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Dominant Delahaba

SPORTS, PAGE 14

Broad Run High senior softball pitcher Caitlyn Delahaba tosses a pair of one-hitters at last weekend's Virginia State AA tournament at Radford University. The first came in the Spartans' semifinals win over Salem and the latter in her team's title game win over Tunstall. So, for the second straight year, Broad Run softball is the state champion.

Leaving the Comfort Zone

NEWS, PAGE 3

Tactical Error?

NEWS, PAGE 3

Got Votes?

POLITICS, PAGE 3



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Playing by the Rules?

HCA pledges changes.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI
THE CONNECTION

It has been six years since Hospital Corporation of America officials first met with members of the Loudoun Healthcare Task Force, as well as other county and

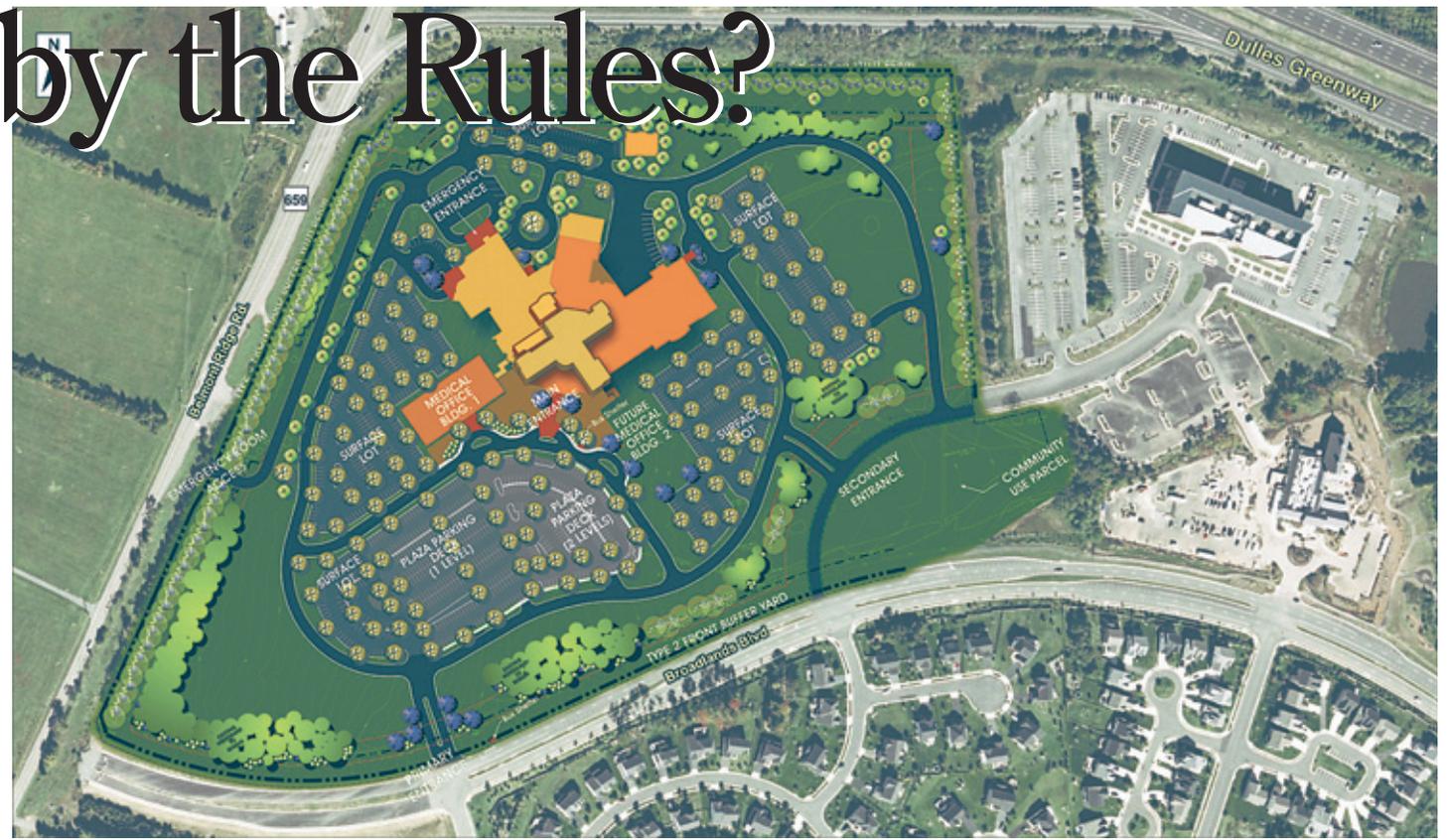
“We’re being completely transparent with our efforts with everyone in the community.”

— Mark Foust, HCA’s Capital Division, vice president of communications

in support of and in opposition to the land-use application that would per-

mit the for-profit Broadlands Regional Medical Center to be built. With the application granted new life by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year, after the previous board denied the request — which resulted in HCA suing the county — the application has become more than a land-use issue. It has become the subject of a public-relations blitz as the star attraction in newspaper ads, mailers and letter campaigns on both sides of the issue.

Since then, there have been public hearings, press conferences, protests and lawsuits, both



The proposed site plan for the Broadlands Regional Medical Center.

CONTRIBUTED

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However, some of the tactics in this campaign, while they might be legal, skirt the line of ethics, according to a George Mason

University professor.

Last week while verifying two letters to the editor in support of the Broadlands Regional Medical Center, The Connection discovered the supposed letter writers did not author the documents. Furthermore, while both people whose names appeared on the letters to the editor said they were supporters of the medical center, neither intended for their names to be published in the newspaper.

It turns out HCA — through a hired public relations firm it declines to name on the record — has been going door-to-door ask-

ing supporters to sign documents of support. Those documents are then being sent to newspapers and the Board of Supervisors; however, it is unclear if the signees are fully aware of how those documents would be used.

IN THE CASE of the two letters sent to The Connection, both signees said they were asked to sign a petition, but said they had never signed letters to the editor. The letters received, neither of which stated “To

SEE HCA, PAGE 13

Testing the Teacher

Eagle Ridge’s Orr is one of 18 teachers selected for the Covanta Teacher Challenge.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI
THE CONNECTION

A visitor to Corrina Orr’s science class might have a tough time picking her out from her students. Last Friday, Orr, 31, was wearing a tie-dyed inspired Eagle Ridge Middle School T-shirt, flip-flops and jeans and was buzzing around the classroom like a middle-schooler on a sugar high. At one workstation, she instructs students as they mix one liquid in a test tube with another. At another table, she looks over a work sheet an eighth-grader is working on.

A few minutes before the bell, Orr organizes the class in a coordinated clean-up effort and reminds her charges she was going to be absent Tuesday, June 10.

On that day, Orr becomes, in a way, the student. She is one of 18 finalists throughout the state, and the only one from

Loudoun County, selected to compete in the first Covanta Teacher Challenge in Alexandria.

“It’s scary and quite exciting, too,” Orr said. “I think it’s important not to get too comfortable. You have to challenge yourself.”

THIS IS THE first year the challenge, which is sponsored by Covanta Energy Corporation and the Center for Science Teaching and Learning (CSTL), will have a competition in Virginia. The challenge began last year in New York.

“We wanted to recognize great teachers,” Kristen Crivello, program director for CSTL. “A lot of contests are geared toward kids. We wanted to do something with teachers.”

Schools across the state were asked to

SEE REWARDING, PAGE 6

Primaries Attract Little Attention

Voter turn out very low during the morning.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls polling station parking lot was packed at 8:30 a.m. on June 10. But it wasn’t because the double congressional primary in Virginia’s 10th Congressional District was taking place.

The Great Falls polling station doubles as the Great Falls Elementary School and most of cars in the parking lot belonged to parents dropping their children off at school for the day. Judging from the number of “I voted” stickers on people leaving the school building, not many people were stopping by the polling station after saying goodbye to their sons and

daughters.

Ashburn resident Vern McKinley was challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf in the Republican primary. McLean resident Judy Feder, who ran against Wolf in 2006, faced retired Loudoun County resident Mike Turner in the Democratic contest. The Connection went to print before the polls closed on election day.

“Lower than low,” was how election official Jim Allen described the voter turnout at the Great Falls precinct. Only 24 people had participated in the Republican and Democratic primaries combined since the polling station opened two hours earlier, he said.

“The low turnout was expected but I don’t know if we believed it would be this low,” said George Caines, the election chief at the elementary school.

Allen and Caines, both Great Falls residents, said the general public did not

SEE MORNING, PAGE 5

Ribbon Cutting

Loudoun Water cuts the ribbon on its new Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility, 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn Friday, June 13. The facility includes Aquary, a public visitor's center of hands-on exhibits devoted to teaching about water use and conservation; reclamation and treatment; and water protection in Loudoun. For more information about the center, visit www.loudounwater.org.

NVRPA Seeks Public Input

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is developing its next Capital Improvement Program for fiscal years 2010-2014, which outlines how the organization will use its capital funding to expand and improve the regional park system through the development of new projects, as well as investments in existing facilities.

Members of the public are invited to vet their ideas and suggestions at a public hearing at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens Visitor Center, Thursday, June 19, beginning at 6 p.m. Meadowlark is located at 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court in Vienna. Members of the public can also submit their project ideas for the CIP via e-mail at plandev@nvrpa.org. Written CIP comments will be accepted until June 30.

Following the receipt of public comments, NVRPA will complete a draft CIP and hold a second public hearing Oct. 16, at the same time and location as noted above.

For more information about the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and to view its Strategic Plan, visit www.NVRPA.org.

Rate Hearing

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has scheduled a public hearing for June 24, to receive comments on a request by Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) to increase the company's fuel rate on July 1.

DVP says the increase is necessary to cover the higher costs of fuel used to generate electricity.

As filed, the company is seeking to raise its current fuel factor from 2.232 cents per kilowatt-hour to 3.893 cents per kilowatt-hour.

A public hearing on the request is scheduled for 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 24, in the commission's second-floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main St., in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and notify the SCC bailiff.

The SCC intends to Web cast the audio portion of the hearing via the Internet. Instructions can be found on the SCC Web site at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case/>.

Written comments on the proposals must be submitted by June 19. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, VA 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2008-00039. Or to submit comments electronically, visit <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Click on the Public Comments/Notices link and then the Submit Comments button for case number PUE-2008-00039.

Maryland Man Arrested

A Maryland man is in custody after making statements of a possible bomb Friday, June 6, in South Riding.

The man, a 62-year-old, from Prince George's County, Md., approached two deputies in the parking lot of the Riding Plaza shopping center shortly after 8 a.m. and attempted to hand them a box. The man made statements regarding a bomb.

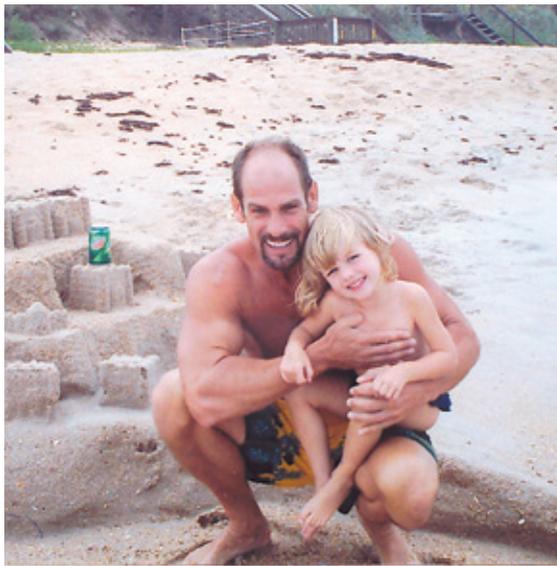
Deputies covered and concealed the man's vehicle and ordered him to exit the car. He was taken into custody.

The Loudoun County Bomb Squad investigated the contents of the package. A portion of the shopping center was closed to the public as a precaution.

Moving Day Approaches

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce has signed a lease with the Saul Companies to move its headquarters to the Lansdowne Towne Center, at the intersection of Route 7 and Belmont Ridge Road. The landlord is working to prepare the office space at 19301 Winmeade Drive so that the Chamber can move in before July 31.

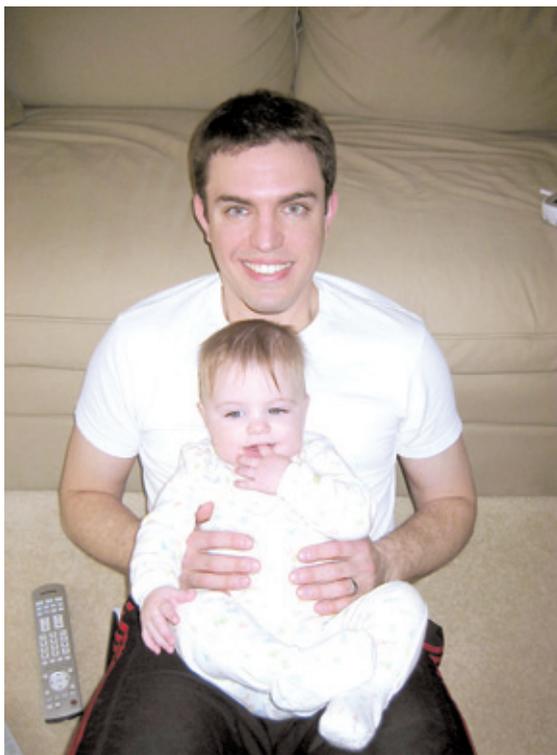
ME & MY DAD



Olivia Charbonneau with daddy, Chris, at Smyrna Beach, Fla.



Submitted by Jon Tucker of Ashburn: Picture was an impromptu pic mom took of the kids who like to — as Dr. Seuss said — “hop on pop” as much as they can. They like to playfully attack poor old dad in the living room, one comes from the right, the other from the left ... in this pose, I captured both of them.



Submitted by Lisa Sinclair of Ashburn: Photo of Seth and Ben Sinclair watching sports together.

Each year, the Loudoun Connection invites readers to submit photographs for this gallery of dads and their children for Father's Day.



Submitted by Michelle Meijer of Ashburn: Here is a picture of my husband, Steven, and my two children, Gwyneth, 3, and Julien, 1. Here, they were so happy to see him after he had been gone in Holland for a week and a half. They really missed him.



Submitted by Peggy Wright of Ashburn: The children with their dad, Steve, after their grandparent's anniversary dinner.



Submitted by Lisa Hamm of Ashburn: The photo was taken on Easter Sunday in our backyard and includes my husband — the Best Father in the World and our two children, Brandon, 8 and Nick, 3 1/2. As you can tell they are definitely “hamms” for the camera.”

Morning Turnout at Polls Lower Than Expected

FROM PAGE 3

seem to be aware a primary was underway. They speculated that some people might be burned out after following the long, drawn out presidential primary between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

"I don't think anyone is thinking primaries now," said Caines.

THIS SENTIMENT was echoed in other

parts of the 10th Congressional District.

"Voter turnout is light, very light," said Verne Wattawa, the election chief at Herndon High School. Out of the 3,000 voters registered in his precinct, 15 people had voted by 9 a.m., including Wattawa and one of the other volunteers at the polling station.

"It is a typical congressional primary. Nothing out of the ordinary," said Wattawa.

Wattawa, reclined in an auditorium chair and eating a piece of candy, said he and the other volunteers would have a lot of down time during the day, which started at 5 a.m. and will end at 8:30 p.m.

One poll worker had decided she would reread the election official manual, since she had taken training awhile ago, he said.

At River Bend Middle School in Sterling, precinct captain Carl Crea said about 36

people had voted by 10:45 a.m.

"If we hit 100, I'd say we're doing well. We'll celebrate," he said.

LOWER VOTER TURN OUT could benefit some candidates. Turner, who had less name recognition and money than Feder, said he felt the unusually low turnout had

SEE TURNOUT, PAGE 17

Many Women with Facial Dark Spots Suffer From Dark Moods ... Dermatologists Offer Hope.

Dr. Sherry Maragh knows just what she'll hear from some of her patients when they walk into her Ashburn office.

"A frustrated woman, typically in her 30s and beyond with dark patches on her face, will ask if I can help. It's amazing how common this is," said Dr. Maragh, "and it's too bad that more people don't go to their dermatologist for help. I love to see my patient's smile when I tell her there are treatments available that can help reduce or eliminate those unsightly brown patches."

Dark patches on the face can be caused by many things, including sun damage, acne scarring, or inflammation. When those dark, grayish-brown patches occur on the cheeks, upper lip and forehead, the condition may be melasma—

also known as *paño*, mask of pregnancy or hypermelanosis. Whatever the name, the condition is most likely caused by skin cells producing extra melanin — the chemical responsible for pigmentation. Many doctors link these cases to a variety of triggers including sun exposure, hormone changes in women, such as those caused by pregnancy, menopause, and even the hormonal shifts associated with use of birth control pills.

Millions of women in the United States face the dark patches in the mirror every day, and it's especially prevalent in women of Hispanic, Caribbean and Asian ancestry as well as African-American women. Approximately 80% of Latino women report having these types of darkened spots on their faces. It also tends to run in families.

These dark patches don't make people physically ill, but research shows that the psychological and emotional tolls are another story. Not only does the condition affect how many women feel about themselves, it changes how others see them. A report published in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior* showed that dark spots on a woman's face are one of the signs that people use to judge her age, and in fact, the presence of spots alone can influence how old a person looks.

"I felt like people thought I was dirty," said Rebecca Brown, 32, a patient diagnosed with melasma. Ms. Brown's condition appeared after a beach vacation in Cancun.

"The longer the dark patches lasted, the more embarrassed I got," Ms. Brown said. "I covered

them with makeup, and I tried some of the treatments I found at the supermarket."

Those treatments didn't work for her. Finally, she decided to call her doctor.

"Prescription treatments work differently and are often much more successful," Dr. Maragh said.

Two months after she went to her dermatologist, Ms. Brown said her skin was clear.

"I had basically given up hope," she said. "I didn't realize how badly those spots made me feel until they were gone."

For more information about this condition, please go to www.darkpatches.com, or speak to your dermatologist.



A bright outlook for people with dark spots.

Artist's rendition of melasma. Please see Important Safety Information below.

People allergic to salicylates should not use Tri-Luma® Cream. It contains hydroquinone, which may cause a gradual blue-black darkening of the skin. Safety and efficacy have not been established in pregnant or nursing women, or individuals with darker skin. Redness, peeling, burning, dryness, or itching may occur. Exposure to sunlight, sunlamps, or UV light and extreme heat, wind, or cold should be avoided.

www.triluma.com

PATIENT INFORMATION
For External Use Only.
Not for Ophthalmic Use.

TRI-LUMA® Cream
(Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%, hydroquinone 4%, tretinoin 0.05%)

Read this information carefully before you begin treatment. Read the information you get whenever you get more medicine. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about TRI-LUMA® Cream (try-L-LOOM-ah) Cream, ask your doctor. Only your doctor can determine if TRI-LUMA® Cream is right for you.

What is the most important information I should know about TRI-LUMA® Cream? Use of TRI-LUMA® Cream in pregnant women may carry the chance of having birth defects in the baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, may be pregnant, or plan to become pregnant. Your doctor will talk with you about the benefits and risks of using TRI-LUMA® Cream during pregnancy to help decide if the benefits for you are greater than the risks. You may decide to delay treatment until after your baby is born.

If you become pregnant while taking TRI-LUMA® Cream, tell your doctor right away. You should discuss the chances that your baby may be harmed. Using TRI-LUMA® Cream early in pregnancy may be more likely to produce birth defects than using it later in pregnancy.

What is TRI-LUMA® Cream? TRI-LUMA® Cream is a medicine with three active components. You put TRI-LUMA® Cream on your face to treat a skin condition called melasma. Melasma consists of dark (hyperpigmented) spots on facial skin, especially on the cheeks and forehead. This condition usually happens with hormone changes.

TRI-LUMA® Cream is for short-term and intermittent long-term treatment of moderate to severe melasma of the face, in the presence of measures for sun avoidance, including the use of sunscreens.

TRI-LUMA® Cream showed a significantly favorable safety profile for the long-term treatment of melasma, up to 6 months. Milder forms of melasma may not need treatment with medicine. Melasma can also be managed by staying out of the sun or by stopping the use of birth control methods that involve hormones.

In clinical studies, after 8 weeks of treatment with TRI-LUMA® Cream, most patients had improvements, with 42 (26%) out of 161 patients experiencing complete clearing of their melasma. In most patients treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream, melasma came back after treatment was stopped. If the underlying causes of melasma, such as the use of certain birth control pills or too much exposure to sunlight, are not removed, melasma will come back when you stop treatment. In the long-term studies, patients were treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream on and off, whenever their melasma came back until it cleared. About 300 patients used TRI-LUMA® Cream intermittently (not

continuously) for 180 days, and the majority of the side effects were mild or severe. TRI-LUMA® Cream may improve your melasma, but it is NOT a cure.

Who should not use TRI-LUMA® Cream? Do not use TRI-LUMA® Cream if you are allergic to the medicine or any of its ingredients. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients.

What should I tell my doctor before using TRI-LUMA® Cream? If you are pregnant, think you are pregnant, plan to be pregnant or are nursing an infant, tell your doctor. Your doctor will decide with you whether the benefits in using TRI-LUMA® Cream will be greater than the risks. If possible, delay treatment with TRI-LUMA® Cream until after the baby is born. Tell your doctor about all the other medicines and skin care products you use, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, cosmetics, and supplements. They may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight.

How should I use TRI-LUMA® Cream? TRI-LUMA® Cream should be used as instructed by your doctor. To help you use the medicine correctly, follow these steps:

- Gently wash your face with a mild cleanser. Don't use a washcloth to apply the cleanser, just your fingers. Rinse and pat your skin dry.
 - Apply TRI-LUMA® Cream at night, at least 30 minutes before bedtime.
 - Put a small amount (pea sized or 1/2 inch or less) of TRI-LUMA® Cream on your fingertip. Apply a thin coat onto the discolored spot(s). Include about 1/2 inch of normal skin surrounding the affected area. After you have used the medicine for a while, you may find that you need slightly less to do the job.
 - Rub the medicine lightly and uniformly into your skin. The medicine should become invisible almost at once. If you can still see it, you are using too much.
 - Keep the medicine away from the corners of your nose, your mouth, eyes and open wounds. Spread it away from those areas when applying it.
 - Do not use more TRI-LUMA® Cream or apply it more often than recommended by your doctor. Too much TRI-LUMA® Cream may irritate your skin, waste medicine, and won't give you faster or better results.
 - Do not cover the treated area with anything after applying TRI-LUMA® Cream.
 - If your skin gets too irritated, stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream, and let your doctor know.
 - To help avoid skin dryness, you may use a moisturizer in the morning after you wash your face.
 - You may also use a moisturizer and cosmetics during the day.
- Use a sunscreen of at least SPF 30 and a wide-brimmed hat over the treated areas. It requires only a small amount of sunlight to worsen melasma. Melasma can get worse even if you don't get sunburn. Only your doctor knows which other medicines may be helpful during treatment, and will tell you about them if needed. Do not use other medicines

unless your doctor approves them. If you get sunburned, stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream until your skin is healed. After stopping TRI-LUMA® Cream treatment, continue to protect your skin from sunlight.

What should I avoid while using TRI-LUMA® Cream? Sunlight or ultraviolet light. Too much natural sunlight or artificial sunlight from a sunlamp can cause sunburn. Dark skin patches may become darker when the skin is exposed to sunlight. You don't have to have a sunburn to make your melasma worse. TRI-LUMA® Cream can make your skin more likely to get sunburn or develop other unwanted effects from the sun. Protect your skin from natural sunlight as much as possible to help prevent further darkening of existing dark patches and formation of new ones. Staying out of the sun is especially important for women who take birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy, and for people who have had dark patches in the past. Use an effective sunscreen any time you are outside, even on hazy days. The sunscreen should have SPF (sun protection factor) of 30 or more. Use sunscreen year-round on areas of the skin that are regularly exposed to sunlight, such as your face and hands. If possible, protect the treated area from sunlight exposure.

If you spend a lot of time outside, be especially careful of sunlight. Ask your doctor what SPF level will give you the needed high level of protection. If you will be outside, wear protective clothing, including a hat.

Do not use sunlamps while you use TRI-LUMA® Cream. Heat, wind and cold. Heat and cold tend to dry or irritate normal skin. Skin treated with TRI-LUMA® Cream may be more likely to react to heat and cold.

Your doctor can recommend ways to manage your melasma under these conditions. **Other skin care products and medicines.** Avoid products that may dry or irritate your skin. These may include soaps and cleansers that are rough or cause drying; certain astringents, such as alcohol-containing products, soaps and toiletries containing alcohol, spices, or lime; or certain medicated soaps, shampoos, and hair permanent products. Do not use any other medicines with TRI-LUMA® Cream unless you have consulted your doctor. The medicines and products you have used in the past may cause redness or peeling when used with TRI-LUMA® Cream.

What are the possible side effects of TRI-LUMA® Cream? A very few patients may get severe allergic reactions from TRI-LUMA® Cream. This includes people allergic to salicylates. They may have trouble breathing or severe asthma attacks, which can be life-threatening.

While you use TRI-LUMA® Cream, your skin may develop mild-to-moderate redness, peeling, burning, dryness, or itching. TRI-LUMA® Cream contains a corticosteroid medicine as one of its active components. The following side effects have been reported with application of corticosteroid medicines to the skin: itching, irritation, dryness, infection of the hair follicles, acne,

Tri-Luma® Cream is the only topical product FDA approved to treat moderate to severe melasma. With results in as little as 4 weeks,* no other topical cream has been proven more effective than Tri-Luma® Cream. No wonder it's the #1 prescribed product for melasma.*

You can also get a free list of dermatologists in your area who treat this condition. Simply go to www.triluma.com and click on the DermFinder® link to find the name of a dermatologist who can help you start treatment with Tri-Luma® Cream right now.

The sooner you start, the sooner you'll be able to get your melasma under control.

Ask your DermFinder® dermatologist about Tri-Luma® Cream.

#1 prescribed by dermatologists for melasma*

GALDERMA



Tri-Luma® Cream

(Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%, hydroquinone 4%, tretinoin 0.05%)

Melasma control you can stay with.

change in skin color, inflammation around the mouth, allergic skin reaction, skin infection, skin thinning, stretch marks, and sweat problems.

Stop using TRI-LUMA® Cream and contact your doctor if you have

• severe or continued irritation, blistering, oozing, scaling, or crusting; severe burning or swelling of your skin; irritation of your eyes, nose, and mouth. Some patients using TRI-LUMA® Cream develop dark spots on their skin (hyperpigmentation), tingling, increased skin sensitivity, rash, acne, skin redness caused by a condition called rosacea, skin bumps, blisters, or tiny red lines or blood vessels showing through the skin (telangiectasia). If you are concerned about how your skin is reacting to the medicine, call your doctor.

General information about prescription

medicines Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRI-LUMA® Cream for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRI-LUMA® Cream to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRI-LUMA® Cream. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about TRI-LUMA® Cream that is written for health professionals.

Ingredients: TRI-LUMA® Cream contains fluocinolone acetonide, hydroquinone, and tretinoin as active ingredients, as well as the following in the cream base: butylated hydroxytoluene, cetyl alcohol, citric acid, glycerin, glyceryl stearate, magnesium aluminum silicate, methyl gluceth-10, methylparaben, PEG-100 stearate, propylparaben, purified water, sodium metabisulfite, stearic acid, and stearyl alcohol.

Marketed by: Galderma Laboratories, L.P., Fort Worth, TX 76177 USA

Manufactured by: Hill Laboratories, Inc., Sanford, FL 32773 USA, 20024-1203
Revised December 2003

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TRI-351 03/07

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Stopping the Flares, Saving the Planet

An Ashburn man creates a nonprofit to help the planet.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

At a time when gas prices are soaring and the world is searching for new energy sources, an Ashburn man just may have the solution.

Fred Maiden, with the help of four colleagues, started a nonprofit called Stop the Flares last January in an effort to curb gas flaring, a practice that Maiden feels is harming the planet in more ways than one.

"It is a quiet thing that occurs at a time when the world is using more energy," Maiden, a government consultant and economic analyst by day, said. "Here is waste right on our doorstep that we can leverage."

GAS FLARING occurs when oil reserves are drilled and oil and methane gas are in the same well. Instead of saving the methane, in most cases the gas is either released into the atmosphere or ignited. Whether released or ignited, the methane becomes a powerfully dangerous greenhouse gas.

Citing estimates from the World Bank, Maiden brings into perspective how wasteful and damaging this process can be. According to research, 150 billion cubic meters of gas are wasted every year. That is the equivalent of 40 billion-60 billion gallons of gasoline, which could power 1/4-1/3 of all the cars in the U.S.

"It was unbelievable to me [when I found this out] because I knew they were wasting energy, but not to this extent," Maiden said.

In addition to the usable energy squandered by flaring, Maiden points out that the

pollution it causes has catastrophic effects on the environment. Methane, 20 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, increases particle pollution in the atmosphere, which leads to reduced sunlight and acid rain.

Maiden became involved in this crusade while writing a paper for the World Bank on bringing energy to people who do not have it. While writing, he discovered that governments and companies were flaring vast amounts of gas.

"In the process of working on the paper, I found countries like Nigeria who do not have water, electricity or air conditioning yet are wasting energy when there is no leverage in it for them," says Maiden.

So, he enlisted the help of four colleagues, Michael Joseph, Matthew Bergevin, Nancy Mulvenna and Thomas Appel to help him tackle this issue. Each member of Maiden's team specializes in a different field, bringing different viewpoints to the same idea.

"It takes creativity and a diverse group of people to solve this problem," Maiden said. Diversity is not a problem on this team as Joseph has an extensive background in consulting, analysis and business development. Bergevin specializes in Web design and IT consulting; Mulvenna is accomplished in marketing and finances and Appel brings vast experience and knowledge of law.

The team combined its skills to define its mission, goals and methods to accomplish them.

STOP THE FLARES' mission is to bring awareness to methane flaring so that people will understand the issue and be motivated

to change it.

"We are the only organization that has identified flaring as a problem," Appel said. "We want to become a nexus between the general public, which has a growing interest in energy problems."

Stop the Flares is utilizing innovative methods to raise awareness as it pushes forward. Maiden noted that in addition to its Web site, alternative social networking sites have been the most effective for the group.

Once staples of college campuses, Facebook, MySpace, Razoo and Yahoo social groups have all been a great help in putting the word out.

In addition to the Internet, Maiden is reaching out to universities and scientists, hoping that getting their attention focused

on the matter will spur more research, leading to the discovery of cost-effective, logical solutions.

"One of the things that sets us apart from other groups is that we are not just talking about solving problems, we are actively seeking solutions," Maiden said.

As for its goal, Maiden said that he hopes to have companies and governments reach an agreement to stop flaring by 2010 and to have all natural gas flares eliminated by 2020.

The solution Maiden and his team are promoting is liquefying the methane gas so that it can be captured and transported. When liquefied, the methane gas converts into methanol, which is used to create fuel for combustible engines.

CURRENTLY, STOP the Flares is depending on private donations and corporate sponsorship to make its vision a reality

For more

Visit www.StopTheFlares.org for further insight into natural gas flaring and to make donations. The Web site contains research, staff bios, membership information and a multimedia section.



Fred Maiden, founder of Stop the Flares.

while trying to build on the foundation that Maiden laid in the Washington, D.C.-area. Once awareness is raised, Maiden wants to expand Stop the Flares, bringing a campaign to Philadelphia then eventually to a national level.

"I commend Fred for getting the word out on a shoestring budget," Joseph said. "It is a grassroots effort."

At press time, Stop the Flares was awaiting word on their application for nonprofit status, which according to Appel should come through any day. In the meantime, Maiden and his team will forge ahead in their quest to protect the planet and help make energy available to every individual that needs it.

"It's about the environment, energy and the future," Joseph said. "Where do we want to take this planet? We want to make it a better place."

Rewarding Science Teachers

FROM PAGE 3

nominate a science teacher, who then had two submit two energy-related lesson plans they used in the classroom. Science department head Karen Gauriloff, with the blessing of the rest of the department, nominated Orr.

Orr's eight-graders created "houses of the future," complete with solar panels and alternative energy sources, which were presented in a science fair at the school, and also researched nuclear energy then created radio public service announcements presenting either the pros or cons of nuclear energy.

Crivello said a blue panel of scientists and educators in Long Island, N.Y., selected the finalists based on their submissions.

"I didn't expect much. Virginia is the size of my entire country," said Orr, who is from Newton Stuart, Scotland. She came to

Loudoun County as part of the Visiting International Faculty program, with her daughter, Aiden a sixth-grader at Eagle Ridge, last year. She returns to Scotland next year and plans to take everything she learned back with her.

THE CHALLENGE WILL be a true test for the teachers, who have not been told what they face Tuesday. All that they have been told is that they will take part in two challenges.

Crivello said the first challenge, which takes place in the morning, will be a critical thinking activity. In the exercise, the teachers are part of a panel tasked with coming up with ways a community with a population of 135,000 could reduce its carbon footprint with a limited budget.

After lunch, the teachers face their second challenge, a hands-on activity where,



Science teacher Corrina Orr shares information about her native Scotland on her "Scottish wall" and encourages her students to bring in items reflective of their travels or heritage.

using regular household items, the teachers build a device that converts one type of energy into another.

"When they do the challenges, they work with a team, but are graded individually,"

Crivello said.

While the judges, who will be Covanta personnel make their decisions as to the top four finishers, the teachers will tour the

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE 17

CRIME

WEAPONS VIOLATION

W&OD Trail/Dominion Lane, Sterling. June 9, 12:11 a.m. A Sheriff's deputy was on patrol when he observed two subjects on bicycles riding on the W & OD Trail after the park is closed. One of the subjects, a 15-year-old from Herndon, was discovered to be carrying a BB gun.
Charges are pending.

LARCENY/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

800 block Croydon Street, Sterling. June 8, 4 p.m. Unknown subject(s) damaged a window to a vehicle and removed a GPS unit. Value: \$500.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

20900 block Strawrick Terrace, Ashburn. June 7, 12:59 a.m. Unknown subject(s) damaged the windows and body of a vehicle with a blunt object.

21500 block Awbrey Place, Ashburn. June 7, 11:50 a.m. Unknown subject(s) spray painted graffiti on a vehicle. Value: \$200.

20300 block Lowes Island Boulevard, Sterling. June 6, 7 p.m.-June 7, 7 a.m. Unknown subject(s) damaged a window to the clubhouse, possible to gain entry. Value: \$200.

20100 block Lakeview Center Plaza, Ashburn. June 5, 6 p.m.-June 6, 6 a.m. Unknown subject(s) dis-

charged three fire extinguishers and threw them at windows at a construction site. Value: \$1,065.

BURGLARY

20500 block Golden Ridge Drive, Ashburn. June 7, 5:58 p.m. Unknown subject(s) entered a residence and removed a television.

LARCENY

20300 block Lowes Island Boulevard, Sterling. June 5, 7 p.m.-June 6, 7 a.m. Unknown subject(s) removed two golf carts from the Lowes Island Golf Course. One of the golf carts was recovered and was damaged. Value: \$5,400.

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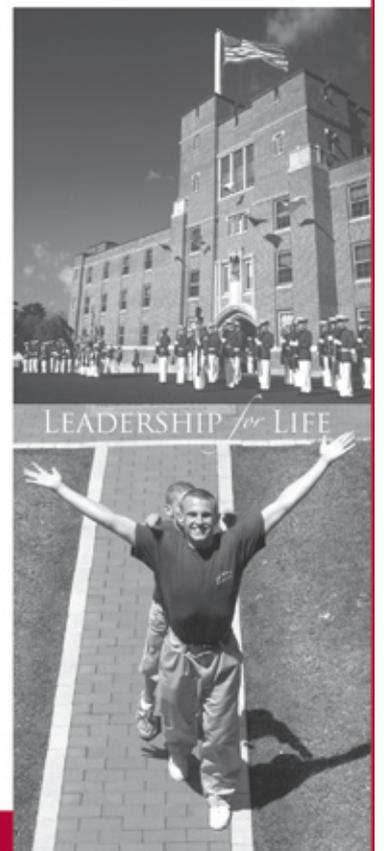
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OPINION

More Reasons for Change

Price of gas, "Code Red" add reasons to change behavior.

After days of intense heat, we begin this week with a "Code Red" air-quality day, meaning that breathing the air is "unhealthy for all individuals."

On a "Code Red" day, no one should stay outside or exert themselves outdoors any longer than necessary, according to federal guidelines. At particular risk are active children and adults, and people with lung diseases, such as asthma.

The primary causes of air pollution in Northern Virginia are vehicle emissions and pollution from power plants here and to the west.

Approximately 60-70 percent of the pollutants that cause ground-level ozone are created from vehicles, lawn mowers, other garden equipment and common household products, according to the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments.

The price of gas has already motivated more

commuters in the area to turn to public transportation. On predicted "Code Red" days, local bus service is free, which should provide even more incentive to see if you can use transit for all or part of your commute.

The price of gas is excruciating, and takes a far higher toll on the working poor, but at \$4 a gallon and above, we're all motivated to seek conservation and alternatives. As businesses and individuals work to save money, the environment and air quality will also benefit.

Air Quality Info

For the air quality forecast for Northern Virginia and links to maps, see <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/airquality>.

For more information, see www.epa.gov/airnow.

There's a chance that such measures could ease traffic as well.

On bad air-quality days, children, older people and individuals with heart or respiratory ailments should reduce outdoor activities. Even healthy individuals should limit strenuous outdoor work and exercise.

Here are a few more suggestions to help air quality:

Free Rides

Riding some local buses is free on "code red" days. Check for your chance to ride for free.

- ❖ Loudoun Commuter Bus Service, www.loudoun.gov/bus
 - ❖ Fairfax Connector, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/
 - ❖ Arlington Transit, www.commuterpage.com/art/
 - ❖ Alexandria Dash, www.dashbus.com/
- More choices, www.wmata.com

❖ Limit driving and when possible, combine trips or work from home.

❖ Use area bus and rail lines or carpool.

❖ Avoid mowing lawns with gasoline-powered motors.

❖ Refuel vehicles after dusk; avoid idling.

❖ Conserve electricity, keep air conditioning no lower than 78 degrees, turn off unneeded lights.

For the air quality forecast for Northern Virginia and links to maps, see <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/airquality>.

For more information, see www.epa.gov/airnow.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
703-917-6416

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Volunteers Needed

To the Editor:

I would like to invite the local community to help in honoring World War II veterans when they arrive into Dulles or Reagan Airport this summer and fall. The Honor Flight organization (www.HonorFlight.org) is a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to fly or bus as many WWII vets to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial before they are all gone. The veterans don't pay a dime. Their local communities around the country raise funds to cover the cost of the whole trip.

The help needed is here at this end. We need people to greet these heroes as their groups step off of the planes and give them a heroes' welcome to the city. My volunteer role in this incredible organization is to develop and coordinate a pool of volunteers to greet them, give them a welcome they truly deserve and which is long overdue, and to see them off on their full-day tour of the memorials on the Mall and Arlington Cemetery.

I am looking for individuals, Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout groups, high-school students who need volunteer hours, anyone that would like to clap, say, "Thank you for your service" and who can

wave a flag.

The Honor Flight program usually flies the veterans in on Wednesday morning or Saturday morning. They then fly out that evening. Please e-mail me if you and/or your group are interested. Your eyes will tear and your heart

will swell with pride for these men and women who only saved the world for us. The British complained, "They're overpaid, oversexed and over here." And thank goodness they were.

We have a saying on our T-shirts at Honor Flights. It paraphrases

Will Rogers. "We can't all be heroes. Some of us get to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."

Diane Sinclair

DSinclair2@cox.net
Clifton



Snapshot 7:31 p.m., Wednesday, June 4, intersection of Cascades Parkway and Palisade Parkway, Sterling.

THE CONNECTION

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

The Summer Brewfest returns to Loudoun with Vintage 50.

BY MATTHEW RAZAK
THE CONNECTION

Beer. Lots and lots of beer. Beer from Hawaii, beer from around the corner, beer that's hard to find, beer that tastes like no other, beer that's thick and creamy, beer that's hoppy, beer that goes great with steak, beer that compliments cheese; a cornucopia of beers. This would attract most people instantly and yet the Northern Virginia Brewfest, taking place June 21-22, at Morven Park will have so much more than just beer. In fact the organizers hope that along with sampling some of the best beers America has to offer that the public gets to spend some time outside with the family and have some fun.

"Basically what we've done is we've taken Morven Park and we've worked in 40-45 different beer vendors so we'll have 90-100 different types of beer, and you show up and come in and you can go and sample different types of beers from different breweries. Then there will be live music, vendors for shopping and children's activities not to mention plenty of food," Anthony Cavallo of Vintage 50 Restaurant, who, along with his brew master Phil Madden organized the festival, said.

The Northern Virginia Brewfest, in this incarnation, is brand new, but residents may

Brewing Up Fun



CONTRIBUTED

Vintage 50 held a successful Fall Brewfest last year and has made the Summer Brewfest even bigger and better.

remember a previous incarnation that used to be put on by Dominion Brewery. Cavallo says that this new festival, which has already had a fall event occur last year, began because Dominion had stopped its festival and he felt there was a need for one.

"I don't think we wanted to do anything different. From what we had gathered that Dominion had done a very good beer festival. We just wanted to give Loudoun County the same experience they had there," Cavallo said.

In order to do this Cavallo had Madden

use his more than 15 years in the industry to select some of his favorite breweries to be invited to the festival. Smaller microbreweries like to come to festivals in order to share their beer with a larger au-

around 65, and we got about 45 that are going to be participating," Madden said. "They're local and national ones that I think put out a really good beer."

Tasting that beer will be easy and far less expensive than the local bar. Entry is \$20 prior to the event and \$25 at the gate — designated drivers get a \$5 discount — for the day and the price includes a commemorative BrewFest glass and four beer tickets for tasting. Additional beer tickets can be purchased throughout the event for \$1 each. Non of the beer can leave the premises, however, the brewers will be on hand to offer advice on where to get their beer and answer questions about the brewing process.

SEE DRINK, PAGE 10



More

The Northern Virginia Brewfest will be at Morven Park, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg, June 21-22. The festival begins at 11 a.m. on both days and ends at 9 p.m. on Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Visit www.novabrewfest.com for tickets.

dience who might not be able to taste it otherwise.

"We drew up a list of breweries that I worked with in the past and we hand picked a group for the quality of their product,

Father's Day Flight

The inside of a KC-135 fueling aircraft is not something many people get to see. The important missions it goes on are not something that many people get to hear. However, during the Udvar-Hazy Center's Become a Pilot Day, Saturday, June 14, visitors will be able to see and touch more than 65 aircrafts, including the KC-135, and hear stories and tales about them all from their pilots and crews.

"Basically [the event] is to build awareness on how to become a pilot and the skills needed and that it's a sport that anyone can take a part of and have fun with In the 65 aircrafts we bring in there will be a great variety from balloons to medical aircrafts to some very serious amateurs with jets,"

Doug Baldwin, the education director at the Udvar-Hazy Center and one of the organizers for the day, said. "It crosses around all aviation fields. It's for awareness but also a chance to climb in and see planes you wouldn't get a chance to see."

DURING THE day, which will last from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., local pilots and military will allow people to explore their planes, climb in the cockpits and ask questions about how the planes work. While most of the aircraft are privately owned, their owners usually allow children to climb in and explore and the entire event is based around family fun. Exploring planes won't be the only things

SEE HOW, PAGE 10

LOUDOUN/ASHBURN CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 11-17, 2008 ♦ 9



CALENDAR

Send announcements, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, contact Matthew Raszak 703-917-6457. For additional entertainment listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com, E section.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 11

MUSEUMS TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace will take a trip to Washington, D.C., with drop off and pick up at the Natural History Museum, Gallery of Art, American Indian, Air and Space and African Art/Freer/Hirshhorn/Sackler museums. Cost: \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers, includes transportation and free admissions, lunch on own. Extensive walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure/return times and locations.

1960S FILMS. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Enjoy a screening of "The Apartment." Recommended for adults. Visit www.lcpl.lib.va.us.

RUST RAMBLES. 10-11:30 a.m., at the Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg. Explore early spring with our naturalist. For adults and older children. Free. Call 703-737-0021.

THURSDAY/JUNE 12

TURTLE AND FRIENDS. 9:30-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Search for reptiles. Cost: \$10.50. Call 571-258-3700.

FLOWER POWER. 4 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Learn about the parts of a flower and make own out of tissue paper. Ages 6-11. Register online at www.lcpl.lib.va.us or phone 703-737-8100.

FANCY FLOWER FRAME. 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market St., Leesburg. Ages 2-3. Create works of art to display around the house. Bring a small photo (wallet size) or take a picture. Cost: \$4. To register, contact the Douglass Community Center at 703-771-5913 or e-mail dcc@loudoun.gov.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

NATURE EXPLORERS. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-4. Discover the outdoors with a grown-up friend. Cost: \$7. Theme: Beautiful Butterflies. Call 571-258-3700.

BABYPACKING. 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Age 1. Enjoy a naturalist-guided walk with your baby and meet other parents. No unregistered siblings. Cost: \$5.25. Call 571-258-3700.

JAZZ ON THE POTOMAC. 5:30-10 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Features David Bach Consort. Enjoy summer foods prepared by the culinary team. Call 703-729-8400 or visit http://www.lansdowneresort.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

EXPLORE NATURE and Photography Hike for Children. 10-11:30 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 7-12. Discover photographing nature while hiking through the park. Cost: \$4. Bring camera. Call to

register, 571-258-3700.

LUNCH WITH MY DAD. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St. Ages 2-10. Have a Father's Day lunch with dad and make ice cream sundaes. Cost: \$10 for one adult and child, \$5 each additional child. Call 571-258-3500.

BOOK SWAP. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. All ages. Claude Moore Community Center holds monthly book swaps throughout the year. Bring your adult and children's books to trade for something new to enjoy. Call 571-258-3500.

ACOUSTIC ON THE GREEN. 7-9, Leesburg Town Green. Performance features Todd Wright. Free.



visit www.acousticonthegreen.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE. 10-11:30 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 7-12. Discover nature photography while hiking through the park. Bring a camera and two rolls of 200 or 400 ASA color print film (24 prints each) or two disposable cameras or a digital camera. One adult must accompany each child. Call 571-258-3700 to register. Cost: \$4.

BECOME A PILOT. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. More than 50 vintage, recreational, military and home-built aircraft will be especially flown in for the event and displayed outdoors. Explore a variety of aircraft, talk with pilots and learn what skills are needed to fly. Air Force bands' Airmen of Note will provide musical entertainment. Cost: free, \$12 per car parking fee. Call 202-633-1000 or visit http://www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot/.

CELTIC FESTIVAL. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Morven Park International Equestrian Center, 41793 Turt Lane, Leesburg. Includes living history camps, continuous music and dance, Celtic crafters, specialty import vendors, a parade with pipers, story telling, children's activities, workshops, an authentic pub tent. Cost: \$15 per adult, \$7 per child ages 6-12, free for child under 6. Call 703-938-9779 or visit http://www.pcfest.org.

BIRDING BANSHEE. 8 a.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk. Bring binoculars. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 17

GARDENING. 12 p.m., Demonstration Garden, Ida Lee Park, Leesburg. The Loudoun County Master Gardener Volunteers will present a gardening program on Attracting Butterflies and Hummers. No registration is required; bring a lunch. Visit the Loudoun County Master Gardener Web site

www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org or call the Master Gardener Volunteers' Help Desk Office at 703-771-5150.

ESL CONVERSATION GROUP. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. An informal conversation circle for non-native speakers to practice English. An opportunity to meet new people, share your culture and have fun.

Only English will be spoken. All levels are welcome. Recommended for adults. Visit www.lcpl.lib.va.us.

HANDS-ON DISCOVERY ROOM. 1-3 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road. All ages. Explore the displays, meet the turtles and make a craft in the Visitor Center Discovery Room. Free. Call 571-258-3700.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

MAGIC COMEDY SHOW. 2:30 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Tom Lilly combines magic with audience participation. Tickets are available at the library starting half an hour before the performance. All ages. Visit www.library.loudoun.gov.

MUSICAL CONCERT. 1 p.m., Rust Library at Catoctin, 34D Catoctin Circle, S.E., Leesburg. The Little Mozart Academy will kick off the 2008 Summer Reading Program with a musical concert. All ages. Visit www.library.loudoun.gov.

BOOK SALE/AUCTION. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. The Library Advisory Board is holding a silent auction running from June 18-28. They will also be holding a used children and teen's book, movie and music sale on June 21 during normal hours. Donations for the sale will be collected at the library on June 19-20. Contact Larry Stepnick at 703-858-9066 or larry@severynrgroup.com.

MID-WEEK NATURE WALK. 7-11 a.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Registration required. Join Joe Coleman on one of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's mid-week birding trips and explore Banshee Reeks and the wetlands. Meet at the Dulles Wetlands, at 7 a.m. For those who can't make it at that time, join the group at the visitor's center at Banshee Reeks at 9 a.m. Hiking footgear including waterproof if you are coming to the wetlands, long pants and insect repellent advised. To register or for questions, contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19

BRAMBLETON CONCERT. 7-9 p.m., Brambleton Town Center. Features Rebelicious with its mix of classic rock and country. Free. Visit www.brambleton.com or call the Brambleton Visitor's Center at 703-542-2925.

FROGSHACKLE OPEN HOUSE. 3-4:30 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Discover a treasure trove of objects from nature. Call 571-258-3700.

LANESVILLE OPEN HOUSE. 3-4:30 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Discover the history of this National Register of Historic Places listed property. Free event. Call 571-258-3700.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Watch the Disney film "The Sword in the Stone," and bring pillows, blankets and snacks. All ages. Visit library.loudoun.gov for movie titles.

MOVIE. 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Bring popcorn and drinks. Film will be "Enchanted." Visit www.lcpl.lib.va.us.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

TODDLER ONE & TWO. 11 a.m., Rust Library, 34D Catoctin Circle, Leesburg. A one-on-one program of rhymes, songs stories and parachute play. Ages 1-2 with parent/caregiver. Register online at www.lcpl.lib.va.us or phone 703-777-0323.

JAZZ ON THE POTOMAC. 5:30-10 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Features Marcus Mitchell Project. Enjoy summer foods prepared by the culinary team. Call 703-729-8400 or visit http://www.lansdowneresort.com.

HAWAIIAN SHARK TALES. 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Listen to a Hawaiian shark tale and make a shark tooth necklace while listening to Hawaiian music. Recommended for ages 6-10. Advance registration required, sign up online at www.lcpl.lib.va.us or phone 703-737-8105.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

PIANO XPRESS. 2:30 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Piano instruction at an introductory level. Ages 7-11. Register online at www.lcpl.lib.va.us or phone 703-444-3228.

RUST BIRD WALKS. 8-9 a.m., Rust Nature

FOOD & DRINK

Drink Up and Get Down

FROM PAGE 9

"Once you're in it's really about two bucks for a 12-ounce beer and it's a pretty good deal, especially when you're talking about the beers we're having because we have many beers that you would never see in a standard bar — we have those to, of course," Rob Simpson, vice president of High Road Inc. who helped to organize the event, said.

People who are not beer aficionados shouldn't be worried about the impressive amount of beers to try at the event. Beer experts and representatives from the breweries will be able to give advice on different beers. Cabot Cheese will be offering a lesson on cheese and beer pairing and local brewing clubs will have demonstrations on how to make home brews. Cavallo and Simpson both want the festival to introduce people to new beers and experiences and open people's minds up to what beer can taste like.

"For somebody that isn't as familiar with craft-brewed beers I think they have to open their minds to what beer can actually be and be willing to sample and try new things," Madden said, "because what they are use to from their early days will not be what they're seeing in the craft-made beers. They're going to be seeing a lot more flavors a lot 'hoppier' beer and some beers that won't seem like anything they've had before."

WHILE BEER IS the main event at the festival it is far from the only thing going on. The festival's organizers wanted to make it entertaining and fun for anyone who could possibly attend.

Brewfest will feature music throughout both days including bands such as Road Soda, Everybody But Pete and The Crawdaddies. Music styles range from rock to funk to Cajun.

"We have one main stage and it's somewhat down at the end of the beer vendor area. We try to separate it a bit so you can hear the brewers and talk with them. The music provides a great addition to the beer festival and people love to get some drinks and go listen," Simpson said.

Additionally the festival will have almost 40 vendors selling a variety of goods and services for those who wish to do a little shopping while sampling. There will be vendors selling everything from jewelry to cigars and even a representative from Kluge Estates Winery and Vineyard doling out glasses of their wine for those who might not be to keen on the taste of beer. The festival will also feature plenty of opportunities to accompany a drink with some cuisine.

"We've got Hard Times Café, we've got Buffalo Wing Factory and then we have some folks doing kettle corn and we've got festival food and stuff like that," Simpson said.

Finally, the festival will have a section for children's event so that parents can bring their children to have some fun while they sample the beer. There will be face painting, a moon bounce and other children's activities all making the event a family-friendly place.

"We have a family-fun area and we did something similar in the fall and it was quite successful ... so it really does lend itself to a family day out and we separate the family area enough that the parents can enjoy the music and have a beer but still hang out with



the kids," Cavallo said.

ACCORDING TO MADDEN, beer is the fastest growing category in alcohol production thanks to the new popularity of microbrews and a focus on treating beer differently than before.

"What I've seen is that people don't see beer anymore as the cheap drink," Cavallo said. "Now the microbrews are becoming main stream. These great beers are being paired with great food. We do a lot of it here at Vintage 50 and other local restaurants do, too. People want to come in and get a good beer, not just cheap beer."

That is what Brewfest will be offering people and that is worth the price of admission. Of course, if one were to want to get in free to the festival the organizers are still looking for volunteers to help pour beer and work at the event. Volunteers get free entry to the festival, four beer coupons and a free T-shirt for a few hours of work.

"It will be a great time. Everyone is going to be there with their season specialties. We've got some great breweries coming and bringing some really good products," Madden said.

THE ARTS

"The Actor's Image:"

The Japan-Virginia Society Collection of Ukiyo-e Prints" will be on display in Waddell Gallery at the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College until **June 27.** Featuring Kabuki Theater and its famous actors, these 19th century woodblock prints offer an array of images that invite viewers into the world of Japanese art and theater. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays-Fridays. The campus is located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway in Sterling.

The College Community Theater's summer production of "Glengarry Glen Ross" at Northern Virginia Community College's Loudoun Campus runs **June 13-15, 20-22, 27-28.** Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m. and Sunday performances begin at 2 p.m. in the Waddell Theater. General admission tickets, for this mature audience show, are \$12 per person, NVCC students and seniors \$10. Call 703-948-7701 or got to www.nvcc.edu/ect.

How to Take Flight

FROM PAGE 9

to do at the event. There will be hands-on activities, music and speakers plus a large collection of model airplanes.

"There will be a hands-on packing parachute demonstration. We have discovery stations, which are hands-on activity stations like one about becoming a pilot. We'll have aviation simulators like a 1908 Wright Brothers plane simulator that recreates the experience of the earliest type of flyer," Baldwin said.

Also featured will be the United States Air Force Band, "Airmen of Note," who will perform at 12 p.m., and veteran aviation author Robert F. Dorr, and astronaut and pilot Thomas D. Jones will sign copies of "Hell Hawks." There will even be a story time for younger children to enjoy. Of course, there are also things for adults such as information on where to learn to fly and tours

of the center.

There will not be an air show as part of the event, but spectators will still be able to see planes in flight.

"Because we're so close to the airport we can't put air shows on, but the aircrafts will be flying in, which people can't see, but you can watch the planes depart and watch them taxi down and take off. You can't see them land but you can see them leave," said Baldwin.

Baldwin said that many of the planes are not aircraft that people would normally get to see. He points to the JStar, which is an aerial surveillance aircraft the military uses as one.

The Udvar-Hazy Center is located at 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway in Chantilly. The event is free but airport parking is \$12. Visit http://www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot/.

— MATTHEW RAZAK

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When I am working on a problem I never think about beauty. I only think about how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.



—Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)

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FAITH

Send announcements, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call Jennifer Lesinski at 703-917-6454. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

The 10:30 a.m. service at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** Sunday, **June 15**, is "Strength and Vulnerability, A Father's Day and Every Day Consideration." The Rev. Anya Sammler will invite reflection on the persistent human desire to fix the problems and mend the pain. A church picnic will fol-

low at Claude Moore Park. UUS meets every Sunday, at 10:30 a.m., at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Drive. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

First Baptist Church of Sterling invites the public to "Echoes of His Love" performed by Phazz One Ministries. Experience Jesus through the witness of those He touched. Come celebrate the life of Jesus through character sketches, narration, song and sign language in this worship experience **June 15**, at 9:30 a.m., at 21449 Potomac View Road in Sterling. Visit www.fbcsterlingva.org.

The **Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun** Sunday services

are held, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., at the UUCL chapel, located at 20460 Gledsville Road in Leesburg. UUCL is a welcoming congregation and invites everyone to attend Sunday services. Call the church at 703-737-7644.

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church of Lansdowne is extending an invitation to families that have children with autism spectrum, ADHD, bipolar disorder and similar conditions. St. Gabriel's has developed several programs to reach out to the community.

All programs held Belmont Ridge Middle School, 19045 Upper Belmont Place in Lansdowne. Visit www.saintgabriels.net or call 703-779-3616.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Send announcements, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to The Loudoun Connection, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or e-mail to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For more information, call Jennifer Lesinski at 703-917-6454. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Children's Exercise. Children can learn to exercise at the Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market St., Leesburg. Hosted by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, the program will be held Thursdays, **June 19-July 10**. Sessions for 3-year-olds run 3:30-4 p.m.; 4- and 5-year-olds sessions are 4:15-5 p.m. The cost ranges from \$35-\$45. To register, contact 703-771-5913 or email dcc@loudoun.gov.

A **clean waste program** is being held **June 20**, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management facility, 20939 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg. The program provides a cost-effective way to dispose of hazardous waste. Participants will pay a fee for the type and weight of their waste. Preregistration is required at least two business days before. Call the Office of Solid Waste Management at 703-777-0187.

The Loudoun Museum and Loudoun

Sampler are hosting the **13th annual Children's Needlework Seminar**. The seminar will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 West Market St., Leesburg, from **June 23-27**, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Children ages 8 through high school will learn different stitches and techniques based on their level of experience. Cost: \$100/child.

Call the Loudoun Museum at 703-777-7427 or e-mail education@loudounmuseum.org to register.

For advertising information
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LAND USE

HCA Employs Outreach to Make Case

FROM PAGE 3

the Editor” at the top, included a statement of support for the proposed hospital and included various facts regarding the land-use application and HCA’s justification for a hospital at that particular site. The letters had signatures, addresses and phone numbers of the supposed letter writers. The letters were copies of the originals. The Connection has also received several other letters that appear to be copies, also in support of the proposed hospital, which did contain the phrase “To the Editor.”

After contacting HCA’s public relations firm, The Connection was able to view the original documents, which did contain the person’s signature, but nothing on the documents indicated they were intended to be letters to the editor. The two residents contacted said they did not know that the documents would be forwarded to newspapers.

Mark Foust, vice president of communications for HCA’s Capital Division, said it was a miscommunication between individuals working on behalf of the Broadlands medical center and the residents whose signatures appeared on the documents sent in as letters to the editor.

“We’re being completely transparent with our efforts with everyone in the community,” Foust said. “First and foremost, we are going into the community to provide information and get feedback.”

Foust pledges that now that the problem has been brought to their attention, changes will be made in the way signatures are obtained in the future.

“For people who are supporters, we have asked them to show that support, in a visible way, by signing a petition, letters to the editor or letters to the supervisors,” Foust said. “This is something that has been going on constantly for more than a year. A majority of the people we talk to support this project, but were a silent majority.”

Foust said the company collecting the signatures should have been clearer when asking supporters to sign prewritten documents of support as to what those documents would be used for.

“We appreciate they were willing to sign and are supporters of the hospital,” Foust said. “We seek to

be completely transparent.”

Representatives of the firm hired to canvass the community on behalf of HCA declined to comment on the record.

THE METHOD being used by HCA to promote the new hospital is not new, said Edward Maibach, a professor in the Department of Communication and director of the Center for Climate Change Communication, both at George Mason University. Organizations, particularly nonprofits, often encourage supporters to write letters and provide a stock letter that the supporter can use word for word or personalize.

“Clearly, it is a relatively standard business practice for a corporation or nonprofit to enable people to write letters to their elected officials,” Maibach said. “They provide stock letters and there’s nothing wrong with that practice because there is no misrepresentation. Canvassing a neighborhood is good.”

He said, however, the practice crosses the line of being ethically acceptable if whoever is doing the canvassing isn’t upfront or misrepresents the documents.

Foust insists in this case, there was an inadvertent miscommunication and no misrepresentation was intended.

“The concept of a corporate interest defending itself by showing how much support it has happens all the time,” Maibach said. “Often when it comes to a community, it’s the people who oppose it that come out, are organized and are vocal. I’m sure HCA intended to canvass the neighborhood and show there is support.”

Maibach, who teaches social marketing and communication campaigning courses, said he would teach the same techniques in his classes, as long as the students understood everything must be transparent.

“It’s right out of an advocacy campaign textbook. The fundamental tactic is a form of democracy. But they have to play fair,” Maibach said. “It’s totally legitimate to do [use stock support documents], as long as they play by the rules.”

Representatives of Inova and Concerned Citizens of Broadlands, both of which oppose the application, did not return calls inquiring about their outreach strategies.

“The concept of a corporate interest defending itself by showing how much support it has happens all the time.”

— Edward Maibach, GMU Department of Communication, professor



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Crown Them Champions Once Again

Unbeaten Broad Run softball wins state title for second straight year.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The only real suspense surrounding the Broad Run High girls' softball team's run to its second Virginia State AA title last weekend in Radford was how the girls would react when they got the final out in the title game.

Yes, the championship weekend was historical, spectacular and dominant for the Spartans, who completed their second straight spring season with a perfect 29-0 record and a state title.

SOFTBALL

But it was far from suspenseful as Broad Run simply did what it has been doing all season long – taking care of business.

The spectacular Spartans, under head coach Ed Steele, advanced to the state tournament's final four by defeating New Kent High High (Bay Rivers District), 3-0, in a quarterfinals round game played in Ashburn on June 2. That win advanced Broad Run to the semifinals, which took place at Radford University last Friday. There, the Spartans easily handled Salem High (Virginia Beach), 8-0, to qualify for the following day's championship game. And in that finals game on Saturday afternoon, Broad Run made school history with a 4-0 triumph over Tunstall High (Dry Fork), securing its second consecutive state crown.

What's on the Web?

READ ABOUT BROAD RUN SOFTBALL'S SEMIS WIN OVER SALEM, AND CHECK OUT THE SPARTAN GIRLS' SOCCER TRIUMPH AT STATES.
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

When the championship game's final out occurred – a ground ball to senior first baseman Karla Powell, who fielded the ball before trotting over to put her foot on the first base bag to end the game – the Spartan players naturally jumped for glee and congratulated one another on the college softball diamond's infield. But there was not that spontaneous, 'I can't believe what just happened' kind of reaction, because, to a player, the Broad Run girls had envisioned themselves winning a second state championship way back at season's beginning in April.

Throughout the state tournament, there was never really a doubt as to Broad Run's



Coach Ed Steele points Karla Powell in the right direction during Broad Run's semifinals win over Salem last Friday afternoon at Radford University.

dominance as Steele's squad outscored its opponents, 15-0, over the three games.

"It's exciting, especially going undefeated two seasons in a row and playing with my best friends," said Powell, Broad Run's No. 3 hitter who plated the Spartans' first run on Saturday with a first inning, RBI fielder's choice that scored teammate Ashley Kramer. "It's a dream come true."

A year ago, Broad Run had defeated Tunstall in extra innings at the state semifinals behind the lights-out pitching of Broad Run pitching ace Caitlyn Delahaba. In Saturday's shutout win over the same Tunstall team for the 2008 championship, Delahaba, once again, dominated the game. The senior right hander, who had struck out 19 hitters in Friday's semifinals win over Salem (see related story on website at Connectionnewspapers.com), was pretty much just as dominating on Saturday against the Trojans as she allowed one hit (an infield single in the seventh) and fanned 14 with one walk.

"She's always pitched like that," said Broad Run junior catcher Haley Johnson, of batterymate Delahaba. "She has great speed and movement on the ball."

Delahaba, perhaps the best softball pitcher ever in Virginia High School League softball, increased her string of innings without allowing a run to 160.

JUST AS WAS the case in Friday's semifinals, the sun was out and the temperatures were in the mid 90's for Saturday's 1 p.m.

finals game.

Broad Run dampened Tunstall's hopes early on by scoring two runs in the top half of the first inning to go ahead 2-0. Just like that, the Trojans, a member of Region IV and the Piedmont District, were trailing the Spartans and the nearly unhittable Delahaba.

Throughout much of the season, Broad Run has disheartened opponents by jumping out to first inning leads and never re-

linquishing them because of its solid defense and pitching stopper. The same occurred on Saturday as fans, players and probably even the coaches realized that the game's outcome was pretty much decided based on a couple of first inning runs. After all, it was not as if Tunstall was going to have a breakout inning against the state's best pitcher.

SEE SPARTANS, PAGE 15

Ashburn Connection Athlete of the Week

June 11 Through June 17



Broad Run softball was not the only Spartan girls' team to finish the 2008 season as unbeaten state champs. The girls' soccer team, coached by Claire Collins, also earned a state crown by defeating both Hidden Valley and Courtland, respectively, in state semis and finals games last weekend.

Broad Run, which earlier in the postseason won both the Dulles District and Region II Championships as well, finished with a perfect 27-0 record. Go to connectionnewspapers.com to read about Broad Run's state championship run last weekend in Radford.

Kelly Evans of Broad Run makes her move with the ball during state playoff action last week.

SPORTS

Spartans

FROM PAGE 14

But the Spartans could not play with that mindset. Instead, they stayed focused and played solid softball the rest of the way, just as they have done all season long with Delahaba on the hill.

“That’s always been our main thing – never to lose focus,” said Johnson, of the Spartans’ mindset for games and the season as a whole. “We’re really close [as a team], so that helps our chemistry a lot.”

“I think we left a name for ourselves. We can call ourselves the ‘Fab Five.’ We’ve left a legacy at Broad Run.”

Broad Run Senior Karla Powell, on the five Spartan 12th Graders

Kramer, Broad Run’s talented senior shortstop who has been starting rallies all season long from her leadoff spot in the batting order, opened up the two-run first inning by hammering a double to the center field fence. A sacrifice bunt by senior Michelle Clohan advanced Kramer to third. Then, Powell grounded out to first base to score Kramer for the 1-0 lead. The following batter, Johnson, sent a deep fly ball into center field for a run-scoring double to make it 2-0 Broad Run.

“It was good to get ahead early,” said Johnson, of the first inning runs. “It made it easy to relax.”

Delahaba allowed a two-out walk in the bottom of the first inning before ending the inning with a strikeout.

In the second, Broad Run scored another run on an RBI groundout off the bat of Kramer. Sophomore Anna Blessing, who had been hit by a pitch to start off the inning, scored on the play to make it 3-0 Spartans.



There was lots to celebrate for the Spartans, who simply dominated their state tourney opponents at Radford University.

With a comfortable lead, Delahaba got on a roll, striking out 11 of the next 12 batters she would face over the next four innings.

In the sixth, Tunstall managed to hit the ball for groundball outs twice. In the Trojans’ final at-bats in the bottom of the seventh, senior shortstop Sarah Smith came up with Tunstall’s only hit of the game when she beat out a groundball to third base for the infield single to start the half inning.

Delahaba’s no-hit bid was gone as a result, but no one on the Broad Run side seemed to care too much as the Spartans were only three outs away from another title.

Delahaba came back to get a strikeout, a pop up and the groundball out to first baseman Powell to end the game and the season.

During postgame ceremonies, the Broad Run players were each given championship medals and the Spartans, as a team, received a state championship trophy.

There was no doubt by anyone that Broad Run was one again the decisive champion of Virginia.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Broad Run’s Karla Powell shows her emotion after scoring a run during the Spartans’ title game victory over Tunstall last Saturday. Caitlyn Delahaba (10) congratulates her teammate.

It was the final high school game for five Broad Run seniors – Delahaba, Powell, Kramer, Clohan and right fielder Kaitlyn Tiplady.

“I think we left a name for ourselves,” said Powell, of her fellow 12th graders. “We can call ourselves the ‘Fab Five.’ We’ve left a legacy at Broad Run.”

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Dreams came true for 13 Loudoun County Special Olympics athletes and their coaches at the 15th Annual Bedford Moose Softball Tournament. The Loudoun Cardinals won the gold in their division during the two-day event, held on May 17 and 18, which included 30 slow pitch teams from across the state.

The Cardinals played under blue skies at Liberty Lake Park in Bedford, Va. on Saturday where they finished 1 and 1. An action-packed opening ceremony included paratroopers, fireworks and dancing.

Spirits were high as the Cardinals practiced running and batting drills before Sunday’s games. Evan Sisto ran like Flash Gordon through the base and Tana Olson hit a plastic practice ball so hard, it split in two. During the last part of practice, rain showered the field as athletes continued getting ready for the game.

Finally the rain slowed enough for Loudoun to play the Newport News Hamsters. Cheers erupted from the Cardinals’ dugout when Zach Steinbach drove the ball over the third baseman’s head and into left field, and again when Phillip Andrews got his first hit of the season.

The Cardinals won both their games on Sunday.

“I knew when I saw our players practicing in the rain, that they were already a gold medal team,” said coach Paula Culvyhouse. “Our players’ positive attitudes and the team work of our volunteers helped us win. Special Olympics gives athletes and volunteers an opportunity to learn from each other in many ways.”

In addition to winning first place, the Cardinals enjoyed representing their county, especially Bill Mahood, who was one of six athletes chosen to help carry the Olympic torch at the opening cer-

emonies. It was a dream come true for Mahood.

The Cardinals are looking forward to the state championship on June 6 and 7 in Richmond.

Loudoun Soccer’s silver U11 girls team, the Dynamite, scored an explosive victory over Memorial Day weekend at the Manassas Bull Run Tournament. The Loudoun team tied the SYA Bombers, 1-1, beat the Ashburn Soccer Club’s Radicals, 2-1, and bested the epic Storm of Shepherdstown (West Virginia), 3-0.

The Loudoun 96G Silver met the

Clifton/Centreville-based SYA Bombers, currently ranked first in the Old Dominion Soccer League U11 G1 division, again in the final game, winning in overtime 1-0.

Loudoun Silver is a select, travel soccer team of 10 and 11 year old girls who all reside in Loudoun County, from Ashburn to

Purcellville, from Leesburg to Round Hill, from Waterford to Lansdowne.

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Challenge

FROM PAGE 6

Covanta facility in Lorton. The first place winner will receive \$1,000 not only for their school, but also a \$1,000 for themselves. The second place winner gets \$500 with a matching award for the school and third and fourth place each earn \$250 for themselves and their school.

In addition, the lessons plans that were submitted for the competition will be published for fellow teachers to use, Crivello said.

NO MATTER WHAT happens at the competition, Orr views it as a positive.

"Win or lose, I'm meeting 17 other teachers ... I get to spend a day with teachers who love what they do," Orr said. "I get to see other people do their job. Anything I see that's a keeper, I will incorporate into my class."

Orr said she plans to take everything she has learned during her three years teaching in the U.S. to Scotland. She said there is more freedom in teaching style here compared to home, but she will be able to modify her lesson plans.

One thing she will not change is her approach to teaching.

"I try to teach the way I want them to teach my daughter,"

Orr said. "You have 20 kids sitting in front of you and you don't know who they can be. They have potential and it's my job to give them every opportunity no matter what path they choose."

Turnout

FROM PAGE 5

put him on track for a big upset.

"The lower the better as far as we are concerned. ... The lower the turnout, the higher the likelihood that I or we have touched more of those voters that are coming to the polls," said Turner.

The candidate said he had guessed that about 1.5 of registered voters would participate in the primary but — at 11 a.m. on primary day — the numbers seemed to be even lower than that.

At this time, the campaign estimated that fewer than 5,000 voters were show up districtwide.

"All circumstantial evidence suggests that we are on track to have a big win tonight," said Turner.

At least one McLean resident said she had decided to vote for Turner.

"Feder lost the last time and I like Turner's resume better," said Alice Latter as she left her polling station at Langley High School.

Still, Feder remained positive about her chances the morning of the primary and said she noticed nothing out of the ordinary about the low voter turnout.

"I am confident but taking nothing for granted. ... [Off year elections] are typically lighter than we would like," she said.

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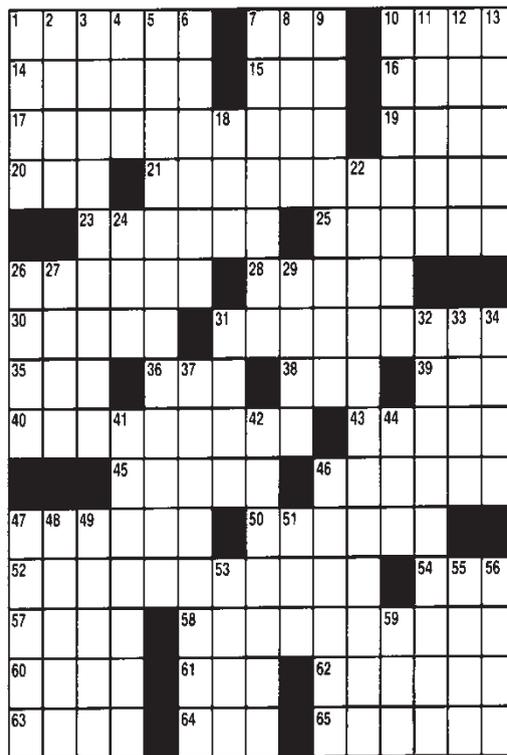
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Puzzle by A. J. Santora

ACROSS

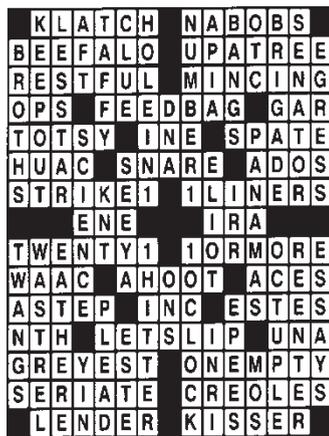
- 1 Eerie feeling
7 "Alice" spin-off
10 Badlands Natl. Park locale
14 Brightest star in Draco
15 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
16 Sound
17 Occasion to give a speech
19 Albania's last Communist president
20 Greek consonant
21 Something often at stake?
23 "I Am a Camera" setting
25 Leans (on)
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28 Of a tart fruit: Prefix
30 Mohawk River city
31 Admonition to the unhip
35 Clockmaker Terry
36 "___ Te Ching" (classic Chinese work)
38 Yemana's portrayal on "Barney Miller"

- 39 Singer Sumac
40 Free from the flesh
43 Exhortation after grace
45 "Hard Cash" author Charles
46 Time for a break
47 Blacksmiths' needs
50 Resurrect, old-style
52 Wasn't rebellious
54 Bird grp.
57 Pansophic
58 Preflight procedure
60 Alphabet book phrase
61 "___ too shabby"
62 Kind of ticket
63 Let out
64 Mil. aide
65 Dangerous dipteran

DOWN

- 1 Billet-doux beginner
2 Write with a point
3 "The Battle With the Slum" author
4 Rosemary Clooney's "Botch-___"
5 Red-carpet reception
6 Countless
7 Back
8 Miik: Prefix
9 Not many
10 Béarnaise ingredient
11 Start of a holy name
12 Fashion mode
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18 Friend of Nancy
22 Some antiques

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



'Real-time' Traffic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's what I'm hearing on the radio; on the 8s, on the 4s, pick a number, pick a station, television, too; the implication being that "real-time" is somehow new and better — and different — and to your driving advantage, than non "real-time." All of which is of great comfort to us Washington DC Metropolitan area commuters because the last thing any of us Washingtonians need is misinformation. We receive enough of it already. Moreover, given the fact that typically we are out and about attempting to go somewhere when we hear this misinformation, misinforming us as how to best get there seems contrary to the greater good.

Now, every time I hear "real-time" I can't help wondering exactly what traffic information I have been receiving for the past 30 years. Was it fake-time traffic? Was it old-tyme? (No, that's Schmidt's-brand bread.) Was it given at the right time? Was it even reported at a useful time? And at what time, and under what circumstances, did "real-time" all of a sudden become timely?

Certainly these are all questions above my pay grade, as the expression is so often heard in Washington, but somebody, somewhere has to be responsible. When I consider (shudder at the thought, actually) how much time, real or otherwise, I spend — and have spent — commuting (idling more than anything, it seems), and how frequently I have been listening to the radio — more specifically listening to what I thought were up to the minute and accurate traffic reports; and now to find out, that after all those years, all those bullets I sweated, all those bathroom breaks I couldn't make, may have all been for naught, and not because of the truth, either. But, because the traffic reporters, traffic observers, traffic readers, etc., were providing useless traffic information (but in a timely fashion of course), fictionalizing what is, for many of us, the worst part of our day; someone should suffer, other than us commuters, that is, for the unnecessary consequences of these traffic inactions.

Now I'm not naive enough to think that had the traffic reports always been in "real-time" (meaning/infering that the traffic reports are for the current commuting situation at the time the report is being given/heard), that my commuting would somehow have been drastically different. No, I'm many things, but stupid and delusional I'm not. However, as a former adolescent who grew up watching George Reeves play Superman on television — in black and white, no less — fighting for "truth, justice and the American Way," misinforming the American public in the manner and the consistency I've described seems hardly truthful, just or the American Way.

Learning that we've been deceived, (apparently) since the traffic is now "real-time" hurts. It makes me wonder, that if the American public can't be trusted enough to be given honest, accurate and timely traffic reports, of all things — for fear of whatever, then what other information have we not been given? On the one hand, it's only traffic; but on the other hand, maybe it's symptomatic of a much deeper problem. Trust is a wonderful feeling; to be sure; when you can be trusted. No matter the time.

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

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