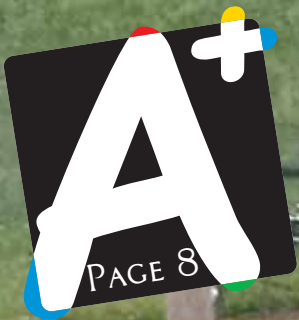


Twilight Rock 'n' Run at South County

NEWS, PAGE 3



Alice in Nevermore

NEWS, PAGE 13

Deer Archery Program Enters Sixth Season

NEWS, PAGE 4

The top three finishers for girls ages 13-17 in the inaugural Twilight Rock 'n' Run at South County High School. From left: third place winner Michelle Weaver, 13, ran 30:10; first place winner Kelsey Luther, 13, ran 22:25; and second place winner Elizabeth Mazzello, 15, ran 25:46.

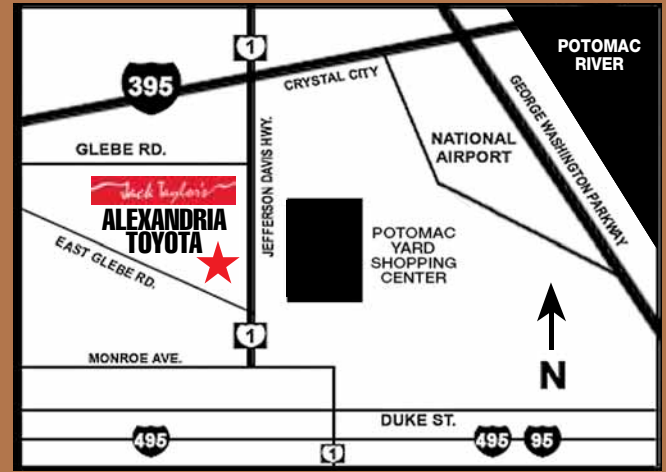


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<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL \$99⁹⁵ PADS</p> <p>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</p> <p>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁹ Synthetic \$10 More</p> <p>Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 10% OFF LABOR ON ANY ONE REPAIR</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats • Toyota bedliners <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
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TOYOTA Let's Go Places

Twilight Rock 'n' Run at South County

South County Band Boosters host 5K race fundraiser.

The inaugural Twilight Rock 'n' Run drew a nice-sized crowd to South County High School on Sept. 13, a cool Saturday night.

The 5K race was sponsored by the South County Band Boosters to raise money for the band and for Turf SoCo, an initiative to raise money for new football field turf. The top three finishers, male and female, for each different age category, were awarded medals, and a raffle immediately followed the award ceremony. Runners, old and young, had positive things to say about the event. "I'm looking forward to next year's race," said runner Manish Patel, 50, who signed up on-site at the event. Competitors were as young as 9 and as old as 60. "It was a good run," said Ray McGrath, 57, who ran the course in just over 30 minutes. "I have two kids in the band and am happy to support the campaign for new turf." Currently, the school's band uniforms are more than 10 years old, according to Carla Olivo, vice president of communications for the South County Band Boosters. But this fundraiser helps meet financial goals for the band's needs. Rob Bell, 25, was the fastest runner of the night, running the roughly 3.1-mile course, the equivalent of five kilometers, in 17:18. Bell, who ran in college, trained earlier that morning to prepare for the run, and ran at an average pace of 5:34. The second winner, overall, was Meghan Hughes, 35, who finished in 20:06, running at an average pace of 6:29. "It was fun to just come out and support the band," she said. The third overall winner was 14-year-old Carl Stierle from Lorton, who is on the cross country team for South County. He ran at an average pace of 6:31, finishing the entire course in 20:14. "My coach said to take it easy, but to prepare I did a mile in the morning," said Stierle. Many came out to show their support for the runners, the band and the school's community. Other top finishers include second-place female runner Emme Cate Heilbrun of Fairfax Station, 11, who finished the course in 20:30 and third place female runner Kristen McCann, 42, who finished at 21:05. For guys, Bell, Stierle, and 16-year-old Ryan Conley from Lorton, placed first, second and third, respectively, overall.

For a complete list of the runners and results, visit the website at <http://www.amazingracetiming.com/events/2014/twilight-rock-n-run-5k>.

— MARISSA BEALE

The South County Band performed during the race. All funds go toward supporting the band, new uniforms and new turf for the school's football field.



Rob Bell, 25, was the first place overall winner in the Twilight Rock 'n' Run 5K race, sponsored by the South County High School Band Boosters.



Meghan Hughes, 35, was the second place overall winner, and the first place overall winner for women.



From left, first place finisher Victoria Hart, 29, and second place winner, Sara East, 29, pose for pictures on the podium. Third place finisher, Tiffany Hillman from Washington, 32, not pictured, finished the race in 38:41.



Karen Young, 46, placed first for women in her category and ran the course in 23:35. Bill Stahr, 53, placed second for men in his category and ran the course in 22:32. Both have been running for a long time.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A high density of deer is seen as an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety throughout the Fairfax County.

Deer Archery Program Enters Sixth Season

Continued overabundance brings bow-hunters back to parks.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Even at 72, the animated Disney classic “Bambi” can still soften the hardest hearts when it comes to appreciating the innocence and natural beauty of deer. But the reality in Fairfax County is that an unnaturally high density of Bambis and mothers of Bambi is an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety.

To cope with that reality, Fairfax County Police manage a robust population control program: an archery-hunting season now in its sixth year.

There are simply too many deer in wooded areas around the county — throughout parks, private residences and roadways. Ongoing population density surveys conducted by the Park Authority offer data from aerial infrared imaging as well as vegetation monitoring.

And according to the police department’s Animal Wildlife Specialist Dr Katherine Edwards, the most recent surveys “still indicate an overabundance of deer in the parks.”

The effects of this overcrowding are multifold, with the most immediately dangerous being increased vehicle collisions.

Each year, the police estimate between 4,000 and 5,000 deer-vehicle strikes take place.

At the state level, Virginia ranked eighth in the country for collisions between 2007 and 2008.

It doesn’t help that the times of day deer are characteristically most active are morning and evening twilight — coinciding with northern Virginia rush hours.

Aside from the roadside threat, the overpopulation also increases potential human exposure to diseases carried by deer-riding pests such as Lyme disease. Then on an ecological level, deer crowding results in “overbrowsing”, or decimation of understory plant life that would otherwise offer food and shelter to other forest-dwelling animals, not to mention help regenerate the forest itself.

And many homeowners are familiar with the scourge of azaleas, daylilies and hostas.

In an attempt to put the deer population in check, the Board of Supervisors first approved archery as a preferred method in October 2000. It took several years for the program to fully develop, but by the end of fiscal year 2014 — the sixth year of the program’s current form — nearly 800 hunters were responsible for bringing in 848

To the Point

Archery program quick hits

- ❖ This deer-hunting seasons lasts from Sept. 6 until Feb. 21, 2015. But don’t expect things to pick up until the weather gets cooler: “As hot as it’s been, I doubt there’s been any hunters in the woods,” said Master Animal Control Officer Cook. “Around the beginning of October more hunters will be active.”

- ❖ Virginia hunting hours are Monday through Saturday, 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Most hunters follow deer off the beaten path, but if you encounter one, they should have identification: “Some people get a little bit shocked by the sight of the bow,” said Lake Accotink Park manager on duty Carlos Cruz, “but the flash of a badge brings them back to ease. Most people are pretty aware of it.”

- ❖ All archers must have applied for the program by July 6 2014, possess a valid

Virginia hunting license and have passed a proficiency and safety test.

- ❖ Archers work in groups and are assigned and limited to hunt only in specific sites. The complete list of program locations is online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/archery/archery-program.htm.

- ❖ Feeding deer is illegal between Sept. 1 and the first Saturday in January.

- ❖ The police encourage people to report deer damage they see in neighborhoods and parks, contacting the non-emergency number 703-691-2131 or program manager Sergeant Earit Powell at 703-324-0280.

- ❖ Some recommended deer-detering plant life include common boxwood, Colorado Blue Spruce, Red Osier Dogwoods and Scots Pine. Or a motion-activated sprinkler may also do the trick.

deer across 27 park sites.

And though not popular with “Bambi” lovers, controlled hunting is the only population control method approved by the state.

“It’s the toolbox we have now,” said Edwards.

The archery is safe to park patrons and bystanders — only five non-hunter injuries have occurred statewide in the last five decades — and despite the vegetation being slow to rebound, Edwards said the deer population is reducing.

By exactly how much is uncertain. And Edwards said her department is open to different methods that would be more ef-

fective, or as effective and more humane.

Such as the current study by White Buffalo Inc, which is operating under a special permit from the state to experiment with sterilizing deer rather than killing them.

“We hear both sides,” said Edwards. “It’s pretty balanced between the viewpoints. If there’s a new method, it gets a lot of attention — looking into these humane options in the future. That’s perfectly reasonable to question the methods we’re using and discuss the options.”

But for now, the police will continue to manage the archery program, because they believe it’s the best option at their disposal.

FREE CAREGIVERS SEMINARS

Fairfax County is offering the following Free Caregiver Seminars in October:

- ❖ Understanding and Caring for a Person with Dementia. Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. For directions: 703-204-4664.

- *S cams and Financial Crimes Against Seniors. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 3:00-4:30

- p.m. Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. For directions: 703-768-6700.

- ❖ Caregiving 101. Monday, Oct. 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. For directions: 703-339-4610.

- ❖ Six Questions to Consider About Paying for Long-Term Care – WEBINAR. Wednesday, Oct. 29, Noon-1:00 p.m.

- Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm.

- ❖ Carfit experts will be at the Vienna

- Volunteer Fire Department parking lot to assist older adults in determining if your car fits you properly for maximum safety. Free program. Wed., October 8, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call 703-255-6360 to register and for more information.

- ❖ Fairfax County’s free Chronic Disease Self-Management Program workshops are held Oct. 15-Nov. 19, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

NEWS

Democratic Women to Honor Foust

The reception will be held on Sept. 20 in Clifton.

The Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) will host a reception in honor of John Foust, the Democratic Candidate for the Virginia 10th Congressional District on Saturday, Sept. 20. The event will take place at the Clifton home of Terry Matlaga and Kevin Bell from 5 to 7 p.m. Special guests include state Senators George Barker, Dave Marsden and Chap Petersen, Delegates David Bulova and Eileen Filler-Corn, Fairfax Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

Jane Barker, Chair of the DWCNV, said, "The last fundraiser that we held as an organization was back in 2005, the year the DWCNV began.

We feel so strongly that we need Supervisor John Foust to represent Democrats, Republicans, and In-



John Foust

dependents that we decided to host a fundraiser to help him win his election. His mainstream American values, thoughtful common sense approach, ability to work across party lines, effectiveness, and leadership are sorely needed in a too partisan Congress."

General Admission tickets are \$35; Young Dems (under 30) and Seniors (80 and over) are \$25. Event sponsorships are available. For sponsorship and other information, write to

dwcevents@aol.com or call 703-606-2937 or 703-830-1355. You may purchase tickets in advance at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/jfseptember20> or by sending a check to DWCNV, P.O. Box 143, Clifton, VA 20124. Checks should be made out to John Foust for Congress.

The Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) are dedicated to providing a friendly forum in which Democratic women educate themselves, discuss important issues of the day, and work together to help elect Democrats to local, state, and national offices. The DWCNV strives to build political awareness among members of our community, influence public policy, promote participation in political processes, and encourage connections between regional leaders and the local community.

All Democratic women in Northern Virginia are invited to become members. Meetings are held on Sundays from 3 - 5 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall. For more information, email cliftonwomendems@aol.com or visit the DWCNV website at www.democraticwomenofclifton.org



September Sailing to the Greek Islands

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 - Spanakopita
 - Baklava
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BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Take Control of Your Blood Sugar. 3 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This program will teach you how to manage your blood sugar, make healthy dietary changes to help lose weight, feel more energized, and head off diabetes. Adults.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

"Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief." 1 - 6 p.m. Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane, Fairfax Station. Stephen Ministry, a Christian nonprofit organization training pastors and layperson volunteers to better serve the caregiving needs of their community, hosts an introductory workshop. \$15 per person; \$50 for four or more. Visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop or call Stephen Ministries at 314-428-2600 to register or receive more information.

Kings Park Library Friends Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Kings Park Library Friends meeting for adults.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults.

Morning English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

English Conversation Group. 5:15 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

New Voting Equipment. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Staff from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will provide an opportunity to see and try out the brand new voting machines and equipment that will be used in the upcoming elections. Drop in anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Student Volunteer Training Session. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Please bring completed application. Grades 7-12.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

Homework Help. 6 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Drop-in homework help for students up to 8th grade.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills.

Basic Computer Skills Training. 1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn basic computer skills with our one-on-one technology volunteers. Adults.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Ages 13-18.

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OPINION

Protecting Those Threatened by Domestic Violence

September marks 20th Anniversary of Violence Against Women Act.

BY GERRY CONNOLLY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

This month marks the 20th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – landmark legislation in which our nation committed new prevention and response resources so that our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends would no longer have to suffer in silence through domestic abuse.

Though meaningful progress has been realized, domestic violence continues to be a real and troubling challenge in our communities. Far too many of us have been touched by domestic violence in one way or another. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims each year, and one in every four women will experience such violence

in their lifetime.

Just last year, Turning Points, the only domestic violence intervention program in Prince William County, served 6,000 clients. In Fairfax County there were more than 8,000 incidents reported, and we have seen a 40 percent increase in homelessness due to domestic violence.

This is why I was so disappointed when the House Republican majority blocked a bipartisan modernization of VAWA for 18 months before relenting last year. The Senate passed the bill in a strong and bipartisan 78-22 vote, but some House Republicans objected because they did not want to extend protections to Native Americans, LGBT Americans, and immigrants. Thankfully, House leadership finally put aside this obstructionism and ultimately allowed the House to pass the improved VAWA bill, which I and an overwhelming number of Democrats supported.

Thanks to VAWA, we have strengthened and expanded critical protections for all victims of domestic violence and enhanced our nation's criminal justice response. Specifically, VAWA has instituted stricter sentencing guidelines for repeat federal sex crime offenders and pro-

vided resources to tribal, local, and state law enforcement communities to address violent crimes against women. In addition, VAWA funds specialized training for 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel every year. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which responds to more than 22,000 urgent calls for help every month, also was created under VAWA.

The updated VAWA is renewing our successful partnerships with local nonprofits and law enforcement agencies. It is improving protections for underserved communities, particularly immigrants and victims of human trafficking. And of particular importance for helping victims through the recovery process, the new bill is expanding housing assistance and providing support regardless of sexual orientation.

Sadly, recent events in the news demonstrate that although we have made great progress, as a community we must remain vigilant in protecting those threatened by domestic violence. Please know that I will continue to push Congress to maintain and expand the investments needed to support these critical programs in our community and continue to be a voice of support to those who might otherwise not speak up for themselves.

COMMENTARY

School Board Ready to Tackle Fiscal Challenges

BY TAMARA DERENAK KAUFAX
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the chairman of Fairfax County School Board for the 2014-15 school year. My colleagues on the board and I – working closely with our superintendent, Dr. Karen Garza – have an ambitious agenda for the year ahead. Our top priority remains adequate funding for our schools at both the state and county levels. State support for education remains at unacceptable levels and we will continue to work with our county Board of Supervisors to provide our schools with an adequate level of financial support when the state fails to do its job. As a consensus builder, I will continue to urge the School Board to work in partnership with the Board of Supervisors to find solutions to our budget dilemma.

We have already taken steps to build a stronger relationship with the Board of Supervisors. This past year, Dr. Garza provided a new level of transparency in the budget process by meeting with the Board of Supervisors and other community leaders, conducting listening tours in each of the magisterial districts, and developing the Citizens Guide to Understanding the Budget, all of which were well received by the supervisors and the community. Our boards have already met jointly in September to outline our fiscal forecasts. In addition, we have established the Joint Budget Development Committee composed of three supervisors and three School Board members. The committee will review budget factors impacting Fiscal Year 2016 and provide guidance to both boards. The committee will deliver a report to both boards

before the County Executive presents his Advertised Budget and before the superintendent presents her Proposed Budget in early 2015. Last year, the county and School Board created the joint Infrastructure Financing Committee to review the facilities needs of both FCPS and the county. The committee report released earlier this year resulted in an additional \$13 million that will be invested each year beginning in FY 2016 for school infrastructure upgrades. I will continue to encourage this kind of collaboration to build trust and realistic expectations for the supervisors, the school board, and the community.

In the next few weeks we plan to make a final decision regarding school start times for the 2015-16 school year. Superintendent Garza made her recommendation to the board at a meeting in early September. We will provide the community with sufficient time to comment on the proposal before we take final action at our Oct. 23 meeting. As you may recall, the School Board adopted a resolution in April 2012 with the stated goal to start high schools after 8 a.m. The board subsequently hired Children's National Medical Center to serve as consultants to develop a plan to achieve that goal. CNMC developed four options. Those options were taken to the community in a series of eight public meetings held in May and June. After analyzing the feedback from parents and the community, CNMC made their recommendation and, based on school board direction, Option 3 is the framework being used to develop a final recommendation for school board consideration. I invite you to learn more at www.fcps.edu.

Other new initiatives include the FCPS Por-

COMMENTARY

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Lorton Community Action Center Wine-Tasting Raises \$6,000

In fiscal year 2014, the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) served meals to 3,550 individual guests. On Saturday, Sept. 13, they served wine to 110 more fortunate individuals who gathered for LCAC's second annual "Raise a Glass of Hope" wine-tasting fundraiser.

The event ran from 4-7 p.m. at the Mason Neck home of LCAC board member Bruce Scott and his wife Mary. "The weather cooperated, just barely," said LCAC Director of Development Andrea Clay. "Clouds parted and we were able to be outside."

Entry to the tasting was \$50 per person, and \$75 per couple, some of which was tax-deductible. Guests were able to sample three examples of red, white and sparkling wines from all over the map, including Italy, France and Bulgaria.

Total Wine provided the wine to LCAC at a discount, and LCAC in turn sold the bottles for between \$12 and \$20. The bottle sales and entrance fees amounted to about \$6,000 raised in total, about a 20 percent increase from last year's



Guests sample wine while raising money for the Lorton Community Action Center at the Raise a Glass of Hope event in Mason Neck.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREA CLAY

Mo Faber (left) of Springfield and LCAC board member Ron Kowalski (right) of Lorton uncork a sparkling wine at the second annual Raise a Glass of Hope wine-tasting fundraiser.

event.

The fact that September has been dubbed "Hunger Action Month" by the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks was just a nice coincidence, according to Clay, who said that "unfortunately, hunger is still a real issue in our community."

LCAC serves about 225 local families per week, every week. By the end of FY 2014, the Lorton volunteers had seen almost a 19 percent increase in the number of households served.

"We like to think we're in America, the land of plenty," said Clay. "Not only has [hunger] not

been eradicated in America, it hasn't been eradicated in Lorton. There's not a ton of people out there meeting the need here in Lorton."

The next LCAC fundraiser will be a 30-minute Halloween-themed "service stroll" at South County High School on Oct. 25, starting

at 9 a.m.

To find out more about the LCAC's different efforts to promote the long-term health of low-income individuals and families, visit their website www.lortonaction.org.

— TIM PETERSON

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NOOR NAVEED
Noor Naveed hopes to become the first person in her family to graduate from college. After graduating from NOVA, she transferred to George Mason University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY ZUASO
Amy Zuaso became the first person in her family to graduate from college. She says the guaranteed admission agreements at NOVA allowed her to complete her associate's degree and transfer to her dream school: James Madison University.

A Different Path to a 4-year Degree

NOVA's Guaranteed Admissions Program gives students opportunities to attend their dream schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 THE CONNECTION

Noor Naveed immigrated to the United States from Pakistan with her family shortly after the 9/11 attacks. The family settled in Northern Virginia and, years later, Naveed graduated from Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. She dreams of becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college.

"My mother was forced to drop out of junior high and at 32 got her GED. I just knew that there wasn't anyone in my immediate family who had graduated from college and was determined to be the first person," said Naveed. "I knew I wanted to [go to] George Mason because I didn't want loans and I knew I could pay for George Mason out of pocket."

Naveed used Northern Virginia Community College's Guaranteed Admissions Program to complete her associate of arts degree and is now finishing a bachelor's degree in criminology, law and society at George Mason University in Fairfax.

"Counselors were great at telling me what classes I should take so they would transfer," she said. "Almost all of my classes transferred."

NOVA's admissions agreements guarantee current and future NOVA students who earn associate degrees admission to more than 40 four-year colleges and universities.

Students do have to meet certain academic requirements, such as earning a minimum grade point average, in order to be accepted into their chosen four-year colleges.

"It's very beneficial to the students because before these agreements, there weren't any perimeters as to what it takes to be admitted to universities," said Julia Brown, coordinator for transfer policy at Northern Virginia Community College. "As long as you have a certain GPA, the guaranteed admission agreement takes all of the guess work out of whether you will qualify. It is a huge relief. ... Students don't want to waste money or time by taking a class that isn't needed."

NOVA officials say that popular majors include engineering, nursing, computer science and general studies.

For example, a student can earn an associates degree in engineering from NOVA then transfer to Virginia Tech's College of Engineering or the University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science. A student who might be unsure of the major he plans to pursue can earn a general studies degree and then transfer to George Mason University.

George Mason University, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech are the top transfer schools for NOVA graduates.

"The [Guaranteed Admission



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA
NOVA Community students can earn admission to more than 40 colleges and universities through the school's guaranteed admission agreements.

Agreement] program allowed me to complete my associate's degree close to home. The GAA gave me the opportunity to transfer to my dream school, James Madison University, with ease and with no debt," said Amy Zuaso, a first year advising specialist at NOVA. "At NOVA, I met with a JMU transfer representative that informed me about a full ride scholarship program, The Centennial Scholars Program, that I applied for and was awarded. Start-

ing at NOVA first and using the GAA helped me graduate from a four-year school and to be the first person in my family to graduate from college."

Zuaso is now completing an online Master's Degree in counseling at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED after the release of a workforce trends report prepared by George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis showed professional, scientific, technical and health care fields as the key sources of new net job growth in Northern Virginia from 2010 to 2020.

"The GAA is designed to offer students a seamless transfer process," said Darren Troxler, associate dean of admissions and chief transfer officer at George Mason University. "Students who meet all of the requirements for GAA admission are not only guaranteed transfer admission to Mason, but are considered juniors for class standing, registration and financial aid purposes, and are considered to have completed the Mason Core, our lower-level general education requirement."

Troxler says another advantage to GAA enrollment is the significant cost savings for students and parents. "There is a \$271.00 per credit hour differential in tuition rates between Mason and NOVA for Virginia residents," he said. "Students will realize a significantly lower debt burden by taking advantage of the Virginia Community College System."

Portrait of a Graduate Discussed

BY REENA SINGH
 THE CONNECTION

The heart of the school system's new strategic plan is closer to being approved.

The Fairfax County School Board discussed the five component Portrait of a Graduate - with some asking for a component emphasizing a caring quality - at Monday's work session.

"We haven't truly captured what we're trying to say with 'goal-directed,'" said Mason District board member Sandy Evans.

She and a handful of other board members felt the last component, "Goal-directed and resilient" came across as cut-throat. She said the word "caring" needed to be in the heading of the component because character ethics is a priority.

THE FIVE COMPONENTS for the Portrait of a Graduate that was created for approval are Communicator, Collaborator, Global Citizen, Creative and Critical Thinker in addition to Goal-Directed and Resilient Individual.

"This is what we call the heart of the strategic plan."
 — FCPS Chief of Staff Marty Smith

"You can be all of these things and be a horrible human being," said Braddock District board member Megan McLaughlin.

She said her reason for needing the heading's name change stemmed from her social work background.

"It's one of the most important things we can do, create a young person who cares," she said.

Hunter Mill District board member Pat Hynes agreed that the name sounded "pushy." "It's really all about ambition - that's what it comes across as sounding," she said.

Portrait of a Graduate was announced by Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza last October during an education summit. Since then, stakeholders have sent in a flurry of comments on what the final product should look like.

"We've had hundreds and hundreds of people submit feedback to the committee," she said. "It resonates with a lot of people." Even retired teachers, she said, have supported the measure.

Part of the new FCPS strategic plan.

FCPS Chief of Staff Marty Smith showed a video about the importance of the five components for a students and what type of student they want graduating from the school system.

"This is what we call the heart of the strategic plan," he said. Smith said that Portrait looks at skills even the youngest students might need when they graduate. In addition, he said that everyone, including himself, could identify with the qualities they need to be good at school, their job and their life.

"It's not changing the 'what,'" said Garza. "It's changing the 'how.'"

She said she wants to honor the committee's work by keeping most of the wording, but there could be some room to put the word "caring" into the last component's heading.

Several other board members felt that changing the wording was not necessary.

"We're at the Queen Elsa moment where we need to just let it go," said at large board member Ryan McElveen.

Springfield District board member Elizabeth Schultz felt that the words "goal-directed" were being misconstrued. While other members felt that it was pressuring students to become world leaders, Schultz said goals are different from person to person depending on their situation, whether that means having a 4.9 Grade Point Average or dressing themselves.

"Having goals isn't a bad thing," she said. "Being resilient isn't a bad thing."

BOARD CHAIRMAN Tamara Derenak Kaufax encouraged those unhappy with the name to submit amendments by the end of the week. The board is scheduled to vote on the proposal at the next School Board meeting Sept. 18.

The components for Portrait of a Graduate can be found at [http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/9NHNVC4A210A/\\$file/POG%20Chart%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/9NHNVC4A210A/$file/POG%20Chart%20FINAL.pdf).

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/SEPT 18-SUNDAY/OCT 5

"You're Such An Animal."

Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Gloria Benedetto shares her tribute to the animals she loves. Using several techniques of stippling or painting with inks, pastels, acrylics or watercolor, the suite of work demonstrates the variety of animal portraiture that can be achieved through different mediums and styles.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

16th Annual Fall for the Book Festival. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A week-long, multiple-venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

Experience Peru. 11 a.m. Fair Oaks Mall, I-66 at Route 50, Fairfax. Learn about Peru: its culture, natural beauty, music and more.

FRIDAY/SEPT.19-SUNDAY/OCT.19

Earth and Fire Ceramics

Exhibition. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. An exhibition featuring the works of 35 leading ceramic artists from the nine nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. <http://workhousearts.org>

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19- SUNDAY/OCT. 12

Edgar Allan Poe's Nevermore.

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Take a musical journey into the heart and soul of Edgar Allan Poe, America's first truly visionary poet. Lyrics are adapted from Poe's writings. Admissions: \$15. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

The Henkel Physicians: A Family's

Life in Letters. Foley Forum, Northern Virginia Community College, Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. The exhibit documents the daily lives of a family of physicians in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley during the 19th century, serving in their community, on the battlefield and in the nation's courts of law. 703-822-6684.

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Buy gently used books to benefit the library. 703-249-1520.

City of Fairfax Library Friends Fall

Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join the Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library for the Fall Children's Book Sale. Choose gently-used books for children, for yourself or as gifts. All ages.

How to Train Your Dragon 2.

7-9 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Watch How to Train Your Dragon 2 on the big screen. Free.

FRIDAY/SEPT 19- SUNDAY/SEPT 21

Fall Book Sale. Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North



Gloria Benedetto shares her tribute to the animals she loves by using several techniques of stippling or painting with inks, pastels, acrylics and watercolor. View her exhibit, "You're Such An Animal," at the Workhouse Arts Center until Oct. 5.

Street, Fairfax. Sunday bag day, \$5/ bag. friendsoffairfaxcitylibrary@gmail.com

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents Brahms, Grieg and Glinka by Alexander Schimpf. 7 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Come listen to a lecture and evening of classical music at the University Center.

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Buy gently used books to benefit the library. 703-249-1520.

Date Night: Chef's. 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. Couples cooking class. \$85 <http://workhousearts.org>.

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. Evening of social ballroom dance lead by an instructor. \$5- \$10. <http://workhousearts.org>

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumblers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227. Teens and adults.

Art Guild of Clifton Art Walk. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Chapel Road, Clifton. Fine Art, jewelry, photography, artists and demos. Along the way also see unique shops for gifts, home accessories, papercraft, cupcakes and wine.

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444.

Open Mic Coffee House. 7-9:30 p.m. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Free coffee, snacks, amps, and keyboard provided. If you would like to share your talent, call Pete 703-955-2039.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive. The September 20th concert at George Mason's Center for the Arts begins with Mikhail Glinka's Overture to the opera Ruslan and Ludmilla. Composed between 1837 and 1842 and based on a poem by the great

Russian writer Alexander Pushkin, the opera has been a mainstay of the Bolshoi Opera's repertoire. Purchase tickets at www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Bicentennial Commemoration:

War of 1812. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of local Fairfax citizens' military role with the Virginia Militias in 1814, this event features a living history encampment of the 60th Virginia Militia, portrayals of local landowners, a village blacksmith, fencing demonstrations; talks by historian Stuart Butler, author and reporter Steve Vogel, historian Patrick O'Neill and period music by musician/musicologist David Hildebrand.

SATURDAY/SEPT.20-SUNDAY/SEPT.28

Live Onstage: Alice in Wonderland. 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Featuring songs based on the poetry from the original text, the Cheshire Cat, the Red Queen, the White Rabbit and the rest of the cast will be on hand as Alice adventures through Wonderland. Admissions: \$8-\$12. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

SATURDAY/SEPT.20-SATURDAY/OCT.25

40 Years of Potomac Valley Watercolorists Public Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. This exhibit of 100 watercolor painting celebrates the 40 year anniversary of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. <http://workhousearts.org>

SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegal: Classics Go Pop! 7 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Come join pianist Jeffrey Siegal in his season opener at George Mason and enjoy his concerts with commentary series. Admissions: \$24-\$40. 888-945-2468.

City of Fairfax Library Friends Fall Children's Book Sale. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join the Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library for the Fall Children's Book Sale.



View artwork by Javier Padilla and more at Epicure Café's latest exhibition, Wake Up Call, a new collection of contemporary artwork by local artists on display through Oct. 4.

Choose gently-used books for children, for yourself or as gifts.

Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. A display of N gauge trains running. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org or call phone 703-425-9225.

Dog Adoption. 12-4 p.m. Petco, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

Virginia Opera Children's Program - The Empress and the Nightingale. 2 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Empress and the Nightingale is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic children's story of a small bird sharing her gift of song with the ruler of China in ancient times. With a cast of three performing original music, this opera vividly teaches the value of music performed live versus machine-made art.

MONDAY/SEPT. 22

Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resource questions answered. includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Bring your library card, eBook reader and laptop.

Crazy 8s Math Club. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join Bedtime Math's Crazy 8s, where you'll build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess...it's a totally new kind of math club.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join this series of Tai Chi classes coached by Dante Gilmer. Register for one or more of the six sessions. Adults and older adults.

Short Book Conversations. 1:30 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join our

lively discussion of We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson. Adults and older adults.

Wednesday/Sept. 24

Time for Twos. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Join us for a story time focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age 2 with adult.

Wheels on the School Bus. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities about shapes. Age 3-5 with adult.

Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Storytime with a focus on early literacy skills. Age 2-3 with adult.

Ebook Clinic. 12 p.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.

My Gym-Babies. 10:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise designed for babies. Age 12-23 months with adult.

My Gym-Toddlers. 11:30 a.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise designed for toddlers. Age 2 years with adult.

Bilingual Storytime. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

Genealogy Help Desk. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumblers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading. Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resource questions answered. includes help with eBooks and compatible devices.

Magazines with Zino. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn to use the library's Zino digital magazine collection where you can read (and keep) digital editions of your favorite magazines.

My Gym-School Age. 4 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's large motor skills, learn basic gymnastics and have fun! Presented by a local My Gym instructor. Ages 6-12.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 26

Rock the Block! #TGIFairfax. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Fairfax, University Drive between North and Main Street, Fairfax. Come celebrate the summer concert series and block party in the heart of Fairfax with music by LEGGZ. 703-385-7858.

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Easy to Grow Shrubs. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Master Gardeners introduce you to some easy care shrubs that add to your landscape. \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 484 5401 or call 703-642-5173.



PHOTO BY TREVOR WRAYTON/VDOT

Looking north on the new ramp to the Fort Belvoir North Area, the flyover bridge will be linked to the existing HOV ramp to allow commuters from the NGA building to access the southbound 95 Express Lanes in the afternoon, as well as the northbound I-95 general purpose lanes. This ramp will be open when the 95 Express Lanes open in early 2015.

Construction Nearly Done on the 95 Express Lanes

The construction on the 95 Express Lanes is 90 percent complete and on schedule to open in early January 2015. While the project is in its final months of construction, motorists should still expect lane closures and periodic stoppages on I-95/395 for sign erection and utility work associated with the express lanes project.

Motorists traveling in the 29-mile corridor between Duke Street (Route 236) and Garrisonville Road (Route 610) can expect to

see crews paving, placing guardrails, grading and seeding, and ITS (fiber optic technology for operations) work in preparation for the lanes opening in early 2015. In late fall, there will be test vehicles riding on the new lanes, testing the gantries and E-ZPass detectors in various places.

Now is the time for motorists to make a plan to use the 95 Express Lanes. All vehicles, except motorcycles and registered buses need an E-ZPass or an E-ZPass Flex to use the express lanes. E-ZPass or

E-ZPass Flex can be obtained at most Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) locations, selected Giant Foods or Wegmans, online, and AAA stores. For a complete listing and additional E-ZPass info, go to 95ExpressLanes.com. When the 95 Express Lanes open, hybrid drivers will no longer be able to access the HOV lanes for free, they will be required to pay a toll or have three people in the car.

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Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Friends of Music and the Arts at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke will present Patrick Lundy and the Ministers of Music in a thrilling, moving, and uplifting program of gospel music on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, at 4 p.m.. This group has appeared with B. B. King, Lyle Lovett, Roberta Flack, and other artists. They have also appeared at the White House and before the U. S.

Senate.

They represented the United States at the World's Fair in Lisbon, Portugal. They have performed at the Kennedy Center and at the historic Howard Theatre. A reception will follow so that concert-goers may meet the performers.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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Robinson running back Marcus Denham dives into the end zone for a second-quarter touchdown against Lake Braddock on Sept. 12.



Robinson sophomore Roman Lowery carries the ball during the Rams' 19-17 win over Lake Braddock on Friday.

Robinson Football Improves to 3-0 with Win Over Rival Lake Braddock

Rams build 19-0 lead, hold on to beat "contender."

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

First-year Robinson football coach Scott Vossler had a message for the Rams entering Friday's rivalry contest against Lake Braddock: It's time to beat an upper-echelon opponent.

Vossler, Robinson's fourth head coach in five seasons, has his sights set on returning the once-powerful Rams to prominence, and that includes knocking off the region's elite. Robinson started the year with victories against Lee and Woodson, programs which combined for a 5-16 record in 2013. The Rams won eight games and reached the second round of the playoffs last season when Vossler was the team's defensive coordinator, but Robinson went a combined 0-4 against Lake Braddock (12-1, reached the region final four), Westfield (region runner-up) and Centreville (state champion).

"We challenged them the other day about beating a contender," Vossler said. "The seniors really hadn't done it yet. I've been here for three, four years and every time we played one of the powerhouses, we've lost."

FRIDAY'S GAME started as a matchup of 2-0 teams. It ended with Vossler motioning from the sideline for Robinson fans to increase the decibel level of their celebration.

Robinson defeated Lake Braddock 19-17 on Sept. 12 at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke. The Rams built a 19-0 lead with a bruising running game and strong defense before surviving a late Bruin rally.

Trailing 19-11, Lake Braddock quarterback Kyle Edwards threw to a wide-open Evan Eschenburg for a 21-yard touchdown with 1:08 remaining in the fourth quarter. The Bruins' two-point conversion attempt failed, and Robinson recovered the ensuing inside kick attempt to secure the victory.

"We've got kids that haven't won big in a while and they want it real bad," Vossler said. "... We had an opportunity here and we went at it with everything we had."



Multiple Robinson defenders wrap up Lake Braddock running back Dejou Lee on Friday.

It was Robinson's first victory over Lake Braddock since 2011.

The Ram offense succeeded in traditional Robinson style — lining up in the wing-T and pounding out yards on the ground. Running backs Marcus Denham, Sean Foncha, Roman Lowery and Dajon Lee combined for 51 carries, 252 yards and three touchdowns.

"I thought we ran it well," Vossler said. "... [The Bruins] were loading up [the box]. We probably could have thrown it once or twice but that's not who we are. We think when people put 11 in there, we've also got 11 in there and our 11 are better than theirs."

Denham, a 5-foot-10, 160-pound senior, led the Robinson ground game with 20 carries for 108 yards and a touchdown. He scored on a 26-yard run with 1:39 remaining in the second quarter, diving into the end zone to give the Rams a 13-0 advantage.

"Our mentality is Coach Vossler wants to bring back the Rams' tradition of being a

tough-nosed, physical, run-the-ball-down-your-throat team," Denham said, "and we're going to continue to do that until otherwise shown that we have to change."

Foncha, a 5-foot-10, 195-pound junior, carried 13 times for 67 yards. Lowery, a 5-foot-11, 185-pound sophomore, rushed 14 times for 62 yards and a score. Lowery's 5-yard touchdown run gave the Rams a 7-0 lead with 10:35 left in the second quarter.

Lee, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound junior, had four carries for 15 yards and a touchdown. His 3-yard scoring run gave the Rams their largest lead of the night at 19-0 with 1:09 left in the third quarter.

Senior quarterback Jack Rowlett, a three-year starter, completed his only pass attempt for 22 yards to senior Davante Hicks.

The Robinson defense limited Lake Braddock to just two first downs in the opening half, including one resulting from a pass interference penalty. The Rams forced a turnover on downs at their own 36 late in the first quarter, and Hicks intercepted Edwards at the Robinson 22 late in the sec-

ond quarter.

"We thought our guys were pretty good against [the] spread," Vossler said. "We're pretty athletic, we're a little smaller, we think we match up well against that. Our D-line gets after it. Our kids just played with great effort, and when you do that, you cover up mistakes."

ROBINSON KEPT Lake Braddock off the scoreboard until the final minute of the third quarter. Facing second-and-10 at the Lake Braddock 45-yard line, Edwards completed a deep pass to Eschenburg, who fumbled into the end zone. A Lake Braddock player recovered the loose ball for a touchdown. A two-point conversion cut the Robinson lead to 19-8.

Lake Braddock's next possession started at the Robinson 30 after forcing a turnover on downs. The Rams kept the Bruins off the scoreboard, however, forcing a turnover on downs at the 10, thanks in part to a third-down sack by sophomore linebacker Donnie Warter.

Lake Braddock kicker Nicholas Bruhn booted a 27-yard field goal with 2:50 remaining in the fourth quarter and the Bruins added a late touchdown, but Robinson held on for the win.

"We played amazing," Robinson senior linebacker Nick Roth said about the Rams defense. "Donny Warter, sophomore, played [the game of] his life."

Lake Braddock's Edwards completed 11 of 24 passes for 156 yards. Running back Dejou Lee carried eight times for 31 yards. Senior receiver A.J. Alexander, who is committed to Ohio State, had four receptions for 45 yards.

After winning three straight road games, Robinson (3-0) will host Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19. After three straight home games, Lake Braddock (2-1) will travel to face Westfield at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

What did Friday's victory mean to Vossler? "It means the world," he said. "I think it gives us some credibility to what we're doing, that we can play smashmouth football in 2014 when not many people do it anymore, and we're trying to continue that."



(Top, from left) Mary Payne Omohundro, Kristen Jepperson, Karissa Swanigan, Barbara Lawson and Kathleen McCormack escort Edgar Allan Poe (Christopher Shaw, bottom) towards the afterlife.

Alice in Nevermore

Local theater company explores imagination at Workhouse.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

For the next month, Barbara Lawson is leading a triple life. A freshly minted West Springfield senior, 17-year-old Lawson plays the title character in the Pandemonium Theatrical Productions setting of “Alice In Wonderland,” as well as Virginia in the same company’s “Nevermore,” a dark musical exploring the demons of Edgar Allen Poe.

Both shows are up and running at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The year-old Pandemonium company is the brainchild of co-founders Jeffrey Davis and Mary Payne Omohundro, who produce two children’s shows and two adult shows annually, exclusively at the Workhouse.

“They’re so different that I do love the balance it gives me,” said Lawson, “being able to do two things so completely opposite — getting the best of both worlds.”

IN “ALICE,” a children-oriented adaptation by Antonio Bullock of Lorton and Jeremy MacDuff of Alexandria, Lawson nails the prim and polite, yet increasingly open-minded character.

Then as Virginia, she must balance Alice’s youthful charm with the imaginative flair that inspired a connection with America’s tragic poet.

“I know it’s a lot,” said director of both shows and co-founder of Pandemonium Jeffrey Davis. Aside from learning two sets of lines simultaneously, Lawson had to differentiate physical nuances. “You need to stop and rethink: You’re not being Alice in nevermore,” Davis said. “Alice has a very specific way she stands and carries herself. Nevermore is a more dark show.”

But running through both characters, and both shows, are themes of open-mindedness, acceptance and imagination.

“Alice doesn’t keep an open mind, at first,”

said Lawson, “then she has so much fun and meets all these new friends.” From the cryptic Caterpillar (Lyle Smythers) to the manic Mad Hatter (Giorgio Mazzealli), Alice goes from doubting to embracing absurdity, often with the aid of fun and catchy song-and-dance numbers.

There’s just the right amount of silly voices, bright costumes and wacky wordplay (at one point Alice and the March Hare [Chris Rios] find themselves debating “flour” and “flower”) to help deliver the moral of open-mindedness like a spoonful of sugar.

“It’s funny confusion. It gets a laugh, and that’s what you want,” said Davis.

“Nevermore” is similarly subtle (“No one likes getting hit over the head by a clue-by-four,” said Poe portrayal Christopher Shaw) though dives a bit deeper and darker. Poe and his five female foils exist throughout the one-act production in a constant suspended reality.

It’s uncertain whether the scenes of Poe interacting with former lovers, his deceased mother and an embodiment of death herself are past, present or merely figments of a tortured mind struggling to accept itself as it passes towards the underworld.

À la the ghosts in Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” Davis has spun the work by Arlington resident Matt Conner (music) and Alexandria resident Grace Barnes (book) such that specters of five influential women from Poe’s life not only expose his flaws of alcoholism, womanizing and egotism, but perhaps afford him (and the audience) the clarity needed to move on.

“You learn more about him by the relationships he has with these women,” said Shaw. “They draw it all out. They reveal everything. All credit to the women.”

IT’S THE WOMEN who are arguably the gatekeepers to love, and love lost, throughout Poe’s life. Conner reflected on that concept deeply when drawing from the poet’s own words to craft melodies.

“Hell is being separated from love,” he said. “When Poe felt separated from love because his mother had died at such an early age — to recapture that and live in



Courtney Branch, Giorgio Mazzealli and Morgan Sendek, along with (bottom, from left) Emily Gilson, Missy Person and Lynley Peoples, comprise the colorful cast of Antonio Bullock and Jeremy MacDuff’s “Alice in Wonderland.”



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Blake Berry, 6, (left) and Lena Berry, 4, (right) of Fort Hunt met with Alice after the performance. Blake liked when the March Hare’s question of “How do you spell ‘Stupid?’” was answered with “Y-O-U.” Lena’s favorite part was Alice being crowned Queen with a turquoise, sequined tiara. “We loved it,” said Berry’s mother Danette. “I was Alice for Halloween years ago, and this brought back memories.”

that hell, I really had to find a key and rhythm and motion in the music that resembles that.”

Conner, currently rehearsing “Elmer Gantry” for Arlington’s Signature Theater (home to the first production of “Nevermore”) acknowledges the human allegory to which audiences of the nearly 30 different productions nationwide and overseas have responded.

“They’re using Poe as a springboard,” he said, “To accepting their horrific and beautiful journey, and realizing that they did the best they could.”

“Alice in Neverland” shows each Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. through Sept. 28. “Nevermore” continues every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. through Oct. 11. For more information, visit www.workhousearts.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Route 1 Public Meetings on October 8 and 9
The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will host a third round of public meetings for the Route 1 (Richmond Highway) Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis on Wednesday, October 8, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 7) at Belmont Elementary School (751 Norwood Lane, Woodbridge) and Thursday, October 9, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 6:30) at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA). The public is invited to participate and learn the latest on this study to improve transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular travel along a 15-mile segment of Route 1 from Woodbridge to the Huntington Metro Station. Project partners include Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. For more information, including public transit available to the meeting sites, visit route1multimodal.virginiadep.gov or call 804-786-4440.

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Clifton **\$989,000**
One of a kind, gorgeous Clifton property! Perfectly sited on 5 acre lot with pool! Welcoming wrap-around porch and main level guest suite are just 2 of the many features!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-503-1812



Centreville **\$539,900**
Fabulous Colonial nestled on a richly wooded lot on quiet cul-de-sac street. This beauty features remodeled kitchen w/all the bells & whistles, Breakfast Rm offers space for huge table, 1st floor FR w/brick FP, Deck perfect for entertaining, MBR Bath remodeled w/his & her sinks, ceramic shower & much more. Walk out LL Family Room. Backs to wooded open common ground.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Burke **\$625,000**
Classic Colonial. Spacious 5 BR, 3.5 BA with fin LL Rec Room. Updated kitchen and baths with granite counters. HW floor in Foyer, Kitchen & Breakfast Rooms.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Clifton **\$699,000**
Light, bright raised rambler on gorgeous 5.5 acres. Gleaming hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, beautiful updated Kitchen & more! Property includes 6 stall barn.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-503-1812



Lorton **\$1,299,000**
Potomac River waterfront property! Features include a geothermal heating/cooling system, dock with water, power and two 10,000lb boat lifts. Separate boat garage with electrical. A boater's dream!
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Springfield **\$399,900**
Updated 4 level single family home for the price of a townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, carport and large yard. Convenient to Fort Belvoir, VRE, Metro, I-95 and 495, shopping & Accotink Park. Call for private showing.
Charles N. Shaw 703-989-7169



Lake Anna **\$1,299,000**
Waterfront Luxury Home! 6 bedrooms, 6 baths, in ground swimming pool, media room with fireplace, screened in porch, beautiful family room with stone fireplace. Spa like master bedroom. Work shop, tons of storage. Amazing Views!
Dana Isaacs 540-661-2166



Fairfax **\$550,000**
Great outdoor & indoor space!
Comfortable Colonial with 4BR/2.5BA, gas fireplace, beautiful main level ceramic tile flooring, hardwoods on UL, & remodeled kitchen. A great slate patio, front porch with swing, & nice fully fenced backyard with over-sized shed add to the wonderful outdoor space. Plus, new roof, vinyl siding, triple pane windows, new HVAC (gas heat) and more! Close to schools with Metrobus on the corner.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax/Kings Park West **\$493,000**
Lovely 4 bedroom home with garage. Wood floors. Updated kitchen that opens to private patio. Living room with fireplace. Family room opens to deck & hot tub. Large fenced back yard. Fresh paint & carpet.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



Clifton **\$658,000**
Better than new! Shows like a model! Hardwoods on 2 levels, 9' ceilings, chef's granite and island kitchen! King sized master suite, incredible fin LL w/man cave, bedroom and so much more! Desirable North Clifton location - easy commute, great schools, walk to shops, and 27 holes of golf close by!
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Lorton **\$729,000**
Beautifully renovated Cape Cod in Mason Neck with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2-car garage with upper level studio, water view of the Potomac River, abundant outdoor living space, and access to the community center, pier, beach and parkland.
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$534,900**
Looking for that perfect home?
Well...here it is! 4 Levels of perfection, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, Updated Kitchen w/stainless steel appliances, granite, Hardwd Floors, LL FR w/FP, Level 4 makes that perfect media room.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Clifton **\$499,000**
Home is in the town of Clifton. Near all downtown shops & restaurants. Updated kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Must see inside for the "old and the new." Call if you would like a private showing.
Charles N. Shaw 703-989-7169



Burke Centre **\$294,900**
Great location within minutes of shopping, VRE Station and community amenities. Three finished levels with walkout to enclosed patio and featuring stainless appliances and granite in the kitchen. Bright, light and airy end unit with open floor plan and ample parking.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Lake Anna **\$649,900**
Waterfront with Boathouse! 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with open flowing floor plan, 2 fireplaces, screened porch, deck & patio. Paved drive, 2 car garage, & shed. Close & flat to water.
Toni McQuair 703-795-2697



Fairfax **\$729,900**
Stunning Colonial with Pool! George Mason Forest. Close to GMU and Major Commuter Routes. Great Location! 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs. Updated Kitchen & Baths. New Carpet and Paint. Hardwoods and much more!
John Astorino 703-503-1819



Fairfax **\$599,990**
Stunning brick-front Basheer & Edgemoore luxury townhome/condo with 2,949 square feet of living space, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2-car garage and 3 level bump-outs. Conveniently located to I-66, Fair Oaks Mall & Fairfax Corner.
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Fairfax **\$824,900**
Lovely brick Colonial featuring 4 bedrooms (one on main level), 3 baths, 3 finished levels, updated gourmet kitchen, lower level walkout. 40,200 sq ft lot on quiet cul-de-sac street.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Gainesville **\$409,000**
4 BR, 3 1/2 BA SF home with 2-Car Garage. 1st Floor hardwoods, Ceramic tile Kitchen with SS Appliances. Fully finished LL with Rec Room, Full BA & Den. A must see!
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Burke Centre **\$675,000**
Just Listed! Beautifully updated Colonial, Gourmet Kitchen, Hardwoods throughout main level. Spacious Master with separate full bath. 3 additional BRs. Finished on all 3 levels. Tiered deck over looking flat and private rear yard.
John Astorino 703-503-1819

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