Helping Poor, Homeless For a Quarter Century
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Sarah Bishop, 35, of Fairfax, celebrates holding the finish line tape after winning the women’s division of the Marine Corps Marathon with a time of 2:45:06.

October 26-November 1, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
**News**

**Helping Poor, Homeless for a Quarter Century**

The Lamb Center celebrates 25th anniversary.

By Bonnie Hobbs

The Connection

When The Lamb Center celebrated its 25th anniversary, Oct. 11, with a banquet at The Waterford, it was an evening of both joy and reflection. Executive Director John MacPherson said Father Martyn Minns started this faith-based ministry at Truro Episcopal Church.

“He noticed the church was constantly getting requests for aid from the poor, and they wanted to go deeper and help more,” said MacPherson. “So The Lamb Center first opened in 1992 over a pawn shop, with little more than a hot plate, a coffee pot and some doughnuts. We wanted to teach our guests about Jesus but, much to our surprise, they brought Jesus to us. And 25 years later, we’re still going strong.” Since those early days, the need for help here in Fairfax has grown; and, fortunately, so has The Lamb Center, itself, moving last year into a new, two-story, 10,000-square-foot building at 3160 Campbell Drive. Learn more by calling 703-691-3178 or visiting www.thelambcenter.org.

This daytime, drop-in shelter offers hot meals, showers, laundry services, basic dental care, plus recovery and employment counseling to the poor and homeless. These guests come from all walks of life and, for a variety of reasons, have fallen on hard times. But at The Lamb Center, they find a warm welcome and open, caring hearts.

IN 2016, The Lamb Center received 31,030 guests, averaging 102 per day. It served 42,136 meals, provided 11,204 showers and more than 10,000 counseling sessions. It hosted 300 AA meetings, while also offering Bible studies, computer classes, haircuts, clothing, housing searches and relationship advice. But it wouldn’t be possible without the support of The Lamb Center’s more than 100 churches, 1,200 individual donors, dozens of local businesses and tireless volunteers who logged more than 20,000 hours total.

Introducing Minns, who’s now a bishop, Lamb Center Board Chair Kelly Johnson said the center wouldn’t be in business without his “compassion, vision and leadership.” And Minns acknowledged the support of the Fairfax City Council when he was Truro’s rector.

During that time, he asked his friend Jim Barnes to determine the area’s most pressing needs, and Barnes said there was no place for the homeless to go during the day. Minns and Barnes brainstormed names for the new ministry and began with Local Area Ministry (LAM).

“Then Jim’s wife Linda added the B for Local Area Ministry Because (LAMB),” said Minns. “We did it because men, women and children needed help, and God told us to do it, and so The Lamb Center was born. God loves the poor and he’s told us to follow his example. When we die, we’ll be asked, ‘Did we help the poor?’ – and our destiny will depend on our answer.”

Besides, he added, “We need the poor because they know that, except for the grace and mercy of God, we are lost. And they remind us of what’s truly important in life – our relationship with God and with the people around us. And may God continue to bless the Lamb Center – because.”

Johnson said the churches send the center supplies, volunteer and donations, and “We literally could not do what we do every day without the support of the faith community. Board Vice-Chair Tara Ruszkowski then acknowledged recently retired nurse Lori McLean, who contributed many hours to the center.

“I’ve been volunteering there Tuesday afternoons since 2008, and I’m still the newest, Tuesday volunteer,” said Ruszkowski. “So our volunteers come and stay.” Attendees then watched a video about the center, in which MacPherson said, “The Lamb Center is a place where people often come when they have no place else to turn.”

THE GUESTS’ COMMENTS on that video included: “A child’s illness, a car accident – just one thing and you’re homeless. They welcome you with open arms. When I just need someone to talk to, I come here. If it wasn’t for The Lamb Center, I’d be in much harder times. I can get some food, a hot shower and clean clothes and look like everybody else.”

Another person on the video, Ken McMillon, said, “Everybody has a reason for where they are and how they got there. But people who have compassion try to understand and help. I’m not ashamed anymore.”

Board member Sharon Jones noted that the center opened a dental clinic in March to do emergency extractions and referrals to the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. “We reached out to the NVCC School of Dental Hygiene and also asked dentists to volunteer.

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‘They Make You Feel Like You’re a Person’

Lamb Center guests share their stories.

By Bonnie Hobbs

The Connection

During The Lamb Center’s silver anniversary celebration, Patti Larrabee, the center’s assistant director, introduced four guests who shared their stories. Joseph Neal, who’s been on the streets, off and on, for 15 years, said he owes the center and God “a great deal of appreciation.”

Len Mullins came there in April because he needed some T-shirts and a shower and was hungry. But on June 27, Nurse Lori McLean examined him and realized he was having heart problems and had him taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where he had open-heart surgery.

Greg Marshall first went there in 2015. “I was sleeping in my car and someone stole my prosthetic leg, and The Lamb Center helped me get a new one. I’d surrendered a six-figure job after an accident, but The Lamb Center was there and showed me nothing but love. But mostly, they encouraged me to be just one paycheck away from poverty,” he said.

Octavia Travis was malnourished and had been assaulted. “So when I came to The Lamb Center, my spirit was gone,” she said. “People told me to come here, and I focused on the words on the wall, ‘Hope, love, faith.’ These things had vanished from my life, so I came back the next day.”

At the Bible study table, said Travis, “They talk about God, and God comes alive. And the volunteers are so full of love; they don’t look down on you and they make you feel like we’re all on the same level. They make you feel like you’re a person. I had a life, at one time. But I was at my wits’ end and they made me want to live.” She then gave the center a plaque, plus a card in which she’d written, “The things you do make a difference.”

“This could be any of us – we all could be just one paycheck away from poverty,” said Board member Brenda Norman. “I’m a regular volunteer at The Lamb Center, and it’s just a joy to be there. We’re there to be an encouragement to our guests, to pray with them and to help whether they’re homeless or brokenhearted. There’s so much love there, and I encourage others to share their gifts and volunteer with us. Come to our new center, feel God’s presence and see what’s happening there through Him.”
Northern Virginia has more competitive seats than any other part of the commonwealth, a ring of districts that forms a beltway of sorts separating the inner solid blue in Arlington and Alexandria from the solid red in rural and exurban seats in Loudoun and Prince William. That puts Fairfax County squarely in the driver’s seat this November, when Democrats hope to pick up seats in an election that has balanced local issues like schools and roads with the ongoing reaction to President Donald Trump. That battle will be won or lost in suburban Northern Virginia, where the Washington suburbs are sprawling into areas that used to be farmland and orchards.

“We have a transportation beltway around D.C. in Northern Virginia, and we also have a competitive political beltway,” said Quentin Kidd at Christopher Newport University. “It’s the fault line between old Virginia and new Virginia, and it’s the trenches of our current political battlefield.”

The region has many incumbent delegates who are running unopposed, all Democrats: Mark Keam (D-35); Ken Plum (D-36); David Bulova (D-37); Vivian Watts (D-39); Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Mark Sickles (D-43); Paul Krizek (D-44); Mark Levine (D-45); Charniele Herring (D-46); Patrick Hope (D-47); and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

The decision of longtime Del. David Albo (R-42) to step down from public life after more than 20 years in office has created a vacuum that Democrats are eager to fill. Former Labor Department deputy administrator Kathy Tran emerged from a primary back in June, and she’s been running hard against Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak ever since. Democrats have called attention to Mancheno-Smoak’s early support of Donald Trump, whose candidacy she supported back in 2015 shortly after he declared his candidacy by calling Mexican immigrants rapists.

“Sometimes in order to generate change, in order to get new energy to actually feel passionate about a new beginning you need positive disruption,” said Mancheno-Smoak in an interview with Connection Newspapers. “I see Trump as a positive disruptor.”

Democrats pounced on that remark, issuing a press release in reaction.

“This is probably the best chance Demo- crats have of taking out a GOP incumbent,” said Geoff Skelley, media relations coordinator at the Center for Politics. “Jim LeMunyon occupies the most Democratic seat held by a Republican in the House of Delegates.” He is opposed by Karrie Delaney. Another Republican incumbent facing a competitive race this year is Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who serves as the Republican caucus chairman. He’s facing Democrat Donte Tanner, who raised more than $350,000 to take on the popular Republican incumbent. That’s a huge chunk of change, especially for a first-time candidate running against a longtime incumbent. But it’s about half of what Hugo was able to raise. That’s only part of the value of incumbency. Hugo, who calls himself the “pothole delegate” for his support of constituent issues, has spent the last decade building goodwill among voters in the district.

“Folks like Tim Hugo have established a name brand and an identity in their districts, and voters generally have a favorable view toward them,” said Mark Rozell, at George Mason University. “Democrats are energized, and they are counting on a big anti-Trump vote. But I think you can count on some split ticket voting, and perhaps many of those voters who are going to vote against the Republican at the top of the ticket will still vote for their local guy in the House of Delegates.”

Republican incumbents aren’t the only General Assembly members facing challenges, though. Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) is one of two Democratic incumbents facing a challenge. The Center for Politics has ranked it as competitive. The seat was held for more than 40 years by Republican Vince Callahan, although it has been held by Rep-
Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

Individuals, religious groups and other organizations share same goal.

By Shirley Ruhe

The supporters all agree on one thing. As Imam Ali Siddiqui said, “Nobody asked these kids whether they wanted to come to America. They go to school, they work hard, build a career. It will be a loss to send them back.” Figures distributed by The Commonwealth Institute in October 2017 show that if all Virginians who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) became citizens, state and local tax contributions by young Virginians would rise from the current $135 million to $252.9 million a year.

As President Trump’s executive order released Sept. 5 threatens 800,000 DACA recipients with deportation, communities of supporters rally to their defense.

Individuals and groups converge from all directions to provide sanctuary, educational assistance, moral support, employment counseling and sometimes “in your face” advocacy for immigrant assistance. Each group has a plan and a niche but they are all working for the same goal — passage of the Dream Act, which will offer the opportunity for a long, but legal, path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Norma Kacen is part of the Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees, an Arlington-based group, which she co-founded with Wendy Chan in the fall of 2016. “I grew up on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, an ethnic ghetto. It was a closed world with circles of ghettos — Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish,” she said, drawing circles with her finger on the table.

Kacen has recently been up on Capitol Hill as a volunteer lobbyist with the American Association of University Women visiting key senators to urge passage of the Dream Act. “All of the comments were ‘we couldn’t afford it’, but,” she says, pulling out a talking sheet, “ending DACA and kicking recipients out of the labor force would cost the United States $433.4 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by $24.6 billion over the next decade.”

This is according to the Center for American Progress, a self-described progressive independent nonpartisan policy institute. As of November 2016, 645,000 DACA recipients nationwide are employed, and they pay taxes. Kacen said, “My challenge to the senators was yes, we pay for their education like anyone else who pays taxes.” But most of the senators were unmoved by the arguments. Kacen says it is also important to acknowledge a breakdown of DACA by Congressional districts because “some of our representatives only listen to their own constituents.”

Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees was established to combat the anti-Muslim rhetoric and to be a welcoming friend to all refugees. “We didn’t want to duplicate the efforts of others so we partner with other organizations,” she said.

RECENTLY THE GROUP held three advocacy workshops for people supportive of refugees. About 50 people attended one of the workshops at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Arlington and a Muslim site in Fairfax. These workshops are non-partisan with the purpose to teach the skills necessary for effective advocacy.

“I was really delighted and it was extremely heartening that millennials attended. Every organization is trying to figure out what they can do to attract the disengaged millennials,” Kacen said.

The second event, which was held in the spring, brought American professionals together with the often highly skilled immigrants to help the immigrants navigate the workplace. “So we connect the immigrants together with American professionals in their own field to allow the professionals to talk.” Many of the refugees were doctors, architects, engineers and entrepreneurs in their countries and now have low-level jobs in America. The purpose of these life skills programs is to increase connections to help the immigrants reach their potential.

The third focus for this year is a large community event planned for the spring. It would be intended to show the resilience of the immigrants by “focusing on the incredible skills in the cultural arts such as music, arts and fashion. It is to show the capacity to overcome, the triumph of the human spirit,” she said.

Are they making progress? Kacen paused, “It’s hard to say. But... there are many people engaged.”

Monica Sarmiento is executive director of Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Right (VACIR), a coalition that began in 2013 with eight organizations, now grown to 16. She says their organization is focused on how to have more comprehensive immigration reform in Virginia. “Many organizations have their niches demographically or ethnically but we tend to be looking at what we’re doing statewide and collaboratively. The most important emphasis is to push different community representatives at the table — African, Korean, Muslim.”

Sarmiento says since VACIR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization they don’t directly lobby but have encouraged people to call their members of Congress, and the 16 organizations who are part of the coalition often engage in advocacy. For instance the Commonwealth Institute has prepared a fact sheet outlining how DREAMers grow our economy with 61 percent opening a bank account, 64.5 percent buying their first car, 97 percent becoming employed or enrolled in school. It adds that young people with DACA status contribute nearly $711 million to Virginia’s economy annually including nearly $35 million in state and local taxes. The conclusion is that ending DACA could reduce Virginia state and local tax revenue by almost $13 million a year.

Members of VACIR include such groups as Legal Aid Justice Center, SEEC, VOICE/LA, NAKASEC, The Commonwealth Institute and Virginia New Majority. These groups have focused on the constituents of two U.S. representatives in Virginia, Scott Taylor (R-2) and Barbara Comstock (R-10), who they are trying to convince “to do the right thing and support a clean Dream Act.”

Sarmiento says the VACIR board had decided for the first time to endorse a clean Dream Act, the first time they had endorsed any legislation. “A clean Dream Act would not have such provisions as mandatory verification (death by 1,000 papers), an increase in ICE agents, increased money for deportation, funding for the border wall, inability to sponsor family members, no pathway to citizenship.”

She says there needs to be a much larger conversation to spotlight the injustices happening now with undocumented immigrants who have already lost their DACA status due to President Trump’s executive order or who will lose their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) if it is not renewed. These people could be deported any day. She says 300,000 of these are from Latin America; 200,000 of these are Salvadoran. Sarmiento was raised in Northern Virginia but her parents emigrated from El Salvador fleeing war. “They were fortunate my grandmother lived here and got her legal status through the Reagan amnesty act so my father got legal status.”

Sumi Yi, Virginia community organizer for National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a community-based progressive Asian American and Pacific Islander organization, says their mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, racial, and economic justice. She points out that out of the cur...
Saturday Morning Coffee with Del. David Bulova

This Saturday, Oct. 28, Del. David Bulova (D-37) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding informal office hours to take place from 9 to 11 a.m. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

❖ Oct. 28 at Jireh Cafe, 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville
❖ Dec. 2 at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main St., City of Fairfax

Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns.

Del. Bulova represents Virginia’s 37th House District, which includes the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County. He serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the State Water Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Housing Commission.

For more information visit www.davidbulova.com.

Faith Notes

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

Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, has services on Fridays, 7:30 p.m. with a pre-service wine and cheese social at 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. with a pre-service Torah study at 9 a.m. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. Kole Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Call 703-378-9400 or visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

The Cranford United Methodist Church, located at 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, hosts prayer and healing services on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m., and fellowship is at 12:30 p.m.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children’s church also provided. 6401 Masonary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.
Don’t Stay Home

Your vote counts this round; nation is watching.

E
very year is election year in Virginia. Virginia offers multiple examples that prove every vote counts.

This year, each Virginia voter will vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and their member of the House of Delegates, Virginia is one of two Governor’s races, and many are watching the Virginia race to as a harbinger of what to expect in 2018. No matter how you vote, polling shows that the Governor’s race could be very close.

While there are quite a few uncontested races for members of the House of Delegates, several races could also be close, with the outcome likely to depend on turnout.

There is every reason to get out and vote.

Absentee Voting in Person

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice. There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including the possibility that you will be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee: in-person and by mail. To vote by mail, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot; if you vote absentee-in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

See your locality’s elections website for more.

Bring Photo ID: There Are Alternatives

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether absentee or on Election Day.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar’s office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran’s ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don’t panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card.

At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

On the Ballot

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)
Edward W. “Ed” Gillespie (R)
Clifford D. Hyra (L)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)
Jill H. Vogel (R)

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D) incumbent
John D. Adams (R)

House of Delegates

34th District

Kathleen Murphy (D) incumbent
Cheryl Buford (R)

35th District

Mark Keam (D) incumbent, unopposed

36th District

Ken Plum (D) incumbent, unopposed

37th District

David Bulova (D) incumbent, unopposed

38th District

Kary Kory (D) incumbent
Paul Haring (R)

39th District

Vivian Watts (D) incumbent, unopposed

40th District

Donte Tanner (D)
Tim Hugo (R) incumbent

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D) incumbent, unopposed

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D)
Lolita Mancheno-Smok (R)

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D) incumbent, unopposed

44th District

Paul Krawiec (D) incumbent, unopposed

45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D) incumbent
Mike Casey (I)

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D)
Jim LeMunyon (R) incumbent

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D) incumbent
Linda Schulze (R)

Fairfax County School Bonds

Voters will vote yes or no on a $315 million public school bond referendum on the Nov. 7 general election ballot. If approved, voters, the Fairfax County Public Schools’ current plans to use this bond money are to plan and/or construct two new elementary schools, one in Fairfax/Oakton area and another in the northwest county area; relocate one modular building; plan additions at three existing high schools to add capacity at Madison, Stuart and West Potomac; plan and/or construct renovations of 10 elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools. See www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/committees/finance-committee/2017-school-bond-referendum.

Fairfax County Office of Elections

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

Voter Registration: 703-322-0776, TTY 711
Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725
Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

CIRCUIT BOARD: Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides, Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. through Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code DCHALLOWEEN in the app’s “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to $15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

BRADDOCK ROAD STUDY

Community Meetings, Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a series of community meetings then focused on specific sections of Braddock Road this fall. The schedule is as follows.

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Lamb Center Turns 25

From Page 2
teer, and they've done it,” said Jones. “This group of professionals has been a blessing to The Lamb Center. To date, we’ve provided 100 separate dental services to 63 guests. It’s important to people’s overall health and to their self-esteem.”

Dave Larrabee, the center’s operations director, said, “The most important thing we offer is a sense of community. I’ve been there 18-1/2 years, and it’s an amazing place.” He then prayed, “You open so many doors, Lord, and we thank You for all the lives You’ve transformed. We remember the 25 years of Your awesome ministry, and we pray that You continue to guide us. Continue to bless our guests and keep safe all those who don’t have a place to lay their heads.” Afterward, Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer said, “Over the last 25 years, The Lamb Center’s ministry has grown in its inclusiveness and its effectiveness in helping the poor in our community. There’s tremendous support across the City, and especially on our City Council, for the center as it moves into its second quarter century. This is a place that changes lives and transforms our community, and we’re all better for it.”
Sarah Bishop needed a babysitter. The Fairfax mother of four had successfully pleaded with organizers of the Marine Corps Marathon to grant her a late entry into the race. With her husband out of town and just three days to go, she was getting desperate.

"I had been training and knew I was in shape to do well," said Bishop, who finished fourth in last year’s race through the streets of Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. “This race is my home turf and I really wanted to run.”

Bishop, 35, did find a babysitter for her 7-, 5-, and twin 4-year-olds. So in the pre-dawn hours of Oct. 22, she lined up with 30,000 other runners for the 42nd annual Marine Corps Marathon, crossing the finish line 2 hours, 45 minutes and 6 seconds later to claim the women’s championship trophy.

“By mile 13, I felt strong and knew I could do well at the finish,” said Bishop, who missed qualifying for the Olympic trials by 6 seconds. “Sometimes you have the opportunity to do something and you just need to seize the day so that’s what I did.”

Bishop was followed by Meghan Curran of Fort Carson, Colo. (2:50:23) and Suzanne Hutchins of Gastonia, N.C., who finished third in a time of 2:53:35.

In the men’s division, 32-year-old Desta Beriso Morkoma of Arlington overtook Kieran O’Connor in the last mile to win the men’s title with a time of 2:25:13. O’Connor, who finished in 2:28:06, had led for 24 of the 26.2-mile course but fell to third place behind Morkoma and Wesley Turner of Danville, Va. (2:27:34).

“It’s a year I worked hard to win,” said Morkoma, who finished second in last year’s race.

Arlington runners took the top two spots in the men’s division of the MCM 10K race: Denzel Ramirez, 34, finished in 34 minutes and 16 seconds, followed by Craig Morgan, 26, (32:21) and Erik McMillan, 20 of the US Air Force Academy in 32:49.

Bethany Sachtleben, 25, of Alexandria, shattered the women’s 10K course record with a time of 34:06. The old record of 34:43 was set in 2010. She was followed by Julie Tarallo, 28, of Washington, DC (38:00), and Amy Smith, 29, of Seattle (38:54).

“Groundpounder” Al Richmond, 79, of Arlington, completed the marathon in 6:48:35. Richmond is the last remaining runner to have completed every Marine Corps Marathon since its inception in 1976.

For Bishop, who served four years in the Air Force, the victory is especially meaningful.

“I really wanted to win or place last year and didn’t,” Bishop said. “I come from a military family and to win the Marine Corps Marathon is very special to me.”

Complete race results can be found at www.marinemarathon.com.
Dreamers

FROM PAGE 4

The current efforts focus on DACA with phone banks, vigils and visits to Virginia legislators urging them to support of the Dream Act. “Representatives Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor are on the fence about whether to co-sponsor the legislation,” said Yi. NAKASEC is planning a day soon when they will join with other organizations and knock on every door they can find. “Come on; we can do this,” she said.

Yi says that Korea is a land of opportunity with a great educational system. “I can go there now and make a lot of money but what keeps us rooted here is liberty and freedom. In Korea,” she said, “You have to think a certain way. Culturally and value-wise, I’m American.”

Yi takes a moment to reflect on their recent 30-day vigil in front of the White House.

She said they slept on benches, talked to people, got signatures and even did the “DACA dance.”

“The Secret Service told us we were the weirdest demonstrators they had ever seen at the White House; we even had a karaoke night. But we raised a lot of money,” Yi said. “Some people were supportive but others were being really mean. We had kids with us and I could see they were so hurt. I don’t know what’s going to happen but we’re stronger together. We have to do something.”

She declares they’re going to get education and driver’s licenses for everyone in Virginia. “This moment is bigger than all of us.”

Sixty Four Places

of worship joined together after the election with the announcement of upcoming anti-immigration legislation. Imam Ali Saddiqui, who is part of a transitional leadership team for the group, says Sanctuary DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) includes a number of Protestant churches as well as several synagogues, Catholic churches and his Muslim Institute. One of their actions has been organizing rallies in support of DACA and immigrant rights. “I was just there last week at the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in D.C. and at the mayor’s office.” Since there was just a raid where ICE went after 500 undocumented immigrants and 14 were arrested, the group was asking for their release and they took cases to court.

When it came her turn the bilingual judge asked if she had an order for deportation. So in the spring of 2018.

An excerpt from a poem sent by Martin to the congregation concludes:

“I have known the grandmothers who
Have left their songs and language,
Their country of spices and markets,
And believed America when we said,
“This is the land of the free.”

This is the third article in a series focusing on DACA.

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**Ghoultide Scarols will be the sound on Sunday, Oct. 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Music of the “Ghoultide Season,” with music by Bach, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Camille Saint-Saens, and guest featured in Thomas Pavlechko’s Ghoultide Scarols. Visit www.fairfaxband.org for more information.**

**Art Classes**

**Fall Drawing Plus Color Classes starting Nov. 4, 6:15-7 p.m. at Woods Cove Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zelen, 6h, $100. Drawing and watercolor. Ages 5-8. Visit www.carzartlessons.com or call 703-250-6590.**

**THURSDAY/OCT. 26**

**Annual Trick or Treat Party. 5-7 p.m. at the Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Pet costume contest and Hotel Transylvania screening at 6:30 in Strawberry Park. Visit mosaicdistrict.com for more.**

**FRIDAY/OCT. 27**

**Final 2017 Rock the Block Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street Fairfax. Vinyl Invention performs. Visit www.fairfaxinvention.org for more.**

**MONDAY/OCT. 30**

**Trick-or-Treating at City of Fairfax Buildings. 5-8 p.m. Children are invited to come safely trick-or-treat at any of the following City of Fairfax buildings:**
- City Hall – 10455 Armstrong St.
- Green Acres – 4401 Sidewall Road
- Sherwood Center – 3740 Old Lee Highway
- Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center – 10209 Main St.

Visit www.fairfaxva.gov for more.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**Halloween Celebration and Costume Parade. 10 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A variety of children’s activities and entertainment, costumes encouraged for parade. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-385-7858.**

**TUESDAY/OCT. 31**

**Story Times at Old Town Square. 10 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Staff from Old Town Square Library will bring over books to read with children in an informal setting. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts for more.**

**THURSDAY/NOV. 2**

**Decorative Arts Symposium. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 1079 Gunston Road, Lorton. Topic: “Women's Work: Women as Global Agents in the 18th Century” with guest speakers. Call 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or email mkraver@gunstonhall.org.**

**GMU Visiting Filmmakers Series. 4:30 p.m. at Johnson Center Cinema, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Film is “Whose Streets?” by Sabaah Folayan, a look at how the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown inspired a community in Ferguson, Missouri, and sparked a global movement. Call 703-993-2788.**

**FRIDAY/NOV. 3**

**Business Holiday Celebration. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chantilly Legion Post # 177, 3393 Oak St., Fairfax. Exhibitors and speakers included the keynote speaker, former Virginia Delegate Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Call 703-841-3470 for more.**

**Film Festival for the Arts. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Sherwood Center, 3740 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. “Imagine: John Lennon” (1988). Doors open at 7 p.m.**

**SATURDAY/NOV. 4**

**Sufragist Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10656 North St., Fairfax. Lecture titled “Forgotten Fairfax: 100th Anniversary of the Night of Terror and the Women’s Right to Vote.” Fairfax County History Commission member, Lynda Frizelle, will speak about the Night of Terror, which was a coordinated strike by African American picketing the White House for the right to vote were incarcerated at the Occoquan Workhouse and tortured. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/library/ branches/tx or call 703-293-6227.**

**Northern Virginia Chorale. 8 p.m. at St. Mark’s Church, 5600 Backlund Road, Springfield. The chorale will also perform “We Remember Them” from Donald McCullough’s Holocaust Cantata, as well as spirituals and other choral selections to commemorate All Saints Day. $25 for Adults; $10 for students; under 12 free. Visit www.northernvirginiachorale.org or by phone at 703-239-2180.**

**NOV. 4-JAN. 13, 2018**

**Fall Art Lessons for Youth Classes. 9:15-11:30 a.m. at Wards Grove Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zelen, 6h, $135. Watercolor. Visit www.carzartlessons.com or call 703-250-6590.**

**Fall Art Workshop for Teens/Adults. 10:30-12:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zelen, 6h, $135. Watercolor. Chinese brush and portfolio development. Visit www.carzartlessons.com or call 703-250-6590 for more.**
Eagle Scout Project Blends Technology and History

On Saturday, Oct. 8, Fairfax High School student Alex Harrison (left) completed a year-long Eagle Scout project that resulted in historic preservation through technology for Historic Blenheim in Fairfax City. The scout produced 360 degree digital images of Civil War graffiti in the farm house attic which is not accessible to the public. The project included a fundraiser to buy a kiosk where the interactive images can now be viewed in the visitor center. Scouts from BSA Troop 577 pictured outside the farmhouse where the video was filmed at Blenheim Historic site, from left: Michael Rath, Alex Harrison (Eagle Project owner), Matthew Lee, and Arnav Chandra.
Looking for the Key to Happiness
Woodson High presents the musical, ‘Pippin.’

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Featuring a cast and crew of 70, Woodson High’s Cappies show, the musical comedy “Pippin,” will burst upon the stage Nov. 4-11 in the school theater. It tells the story of Pippin, a prince trying to find his own way in the world. But it’s also a story within a story.

“We’re doing a 1930s soundstage of people filming a movie of ‘Pippin,’ which is set in Medieval times,” said senior Paul Hardin, the student director who created the show’s concept. “It chronicles his different adventures on his journey. In other versions, it’s been about people doing a play or being in a circus. But I thought of setting it during the classic era of movies in the 1930s.”

The sets will show a Hollywood soundstage with director’s chairs and a camera on the side, plus a castle with a tower where Pippin lives. In Act II, the castle will spin around to become the home of Pippin’s love interest, Catherine.

And in certain spots where the story switches from Pippin to the Hollywood actors, the film set’s buzzer will sound to signal the change.

“We have a super-talented and dynamic cast that will tell the story well,” said Hardin. “Lots of people know the story of ‘Pippin,’ and I think they’ll be intrigued to see our new take on it.”

DIRECTOR TERRY HOBSON says the cast works well together to do what’s best for the show, and many of the students are in both theater and chorus. She also praised the show’s pianist, senior Hunter Browning, saying, “He’s an excellent musician and the show wouldn’t be where it is, musically, without him. It’s deceptively difficult music. At times, there’s five-part harmony, and a lot of it is ensemble singing.”

Senior Mackenna Gordon choreographed nine of the numbers. “She’s very imaginative and used lots of different dance styles,” said Hobson. “She also utilized the strengths of each cast member.”

She said audiences will also appreciate the power of the singers. And, she added, “It’s obvious that the actors are enjoying what they’re doing, so the people seeing them will enjoy it even more.”

Portraying Pippin is senior Jack Hopewell. “Pippin’s trying to find his purpose in life, as is the actor playing him,” said Hopewell. “They believe that’ll give their life meaning and happiness and make them remembered. Pippin is King Charlemagne’s son, so he thinks he wants to be a soldier. He goes to war with his father, but is horrified at what war is like.”

Then, after getting advice from his grandmother, he tries debauchery, but over-indulges and realizes that doesn’t make him happy, either. “So he decides to become king and overthrows his father, but ruling is a lot harder than he expected,” said Hopewell. “So he leaves for another adventure, during which he meets his love, Catherine, and learns that innocence and a simple, family life are the keys to happiness.”

Hopewell says Pippin isn’t always the best person, but “He’s young and figuring things out, and his good intentions help me connect with him. And at my age, I can relate to trying to figure out what to do. It’s fun to portray his youthful energy and show him...
Woodson High Presents ‘Pippin’

FROM PAGE 12

growing up as the play progresses.”

“Morning Glow” is Hopewell’s favorite number because “It’s a beautiful song with a wall of sound by Pippin and the ensemble. And it symbolizes rebirth, hope and the start of something new. Audiences will appreciate our talented cast. Everybody brings a special, unique energy to their characters, and people will be impressed by our set.”

SENIOR KARLEE SKAGGS

plays Catherine. “She’s sarcastic, self-aware and tongue-in-cheek, and I love that about her,” said Skaggs. “She’s a widow with an 8-year-old son played by an actual 8-year-old, Aidan Brennan. She’s not the normal love-interest because she’s so blunt and sarcastic toward Pippin. At the end of her solo, ‘Kind of Woman,’ she sings, ‘I’m just a plain, everyday, commonplace, come-what-may, average, ordinary girl.’ And I love that she equates all those things with being wonderful.”

Skaggs said the play’s underlying message is that “You don’t have to do something extraordinary with your life to lead a fulfilling one. So ‘Pippin,’ as a whole, equates commonplace with wonderful. And I aspire to be that kind of woman that encompasses goofiness, sarcasm and also maturity and accountability, so that’s why I like playing her.”

Calling this musical’s humor dry and slapstick, she said seeing high-school students deliver that kind of comedy adds “a whole, other level of hilarity. This play is both dark and glittery – it pulls at your heartstrings, but you’re laughing at the same time.”

Freshman Elizabeth Vichness is an ensemble member, an actor (called a player) in the movie and a soldier. “As a player, my character is excited about everything and jumps up and down a lot,” she said. “As a soldier, I do some slow-motion stage combat, plus cool dances.”

“I like dancing, and lots of the songs are really fun,” she continued. “I especially love ‘Glory.’ It’s a haunting number with a lot of minor chords, and all the harmonies stack up on each other, and I really like how that sounds.”

Jordan Design-Build Group Selected to Join Big50

Each year since 1986, Remodeling’s Big50 recognizes the best and brightest remodeling companies in the U.S. The Big50 remodelers run companies of various sizes that have taken the lead in raising industry standards for best business practices, professionalism, unique design and craftsmanship. The companies selected subscribe to customer-first, customer-driven business models and exemplify the best of the industry that year. “The award recognizes quality of work and innovation over firm size,” says David Jordan (pictured, in jacket), “so as a boutique design-build firm, we are privileged to be named to this select group of remodelers.”

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Show times are Nov. 4, 9, 10, 11 at 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 5 and 11 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12 at the door or via www.wtwdrama.org; matinees and senior citizens, $5.

Vichness said there are lots of little jokes in the show that the audience will enjoy. And, she added, “The music is pretty upbeat and will get stuck in people’s heads.”

As Pippin, Jack Hopewell (in center) is being persuaded by Sydney Cluff and Nick Daché to find something to make his life extraordinary.
**LETTERS**

**Dishonest and Misinformed**

To the Editor:

The appalling absence of fact-checking in “Dire and Urgent” (Opinion, Mary Kimm, September 8-October 4, 2017) reveals ignorance when people don’t treat a “newspaper” and its reporters with respect. The subtitle alone reveals a lack of knowledge about the subject matter. Even worse, the two United States Senators from Virginia, who were interviewed for the article, demonstrated their own unfamiliarity with the proposed legislation they eagerly condemned. Had they actually read the bill?

In particular, the “Graham-Cassidy” Senate bill retails almost all the Affordable Care Act taxes “on the wealthiest” in order to fund Medicaid reform. Sen. Kaine asks, “Why go after Medicaid?” That should be a no-brainer. The Senators fail to understand that “Medicaid as we know it” is unsustainable. Where is their cost analysis of that program? In Virginia alone, the precipitous growth of the state’s Medicaid spending is crowding out funding for public safety and infrastructure. State legislative leaders in Richmond recognize that reform is necessary.

The co-called “threats” to quality of coverage listed in Ms. Kimm’s final paragraph are simply untrue and misleading. Read the bill. The perverse rhetoric these two Senators use to obstruct the truth should be challenged by intellectually honest and rational reporters.

Until that happens, their remarks contribute nothing constructive to the important discussion on the true “dire and urgent” need for healthcare reform. Virginians do know the facts, and they need to be heard.

**Nancy Piotter**

Fairfax Station

**The writer is the Executive Director, Virginians for Quality Healthcare.**

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**Don’t Give Your Power Away: Vote**

To the Editor:

We know from the 2016 election what happens when people don’t vote. We are now living through a dystopian presidency with our American values under siege. But this is not over. Virginians have a chance to start righting the ship in statewide elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and House of Delegates.

While campaigning in Virginia and New Jersey this week, former President Obama reminded us that if we don’t vote, we give away the power that our Constitution guarantees us. And while the nature of our democracy has changed, the rights we fought for should not be diminished. Had they actually read the article, demonstrated their knowledge about the subject, and to bring jobs to Virginia.

**Mhairi Cameron**

Great Falls

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**We Should All Kneel**

To the Editor:

Let me remind football fans, that their game day traditions are not religious rituals. The National Anthem does not carry the same significance as a crucifix, Quran, or menorah. Choosing to honor your country at the beginning of your sports entertainment is perhaps a commendable choice but nonetheless arbitrary.

No area of life is exempt from the freedoms engendered in the Bill of Rights. Protest and dissent are fundamental to the health of our government. It ensures our representation as citizens and expresses our values transversely to other members of the society.

No person is under the obligation to stand, gesture, or pose themselves a certain way to have their protest taken seriously. Kneeling during the National Anthem is a way to transmit a sentiment in a highly public manner. The kneelers are no less citizens for acting this way. In fact, their exercise of their rights to free speech, protest, and dissent are the very first amendment to America’s most important document.

Furthermore, the absurd suggestion that service members have ownership rights over an arbitrary starting ritual to a sports game belies an expression of one of America’s most heinous hobbies: the glorification of war. Why should service members be offended at the expression of the rights they say they fought for? I say again, that it is absurd.

As citizens it would be healthy to engage in actual discourse, instead of censoring the manner in which our opponents are able to express their ideas. The day that Republicans would like to stand still during a Beyonce song as an act of protest for state’s rights, I will welcome it. I ask the same courtesy of them.

**Mhairi Cameron**

Great Falls

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**Northam, a Steady Hand for Governor**

To the Editor:

Lt. Governor Ralph Northam is the experienced progressive candidate we need to serve as our next Governor to keep moving Virginia forward. He has worked tirelessly alongside Gov. Terry McAuliffe to support veterans, to expand healthcare, to protect civil rights, and to bring jobs to Virginia. McAuliffe and Northam have de-

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**Recent Republican takeovers have resulted in terrible public policy and from school crippling tax cuts to election gerrymandering to union bashing.**

**Let’s support the Democratic challengers and re-elect incumbents, like delegates Kathleen Murphy in District 34 and Mark Keam in District 35, who have successful track records. We have an opportunity by way of the ballot box to fight for our values and elect officials who share them.**

**Vote on November 7.**

**Kristin Battista-Frazee**

McLean

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**Announcements**

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**Employment**

Northern VA TV show is looking for a Co-Host. Must have knowledge of all sports. No salary but great opportunity to gain on air experience. Prefer Co-Host to have Broadcast Journalism degree but Northern VA TV show is looking for a Co-Host evenings M-F and or weekends. If interested call 540-424-2647.
The goal of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study is to develop commuting improvements for the corridor from Guinea Road to I-495 to improve our economic development.

Save water, save money, save the environment. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html for more. Disposal is free, convenient, confidential, and poison-proof, and protects the environment.

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The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers. Say that three times quickly. Heck, say it one-time slowly. And then welcome to my whirled: the world of cancer treatment and survival. A ‘whirled’ in which, eight weeks and nearly eight months post diagnosis, I continue to live, breathe and write.

Now maybe I can relax and try not to think about my next appointment with the oncologist. There’s about my next infusion, my next scan and my semi off. Talk about relief. Nevertheless, I worry about the figurative straw that breaks my back. The pressure is on. I’m already taxed to the hilt, emotionally.

Somehow, I have to get through because “the former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I’m already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because “the alternating is gloomy” to quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, “Lonesome Dove.” And so I try not to be gloomy.

All of that being said, as my friend Frank has often said to me: “You’re in pretty good shape for the shape you’re in.” Don’t know it. However, yes there’s always a ‘however’ in the cancer patient-surviving-against-all-odds ‘whirled,’ there are no guarantees. In fact, there are only two guarantees: death and taxes. The former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I’m already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because “the alternative is gloomy”. I quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, “Lonesome Dove.” And so I try not to be gloomy.

However, there’s that word again, circumstance, which can randomly bring down the weight – and wait of my ‘whirled.’ These 13 days can never pass quickly enough. But that presumes a good result, which one would want to know as soon as possible. But what of a bad result, leading to an exponential increase in anxiety – and fear, ultimately leading to a treatment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point ment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point.

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Letter from page 14:

saved from having these bills become law. Virginia does not need to go down that road again of vaginal ultrasound bills or bathroom bills. Laws that would make Virginia a laughing stock and harm efforts to improve our economic development.

Northrop is a steady and tested legislator who understands Virginia and who – along with Justin Fairfax and Mark Herring – deserves our vote on November 7.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon
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