

GREAT FALLS DAY CELEBRATED

NEWS, PAGE 3

ARTIST HWA CRAWFORD STANDS IN FRONT OF THE FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE WITH A PAINTING OF THE BUILDING SUNDAY, MAY 5, DURING GREAT FALLS DAY.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING SET

NEWS, PAGE 6

HADDAD CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF DANCE

NEWS, PAGE 5

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 19 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

VISITORS TO GREAT FALLS DAY AT THE FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE, WHICH CONTAINED HISTORY EXHIBITS AND LOCAL PAINTINGS, DURING GREAT FALLS DAY SUNDAY, MAY 5.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GREAT FALLS DAY

CELEBRATION FEATURES LIVE PERFORMANCES, HISTORY DISPLAYS.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

MEMBERS OF GREAT FALLS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES GATHERED AT THE GRANGE AND THE FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE SUNDAY, MAY 5, FOR GREAT FALLS DAY. IN CELEBRATION OF THE TWO HISTORIC BUILDINGS, AS WELL AS OTHER SIGNATURE ASPECTS OF GREAT FALLS, HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE EVENT TO ENJOY A PLEASANT SUNDAY AND LEARN MORE ABOUT HISTORY.

I PASS THE GRANGE AND THE SCHOOLHOUSE EVERY SINGLE WEEKDAY, AND THOUGH I FIGURED THEY WERE OLD BUILDINGS, I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THEIR HISTORY UNTIL I WALKED IN, SAID GREG HOWARD OF GREAT FALLS. ESPECIALLY THE SCHOOLHOUSE, WHICH HAS SUCH A FASCINATING HISTORY, I WAS REALLY INTERESTED IN ITS DAYS AS A SCHOOLHOUSE, AND THE DISPLAYS WERE SO WELL DONE.

THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE WAS FILLED WITH OLD PHOTOS AND STORIES ABOUT ITS DAYS AS A SCHOOLHOUSE, THEN LATER AS A POSTOFFICE AND A BANK. THE OTHER SIDE WAS FILLED WITH ART FROM LOCAL ARTISTS DEPICTING SOME OF GREAT FALLS' SIGNATURE LOCATIONS, WHICH WERE SOLD AS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

WHEN THE IDEA OF AN ART SHOW FIRST CAME UP, THEY ASKED ME IF I COULD BRING SOME PAINTINGS OF HOW PLACES WERE IN THE 1800S, BECAUSE THAT'S THE ERA THEY'RE FOCUSING ON, SAID HWA CRAWFORD, A PAINTER WHO HAD SEVERAL WORKS ON DISPLAY. BUT I'M A PLEIN AIR PAINTER I GO OUT AND PAINT WHAT I SEE, AND I WASN'T AROUND IN THE 1800S, SO I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH FOR THAT PART. BUT I HAVE A LOT OF

PAINTINGS OF THE BLUEBELLS AROUND GREAT FALLS, SUCH AS IN RIVERBEND PARK, AND THOSE ARE A TIMELESS PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.

IN ADDITION TO SHOWING OFF A FEW OF HER

PAINTINGS, CRAWFORD WAS ABLE TO START A NEW ONE, SETTING UP HER EASEL JUST IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE AND SPENDING A FEW HOURS ON A PAINTING OF THE BUILDING.



AVERY SPEROS, 7, TRIES HER HAND AT PLAYING THE HARP DURING GREAT FALLS DAY SUNDAY, MAY 5, AT THE FORESTVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE.

THE PATHS IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE AND THE GRANGE WERE LITTERED WITH TENTS, EACH ONE FEATURING AN ORGANIZATION OR LOCAL FAMILY READY TO TELL THEIR STORY.

MY SON AND I SPENT ABOUT 30 MINUTES SPEAKING WITH THE GREAT FALLS AND McLEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AS WELL AS WITH SOME OF THE FAMILIES THAT HAVE OWNED LAND AROUND HERE FOR DECADES, AND I THINK WE BOTH LEARNED MORE THAN WE COULD HAVE IN A SEMESTER OF HISTORY CLASS, SAID GORDON CRUZ. I GUESS THERE'S MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO LEARN IN THE LOCAL SCHOOLS HERE, BUT MAN, I WISH THEY TOOK SOME TIME TO GET THESE PEOPLE INTO THE CLASSROOM AND SHOW OFF WHAT THEY KNOW.



VISITORS AT GREAT FALLS DAY WATCH A MODERN DANCE DEMONSTRATION BEHIND THE GRANGE SUNDAY, MAY 5.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

GREAT FALLS RESIDENT ARYAN GOLZAR WILL RAISE MONEY FOR A LOCAL STUDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP BY BOATING AND HIKING 400 MILES ALONG THE POTOMAC RIVER STARTING FRIDAY, MAY 10.

PADDLING THE POTOMAC

ARYAN GOLZAR WILL GO ON 400-MILE JOURNEY TO RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIP.



BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO THEM.

GROWING UP IN GREAT FALLS, ARYAN GOLZAR ALWAYS LOVED THE POTOMAC RIVER. THE SAME 400-MILE-LONG-PLUS WATERWAY THAT LED TO SETTLEMENTS FROM THE CHESAPEAKE BAY TO WEST VIRGINIA DROVE HIS IMAGINATION DURING HIS FORMATIVE YEARS, AND NOW IT'S BECOME SOMETHING EVEN MORE.

GETTING MY COLLEGE EDUCATION REALLY CHANGED MY LIFE, AND THAT'S SOMETHING I WANT TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE ACHIEVE, GOLZAR SAID. AFTER I GRADUATED, I KNEW I WANTED TO DO SOME SORT OF TRIP ALONG THE POTOMAC AND AFTER A WHILE, I REALIZED I COULD DO BOTH.

STARTING FRIDAY, MAY 10, GOLZAR WILL BE ACHIEVING BOTH GOALS, BOATING AND HIKING FROM HIGHLAND COUNTY, VA, ALONG 400 MILES OF THE POTOMAC TO RAISE MONEY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FOR A LOCAL STUDENT.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE IDEA OF GIVING OUT MONEY TO PEOPLE WHO NEED IT, BUT I KNOW WITH SO MANY CHARITIES IT'S HARD TO TRACK DOWN THE MONEY, THERE'S A LOT OF RED TAPE AND BUREAUCRACY TO GO THROUGH, HE SAID. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT. I'M JUST INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT MY NEIGHBORS. THE STUDENT DOESN'T HAVE TO HAVE STRAIGHT A'S, OR A 4.0 AVERAGE, THEY SHOULD JUST BE SOMEONE WHO HAS A DREAM THAT THEY WANT TO FOLLOW. I DON'T WANT TO DISQUALIFY ANYONE, I JUST WANT PEOPLE TO TELL ME IN THE APPLICATION WHY THEY SHOULD HAVE THIS MONEY. AND 100 PERCENT OF THE

GOLZAR WILL GO TO BE DOCUMENTING HIS TRIP THROUGH VIDEO, PHOTOS, FACEBOOK AND TWITTER POSTS, ALL WHILE COLLECTING DONATIONS THAT HE WILL AWARD TO A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FOR COLLEGE EXPENSES.

FOR SO MANY PEOPLE, THE RIVER IS JUST SOMETHING THEY PASS OVER ON A BRIDGE, BUT I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SPENDING SOME TIME THERE. I HAVE AN INFLATABLE BOAT THAT I'LL BE USING ON THE RIVER AND I'LL BE HIKING AROUND THE MOST DANGEROUS RAPIDS, HE SAID. I FIGURE IT WON'T BE TOO LONG BEFORE I'M LIVING BY THE SUN, WAKING UP AROUND 7 A.M., PADDLE TILL ABOUT 4 OR 5 P.M. AND THEN FIGURE IT OUT FROM THERE. I'VE DONE SOME RESEARCH, SO I KNOW APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF WHERE I CAN STOP, BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE A SET SCHEDULE. I FIGURE IT WILL TAKE ME ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF.

GOLZAR SAID HE'LL BE BRINGING A FISHING POLE WITH HIM, BUT IN CASE HE ISN'T ABLE TO FEED HIMSELF THAT WAY, THERE ARE TOWNS ABOUT EVERY SIX OR SEVEN MILES. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE TRIP IS OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO JOIN HIM, EVEN FOR A FEW DAYS OR A WEEK-END.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GOLZAR'S TRIP, INCLUDING A PAYPAL DONATION LINK AND THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION, CAN BE FOUND AT FACEBOOK.COM/PADDLETHEPOTOMAC, ON GOLZAR'S BLOG, ARYANGOLZAR.WORDPRESS.COM AND AT TWITTER.COM/ARYANGOLZAR.