

Great Falls CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Fairfax to End Veterans Homelessness

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To keep motorists and pedestrians safe, VDOT chopped down this beloved oak at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road this week.

GOODBYE,
TREE!
150 YEARS

Goodbye, Old Friend

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Democrats Win Closely Watched Races

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NOVEMBER 11-17, 2015

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Kathy's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

Democrats Win Closely Watched Races in McLean, Great Falls and Herndon

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

History promised Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) that her reelection bid to Virginia's House of Delegates would be close; no matter how much money Republicans pumped into Craig Parisot's campaign in the final days.

Last Tuesday, Nov. 3, Murphy defeated Parisot (R) by a final count of 10,820 votes to 10,632, less than one percent of voters in the 34th District.

"We all knew it would be close," said Parisot.

The morning after the election, Parisot sent a legal team to observe a canvas held in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, which are represented by the 34th district, to ensure the election's authenticity.

"After determining that results were marked correctly, the tapes were valid and provisional ballots were taken into consideration, I found no reason to contest the outcome," he said. "Simply put, it was just a close race."

Murphy has described her emotions taking the oath of office in Richmond, thinking about her past predecessors, historical predecessors who have served Virginia.

After last Tuesday's victory she said, "It is an honor to represent the 34th district in the General Assembly and I am so grateful to my constituents for entrusting me with a second term," said Murphy. "I will continue to work with both Democrats and Republicans to strengthen our economy, keep our schools world-class, and protect our communities and children from the spread of gun violence."

This election was a rematch of the special election triggered last November 2014 when Barbara Comstock (R) was elected to U.S. Congress.

Murphy received 51.23 percent of the vote, and defeated Parisot who received 48.63 percent of the vote.

The 34th District has a history of close elections.

In 2013, Murphy lost to Barbara Comstock 50.64 percent to 49.21 percent. Murphy received 14,540 votes to Comstock's 14,962.

In 2012, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney literally tied in the district, each receiving 18,688 votes, according to Virginia Public Access Project.

"I have no regrets and would only change one thing if I could — the outcome," said Parisot.

OTHER ELECTIONS last Tuesday were not as close, but were closely watched.

Long-time Herndon resident Jennifer Boysko (D) will succeed Tom Rust (R) as



Del. Jennifer Boysko (D) defeated Danny Vargas (R) in the open seat created by the retirement of Del. Tom Rust (R-86).

"There's a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority."

—Jennifer Boysko (D-86)



Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) won reelection by less than one percent of the vote in a rematch with Craig Parisot (R).

"It is an honor to represent the 34th district in the General Assembly and I am so grateful to my constituents for entrusting me with a second term."

—Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34)



John Foust (D) won reelection over Republican Jennifer Chronis.

"I'm proud of the fact that after eight years people know me pretty well and know how I conduct myself as supervisor. I'm honored that they give me another opportunity."

—Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

Updated, unofficial results:

District 34 House of Delegates Results

Kathleen J. Murphy (D)*	10,820	50.40%	\$689,469 spent
Craig A. Parisot (R)	10,632	49.52%	\$748,827 spent

District 86 House of Delegates Results

Jennifer B. Boysko (D)	8,283	54.46%	\$478,985 spent
Raul "Danny" Vargas (R)	6,390	42.01%	\$654,725 spent
Paul R. Brubaker (I)	526	3.46%	\$9,100 spent

Dranesville District Supervisor Results

John W. Foust (D)*	15,017	54.25%	\$339,788 spent
Jennifer C. Chronis (R)	12,625	45.61%	\$350,160 spent

86th District delegate, who announced his retirement last spring.

Boysko won the 86th District with 54.46 percent of the votes over Danny Vargas, who received 42.01 percent of the vote.

Election night, Boysko was greeted by thunderous applause as she joined her Assembly colleagues on stage at the Democratic victory party.

"It's already been an incredible learning experience," said Boysko, in an interview Tuesday night after election result announcements had been made.

"I've talked to literally thousands of people in my district, listening to what they need, what are their concerns," she said.

"There's a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority."

Vargas, Boysko's opponent received large, late infusions of campaign money from Republicans, and had a total of \$705,323, which he spent mostly on mailers and TV commercials attacking Boysko and inaccurately claiming she supports tolling of I-66.

"Even though we came up short tonight I want to thank all of our supporters and volunteers that have made this effort possible," said Vargas in an election night statement. "I wish Delegate-elect Boysko well in serving our District."

Boysko served as Supervisor John Foust's legislative aide, and worked on many

Herndon issues.

"She's an amazingly hard worker, she's smart, she cares about people and doing great things, and she's in public service for all the right reason," said Foust.

FOUST was reelected to the Board of Supervisors for his third term, beating Jennifer Chronis, (R).

Foust has served on the Board the last eight years.

"I'm proud of the fact that after eight years people know me pretty well and know how I conduct myself as supervisor. I'm honored that they give me another opportunity," he said.

Chronis ran for the first time.

"Thank you all for everything you have done for me and my team. Whether through your financial contributions, your volunteer hours, your encouragement and feedback, or your votes, every last one of you helped us in some way. For that, I am eternally grateful," said Chronis.

Senator Barbara Favola was reelected for her second term, defeating challenger George Forakis.

"Dranesville has an amazingly talented team of public servants. We work well together, we will get a lot of good things done," said Foust.

NEWS

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To keep motorists and pedestrians safe, VDOT will chop down this beloved oak at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road this week.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Goodbye, Old Friend

This week, the Virginia Department of Transportation will chop down the oak on Georgetown Pike and Walker Road that Great Falls Citizens Association and residents had been rooting for.

"VDOT has worked closely with GFCA to analyze that tree, there had been two trees there, one was determined to be unsafe. They were monitoring the one that was left," said Dranesville Supervisor John Foust.

Foust said Great Falls Citizens Association wanted to be absolutely certain that if the tree is going to come down it's going to come down because it has to come down

"VDOT is adamant that it is not safe and don't want to risk people's lives," said Foust.

Foust referenced "a horrible accident" a few years ago on Georgetown Pike when a tree fell on Georgetown Pike and killed a driver.

"We all love our trees, but VDOT has a responsibility to make sure we're safe," he said.

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NEWS

Police responded to the accident around noon on Saturday, Nov. 7.

PHOTO
GENE PHILLIP



Reckless Driving

Jail-time possible for teenager charged with reckless driving.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

A 17-year-old driver was charged with reckless driving after he lost control of the car he was driving on Arnon Chapel Road, rolled once and landed nearby, according to police reports. "Fortunately, no one was really hurt, but there could have been grave consequences for the teenage driver as well as other drivers or anyone who could have been standing or walking nearby," said PFC Tawny Wright, public information officer with Fairfax County Police.

Police responded to the accident around noon on Saturday, Nov. 7.

According to police reports, the 17-year-old was driving eastbound on Arnon Chapel Road near River Bend Road.

"The vehicle, at the crest of a hill, became airborne. The driver lost control of the vehicle, which left the roadway, rolled once and landed nearby," according to police reports. "An investigation determined the driver was trying to 'catch air' at the hillcrest."

A concerned driver on the roadway called police. "We appreciate the call from the concerned driver who reported this incident," said Wright.

"Reckless driving is a serious traffic offense," she said.

"Drivers are required to appear in court and, unlike most traffic violations, this one comes with the possibility of jail time in addition to the potential hefty fine."



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Great Falls Senior Center to Host Holiday Luncheon

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) is ending its year with a holiday celebration of the season. Entertainment will be provided by the Madrigals, Langley High School.

The Dec. 1 event will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The program is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Senior Center will provide ham, turkey and desserts. Contact Joy Trickett, 703-404-8412, if you can help with salads and side dishes. To attend, contact Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call at 703-759-4345.

The event sponsor is the Doctor and Mrs. William M. Busy family.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The **Churches of the Ecumenical Council** are offering a Blue Christmas worship opportunity Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Rd., Great Falls.

This is an opportunity to come together expressing the griefs, losses and challenges of our lives as we connect to hope and faith. Call Carol 703-582-1640 with questions.

Chancel Choir, children and youth of the Great Falls United Methodist Church invite you to join them for worship as they offer "Welcome to Our World," a musical for Christmas written by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. The musical includes traditional carols, newer praise songs and original material.

Robert R. "Mitch" Mitchell, Director of Music Ministries at Great Falls UMC, former U.S. Army Bandsman, and local area Piano teacher/freelance Musician will be conducting the choir and narrators.

Church keyboardist Thomas Pandolfi will be accompanying the musical. Great Falls United Methodist Church is located at 10100 Georgetown Pike, right next to the Fire Station in the center of the village. All are welcome.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m.

Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Tech Thursday - Technology to Support Executive Functioning. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Many students struggle with planning, organizing and managing tasks, which impacts their academic achievement. This workshop will focus on strategies and technology tools that can help support students with executive function deficits. Presented by the Office of Special Education Instruction, Assistive Technology Services. Free. Register at http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Strategies to Support Elementary Students with Dyslexia. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Specialists from the FCPS Office of Special Education Instruction will present this workshop specifically designed for parents of elementary students with dyslexia. Attend this workshop to learn strategies to support reading, writing and math at home; ways to promote effective study skills; and strategies to promote self-advocacy skills. Free. Register at http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Future Quest 2015. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Future Quest features more than 70 workshops and keynote speaker - Justin Graves. Attend the Resource Fair with over 40 organizations focused on helping students achieve a successful life after high school. You will also get to spend an entire day on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax. Free. Register at http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml.

Communications Leadership Meeting. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Room A, Vienna. Brinker Toastmasters, is part of Toastmasters International, a leader in communication and leadership development. schultzmt@mac.com. 703-227-0228.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

Health Screening. 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. Learn about the risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions from Life Line Screening. Sponsored by Oakton Methodist Church. Packages start at \$149. www.lifelinescreening.com. 877-237-1287.

Vienna/Oakton Vision Impaired Resource Group Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. guest speaker this month is Doug Powell, age 65, who considers his claim to fame is being a lifelong athlete. His work ethic and journey is quite inspiring. His presentation is titled "A Lifetime of Sport." 571-275-0292. 5kochs@cox.net.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Introduction to Special Education. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. This workshop is appropriate for parents with children in the referral or eligibility phase of the Special Education process; parents who want to know more about how the Special Education process works; and parents with children new to Special Education. Free. Register at http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml.

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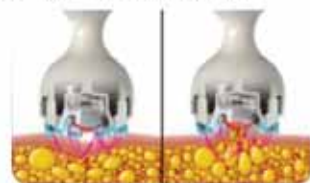
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OPINION

Veterans Day in Virginia

Fairfax County and other localities embrace effort to end veteran homelessness this year, while veterans contribute much to the economy.

Virginia is home to about 690,000 veterans, more than 60 percent of them from the Gulf Wars. There are more than 12,000 veteran-owned businesses in Fairfax County alone, and more than a third of those businesses are categorized by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as professional science and technology.

In 2014, according to the Census Bureau, the median income of veterans in Virginia was more than \$50,000, while for non-veterans, the median income was \$29,909. Only 5.5 percent of veterans in Virginia live in poverty while that number is 11.4 percent for non-veterans in 2014.

Clearly the location of the Pentagon in Arlington, and being adjacent to the nation's capital would mean more veterans, and higher attaining veterans would settle here. Veterans contribute significantly here in Northern Virginia.

At the same time, some veterans experience significant challenges; consider that half of all veterans under 35 experience a period of un-

employment in the 15 months after leaving service.

At the last Point in Time Count of people who are literally homeless in January 2015, there were 46 homeless veterans in Fairfax County, 12 in Alexandria and 19 in Arlington (with 408 literally homeless veterans in the District of Columbia).

Forty-five percent of these homeless veterans were employed.

Coordinated efforts from local, state and federal levels have reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the region. Between 2011 and 2015, the region counted 138 fewer homeless veterans (19 percent reduction), using access to additional dedicated housing resources, such as HUD-VASH vouchers.

Now there is a nationwide effort, called the Mayor's Challenge, to end homelessness for veterans this year. Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have all signed onto this challenge.

Elsewhere in this paper, we report on Fairfax County's coordinated efforts to end

homelessness for veterans by the end of next month. This effort will likely be judged successful by the fact that, even though more veterans will experience housing crises, the systems will be in place to get any newly homeless veterans back into housing quickly.

A task force has been meeting every other week in Fairfax County, identifying veterans by name and coordinating efforts to get them the services they need to get them into housing. Sometimes that is help with a security deposit and a few months rent. In other cases, chronically homeless veterans need significant support to to successfully move into permanent housing. But this year, every effort is being made to meet those needs.

"We celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Disappointed

To the Editor:

I just wanted to write to you to let you know how disappointed I was to see the recent Great Falls Connection cover. It was a picture of a mother and daughter dressed as "Indians" on Halloween at the village center. Honestly, I do not think it is appropriate for someone to wear an entire people and culture as a Halloween costume,

so to see that glorified on the cover was pretty disturbing.

I'm sure there were tons of other families in festive costumes, but putting this snapshot on the cover was in poor taste. I expected better from my local newspaper that's distributed to a somewhat diverse Great Falls community.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Anita Chung
Great Falls

Foust/Obama, You Didn't Build That!

To the Editor,

Your Newcomers and Community Guide published an excellent multi-paged article with color photographs titled, "The Best of Dranesville." The by-line was attributed to Supervisor John Foust, as though his largess has created

the wonderful diversity of parks and attractions in Dranesville District.

I have news for John Foust and his Democrat leader Barack Obama. You didn't build that!

We the taxpayers did! Got it?? I am voting for Jennifer Chronis because I think she gets it. The proper constitutional role of elected officials is a servant, not a Big Brother Boss of the people.

Tom Schaaf, Jr.
Great Falls

A Childish Debate

To the Editor:

Even at 11 years old, I read the news. I watch the presidential debates, as well as certain news programs. Even at 11, I am worried for my future. That is why I write. My wish in writing this letter is to show how steep the hill I fear our country is going down. It doesn't have to be that way.

I believe that I am a fairly polite

person. I apologize in advance if I am insulting any person's beliefs, or who people think is honest and trustworthy for the role of president. But, with no sugarcoating, the presidential debate of Wednesday, Oct. 28 was purely childish. It was more like my sixth grade classroom than what I thought a presidential debate would be like.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

Woodpecker Has to Find a New Home

To the Editor:

The last corner tree came down in Great Falls today. The wooden woodpecker had to find a new home.

Gene Phillip
Great Falls



Great Falls CONNECTION

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HomeLifeStyle Getting Guest-Ready

Local designers offer solutions for easy, pre-holiday updates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Getting ready for the holidays means more than simply hanging decorations and ordering a turkey with trimmings. For many, the holidays usher in an abundance of house guests. While there might not be time to complete a remodeling project or build an addition, local designers offer suggestions for minor tweaks that can breathe new life into a living space so that it is guest-ready when the holidays arrive.

Starting with a home's exterior, outdoor lighting that highlights the walkway and facade of the house is a simple update, according to Kai Tong, director of architecture at Hopkins and Porter. "Low voltage lighting can also accentuate the steps leading to the front door, as well as [line voltage] lighting illuminating ... [plants] and trees."

Tong also recommends upgrading a home's interior lighting fixtures, such as sconces and dining room chandeliers. In fact, he said dimmer switches create ambiance. "Low voltage lighting, including cable-mounted lighting, can bring new brilliance to spaces."

A coat of paint can also brighten

a home in time for the holidays. "You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests," said Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint. "Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

Rooms where most of the holiday decor will be displayed as well as the dining room where meals will be served are good starting points, said Cornish.

"Consider selecting a wall in perhaps a guest room and painting it an exquisite accent color," adds Tong. "The same goes with public spaces such as the kitchen."

Painting a home's main entry door or trim is another simple way to welcome guests in style. "The front door makes an immediate first impression," said Tracy Morris, color consultant and principal of Tracy Morris Design.

Morris suggests using Benjamin Moore's Soot for the front door. "The rich color is festive and fun and makes the perfect backdrop for holiday decor, as well as provides a lasting first impression."

Replacing the front door or updating the hardware on an existing door, updating lighting fixtures at the door or on a porch enhances a home's curb appeal, says Ken Hurdle, Hopkins and Porter



JOHN COLE PHOTO

A kitchen is often a hub of activity during the holidays. Small touches like new cabinet hardware can add polish to the space.

project coordinator.

The kitchen, powder room and guest bathroom are usually hubs of hospitality during the holidays, and a polished appearance can be accomplished with a few minor tweaks.

In a guest bathroom, simple fixes include new vanity or sink hardware, new medicine cabinets and vanity lighting. "Check and see if accessories such as towel bars [and] paper holders could also use an easy recharge," said Tong.

Kohler's Moxi shower head holds a wireless speaker, "so you can enjoy your music while showering," said Nancy Knickerbocker, designer, Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield.

In the kitchen, minor touches can yield a major impact. "Kitchen 'lite' projects are a great way to spruce up your space if you're redesigning on a small budget and have great existing cabinets in your kitchen," said Stephanie Brick, designer at Nicely.

This can include new hardware on kitchen cabinets and new faucets, according to Hurdle.

These projects include upgrading counter tops with quartz or granite and adding a coordinating tile back splash or other kitchen accents like crown molding to the ceiling or chair rail molding. "These seemingly small details, when put together in a design package," said Brick, "can have a great impact on the overall look of your kitchen."

Preparing a Home for the Holidays

Local tastemakers offer suggestions for getting your house guest-ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

With only two weeks until Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, it might be time to take stock of your home's guest-readiness. Local designers explain how to reduce stress and make guests feel at home this holiday season.

"Walk into your home as if you are a guest in your own home," said Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build in Potomac. "Look at the entryway.

Your front door should have a festive feel."

A new doormat and large urns filled with evergreen foliage that will last until the end of winter are two accessories that Kaminsky suggests to help ring in the season.

Reorganizing and decluttering a home's interior can decrease stress during holiday hosting and entertaining. The first place to start, suggests Kaminsky is a foyer closet. "This is a great time to donate any winter clothing that your family doesn't use anymore," she said. "This will make way for

guests' coats so you don't have to throw them over furniture and take up valuable seating real estate."

This is also the time to declutter one of the most often-used rooms during the holidays: the kitchen. "Go through your pantry so you can have an accurate inventory when getting ready to prepare holiday meals," she said. "Also get rid of any unnecessary products that are not useful anymore."

This process, says Kaminsky, makes room for needed storage and eliminates the unnecessary use of counter space.

Simple and low-cost ways to brighten a kitchen include purchasing new hand towels and fragrant, sink-side, hand soaps and lotions in elegant dispensers. "William Sonoma has a clean line of fragrances, as well as cleaning supplies and candles that will for sure make you and your guests happy," said Kaminsky. "Pink grapefruit is

always a perfect year-round standby."

When it comes to a guest bedroom, Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home. She also makes sure the room has a tray of bottled water and cups.

"Guests welcome the chance to catch up on reading," she said. Plenty of bedding and both feather and hypoallergenic pillows, and extra universal chargers are guest room essentials. "We all know the feeling of forgetting this key technology tool," said Meyer.

Finally, Meyer believes in making the room festive by adding green holiday wreaths in the windows, and comfortable by leaving luxurious terrycloth robes. "Nothing says comfort like a plush robe to snuggle in after a long day of travel."

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

Two Simultaneous One Man Shows. Through Saturday, Nov. 14. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Figurative artists David Cochran's and Joseph Sheppard Rogers' work will be on display.

"Harvey." Check for show times. Nov. 12-Dec. 20. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this beloved classic is a treat for the whole family. Veta Simmons and her daughter Myrtle Mae have just moved back into town and are making quite a splash on the social scene. Gatherings and engagements abound as Myrtle Mae peruses for a viable suitor. \$15-\$30. www.1ststage.com. 703-854-1856.

Meadowlark Gardens' Winter Walk of Lights. Nov. 14-Jan. 4. A half-a-million colorful LED lights span the lakeside and gardens of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens off Beulah Road in nostalgic and fairytale scenes of the holiday season. http://winterwalkoflights.com/.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind the Great Falls Library, 9830

"A Christmas Carol" with a kid-friendly twist comes to The Alden in McLean for a two-show performance on Saturday, Dec. 12.



Georgetown Pike.

Children. \$250. http://www.devotiontochildren.org/.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Debby Boone. 8 p.m. The Barns, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. As a three Grammy Awards winner, Debby Boone, the prolific musical theatre actress, starred as Rizzo in the Broadway revival of Grease, Maria in Lincoln Center's 30th Anniversary production of The Sound of Music, and has had roles in other major productions. Tickets: \$35-\$40. For more information, visit http://www.wolftrap.org/ or call 703-255-1900.

13th Annual Red, Heart and Soul Gala. 6:30-10 p.m. The Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Corner, McLean. Gala of Reston-based nonprofit Devotion to

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 12-14

Neil Simon's "Rumors." 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Madison Drama presents Neil Simon's hilarious farce. \$8, \$10. www.madisondrama.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Kuok-Wai Lio and Zoltán Fejérvári, Duo Piano. 7:30 p.m. The Barns, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The young piano duo that made a huge splash at the SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

NOVEMBER

11/19/2015..Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I
 Thanksgiving is November 26
 11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015.....Wellbeing
 12/9/2015...Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II
 12/9/2015...HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays
 12/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages
 12/23/2015.....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays
 12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Marlboro Music Festival in 2014 comes to The Barns days before their Carnegie Hall Debut—hear these award-winning musicians present captivating solo and partner arrangements. Tickets: \$35. For more information, visit <http://www.wolfrap.org/> or call 703-255-1900.

Vale Club Event. 7-8:30 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Lt. Col. Robert J. Darling, USMC (Ret.), veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm and handpicked presidential pilot for Marine Helicopter Squadron One, discusses his role as coordinator of the president's evacuation during 9/11 attacks and his book "24 Hours Inside the President's Bunker." Free. www.valeschoolhouse.org. 703-716-4219.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Model Trains and Thomas at Open House. 1-5 p.m. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. 703-938-5157. www.nvmr.org.

Indoor Street Market. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Forestville Elementary School, 1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls. Start your Holiday shopping and get in the spirit of the giving season! This is a one day Super Sale event featuring over 35 local vendors, entertainment by young local artists, baked goods, caricature artists, a raffle and silent auction that will surely keep the attention of all ages. Free. www.forestvillepta.org.

Fall Bazaar and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. Crafts and home-based businesses. For sale will be crafts, holiday decorations, items for your home and gifts for that special someone. A delicious lunch planned, as well as a bountiful homemade baked goods table. 703-309-3468. Dancers1023@aol.com. Free.

Nutcracker Storytime. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Costumed dancers from BalletNova Center for Dance read the Nutcracker to children followed by a mini-performance, crafts, and the chance to meet the dancers. Free.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

David Baldacci. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Baldacci will discuss and sign copies of his new book "The Guilty." Free. Contact 703-506-6756 for additional information.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/NOV 18-19

Suzanne Vega Duncan Sheik. 8 p.m. The Barns, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Grammy Award-winning folk star of "Luka" and "Tom's Diner" (Vega) and Tony Award-winning Spring Awakening composer (Sheik) join forces for a night of their hit songs. Tickets: \$55-\$60. For more information, visit <http://www.wolfrap.org/> or call 703-255-1900.

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Vienna. Col. Ben Buckley, USA (Ret.), chapter member, will discuss "General Grant's Overland Campaign in Virginia."

Funny Photo Night. 5:30-9 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. You provide your camera and smiles, and we will

provide the props and staff to take your photo. <http://winterwalkoflights.com>. 703-255-3631.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sue Moses, a watercolorist whose work is defined by strong values, light and shadow and emphasis on composition, will be the featured artist. She will be doing a painting demonstration. Guests are welcome. 703-790-0123.

Nature Night. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Visit with the naturalist and his reptile and amphibian friends. <http://winterwalkoflights.com>. 703-255-3631.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

36th Annual Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. John's Academy Gym, 6422 Linway Terrace, McLean. Over 30 vendors, Live music all day including McLean High School orchestra and Bach to Rock, Bratwurst, beer, bake sale, and Lobster Maine-ia. Free admission. Womenscouncilofsjb@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

Japanese American Care Fund Annual Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Patriot Hall, Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. Japanese books including manga, locally grown Japanese vegetables, and various donated items will be sold. Authentic Japanese foods will be sold as take-

away packages and served at the food court. The Embassy of Japan will be on site to accept overseas voter registration from 10:00 a.m. to noon. \$2 admission. Free to children under 12. www.jacarefund.org. 703-256-5223.

Amadeus Orchestra with the Silver-Garburg Piano Duo. 4 p.m. St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Silver Garburg Piano Duo will play Vivaldi, Bach and Mendelssohn. \$30. Free to 17 and under. <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Hobie.Audet@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25

7th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Wine Tasting Extravaganza. Noon-6 p.m. The Vineyard, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Pouring 25-30 perfect wines for Thanksgiving dinner and the rest of the holiday season. Special discounts on all the wines being tasted, as well as special prizes throughout the day. Free. www.thevineyardva.com. 703-288-2970.

Nature Night. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Visit with the naturalist and his reptile and amphibian friends. <http://winterwalkoflights.com>. 703-255-3631.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 27-29.

33rd Annual Thanksgiving Art and Craft Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Featuring original, handmade craft and artwork of approximately 80 local artists and artisans. \$5. www.nvhg.org.

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The Alden Theatre Usher Event
Monday, Nov. 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

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Double Feature at AMC Tysons
Friday, Nov. 20, 3:30-10 p.m.
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McLean Holiday Crafts Show
Friday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
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Closing Notice
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VETERANS DAY

Fairfax County To End Veteran

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Jameel Mubaarik of Reston is a 63-year-old Army veteran and mechanical engineer, a former Reston homeowner. He served in the Army in Europe during the Cold War, and among many positions since, worked for Bechtel on the Silver Line and for NASA at the Goddard Space Center.

But a layoff, divorce and a short-sale on his home left Mubaarik homeless, for a time living in a hotel.

Then last May he had a stroke.

"I never thought I would be homeless, but you never know," he said.

Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston calls Mubaarik "the Historian," for his recall of Northern Virginia events, and professorial narrative.

Mubaarik is ready to move out of the homeless shelter and into housing, and as part of a national effort to end veteran homelessness, he'll be looking at possible apartments next week.

In December 2014, Fairfax County joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a nationwide effort with a tight deadline — the end of this year. In Fairfax County, it's an effort that will in all likelihood be successful.

"At the end of the calendar year, will we have functionally ended veteran homelessness in Fairfax County?" said Tom Barnett, program manager with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. While some veterans here will still experience housing crisis, there will be systems in place designed to get them into housing quickly.

Functionally ending veteran homelessness, according to the Mayors Challenge, means that every community has a sustainable, systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. That's the mantra for ending and preventing homeless for all: Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.

Veterans made up 46 of the 1,204 people who were homeless on Jan. 28, 2015 in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness. A dozen to 15 veterans become homeless every month, but because of ongoing collaboration, most are "rapidly rehoused." While 96 veterans came



FILE PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

In February 2013, volunteers looking to interview chronically homeless people found encampments like this scattered around the area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep, often found were old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelter made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.

into hypothermia shelters last winter season, at the end of October, Barnett reported that there were 17 homeless veterans in the county, and that all 17 were in the process of being housed.

"We owe something to veterans. to the people who have made that sacrifice for us," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who signed onto the Mayors Challenge. She notes that the sacrifice veterans make is measures in time, and in uncertainty.

"When you look at the issue of veterans, the sacrifice is spending time away from the community and from their families," she said. "With that time away comes the potential for coming back changed; that could be physically changed and harmed, and some of the harm might not be physical. Psychological changes might not be visible. We can't turn our backs on people who have been affected that way."

Of the 46 veterans identified in the Point in Time count in January, 15 were chronically homeless. Housing people who have been chronically homeless is not a quick transition; it requires supportive housing and ongoing services. Someone is identified as chronically homeless if they have been continuously homeless for a year or more and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the last four years, a sequence of events that often comes with untreated illnesses, mental health is-

sues and/or substance abuse.

A task force consisting of representatives from nonprofits like FACETS, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Service and Cornerstones, plus the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Community Service Board, the health department and other partners has been meeting every other week since the county joined the challenge. At the meetings, the partners discuss the individual veterans they are seeking to house by name, and focus attention and resources on overcoming challenges.

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed. ... Fairfax plays really well together. We are really trying to make a major dent in homelessness, and we are doing that."

The "tremendously impactful" tool of choice is the VASH voucher, said Barnett. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once a veteran has been approved for a housing voucher and gets into housing, Veterans Affairs deploys a team to help with transition from the shelter to housing, one of the benefits of the nationwide challenge.

The effort to end homelessness for veterans comes with a different level of community support, too.

"In the community, there is so much en-

ergy and interest to end homelessness for veterans who have served our country," said Dean Kline, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Partners and community groups are engaged "because of their passion for helping veterans who have served our country."

NOT ALL VETERANS who are experiencing homelessness are ready to accept housing, but ongoing outreach by local nonprofits ensures continuing progress. Sometimes it takes years simply to identify that someone is a veteran if that individual is resistant to sharing information.

One man now in line for housing hovered for eight years at the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir. While he would seem pleasant, when anyone tried to engage him or ask questions, he became verbally aggressive and expressed anti-government sentiments, said Tonya Golden, director of Programs for Single Adults at New Hope Housing. He was part of the overflow shelter program, operated in a trailer outside the main building, coming for food and shelter.

"He was resistant to service," Golden said.

"We never knew he was a veteran."

But with ongoing efforts, the man, now "up in age," developed a rapport with one outreach person, and agreed to sign up for housing. As they filled out the information

needed, he made reference to his service. New Hope Housing submitted his name to Veterans Affairs, discovering that he served 14 years including in Vietnam, was honorably discharged and entitled to benefits.

Now he's qualified for a VASH voucher, is working with housing case managers and will move into an apartment with supportive services soon.

Most veterans who arrive at a shelter do not have the critical documentation they need.

New Hope Housing opened Veterans House, a home with case management services for four veterans, where the veteran doesn't have to sign a lease.

"We take veterans who have challenges leasing up, so it's in our name," Golden said. "These are the clients that we work with, they are ready to move forward. ... There's no judgment."

Clients who have criminal records or other issues that might prevent them from being approved for a lease still need housing.

Golden is a military spouse, her husband is career army, a lieutenant colonel. They lived for a time on Fort Belvoir. "We've been doing this for a long time," she said. "It's personal for me that our soldiers are connected to the services they are entitled to."

THE DAILY ROUTINE for Richard Davis, a veteran and a single dad: Davis sleeps at

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give."

— Richard Davis, single dad, was living at the Kennedy Shelter by Fort Belvoir

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year. Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

— Vincent Jenkins, director, Embry Rucker Shelter, Reston

Details

Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm

Homelessness

Each homeless veteran has a story, and a path to housing.



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

Richard Davis, a single dad and veteran who has been chronically homeless, moved into a three-bedroom home with his children last week with supports from New Hope Housing.

the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir, while his two young children sleep at a nearby friend's house. In the morning, Davis gets his children ready for the day, drives his son, 4, to a program that addresses the son's intellectual disabilities and then Davis cares for his daughter, 2, who has health issues. He picks his son up in the afternoon, and later, after he gets his children dinner and puts them to bed, he heads back to the shelter to sleep.

At least that was the routine until last Thursday, when New Hope Housing was able to place him in permanent supportive housing with three bedrooms for him and his two children.

Davis served in the Navy. Then he served 25 years in prison, and was released in 2008.

"With a 25-year gap, no one is going to give you the kind of job you need to take care of yourself," Davis said. He worked three jobs at one time, but still didn't earn enough to support his family. And now the full time care of his children presents other challenges.

Davis trained as a paralegal in prison. "I have five habeas corpus briefs under my belt," he said. But when he applied for jobs at law firms when he was released, his prison record kept him from employment.

Davis speaks in a deep voice that reflects the sense that he expected more of himself. He describes himself as "disheartened" by his lack of accomplishment since being released in 2008. He's educated and well-spoken, it's clear that his children bring him joy, and that now getting this part right means the world to him.

"You know you have aspirations when you're younger. You have goals. And you're not really achieving them. I'm dealing with my mortality now," he said. "I have 10-11

more years. I'm living for my children. It's my responsibility to turn out good human beings. ... I want them to be able to go to Dad and to know they will answer to Dad. They are the love of my life."

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give," Davis said.

NOT ALL VETERANS in need of housing are men.

One woman veteran who had served in the Army for three years, emerged struggling with mental illness. She stopped taking her medication, and got into trouble with law. She was receiving services from Northern Virginia Family Services, and was one of the homeless veterans discussed by name at the task force meetings, said Barbara Schultheiss, program director of Services for Single Adults at FACETS in Fairfax.

"So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent," Schultheiss said. "But some need more support."

FACETS operates permanent supportive housing, and when a vacancy opened up there, Schultheiss coordinated her move into a new apartment.

"She's very independent, and she loves her apartment," Schultheiss said. But she also talks about Vladimir Putin as her husband, and dances around her living room with his photo. In her new home, she'll get case management services to help keep her in housing.

There is evidence of long-term success, too.

One Navy veteran lived 17 years in the woods, and has now lived in FACETS housing for seven years with support after serving in the Navy with awards.

"He comes with his own slew of medical problems," said Schultheiss, who was his case manager in 2008, and helped track down his service record.

He told her, "If it wasn't for the FACETS program I'd be dead."

Schultheiss asked him why he left the Navy. "Being on a ship with a bunch of guys, it just got old," he said.

But after that, he couldn't get a job that would pay the bills.

VETERANS WHO HAVE recently been in service have been in an environment where they have had one important job, protecting the country, and their basic needs like



The Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway.

housing, food, schedule and health, have been cared for in a very structured way, said Barnett. "They find themselves on the street without any of that. They've had a job to focus on, but now they have to worry about how to take care of themselves," he said, and their frustration in the new circumstances can be extreme.

Veterans can also be among the most vulnerable of people experiencing homelessness, chronically homeless and living in the woods.

"Their basic training has prepared them to be out there, to withstand some things that most people cannot," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones of challenges of even getting some veterans who have lived outdoor for a long time into the shelter. "It's not always a good fit for them here in the shelter."

Reaching out to the most vulnerable homeless is helped in part by work done in 2013 when nonprofit volunteers, county employees and others went out into the woods and other areas, creating an inventory and conducting interviews. Fairfax County participated in the national 100,000 Homes campaign, ranking chronically homeless people on the vulnerability index that indicates who is a greatest risk of death.

Of more 462 people surveyed, 10 percent were veterans.

Veterans who have lived outside for an extended period are also more likely to be resistant to services.

At the Embury Rucker Shelter, staff uses the "BOLO" protocol as part of their outreach efforts. That's "be on the lookout." They know which veterans they need to reach, and when one of them comes in the door for a bagged lunch or anything else, outreach staff is alerted so someone can come to interact.

While Vietnam-era vets who are homeless are more likely to be among those that are extra resistant to coming indoors, their advancing age sometimes makes them more willing. Homeless veterans of any of the Gulf Wars are more likely to be dealing with PTSD, but also are more likely to be able to jump right back into housing after a crisis with some financial help, said several homeless advocates.

"Their symptoms are related to the trauma they experienced in war," said Greg White, chief operating officer at Cornerstones. "Their coping mechanisms include alcohol, substance abuse.

"One guy who had been living out in the woods told me about the adjustment he had to make to living in a house," White said. Sometimes people who have moved into housing still come back to the shelter, or even the woods, to visit. "Those social connections mean a lot to them."

Outreach during the very cold months when chronically homeless are more likely to come to the shelters, and also the Health Care for the Homeless programs offer opportunities for outreach that can eventually lead to enough trust for veterans to give information that will help get them into housing.

While some veterans are chronically homeless, living with physical disabilities or mental health issues that can be barriers to moving into new homes, it's a shortage of affordable housing that is still the biggest barrier to ending homelessness, for veterans and others. Many veterans are severely rent burdened, said White and others. Even when they can find a job, it's rare they can find employment that will pay enough to cover their needs.



The overflow services trailer on the grounds of the Kennedy Shelter.

"So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent. But some need more support."

— Barbara Schultheiss, FACETS

SPORTS

Madison Football Wins Conference 6 Championship

Warhawks to host Chantilly in 6A North playoffs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Madison football team entered the 2015 season expecting to win the Conference 6 championship. The Warhawks secured an outright title on Nov. 6, beating Hayfield 53-20 in Vienna.

Now that Madison has taken care of its regular-season business, the Warhawks look to maintain success in the playoffs.

Madison (9-1) will host Chantilly (5-5) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs. After dropping their season opener against Oakton, the Warhawks have won nine straight games and earned the No. 4 seed in the region. Madison will face No. 13 Chantilly, which ended the regular season with a three-game losing streak.

"I'm real proud," Madison head coach Lenny Schultz said about winning the conference title. "We said we were going to win a conference title, we put that in their head and we expected to win one. ... But we don't want to stop there. ... I don't think any of us want to stop winning. This time of year you're one and done. I think we have



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Madison football team allowed 67 points in seven Conference 6 games this season.

what it takes to continue success [in the postseason]."

Madison last week scored a season-best 53 points in a win over Hayfield. Quarterback Jason Gastrock completed 13 of 27 passes for 276 yards and four touchdowns against the Hawks. He also ran for a score.

Running back Wiley Counts threw a 25-yard touchdown pass, as well.

Landan Thomas, Nick Conforti, Jordan

Ebersole, John DeScisciolo and Counts each caught a touchdown pass.

For the season, Gastrock, a first-team all-conference selection, has passed for 1,726 yards and 17 touchdowns, with four interceptions. Ebersole, a first-team all-conference selection, has 34 receptions for 660 yards and six touchdowns. DeScisciolo has 20 catches for 386 yards and five scores.

Counts, a first-teamer, is the Warhawks'

"I don't think any of us want to stop winning. This time of year you're one and done. I think we have what it takes to continue success [in the postseason]."

—Madison head coach
Lenny Schultz

leading rusher with 583 yards and 11 touchdowns on 100 carries.

Madison allowed just 67 points in seven conference games. Senior linebacker Paul Gerdon earned conference Defensive Player of the Year honors. Defensive linemen Rex Boody and Brad Porter, linebackers Jimmy Goldsmith and defensive back Sam Kidd earned first-team all-conference honors.

"I don't think we've had our perfect game yet," Schultz said. "We've had some great games on defense [and] a few really good games on offense ... but we need to put it all together."

The winner of Friday's Madison/Chantilly game will face the winner of No. 5 Robinson and No. 12 Centreville.

Members of the Langley football team celebrate winning the Rotary Cup with a 27-7 victory over rival McLean on Nov. 6.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Langley football team closed the season with back-to-back victories, including a 27-7 win over rival McLean on Nov. 6.

Langley Football Beats McLean, Wins Rotary Cup

The Langley football team ended the season with a 27-7 road victory over rival McLean on Nov. 6, winning the Rotary Cup.

After dropping seven of their first eight games, Langley closed the season with back-to-back victories, including a 48-23 win over Yorktown on Oct. 30

during the Saxons' final home game of the season.

Madison Volleyball Wins Conference Championship

The Madison volleyball team swept top-seed Langley on Nov. 5 to repeat as Conference 6 champions.

The Warhawks entered the tournament

as the No. 3 seed and lost just one set in three matches.

Madison won its 6A North region tournament opener against T.C. Williams, 3-0, on Monday. The Warhawks faced Osborn Park on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The winner will face either West Springfield or Patriot in the region semifinals on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Langley swept South County in the region tournament on Monday. The Saxons faced Oakton on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Oakton Football to Face South Lakes

The Oakton football team received the No. 11 seed in the 6A North region playoffs and will travel to face No. 6 South Lakes at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13.

Oakton finished the regular season with a 5-5 record, including a 35-0 victory against Herndon in its regular-season finale on Nov. 6.

The winner of Oakton/South Lakes will face the winner of Westfield/Washington-Lee.

SPORTS

Competing in Horse Show

Lindsay Simmons Beale, of Great Falls, competes in the Washington International Horse Show held Oct. 20-25, 2015.

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OBITUARY

JOHN CARLILE TALBOTT (Age 73)

Of Great Falls, Virginia passed away peacefully among family and friends on October 29, 2015. Born in Martins Ferry, Ohio on September 1, 1942 to John Charles Talbott and Elisabeth Carlile Talbott, John quickly gained attention as a star athlete and scholar, becoming captain of Poland Seminary High School's football team, homecoming king, and president of the student body. John went on to get his B.A. from Amherst College, where he continued to play football and rugby, and then got his J.D. from Cleveland State Law School on a full scholarship, graduating summa cum laude. A prominent lawyer in McLean, VA, John ran his own successful practice specializing in multifamily housing financing and development for over three decades. Throughout his life, John's thirst for knowledge never waned. An avid reader of history, philosophy, physics, and biographies, John could expound on nearly any subject, be it Aristotle's "Poetics," black holes, or why your car's making that weird noise. He loved pushing not only his mind, but also his body and took up running and biking. He ran several marathons, including the Marine Corps Marathon, finished triathlons, and jogged religiously with his best friends Jay and Neil every weekend for over 20 years by Fletcher's boathouse. In his free time, he enjoyed gardening (caring for plants over 40 years old), collecting Native American pottery, and passionately cheering on his favorite team, the Ohio State Buckeyes. John loved animals and always had one or two canine companions by his side at home or at the office. A loyal and devoted father, he treasured above all else his relationship with his two daughters, Honora and Eliza. John is survived by his daughters Eliza Talbott and Honora Talbott; his sister Patricia and husband James; niece Jennifer and husband Kevin; nephew James and wife Echo, and four grandnieces. A memorial service will be announced at a later date next spring. For now, in remembrance of John and his love of animals, we invite people to donate to the Washington Animal Rescue League or any animal rescue of your choice.

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Small Talk in a Big Way



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

No way, actually. In my nearly seven years of cancer-induced doctor's appointments, scan appointments, lab work and miscellaneous other recurring occasions to be sitting/ idling in waiting rooms, never before last week's pre-chemotherapy lab work had I been so chatted up by a fellow member waiting for their name to be called.

The circumstances were not particularly unique; it's not as if there was a two-for-one/half-price special that day. It was just another day – not in paradise, at the lab, of which I've had my share. It was crowded this day and because of seat non-availability, I was forced to sit up close and personal between two other patients. We weren't exactly touching one another, but there was some proximity that had the room been less occupied, there likely would have been fewer eyes making contact.

Before I had even completed my half-turn, "bassackwards" descent into my single chair, the self-described grandmother and church-goer to my standing right/sitting left said to me – quite unsolicited I might add, with zero provocation from yours truly: "Look outside!" After landing in my chair, I craned my neck back around to "look," anticipating an incident/accident of some kind. Instead, I saw blue skies and a bright shiny sun, and said as much to my new temporary neighbor and then asked if I was missing something. She said "No." And then elaborated on how it was a beautiful day and how such days make her so happy and yada, yada, yada; yada, yada, yada. (It didn't stop there, if you catch my prose.)

Apparently noticing my rather cool (not hip) demeanor in not responding to her observation/opinion, she started on the man immediately sitting to her left. He was from Ethiopia. Oh. The pastor at her church was from Ethiopia and the congregation used to be old but now thanks to him... and on and on and on; fortunately not directed at me, but obviously within earshot. Soon however, his name was called and his seat remained unoccupied long enough for grandma to return her conversation back to me and begin to recount the information about the man with whom she had just been conversing: Ethiopian, a pastor, his young wife, their young children, the congregation; and on and on and on. Again, my lack of enthusiasm was likely evident in my barely audible responses to her comments and before too long, the vacated seat to her left was taken by a mother and her nine-month-old baby girl. Sure enough, the conversation soon left me and went over to the mother and her "beautiful baby." Within a few short minutes (in time), my neighbor's name was called (mercifully) and off she went into the lab. As she pulled open the door, she turned back to me, waived and smiled. I smiled back and said: "Break a leg." To which she responded something like: "Oh. You never want to..." but I had lost my focus and she was practically through the door into the lab and no more was there time and place to listen. Thankfully, the exchange, such as it was, was over (and she had just started asking about my job, too; what next? What was I in for?) I don't want to sound like Humphrey Bogart from Casablanca here, but: Of all the hospital waiting areas, of all the HMO waiting rooms, of all the labs, of all the clinics, she had to walk into mine. Don't let this play out again, Sam; it was an intrusion of sorts. Well-intended, I presume, and perhaps a little nervous energy at play; but as Kenny Rogers would say/sing: "You got to know when to fold 'em, know when to hold 'em."

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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

In fact, if we spoke like that in school, speaking over each other, having no respect for others, not to mention the attacking of questions instead of answering them, we would be in great trouble. Do we want the next leader of the United States of America to be rude, impolite and interrupting? We do need a leader that demands action, but also acts with kindness and compassion. If these are our future leaders, my peers and I, the children, the future, could be left in a large mess, maybe even too large to fix.

Often children are forgotten in matters like this. I asked my Dad how a child can speak up about this since kids cannot vote. He said to try a letter to the editor of a newspaper, so that is what I'm doing. I am eternally grateful for our current country, and even good places have problems, but if this is our future, this country's future is looking dark. Although I can't vote, I can stand. I stand for a real leader. Areal president.

Shailey Pratt

Fairfax Station
White Oaks Elementary
School - Sixth Grade

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Tech Thursday - Technology to Support Executive Functioning. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Many students struggle with planning, organizing and managing tasks, which impacts their academic achievement. This workshop will focus on strategies and technology tools that can help support students with executive function deficits. Presented by the Office of Special Education Instruction, Assistive Technology Services. Free. Register at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Strategies to Support Elementary Students with Dyslexia. 10 a.m.-noon. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Specialists from the FCPS Office of Special Education Instruction will present this workshop specifically designed for parents of elementary students with dyslexia. Attend this workshop to learn strategies to support reading, writing and math at home; ways to promote effective study skills; and strategies to promote self-advocacy skills. Free. Register at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Future Quest 2015. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Future Quest features more than 70 workshops and everyone will learn from the amazing keynote speaker - Justin Graves. Attend the Resource Fair with over 40 organizations focused on helping students achieve a successful life after high school. You will also get to spend an entire day on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax. Free. Register at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc/index.shtml>.

Communications Leadership Meeting. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Room A, Vienna. Brinker Toastmasters, is part of Toastmasters International, a leader in communication and leadership development. schultzmt@mac.com. 703-227-0228.



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