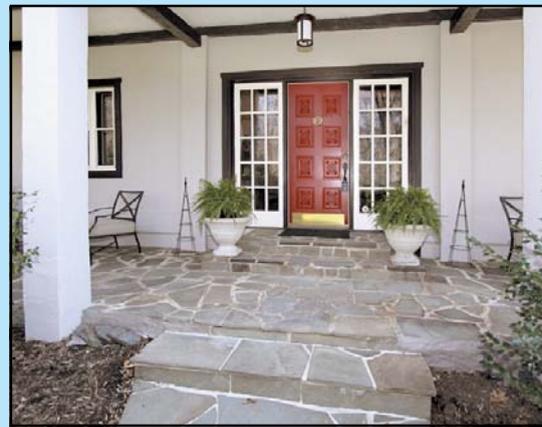
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OPINION

From the CEO

Statement of Peter C. Labovitz,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Connection Newspapers, LLC

JULY 19, 2011

For more than 20 years I have been honored to be President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connection Newspapers, which serve the people of Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. Since The Alexandria Gazette was founded in 1784, our organization's journalism has played an essential role in our communities.

But like all American newspapers, in recent years the Connection Newspapers have faced daunting technological and economic challenges. We have weathered repeated crises that killed or crippled many others in the news media. I am proud that we have kept these vital community voices alive.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when the country came to a virtual standstill, our revenues temporarily plummeted. And when the severe recession began in 2007, our revenues plunged again, often failing to cover our operating costs.

During these two periods of great financial duress, our organization filed all of our required tax returns but did not pay all of its federal payroll taxes in full. We initially fell behind after 9/11. Most of the payroll taxes in this period were paid, but some balances remained due. For several quarters in 2007-2008, we again fell short.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Connection Newspapers, I take personal responsibility for this significant failure in oversight and in the organization's management systems. I am deeply sorry this happened.

I am personally making arrangements to pay the most recent shortfalls in full. We have changed our organization's processes to ensure that nothing like this happens again. We have been current on our payroll taxes for more than three years. No employee of Connection Newspapers has suffered any financial loss whatsoever because of this.

On July 19, 2011, I pled guilty to two misdemeanor charges of failure to make timely payments of payroll taxes in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria. To our employees, our readers, our communities and local and federal governments, I apologize. I understand that newspapers are a public trust and I know our entire organization works hard every day to earn that trust. I will do all I can to sustain that trust as we go forward.

It's my privilege and responsibility to serve as steward of these historic and vital newspapers. I hope to continue in this role. I am committed to doing whatever I can to ensure the Connection Newspapers adapt to these very difficult and challenging times and continue serving our communities for years to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR A Perfect Small Town

To the Editor:

As we watched the July 4th fireworks at Turner Field, I reflected on how fortunate we are to live in our community.

Many of our 70 guests were from all over the world at our tent and they were, to a one, amazed at the fireworks, setting, and the beauty of community. The parade every year is a delight to my family and harkens back to a time when we as adults were their age. Most commented upon how friendly and welcoming everyone seemed and that Great Falls seemed to be the perfect small town.

To achieve all of this takes an incredible effort, which frequently goes unrecognized. Celebrate Great Falls does a wonderful job every year with the parade as do all the cars and groups that participate. Most unheralded would be Jeff and

Sharon Rainey, who for the second year in a row have created a must-attend event. They tirelessly make sure no detail is overlooked from the games, vendors, parking, VIP spots. Jeff graciously checked in twice during the night to make sure we are doing well and Sharon was seen helping many folks find whatever they needed.

It was a pleasure to feed the members of the Army, Navy and Marine Honor Guard who assisted everyone park. Only in Great Falls do we have Honor Guard helping us park.

As an Ambassador said to me during our party, "You are only just outside Washington, and yet you seem to be a beautiful world away." I can think of no better description.

Robb Watters
Great Falls

Maximum Flexibility

To the Editor:

In her letter to the editor [Notifying Before Questioning, McLean Connection, June 29-July 5, 2011] Louise Epstein claims that "FCPS School Board incumbent Jane Strauss voted never to require Fairfax County public schools to notify parents before their children are questioned by school officials." In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Ms. Strauss and the School Board actually strengthened the parental notification policy. Now, principals must notify parents as soon as possible once they become aware that a student has violated the student behavior code. Whether Ms. Epstein's statement is deliberately misleading or not, at the very least it shows a lack of understanding of the parental notification policy.

The Supreme Court case cited by Ms. Epstein did not address any school discipline issues. In fact, the courts have consistently supported the efforts of school administrators who work to keep schools safe for all children. The FCPS parental notification policy, as it now stands, is intended to give principals maxi-

mum flexibility in dealing with situations as they arise. If there is a medical emergency or a situation in which student safety is threatened, isn't it only reasonable to allow the administrator to address the emergency or safety issue immediately, and notify the parents as soon thereafter as possible? Ms. Epstein seems to argue that all situations should be dealt with in the same fashion, regardless of the degree of severity. That would automatically raise every stupid mistake to the level of a serious infraction: do we really want to do that to our kids?

We all want the same thing: to protect our children. The FCPS School Board voted unanimously to adopt a parental notification policy that would protect our children while at the same time allowing school administrators to act quickly in emergencies. It does all of us a disservice to spread fear and misinformation about this sensitive subject.

Sherry Wells
McLean

The writer is former Longfellow PTA President and parent of four FCPS graduates.

Debating the Bridge

To the Editor:

Few things could be more fundamental than the obvious fact that any bridge anywhere, under any circumstances, should be at least the same width as the approaching roads on either side of the bridge.

In this regard, in Great Falls, the two lanes of Beach Mill Road on either side of Nichols Run should be joined by two lanes of the prospective replacement bridge, rather than the illogical one lane bridge being propounded by some. No exception or waiver of the

regulations mandating a two-lane bridge in connection with a two-lane road should even be seriously considered.

And, of course, this principle should apply to other new and replacement bridges in Great Falls, Fairfax County, Virginia, United States, North America, Western Hemisphere, Earth, Solar System, Universe and Multiverse, if such there be.

John F. Leary
Great Falls

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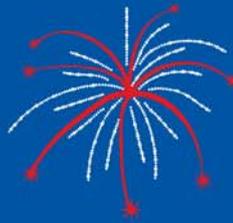
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The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Blame Sally, Cindy Lee Berryhill and Rebecca Pronsky. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Blues, ballads and rock. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 21

Larnell Starkey & the Spiritual Seven. 7 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. African-American Gospel. 703-324-SHOW.

Main Street Community Band. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Light classical pieces, marches and popular tunes. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

African Folktales. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Bright Star Theatre presents African tales that have been passed down for generations. All ages. 703-790-8088.

Murphy's Kids, Irresponsible and Mr. Dr. MC. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

Movies in the Park. 8:45 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St. N.E., Vienna. Call for film and weather information. Free admission, bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. 703-255-7842.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

Local Children's Author Judy Link Cuddehe. 10:30 a.m. Barnes and Noble Bookstore, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Oak Hill author-illustrator Cuddehe will read from her recent book about fireflies, "Flash Light!" 703-966-2175.

Artist's Reception. 7 p.m. The Artists' Atelier, 1144 Walker Road, Suite G, Great Falls. Meet visiting artists Roberta Beasley and Alicia Sommers and fourteen permanent artists. parent.terri@gmail.com.

Dance to Benefit Lymphoma Research. 7-11 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. North, Vienna. Dance lessons every half hour by Potomac Swing Dancers. Raffles, cash bar, no experience or partner necessary. Advance tickets \$25 at facebook.com/remissionriders, tickets at the door \$30. remissionriders@gmail.com.

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. A fully staged production of Stephen Sondheim's musical about



'Yellow Watermelons and Tamarillos,' by Jill Banks. The Artists' Atelier, 1144 Walker Road, Suite G in Great Falls, will hold an artist's reception for the group show 'Days of Summer' on Friday, July 22 from 7-9 p.m. Meet visiting artists Roberta Beasley and Alicia Sommers as well as the 14 permanent artists of The Atelier. parent.terri@gmail.com.

Sweeney Todd, a barber on a murderous path for revenge in London. With the National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by James Moore, and the Wolf Trap Opera Company. Tickets \$20-\$70. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Martinez & Guthrie. 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

Tropical Plants. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join a walk through the gardens to learn how to grow, propagate and over-winter tropical plants. \$5. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

Horsemanship Demo, Classes and Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Turner Farm Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Lessons for adults and children. Sponsored by The Saddlery. Portion of proceeds to benefit Turner Farm Park. pam_swinger@yahoo.com.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension answer gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Local Author Jyoti Sondhi. 2 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Sondhi discusses her book "Lighting the Lamp

Within: Illuminating the Path to Greater Spiritual Awareness." 703-790-8088.

Emmylou Harris and her Red Dirt Boys. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 24

Emma Bailey & SRO. 6 p.m. Concerts on the Green, Great Falls Village Center, Great Falls. Variety. www.gfcca.com/concerts.

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 3 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

Mindy Smith and Tiffany Thompson. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Golden Dragon Acrobats from China. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and more. Tickets \$15-\$38. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/JULY 25

Johnny Reb and Billy Yank. 2:30 p.m. Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Dr., Falls Church. Storyteller Gary Lloyd shares true tales from both sides of the Civil War. Sponsored by the Erie and John Hopkins Educational and Charitable Trust through the Fairfax Library Foundation. Age 6 and up. Free. 703-820-8774.

Miranda Cosgrove. 7 p.m. Filene Center, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. www.wolftrap.org.

Chris Barrett, Kalliko and The Ok Corral. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227

Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 26

Amy Lavere "Stranger Me" CD Release. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

Jammin' Beach Party. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Cody & Bj take you to a musical beach party with surfing, limbo, singing and dancing. 703-757-8560.

Atlas, Fight Cloud, No Blitz and Michael Butler. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

City of Fairfax Concert Band. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A pop-style concert of light classical, Broadway, jazz, film, and patriotic selections. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

Rubblebucket. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

Author Maurita Corcoran. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center. "A House Interrupted," the story of the realization that her successful physician husband was a sex addict. 703-506-2937.

The Bigger Lights, Divided By Friday and Fourth Quarter Comeback at 6 p.m., followed by **The Bigger Lights, For The Foxes and Aim For The Weekend** at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

The Folsom Prisoners. 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Author Sophia Nelson. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center. "Black Woman Redefined," an intimate look at the stereotypes, lives and images of successful black women. 703-506-2937.

Summer Lovin': A Hot Night of Cool Stories. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers, present stories for grownups about summer romance. \$10. www.bettersaidthandone.com, www.jamminjava.com or 703-255-1566.



Kelly Wynn of the Virginia Fencing Academy teaches young visitors to the Claude Moore Colonial Farm Summer Market Fair how to properly salute with a sword.



From left, Ginny Rousseau, Becky Molitor and May Ohman, "the Chicken Ladies," keep an eye on several dozen roasting chickens at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm Summer Market Fair Sunday.

Seeing Visions of 1771

Claude Moore Colonial Farm holds Summer Market Fair.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Tim, 13, and Steve Bova, 8, have been coming to the Market Fairs at Claude Moore Colonial Farm since they were babies. Their parents run the produce wagon during the events, which take place three times a year, and for the past few years the boys haven't just been observing the variety of 17th century tasks being performed all around them, they've been a part of them.

"I've been coming since I was born, and about six years ago I started selling. People started buying from me more than the other guy, who was a teenager," Tim Bova said. This year the brothers ran the bread cart, walking through the fair calling "Bread! Bread for sale!" and making quite a few sales. "The most popular this year have been the baguettes, we've had to refill twice."

When Tim Bova says "refill," he means ordering his brother Steve to fetch the requested bread for the customer. The two have developed quite the successful sales strategy. One customer July 17 asked Tim whether he preferred the baguettes or the Danish kernel bread, which is made of 17 different grains.

"I recommend both personally, but if you'd like the Danish kernel bread, more is coming as we speak," Tim Bova told the customer, as Steve hurried back to the cart with an armful of loaves. His customers bought a few loaves of each, causing Tim to thank them. "This is the most anyone's bought all day, now you're a record holder."

While Tim Bova runs the sales department, Steve says he serves as both the accounting department and security. "I do most of the adding in my head," Steve Bova said. "But I also have to carry a stick and make sure I keep annoying people away."

THE BOVAS are just two out of more than 400 volunteers who spent July 16 and 17 at the Summer Market Fair at Claude Moore.



From right, Tim Bova, 13, sends his brother Steve, 8, for another loaf of Danish kernel bread for a customer during the Claude Moore Colonial Farm Summer Market Fair last weekend. The Bovas were two of hundreds of volunteers that manned the fair throughout the weekend.

The fairs take place three times a year, and show a fully working example of how the farmers in 1771 would have existed.

"These events show a little more than just day to day existence of how farmers would live," said Anna Eberly, director of the farm. "Market Fairs were a chance for the entire community to get together, all the way from the courts to the militia. And it wouldn't be possible without our volunteers."

Eberly says the thrice-yearly events are always "maximum visitation" events. Guests walked into a small clearing filled with the smoke from the many fires required for cooking, blacksmithing and more. The first things guests saw on their right were two giant spits with several dozen chickens roasting over an open fire.

"It's not often you can smell the chickens smoking, see the blacksmith working and watch these craftsmen work as they would have almost 300 years ago," said Ed Arley of McLean. "My favorite part is that it's not all for show, you can eat the chickens, buy some metal goods or any of the other crafts available."

Visitors would watch a few shows throughout the weekend, with members of the Virginia Fencing Academy in Springfield putting on a demonstration that included teaching children how to properly salute with a sword. Academy member Kelly Wynn also demonstrated how to cut watermelons as they were thrown at her. While the watermelons missed, there was often no avoiding the spraying pulp as Wynn cut the melons in mid-air.

"I used to take fencing lessons at the Reston Community Center with Charlie Anderson, who used to perform at these fairs. When he stopped, we were asked if anybody wanted to take his place," she said. "There's a lot of misinformation about how swords were used, and we want to show what kind of use the average Colonial American would get out of their sword."

Many of the young volunteers used throughout the weekend begin coming to full-fill community service obligations and just kept coming back.

"I needed community service for school a few years ago and came with my neighbors, and I just keep coming back," said Christopher Willie, 13, of Annandale. "I'm usually the gunsmith's apprentice."

Grace Martin, 12, of Rockville, Md. came one summer with her family, saw there was an apprentice opening, and since then she's performed a variety of tasks.

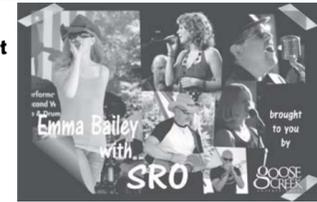
"It's pretty fun to work almost anywhere, but my favorite is the bakery," she said. "Once the fair is over, there's usually a lot left over and we can eat pretty well."

CLAUDE MOORE COLONIAL FARM still operates in much the same way it would have in 1771, when the family who lived there would attend Falls Church every Sunday, which was a four-hour walk.

The Fall Market Fair will take place Oct. 15 and 16. More information is available at www.1771.org.

Emma Bailey & Standing Room Only July 24, 2011

Concert on the Green



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College Can Wait

Some local high school graduates put off going to college for a year to pursue other opportunities.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

While most of her friends worried about whether they would get along with their freshman year college roommates last summer, Emily Hunt thought about living with a Mexican host family and attending high school classes conducted entirely in Spanish.

After graduating from McLean High School in 2010, Hunt deferred her acceptance to James Madison University for a year so she could live abroad through an exchange program sponsored by Rotary International.

"I didn't really feel ready to jump right into college life. I wanted to take some time to see more of the world and decide what I wanted to study," said Hunt, whose exchange was sponsored by the Rotary Club of McLean.

Over 10 months, she lived with three host families while she attended an extra year of high school in Aguascalientes, Mexico. She returned from Mexico in June and plans to enroll at James Madison as a freshman this fall.

Hunt said there were many tangible benefits to taking time off between high school and college, typically referred to as a gap year.

For example, she speaks fluent Spanish now and spent time with students from many different cultures. Her classmates not only included other Mexicans but also students on Rotary scholarships from Japan and other parts of the world.

"I became so much more mature over the last year. I was away from my parents for an entire year and I had to handle situations all on my own. Now I feel very confident," said Hunt.

Many students who study abroad through Rotary International go during high school but Hunt worried that credits from a foreign high school wouldn't transfer. She wanted to be able to graduate on time from McLean with the rest of her friends, so she decided to go abroad after high school and start college a year late.

"I figured whatever year I started college, I was going to be

able to make friends," she said.

MANY EUROPEAN students take a gap year to travel or do community service before starting university, though American students who take time off before college remain an exception to the rule. Fewer than one percent of incoming freshman at Virginia Tech, one of the commonwealth's largest universities, take time off between college and high school, according to the school's admissions office.

Gap years do have some high-profile advocates, including admissions officers at some of the country's most elite universities.

William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aide at Harvard College, encourages taking time off between high school and college. Between 50 and 70 students defer admission to Harvard every year and the results have been "uniformly positive" in helping teenagers avoid burn-out in college, wrote Fitzsimmons in article on the university's admissions website.

"Perhaps the best way to get the full benefit of a 'time off' is to postpone entrance to college for a year. For nearly 40 years, Harvard has recommended this option, indeed proposing it in the letter for admission," he wrote.

YET PARENTS, other students and faculty can be skeptical of the benefits of taking a gap year.

Bruce Pujanauski said he was a little skeptical of his son taking a year off between high school and college. Kevin Pujanauski won a scholarship with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange to study abroad at a high school in Germany after he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in 2007.

"We weren't really familiar with these programs. His older siblings had graduated from high school and gone directly to college. It just wasn't something we were familiar with," said Bruce Pujanauski, who lives in Oak Hill.

But Bruce Pujanauski said he couldn't think of a better experience for his son, who came back speaking and writing German fluently. Now a student at the Uni-

versity of Virginia, Kevin returned to Germany between his freshman and sophomore years of college to intern in Berlin.

"The whole experience was just fantastic for him. He got everything out of it," said Bruce Pujanauski.

Some of Kevin Pujanauski's peers were also a little confused about his plans to go to Germany.

"My friends were like 'What? Huh? You're still going to be in high school?'...It was strange for most students. At TJ, life is all about getting ahead," he said.

Yet Kevin Pujanauski grew a lot as a person during his year in Germany, where he was the only American in his high school. It allowed him to experience the freedom and responsibilities that come with living on your own before he entered college. The teenager, who had never been outside the United States before, also got to visit 10 or 11 other countries.

The trip was not only good for Kevin Pujanauski's personal growth but his professional and academic development. Kevin Pujanauski still sees the benefits of that growth when he goes on job interviews.

"I think in terms of my maturity, the benefit was two or three fold. I worked out a lot of issues that most people have to deal with when they are freshman in college," he said.

THE COST OF gap year can also be a deterrent for some families. Some gap year programs, particularly those that are structured and involve international travel, can cost as much as a year of college itself.

Camille Morrow of Alexandria said her parents told her she will have to attend a public university or college after they help pay for her gap year excursions. She plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 2012.

Morrow, who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in June, is enrolling with National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) program this fall and may be traveling to West Africa in the spring. The costs for NOLS program alone is a little under \$12,000.

"I will need to spend a lot of my free time working but I need to pay them back for some of this," said Morrow, whose parents were very supportive of her taking time off before going to college.

"I've been in school for so long. I felt like it would be nice to take



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

McLean High School graduate Emily Hunt deferred her admission to James Madison University so she could spend a gap year going to school in Mexico.

Gap Year Resources

Is your child considering taking a year off between high school and college? Here are some helpful websites and books with information on gap years.

❖ <http://www.usagapyearfairs.org> - Look for upcoming local gap year fairs during the 2011-2012 school year at this website.

❖ <http://www.gapyear.com> - General information on gap years and gap year programs

❖ "The Gap Year Advantage: Helping Your Child Benefit From Time Off Before Or During College," by Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson. This book has general tips on the gap year process.

❖ "The Complete Guide To The Gap Year: The Best Things To Do Between High School and College," by Kristin White. This book is another "tell all" on taking a gap year.

a break. I will pretty much be sleeping on the ground for three months and I am not allowed to have a cell phone," said Morrow, who will backpack, canoe and camp in the Southwest United States. "I definitely think it will be good for me to get away. I think I will come back more attuned to myself."

NOT ALL gap year plans require that a family shell out an immense amount of money for tuition.

For example, Hunt and Pujanauski are both receiving full scholarships to study abroad, which assuaged their parents' concerns about the cost of taking a gap year. Volunteer programs like Americorps — where students can assist flood, hurricane and tornado victims for example — also cover room and board for their participants.

"I think the fact that I received a full scholarship helped. I think

[the gap year] would have been a much tougher sell if I had been asking my parents to pay for it," said Kevin Pujanauski.

Some young adults also choose to work during their gap year.

Liam Malakoff is working on getting various Red Cross and wilderness first responder certifications so he is better qualified to get a job in Colorado outdoors community. A recent graduate of T.C. Williams, Malakoff would like to be a whitewater rafting, canoeing or camping guide in the western United States during his time off.

"The one rule I set for myself is that I have to do something. There is no point in taking a year off and not doing anything with it," he said.

Malakoff, who just returned from kayaking competition in Wisconsin, is also hoping to organize a whitewater kayaking race series on the East Coast.

NEWS

Kayakers challenge the rapids in the Potomac Gorge, one of the most biologically rich natural areas in the Eastern United States. The Potomac Gorge is the 15-mile river corridor from Great Falls to Georgetown.

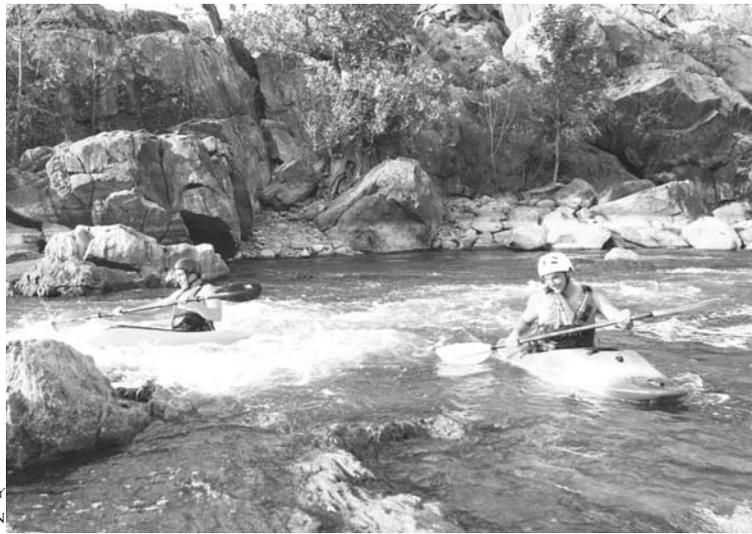


PHOTO BY ERIKA NORTEMANN

Film Spotlights Potomac Gorge

FROM PAGE 5

only cactus species in Maryland — painted turtles, the wood frog and the great blue heron. Bear Island is a 96-acre nature preserve co-owned by the Conservancy and the Park Service and is accessible by some challenging sections of the Billy Goat Trail.

The portion of the movie that focused on the Billy Goat trail prompted the first question during the question-and-answer period from one of the youngest viewers: "Are there billy goats on the Billy Goat trail?" The answer is no, but it is believed to be named

after the rough terrain in some areas of the hiking trail. Other questions sparked conversation about the decline in American shad and other species, but, overall, the positive tone of the film and the conversation focused on the treasure shared in the backyard of Washington, Virginia and Maryland.

Videographer Pat Anderson shared thoughts from his chance to fly with the Park Service in their helicopter while shooting the Gorge. He saw the environment in new ways and said the biggest challenge with all this footage is what to leave out.

The 20-minute video will soon be shown at the National Park Service visitors' centers at Great Falls, Va., and Great Falls, Md., and possibly shown at future film festivals. The film was made possible by grants from the National Park Service, the National Parks Foundation and Crystal Light. To learn more about the Potomac Gorge and efforts to protect it, visit nature.org/maryland and share your experience with the Potomac Gorge on facebook.com/dc.md.va.nature.conservancy.

Tom McCann is a writer with The Nature Conservancy




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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY VICKIE LONGOSZ



The Great Falls Rapids captured first place at the Div. 9 Relay Carnival last week.

SWIM REPORT

The Highlands Whomping Turtles improved their record to 4-0 with a 229-173 victory over Lee Graham. Double winners from Highlands were Claire Collins, Diego Cruzado, Allison Martin, and Olivia Tripodi. Highlands' single winners were Sophia Benmhend, Scott Callander, Ben Charles, Xenia de Cazotte, Hayden Evans, Colton Heuple, Chris Hylton, Kelsey Isman, Maria McGuire, Sarah Murphy, Olivia Pope, Griffin Romanek, Greer Schuman, and Zach Tripodi.

Diego Cruzado set a new team record in the boys 9-10 50 Freestyle with a time of 32.45 and Claire Collins set a team record in the 13-14 girls 50 Breaststroke with her time of 37.26.

The RiverBend StingRays remained undefeated after beating Hidden Creek Country Club, 349-160, on Saturday. Will Koeppen and Eliza Pastore each won four events while Ryan Windus and Micaela Grassi won three events each. Savie Seebald, Conor Wesolowski, Devlin Wesolowski, Tommy Rogers, Anna Phillips and Jack Hall all scored two first-place finishes. Other blue ribbon winners were: Ryan Bond, Emma Grassi, Connor Smith, Olivia McDonnell, Sabrina Slavin, Grant Youngkin, Maggie Duff and Haley Smith. The StingRays swept many events and dominated the relays, winning nine out of 12 events. The StingRays will swim to defend their Division title next week against Westwood.

The Great Falls Rapids captured first place in the NVSL Division 9 Relay Carnival with a total score of 206 points, finishing ahead of Hollin Meadows (186), Brookfield Swim Club (162), Kent Gardens (144), Arlington Forest (130) and Fairfax Club Estates (128). Great Falls took first place in 10 of the 22 relays, including: Girls 18-under Mixed Age Freestyle, Boys 8-under Medley and Freestyle, Boys 9-10 Medley and Freestyle, Girls 9-10 Medley, Boys 13-14 Medley and Freestyle, and Girls 15-18 Medley and Freestyle.

The Rapids (2-2), after winning the Div. 9 Relay Carnival earlier in the week, continued their winning streak, beating the Fairfax Club Estates Flippers (0-4) by a score of 221-181 last Saturday. Double first place winners included Julia Bullock, Eric Eichler, Will Kemmerer, Ana Mulligan and Marina Smith. Single first place winners included Carolyn Amano-Dolan, Mary Liz Elliott, Joseph Fallon, Megan Jungers, Annie Kemmerer, William Long, John Mulligan, Stephen



PHOTO BY RITA ROY

The RiverBend 13-14 Boys celebrate one of their recent victories. From left to right: Carter Bennett, Matthew Dungan, Andrew Kvasnicka, Conor Wesolowski, Grant Youngkin, Thomas Windus and Tommy Rogers.

Thorsen, Thora Toloczko and Max Wingo.

Two weeks ago, Great Falls won its first meet of the season, beating Kent Gardens (1-2) by a score of 212-190 on July 9. Double first place winners for Great Falls included Julia Bullock, Will Kemmerer, Ana Mulligan, Marina Smith, Max Wingo and Alexandra Zeidan. Single first place winners included Eric Eichler, Stephen Eichler, Mary Liz Elliott, Megan Jungers, Tyler Lentine, William Long, Charlotte Smith, Sophie Smith, Annie Thomas and Joseph Thomas.

The Langley Wildthings swam in a Div. 4 meet against Dunn Loring on Saturday, but lost the hard-fought competition to the Dolphins, 217 to 185. Double event winners for Langley were Jinwon Bailar, Jack Hoeymans, Meghan Overend, Elena Shklyar and Vincent Watson. Single event winners were Alexandra Cramer, Callan Cramer, Nathan Johnson, Jack Reilly, Katie Robinson, Benjamin Scott and Audrey Wallach. Three Langley records were broken: Overend in the girls 15-18 fly (30.46); the girls' 11-12 relay of Elena Shklyar, Emily Wallach, Tatiana Bennett and Maggie Bellaschi (1:08.64); and the boys 13-14 relay of Nathan Johnson, Callan Cramer, Jinwon Bailar and Sammy Bennett (59.89), breaking a 44-year old record.



PHOTO COURTESY/GREAT FALLS SHARKS

The Great Falls Sharks 13-under girls' fast pitch softball team, left to right: Morgan Wittrock, Molly Viar, Kerry Bush, Lauren Simons, and Caroline Potteiger. Second row: Coach John Bush, head coach Neal Falkenberry, Eleanor Chinn, Maggie Natal, Jillian Carr, Nicole Verdin, Haley Falkenberry, and coach Greg Potteiger.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Great Falls Sharks 13U Fastpitch Softball team competed in the Montreal Fastpitch Challenge June 30 through July 3. The Sharks, who won first place in their bracket, competed against teams from Montreal, Toronto, Quebec, and the eastern United States en route to winning the 18th rendition of the annual international event. The Sharks were the only team from the Washington, D.C., area to compete in the tournament.

During pool play, the Sharks went 3-3, facing the highest-ranked teams in the tournament. By relying on great pitching by Haley Falkenberry, Kerry Bush, and Caroline Potteiger, and superb infield defense by Eleanor Chinn, Maggie Natal, and Molly Viar, the team of only 10 players battled through heat and illness struggles that kept the roster at a maximum of nine most of the tournament.

Pool play featured a dramatic 1-0 victory over the NY Lady Bombers — the team that ultimately won the other division in the competition. The Sharks' outfielders — Jillian Carr, Morgan Wittrock, Lauren Simons, and Nicole Verdin — made come clutch plays and catches to hold the opposition at bay during the series of games. The Sharks' bats came alive during the single elimination playoff day when they won three straight games to claim the Cup division championship. The championship run was highlighted by an 18-2 win in the final game.

“Softball in the D.C. area is

very competitive and really prepares a team for competing on a national or international level,” said Mike Sharkey, President of the Great Falls Sharks organization. “We are proud of what the 13U Sharks were able to accomplish in Montreal.”

The Great Falls Sharks Fastpitch Softball program provides girls ages 10 to 16 a bridge of competitive travel softball. The program will include the following teams this fall: 16U, 14U, 13U, and 12U. This growing program seeks additional players at all age levels. Tryouts will be held in early August. Interested parties should visit the Great Falls Sharks website at www.gfsharks.org.

McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Fall 2011 Registration has begun on MYS' web site at www.mcleansoccer.org for all returning and new families. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4 thru 18, including Recreation, Travel, McLean Premier Soccer, Travel, U5 for Pre-K players, and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin the week of Sept. 12 and extend through mid-November. Register no later than July 31 to take advantage of the early discounted registration fees. Visit the website for Summer Camp information. For more information or questions, contact the MYS Club Administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org or call the MYS Office 703-506-8068.

NEWS

Photography Show at The Tavern at Great Falls

Dee Leggett, a Great Falls photographer and member of Great Falls Studios, has just opened a new photography display at The Tavern at Great Falls — “Colors of Nature and More.” The exhibit runs through July and August 2011. Leggett has been capturing the beauty and power of nature in her photos for over 10 years. The Tavern is located at 9835 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls and is open every day from 11 a.m. –9 p.m. or later.



The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, the Virginia state insect, is a frequent spring and summer visitor to Great Falls yards. This photo is on display at The Tavern during July and August.

Patriotic Photographs at Katie's Coffeehouse

‘Sweet Liberty,’ a collection of patriotic photographs by Terri Parent, is on display through July 30 at Katie's Coffeehouse in Great Falls. This picture of the Statue of Liberty is titled ‘Her Majesty.’



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 1334 Grant St.....\$524,999..Sun 1-4.....Ariana Gillette.....RS1..703-655-8415
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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

HOME SALES

In June 2011, 28 Great Falls homes sold between \$3,800,000-\$350,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City....	Sold Price ..	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
540 INNSBRUCK AVE	5	6	1	GREAT FALLS	\$3,800,000	Detached	6.17	INNSBRUCK
10900 SHALLOW CREEK DR	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,550,000	Detached	1.04	ESTATES AT LONGWOOD
447 WALKER RD	5	4	3	GREAT FALLS	\$1,410,000	Detached	1.00	FORESTVILLE
268 GOLDEN WOODS CT	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,370,000	Detached	5.00	MAYNOR ESTATES
10907 BEACH MILL RD	6	6	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,300,000	Detached	5.00	GARNIER MILL ESTATES
10941 WOODLAND FALLS DR	5	5	0	GREAT FALLS	\$1,250,000	Detached	1.74	WOODLAND FALLS
904 GOLDEN ARROW ST	5	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,212,500	Detached	5.18	OLIVER ESTATES
10002 THOMPSON RIDGE CT	5	5	0	GREAT FALLS	\$1,200,000	Detached	2.00	HICKORY CREEK ESTATES
822 GOLDEN ARROW ST	5	4	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.55	OLIVER ESTATES
11102 FARM RD	6	6	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,150,000	Detached	2.06	FORESTVILLE FARMS
10121 CAPTAIN HICKORY PL	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,100,000	Detached	1.22	HICKORY CREEK
10808 LOCKMEADE CT	5	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,010,000	Detached	0.91	LOCKMAR
710 SENECA RD	5	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$950,000	Detached	1.91	SENECA RIDGE
1094 FAIRBANK ST	4	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$948,000	Detached	1.18	MILL RUN ACRES
904 HOLLY CREEK DR	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$905,000	Detached	0.53	HOLLY KNOLL
9505 BRIAN JAC LN	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$861,000	Detached	0.92	SADDLEBROOK ESTATES
9514 NEUSE WAY	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$815,000	Detached	0.92	RIVERSIDE MANOR
1116 TROTTLING HORSE LN	5	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$800,000	Detached	0.63	LOCUST HILL
10108 SANDERS CT	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$737,500	Detached	0.98	HICKORY CREEK
980 LEIGH MILL RD	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$700,000	Detached	3.96	NONE
10409 ARTEMEL LN	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$680,000	Detached	0.48	LEXINGTON ESTATES
1011 CUP LEAF HOLLY CT	5	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$677,500	Detached	0.50	HOLLY KNOLL
10423 ARTEMEL LN	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$675,000	Detached	0.70	LEXINGTON ESTATES
12100 HOLLY KNOLL CIR	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$665,000	Detached	0.55	HOLLY KNOLL
10005 COLUMBINE ST	5	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$650,000	Detached	0.51	OLIVER ESTATES
9503 LOCUST HILL DR	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$650,000	Detached	0.46	LOCUST HILL
10609 GOOD SPRING AVE	3	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$355,000	Detached	0.53	SPRINGWOOD
10200 MCKEAN CT	3	2	0	GREAT FALLS	\$350,000	Detached	0.23	GREAT FALLS FOREST

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Communication in Today's World

Great Falls Elementary hosts disability technology session.

It all started with an 8-year-old's question her mother couldn't answer: "What would it be like if Helen Keller lived today?"

Madeleine Steppel, along with all of the second grade students at Great Falls Elementary School, had been learning about Helen Keller in preparation for the third grade Virginia Standards of Learning exam in Social Studies. They learned that Helen Keller became blind and deaf after enduring scarlet fever when she was 18 months old. Her teacher, Annie Sullivan, taught her sign language, and Helen Keller became an accomplished author, world traveler, and advocate for people with disabilities. Even after Madeleine read an additional biography of Helen Keller from the library to supplement what she had learned in school, she still wanted to know more.

Madeleine's mother, Debra Steppel, wanted to help her daughter find out how people who are blind and deaf use technology nowadays to live their daily lives. She contacted the ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia, based in Arlington, and worked with Madeleine's teacher Nancy



PHOTO BY DEBRA STEPPEL

Christina Todd (ASL Interpreter), Doris Ray, and Doreen Solar sharing their insights with 80 second graders at Great Falls Elementary School June 20.

Wong, to arrange for Doreen Solar, who has been deaf since her birth to two deaf parents, and Doris Ray, who has keyhole blindness and uses 2 hearing aids, to come to Great Falls Elementary School on Monday June 20 to answer Madeleine's question and share their knowledge and experience with all 3 GFES second grade classes.

When the inquisitive students asked about how deaf and blind people communicate, ASL Interpreter Christina Todd and Doris Ray demonstrated how the deaf and blind person puts both hands around the other person's hands so they can feel the hand signs. The students learned appropriate language and behavior when interacting with people who have

disabilities, and they saw that people with disabilities can have families and any type of career they choose. Solar showed a presentation about different adaptive technologies used by people who are deaf and blind. Ray explained how she uses her cellphone to "read" newspaper articles using the technology on their website that plays the audio of the text of each article.

Madeleine Steppel's question was finally answered, and the entire second grade at Great Falls Elementary School learned from the life experiences of two very interesting people.

More information about the ENDependence Center is at <http://ecnv.org>.

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Grand View Estates - 216 Fairground Rd. - Woodstock, VA 22662
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Need To Tell



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Then there are those people who definitely should know about your (mine actually) health status – and whom you want to tell, and tell in an extremely timely and considerate manner. People whose friendship you value, whose counsel you seek, whose understanding and support you need, and whose care and concern you cherish. People in your inner circle who are happy to surround you with open arms and warm embraces – literally and figuratively. These are typically the first people on the list to be told anything, especially things pertaining to your health, given the terminal nature of the original diagnosis (I wouldn't tell them if I had a hang nail, but I might tell them if I had a bloody nose; an occasional side effect of the chemotherapy drug, Avastin, with which I am still infused monthly).

But neglecting to tell them, as innocently and as inadvertently as it may sometimes be, causes its own unique set of problems/anxieties. Since these individuals know most of the details of my original prognosis, they're particularly sensitive to not hearing from me regularly, not receiving prompt call backs and not being kept in the loop. Not so much daily, but frequently enough so that the status of your life is not left to any kind of chance and/or random update/encounter. They want to know, and have a right to know – given the depth and history of their respective relationship with you, so my being casual about what tests I'm having, what results I'm waiting for, what appointments I'm scheduling, etc., may suit my laissez-faire-type approach, but might not suit their respective – and worried – personalities.

All of which doesn't bother me in the least. It matters to me. In fact, it empowers me. However, sometimes it humors me less than others. Sometimes, I don't want to update anybody about anything. Sometimes, I want to mind my own business – literally, and not involve anybody in any of it. Though I respect and appreciate everybody's concern, sometimes I want to make as little as possible about what I'm going through in an attempt to prevent the cancer from consuming my life and freaking me out. And not talking about it, not assessing it in multiple conversations – soon after receiving results, via phone calls, texts, e-mails is almost therapeutic: the less said about it, the better (although I realize one likely has very little to do with the other.) It is my effort, amateurish though it may be, to employ a variety of mind games to manage my emotions and control the spread of my cancer.

It's a real-life version of George Costanza's advice to Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a Lie Detector test: "It's not a lie, if you believe it." I guess I too am sort of pretending – with conviction, though. If I don't act like my health situation is serious, maybe it won't be serious. And regularly, constantly, communicating with my closest friends and family members – as if something is really wrong with me, might have a harmful effect on me, and since I've already been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, I'm hoping that what I don't tell you – as quickly as you want – and deserve – to hear it, won't hurt me.

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

Boy Scout Beautify Great Falls

FROM PAGE 4

and helps preserve the plant life adjacent to the trail.

Mark is a junior at Langley High School and has been active in the Langley Choral groups.

JEREMY BROOKS, son of Jonathan Brooks of Great Falls and Beth Brooks of Reston, crossed over into Boy Scout Troop 673 in 2006. He has been active in outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, biking and service projects. Some of his favorite troop activities include the annual Old Rag Hiking trip and the 185-mile C & O Canal bike ride from Cumberland, Md. to Washington, D.C. Jeremy played a leadership role as a Patrol Leader and Quartermaster.

Jeremy's Eagle project involved organizing and leading a team of scouts, friends, and family to restore the tadpole pond at River Bend Park. A senior at Langley High School, Jeremy was active with the Crew team for two years, and has pursued his interest in Culinary Arts through the Marshal High School Academy program. Jeremy earned an American Red Cross Life Guard certificate in 2009 and has worked as a Life Guard for Reston Association for two summers. Jeremy has also pursued an interest in road biking and has joined the Potomac Peddlers club for day rides through the Virginia countryside. After High School, Jeremy plans to hike the Appalachian Trail and earn a degree in the Culinary Arts.

JAMES WAUGH, son of Bill and Nancy Waugh of Great Falls, began scouting in 2000 as a Cub Scout in Pack 673 and crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 673 in 2004. Since joining the troop, James has participated in numerous troop outings including backpacking trips, ski trips, summer camps, and troop service projects. He has twice completed the C&O Canal Bike Hike, riding all 185 miles of the canal towpath over a 5-day trip. James also completed the Triple Crown of High Adventure trips: Sea Base in 2007, Northern Tier in 2008, and Philmont in 2010. James has served in various leadership positions in the troop including Patrol leader, Troop Guide, Scribe, Librarian, and Co-Crew Chief on his Philmont trek.

For his Eagle Project, James supervised a crew of scouts and friends in blazing a new trail at Riverbend Park to provide access to the Park's meadow for horse riders and bird

watchers.

James has the honor of being the 100th Eagle Scout in Troop 673, joining a list of Eagle Scouts which includes his older brothers Matthew and Mark.

James is a senior at Langley High School. He plays tuba in the Langley Wind Symphony band, is a member of the Langley Bridge Club and Chess Club, and has participated in Crew for three years. James plans to attend James Madison University in the fall.

CLARK ANDERSEN, son of Claude Andersen and Carrie Clark of Great Falls, joined Troop 673 in 2004, after earning the rank of Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout in Pack 673. Since joining the troop, Clark has been Patrol Leader four times, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader.

Clark has completed many rigorous, high adventure trips during his time in Troop 673. He has completed the 185 mile bike trip down the C&O Canal Towpath twice and participated in the Triple Crown of High Adventure trips: Sea Base in 2007, Northern Tier in 2008 and Philmont in 2010. Clark earned the special religious award, Ad Altari Dei, in 2006. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2008, completing both his Ordeal and Brotherhood levels.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Clark helped SeeCareDo, a non-profit organization, in the creation of a game to record and map good deeds done in honor of the men and women who serve or have served in our country's military services. His objective was to establish a beta test for the game. Working closely with the organization leaders and the scouts and parents of Troop 673, Clark was able to help them develop the rules of the game and test the computer program for recording and mapping these dedicated "good deeds."

A senior at Langley, Clark has been on the lacrosse team since freshman year and has won two consecutive Virginia State Championships. Outside of school, Clark has achieved the level of First Degree First Stripe Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. Clark plans to attend Christopher Newport University this coming fall and pursue a career in federal law enforcement.

TYLER PLANTO, son of Col. Evin and Lynette Planto of Vienna, moved to Virginia in 2003 after his father was deployed to Iraq

for operation Iraqi Freedom. Joining the troop after the invitation of a friend, Tyler has achieved his Triple Crown award by attending Sea Base in 2007, Northern Tier in 2008, and Philmont in 2010. He has held numerous leadership positions in the troop including Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Co-Crew Chief for his Philmont trek, Bugler, and Chaplain's Aide.

For his Eagle Project, Tyler led a team of scouts and adults to build a bridge at Riverbend Park. The project required detailed drawings and acquisition of the materials for construction. Now hikers and bikers can traverse the bridge with ease without having to break their stride.

Tyler, a senior at Langley High School, balances school, varsity football, and model United Nations; plays trombone in the Langley Wind Symphony band; and has participated as a German exchange student. Tyler will be attending Dickinson College in the fall where he will play football and be enrolled in the Army ROTC program. He credits his inspiration for serving his country by observing and respecting the 30-year army career of his father. Tyler intends to stay connected with scouting and hopes to have some experiences as an assistant scoutmaster in his future.

TOMMY GRANT, son of Thomas Grant and Susan Case-Grant of Great Falls, joined Troop 673 in 2006 after crossing over from Cub Scout Pack 673. He has participated in numerous troop backpacking trips and summer camps as well as BSA High Adventure trips to Sea Base in 2009 and Philmont in 2010. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2008 and has earned 23 merit badges including the Boy Scout Centennial Merit Badge for Pathfinding. Tommy Grant has served in various leadership positions including Den Chief, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Guide. Tommy earned his Eagle rank in May 2011 at the age of 15. He is looking forward to the opportunity to continue in Scouting as an Eagle Scout and serving as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 673.

Tommy's Eagle Project refurbished the Great Falls United Methodist Church's picnic area that is used by church members and students attending the preschool.

Tommy is a sophomore at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. and has been a member of The Heights School baseball and soccer teams, the boxing club, and mock United Nations Club. He has a keen interest in aviation and military history.

send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/JULY 13

Pauline Shirley Toastmasters Club

Meeting. 6:45 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. 703-893-5506 or paulineshirley.freetoasthost.info.

FRIDAY/JULY 15

LifeLine Screening. American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Stroke, bone density and osteoporosis screenings. Package prices from \$139. Appointments required. Reserve at 877-237-1287 or

To have community events listed in the Connection, Deadline is Friday.

www.lifelinescreening.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Avoiding Divorce Court I- How to Negotiate or Mediate a Property Settlement Agreement

Agreement. 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., NE, Vienna. A comparison of mediation and negotiation, strategies and pitfalls to avoid and a general discussion of the issues commonly addressed in an Agreement, from property to support to custody. \$45 non-members, \$35 members; \$85 non-member couples, \$60 member couples. Register at

www.thewomenscenter.org

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Personal Finance in Turbulent Times. 7

p.m. Edelman Financial Services LLC Headquarters, 4000 Legato Road, 9th Floor, Fairfax. Discover 9 reasons you need to plan, 5 obstacles you'll face, 5 steps that will help put you on the road to financial success, and 4 rules you should follow for managing your investments. \$35 non-members, \$25 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org.



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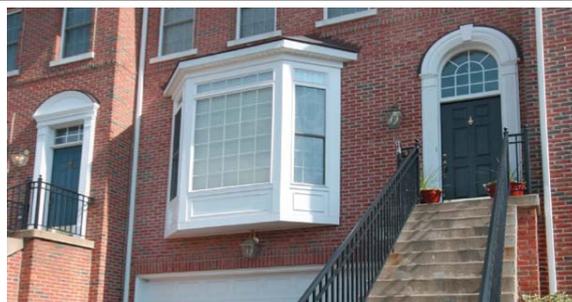
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