

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

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Chris Rowson proposes to Kellie McDonald on Saturday, Jan. 17 on the grounds of Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station, where the couple first knew each other as students.

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Puller Will Not Seek Re-election

Just as the Virginia General Assembly kicked off its 2015 January session, state Sen. Linda T. “Toddy” Puller (D-36) announced her decision to not run for re-election later this year.

“It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the people of the 36th district in the Senate of Virginia,” Puller said in a Jan. 14 statement. “Now, with the encouragement, love and support of my family I have made the decision to step down.”

The 23-year Assembly veteran first won a seat as delegate of the 44th district in 1991. Eight years later she was elected to represent the 36th district as senator.

“Toddy’s public service career has been dedicated to uplifting all Virginians,” U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) said in a statement, “but her primary legacy will be the incredible work she has done to support Virginia veterans. Her tireless advocacy for initiatives such as property tax exemptions for disabled veterans and Virginia’s Wounded Warriors Program will aid veterans for generations to come.” Puller’s former seat in the 44th district is currently held by Del. Scott Surovell (D-44).

“There is not member in the Vir-



g i n i a legislature who is more focused on moving our state government to address

the concerns of our nation’s veterans and their families,” Surovell said of Puller in a statement.

“Whether it is government services, tax exemptions or helping Virginians recognize the long-term consequences that combat injuries have on military families, Senator Puller has lived her public life on the frontlines fighting for resources for our community and the larger community.”

Puller said she plans to fight as hard as ever for her constituents and legislative agenda during the session, and that she will still involve herself in her community and Fairfax and Prince William County local politics.

“I look forward to spending more time with my children and two grandsons,” she added.

— TIM PETERSON

Surovell Announces Bid for State Senate

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) used his blog and e-newsletter to make his intention known: Less than a week after Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) announced she would not look to serve another term, Surovell declared he would run for the vacant seat on Sunday, Jan. 18.

Surovell joins Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman (R) in the running; Foreman released his plan Dec. 29, 2014.

“The vacancy created by the decision of Sen. Toddy Puller not to seek re-election is a huge loss for our part of Northern Virginia,” Surovell said in his statement. “Over 23 years, Senator Puller was a relentless advocate for U.S. 1, education, veterans and the less fortunate.”

Though Surovell can’t begin fundraising for his campaign during the General Assembly session, his announcement put out the word for supporters and volun-



Del. Scott Surovell

teers, expressing that he’s moving forward with everything he’s allowed.

“I am taking the steps necessary to succeed Sen. Puller in the 36th District of the Virginia State Senate,” his statement said.

Surovell, 43, works as a trial lawyer full time and lives in Mount Vernon. He’s an alumnus of West Potomac High School and James Madison University.

— TIM PETERSON

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARY KEESER

American troops deployed in Afghanistan receive care packages sent from America's Adopt A Soldier event held in Springfield on Christmas Day.



America's Adopt A Soldier stuff care packages for deployed troops on Christmas Day at Kilroy's Restaurant & Sports Bar in Ravensworth Shopping Center in Springfield. (Center, from left, in white) Aiden, Gabrielle and Eva-Beth Levy of America's Adopt A Soldier (left of Levy) Kilroy's owner Phillip Thomas and (left of Thomas) Adopt A Soldier founder Mary Keeser.

Ending Veterans Homelessness in 2015?

Chairman Bulova, Fairfax County take on national Mayors Challenge.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

The transition from serving in the armed forces to civilian life is often not simple.

While in Fairfax County there are more than 12,000 veteran-owned businesses, indicating a significant measure of success, for others the path is far more difficult.

For a small number of veterans, unemployment, alcoholism, drug abuse or mental or physical disability causes them wind up at rock-bottom: homeless.

In Fairfax County's 2014 "Point-in-Time" count of homeless individuals living in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, veterans made up 8 percent of the total number of 1,225 people. The next Point-in-Time snapshot study will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 28, in coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Dean Klein, director of the county's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, said it's difficult to maintain an exact head count because of the transient nature of the group and, he believes, many veterans who are homeless choose to not identify themselves as veterans. He estimates that there are about 150 homeless veterans in Fairfax County.

That population is the focus of First Lady Michelle Obama's Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness in 2015. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova announced recently that Fairfax County is joining the over 200 mayors and elected officials nationwide to take on that challenge.

Winterhaven

Each January, hundreds of homeless veterans from around Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC are brought to the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center for a meal, haircuts and shaves, physical exams, education services and coats. This year's Winterhaven event will take place Jan. 24.

"COULD WE HAVE ALL VETERANS IN A HOUSE by end of 2015? Yes," said Mary Keeser, a governance board member for the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and founder of volunteer organization America's Adopt A Soldier.

"Would that prevent them from becoming homeless again? No. We didn't solve the root problems. They need to go back and get training, jobs. Can we work on our preventative measures? Absolutely."

For any case of homelessness, there's no magic bullet.

"That's sort of the end of the spiral," said Bulova, "when someone has had difficulty during their daily life, trying to cope with things that they've experienced when they were serving their country. It may be marital differences, drinking, drug abuse, financial difficulties. And trying to look at some of those root causes, where this all began, is important to ending homelessness."

For "Jones," a mid-30s veteran of the war in Iraq, the downward spiral was a result of his Post-traumatic stress disorder. "He could not sleep, could not live with what he saw," said Keeser.

Jones ended up walking out on his wife and children, his life, to live in the woods south of Fort Belvoir. One day he was approached by a community member who also happened to be a veteran. That person earned Jones' trust and convinced him to seek help from a Veterans Affairs caseworker.

Over the next six months, Jones received counseling services through the VA and a HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) rental voucher helped secure him an apartment. He found a job through Adopt A Soldier's placement network and is working.

Veterans Treatment Docket

Another collaborative initiative aimed at both preventing and alleviating veterans homelessness is the Veterans Treatment Docket. This concept is a way to defer incarceration, relying instead on regular court appearances, treatment, being assigned a probation officer and working with a veteran mentor.

The judge on the docket will be Penney S. Azcarate, Chief Judge, Fairfax County General District Court, while the rest of the team will include: the Commonwealth attorney, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Chief of Police Edwin Roessler, the Department of Veterans Affairs, pretrial services, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the George Mason University school of law and a mentor coordinator.

"It's a long road to recovery," said Keeser, "but he's a real success story."

THE TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION, according to the Point-in-Time studies, has dropped by about a third between 2008 and 2014. But resolving homelessness and homeless veterans remains a point of focus for the county, nonprofit service organizations and their corporate partners.

The Mayors Challenge will propel work already in progress.

"It's intended to renew our commitment to ending homelessness for veterans," said Klein, "to raise awareness and bring on new partners."

Fairfax County has a goal on the books of ending all homelessness by 2018.

"We already have a very strong effort in place," said Bulova. "When I was invited to join the Mayors Challenge, I felt pretty confident in doing that."

The county attributes its decrease in homelessness to various assisted housing initiatives and support services, collaborative efforts across faith-based communities, state, federal and local governments, and partnerships with businesses and nonprofits.

Klein cited three major areas where progress can and is being made:

- * Having the right range of programs

America's Adopt A Soldier

The all-volunteer organization promotes "making a difference in the lives" of active-duty and retired service members through a variety of efforts. They send care packages to deployed troops all year-long, collaborate on the Wounded Warrior Path To Strength and "give back" by hosting veteran-focused activities and educational events. Founder Mary Keeser said the organization also collects donated furniture to fill the living space of formerly homeless veterans who have just moved into housing, and periodically helps cover costs like legal fees that are added barriers to individuals making progress in helping themselves.

available, whether for short-term or chronically homeless individuals. "One extreme is high-needs people who need housing with very extensive services. At the other end is rapid re-housing programs," or the infrastructure capacity to quickly re-house someone who has just become homeless.

* Housing resources: Two major funding streams for helping get people into housing are the HUD-VASH rental voucher program from the federal government and the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. "We're already putting funding towards acquiring or renovating, and subsidizing housing for people who are homeless or about to be," said Bulova.

* Putting the effort together at the community level. "In other communities where we've seen the mayor, or chairman, along with local leaders in public and private sectors, coming together to set the goals," Klein said, "their homelessness is ended."

BUT SUBSIDIZING HOUSING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL in one of Fairfax County's 24,000 one-bedroom units (\$1,408 per month average rent, based on the 2013 Rental Housing Complex Summary) alone won't win the war.

"If it was just about finding a roof, that could be easily done," said John MacPherson, executive director of The

SEE HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 7

Burke Sweethearts Take the Long Road to the Altar

Chris Rowson, Kellie McDonald engaged.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

Chris Rowson, 29, and Kellie McDonald, 27, from Burke, got engaged on Saturday, Jan. 17 at Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station, where the couple were both students. McDonald was in shock when Rowson proposed, as she had suspected that he would do it in February during a planned trip to Florida.

But despite being “taken off guard,” she said that it could not have been a more perfect time and place. It was 17 years ago that McDonald moved with her family to Burke from Florida, and it was at Fairview Elementary where she and Rowson first got to know each other.

Though the couple went to Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax and Radford University in Radford, Va., they did not date



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Chris Rowson and Kellie McDonald, from Burke, get engaged on Saturday, Jan. 17 on the grounds of Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station, where the couple first knew each other as students.

each other until 2011, when both found themselves living in Arlington.

But Rowson has always noticed McDonald. “I used to peer at her and her

dad at church,” he said.

“They definitely had instant chemistry,” said McDonald’s best friend Alexa Love. Love has known the couple since elemen-

tary school and also attended Robinson Secondary School and Radford University.

Love and the couple’s families were privy to the surprise proposal, and Rowson planned it to coincide with a family gathering. Rowson’s little nephew, Caleb, was even enlisted in the ruse to get McDonald to the park at Fairview Elementary School, under the pretext of launching a toy outside.

Rowson said that he knew McDonald was the one when she spent time with his family and beckoned his father to sit next to her instead of the recliner—she did it so naturally. “I had a feeling that she should be a part of it,” he said.

“She’s quiet at the perfect times and she is outspoken at the perfect times...she is not of so many words but they’re always the right words,” said Rowson about his fiancée.

McDonald is the executive director of Regenerative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Capitol Hill and Rockville. Rowson is a sales director at DubLabs. McDonald said she is thinking of an October wedding. The couple plans to move Alexandria with their dog Huxley.



Members of the Clifton Lions Club present a check to Life With Cancer (LWC) at the LWC facility by Fairfax Hospital. (From left) Jay Moughon, Clifton Lions and second vice district governor; Mike Carter, INOVA Health Foundation, director of outreach; Catherine Intartaglia Life With Cancer, director of development; Jim Chesley, Clifton Lions and Labor Day Car Show organizer; Rich Kurz, Clifton Lions, president; Jim Boatner, Clifton Lions, past president.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM CHESLEY

Members of the Clifton Lions Club present a check to the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) at the NVTRP Christmas Holiday Reception. (From left) Wendy Baird, NVTRP development director; Jim Chesley, Clifton Lions, Labor Day Car Show Organizer; Louise Foreman, chair of NVTRP Board of Governors; Roy Radcliffe, Clifton Lions treasurer; Kelsey Gallagher, NVTRP executive director; Rich Kurz, Clifton Lions president; Rhonda VanLowe, immediate past chair of NVTRP Board of Governors.

Clifton Lions Club Donates Over \$30,000 in December

The 65-member Clifton Lions Club has just about matched its headcount with donation recipients in the last year: 58.

The club cut a pair of oversize checks in December 2014 for two organizations to which they give mightily. On Sunday the 14th the men’s group presented a placard good for \$11,100 to the North-

ern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) at the NVTRP Christmas Holiday Reception. Right away the next day, they awarded \$20,750 to Life With Cancer (LWC) at that organization’s facility by Fairfax Hospital. Money is raised year-round through community activities like Christmas tree sales and the annual Clifton Car Show. Jim Chesley, Lions Club member and car

show organizer said the money for NVTRP and LWC came from the car show that took place last September.

“I’m working on next year’s show,” said Chesley. “I spend a year preparing for each show.” He undertakes a massive letter-writing effort that accounts for most of the funds raised through the car show, and estimates about \$5,000 comes in the day of the show

itself.

The Lions Club also used car show donations to give \$1,500 to the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department and \$1,000 to the Fairfax County Police Department family trust fund for slain policeman’s families. Those presentations took place at the show.

—TIM PETERSON

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League Seeks Members

Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees at a reduced rate. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

Railroad Museum Needs Volunteers

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. and during special Museum events. Greet Museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits and the Museum's railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for people who live in the Fairfax, Burke, Clifton or Fairfax Station area and want to contribute to the local community through volunteerism. Training and orientation provided. Many other Museum volunteer opportunities are available such as gardening, publicity, exhibit planning, special event planning and outreach to other community organizations. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer Drivers are needed for trips (Monday - Friday) to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. If you can volunteer your time, please contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

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- 2/4/2015 Wellbeing – National Children's Dental Health Month
- 2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle
- 2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
- Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16*
- 2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

MARCH

- 3/4/2015 Wellbeing
- 3/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
- 3/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 3/25/2015 Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
- FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3*

APRIL

- 4/1/2015 Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
- Easter Sunday is April 5*
- 4/8/2015 HomeLifeStyle
- 4/15/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
- 4/22/2015 Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
- 4/29/2015 Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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OPINION

Baby Steps, Not Enough

Supervisors should take action, not defer to “outside expert,” on absurd and outrageous behavior of police department.

Finally, now that the Fairfax County Police Department has taken stonewalling into the arena of the absurd, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has at least said it is time for change. It is a step, but a step that continues the appearance of obfuscation if not outright obstruction.

John Geer of Springfield was shot dead inside the doorway of his own home in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Following an argument with his longtime partner, police arrived at Geer's home and spoke with him for more than half an hour while he stood in his doorway, unarmed, with his hands raised and resting on the frame. As he began to lower his hands, by all accounts still at shoulder level, he was shot in the chest and died in his house without receiving medical attention.

It took more than 16 months, a \$12 million civil suit by Geer's family and a court order to get the first tiny bit of information on the shooting, which came earlier this month. Police named the police officer who fired the shot that killed John Geer.

The short written statement by Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. included some very trou-

bling references that appear to blame the shooting on the fact that Geer was a known gun owner. At least 35 percent of Virginia residents are gun owners; are they all more vulnerable if for some reason police are called to their homes?

EDITORIAL

Now Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova has asked the County Executive to locate “independent expertise in the field of police department operations and, specifically, in the area of policies and procedures with respect to information disclosures in the case of police-involved shootings.”

We agree with Supervisor Pat Herrity, who says: “As elected officials it is our job to make policy, not hire an ‘outside expert’ to do our job for us. ... We currently have the resources of a professional staff at our disposal.” Herrity also notes that the proposal does not contain a provision for public input, and that many county residents have researched this topic and qualify as experts.

A few minutes of research shows, for example, that the National Association of Police Chiefs, for example, has extensive documentation about best practices in a variety of police shooting incidents. (Naming the officer

involved after 48 hours is among the recommendations.)

The problem goes beyond Fairfax County, and beyond police shootings.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exemption that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim, or even about routine police activity in a neighborhood. Not even defense attorneys or victims of crimes can gain access to actual police reports.

This is about lack of accountability and denying the public access to information that must be made public.

Leaders of police departments here are engaged in serious and significant abuse of power. It's time for elected officials to represent the public and impose change on those who would hide behind a culture of secrecy.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Addressing Sex Trafficking in Northern Virginia

By TIM HUGO
STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

Four years ago, I introduced my first piece of legislation to address an issue that I thought happened everywhere but here in Northern Virginia; sex trafficking. According to the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the global fight against human trafficking, over 100,000 children are victims of the sex trade in the United States each year. The Polaris Project ranks Virginia 7th in the nation in the percentage of calls received reporting human trafficking.

Much progress has been made since then to strengthen Virginia's human and sex trafficking laws. As a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I have worked with my colleagues to enact harsher penalties against those that would do harm to our children for profit and to increase public awareness about the issue. Legislation that I introduced in 2011, 2013, and



COMMENTARY

2014 made abduction for the purposes of child prostitution a felony, increased the punishment for those soliciting minors for prostitution, and empowered law enforcement to better track down and arrest suspected traffickers.

Unfortunately, these and other new laws are not enough. Sex trafficking is thriving in Northern Virginia due to the area's access to major highways and airports, the affluence of the area's economy, as well as a large transient population. Nationally, it has become the second fastest growing crime industry in the United States after drug trafficking.

Therefore, this year I have introduced landmark legislation, HB1964, which will for the first time in Virginia, create a standalone statute for sex trafficking. The continued gaps in

Virginia's laws still do not sufficiently protect the victims or punish the evildoers. HB1964 clearly defines and establishes the offense of sex trafficking as a class 2 felony, which includes the sex trafficking of a minor. It establishes mandatory minimum sentencing for the perpetrator when a minor becomes the victim of sex trafficking, and would criminalize the recruitment of minors and adults for commercial sex.

I am hopeful that the passage of this and other human trafficking legislation this session will provide better protection for our young people and punish those that seek to harm them. I would encourage you to learn more about this issue; learn the warning signs for those young people who might be targeted and trapped in this horrific crime. There are many great organizations both locally and nationally working to end the nightmare that hundreds of thousands of young people are currently experiencing. Some of these organizations are:

Polaris Project <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

Richmond Justice Initiative <http://richmondjusticeinitiative.com/>
Shared Hope International <http://sharedhope.org/>

Passing this landmark legislation will not eradicate this horrific crime, but it will be a good step towards protecting our young people. It has been my honor and privilege to work with so many dedicated individuals, groups, law enforcement agencies and legislators. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the General Assembly to continue this fight against human and sex trafficking. One child taken from his or her home, one young person falling prey to this evil, is one too many. By working together, we can and will send a message to those who would seek to harm our children, that our kids are not for sale in Virginia; not now, not ever.

Delegate Tim Hugo represents both western Fairfax and western Prince Williams counties and is currently the Majority Caucus chairman for the Virginia House of Delegates.

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Could Fairfax County End Veteran Homelessness in 2015?

FROM PAGE 3

Lamb Center, a Fairfax- and faith-based nonprofit drop-in service facility for the homeless.

"It's not that simple. You have to find the folks and in some cases coax them into that situation."

For many homeless veterans, the pride they once felt as leaders serving their country switches to shame, leading to an aversion to asking for help when they were once the strong ones providing assistance.

Mental illness and PTSD can compound or heighten that experience, making it more difficult for a veteran to accept help.

"What you'd think just seems normal, getting into housing of any kind would be a good thing," said MacPherson, "is not normal to them."

The Lamb Center has a representative from the VA visit regularly to advise guests on what services are available to them through the government. Some people come back to the center for years, MacPherson explained, before revealing they are a veteran.

"They just feel like they don't qualify," he said.

AT 21, JACOB FLORES WAS AT AN APEX: He was married, owned a house and was in charge of 12 other Marines. He cur-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB FLORES

rently commands the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8649 in Fairfax Station.

"I got a high in the military," said the Alexandria city resident. "I was at my prime in my life; I felt like was in my 30s."

But a number of issues, not the least of which a divorce, brought Flores back to ground level. He left the Marine Corps and leaned on his friends, family and community for support as he changed gears.

"For a lot of us, our high was that brotherhood, all those men and women that we fought with," said Flores. "It's an elite group. You get this pride."

Flores is studying management and con-

struction engineering at George Mason University, financed by the G.I. Bill. He also works two jobs — one at the Dewberry architecture firm and weekends bouncing at a sports bar — to make ends meet.

But, he said, many veterans have more difficulty making the transition. One bad break turns into another, and especially for those with mental or physical disabilities as a result of their service, they can lose their support system.

"Some people miss those sections of the next step of what they should do," Flores said.

"Financial matters can become a problem,

they get bogged down and don't have enough money to pay bills or rent. It becomes an avalanche."

ONE OF THE PROJECTS Keeser and others have been working on is establishing a centralized veterans training and care center. Depending on the facility they end up using, it could be residential or not, and would offer "social grounding" services including nutrition, child life experts and job-oriented education.

"It's the whole-person concept," said Keeser. "Financial management, mental-emotional-drug issues — people would leave there in a year and walk out of the classroom environment to an actual job."

Keeser said such a center would help provide guests links to VA benefits, but for funding they would need to rely on grants and partners from the business community.

"We need to stop the bleeding," she said. "Putting individuals in housing really turns someone around. And part of that moving forward is the job, the pride and the key that opens the door."

For more information or to get involved with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership on Ending Homelessness, visit the county's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless or the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fairfaxhomeless.

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Art Gives Comfort to Hospice Patients

By ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO
THE CONNECTION

“People who dedicate their time to hospice patients are extremely kind and generous,” said Sophia Youn, creator of heARTpiece, a program at Optum Palliative and Hospice Care in Fairfax, formerly Evercare Hospice, that encourages meaningful interaction between volunteers and patients through art.

Youn, of McLean, minored in studio art at New York University, and started volunteering in a hospice while in college. She wanted to provide comfort to people who are ill. She painted a series of rotatable art as a point of conversation. The paintings gave a bit of autonomy to patients by being able to rotate them. From there she was inspired to make collaborative art with the patients.

Youn conducts a workshop to train volunteers who help patients create their art, which range from paintings to sand art. Patients who have limited fine motor skills or who suffer from dementia can still participate especially through the sand handprint.

Volunteers have something they can do, “an active activity” where patients collaborate on

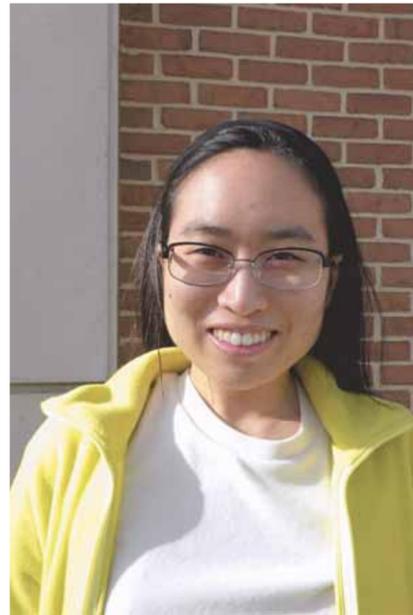


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

“You have to have a kind and generous heart to volunteer with hospice patients...in a way they need it more,” said Sophia Youn, of McLean, founder of heARTpiece, a program at Optum Palliative and Hospice Care in Fairfax.

equal footing with the volunteers, said Youn. And patients benefit from the social interaction with the

volunteers. Youn plans to extend her program to a hospice in New York. For

more information about heARTpiece go to <http://ourheartpiece.com/>.

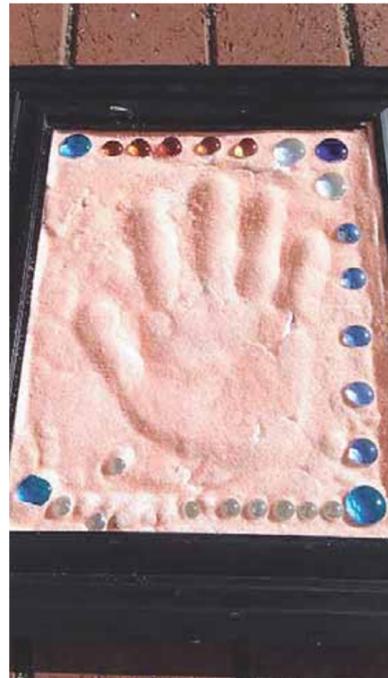


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sand handprinting is a tactile way hospice patients, especially those who suffer from dementia, can make art.

Fairfax Firefighters Provide Coats for Underprivileged Children

The City of Fairfax Firefighters, IAFF Local 2702, the City of Fairfax Fire Department and the City of Fairfax School Superintendent Dr. Peter Noonan, teamed up to provide brand-new winter coats to over 50 children at Daniels Run and Providence elementary schools in partnership with Operation Warm, a national non-profit dedicated to warming the hearts, minds and bodies of children in need. The collaborative, community-based program has impact far beyond the City of Fairfax. Firefighters across the USA and Canada are bringing this program to the communities they protect. Firefighters for Operation Warm is a movement led by professional firefighters to combat the effects of childhood poverty.

“With our poverty levels increasing, our children and schools benefit from this program



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — FM Jon Bullock, MT David Busch, School Superintendent Dr. Peter Noonan and Capt. Peter Rhoads.

in more ways than one,” said David Busch, Vice President, Local 2702. “By nature of our ser-

vices to the community, we’re able to see the harsh effects poverty has on these children first hand.”

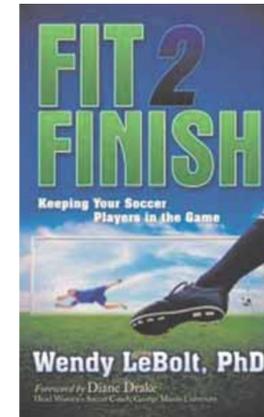
City of Fairfax Firefighters will go to each school to help personally fit each child with a new coat, and helping them to write their name in the interior tag which reads, “Made Just for You.” With monetary support from the community, the firefighters are able to give the gift of warmth to these children right before the harsh winter weather.

Specifically for the Firefighters program, Operation Warm has manufactured 90,000 American-made coats, supporting over 200 jobs. “This is so much more than a coat,” said Walter English, President, Local 2702. “Beyond warmth and dignity for children, American coat production targets a root cause of poverty for so many families.”

Donate to City of Fairfax Firefighters for Operation Warm: www.operationwarm.org/fairfaxcity



“Fit 2 Finish” author, coach, consultant and speaker Wendy LeBolt gives some instruction to a girls youth soccer team.



Herndon resident Wendy LeBolt, Ph.D., takes her years of experience, her advanced degrees, and her passion seeing kids playing healthily and happily condensing them into the book “Fit 2 Finish – Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game.”

Fit 2 Finish

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

According to Wendy LeBolt, Ph.D., in her new book “Fit 2 Finish – Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game” the cycle of success boils down to “Develop – Balance – Observe – and repeat” to keep our young athletes fit and on the field, and taking their sport as far as their interest and skill can take them. Herndon resident LeBolt has some real skin in the game of soccer – literally. She’s played it at several levels. She’s coached it - holding the E and F coaching licenses through U.S. Youth Soccer. She’s studied it. Her daughters play it. But even with all that life experience, LeBolt (like many others, who perhaps still do), used to believe that young soccer players could become fit by simply playing the game. After all, she reasoned, “the game puts all the right demands on them. It’s the most specific training they can get, right?”

THEN SHE STARTED noticing all of the injuries. All of the knee braces, kids on the sidelines with crutches and kids limping about on the pitch. More research and she discovered that the rate of injuries, especially for girls and in particular anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries was being called epidemic. Parents from some of those teams that she observed started asking her to help. Why ask LeBolt? Well, aside from all that personal experience and vested interest in the health and safety of

her own young daughter-players, she also brings more credentials to the field than any coach has strategies in his or her playbook.

Starting with a bachelor’s in Biology from The College of William and Mary, adding an MEd in Exercise Science from The George Washington University (GWU), then impressively topping off with a Ph.D. in Physiology from the Medical College of Virginia, LeBolt has also been on the GWU faculty, teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology, Kinesiology and Exercise Physiology there from 1991 to 1999. She also practices privately as an Exercise Physiologist. So it should come as no surprise that she accepted this next challenge. She started what she calls her “rescue mission” by asking a few basic, but far-reaching questions: Why are so many kids getting injured? Why are so many dropping out of sports? How do you get and keep all kids playing? What can you do to help those who want to play hard and compete further? How can you prepare kids, whole body and mind, for what the game – or any sport – asks of them? Those questions, and the answers that LeBolt continues to develop, led to the formation of her company, Fit2Finish, LLC, incorporated in 2005.

The company specializes in designing sport-specific, age-appropriate and engaging training to improve the young athletes’ performance, and more importantly, help prepare their bodies for the demands of their sport and reduce the risk of potentially debilitating injuries. For years, LeBolt has been

working with coaches, parents and youngsters in group and individual settings and presenting seminars and workshops from injury prevention to proper nutrition for the athlete, conditioning, and even tips for parenting the champion athlete and how to incorporate fitness into the lives of today’s busy families. There is even a “Gap Care” program designed to help the sidelined athlete return from serious injury.

The training programs, seminars, workshops and individual assistance evolved to include a weekly blog, an informative website, a Facebook page, and links to videos demonstrating some of the training techniques and exercises that LeBolt recommends or has developed to meet specific needs and circumstances. Considering that she has hundreds of articles and columns with her by-line, and writes weekly for Soccerwire.com, it seemed the natural next step to condense a wealth of information into the handbook “Fit 2 Finish – Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game.” Published in late 2014, LeBolt’s “trainer’s manual” just had its official launch. But don’t expect any fanfare to accompany its arrival. As LeBolt said, “It’s not about the book, but what’s in it. That’s what’s really important.”

Aimed at the professional as well as the volunteer coach, there is plenty for both to take away, not to mention the parents of the young players and even the players themselves. And it really does serve as a manual, including sections with recipes for optimum nutrition, what to keep in your

field first aid kit, and caring for and managing common sport-related injuries. The writing style, laced with a bit of humor, makes the facts accessible. As she says both in her writings and during a recent interview with The Connection, “Sports, playing and practice, still have to be fun. I refuse to lose the fun!” Her mission is to “help kids develop bodies they will use well their whole lives...because they want to.”

THE SCIENCE AND THE METHODOLOGY outlined in the book and practiced as part of the Fit2Finish mantra, have earned numerous ringing endorsements, including that of the author of the book’s foreword, Diane Drake, head women’s soccer coach, George Mason University. Drake notes in her remarks that a disturbing number of young freshmen women entering her program arrive already injured, particularly with overuse injury. Drake, and LeBolt both cite lack of preparation and improper training as the major culprits leading to this unhealthy state of affairs. LeBolt has set out to tackle both and more in her book and through her company.

Fit2Finish, LLC, serves the greater D.C. Metro area, specializing in soccer, basketball, volleyball and lacrosse training. On the website Fit2Finish.com there is access to LeBolt’s book, blog, training videos and links to additional resources. Dr. LeBolt can be contacted for speaking engagements, consultations and more, etc. at Fit2Finish05@gmail.com.

Herndon woman ups her game with book on proper training for young athletes.

2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015
The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner



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RIGHTEOUS OR OUTRAGEOUS?

My boss thought our three game ticket plan was outrageous. I thought it is righteous. So what do you think: righteous or outrageous?

By ANDY RUGE, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Here’s what you get in the three game plan:

1. Our very best three games.
The three game plan has our three very best games:

- Nationally-ranked rival VCU? Yep, February 4, see you here.
- Homecoming against Richmond? Of course, February 14.
- Frequent NCAA tournament contestant Davidson? Check, January 24.

These are the games people want to see anyway. With this three game plan, however, you can lock up better seat locations than the single game buyer.

2. Free gifts. Heck, everyone loves free stuff, so we included it. At the Richmond game you get a Mason Basketball koozie. At the VCU game you get a Bobblehead of Mason legend George Evans. At the Davidson game, you get a George Mason bobblehead. For each three game package that you buy you get those three gifts.

3. Best seat locations. When buying single-game tickets to our best game, you’re hoping there are good seats left. Bringing the family? For the big games it’s tough to get 4 seats together. And don’t forget those high service fees. With this three-game pack you know you’ve got the good seats, to the good games, already in-hand. No questions asked, no worrying, you know you’ve got 3 chances to see one of the top-5 basketball conferences in the country, right here in Fairfax. You get big-time basketball at small-time prices.

When I look at the three game plan, it is indeed outrageous. And righteous. It costs start at just \$22 per game (\$66 total) and youth (12 & under) are just \$12 per game (\$36 total). You can buy the three-game mini-plan today by calling your Personal Account Representative, Alyssa, at 703-993-3491 or visit GoMason.com/hoops today.



CALL 703-993-3491 OR VISIT GoMason.com/hoops



PHOTO BY ELLEN PETERSON

South County sophomore oboe player Diana Logue (center) and junior baritone saxophone player Benjamin Jackson (right of center) sit in with the United States Navy Band at a Jan. 9 concert at South County High School.



Musician First Class Colin Wise of Franconia is a trombonist with the United States Navy Band. The band performed at South County High School Jan. 9 with members of the South County band program.

South County Students Perform with United States Navy Band

Adozen members of the South County High School band program got a taste of what it's like to perform with one of the country's premier service ensembles. South County director of bands Gary English said the students were selected to be part of a Jan. 9 performance with the United States Navy Band based on their achievement in all-district band auditions and other events during the year.

"It was a handful of seniors who would appreciate the experience," said English, "and underclassmen who would benefit, bring something back to our program for the future."

English explained that in a professional group such as the Navy band, "everyone has to be a soloist, playing different melodic lines with shape and expression."

The band played to a packed South County auditorium, featuring a diverse program that ranged from patriotic John Philip Sousa marches to the whimsical, virtuosic "Carnival of Venice" by Jean-Baptiste Arban.

When "The Washington Post March" by Sousa came up, members of the Navy band left their seats to have the students sit in.



The United States Navy Band performs Jan. 9 at South County High School.

The students who performed included: Erica Townsend, piccolo, junior; Diana Logue, oboe, sophomore; Andrew Weaver, clarinet, senior; Benjamin Jackson, baritone saxophone, junior; Kathryn DeVore, trumpet, junior; Ryan McAllister, trumpet, senior; Yasmine Corcelius, French horn, se-

nior; Sam Jang, trombone, junior; Thomas Bragg, euphonium, sophomore; Andrew Abba, tuba, senior; Robert Brennand, percussion, senior and Steven Barnett, percussion, sophomore.

— TIM PETERSON

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.

THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 2

Drink This! The Workhouse International Cup Show. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Sunday-Tuesday 12-5 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show, "Drink This!"

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events. Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 9

"Synesthetic Landscapes." Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, "Gems by Meg;" Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaica; and Joyce Zipperer, metal sculptor/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. www.jccnvarts.org.

The Bravura Ensemble - Chamber Music Classics. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Bravura Ensemble is a Washington D.C.-based chamber group devoted to performing chamber music repertoire ranging from 18th-century works to modern-day music. Clarinetist Albert Hunt earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from The Juilliard School and has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician. He has also played in orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Violinist Rachele Betancourt is a member of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Germany and is an international competition winner. She frequently performs solo and chamber music recitals in the Americas and in Europe. Come join us for an evening of chamber music featuring clarinet, piano and strings.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 22-24

One-Acts Presented by South County High School. 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. One-Acts directed by junior and senior thespians. Tickets will cost \$5 per night or \$10 for all three nights.
Our Town. 7 p.m. Sovereign Grace Co-op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. Become immersed in a classic American story about truly enjoying everyday life. \$8 for adults; \$5 ages 3-17. <https://www.facebook.com/OurTownSovGraceCoop> or email director, Mrs. Mika at mchiaty@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 22-25

Hairspray: The Broadway Musical. Thursday and Friday- 7:30 p.m. Saturday: 2 & 8 p.m. Sunday: 3 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. In 1962 Baltimore, plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance program. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colorful array of characters. Tickets: \$12.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Classic Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Come and join us for Classic Tales. Stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.
Mpingo - Portraits for Wind Ensembles. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative - even mystical - experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. View his photos through Feb. 9, 2015 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

Fairfax. Mpingo is the Swahili name for the black wood used in making clarinets. This performance by Mpingo features members Larry Bocaner, Nancy Genovese, Robert Little, Christopher Hite, and Steve Lawson performing on bass clarinet, basset horn, E-flat, B-flat, and A soprano clarinets.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Teen Writers Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

Teen Book Club. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Join us for book discussion. Title to be announced. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.

Make Your Own YouTube Video. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn the basics of creating your own content for YouTube. Ages 12 to adult. Bringing your own laptop is recommended. 703-978-5600.

Winter Wonders Magic Show. 11 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Magician Mike Rose presents an interactive and fun family magic show themed around snow, cold, and winter activities. All ages. 703-978-5600.

Tales to Tails. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6-12.

Wag a Tale. 10:30, 10:45, 11, 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Need a little practice reading or just love dogs? Register to read to one of our therapy dogs. Ages 5-12.



View Drink This! The Workhouse Arts Center's International Cup Show on display through Feb. 2. Earthy wood-fired tea bowls, translucent tumblers, and richly textured mugs are among 76 works selected by Welsh master ceramist Phil Rogers for the third annual Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show.

Paws to Read. 11, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading to a trained therapy dog. 15-minute sessions available.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Pohick Prose Society. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Teens talk about books. We will be

Rainbow Readers. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Celebrate the birthday of our branch bear, Princess Priscilla, with stories and songs. For children ages 3-5 years old with adult.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.

SPORTS

Lake Braddock Gymnastics Wins Home Meet

The Lake Braddock gymnastics team took on five Conference 7 opponents and came out on top during a home meet on Jan. 16.

The Bruins posted a first-place team score of 137.8. South County finished runner-up with a score of 125.225, followed by Woodson (122.45), West Potomac (80.525), T.C. Williams (54.3) and Annandale (11.575).

T.C. Williams had only two girls competing, while Annandale had only one gymnast.

Lake Braddock freshman Jordan Clark won the all-around competition with a score of 35.8. Bruins junior Jordan Tautges finished runner-up with a score of 35.575, followed by South County's Faith Baxter (34.2), Woodson's Ellie Dreyer (33.225) and Lake Braddock sophomore Caralyn Wiedeman (33.2).

Lake Braddock will host the Conference 7 championship meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, and the 6A North region meet on Feb. 11.

T.C. Williams won the Conference 7 championship last season, and Washington-Lee took home the region title.

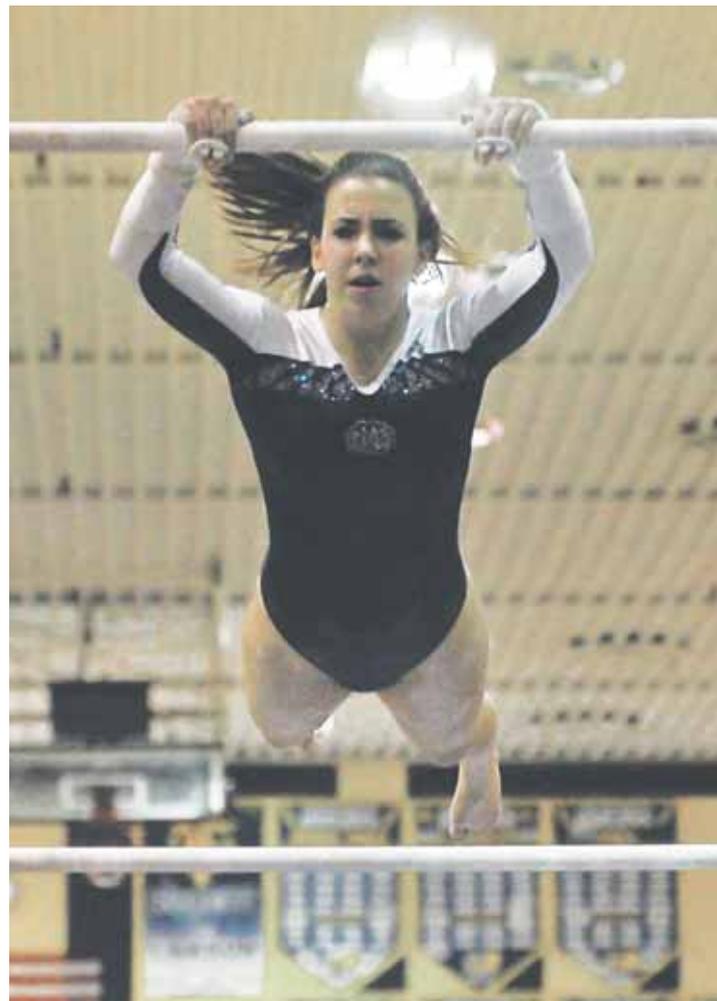


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore Caralyn Wiedeman placed fifth in the all-around competition during a gymnastics meet on Jan. 16.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior Jordan Tautges competes on beam during a gymnastics meet on Jan. 16.

Squash Tournament Coming to McLean

A junior squash tournament will be held at The McLean Racquet and Health Club Feb. 13-15.

Registration deadline is Feb. 10.

It's a silver tournament, which is recommended for those players who have finished in the upper half of a bronze tournament.

Age groups for boys and girls include U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19.

Early registration fee is \$95. Registration after the deadline is \$110. Register online at ussquash.com/tournaments or contact Hunt Richardson at hunt@jahangirsquash.com or by calling 202-365-1526 for more information.

Vienna Babe Ruth Online Registration Open

Vienna Babe Ruth has unveiled a new website along with a new online registration process. Vienna-area ballplayers ages 13 to 19 can register now for the Spring 2015 season. Go to GVBR.org and click on the red "Register Now" button. Register before Feb. 1 for the early-bird discount.

Woodson Boys' Basketball Beats Lake Braddock, to Host TC

The Woodson boys' basketball team defeated Lake Braddock 74-56 on Tuesday



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

From left: South County's Collea Burgess, Faith Baxter, Alicia Williams, Samaria Holland, Aneta Hicks and Mina Farah prepare to compete during a gymnastics meet on Jan. 16 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

night at Woodson High School in a rematch of last season's Conference 7 and 6A North region championship games.

The win improved Woodson's record to 11-5, including 5-1 in the conference. The Cavaliers will host T.C. Williams at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 23. The Titans defeated West Potomac 64-52 on Tuesday to improve to 5-1 in the conference. T.C. Williams won the season's first meeting with Woodson, 63-53, on Jan. 9 in Alexandria.

Woodson has won back-to-back region championships.

Golden Girls Senior Women's Softball

The Golden Girls Senior Women's softball league is looking for women ages 40 and older to play in its four-team league on Wednesday nights and Saturday morn-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Eric Bowles and the Woodson boys' basketball team defeated Lake Braddock on Tuesday. The Cavaliers will host T.C. Williams on Friday.

ings in Vienna.

Learning skills, physical exercise, and good sportsmanship are stressed, all while having fun. You are never too old to play! For more info, go to www.goldengirls.org

Chocolate Lovers Festival Returns Feb. 7-8

Indulge in America's favorite confection at the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival Feb. 7 - 8, in Old Town Fairfax. Scheduled events include:

❖**Taste of Chocolate** – purchase the chocolate creations of confectioners;

❖**Chocolate Challenge & Silent Auction** – original chocolate sculptures by professional and amateur chocolatiers alike judged by professional and celebrity judges; the **Silent Auction** will feature entries from the **Chocolate Challenge** as well as items from the local business community;

❖**Pancake Breakfast, Bake Sale & Face Painting**❖❖❖– Regular and chocolate chip pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, and milk. Cost is \$6/adults and \$4/children ages 4-10. Children under the age of 3 will eat with a paying adult (limit one child per one paying adult).

❖**Children's Activities** – featuring chocolate fairy tales, magicians, puppet shows, & music;

❖**The Great Chocolate Caper and "Smarter Than a Lawyer"** ❖❖❖– a mock trial based on a popular children's story with a chocolate-related theme; then test your skills against lawyers;

❖**Chocolate Movie Night**❖❖❖– see what your golden ticket will bring you with the original Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory; come and enjoy stories and activities before the movie

❖**Harley Eye Candy** – an opportunity to sit on a Harley; bring your camera and have your picture taken while sitting on the back of your favorite Harley;

❖**Fairfax's Historic Archives** – view some of Fairfax's most interesting historical legal documents such as the 1739 Land Grant; a page from the polling done around the county as citizens voted to Secede from the Union; the "Civil War" Rule book filled with graffiti from the soldiers stationed

here; images of pages from George Washington's Will as well as access to the room where the original deed book is located; and

❖**Historic Open Houses** – visit Legato School, the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, The Ford House and Ratcliffe Allison House.

A complete schedule of events will be published on www.chocolatefestival.net. The schedule is subject to change, and changes will be posted on the event website as they occur.

❖❖❖ drop location for items for Meals for Young Minds (oatmeal packets; single-serving size boxes of cereal, chili cups, mac & cheese, tuna salad kits, pasta/meat cups; fruit cups, applesauce, cheese/crackers; 100% fruit juice boxes, Capri Sun juice packets; and shelf-stable milk)

Challenge Applications Accepted – George Mason University's Department of Nutrition and Food Studies are sponsors of the ever-popular Chocolate Challenge at their facility in Old Town Fairfax. The event will be held at the school's Nutrition Kitchen (3950 University Drive)

Valentines, Advance "Taste" Tickets – Valentines, featuring a drawing of the "Old" Fire Station 3, drawn by Jackie Liedl of Local Color, are available in advance of the event. Limited edition valentines, that include a coupon for five free "pogs" for the Taste of Chocolate, cost \$5 each, and are available through January 30 (while supplies last) at: **City Manager's Office; City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street – Room 316** (703-293-7120). If supplies last, valentines (with the free taste pog coupons) will be sold for \$5 during the festival at the Taste of Chocolate in Old Town Hall.

For more information on the Chocolate Lovers Festival, visit www.chocolatefestival.net or call 703-385-



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

The 2013 Chocolate Lovers Festival was held in the City of Fairfax at the Old Town Hall. The annual event attracted thousands of people from around the region with samples of a variety of chocolate products from area businesses and featured a chocolate sculpture contest. This year's festival takes place on Feb. 7-8.

7858. A program schedule is posted on the website, as well as a downloadable festival program with a map of event locations will be posted on the Festival's website.

Board of Supervisors Recognizes Global Arts Initiative

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized the Arts Council of Fairfax County for its new Global Arts Initiative for which the organization received an Arts Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The purpose of the Global Arts Initiative is to promote and support Fairfax County's diverse arts traditions through direct funding of ethnic and immigrant artists and arts programs.

Through this pilot program, the Arts Council will play a leadership role in supporting and showcasing the County's diversity, introducing hundreds of thousands of residents to new art forms and outstanding arts programming taking place right in their own community.

"We are so pleased to have been recognized by Chairman Bulova and the Board of Supervisors for our new Global Arts Initiative. This initiative will serve as a catalyst for future community building strength-

ening our ethnic and immigrant artists and arts programs," said Linda S. Sullivan, president & CEO, Arts Council of Fairfax County.

As an expansion of the Arts Council's existing Project Support Grants program, this new initiative is designed to reach out to diverse audiences and support arts programming that reflect cultural traditions from around the world through the creation and presentation of visual arts, dance, music, poetry, theater and multidisciplinary festivals.

The Global Arts Initiative has been made possible in part through a NEA grant for which the Arts Council is currently seeking matching funds from corporate sponsors.

Fairfax County artists and non-profit arts organizations may apply to this new initiative by Feb. 18.

For more information or application guidelines visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/applicants> or call Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, Grants Coordinator, at 703-642-0862 x6.



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT NEWS/WIRE

From left: Rachelle Etienne-Robinson, grants coordinator; Lisa Mariam, grants director; Jo Hodgkin, vice chairman of the Arts Council Board of Directors; Leila Gordon, Arts Council board member; Linda S. Sullivan, president & CEO; Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Joe Ritchey, chairman of the Arts Council Board of Directors; Christina Easterly, administrative assistant.

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Saturday, January 24 at 9:00 A.M.
Presentation begins at 9:20
Learn more about teaching at our school and finding
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An expert is someone
who knows some of the worst
mistakes that can be made in his
subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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- Established routes with major food stores
- Financing for qualified buyers

For additional information, please join us at the Bimbo Foods Franchise Fair @ 6636 Fleet Dr, Alexandria, VA. 22310 on Tuesday, January 27th from 10am to 6pm. You may RSVP at 410-712-6923 x13.

* This is not an offer or promise to sell. An offer can only be made through our Franchise Disclosure Document and in accordance with law.

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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
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21 Announcements

JDAVIS Construction is seeking qualified Small Business (SBA) contractors for their participation in the SP 653 Base Building project. At this time, we seek bidders in divisions 4 thru 6, 8 (Doors, Frames, Hardware) and 9 thru 13. Please contact Missy Walker at mwalker@davisconstruction.com for project details. Documents are now available. Bids for this project are due by noon on Tuesday, January 27th, 2015.

All interested bidders please contact

DAVIS Construction
Attn: Missy Walker
12530 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 301-945-0489
Fax: 301-468-3918

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Native Foods California, LLC trading as Native Foods Cafe, 11050 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Daniel Dolan, member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to Section 55-33, 50-35 and 50-36 of the Code of the City of Fairfax, the City of Fairfax Police Department will be disposing of the below listed unclaimed property, by public auction conducted by an independent auction service, converted to department use or generally disposed of. Any person who feels they have a legal claim, with reasonable proof of ownership, should contact MPO Lynn Coulter of the City of Fairfax Police Department at 703-385-7829 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays until close of business Friday, February 13, 2015.

Below is a summary list of all items. For a complete list, please go to the City of Fairfax website:
<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/unclaimedproperty>

- 73 - Assorted Bicycles
- 30 - Assorted Cell Phones
- 9 - Assorted Electronics
- 16 - Miscellaneous items
- 5 - Mopeds

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left — FM Jon Bullock, MT David Busch, School Superintendent Dr. Peter Noonan and Capt. Peter Rhoads.

Fairfax Firefighters Provide Coats for Underprivileged Children

The City of Fairfax Firefighters, IAFF Local 2702, the City of Fairfax Fire Department and the City of Fairfax School Superintendent Dr. Peter Noonan, teamed up to provide brand-new winter coats to over 50 children at Daniels Run and Providence elementary schools in partnership with Operation Warm, a national non-profit dedicated to warming the hearts, minds and bodies of children in need. The collaborative, community-based program has impact far beyond the City of Fairfax. Firefighters across the USA and Canada are bringing this program to the communities they protect. Firefighters for Operation Warm is a movement led by professional firefighters to combat the effects of childhood poverty.

“With our poverty levels increasing, our children and schools benefit from this program in more ways than one,” said David Busch, Vice President, Local 2702. “By nature of our service to the community, we’re able to see the harsh effects poverty has on these children first hand.” City of Fairfax Firefighters will go to each school to help personally fit each child with a new coat, and helping them to write their name in the interior tag which reads, “Made Just for You.” With monetary support from the community, the firefighters are able to give the gift of warmth to these children right before the harsh winter weather.

Specifically for the Firefighters program, Operation Warm has manufactured 90,000 American-made coats, supporting over 200 jobs. “This is so much more than a coat,” said Walter English, President, Local 2702. “Beyond warmth and dignity for children, American coat production targets a root cause of poverty for so many families.”

Donate to City of Fairfax Firefighters for Operation Warm: www.operationwarm.org/fairfaxcity

Correction

In “General Assembly Session Approaches” [The Connection, Jan. 14], Del. Scott Surovell’s (D-44) first name

was incorrect.

And Delegate Dave Albo is a republican.

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.

Cindy Bennett will speak on the 1918 murder of Eva Roy in Burke. In addition, we’ll have a short “State of the Society” address and a very brief video about the history of Burke School.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Library Tech Help. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Please bring your library card, eBook reader, and laptop.

Lorton Evening Book Conversations. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Book discussion. Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. Adults.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional 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.

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. BHS Fundraising Chair

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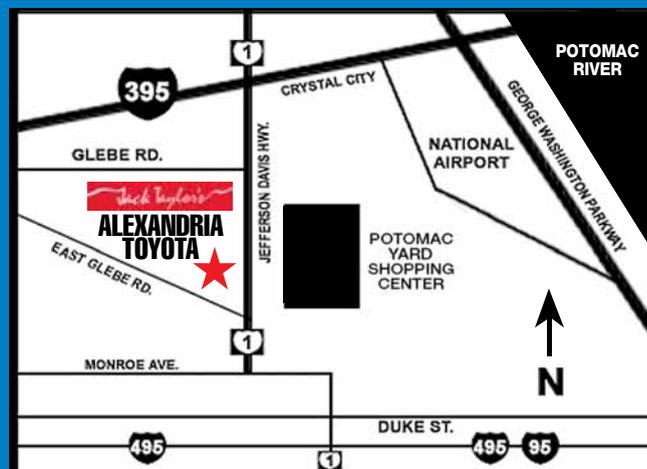
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<p>WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL \$119.95</p> <p>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>5K, 10K, 20K, 25K, 35K MILE MINOR FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE SERVICE \$54.95</p> <p>SYNTHETIC OIL ADDITIONAL \$10.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>BRAKE SPECIAL \$79.95 PADS</p> <p>INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC 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 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p>OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$5.00 OFF</p> <p>INCLUDES: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>WINTERIZATION SPECIAL \$59.95</p> <p>INCLUDES: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more</p> <p><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p>DETAIL SPECIALS \$39.95</p> <p>Wash & Vacuum \$139.95</p> <p>Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning \$295.95</p> <p>Full premium detail</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>15% OFF WIPER INSERTS & WIPER BLADES</p> <p><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p>NITROFILL SPECIAL \$39.95</p> <p>We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE! BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p>TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189.95</p> <p>POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>BRAKE FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>		

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