‘You Are Our Pride; This Is Your Moment’

Closing Arguments for Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney

‘It Made Us Feel Really Loved and Seen’

New Fairfax High grad Teddy Nguyen with (from left) grandma Cu Chau, mom Krista Bui and dad Tony Nguyen.
RYAN’S VISION
FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY

Ryan is the only candidate with both the leadership experience representing the entire county and the vision necessary to change the status quo. He will fight for a community that works for everyone, including:

- **EDUCATION.** The best school system in the country and universal pre-Kindergarten for all.
- **INNOVATION.** High-speed internet access, sustainable buildings and transportation infrastructure and green space for all.
- **OPPORTUNITY.** Apprenticeships, innovation labs, small-business incubators and affordable housing for all.

ABOUT RYAN

- Lifelong Fairfax resident, raised in Vienna and lives in McLean with wife, Xuan, and daughter, Sierra
- At-large member, Fairfax County School Board, representing all 1.2 million county residents since 2012
- Associate Director, John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution
- M.L.A., Columbia University; B.A., University of Virginia; I.B. Diploma, George C. Marshall High School

RYAN’S RECORD

As an at-large School Board member during the past eight years, Ryan has championed:

- Competitive teacher compensation.
- More inclusive policies.
- Gun violence prevention.
- Human trafficking prevention.
- Curriculum internationalization.
- Fresher, healthier food offerings.
- Improved college and career access.
- Student mental health and discipline reform.
- Responsible, transparent budgets and auditing.
- Improved public engagement and legislative advocacy.

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Paid for and authorized by Friends of Ryan McElveen
‘You Are Our Pride; This Is Your Moment’

Fairfax High’s Class of 2019 graduates.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Members of Fairfax High’s Class of 2019 will soon scatter throughout the country as they begin the next chapter of their lives. But on Monday, June 3, they gathered together one last time for their graduation in the school’s fieldhouse.

“Here you are, this is your moment — realize it,” said Principal Erin Lenart to the sea of students in their royal-blue caps and gowns. “It’s these milestones you’ll look back on someday and feel like they just flew by.”

She acknowledged the class’s 92 honor grads who earned a 4.0 or higher GPA, as well as those going into the military. And she told them all to “Look around, be proud, breathe deeply and be in this moment. Your parents have been with you, the whole time, and will continue to be. Your teachers, counselors and staff members are your other family and are here for you, too.”

Now, as the students move forward, Lenart reassured them that “You are our pride and you are ready – we promise you. You are going to do, not just great things, but amazing things. And it’s relative to what you believe is amazing and to what you want for yourselves.”

She told them she grew up in a small town where people left it after high school, but later returned to raise their families there. However, she stressed, “There wasn’t one, single person from my graduating class whose life ended up more important than another’s. That’s because we never measured our version of amazing using someone else’s ruler. So find your own amazing and be in it.”

LENART further advised the grads to not believe that their life’s purpose or worth will be found staring at a computer or TV screen.

“Be alive and be present for all the little moments – for they become the important, fleeting moments of your lifetime,” she said.

“Look up and live your amazing life.”

“I’m so proud of you, but it took all of us to get you to where you are today,” she continued. “So when I give you your diploma today, I’m doing so on behalf of everyone who loved you, believed in you, provided for and inspired you. We are so proud of you. This is your moment – you’re going to do amazing things.”

Next came the highlight of the whole ceremony: Teacher and Senior Class advisor Bruni Herring – who has a beautiful and powerful voice – sang “Rise Up” and received a standing ovation. After that came the announcement of the Class of 2019’s gift to the school – patio umbrellas for the senior court.

The honor grad selected by his peers to represent them with a speech at graduation was Paolo Vicencio. “Over this past year, I’ve...
By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Ellie Whitfield was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2013; and by the time she started kindergarten, she’d lost her hair and was wearing hats to school every day. Her PE. teacher, Jay Coakley, noticed how happy her hats made her and organized a hat drive for her.

He also wanted to bring that same joy to other children suffering from cancer, while raising awareness of the disease, so he founded the nonprofit Ellie’s Hats. It now also donates gas cards, gift certificates and money to their families to help them through difficult and expensive times.

A pancake breakfast helps fund all these things, and the fourth annual Ellie’s Hats Pancake Breakfast was held Saturday, June 1, at American Legion Post 177 in the City of Fairfax. More than 100 people attended and enjoyed a breakfast buffet, children’s activities, a raffle, silent auction, Star Wars characters and Disney princesses.

The feast included lemon-blueberry, triple chocolate chip, white chocolate-purple velvet and traditional buttermilk pancakes, topped with either cream-cheese icing or a variety of syrups. Rounding out the meal were bacon, ham, sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, biscuits, fruit, juice and coffee.

Ellie, now a healthy fifth-grader, was at the breakfast, as were other children who are either cancer survivors like her or are still undergoing treatment. And for those few hours, they got to be just regular kids.

Families praise Ellie’s Hats during pancake fundraiser.

‘It Made Us Feel Really Loved and Seen’
Each year, the Rotary Club of Fairfax awards college scholarships to Fairfax High School students. Many of the graduating seniors were the first in their families to attend college.

Verne Tuininga, a past president and active volunteer in the Rotary Club of Fairfax, was the Master of Ceremonies of the scholarship program. The awardees from Fairfax High School this year were:

- Susan Ngo - Pat Laing Memorial Scholarship (Pat Laing was former Athletic Director of Fairfax High School and a Rotarian.)
- Lacey Heo - Fairfax Rotary Memorial Scholarship
- Marie Yao - Pathways Scholarship to Northern Virginia Community College
- Jake O’Brien - Pathways Scholarship to Northern Virginia Community College
- Catherine Lau - Paul J. Brown Community Service Award (Paul J. Brown was a former city businessman and Rotarian.)
- Lara Demir - The Setty Family Scholarship (Mr. Boggarm Setty is a long time member of Fairfax Rotary.) In addition to the scholarship winners, also attending the awards ceremony were Kofi Klutse, who won the Fairfax High School speech contest and placed third in the Rotary District 7610 speech contest; and Lanier Middle School principal Tammy Hannah who accepted a Rotary themed essay contest award for Piper Rodgers, winner of her middle school’s essay contest.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit www.fairfaxrotary.org.
**OPINION**

**Lessons from the Greatest Generation**

Reflections on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

By Supervisor John C. Cook
Braddock District

Thousands of young American soldiers boarded ships in England destined for the beaches of Normandy, France 75 years ago. Allied leaders planned the first-of-its-kind invasion for months. They designated five main beaches for the attack and named them Utah, Omaha, Sword, Gold, and Juno. On the morning of June 6, 1944 high winds and rough waves made for a difficult journey to Northern France for the 5,000 ships and 11,000 airplanes carrying 150,000 Allied troops.

The weather was far from perfect for an operation, but General Dwight Eisenhower could not risk the Germans spotting the massive military presence on the coast of England. When Allied Forces landed, they were met with a barrage of fire. Nearly 2,500 Americans died in history’s largest air, land, and sea invasion. Despite the treacherous terrain and heavy casualties, Allied forces broke through German lines and liberated the Gallipoli Coast. The pivotal victory allowed the Allies to secure their virtues of service of sacrifice of that generation. The harrowing actions of these servicemen deserve the greatest respect and deepest gratitude. They showed courage, tenacity, valor, and honor in the face of incredible dangers and challenges. As Tom Brokaw eloquently put it, “They answered the call to help save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled.” This anniversary should also prompt all of us to emulate the Greatest Generation’s immense sense of duty and willingness to serve. Nearly every American in World War II found a way to support their nation during the conflict. Thousands of men volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces. Women supported the military in many different ways. Families nationwide planted victory gardens and volunteered for local groups that supported the war effort. Women also took industrial jobs in armament factories. In Burke, Va., residents volunteered for aircraft warning service by staying in a watch tower to look out for enemy planes.

Today our nation faces many challenges. But a nation that could win two World Wars can also successfully meet the challenges of today. The spirit of the Greatest Generation is here to guide us.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Gun Violence As Public Health Crisis**

To the Editor:

For almost 20 years I have been fighting for better gun laws in Virginia — laws to prevent the un-speakable horrors that we saw in Virginia Beach on May 31, 2019 when a gunman with two .45 caliber hand guns with high-capacity magazines murdered 12 people and injured many others.

At times, I have felt like it was an exercise in futility — that I was simply banging my head against the wall. No matter how sensible the proposal introduced, it would be killed in committee by Republicans and a few rural Democrats and never even make it to the floor for a vote. We might have 20 people testify in support of bills including victims of gun violence, law enforcement, and the medical community; yet the voice of one gun industry lobbyist opposed to the measures would be the only one that mattered.

After the shooting at Virginia Tech, there was a slow movement towards change — at least among Democrats. It was a movement that accelerated in the aftermath of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left 26 little children and educators dead. Republicans and Democrats aligned with the majority in their party and started speaking out about the need for stronger laws to curtail the carnage. In fact, many Democratic candidates at even the highest levels of government began to run on the issue vowing to fight for sensible gun violence prevention measures if elected. Those Democrats won including most recently, Governor Northam, Lt. Governor, Fairfax and Attorney General Herring.

And it should be no surprise. Polling tells us that as much as 90 percent of the public is in favor of stronger gun laws such as expanding background checks.

So, with the public and a Governor who clearly supports gun violence prevention measures, why can’t we affect change? Because the GOP is in control of both chambers of the General Assembly and they continue to kowtow to the gun lobby instead of taking the decisive action that would make the Commonwealth safer for us all. Take the 2019 session for example. Democrats introduced dozens of firearms bills including ones to expand background checks, ban assault weapons, limit high-capacity magazines, cap handgun purchases to one a month, and to keep guns out of the hands of domestic violence abusers. Republicans defeated them all.

Gun violence has become a public health crisis in Virginia and across the country. But it is an epidemic that we know how to treat. Stronger gun laws won’t prevent all senseless acts of violence but they will save lives. To get the stronger laws we deserve, we must vote for candidates who are more afraid of another horrific shooting than they are of the gun lobby and at this juncture, only the Democrats can stake that claim.

The proposals already exist. We know what needs to be done. And once Democrats are the majority party in both chambers we will finally be able to pass bills to make Virginia safer and Governor Northam will gladly sign them into law.

Martina Leinz
Burke President, Northern Virginia Brady Chapter, United Against Gun Violence

**The Month of Ramadan:**

To the Editor:

The month of Ramadan is a holy month for Muslims in which we fast from dawn to sunset and spend most of our time praying to God and reading the Holy Quran. The month of Ramadan is a period of time in which we advance our spiritual knowledge and bring ourselves closer to God by doing good deeds. As a child, it is not obligatory for me to fast, but this month is still very important to me. I still have the chance to gain more spiritual knowledge and bring myself closer to God. Ramadan is also very exciting for me because as a family we spend more time together and I get to go to the mosque. It is a month filled with blessings and increased forgiveness. Even if I don’t fast I give up something that I like to do such as watching TV or movies. I also donate money, food, or other items to charities. In Ramadan, it is very important to make a habit of helping others in need and try to break bad habits. It is a great way for me to become a better Muslim and a better person.

Sara Choudhary
Student
Washington Irving Middle School
Springfield
thought about this day a lot,” he said. “To-
day is our Everest and we’ve conquered it.
I’ve pictured the faces in this crowd, each
one smiling, knowing we’ve made it.”

But, he said, “It’s also the end of other
things, and I could see every mistake, les-
son and accomplishment. I remembered the
grueling hours of practice on the athletic
field, the stage and the classroom. I thought
of the championship field hockey games,
our arts programs and how good it felt be-
ing part of something.”

“Through our efforts, we’ve made some-
thing that inspires and empowers us along
the foothold to our lives,” said Vicencio.
“But this is the last time we’ll all be together
in this room. Times change, things end and
people move on. All we can do now
is take everything we learned here,
good and bad, on our journey. So
go, Rebels, and seize the opportu-
nity, thanks to our time here at
Fairfax High School.”

Then four, special awards were
presented. The Most Outstanding
Senior honor goes to a student
who’s an excellent role model for
her peers and an inspiration in the
community, and this year’s award
goes to Senior Class President
Sloan Soyster-Heinz.

FAIRFAX CITY MAYOR David
Meyer presented the Service, Fac-
ulty and Fairfax awards. First,
though, he told all the students, “I
commend you on this important
milestone in your lives. And know
that, no matter where you go, you
are always welcome back in your
hometown of Fairfax.”

The Service Award is for loyalty
and service to the school. “This per-
son is a leader, and his kindness to
his peers stands out,” said Meyer.

“He volunteers, is president of the Muslim
Student Assn. and will attend JMU in the
fall.” He then presented the award to Adam
Benlemlih.

The Faculty Award for outstanding ser-
vice, leadership and school spirit went to
Xavier Herring. He played on the Rebels
baseball team, all four years, and was even
its captain. He will attend the University of
Mary Washington to major in psychology.

The Fairfax Award was given for service
to both the school and community and went
to Soyster-Heinz. “She was a leader in the
classroom, a swim coach in the community
and an EMT for the Centreville Volunteer
Fire Department,” said Meyer. “She partici-
pated in swimming and track at school and
will attend Duke University.”

New grad Kate Meade with (from left) brother Charlie and parents Karen and Chip Meade.
PTSD: Recognizing and Healing

During PTSD Awareness Month, clinicians work to raise awareness, treatment options.

By Marilyn Campbell

They took all my clothes and made me walk naked for two days so I couldn’t escape,” said one woman. “They kill people over nothing,” said another.

These are the descriptions from Latina immigrants of their experiences as they were smuggled from Mexico to the United States. These women and others like them often experience rape, assaults, and gun violence, said Carol L. Cleaveland, PhD, Associate Professor of Social Work, George Mason University.

In a recent paper, “An Exploratory Study of Latina Immigrant Trauma,” she and co-author Cara Frankenfeld, PhD, also of George Mason University, spoke with patients at Mason and Partners Clinic in Springfield, Falls Church and Manassas Park who described events that often left them with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). During June, which is PTSD Awareness Month, mental health professionals are working to raise public awareness of the disorder and a knowledge of the treatments available to those who suffer.

There is often a lack of understanding which makes it difficult to identify said Cleaveland. “PTSD is a shift in how people think, feel and behave in response to a traumatic event they experience. It’s something that induces profound terror,” she said.

“[Symptoms include] intrusive thoughts and memories of the traumatic event, such as thinking about the event when you don’t want to, having flashbacks or having a strong emotional reaction to a something that reminds you of the trauma,” said Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College.

Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy is one of the treatments for trauma, which involves a patient briefly focusing on the traumatic memory under the guidance of a trained clinician and ultimately experiencing relief.

“It’s important for people with PTSD to have hope because they can get better.”

— Carol L. Cleaveland, George Mason University

Equine Therapy can be used to treat those with PTSD, says Olivia Taylor of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program.

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PTSD: Recognizing and Healing

During PTSD Awareness Month, clinicians work to raise awareness, treatment options.
Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

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Fairfax Connection ❖ June 6-12, 2019 ❖ 9
Closing Arguments for Commonwealth’s Attorney

Commonwealth’s Attorney candidates meet for final debate before June 11 Primary.

**Be Andrea Worker**

**The Connection**

The Democratic candidates for Commonwealth’s Attorney engage in one final debate before the primaries on June 11. Challenger Steve Descano is at the mic while incumbent Ray Morrogh awaits his turn to answer a question posed by moderator Sakira Cook.

Steve Descano, looking to unseat the incumbent Commonwealth’s Attorney in the first primary held for the position in over 50 years, does some “meeting-and-greeting” after the debate.

Commonwealth’s Attorney Ray Morrogh has held the top law official position in the county since 1983 and is facing a challenge to that role from Steve Descano. The Democratic Primary is June 11. Morrogh stayed after the forum for some one-on-one time with voters.

Their lives, and continuing the cycle of poverty and prison.”

DESCANO is an ardent anti-cash bail advocate, saying “it’s antiquated, it penalizes the poor.”

Morrogh insists his office “never asks for cash bail, for the very reasons our moderator mentioned,” but that it is up to the judges to determine bail and under what conditions. Murrough also noted that in some instances, the defendants themselves or their attorneys request bail versus supervised release or rehab programs.

“I won’t make excuses,” declared Descano. “I will end cash bail.” He also recounted that there was an occasion when Morrogh was quoted as questioning the end of cash bail.

Morrogh argues that on this issue, like others, including pledging not to prosecute simple marijuana possession cases, or committing to never seeking the death penalty, Descano is showing his own naiveté about the position.

“It’s more complicated than he thinks,” cautions Morrogh. “Some of these promises cannot be kept because it’s the law. I may not like it, but I will enforce it. E are a nation of laws and can’t pick and choose what to prosecute or what laws to uphold.”

Morrogh cited several recent examples where such discretionary prosecutorial action was found to be beyond the scope of the Attorney General in question’s authority.

The restoration of voting rights for felons who have completed their sentences and other conditions of their release is another area where the two men clash. Descano continues to accuse Morrogh of being against the restoration, noting that the Commonwealth’s Attorney had joined a Republican-backed lawsuit against then-Governor Terry McAuliffe when he proposed such legislation.

Morrogh rebuts that his opposition — shared by a “bipartisan group, by the way” — was never about denying voting rights to ex-convicts, but rather about the fact that the bill also included restoration of gun ownership that was “just too all inclusive.” Treason or terrorism are the only acts that Morrogh sees as absolute barriers to the restoration of voting rights, but allowing convicted felons to own firearms should not be a “simple ‘Yes,’” but something that would require individual consideration or at least, denial for certain categories of crimes.

McAuliffe has endorsed Descano.

There were areas in which the two agreed.

To the laughter of the audience, Descano acknowledged he “agreed with everything you just said!” referencing Morrogh’s stance on the use of surveillance technology by law enforcement. Both see individual privacy as “sacred” and that the use of surveillance is a “tricky area of the law” that needs careful consideration and probable cause in order to be used.

The certification of youth as adults brought more agreement, with both saying it should be a rare instance. Morrogh did cite some examples of particularly horrific crimes in which he felt such certification was warranted, and denied Descano’s accusation that his office has threatened adult certification in order to secure a plea deal from youth offenders.

Both Morrogh and Descano are opposed to the use of solitary confinement in prisons, seeing it as inhumane, and causing additional unnecessary trauma. Morrogh conceded that solitary confinement might be necessary for short periods in extreme circumstances, but that prisoners should be treated with dignity.

And then it was time for the closing arguments.

Descano went first, and reminded voters that he was “the only one with a published plan, available for anyone to see” on his website, including the promise of real data by which to operate the office and the system and to bring about true reform. Asking for the public’s confidence and vote on June 11, Descano said that voters had the opportunity to “be on the right side of history.”

“You live in the safest county of our size in the nation,” was Morrogh’s opening line to the wrap up. “We’re a model for so many programs for the state and beyond.”

He repeated some of the achievements of his office since he became the Commonwealth’s Attorney.

Morrogh asserts that Descano doesn’t have the experience needed to serve as Commonwealth’s Attorney.

“He’s not qualified. I’m sorry to say it, but he’s just not,” Morrogh concluded.
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**CALAIRE**

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/ artwork encouraged.

**ONGOING**

Art Exhibit: Somewhere Between You and Me. Through July 20, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. by Ann Oly Olly, 10500 Telegraph Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax. In Somewhere Between You and Me, young nonbinary transgender artists ultimately seek to understand and to understanding what it means to experience life as a non-binary person. For more, call 703-819-6414 or visit ollyyartfarm.com for more.


**NEWLY MINTED AMERICAN CITIZENS OFFER THEIR PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.**

**Declaration Day**

Join Gunston Hall in celebrating the anniversary of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason. This family-oriented program kicks off with a naturalization ceremony, followed by a variety of activities for all ages, a museum theater performance, and visits to Gunston Hall’s brand-new exhibition: Revolutionary Rights. Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason’s Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Complimentary. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org.

**FRIDAY/JUNE 7**

Grand Opening: Stemtree. 6 p.m. at Stemtree Education Center, 11226A Maple Mill Road, Fairfax. Stemtree offers students in grades K-12 one-on-one instruction in science, technology, and engineering. The community is invited to see the facility and to learn how Stemtree differs from traditional STEM centers. Light refreshments will be served. Visit www.stemtree.com for more.

**FRIDAY/JUNE 7**

**BANG!** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 408 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, $1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3668 for more.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 9**

Celebrate Fairfax Festive. Northern Virginia’s largest community-wide event, the 38th annual Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, is set to take place on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Celebrate Fairfax Festive features a variety of acors of events, family programs, exhibits, carnival rides and nightly fireworks. Among the festival’s highlights are more than 40 performances on seven stages, including Better Than Ezra and Smash Mouth. Call 703-324-3247 or visit www.celbratefairfax.com for more.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 9**

Transcribe-a-thon on Women’s Suffrage. Various times at Police Regional Library, 4540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Be a part of history. Help transcribe Library of Congress documents related to the Women’s Suffrage movement. Projects include the papers of Clara Barton, Mary Church Terrell and more. Service hours can be earned by students for helping with this project. Adults. Teens. Learn more about the By The Project website at the Library of Congress https://crowd.loc.gov/. Check for times at librarycalendar.fairfax.gov/parks/ 5424792.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 9**

Saturday Celebration. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Loyal Companion Museum, 2058 District Ave, Fairfax. Stop by and enjoy fryer-themed festivities, product education and more. Cats available for adoption 1 p.m. with Pastrick & Cat Rescue Foundation. Call 571-341-7753. Saturday Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 9**

T-TRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 University Drive, Fairfax. Children age 2-6 can pretend to be a penguin, wolf and beaver dad as they learn about these loving fathers. Participants will meet live animals and make a craft for their favorite father/grandfather. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 1 to 4:30 p.m. $8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-795-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 9**


**WEDNESDAY/JUNE 12**

Sip and Swing. 5-8 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Enjoy a round on Virginia’s newest golf course. Price includes range balls, golf cart and nine holes of golf and a glass of wine. This event welcomes the first 12 people who RSVP. Come solo or being a friend. Payment will be made upon arrival at the event venue. Check in at pro shop at least 15 minutes prior to the start time. Member, $32; non-members, $42. RSVP to Roberta Korten at rkorten@fairfaxgov.com or 703-324-8782.

**FRIDAY/JUNE 14**

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertainment, a family-friendly atmosphere, $1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. Proceeds will be used to support the band and fire equipment and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more. <C

**SATURDAY/JUNE 15**

39th Annual Spring Civil War Mosby Bus Tour. The bus will leave Travis Park, 10520 Main St, Fairfax. City, promptly at 8:30 a.m. (return 5:30 p.m.) The tour will stop at Mount Zion Church, Aldie Mill, the Hathaway House (where Mosby climbed out on a limb), Old Whitwood and more. 865 members of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. 75% for non-members.

Declaration Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason’s Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall in celebrating the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason. This family-oriented program kicks off with a naturalization ceremony, followed by a variety of activities for all ages, a museum theater performance, and visits to Gunston Hall’s brand new exhibition: Revolutionary Rights. Complimentary. Call 703- 550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org.

Summer Sundays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10799 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Sunday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upsoming-events.

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY/JUNE 15-16**

Father’s Day Park Programs. This Father’s Day weekend spend time with fathers and grandfathers in a program just for them at a county park.

**Golf Tournament.** Saturday, 8 a.m. on noon at Burke Lake Golf Course. Kick off the weekend with the “Father’s Day Golf Tournament.” Two-player tee-off scramble format in three divisions: Father/Jr.-7, 12; Father/ Jr.-13-17; Father/Adult partner with Closest-to-the-pin contests and prizes for the top three players. All proceeds will benefit library programs/activities. Visit www.librarylife.com for more.

**Wood Carving.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at College Run Mill. Celebrate by treating Dad to a free wood carving lesson and all Grandfathers tour for free on Father’s Day when accompanied by a paying child. Call 703-759- 2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ colvin-run-mill.

**Animal Dads.”** Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale. Children age 2-6 can pretend to be a penguin, wolf and beaver dad as they learn about these loving fathers. Participants will meet live animals and make a craft for their favorite father/grandfather. The program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center runs from 1 to 4:30 p.m. $8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-795-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

**Family Fishing.** Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, Great Falls. If Dad likes to fish, register for the “Father’s Day Family Fishing” program at Riverbend Park. Supplies and equipment will be provided, or bring your own fishfishing tips. All fish caught will be released. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

**Father’s Day Campfire.** Sunday, 6-7 p.m. at Ellanor Lawrence Park, Chantilly. Wrap up the day with the “Father’s Day Campfire.” Learn about some of nature’s best fathers, take a hike near a stream and eat s’mores. Of course, moms can be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

**COFFEE AND WINE LOUNGE**

**THE FAIRFAX CONNECTION**

**FATHER’S DAY**

June 15th

Happy Father’s Day

To all our Dad’s near and far.

For a special man like you,

We’re hoping you have a great day too.

So we’re saying thank you.

Happy Father’s Day!
Pancake Fundraisers a Success

FROM PAGE 4

eating pancakes, playing and having fun. One of them was 4-year-old Lily Stewart.

“We met Jay through her diagnosis of Wilms – kidney cancer – in 2017, so we’re very supportive of him and of Ellie’s Hats, since we benefited from them,” said Lily’s mom, Christina Stewart. “At the hospital, when she had her kidney removed, she picked out a hat. And when she was first diagnosed, she got an Ellie’s Hats care package with a shirt and gift cards.

“It was just like, you don’t feel alone,” explained Stewart. “You have your personal support system, but it’s nice to know these organizations are out there to provide pick-me-ups. Lily is now 15 months with no evidence of disease and is doing fine. She loves going to preschool and to the pool, coloring and drawing.”

Fairfax’s Jeannie Buhr was there with daughter Ava, 10. “We’ve been coming to the Ellie’s Hats Pancake Breakfast for four years now,” said Buhr. “We know Jay through Ellie, herself. Ellie was going through treatment the same time Ava was for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.”

Ava is now five years cancer free and is considered cured. “We’d see Ellie in the clinic and, besides the girls becoming friends, we also became friends with Ellie’s mom and dad,” said Buhr. “So we’re here today to support Ellie’s Hats; it’s a wonderful organization and a wonderful mission.”

Don and Sherry Presar, also of Fairfax, enjoyed the pancakes, hash browns, ham, sausage and coffee. “We’ve been here every year,” said Don. “Our grandson in Connecticut, Jack, is now 21; but when he was 15, he was diagnosed with Ewing’s sarcoma [bone cancer].”

“Jack was treated at Sloan-Kettering [in New York], and we’re grateful to all the doctors there,” said Don. “We just pray for the researchers every day. New things are happening all the time, so our family motto is, ‘We don’t ever give up.’”

Melissa Akers was there with her twin boys, Tyler and Dylan, 4-1/2. Dylan is currently in treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. “He was diagnosed in January 2017 at 25 months old, but he’s doing really well,” said Akers. “He’s in remission and has one year left in treatment. Because Tyler is an identical twin, he has a higher risk of developing it, so he has regular blood tests to monitor him – and lots of prayers.”

Akers used to work with Kristen Dallhoff, on the Ellie’s Hats Board of Directors, so she was familiar with the organization. “When we let our friends and families know about Dylan’s diagnosis through Facebook, Kristen saw it and contacted us,” she said.

Then, said Akers, “Jay visited us in the hospital, our first week, and brought hats, toys for both boys and gas gift cards – which were very helpful because we live about an hour from the hospital. It was one of our first connections with a group that helps children with cancer, so it made us feel really loved and seen.”

Also at the breakfast were Rachel and Daniel Smith with daughters, Lucia, 5-1/2, and Dani, 3. They came to support Ellie’s Hats because of how the organization supported them last year, after Lucia was diagnosed, Jan. 1, 2018, with acute promyelocytic leukemia.

“It’s a subset of AML [acute myeloid leukemia], but very rare in children,” explained Daniel. “There are some 2,500 cases a year in adults, but only about 50 a year in children. Lucia had fevers and bruising on her legs, so a friend who’s a doctor told us to take her for a blood test. We did, and our pediatrician said to take her to the Inova Fairfax Children’s Hospital ER, and she was diagnosed there.

“We were terrified, surprised and scared – and kind of in shock,” he continued. “She’d never been sick; it came out of nowhere. Lucia was in treatment until October 2018, when she went into remission. She had daily chemo, every other month, so it was pretty intense. But she was in good spirits because she was so young, so it became normal for her. She became friends with the nurses and played games with them.”

And although Lucia still has to undergo quarterly, bone-marrow biopsies and monthly blood tests, she can enjoy her life more now. She likes to swim and play tennis and is taking tap kudo and learning how to cook. But Ellie’s Hats still means a great deal to her parents.

“When we were in the hospital, we got some of Ellie’s Hats there,” said Daniel. “And later on, we got information about it and they sent a care package to us with hats and toys for the kids. Then we found out about their fundraising car show at Casey’s Automotive in Chantilly and went to it last year and this year. And this is our second time at the pancake breakfast.”

“It was great,” added Rachel. “We brought some friends with us. We love the breakfast and raffles, and the kids love the balloons, Star Wars characters and Anna and Elsa [from the movie, ‘Frozen’]. And, one time, Jay was telling the FCPS School Board about Ellie’s Hats, and both Ellie and Lucia were there with him to help represent Ellie’s Hats and childhood cancer.

“It’s amazing having this organization and seeing all the families come together in support of us and families like us,” said Daniel. “It’s nice to know you’re not alone. And in November 2018, we were one of the first groups of families to receive a check from Ellie’s Hats from its corporate sponsors. We were surprised, but it meant a lot. We used it for medical expenses.”

DURING THE BREAKFAST, children were able to make silkscreened chalkboards and clay-hat ornaments in an arts-and-crafts room, as well as have their faces painted and get fanciful, balloon animals like the huge, black spider spotted by Paul Dooley. 5. His dad, Paul Dooley Sr., is one of Coakley’s former students and a member of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assn.

“We gave Jay a check for $600 that we raised last week at a charity breakfast before Rolling Thunder,” said Dooley. “So we came to the pancake breakfast to support Ellie’s Hats and present the check. And the Haymarket Charitable Foundation of the Haymarket Masonic Lodge also donated $2,000, so we gave him two checks.”

“Ellie’s Hats is fantastic because it supports kids,” he continued. “Having a child with cancer is horrible – no kid deserves that. And if this organization can bring a smile to a kid’s face just by bringing them a hat, then it’s just a great thing.”

Dooley’s wife Maggie also stressed that “The National Cancer Institute designates only 4 percent of its funding to childhood-cancer research. So Ellie’s Hats is another way to help raise awareness – because we need more than four.”

During the breakfast, Ellie’s Hats board member Brian Drummond thanked American Legion Post 177 for donating its hall for the event and its members for arriving before 6:30 a.m. to prepare the food. And to the crowd, he said, “Thanks for being here; it’s a great cause.”

Coakley also praised the volunteers from Allstate and Volunteer Fairfax who helped make the event a success, and even the balloon-animal maker, who donated his time. It raised $14,000, including a $10,000 donation from Allstate.

“It was fun; and this year, we had more things for the kids to do, plus lots of kids’ prizes in the raffle items,” he said. “The weather was perfect, the food was delicious and everything went well.”
Fairfax High students from nine different sports will play next year at the collegiate level, and the school celebrated its future college athletes at a May 21 ceremony. Attended by families, coaches and fellow teammates, the school bid farewell to its Class of 2019 and wished them good luck in their future endeavors. FHS Class of 2017 alumnus Adam Rice, now a collegiate soccer player, gave advice on balancing athletics and academics and reminded the students to make new friends in school. Director of Student Activities Nancy Melnick said, “From all of us at Fairfax High School, we wish you the best and tell you how incredibly proud of you we all are.”

Fairfax High Athletes Commit to Colleges

From left, bottom row: Earl Brewer, Wrestling, Merchant Marine Academy; Dillon Davenport, Lacrosse, Bethany College; Xavier Herrig, Baseball, Mary Washington University; Ally Johnson, Basketball, Randolph-Macon College; Bryce Johnson, Baseball, Davis & Elkins College; Bobby Kestyn, Track, George Mason University; Connor Kirley, Football, Christopher Newport University. From left, back row, standing: Allie Lawson, Track, Mount St. Mary's University; Julia Moser, Swim, Iona College; Boky Myers, Soccer, Elon University; Eliza Radoll, Soccer, University of North Carolina Greensboro; Ben Robertson, Lacrosse, Wingate University; Krista Rodgers, Volleyball, Mary Washington University; Zahir Sayed, Track, Carnegie Mellon University; JT Thomas, Baseball, Frostburg State University; Francisco Vasquez, Wrestling, Bluefield College; Dylan Wilkinson, Baseball, University of Maryland Baltimore.

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**SATURDAY/JULY 6**

Voice-Over Class. 7-9 p.m. at Woodson High

**MONDAY/JUNE 17**

**SATURDAY/JULY 27**

“Your Journey Through Grief.” 2-4 p.m. at Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravenworth Road, Annandale. Haven of Northern Virginia offers this free summer workshop. Registration requested. For information and registration, call 703-941-7000 or email havenvtsoa@verizon.net.

**THROUGH SEPT. 8**

Metro Station Closures. Through Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, the six Blue and Yellow line stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (Braddock Road, King Street, Eisenhower Ave., Huntington, Van Dorn Street and Franconia-Springfield) will be closed for full platform reconstruction and major station improvements. Read more at www.wmata.com/service/rail/PlatformProject/.

**SUNDAY/DEC. 8**

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield Government Center, 6160 Rolling Road, Springfield. Cost is $15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet’s rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional $10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesindex for more.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, is an all-parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html. Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon to 2 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. For more attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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