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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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Hendrix Keeps Bruins Undefeated

SPORTS, PAGE 18

Lake Braddock freshman Amanda Hendrix earned a complete game victory against South County on April 17 in Burke. Hendrix has filled in for injured starting pitcher Ashley Flesch.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Kim Hyman, Kelly Lloyd, Catherine Syron, Kathy Cook - the Breakfast Brigade.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Catherine Syron the walker, and Don Stroberg, Clearwire Senior VP, Strategic Partnerships & Wholesale.

Team Sisters Walks for a Cause

Syron sisters, Catherine of Burke and Judy of England, raise funds for Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Considering that they live some 3568 miles apart, the Syron sisters, Catherine and Judy, remain close. Born only 15 months apart, they were raised in the North of England, moved with their family to Brussels, Belgium as teenagers, and later even shared accommodations for a few years before Catherine moved to the US, where she now lives in Burke. Sadly, they share more than just a happy childhood and continuing friendship. Catherine and Judy also share the BRCA-2 Breast Cancer gene.

Judy, who resides in East Boldon, South Tyneside, in the UK, is a seven year survivor, but even though they lost both their father and their aunt to cancer, the sisters did not know they shared the hereditary gene until Catherine was diagnosed with breast cancer and her medical team at the Breast Health Center at the Virginia Hospital Center made the discovery. With an 80 percent chance of recurrence, the sisters made the decision to undergo preventative

mastectomies on the healthy breasts, as well as to remove their ovaries and receive both chemo and radiation therapy. Catherine insists it was “an easy decision. I have a lot to live for,” including her husband, 11-year-old son and 17-year-old stepdaughter.

NOW THE SISTERS have decided to share yet another important time in their lives. They registered for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer as Team Sisters Across the Pond. “We want to raise funds and awareness, to make sure others have access to the amazing support and treatment we had. And to find a cure before my son has to worry, since the gene exhibits as early prostate and colon cancer in men,” said Catherine. The 39-mile walk takes place in the D.C. area on May 5 and 6. In order to participate, each walker must raise \$1800. With less than a month to go and not yet at their goal, Catherine pulled out the stops and got some fundraising help.

Fortunately, she works for a company that was more than willing to support her efforts. As part of their commitment to community, Clearwire enthusiastically agreed to

host a Fundraiser Breakfast on April 12, at the company’s Herndon location, providing the food and beverages. Clearwire is a pioneer in 4G and the builder of the first 4G network in the country. The volunteer Breakfast Brigade consisted of Kim Hyman, Asst. Executive, Wholesale Team and Building Cheerleader, Dave Nance, Technology Development Engineer, Kelly Lloyd, Director of Technology Development, Chuck Gunter, Lab Implementation Engineer, Kathy Cook, Facilities Specialist, and Priya Menon, Supplier Business Manager.

TOGETHER they flipped pancakes, scrambled eggs, grilled sausages, kept the beverages flowing, collected the \$10 per plate toward the \$3600 needed for the sisters to participate in the walk and then cleaned it all up when the event was over. A steady stream of employees supported the cause and enjoyed the breakfast, and Catherine has since reported that an additional \$965 was raised.

While they continue to fundraise, Catherine and Judy will also be training for the walk. Catherine says they have both al-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Judy Syron

ways been walkers. “I continued to walk all during my chemo and radiation and did the Komen 1 day walk the day after my treatment ended. Judy walks and runs every weekend and even does a half marathon every year. I think we are ready.” Catherine has also just completed certification as a yoga instructor and hopes to provide yoga classes for people with cancer as a way to improve their general physical and mental health and to cope with the stress of their illness. It sounds like the Syron sisters are ready to take sharing to an even more positive place.

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Alarm Over Shelters' Fire Code

Fairfax County officials respond to concerns about fire code violations at local shelters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Spring fever hit the region early this year. Last week's record-high temperatures had residents flocking outdoors to play, bike, jog and picnic.

With the promise of more summery weather this weekend, it may seem like an odd time to be concerned about freezing temperatures and hypothermia.

But on Friday, April 13, Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) sent an email to leaders in the faith community inviting them to a hypothermia prevention information session on Sunday, April 22.

According to county officials, the session is an attempt to quell concerns and rumors raised by some church leaders that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter because of fire code violations.

On Tuesday, county officials stressed their longstanding support of Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, and promised to work with each house of worship to address concerns about code violations.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in the email announcing Sunday's session. "I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program. "Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Bulova said that currently four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire codes, not 18.

"We'll find out at the meeting on the 22nd exactly what is being suggested and what kind of costs it would/could entail. The county's fire marshal is concerned that – even with the best of intentions – space where the homeless are sleeping shouldn't be a place where they are trapped and unable to exit in case of a fire," Bulova said.

More than 1,000 residents seek shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program each year. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

"The Hypothermia Program is unique," Bulova said. "It is a true partnership between the faith communi-

Fast Facts about Hypothermia Prevention Program

❖ During the 2010-2011 winter season, approximately 1,025 residents sought shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, in partnership with other agencies.

❖ During the 2011-2012 winter season, partners opened their shelters to "no turn-away" status on Nov. 1, even if the weather was not at freezing temperatures.

❖ FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention Season is Nov. 21 through March 17. FACETS served more than 219 clients last season.

❖ Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOA) Baileys Crossroad's Hypothermia Program served more than 442 clients last season and an additional 84 clients in their other winter seasonal programs for a total of 526 clients.

❖ Reston Interfaith's Embury Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) operates three separate winter programs. The ERCS Winter North County Program and winter seasonal programs served over 298 clients last season.

❖ The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing free flu shots during Hypothermia Prevention season.

For more information on Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/partnership-highlights-hyposeason2011-12.htm>

ties in Fairfax County and county government."

She said that many of the county's churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months.

"County agencies such as the Community Services Board, the Police Department, and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness partner to make the program successful," Bulova said.

"Our shared goal is to prevent deaths, and people who are homeless deserve both shelter from the elements and a safe place to stay. Fire and building codes don't discriminate, and they are intended to protect everyone," said county spokesman Merni Fitzgerald.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have en-

countered the similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions.

"The hypothermia program is one of the really good things we have in the county, both because it helps those in need and it's a great example of businesses, non-profits and the faith community working together," Cook said.

"We are deeply grateful to the faith community and nonprofits that partner with us in the fight against homelessness. They have given their own time, facilities and resources during the past seven years, preventing deaths from hypothermia, providing case management to hundreds of clients, and moving individuals into permanent housing," Fitzgerald said.

"The Hypothermia Program is unique. It is a true partnership between the faith communities in Fairfax County and county government."

— Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(From left) are Hollow Trunk board members Shriram Sundararaman, TJ; Shannon Parker, Fairfax High; Sarah Haug, Westfield High; Priya Khanna, Westfield; Christina Kim, Fairfax; Wills Johnston, TJ; Diana Saffarini, Chantilly High; Miles Ransom, Chantilly; Noor Siddiqui, Robinson Secondary; and Maddie Welch, Chantilly.

Raising Money to Educate Children

Project LIFE 2K/5K is Sunday, April 22.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Priya Khanna is still in high school, but she's the chairman and CEO of a nonprofit organization, The Hollow Trunk. Comprising students from Westfield, Chantilly, Fairfax and Thomas Jefferson high schools, plus Robinson Secondary, it raises money for worthy causes.

The Hollow Trunk is currently raising funds to educate poor children in India. So this Sunday, April 22, at 8 a.m., it's holding a 2K/5K Fun Run/Walk, outside the Cub Run Rec Center. Cost is \$25 for the 5K; \$20 for the 2K. Walkers are welcome in both events; registration information is at www.thehollowtrunk.com. Race-day registration begins at 7:45 a.m.

The USATF-certified course starts in the rec center's parking lot, goes down Stonecroft Boulevard, loops around Conference Center Drive and returns on Stonecroft to the start. The top three male and female finishers will receive gift cards donated by local merchants and restaurants. All participants will get commemorative T-shirts.

The Hollow Trunk was established in 2009 and, since then, has donated almost \$2,000 to the Alzheimer's Association, more than \$4,000 to the Red Cross' Haitian Relief Efforts,

nearly \$1,000 to INOVA Fairfax Children's Hospital and about \$1,000 to CrisisLink, a suicide-prevention and awareness organization.

The Hollow Trunk is also helping educate a young girl in Afghanistan. "We selected her through an application process," said Khanna, a Westfield senior. "We bought her a laptop and are funding four years of online education for her."

In April 2011, The Hollow Trunk launched Project LIFE (Leading Initiatives to Foster Education) to help improve educational and recreational facilities for children throughout the world.

The first Project LIFE fundraiser was last year's 2K/5K, and it yielded more than \$2,000 for the Casa Guatemala Orphanage for structural renovations and to furnish teaching and recreational supplies. This year's beneficiary will be the Social Outreach Foundation (SOF), a school that provides primary education for underprivileged children in India.

She's hoping lots of people register for the race or donate to The Hollow Trunk. "Our goal is to raise \$5,000," said Khanna.

Those unable to participate, but wanting to contribute to the project, may make tax-deductible donations. Send checks payable to The Hollow Trunk to 5428 Chandley Farm Circle, Centreville, VA 20120.

For more information about The Hollow Trunk or to become a Project LIFE sponsor, go to www.thehollowtrunk.com or email thehollowtrunk@gmail.com.

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PHOTO BY JESSICA MCKAY

Washington Nationals Come to Greenspring

National Holiday at Greenspring: The three foam-headed Washington Nationals Racing Presidents - Tom, Teddy, and George - entertained residents and their guests at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield on Wednesday, April 11. The visit was their last appearance before the highly-anticipated 2012 Nationals Home Opener on April 12, when the team took on the Cincinnati Reds and won 3-2 in extra innings. The Presidents participated in several races at the community (Teddy never wins) and took photos with residents and their guests. Some lucky guests even won four opening-day tickets.

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David McCracken of Oak Hill hands out literature to passengers debarking from the Springfield/Franconia Metro.

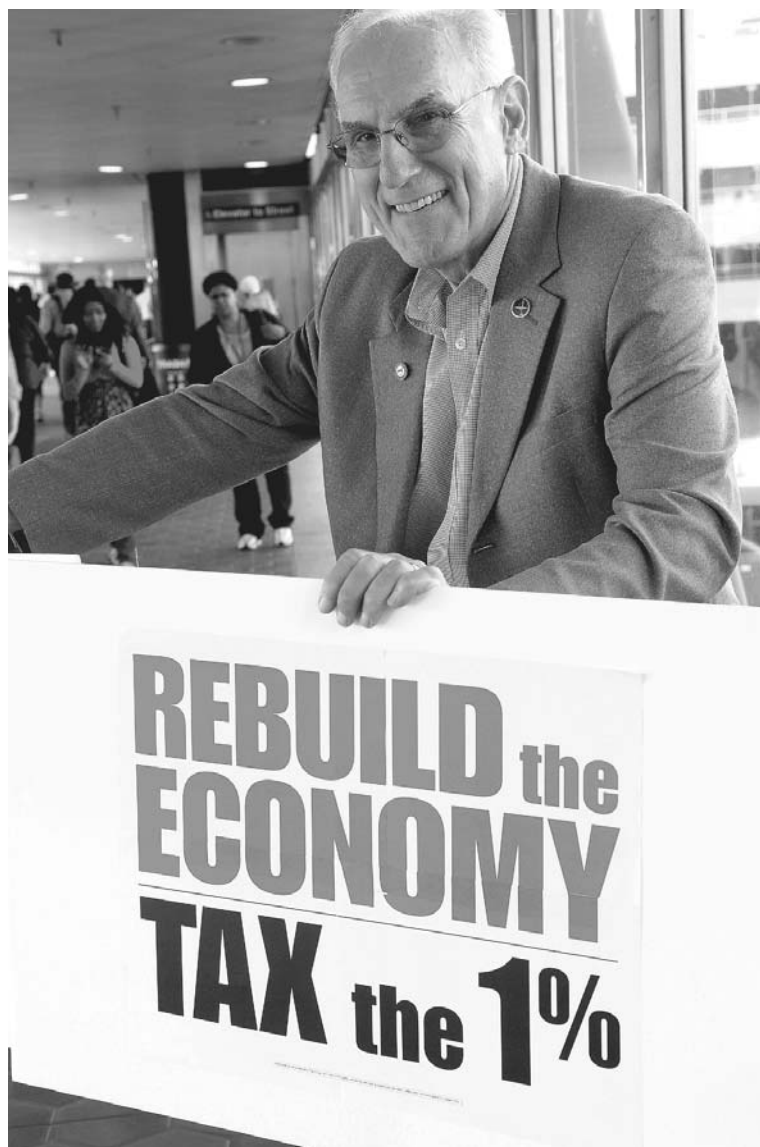


PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

A Tax Day Protest at Springfield Metro

Half dozen Northern Virginia activists handed out literature to riders on the Springfield Metro on Tax Day, April 17. The activists, part of the Northern Virginia MoveOn joined the National MoveOn and its allies in a countrywide day of grass roots action "Tax The 1%." The protesters are asking for fairness, that Congress reform the system that allows the 1 percent and corporations to pay at a tax rate less than the 99 percent of the American taxpayers. For more information visit www.MoveOnFairfax.org

West Springfield resident Peter Campbell holds signs and hands out literature at the Springfield Metro on Tuesday afternoon. Campbell, a retired psychiatrist acknowledges that he is in the 1 percent of the population which pay at a far lower tax rate than the other 99 percent of the population and would be happy to pay more if the tax law is changed.



Burke Man Charged With Filming Long-Term Sexual Abuse Of A Minor

Jason Laposay, 40, of Burke, was indicted by a federal grand jury accused of making videos of his explicit sexual activity with an elementary-school-age girl and receiving thousands of images of child pornography. He was also accused of obstructing justice by destroying electronic evidence sought by law enforcement.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office; and Colonel David Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police, made the announcement after the return of the indictment was made public.

On April 12, Laposay was indicted on one count of producing child pornography, which carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years and a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison; one count of receipt of child pornography, which carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison; and two counts of obstruction of justice, which each carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

According to court records, Laposay was identified after an individual contacted the Fairfax County Child Abuse hotline claiming that Laposay was sexually

abusing a minor. A forensic interview of the minor victim by Fairfax County Child Protective Services alleged that for more than two years Laposay sexually abused the minor victim once a week. He also allegedly used a sexual toy on the minor victim and showed her images of child pornography.

Fairfax County police executed a search warrant on Laposay's residence on Jan. 25, 2012, and recovered six video files from a laptop that allegedly depicted the minor victim engaging in sexual activity with an adult male believed to be Laposay created by an iPhone camera. Law enforcement also allegedly recovered

Woodson High Athletes Support Cancer Research

The National Capital Area (NCA) chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has nominated 18 candidates for their 2012 "Man & Woman of the Year" campaign to collectively raise \$1.1 million in just ten weeks. W.T. Woodson (WTW) baseball alumni, former summer coach, and this year's candidate, Michael Effron, will join the baseball team and girl's soccer team to host the annual WTW event to help raise money for blood cancer research, awareness, and education. The 2012 Boy and Girl of the Year, two children who have battled cancer and are serving as the face of this campaign, will also be honored at the game.

The 4th Annual Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Night hosted by W.T. Woodson Baseball will be held on Tuesday, April 24: WTW Baseball versus Annandale 6 p.m.; WTW Girls Soccer versus Lake Braddock 7 p.m. at the W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St. in Fairfax.

Contact: Michael Effron, 2012 Man and Woman of the Year Candidate: michael.effron@gmail.com, 812-219-3023

Firefighter Recruits to Graduate

The 132nd Firefighter Recruit Graduation will be held this Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center. For some five months, 28 recruit firefighters have been undergoing training to respond to fires, hazardous materials incidents, vehicle crashes and extrications, swift water rescue, confined space rescue and emergency medical incidents.

These firefighter/EMT recruits will officially become professional firefighters here upon graduation. John W. Marshall, former Secretary of Public Safety, Commonwealth of Virginia, will be the keynote speaker. He served 14 years with the Virginia State Police, and in 1999 became director of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes – including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels coordinators in Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

Learn about Parkway Paving

VDOT will hold a meeting Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. at its district office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax (off West Ox Road, across from Costco). Representatives will discuss the work plan and schedule for the repaving of the Fairfax County Parkway.

THE COUNTY LINE

Restoring Funding for Human Services

Residents, agencies testify to need for community services.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After three years of deep budget cuts and declining revenue, Fairfax County is showing signs of fiscal equilibrium as property values and revenues begin a slow uphill climb.

But human service agencies in the county are still feeling pinched by three years of cumulative cuts to their budgets, shrinking state and federal dollars, and increased demand on services.

More than 30 agencies and individuals showed up to testify during last week's public hearings on the proposed \$6.7 billion fiscal year 2013 budget to deliver a unified message to the Board of Supervisors.

"The proposed cuts in human services funding are relatively small dollar amounts," said Frank Blechman, vice chair of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services (AHS), who testified before the board on Wednesday, April 11, "but the impact these cuts will have on programs and the vulnerable families and individuals who need them will be severe."

County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed budget assumes no increase in current real property tax rates; however, the AHS - a non-partisan partnership that advocates for dozens of local public and private human service providers - urged board members to adopt the county's advertised tax rate 1-cent tax increase to \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value, which would add nearly \$20 million to the budget coffers.

To avoid raising tax rates, Griffin has proposed a 2013 budget with approximately \$3 million in various human services cuts, including:

- ❖ Eliminating the Adult Dental Program (Savings: \$50,000) - This program provides discounted basic dental care to low income adults. According to AHS, eliminating the program will result in 500 adults not receiving services. Instead, says AHS, they will have to seek care at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, which has a waiting list of six months to 4 years.

- ❖ Reduce home-based care funding (Savings: \$300,000) - These services are provided to low-income adults to help them continue independent living in their own homes. In fiscal years 2010 and 2011, funding for this program was cut by a total of \$1.7 million. To deal with that reduced funding, the County's Department of Family Services has tightened screening and services. According to AHS, the proposed fiscal year 2013 cut would lead to a waiting list for services.

- ❖ Decreased funding for Student Assistance Programs (Savings: \$99,500) - These services, offered through the Community Services Board (CSB), provide year-round school-based alcohol and drug screening, assessment and early intervention. This reduction eliminates one position and, says AHS, will cause 81 youths to be shut out of the program.

"Funding human services is never easy," Blechman said, joking with supervisors that they could afford to demonstrate their "profiles in courage" during a non-election year by approving the county executive's advertised tax rate to fund "unmet human service needs."

"This is the year to turn the corner from survival mode to growth," Blechman said.

Several supervisors indicated their support of restoring funding to human service programs.

"These programs serve the homeless, the elderly, people suffering with drug and alcohol addictions, young and old residents with serious physical and mental disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and many other county residents who need help from their community," said supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

"Because of their circumstances, many of these people live in poverty," Foust said, adding that Fairfax County has a number of active non-profits and faith-based groups providing services.

"But the sheer numbers of residents needing help means the county must play a large role in ensuring that needed services are provided," Foust said.

While Fairfax County's poverty rate is better than most — 5.08 percent in 2011^o — it still translates to nearly 63,000 people living below the poverty level, according to county officials.

The Alliance for Human Services provided board members with a list of budget recommendations regarding the proposed cuts as well as restoring certain other programs cut in prior years.

AHS acknowledged that Griffin's proposed budget does include some increases in several human services programs.

"We can't stress enough how important it

Recommended Funding Increases

Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services recommended funding increases in FY 2013 Budget include:

- ❖ Partners in Prevention Fund, which funds various organizations, including Safe Dates programs run by FACETS, The Lorton Community Action Center, United Community Ministries and Reston Interfaith - **\$400,000**
- ❖ Additional funding for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. During 2011, more than 119,000 people in 61,300 households was served - **\$448,534**
- ❖ Restoring funding for Access Fairfax - **\$75,000**
- ❖ Restoring funding for two Computer Learning Centers - **\$90,000**
- ❖ Restoring funding for the Department of Family Services Rent Relief Program - **\$275,000**
- ❖ Restoring funding for seven School Health Aide Substitutes - **\$110,997**



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Human Service Advocates testified before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during a public hearing on Wednesday, April 11, urging the board to increase funding for community programs that serve the homeless population and other vulnerable residents. From left, Kerri Wilson of Reston Interfaith; Gerald Poje of Reston Interfaith; Kathy Albarado, Governing Board of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Cheryl Simpkins of United Christian Ministries; Conrad Egan, Governing Board of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Michael O'Reilly, Governing Board Chair of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Amanda Andere of FACETS; Meredith Magwire of Habitat for Humanity and Judith Dittman of Alternative House.

is to approve the county executive's recommendations for increased human services funding. Anything less will further weaken the human services net that is already frayed," Blechman said.

- ❖ CSB's Infant and Toddler Connection: One of Griffin's recommended increases that generated emotional testimony was the \$823,456 for the CSB Infant and Toddler Connection, which provides families screening and programs for children with possible developmental delays.

Lisa Arlt Escoto of Vienna brought her daughter Elena, 5, who has a neuro-genetic syndrome that causes severe global delays, seizures and drastically limits speech.

"I was shocked to learn that the (proposed budget) does not include increased funding for the Infant and Toddler Connection," Arlt Escoto said.

She said she and her husband were working in China for the U.S. Consulate when they discovered Elena was severely developmentally delayed and required immediate intervention therapy. So the couple returned to Fairfax County to get Elena the help she needed.

"I was already feeling overwhelmed and terrified by the discovery of Elena's disability, and being unable to find private therapists who didn't have a one or two-year wait list nearly drove me over the edge," she said.

When one of Elena's doctors referred her to the ITC, Arlt Escoto said it was a lifeline for her and her daughter. "They provided several therapy programs as well as a mom support group ... I am convinced that without ITC, Elena would not be nearly as functional as she is today." °

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Supervisors Urged to Restore Funding

FROM PAGE 6

"I support a big chunk of those cuts being restored. Some are totally unacceptable, like ITC," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

McKay said that the county's Infant and Toddler Connection touched his family in a profound and personal way. When his daughter Leann was 2 1/2, she stopped talking. At the time, she was attending the Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center day care program in Alexandria, which referred her to the ITC. Through ITC, McKay's daughter received intense speech therapy for six months, and she completely regained her ability to speak. McKay said she is as chatty now as any four-year-old.

"It was one of those eye-opening moments when you appreciate that much more where you live. It's such a small budgetary item, and I'm glad most people never need these services," McKay said. "But it was a lifeline for us."

McKay said alarm bells went off when he learned that the ITC was going to stop admitting early intervention clients because of budget cuts, especially when referrals to the agency are up 38 percent in the past two years.

"When I saw it on the cut list, my jaw dropped ... I am more than appalled; I am outraged," McKay said. "Not only are these budget cuts abdication of our moral responsibility to our children but they are a poor financial decision."

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said individual testimony that demonstrates the value of the county's human services programs is always compelling.

"It absolutely matters when people are courageous enough to come before us to share their personal stories and experiences," Bulova said.

"It is also important for us to identify efficiencies and delivery methods that best leverage our county investments in human services programs and services," Bulova said.

"Ultimately, our job is to listen, care and weigh all of the options," said Supervisor Linda Smyth, (D-Providence). "We always end up with more requests than money. We're in a much better place than most of the country, but that doesn't mean people are not still hurting."

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Every Day Is Earth Day

By DANIEL WHITE
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, I asked fellow Nature Conservancy staff from Maryland, D.C. and Virginia to offer their favorite ways of going green. Here are some responses that can help you save money, energy and maybe even the planet. To share your tips for living green every day, join us at facebook.com/dc.md.va.nature.conservancy.

THE RUN DIARY

Arlington's Kate Hougen, our marketing director, invites anyone who cares about the environment and healthy living to join her on Team Nature: "the team shares tips like how to recycle your running shoes, and raises money for environmental causes, join us and run for a healthier you, and a healthier planet." For more info, visit us online at nature.org/rundc.

HANG 'EM DRY

New mother Kristin Bramell, a fundraiser in Bethesda, prefers to air-dry her laundry: "Why not save energy by using a clothesline at least for your large items? I put up a clothesline in my backyard and love to hang my towels, sheets and t-shirts outside. It takes just five minutes, and there's nothing better than that fresh, natural smell. Now that the weather's nice, I'll probably start hanging up my cloth diapers too!"

THE THRIFTERS

Philanthropy Coordinator Karen Schuyler, who lived in Alexandria prior to settling in Barbourville, shops for clothes at thrift stores: "It's very green since the clothing is being used again, thus saving the energy costs in growing and harvesting plant-based fibers, as well as saving energy in the production and transport of new factory-made garments. Most exciting

of all, it's like a treasure hunt and you never know what you'll find."

INSPECT YOUR GADGETS

Lyle Solla-Yates of Charlottesville manages our technology systems and suggests responsible recycling and purchasing of electronics: "Goodwill has partnered with Dell to recycle computer equipment, making them a good place to bring old equipment and to pick up used equipment that still works for a great price. When you do buy, choose greener electronics or consider a smaller device. You can do a lot more now with less machine, which can save money, hassle and the environment."

SOIL, IT'S GREEN

Brian van Eerden directs our Southern Rivers Program in Richmond and is an avid composter: "Composting helps the environment by reducing solid waste and the greenhouse gas emissions such as methane it produces in landfills. Compost is also a great low-cost source of organic fertilizer for your garden."

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHARES

Jennifer Donovan, donor relations manager in Charlottesville, grows her own vegetables and buys from local farmers: "My family pays a fixed price per month to obtain a CSA share of organic vegetables, beef, chicken and fish. By purchasing food directly from local farmers, you are putting all the proceeds from the sale directly in their pockets. The food I buy locally also tastes much better. We really are what we eat, so eat healthy, local and fresh!"

MR. BEAN

Allegheny Highlands director Marek Smith of Lexington chooses coffee from shade-grown beans: "Growing coffee under the shade of trees in the Central and South American rainforests not only produces a richer flavor, but also helps protect critical wintering habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds such

as scarlet tanagers and cerulean warblers. These same bird species nest here in the broadleaf forests of our Central Appalachians, including Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in western Virginia.

ENERGY AT THE GATES

By following recommendations from a comprehensive home energy audit, Charlottesville preserve steward Tim Sanjule reduced his energy use. "Energy usage of any kind has an impact on our environment. Heating and cooling a house that is not well-insulated or well-sealed will waste your money and precious resources."

MAN ON A HEDGE

Clinch Valley ecologist Braven Beaty of Abingdon says, "If you have a creek on your property, don't mow right up to the bank. Leaving a strip of taller plants and shrubs can help stabilize the bank and provide wildlife habitat. The root systems help keep banks from eroding during high water, and the shade and structure provide shelter and food for fish, birds, salamanders, and other wildlife that need cool, moist areas to live. Try it and see if you don't notice more critters."

LAWN & ORDER

For a lawn that's green in more than color, use less water and fertilizer, says Richmond's Michael Lipford, our Virginia executive director: "A significant amount of nitrogen is put back in the soil if you leave your clippings on the grass. Don't water every day, and don't fret if the grass goes dormant when the heat of summer comes. Using less fertilizer is good for the Chesapeake Bay. Nutrients are the main problem in the bay, and a significant portion comes from residential fertilizers. Use low-nitrogen and low-phosphate fertilizers, fertilize less, and wisely — not before a heavy rain. Many stores now supply low-nitrogen organic fertilizers that can also reduce your carbon footprint."

Why Early Intervention Matters

By SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY
(D-LEE DISTRICT)

It's a parent's nightmare—one day—out of the blue, your princess, your first-born, your two-year-old daughter, loses her ability to speak. There's no identifiable reason and my wife and I were devastated.

This story has a happy ending because, fortunately, we live in Fairfax County. I hope that no one reading this ever needs one of our human services programs, but, should that happen, it's comforting to know that Fairfax County has a commitment to all of its residents, regardless of their abilities.

When this mutism struck, my

daughter was referred to the Infant Toddler Connection (ITC) at the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

I've worked for Fairfax County for more than 16 years but I had never heard of this organization. After months of therapy through the ITC, my daughter recovered her speech and is communicating fluently. In fact, like most four-year-olds, she never stops talking and I have a new appreciation for the voices of young children and for the ITC.

Not only did the ITC change my



McKay

life, but it potentially saved the County a far more costly intervention later. Think about what intense speech therapy would have cost our school system and then compare that cost to the far smaller cost of early intervention.

Alarm bells went off when I heard that the ITC was going to stop admitting early intervention clients because of state budget cuts. As a parent, an elected official, and a taxpayer, I am appalled and more than appalled—I am outraged. Not only are these budget cuts abdication

of our moral responsibility to our children but they are a poor financial decision.

Early intervention is the key to managing or healing developmental disabilities. It's penny-wise and pound-foolish to abolish programs for children, and then a few years down the road, pay a much larger bill for critical services for them when they are older.

As an elected official, I'm in the unique position of hearing about the many excellent services we provide at the local level. As a parent who has used those services, I am profoundly grateful to our taxpayers and their support.

I'm not blind to the financial
SEE INTERVENTION. PAGE 13

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Back to the Sixties

Robinson presents 'How to Succeed in Business...'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's been a movie, a Broadway play – currently in revival – and now "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" is coming to the Robinson Secondary stage.

The action unfolds over two weekends, Friday-Saturday, April 27-28; and Thursday-Friday-Saturday, May 3-4-5; all at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door and online at www.robinsondrama.org. "We've been rehearsing since January and things are going great," said Director Chip Rome. "It's fun and filled with songs and dances; there are numerous, big, production numbers. And the audience will enjoy clever triumph over bureaucracy."

THIS EXUBERANT MUSICAL features a cast and crew of 70, plus

a 25-member orchestra conducted by Jackie Geldert. Suzy McCarthy is the vocal director and is choreographing the show with Susan Brock.

"We have a strong, talented cast," said Rome. "We had 90 people audition, called back 75 and cast 54. Carys Meyer has a gorgeous singing voice, and Morgan Miller's contrasts beautifully with hers."

The story's set in the 1962 "Mad Men" era, with costumes and hairstyles to match. "J. Pierpont Finch starts as a window washer and takes advantage of the corporate world and all its characters we see in 'Dilbert,'" said Rome. "And in the meantime, the girl gets her man. So it's a real, feel-good musical, watching the characters we've come to love triumph at last."

Set designer is Tim Cook, former Robinson theater student and GMU grad who now works in the college's theater department. The

set is a series of levels illustrating Finch's climb up the corporate ladder at the World Wide Wicket Co.; so each time he's promoted, his office is on a higher level.

Playing Finch is senior Josh Israel, who'll attend NYU this fall as a theater major. Describing Finch as "the eagerest beaver of them all," Israel said his character is likeable, has a positive attitude and is willing to do whatever needs doing. "But at the same time, he's very ambitious," said Israel. "He manipulates most of the people in the company to bend them to his will and rise to the top."

Israel enjoys "showing how Finch gets his way to be able to hold the power. To be this crafty guy who thinks on his feet and solves problems quickly is fun." His favorite song is "Grand Old Ivy," Finch's duet with his boss, Mr. Biggley, played by Kyle Lynch. "Kyle and I have fun interacting with and play-

ing off each other in that song," said Israel. "There's a lot of energy on stage and I try to make him laugh."

He said the audience will especially love the musical's finale, "Brotherhood of Man," sung by all the males because "it's pretty spectacular." The show, itself, said Israel, is "a classic, romantic comedy. Everybody in the cast has a great relationship with each other, and it definitely shows on stage."

Junior Carys Meyer portrays Rosemary, who's in love with Finch. "She's a secretary at the company and is also ambitious," said Meyer. "She seems to be the typical ingénue, but does everything she can to try to win Finch over. She wants to be a housewife, raise a family and live in the suburbs; she goes after Finch because she sees his potential."

Meyer likes her character's songs, plus the fact that "Rosemary knows what she wants, but is easily swayed and influenced. And her emotions switch quickly



Company employees are desperate when they discover there's no coffee left during the "Coffee Break" number from Robinson's production of "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying."



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

between anger, love and excitement." Meyer's favorite song is "Paris Original," which she sings with the other female cast members. "Something surprising happens during the song, so I play completely opposite emotions during it."

Calling the show upbeat, lively and funny, she says the audience

"will have a really good time cheering for Finch, and the dancing and choreography is really good."

Playing Bud Frump, J.B. Biggley's nephew, is senior Jason Rath. "He got his job through his mother, J.B.'s sister; and when he's unhappy at work, he complains to his mother," said Rath. "He wants

to work in the company, even though he has no experience. He's out for his own gain. He's the 'villain,' working against Finch, but I think of him as the hero because Finch is going about things unethically."

Rath likes his role because "Frump's an adult, but so childish, and pouts a lot. He disrespects

other people's authority, so it's fun to see how far I can take his sense of entitlement." Rath particularly likes "The Company Way (Reprise)" number. "Frump sings it to Twimble, head of the mailroom," said Rath. "Frump's justifying to him how he's changed and deserves to succeed Twimble in his job. But Frump doesn't believe

what he's saying."

OVERALL, said Rath, "It's going to be a high-energy production. We do a good job of highlighting the moments in business that are weird and don't make sense, but people go along with, anyway. And that's what makes this show a farce about the business world."

Senior Morgan Miller portrays Smitty, Rosemary's best friend and fellow secretary. "She's outgoing and outspoken and has strong opinions," said Miller. "She's almost living vicariously through Rosemary, but enjoys helping her get what she wants. I relate to Smitty since she's strong about her objective and always knows what she's doing. And it's fun how she's a third party to the romance between Rosemary and Finch and helps orchestrate it."

Miller's favorite song is "Coffee Break" because "it's really exaggerated, which makes it funny. When everyone comes to get coffee, it's all gone, so they totally freak out and overreact." She said the audience will like watching the romance between Rosemary and Finch and the funny storyline between Biggley and Frump. "There are lots of stories going on, and that makes it interesting," said Miller. "The audience will also love the quick quips, the dancing and all the show-stopping numbers."

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

"Sweeney Todd." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Kindlewood and Duke Walker at 7 p.m.; **Dub City Renegades, Feed God Cabbage and Nappy Riddem** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Terrific Trucks. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about trucks. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Jim Brickman. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Pop pianist. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Directed by Christopher Johnston. Hebrides Overture by Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 1 by Bizet, Sleepy Beauty Waltz by Tchaikovsky, three rag times by Scott Joplin, and selections from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite. Reception to follow. Adults \$15, seniors and teens \$10, children free. 703-569-0973.

Friday Night Film Series: "Inside

Job." 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. A documentary about the financial services industry. 703-503-4579 or www.accotinkuuc.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

"Sweeney Todd." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Children's Show: The Diggity Dudes. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

The Deanna Bogart Band. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

eBook Clinic. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn to use the library's eBook collection and compatible eBook readers with our one-on-one technology volunteer. Registration required. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Jeri Sager. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Broadway performer and Northern Virginia native \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Little Sprouts Workshops: Teaching Kids the Love of Gardening. 10 a.m. Burke Nursery & Garden Centre, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. Hands-on experience for ages 4-7. Free. Pre-registration is required at burke9401@aol.com or 703-323-1188.

Ashby Park Ribbon-Cutting and Demonstration. 9 a.m. Ashby Pond Conservatory Site, 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax. Marking the completion of the City of Fairfax project to dredge and improve the

environmental aspects of the pond at the Ashby Pond Conservatory Site. A presentation on the floating treatment wetlands being installed and monitored by Virginia Tech as part of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant awarded for this project will follow. 703-385-7816.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Cars For A Cause. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. George Mason University Parking Lot K, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Car show, horsepower challenge, children's activities, trophies, raffles and prizes. Proceeds benefit the Isabel Warrior Princess Foundation (raising funds for a child diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma) and the Children's National Medical Center. \$15. www.teamunclassified.com.

"Sweeney Todd." 2 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Crash Concept, Metacomet's Vision and Meganova at 1 p.m.; **The Lumineers and Kopecky Family Band** at 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia 2012 Holocaust Commemoration. 2-5:30 p.m. Geshar Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, readings, music, commemorations and more. 703-893-4007.

Arlington Rose Foundation. 2 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. "Going Green in your Rose Garden" with LeeAnn Seeley. Learn about organic and low risk pesticides. Refreshments and door prizes. Free. 703-371-9351.



The Fairfax Fine Art Festival will be on April 28 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and April 29 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax, with a wide variety of painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, digital artists, glass, fiber and ceramic, mixed-media, metal and wood workers and more. Free admission. www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

Bowling For Soup, Patent Pending, Freshman 15 and Sandlot Heroes. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360

North St., Fairfax. Read aloud to Chelsea, a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. 703-293-6227.

Creature Teacher. 3:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bar C Ranch presents animal

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

stories, crafts and live animals. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Ron Pope with Josiah Leming, Jesse Ruben & Amy Lennard. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Eclectic Readers. 1:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Great Decisions Seminar. 2 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Kings Park Library Friends Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Adults. 703-978-5600.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Bee Healthy! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A puppet show for the whole family on how to Bee Healthy. Presented by the Fairfax County Health Department. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

Mother Goose. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Birth to 23 months with adult. 703-293-6227.

BC Friends Membership Meeting. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. With Robert Dorr, author of Mission to Berlin. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke

Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

"Arabian Nights." 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$11. lbtheatre.com or 703-426-1070.

Singer/Songwriter John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Bonita Lestina Performance Series: The Nickel Trio. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Contemporary to classical with flute, horn and piano. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

"Sweeney Todd." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Musical about murder, revenge and pie-making in Victorian London. \$10-\$15. www.fxplayers.org.

Moose on the Loose! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about moose. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Friday Friend's Book Club. 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Day of the Pelican with Katherine Paterson. Age 8-12. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

"Arabian Nights." 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$11. lbtheatre.com or 703-426-1070.

Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Breakfast. 8 a.m. Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Honor volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County and finding new ways to serve. www.volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3816.

"Alice in Wonderland." 7:30 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. ASL-interpreted performance. \$5-\$10. 703-503-4759 or wtwdrama.org.

Concert Pianist Joyce Yang. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Including pieces by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

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Early Intervention

FROM PAGE 8

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FANFARE celebrated grand-opening party in Fairfax Corner on Saturday, April 14.

FANFARE Opens At Fairfax Corner

New sports-themed eatery created by owners of Glory Days Grill.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

A lot of feathers were ruffled during the grand opening celebration of FANFARE, Fairfax Corner's newest sports-themed eatery.

But feather-ruffling was just part of the fun, as Talon, D.C. United's mascot, and Slapshot, the official mascot of The Washington Capitals (both proud bald eagles) encouraged children, parents and anyone else to tousle their impressive plumage, or just hang out with them at FANFARE's grand-opening party on Saturday, April 14.

In addition to hanging out with feathered friends, guests could get a massage, have their faces painted by artist Arla Albers, play games, win prizes and dance to a DJ during the all-day party. Monument Wall Way was closed for the event, and firefighters from Fairfax Center Fire and Rescue Station 40 gave tours of their fire truck.

"We've had at least 300 people here today. We're beating the drum to let the community know this is a fun, fast, family-friendly restaurant," said Jeff Newman, one of the eatery's three local founders, who also launched the popular Glory Days Grill in Burke 16 years ago.

LIKE GLORY DAYS GRILL, Newman said FANFARE Eatery will continue the company's commitment to the community by partnering with nearby schools and sponsoring community events. In the past year, the company has raised and contributed more than \$307,000 to community events, local teams, and charities, including Lorton's annual Monopoly Tournament and a fundraiser for the West Springfield High School dance team.

"We have a strong commitment to the community, to creating jobs, and to presenting a unique and family-friendly sports res-



Hannah Shaeffer, 7, said she is "so excited" about the dolphins painted on her face by Arla Albers, a Fairfax artist known for her elaborate body designs. Albers said she comfortably paints about 22 faces an hour.

taurant to our guests where they can enjoy great food and good sports," Newman said. "Our hope is that FANFARE is embraced as strongly by the community as our Glory Days Grill restaurants have been." He added that since the first Glory Days Grill opened in Burke, the company has launched 20 additional restaurants in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia and employs 1,700 people.

Newman said the fast-casual restaurant's food offerings are similar to Glory Days Grill, featuring fresh Angus burgers, jumbo chicken wings and all-beef hot dogs. FANFARE's decor combines the nostalgia of a vintage stadium concession with modern conveniences such as digital menu boards, a self-service kiosk, and a Coca-Cola Freestyle® soda fountain. The restaurant also features a 40-seat outdoor patio; mul-



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

G-o-o-o-a-a-! FANFARE's owners Gary Cohen, Jeff Newman, Richard Danker, head coach Jim Klavis and Tom Fink celebrate with D.C. United's Talon during the grand opening of the sports-themed eatery in Fairfax Corner on Saturday, April 14.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) helped cut the ribbon at FANFARE's grand opening party. The event featured firefighters from Fairfax Center Fire and Rescue Station 40, who gave tours of their fire truck. (From left) Firefighters Jason Updegraff; Lt. James Williams; George Loayza and Matt Tamillou

multiple TVs located on the interior and exterior, a TouchTunes Jukebox, and serves a limited selection of draft beer, wine and margaritas.

DURING FANFARE'S HALFTIME SHOW, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) helped the owners and staff cut the ribbon on the new restaurant. Fairfax Corner Shopping Center is now part of the Braddock district after last year's redistricting.

"We want to encourage businesses like

this," Cook said, after cutting the ribbon. "The owners are creating 40 jobs and injecting money into the economy. That's how we fund the budget."

While funding Fairfax County's proposed \$6.7 billion fiscal year 2013 budget is a hot topic in many circles, some of the younger guests at FANFARE's kick-off just wanted to enjoy the party.

"The hot dogs are really good," said Aiden Ramos, 5, of Oakton, who also got a peck and a hug from Talon.

Hendrix Keeps Lake Braddock Softball Undefeated

Bruins beat South County in battle for first place in Patriot District.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's Amanda Hendrix experienced big-game nerves during the Bruins' April 17 showdown with South County for first place in the Patriot District softball standings. As the innings passed and Hendrix labored, she grew angry. But when the contest was over and the freshman had managed to maintain her composure for eight innings, No. 10 felt relief from previous pressure.

Hendrix tossed a complete game during her third consecutive start in the pitcher's circle, holding South County scoreless after the third inning as the Bruins remained undefeated with a 3-2, eight-inning victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The southpaw surrendered 11 hits and allowed at least one South County baserunner to reach scoring position in five of eight innings, but managed to work her way out of several jams.

At the plate, Hendrix grounded out in her first at-bat, but later drove in the Bruins' first run with a sixth-inning triple into the right field corner.

"I know a lot of these [South County players] and it was pretty nerve-wracking," Hendrix said. "I kind of had to get mad in the later innings. I think I held on pretty

well. ... The biggest pressure that I've experienced so far would be this game. We faced West Potomac [on April 13], which is our second-biggest rival, and then we faced South County. From here on we start over again, so we're playing a lot of the easier teams we faced. For me, the pressure has gone down immensely as of now."

Hendrix, used primarily as the team's designated player this season, moved to pitcher after starter Ashley Flesch suffered a muscle strain in her (right) pitching forearm. Hendrix threw a no-hit shut-out against Annandale in her first start on April 11, and blanked West Potomac two days later. Things didn't go smoothly against South County, but she found a way to get the job done, stranding 10 Stallion baserunners while throwing 73 of 107 pitches for strikes.

"She hung in there," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "All her pitches weren't working, so we had to make an adjustment with that and she just had to be tough. With all your pitches not working, you've got to be tough, you've got to be mentally and physically tough and hang in there and that's what she did. She showed a lot of character."

Lake Braddock scored the winning run in the eighth inning without a ball leaving the infield. Three walks loaded the bases and fresh-



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock freshman Amanda Hendrix earned a complete game victory against South County on April 17 in Burke. Hendrix has filled in for injured starting pitcher Ashley Flesch.

man Emma Rakowski hit a two-out grounder to the left side of the infield. South County third baseman Caitlin Maglich made a diving stop and attempted to tag the Bruin baserunner headed to third, but the ball popped loose and everyone was safe, ending the game.

Lake Braddock improved to 12-0 and sits atop the district standings with a 7-0 record. South County, which entered the game with 11 consecutive wins, dropped to 11-2, with a second-place district mark of 6-1.

While Hendrix earned the win



South County pitcher Rebecca Martin took a no-hitter into the fifth inning against Lake Braddock on April 17.

on Tuesday, it was South County pitcher Rebecca Martin who dominated the early innings. The sophomore right-hander took a no-hitter into the fifth inning before Lake Braddock's Katherine Plescow reached on a one-out infield single. The Bruins broke through the following inning, tying the score at 2-all with three extra-base hits. First baseman Anna Delaney led off the frame with a double to center and, two batters later, Hendrix put the Bruins on the board with a triple down the right-field line. The following batter, Jenna Edwards, tied the score with a triple to left-center.

After popping out to shortstop in her first at-bat, Edwards, one

of five freshmen in the Lake Braddock lineup, said she moved up in the batter's box to neutralize the late movement on Martin's pitches.

"I had laid off a few of her [junk pitches], like rise balls," Edwards said. "I saw one that was right down the middle after I moved up and I just ... hit it."

Martin pitched 6-plus innings, allowing five hits and two earned runs while walking three and striking out five. She was pulled after facing one batter in the sixth and re-entered to face one batter in the eighth. Senior Kyra Ketch suffered the loss in relief despite working her way out of a difficult spot in the bottom of the seventh, retiring three straight Bruins with two runners on base.

Singles by Martin, Elyssa Dunn and Riley Wilkinson, along with a Lake Braddock error gave South County a 1-0 lead in the second. The following inning, Stallions catcher Haylea Geer drove in a run with a double down the right-field line. But that would be it for South County, which had runners on second and third with no outs in the fifth but failed to score.

"We had a couple chances early in the game to score some runs and we didn't," South County head coach Gary Dillow said, "and I think that was really the difference in the game."

Lake Braddock will host Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20. South County will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on April 24. The Bruins and Stallions will meet again on May 10.

Rams Reach .500 Mark in Baseball

Robinson gets Concorde wins over Oakton and Westfield.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson Secondary baseball team reached the .500 record mark this past Tuesday night, April 17 when the Rams defeated host Oakton, 6-4, in a Concorde District game played in the Vienna area.

It was the second district win in a row for Robinson, which had also won a road game at Westfield High, 3-1, last Friday night, April 13.

Robinson, with the latest wins, stood at 6-6 overall and 2-1 in district play. The Rams lost their dis-

trict opener last Tuesday, April 10 to visiting Centreville, 5-4.

Robinson coach John James said his team has seen its ups and downs thus far this spring.

"Our season so far has been a learning process," said James. "We've done things well at times and not so well at times. We're just trying to find some consistency in our approach."

The Centreville game was a game that could've gone either way, and Centreville got the job done when they needed to. Give them credit."

Robinson, over the recent spring break, competed in a tournament

at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas where they went 2-2. The Rams defeated Wakefield High (National District) in its first game at the Osbourn Park tournament, 11-1, on March 31, but lost their next game to the tourney host team Yellow Jackets, 3-1, later that same day.

In its next game at the tournament on Tuesday, April 3, Robinson lost to Battlefield High (Manassas), 4-3. But in their second game that same day, the Rams defeated Stone Bridge High (Liberty District), 6-4.

Robinson entered the spring break with a 2-3 record with its early season wins coming over local rival Fairfax High, 12-11, in the season opener on March 14, and at Kettle Run (Nokesville), 2-1, on March 22. The three early season

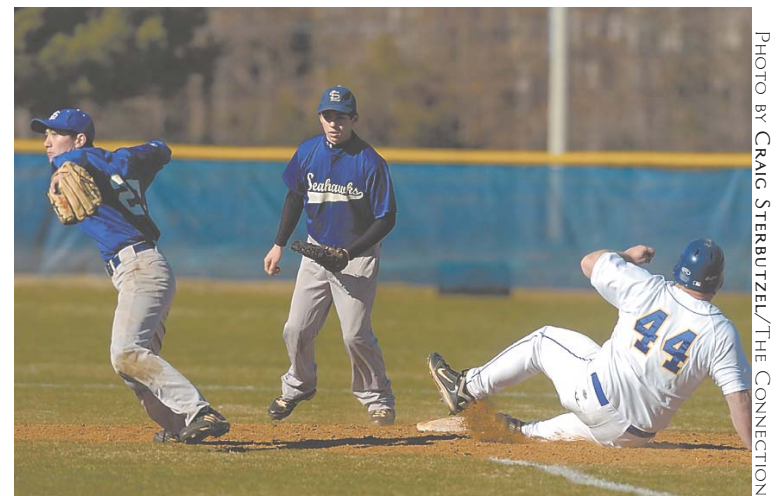


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson sophomore Jake Pinkston makes a slide into second base during a Rams' early season baseball scrimmage game versus South Lakes.

losses came to Northern Region opponents West Springfield, Woodson, and Marshall High Schools.

Robinson is scheduled to play games on both Friday and Satur-

day this weekend. The Friday night game will be a district home meeting versus Chantilly at 6:30. Saturday's game, a non-district game at Annandale High, will start at noon.

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