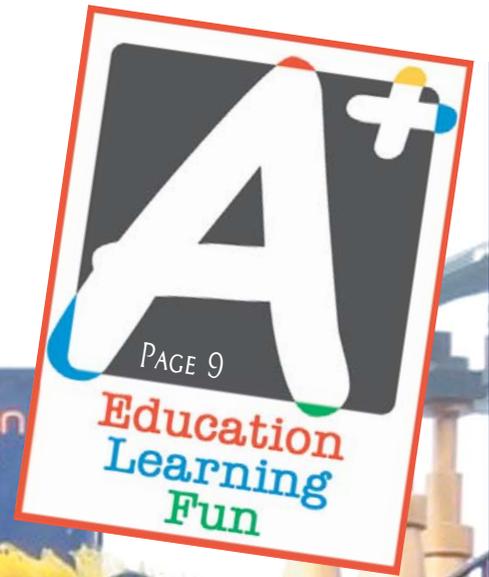


and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Pictured from left are: Jordan Ganley, Aly Lockett, Dhriti Vij, Ryan Gottwald, Arthur Tisseront and Andy Zhao. The Brainy Bunch First Lego League team, which includes six 8th grade Kilmer Middle School students, won 2nd Place overall in the Research category at the FLL World Invitational Open hosted by the University of South Florida and Legoland on May 3-6.



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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) attended FACETS annual benefit breakfast at the Waterford in Fair Oaks Thursday, May 10. Other elected officials attending the breakfast included U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, (D-11), Del. David Bulova (D-37), and newly-elected City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne.



From left, FACETS speaker Raven Bowden; Fairfax County Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director; FACETS Board Chair John Martin of Great Falls and FACETS speaker Frank Somers at the nonprofit's annual benefit breakfast, held at the Waterford in Fair Oaks Thursday, May 10.

Opening Doors for People in Need

FACETS celebrates volunteers, donors at annual benefit breakfast.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Surrounded by nearly 350 business executives, politicians and community leaders in the chandeliered ballroom of the Waterford, Frank Somers - dressed in jeans, sneakers and a denim work shirt - looked a little out of place.

But it was Somers' voice that held the attention of the high-wattage crowd, as he took the podium and told the audience his story of homelessness during FACETS annual "Opening Doors Benefit Breakfast," on Thursday morning, May 10.

"I was down and out. You can't get more down and out than I was," the stocky 47-year-old told the audience. "I want you all to know how FACETS can change a life, how they changed my life."

Founded in 1988, FACETS helps Fairfax County's most vulnerable

residents break the cycle of poverty and homelessness through various programs, services and partnerships with 100 faith communities, local businesses, other nonprofits and government agencies.

"I used to consider myself lucky. I had it all," Somers told the crowd. "I had a good job doing landscaping, friends, an apartment..."

BUT IN 2008, Somers had a heart attack. He had no health insurance, and used what savings he had on medical bills. After spending nearly a month in intensive care at Fairfax Inova hospital, he learned that he had diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and had to take 13 different pills each day to survive.

He also found that he had no place to live and no job because of his health crisis.

"I was renting out the basement of my niece's house," Somers said. "When I got out of the hospital, everything was gone. She cleaned me out. I had \$87 in my pocket and nowhere to go."

Somers took the cash he had, and spent two nights at the Breezeway Motel in Fairfax, before becoming one of Fairfax County's homeless statistics. Still recovering from his surgery, Somers said

FACETS Community Impact

- In 2011, FACETS members and volunteers
- ❖ donated more than 30,000 hours
- ❖ prepared and delivered more than 37,000 hot meals to people who live in motels, cars, the woods and on Fairfax County streets
- ❖ provided more than 150 youth with backpacks filled with school supplies
- ❖ assisted 2,000 families with programs to prevent and end homelessness
- ❖ moved 130 families and nine individuals into housing
- ❖ For more information on FACETS, and ways to volunteer or donate, go to www.FACETScares.org or call 703-352-5090.

SEE FACETS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Brainy Bunch First Lego League (FLL) team at the Closing Ceremony at Legoland.

The Brainy Bunch Wins Research Award

Vienna students impress judges at the World Invitational Open.

The Brainy Bunch First Lego League (FLL) team, which includes six 8th grade Kilmer Middle School students, won 2nd Place overall in the Research category at the FLL World Invitational Open hosted by the University of South Florida and Legoland on May 3-6. The Brainy Bunch earned the honor of representing Virginia and D.C. at the

World Festival by winning the 1st place overall Grand Champion Award at the VA/DC State tournament in December.

This year's FLL Theme Challenge was Food Safety. The team's research and subsequent innovative multi-tiered solution for the detection of milk con

SEE VIENNA STUDENTS, PAGE 7



The Brainy Bunch of Vienna, Va., and The Seed Producers of Bordeaux, France.

Vienna Idol Celebrates a Local Life with Music

Caffe Amouri and Whole Foods sponsor music competition to benefit Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

As fiercely-competitive as she was in the sports arena, Khristin Kylo was equally as fiercely-loyal to her friends and family. When she died suddenly in December 2010, in her dorm room at Princeton, her friends and classmates rallied around the family of the former James Madison High School softball and basketball standout.

In 2011, Khristin's family launched the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund in memory of their daughter, raising over \$25,000 during the past year for scholarship awards and contribution to SUDEP (Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy) research.

“Khristin was a happy kid who loved people, loved sports and music.”

— Tom Kylo

It was Khristin's friends who thought up Kylopalooza, the music festival on the Town Green in May of 2011, as a fundraiser on behalf of Khristin's memory. Kylopalooza returns in 2012 on June 9.

It was Michael Amouri, owner of Caffe Amouri and Khristin's freshman basketball coach at Madison who came up with Vienna Idol, a fundraiser that perpetuates Khristin's legacy. Caffe Amouri is partnered with Whole Foods – which shares the performance schedule with Caffe Amouri – and The Business Bank of Vienna. The final planned qualifying round of Vienna Idol is at Caffe Amouri on May 17 at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

PROCEEDS from Vienna Idol benefit the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund.

“She was one of the most dynamic, unique and wonderful young ladies I had ever coached,” said Amouri. “A spitfire, full of life and energy who just brightened up everyone's life who she touched. An incredible athlete, but also an incredible person. She had such a bright future, it was devastating to so many people when her life was tragically cut short.”

Vienna Idol, made up of a series of qualifying performances by local artists, differs from the TV show in that



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Khristin Kylo, a 2010 James Madison High School graduate, died suddenly at the end of her first semester at Princeton University.

nobody is voted off. They are voted to continue on. Tom Kylo, Khristin's father, is a judge throughout the series. The Kylo family and Michael Amouri have been friends for several years.

“Khristin was a happy kid who loved people, loved sports and music,” said Tom Kylo. “She was driven, motivated, and when she was playing sports, she was all business.” The scholarships the fund awards go to Madison High School seniors who embody Khristin's spirit and energy. In 2011, the fund awarded one \$5,000 scholarship and two \$1,500 ones. “It's all about helping kids from Madison High School to achieve their dreams,” said Kylo, whose son is a rising Madison senior.

“She refused to let anything keep her from achieving her dreams,” Khristin's father said. “She loved life and never let her illness define her. She was fiercely loyal to her friends.”

“She was crazy, loveable, and looked forward to a life where she could make a difference.”

Kylo said that Kylopalooza is more than a fundraiser. The revenue generated from it is from the sale of T-shirts. It really is a way to celebrate Khristin's spirit. “She did have a lot of positive energy,” Kylo said. “She had so many friends because she had an energy about her. “We've embraced this festival as a way to continue that energy.”

Kylo admits that people attack grief in different ways, and, for the Kylo family, the memorial fund and Kylopalooza is an opportunity to tackle their grief head-on. Kylo took on an active role as recurring judge during the Vienna Idol qualifying rounds to be a part of the community effort to recognize Khristin.

“She made a difference in the lives of other young people,” said Kylo. “That is her legacy.”

The Vienna Rotary Club presented fellow Rotarian Tom Kylo a check made out to the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund as its regular meeting on May 9.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Tom Kylo accepts a check on behalf of the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund from the Vienna Rotary Club on May 9.

A YEAR BEFORE her sudden unexpected death, Khristin suffered her first seizure, cause unknown. Tweaking her medications reduced the seizures to about one a month. On the day of her death, Khristin had just finished her last final exam of her first semester at Princeton. She called her parents that afternoon, looking forward to being home in two days. Sometime, during the night, she had a seizure and her heart stopped. Her roommate discovered her the next morning.

“We had never heard of SUDEP” said Kylo. “Most parents haven't heard of it, either. We didn't know a seizure could suddenly stop her heart from breathing. I don't know what we could have done differently, but, I think we need to raise awareness of it.”

Caffe Amouri is clearing out its front parking lot during the Memorial Day weekend ViVa! Vienna! festival for the semifinals. On June 8, in a concert on the Town Green starting at 6 p.m., finalists will vie for the Vienna Idol title. A \$1 ticket “buys” a vote for the musical acts. The Vienna Idol will be the

musician with the highest amount of donations. First prize is \$500 cash. Second place cash award is \$200, third place is \$100 and fourth place award is a gift basket from contributing Church Street businesses.

The voting-ticket purchase enters the holder into a raffle for a gift basket from Church Street shops.

During Kylopalooza on June 9 on the Town Green, the Vienna Idol will perform along with the headline bands.

“I honestly do consider it an honor to be able to put on an event that has such a positive impact, not just financially, but in honoring someone who deserves to be remembered year after year,” Amouri said.

For details on Vienna Idol, e-mail Michael Amouri at vienna.idol@gmail.com, or visit Caffe Amouri's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/CaffeAmouri>.

To learn more about Kylopalooza or the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund, go to kylopalooza.com or KhristinKylloMemorialFund.org, respectively.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Arrests Made in Merrifield Area Sex Assault

On Friday, May 11, around 1:10 a.m., a 50-year-old woman was sexually assaulted behind a building in the 2400 block of Gallows Road.

The woman was struck with a blunt object by two men and sexually assaulted. The suspects also took cash from the victim before fleeing on foot in an unknown direction.

Intense investigation by police and evi-

dence collected at the scene has led to the arrest of two suspects. On Sunday, May 13, police charged a 34-year-old man, of no fixed address, with rape and aggravated malicious wounding. On May 15, police charged a 24-year-old man, of no fixed address, with rape and aggravated malicious wounding.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

VTRCC Sip 'n' Sample May Membership Mixer. 5:30 p.m.
Cardinal Bank, 1650 Tysons Blvd., Tysons Corner. Food, drinks and more. \$15-\$20. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 18

McLean Art Society. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Pauline Lorfano will be the featured artist. 703-790-9123.
Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Volunteers for Change Orientation. 6 p.m. Volunteer Fairfax Office, 10530 Page Ave., Fairfax. The program features a flexible calendar of weekend and weekday evening projects. Reservations required at 703-246-3895 or jkivlin@volunteerfairfax.org.
Providence District Democrats Annual Mayfest. 6 p.m. 2409 Rocky Branch Road, Vienna. Food, silent auction and live music. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. www.fairfaxdemocrats.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Fairfax County presents Legal Tools for Caregivers. 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church. Free. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Lunch Bunch of Italian Heritage Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America. 12 p.m. Sfizi Café, 800 W. Broad St., Falls Church. Open to the public. \$8.95-\$13.95. Reserve at 703-354-2454 or italianheritagelodge.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

Auditions for Vienna Youth Players' Summer Production. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Ages 11-18 invited to audition for "Footloose." Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 to schedule an audition.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Caboose, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Producers only, Saturdays through Oct. 27. viennafarmersmarket.com.

Auditions for Vienna Youth Players' Summer Production. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Ages 11-18 invited to audition for "Footloose." Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 to schedule an audition.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Luncheon. 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Every Tuesday. 703-862-4895.

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OPINION

Most Endangered?

Potomac River has made great strides, has miles to go to save the Bay.

Unless your home is served by well water, you are almost certainly among the five million people in the Washington Metropolitan area who get their drinking water from the Potomac River.

This week, the organization American Rivers named the Potomac River as the most endangered river in the nation. The Potomac River is far cleaner than it was 40 years ago when the Clean Water Act was enacted.

"Before the Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972, the Potomac was a cesspool of sewage and industrial pollution," says American Rivers. "Thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Potomac and rivers across the country are cleaner and safer for drinking, boating, and fishing. But ... a University of Maryland report card has given the river a 'D' grade for water quality for the past two years."

Now it's safe for high school crew teams to take to the river by the dozens. Kayakers and paddle-boarders join them in intimate contact with the water. Motorboats, marinas and fish-

ermen all show the confidence we now have in the integrity of the Potomac River.

Still, after a rain, stormwater washes agricultural waste, suburban and urban runoff carrying loads of pollution into our area's small streams, into the Potomac River and on into the Chesapeake Bay. Bacteria in the river after big rainstorms, from dog waste in suburban areas, agricultural runoff in more rural areas, has led to the recommendation by some that people avoid contact with the river for two-to-three days.

Slowing stormwater runoff, limiting the amount of "nutrients" that are swept down the river into the Chesapeake Bay, and improvements in methods of treating sewage are all critical to the ongoing health of our water supply.

Fish in the Potomac River also continue to show symptoms of exposure to endocrine disruptors, with male bass carrying eggs and other signs. Scientists suspect variety of pharmaceuticals and chemicals are causing these abnormalities, and it is not known whether current water purification systems are removing those pollutants fully from the drinking water.

American Rivers called on Congress to kill any legislation that weakens the Clean Water Act or prevents the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from restoring protections for small streams

and wetlands under the Act. American Rivers also called on the Obama Administration to finalize guidance clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act and issue a rule-making to ensure that all waters get the protections Americans expect and deserve.

The Potomac River continues to serve as the scenic backdrop to much of what we do here. Let's continue to push for improvements.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, 2012 and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 8.

You can submit your photos to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com.

EDITORIALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Look At 'Who Benefits'

To the Editor:

Your concerns about "who benefits and who pays" on funding this latest transportation project here in Northern Virginia are worth noting and appreciated [Editorial, "On Funding the Silver Line," Connection, April 11-17, 2012]. Previous surveys have shown the traffic congestion here in Virginia, especially for its citizens trying to commute from their homes in nearby communities to their jobs around the area, is one of the worst in the country. Previous road projects such as the "mixing bowl" here in Springfield, and now the construction of "hot lanes" around the beltway, are attempts to reduce travel time sitting in our cars in bumper to bumper traffic.

Before we can single out the funding of the silver metro line between Tysons and Dulles, we need to address the entire funding arrangements made by our elected officials both here in Northern Virginia and the State of Virginia. When our personal property taxes on our automobiles were reduced by 75 percent years

ago, the State of Virginia continues to reimburse the counties for their loss in collecting this tax revenue from its residents. These funds come from the State of Virginia's transportation trust fund. When states have large population growth centered around urban areas like Chicago in Illinois and St Louis in Missouri, the receipt of tax revenue and the return of their tax dollars to its citizens are unbalanced. Added to this fact, national surveys continue to highlight both Fairfax and Loudoun county residents are enjoying one of the richest per capital income in the United States, plus having the lowest unemployment rate as well. These facts alone help to attract people from other parts of the country to move here for jobs and to pursue the quality of life we enjoy. People living in less populated areas of the State of Virginia continue to have needs to be funded and mandated by passed state legislation.

Being homeless, without a job, and needing health care do not have a regional boundary. Over the years, some elected leaders here in the commonwealth have gone on public record lobbying their case as to why Northern Virginia shouldn't be a separate funding

entity, and/or should be given taxing authority like the state.

This approach only places an uncooperative wedge between political organization at the state and county levels. These feelings can only lead to a more dysfunctional form of government which is not good for its people.

Most state budgets in the United States do not even approach the size of the Fairfax County yearly budget. Most of our county citizens have been sheltered from the

pressures of what is happening to the rest of the residents in the state due to a weak economy. We seem to adopt the feeling we are entitled to be more privileged than others. Maybe the answer as to "who benefits and who pays" should be given a broader view as to who are more fortunate by having a better standard of living and able to pay than those who are less fortunate.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

Write

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:

Letters to the Editor
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By e-mail: vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

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Vienna Students Win Trophy, Friends

FROM PAGE 3

taminants from farm to table was well received by professionals throughout the season in the field of Food Safety. The team integrated the emerging, cutting edge Terahertz technology to detect contaminants along the entire food supply chain, which impressed the judges. Their Terahertz device has also been entered into a Global Innovation Award competition.

THE BRAINY BUNCH team banner showcased several local teams' photos and logos to show appreciation for their support. With 61 championship teams from 15 countries around the world, including Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Columbia, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, The Netherlands, Peru, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Spain and the United States, the tournament was a mix of cultures, different approaches to robot design and new approaches to food safety. The four days were filled

with a frenzy of activities, competitions, sub-competitions and celebrations of the FLL season. The Brainy Bunch made international friendships to with their French Alliance team from Bordeaux, France. The extent of teamwork and support between the two teams was clearly visible after the teams won 1st and 2nd place spots out of 36 teams during the first-ever Robot Derby sub-competition in honor of the Kentucky Derby.

To honor the World teams and share their own diverse backgrounds and nationalities (which include India, China, Germany, Poland, France, Ireland, Sweden and Korea), The Brainy Bunch chose an international theme to decorate their booth by showcasing different nationalities and their contributions to the world, and by welcoming teams in 8 different languages.

The Party Rock Anthem Flash Mob Dance Party led by the Brainy Bunch team members, which brought 62 teams together on the dance floor, was just one of the

many impromptu events that made this experience special for all the teams. The judges particularly enjoyed The Brainy Bunch Team Song, which starts out: "Here's the story, of some kids from Kilmer..." Stay tuned as the words to this song may be re-written multiple times as all six students are headed to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in the fall.

THE TEAM'S 30-second intro video which can be viewed here: <http://www.blindpirate.net/Page2.html> (click on BRAINY BUNCH)

To learn more about the Brainy Bunch and their work throughout the 2011/12 season, visit: <http://halfadozenners.webs.com/>

Check out a recent TV interview airing on Red Apple 21 this month: http://dl.ebmcndn.net/fcps/mp4/schoolscene/2012/ss14_brainybunch.mp4

To learn more about First Lego League and next year's challenge, visit: <http://firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2012seniorsolution>



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FACETS Honors Volunteers

FROM PAGE 3

he was too ashamed and depressed to reach out to friends and family. He bought a sleeping bag, and decided to sleep under a bridge in Annandale.

After two months of living under the bridge and looking for work during the day, he learned about FACETS through a social worker at the hospital.

"I called them on a Thursday. By Friday, they made sure I had a real place to sleep. They made sure I got transportation to and from my doctor's appointments... They always said yes," Somers said. A Chantilly High School graduate who once played high school football, Somers said he's still shocked he became homeless. "I want to work for what's mine. I never thought I'd be in that situation."

"The lesson learned," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), a longtime advocate for the homeless who gave the welcome address, "is that 'There but for the grace of God go I.'"

"Too many of our veterans are homeless, one in four of our children receive free and reduced lunches, 1,600 children in Fairfax County are homeless," Connolly said, "Your presence and continued participation is so vital to FACETS."

Connolly noted that Fairfax County is one of the few communities in the nation to reduce its homeless population during the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. In 2008, under Connolly's direction as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the board initiated the 10-year-plan to prevent and end homelessness, and funded the county's first agency to carry out that mission. Since then, Fairfax County has reduced its homeless population by 16 percent.

"We are making progress," Connolly said. "That success is the result of the tremendous work of FACETS dedicated volunteers and community partners, but, as you know, much work is left to be done."

"At FACETS, we envision a day when everyone in Fairfax County has access to adequate and affordable housing and nobody is homeless," said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director.

"Each of us plays a crucial role in...opening doors for those suffering the effects of poverty. We ask you to continue supporting the thousands of individuals right here in our community who are faced with inconceivable challenges," Andere said.

THANKS TO FACETS, Somers is now living in an apartment in Reston, and looking for full-time landscaping work while working part-time jobs. He also volunteers with FACETS, speaking at fundraising events and helping where he can, such as cleaning up campsites occupied by the homeless population.

"Without FACETS, I don't know where I'd be. My health is better. I graduated from FACETS financial classes, to get myself back on track. I took classes to learn how to control my diabetes," Somers said.

A divorced father of five, Somers said the joy of his life is seeing his children and grandchildren. "My son takes classes at Northern Virginia Community College. We speak almost every day, and he helps me with my landscaping jobs when he's not in school. I'm very proud of him."

After the breakfast, several audience members gathered around Somers, chatting with him and shaking his hand. "I just want you to know you really inspired me," Carla McTigue of Fairfax said. "Thank you for sharing your story."



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Saturday, May 19
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Game On

George Mason University students develop video games aimed at curtailing gang recruitment in Virginia.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Law enforcement officials now have two unlikely weapons in the fight against gang activity in Virginia: video games and college students.

Students in the Computer Game Design program at George Mason University partnered with Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office to create video games designed to show children the consequences of joining a gang. The result of the collaboration is a series of interactive and educational computer games and mobile phone applications designed to reduce gang recruitment. The games were unveiled earlier this month on the George Mason campus in Fairfax.

"Gangs are constantly working to recruit new kids to replace those going to jail and getting killed. Their recruitment techniques are evolving, even to the point of using online gaming and other technologies. We have to work even harder to stop them," said Cuccinelli.

"The goal of this partnership with GMU is a novel approach in the war against gangs to beat them at their own game."

Students enrolled in the university's GAME 232 Online Gaming and Filesharing course presented game proposals to Cuccinelli's office. The attorney general's staff selected three:

♦ "A Second Family," created by Michael Katz, Romel Ramos and Brandon Miller. The game tells the story of Justin, who is trying to fit in at a new school and becomes involved with some questionable people. He is forced to rely on his friends and mentors to overcome these negative influences.

♦ "Influenced," created by Austin Fain, Tiffany Nguyen, Con Son and Lamesha Coley. In this game, the player chooses various scenarios in which he or she can either help or betray members of the local community, and influence the impact gangs have on the community.

♦ "New Kid on the Block," created by Stephen Berrigan,



Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli plays a game created by George Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

Steven Fernandez, Devin Gibson, John Murphy and Daniel Paquette. In this game, the player has just moved to a new town and has to assimilate into a new school. He or she must make the right decisions and find a trustworthy group of friends.

THE GAMES ARE TARGETED at middle and high school students. "This is an attempt to reach kids using devices that they already have in their hands," said Arlington resident and George Mason adjunct professor Matt Randon. "The kids are already addicted to these devices so we have a better chance of reaching them with our message."



Seth Hudson, assistant director of the Computer Game Design Program at George Mason University, plays a game created by Mason Game Design students in Dewberry Hall at Fairfax Campus in Virginia. The students created interactive and educational games aimed at teaching kids about the risks of joining gangs.

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful."

— Daniel Paquette

PHOTOS BY
ALEXIS GLENN/
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

During the course, Randon, who also works as an English teacher in Manassas, taught students about the history, practice and design of online games and smartphone applications. Throughout the semester, the students developed written scripts and storyboards, art and sound design, programming, coding and musical compositions.

"I wanted the game to be fun for the player while teaching them about gang violence and how it can be harmful. Finding that balance wasn't easy, but ... we were able to create a game that's educational, but also fun to play," said Daniel Paquette, who helped design one of the games.

THE GAMES will be available for mobile download free of charge by summer 2012. The games will also be available on the attorney general's website, as well as the websites for George Mason University, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and Virginia Rules. "Games have a pretty bad reputation in the media. What I hope this project shows people is that the greatest asset of games is that they make learning fun ... which is a talent school systems around the world should look into," said Stephen Berrigan, lead writer and narrative designer for "New Kid on the Block."

Green Hedges Students Win National Spanish Exam Medals

Several Spanish students from Green Hedges School in Vienna attained national recognition for excellent performance in the 2012 National Spanish Examinations. Students from Green Hedges School earned one gold and two silver medals.

"Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with 143,641 students participating in 2012."

Students from Green Hedges School have a long history of high achievement on these exams and were taught by Spanish teacher, Dr. Marzolino.

The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 7 and 8, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.



Students from Green Hedges School who were recognized for excellent performance on the 2012 National Spanish examinations. From left: Dara Shahriari, Dr. Marzolino, Camyrn Easley and Michael Williamson.

Fairfax County Students Win Technology Awards

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) middle and high school students won first place awards in 19 categories at the 2012 Virginia Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference, held last week in Richmond. The three days of competitive events and displays of student work culminated in FCPS winning the Lynn P. Barrier Outstanding School Division Award for middle schools for the third consecutive year.

Winners will advance to the National TSA Conference, scheduled for June 21-25 in Nashville.

At the middle school level, FCPS students won 10 first place awards, 12 second place awards, and 11 third place awards. At the high school level, FCPS students won nine first place awards, six second place awards, and seven third place awards.

First place winners at the middle school level (level I), with their category in parentheses, include:

- ♦ Shawn Jassal of Franklin Middle School (Career Prep).
- ♦ Navya Kalale and Sahana Ramani of Carson Middle School (Challenging Technology Issues).
- ♦ Arvind Chava of Carson Middle School (Electrical Applications).
- ♦ Arvind Chava, Sashank Thupukari, and Anant Tewari of Carson Middle School (Environmental Focus).
- ♦ Pranay Singh, Dhruv Gupta, and Rohan Pandit of Carson Middle School (Inventions and Innovations).
- ♦ Ashan Krishnakumar, Kim Mai, Sruthi Jayaraman, Thuy-Vi Nguyen, Ameer Kapadia, Daniel Ruiz, Catherine Im, Ray Liu, Paul Dumitrescu, and Sadaf Kolia of Frost Middle School (Medical Technology Issues).
- ♦ Shawn Jassal of Franklin Middle School (Multimedia Production).
- ♦ Dhruv Gupta of Carson Middle

School (Prepared Speech).

♦ Pavan Reddy and Josh Choe of Franklin Middle School (Structural Engineering).

♦ Kevin Geissler, Patrick Hammes, and Ben Spector of Herndon Middle School (Video Game Design).

First place winners at the high school level (level II), with their category in parentheses, include:

- ♦ Taylor Evans, Jack Polo, Amy Rhodes, and Ryan Aitken of West Potomac High School (Architectural Model).
- ♦ Sherry Lee of Woodson High School (Career Comparisons).
- ♦ Angela Roller of Oakton High School (Desktop Publishing).
- ♦ Jackie Beckwith, Louis Litchford, Alex Hauser, Will Rupp, and Everett Lorentzen of West Potomac High School (Engineering Design).
- ♦ Sherry Lee of Woodson High School (Essays on Technology).
- ♦ Angela Roller of Oakton High School (Extemporaneous Presentation).
- ♦ Amy Vandenberghe and Brett Bowker of West Springfield High School (Manufacturing Prototype).
- ♦ Elizabeth Roller of Oakton High School (Photographic Technology).
- ♦ Andy Artze, Exxus Altimus, and Michael Sherburne of Robinson Secondary School (System Control Technology).
- FCPS students and schools also won the following awards:
- ♦ Carson Middle School, first place, Chapter Excellence Level I; second place, Community Service Award Level I; second place, Arvid W. Van Dyke Outstanding School Award.
- ♦ Arvind Chava of Carson Middle School, Most Competitive Technosphere Participant, Middle School Level.
- ♦ Briana Neuberger of Chantilly High School, Virginia Career Education Foundation Scholarship.

A Triple Treat

Madison High's production of 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.'

BY SARAH SMITH
OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL

What's the easiest way to climb to the top of the business ladder? Go to see "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and you can learn all of the tricks of the trade from J. Pierrepont Finch. In Madison High School's show of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" they showed that they truly know... how to succeed.

"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" is a musical written by Frank Loesser and adapted from the original book by the same name written in the 1950s. The musical follows the steps of a once window washer as he reads a book that dictates success. He receives a job at the World Wide Wicket Company and slowly climbs his way to the top. After the new 2011 revival, choosing the popular show was a risk, however Madison did not disappoint.

The show opened and a beautiful set met the audience's eyes. The set appeared simple in concept, but was cleverly structured by Andrew Barat, Chris Chandler-Liu, and Morgan Miller, to incorporate a multi-level concept as well as three elevator appearances. It remained the backdrop for the entire show, and tied in well to every scene. It was practical and well constructed.

Daxx Wieser, who played J. Pierrepont, led Madison's production. Not only did Wieser sing phenomenal vocals and execute professional acting choices, but he also worked with Selena Garcia-DuBar to choreograph the show. He skillfully led the ensemble through

CAPPIES REVIEW

simple, stylistic dance numbers that even showcased some of the original choreographer's (Bob Fosse) dance moves. His precision and charisma captivated the audience; Wieser truly is a triple treat.

Along side Wieser acted Shannon Michelson, as Rosemary Pilkington. Her voice rang through the theater and her smile brightened the stage. Her feelings towards Pierrepont were very believable and added a comic side to the quirky relationship between Michelson and Wieser.

Not to be forgotten is the hilarious and beautiful, Samantha Ross, who played the role of Hedy LaRue. Her ability to make the audience love her character and envy her at the same time was outstanding. Acting alongside the boss, J. B. Biggley, played by Patrick Shaughnessy, the two created a comedic twist in the story line that kept the audience on their toes.

Although the show lacked energy at times, it was evident that the cast enjoyed their experience. During numbers like "Brotherhood of Men" the ensemble made it clear that they loved being on stage.

However, where would the cast be with no make-up or costumes? From the hair to the makeup to the costumes, the actors on stage truly resembled the 1950s. The costume team led by Shannon Finney, and the make-up team led by Sofia McKewen, truly absorbed the concepts of the '50s and ensured that each individual had a unique look that didn't escape the timeframe.

Over all, Madison High School showed that they really know how to succeed in musicals, without really trying.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MAY 19 & 20



919 Swinks Mill Road, McLean • \$1,449,000 • Open Sunday 1-4 p.m. • Debbie Mesen, Weichert, 703-201-7723

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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5920 Burke Landing #201.....\$220,000.....Sun 1-3:30.....Julia Avent.....RE/MAX.....703-346-3373	
Centreville	
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5132 Pleasant Forest Dr.....\$1,135,000.....Sun 1-4.....Bob Scherbarth.....Century 21.....703-477-1043	
Clifton	
6609 Rock Lawn Dr.....\$684,900.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21.....703-989-7735	
Fairfax	
3220 Brookings Ct.....\$724,999.....Sun 1-4.....Mary Thuyfault-Clark.....RE/MAX.....703-587-5494	
3834 Prince William Dr.....\$974,900.....Sun 1-4.....Ellen Ing.....RE/MAX.....703-795-0648	
Fairfax Station	
11125 Henderson Rd.....\$850,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX.....703-503-4365	
11808 Winterway Ln.....\$799,900.....Sun 1-4.....Cristina Dougherty.....Long & Foster.....703-969-0471	
7300 South View Ct.....\$834,800.....Sun 1-4.....Barb White Adkins.....RE/MAX.....703-609-8950	
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1529 Hardwood Ln.....\$1,050,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jane Price.....Weichert.....703-628-0470	
8701 Georgetown Pike.....\$3,000,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams.....703-975-2500	
919 Swinks Mill Rd.....\$1,449,000.....Sun 1-4.....Debbie Mesen.....Weichert.....703-201-7723	
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10198B Ashbrooke Ct, #126.....\$256,900.....Sun 1-4.....Jim Fox.....Long & Foster.....703-503-1800	
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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/MAY 17

An Evening with Charlie Hunter. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Including the presentation of awards to the winners of the 12th Annual Vince Kaspar Awards for Excellence in the Arts, a community program recognizes art and poetry talents of local high school students. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free admission is free. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

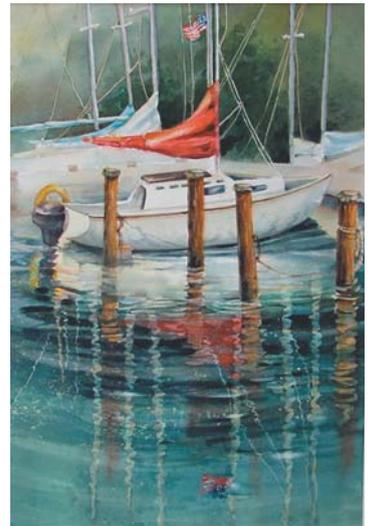
One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

One-on-One English Practice. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced by Nujood Ali. Adults. 703-242-4020.

eBook/eReader Instruction. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library ebooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for an appointment.

"Rest at Harbor", watercolor by Grace Rooney. The Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St. N.W. in Vienna, will hold their annual benefit raffle, showcasing original art donated to raise funds, at a reception on Saturday, May 19 at 4 p.m. A silent auction will run Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., through May 19. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Legion's emergency fund for military families in distress. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.



Adults. 703-242-4020.

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

FRIDAY/MAY 18

"Flora the Red Menace." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststage Tyson's.org.

Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Spring used book sale. 703-757-8560.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. English conversation group. Adults. 703-938-

0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Friday Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for movie title. All ages. 703-790-8088.

An Evening with John Fullbright at 7:30 p.m.; **FunkMnkyz, Feed God Cabbage, Poor Man's Copyright and Gastro** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

City of Fairfax

Farmers Markets in the City of Fairfax

Community Farmers Market
Starting May 5, Saturdays, 8 AM-1 PM
West Street Parking Lot
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www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com

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Baptist
Global Mission Church ...
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Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ...
703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church ...
703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ...
703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ...
703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ...
703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church...
703-281-2556

Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...
202-331-2122
Church of the Brethern
Oakton Church of the Brethern ...
703-281-4411

Catholic
Our Lady of Good Counsel ...
703-938-2828

St. Athanasius Catholic Church
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St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

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Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

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Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

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Church of the Holy Comforter
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Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
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Christ The King Lutheran Church
...703-759-6068
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

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Church of the Good Shepherd
...703-281-3987
Charles Wesley United Methodist Church
...703-356-6336
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336
Ephiphany United Methodist
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Smith Chapel United Methodist
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for Spiritual Living
... 703-560-2030
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...703-698-9777

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Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
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Korean Central Presbyterian
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Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

SATURDAY/MAY 19

McLean Day 2012: Celebrating Our Hometown. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Family fun day of outdoor activities, including amusement rides and stage entertainment plus four new food vendors. Free admission.

Colonial Spring Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Period music, quilts and other games, children's puppet theater, farm animals. Fencing lessons, blacksmith, herbs and flowers, colonial market stands and more. See Farm family and community members in character and costume. Refreshments available. Adults \$6, age 3-12 and seniors \$3. 703-903-9330.

Children's Shows: Milkshake Trio. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Flea Market & Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Spaces available to rent, \$20. 703-582-1640 or c.wright@longandfoster.com.

Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Two original one-act ballets: Snow White and Alice in Wonderland. \$30. 703-893-0404 or www.kintzmejiaballet.com.

"Flora the Red Menace." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststageysons.org.

Art Reception and Benefit Raffle. 4 p.m. The Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Legion's emergency fund for military families in distress. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Korean Bell Garden Opening. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Marking the 25th anniversary of Meadowlark's 1987 opening. 703-255-3631.

Volksmarch. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. www.ava.org, event #92677.

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Experts answer gardening questions. 703-242-4020.

Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Spring used book sale. 703-757-8560.

Using Library eBooks and eAudioBooks. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. One-on-one instruction on selecting, checking out and using Fairfax County Public Library eBooks and eAudioBooks available through OverDrive. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Plant Clinic hosted by the Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Answers to gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

The Joy of Dance with Ballet & Jazz. 3 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The Adagio Dance Company and Adagio Ballet's Advanced Jazz students. All Ages. 703-790-8088.

Bach 2 Rock Music Teachers. 5 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

Country Western Dance. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lesson

7:30 p.m., couples lesson 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Carsie Blanton and Dawn Landes at 7:30 p.m.; **In The Lobby Bar with Fight The Lion** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Seikilos to U2: A Tour Through Music History. 7:30 p.m. UUCF 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Vienna Choral Society presents a concert to support arts education. Pre-concert talk by Creative Director Jennifer Rodgers Beach, 7 p.m. \$15-\$20, families \$35. www.viennachoralsociety.org.

City of Fairfax Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St, Fairfax. See a Model-T Ford reassembled in 15 minutes. Antique cars and live bluegrass music. Food available for purchase. Presented by the Northern Virginia Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club, the City of Fairfax and others. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington D.C. www.nvrg.org or info@nvrg.org.

Wine down with the Ques Wine Tasting Fundraiser. 1 p.m. The Tasting Room of Maison du Vin, 756 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Wine tasting, hot hors d'oeuvres and live jazz music. \$45, age 21 and up. Proceeds benefit the scholarship program. info@OKK-QUES.org or okk-ques.org/winetasting.

Benefit Yard Sale for Hartwood Foundation and Relay for Life. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 608 Plum St., Vienna. Hosted by the Vienna Woman's Club. pegpuhl@cardinalsfc.com.

Community Cookout. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Loebig Chiropractic and Rehab, 754

Walker Road, Great Falls. Free adjustments for existing patients, seated massages and more. Hot dogs, face painting and moon bounce. 703-757-5817 or www.loebigchiropractic.com.

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 20

Mosaic Harmony Choir. 4 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Silent auction beginning at 3:30 p.m. \$25-\$30, under age 12 free. www.mosaicchicago.org or 703-764-8061.

Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet. 2 p.m. George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Two original one-act ballets: Snow White and Alice in Wonderland. \$30. 703-893-0404 or www.kintzmejiaballet.com.

City of Fairfax Band: Rite of Spring. 3 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Northern Virginia Youth Winds, the official youth ensemble of the City of Fairfax Band Association, comprised of high school woodwind, brass and percussion students. \$5, students free. christinarbianchi@gmail.com.

"Flora the Red Menace." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststageysons.org.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert. 2 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, McLean. Old-time tunes. Free. 703-759-2771.



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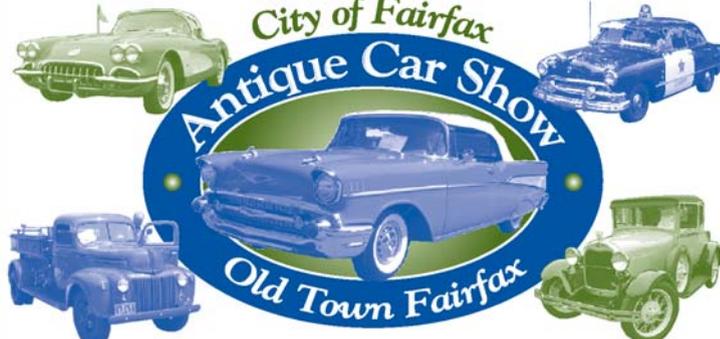


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Double the Fun for Oakton Lacrosse

Both the Cougar girls and boys teams capture Concorde District titles.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A poor defensive game contributed to the Oakton girls' lacrosse team 14-13 Concorde District home loss to rival Centreville High a month ago on April 13. The defeat for the Cougars was one of just two they experienced during the regular season this spring.

So when the two teams met again in last Friday evening's district tournament championship game at Chantilly High School, Oakton, the No. 2-seed, went in determined to tighten things up on the defensive end and to also play a more complete and better game across the board.

And in fact, Oakton did just that, playing an exceptionally strong game in all areas throughout the 50 minute contest and beating a talented Centreville team, 14-7. With the win, the Cougars (11-2) not only avenged their lone district loss of the season but they also captured the district banner and gained an emotional boost for this week's 16-team Northern Region playoffs.

"The last time we played Centreville we didn't do any of the basics," said Oakton head coach Jean Counts. "They have been talking about that game for weeks. I thought Centreville definitely had the best defense in the district when we played them before. We matched that [in the title game]. Our whole defense played together."

From the start of the game, Oakton's defense was clicking as Oakton players helped one another out in coverage and aggressively pursued the ball. When the Cougars stopped the Wildcats by forcing turnovers or missed shots, their transition game to the offensive end was crisp and often led to fast break opportunities. By the end of the first half, Oakton had built an 8-2 lead. Centreville continued to play hard throughout the remainder of the game but never seriously threatened to close the gap in the second half.

The district championship was the second straight for Oakton.

"We won the district last year," said Oakton senior attack Jackie Rupp, who scored a game-high five goals in Friday's title game win. "This year we have 11 seniors and brought the championship to a new level. The last time we played Centreville [in the regular season meeting], defensively we didn't do well. Today I think our fast break was real good. Centreville is very fast and aggressive compared to most teams and will capitalize on your mistakes."

But Oakton simply did not make many mistakes against the top-seeded Wildcats in the finals.



Jackie Rupp (left) scored five goals for the Cougars in their district title game win over top-seeded Centreville last Friday night at Chantilly High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Oakton senior Sean Schweiker (11) had the assist on teammate Jack Harris' game-winning goal in Friday's Concorde title game win over Westfield.

"They played a full game," said coach Counts, of her team. "Today was a better performance across the board and the girls showed what they can do over 50 minutes."

When asked to compare this year's district champions to last year's, Counts explained that this year's Cougars are kind of an extension of the 2012 team.

"We had a great team last year," she said, of a 2011 Cougars' outfit which won the district title and was region runner-up. "We had wonderful leaders and seniors. This year we have essentially the same starting lineup. I told the girls [prior to the finals], 'This is yours. You don't work four years for second place.'"

Rupp's five goals and one assist led the Cougars in the championship win. Also for the Cougars, senior midfielder Alex Revel and senior attack Carly Palmucci (2 assists) both scored two goals, while teammates

"This year we have essentially the same starting lineup. I told the girls [prior to the finals], 'This is yours. You don't work four years for second place.'"

— Oakton head coach Jean Counts

Alliston Turk, Claire Stikeleather, Kelsey Clarke, and Danielle Palmucci each scored one. Senior goalie Emily George played an excellent game in the net.

THE OAKTON BOYS' TEAM, following the girls' title game, capped a terrific cham-

ampionship night for Cougar Nation by winning its district championship game over Westfield in a close encounter, 9-8.

Oakton's Jack Harris, a junior attack, scored what proved to be the game-winning goal when, upon receiving a short pass from senior teammate Sean Schweiker, he sent a close range shot into the net off the left corner with about 90 seconds remaining in the final quarter. The tally broke an 8-8 deadlock.

The clutch goal came moments following a Westfield turnover with 1 minute, 40 seconds left. On the game-winning sequence, Oakton senior midfielder Stenson Crews brought the ball down the field. The ball eventually went to Schweiker. He passed the ball left to Harris, who put it home into the net.

It was Harris' lone goal of the game but will long be remembered by Oakton fans.

The contest was close throughout with both teams playing outstanding defense most of the way. At halftime, the Cougars held a 4-3 advantage. In the third quarter, Oakton scored three goals to Westfield's two and took a 7-5 lead into the final quarter.

But Westfield scored three consecutive goals within the first three minutes of the final quarter to take an 8-7 lead with just over nine minutes remaining.

Several minutes later, Oakton, on a man-up advantage, tied the game on a goal by junior midfielder Jeremy Marshall, who flung the ball in off the right wing area from 14 yards out with 5:26 remaining to make it 8-8. Good passing by Oakton set up the score with the assist going to senior middle Evan Lalande.

Over the next several minutes, Oakton continued to apply pressure with Michael Gillooly, a senior midfielder, getting off two excellent attempts, both blocked by Westfield net minder Tucker Winfrey.

Oakton finally went ahead for good on the score by Harris.

Oakton (11-6) had lost to Westfield in the two teams' regular season meeting on April 27 at Oakton.

The Cougars entered the eight-team district tournament as the No. 4-seed. They defeated No. 5 Centreville in a first round game to advance to the semifinals and clinch a spot at this week's 16-team Northern Region playoffs. Then, in a district semifinals game, Oakton upset top seed Chantilly. And the Cougars pulled off another upset in the finals with the win over No. 2-seed Westfield.

"They're peaking at the right time," said Oakton third year head coach Grif Barhight, of his squad. "I just think they believed they could get it done. One of our goals was to win the district championship."

Seven different players scored goals for Oakton in the finals win. Lalande and Gillooly both scored two times, while teammates Brian Oliver, Stephen Lambrides, Michael Durst, Jeremy Marshall, and Jack Harris each scored one. Playing a solid game in the net for Oakton was senior Connor Anderson.

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NEWS

"Psycho-not-so-matic" Anymore

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Whatever I thought was only happening in my head – or not, or was really happening physically – or not, is the muddled description of the thoughts and emotions that this cancer survivor/cancer patient-still-receiving-treatment feels every time I make a 24/7 self assessment (which is often). An assessment that seems to have a mind of its own, and one which is mostly beyond my control to prevent/manage its ugly head from rearing whenever it pleases. As much as I pretend, as much as I deny, as much as I compartmentalize, any and every thing that happens to me happens in the context of having cancer. Any misstep, physically or emotionally, real or imagined always brings me back to the elephant in every room in every house; in fact, that metaphorical elephant is in every closet, every drawer, on every television channel and radio station; home or on the road; everywhere; especially and of course predominantly, in my head, and originally in my lungs and mediastinum, where it still remains, "stable," for the moment.

Whatever strategy I have employed in an attempt to manipulate my circumstances, to prevent cancer from getting the best of me emotionally, always suffers a setback after a visit to my oncologist. As much as I've tried to make light of these appointments over the last three years, having heart-to-heart, life-and-death conversations with YOUR cancer doctor, one who has already told you that he "can't cure you, that he can only treat you," is unsettling at best and downright depressing and mind-numbing at worst. Facing one's own mortality at age 57 conjures two quotes from Curly Howard of The Three Stooges, a famous one and a funny one: "I'm a victim of soy circumstance," and "I'm too young to die, too handsome; well, too young, anyway."

Laughing in the face of adversity has been an ongoing and overriding pursuit of mine since being diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer in February, 2009. Not that my circumstances are anything to laugh about but, oddly enough, crying about them or "woeing" is me about them is a bit of a tired pursuit – for me. Sure I've cried and been curious why a lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer could be diagnosed with a terminal disease at age 54, a mere eight weeks after burying my widowed mother. Nevertheless, life goes on, and it has, as I've now outlived my original prognosis by years, causing my oncologist to say to me at the end of my most recent appointment (and the one I may be overreacting to in this column): "It's been a privilege treating you." Words, as I say, "to live by."

Where I'm going in this column is a place I've never been: a new phase in my treatment, with new medications, new side effects, new consequences and new worries; all of which are unknown and unfamiliar to me. Presumably all of the above are simply more of the same – only different, if you know what I mean – (things I can handle, just calling them different things) meaning my concerns are more in my head than they are in my body. But I really won't know until I've lived it. For the moment, I can only anticipate it. Knowing what I knew is much preferred to not knowing what's new. And what lies ahead is definitely new. I can't say anymore: "been there and done that" – I can only say that I'm glad – and privileged, to still be doing anything.

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

The Fun Run Draws All Ages

Just up the street from 1400 Trap Road, neighbors and tiny tots were up and about at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 5. Some were walking; others were running.

A young teenage girl and a parent stood at the entrance of a trail leading to a parkland. They ranged in age from 3-year olds to middle-aged men and women. They were all participating in the Sixth Annual Colvin Run Elementary School Fun Run.

Mary Wells, who was accompanied by her two children and her dog, had completed seven laps when she paused for a photograph. Given that the fun run has been dubbed as the "fund run" in the past, most participants were walking or running for a cause. "We haven't picked a charity yet," said Mary as she added that maybe the Fun Run organizers have a charity picked out for them.

Mary K and her daughter Katherine, who attends Colvin Run Elementary had just completed a lap each and were planning to give the funds they raised to an adoption charity or to the American Heritage Girls.

Emmy Brilliant and Grace Riihimaki had to be beckoned away from the refreshment



PHOTOS BY SANGEETA KUMAR

Maria Wells of Vienna, with her sons Emrik and Oskar. Each of the Wells did seven laps, except for the Golden Doodle who dropped out after three laps.

stand by their parents to answer the question of the day: "So how many laps did you do?" A parent asked. Both girls flashed four fingers to indicate four laps a piece. The rubber band bucket was getting depleted of rubber bands at a fast rate. The bands were in a bucket that was attended to by a Joyce Kilmer student, Olivia Marcantonio, who once attended Colvin Run Elementary.

She was accompanied by a parent who gave her name as Shan Shan and kept a close tally of the rubber bands leaving the bucket.

The Sixth Annual Colvin Run Elementary School Fun Run was marketed as a "super event that provides exercise to participants and financial support to charitable organizations," Matt Kingsley said via email.

— SANGEETA KUMAR



Kathryn K, a 10-year-old at Colvin Run writes her family's name on the Healing Table after completing one lap. Her mother, who wished to be identified just as Mary K. said they hadn't decided on a charity yet but would likely give to The American Heritage Girls—a faith-based charity.



Sydney, a first grader at Colvin Run Elementary, writes her name on the Healing Table. She did two laps.



Two 3-year-olds, Emmy Brilliant and Grace Riihimaki hold up four fingers when asked how many laps each of them did.



Olivia Marcantonio, a 13-year-old student at Joyce Kilmer Middle School and alumni of Colvin Run Elementary and Shan Shan—both volunteer at the rubber band stand at the Fun Run.

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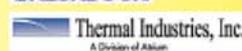
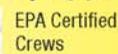
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