

The Arlington Connection

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Families pan for gold at
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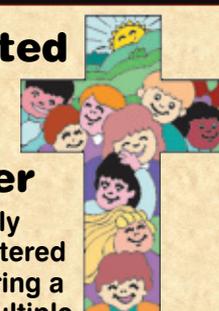
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Arlington Schools' Grades Improve

But one elementary school fails to meet federal standards for the sixth consecutive year.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

More Arlington Public Schools have met federal No Child Left Behind testing standards this year than last year, according to preliminary testing data released earlier this month.

Only nine of Arlington's 30 public schools failed to meet this year's testing standards, known as Adequate Yearly Progress or AYP, compared with 13 schools last year.

"I am pleased that more schools made AYP this year and that we continue to experience significant improvement throughout the system," Arlington Superintendent Robert Smith said in a statement.

"We're not where we're going to be but you can clearly see that teachers have done a great job in making progress."

— Yvonne Dangerfield, Hoffman-Boston Elementary School principal

But one of Arlington's schools, Hoffman-Boston Elementary, missed the AYP standards for the sixth consecutive year and will now be undergoing increased federal sanctions. The school will be subject to increased oversight from central office administrators and day-to-day decision-making could be taken away from Hoffman-Boston's principal, Yvonne Dangerfield, and given to Smith.

Mark Macekura, a special projects coordinator with Arlington Public Schools who is in charge of analyzing the AYP data, said that these test scores don't always tell the whole story of a school's progress. "To judge a school based on AYP is probably not a very useful way of looking at these schools," he said. "A school can be making a great deal of progress and still not be making that target."

Dangerfield said that her school's test scores are improving even though they did not meet the federal stan-



Hoffman-Boston principal Yvonne Dangerfield

dard. "Staff did a phenomenal job," she said. "We're not where we're going to be, but you can clearly see that teachers have done a great job in making progress."

BECAUSE Hoffman-Boston didn't meet AYP standards for the sixth consecutive year, school officials were required to institute an "alternative governance plan." This plan calls for administrators from Arlington Public Schools' central office to be involved in the day-to-day decision making at Hoffman-Boston.

Mark Johnston, Arlington Public Schools' Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, will be leading the group of administrators who will oversee Hoffman-Boston. "Ms. Dangerfield and I work together very closely," he said. "We've worked together for years. This is simply formalizing the relationship."

Johnston said that he and his staff will be participating in Hoffman-Boston's staff meetings and will be helping to develop the professional development plan for its teachers.

Johnston also said that, under this alternative governance plan for the school,



Hoffman-Boston Elementary School failed to meet federal testing standards for the sixth consecutive year.

PHOTOS COURTESY ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Smith would have the final say over any decisions. "If we come to points where there's a lack of agreement, the Superintendent would be involved," Johnston said.

But Johnston said that the new leadership structure wouldn't change much for teachers, parents and students.

"I'm not making decisions for Hoffman-Boston," he said. "If I sense or feel that things need to go in a different direction there I will make that known to the staff. If we end up moving in a direction that doesn't seem appropriate we'll ask the Superintendent for his input. This plan is responsive to the conditions at Hoffman-Boston."

Dangerfield also said that the plan will not have a big impact on day-to-day life at her school. "In terms of Hoffman-Boston, things won't really change that much," she said. "Basically we're having a great deal of support from the central office but that's not anything that's new for us."

OVERALL, Arlington Public Schools showed significant improvement over last year in the meeting of AYP. Last year, nearly half of the County's 30 public schools, including all five of its middle schools, didn't meet the federal standard. This year only

Testing Results

The following schools did not meet federal No Child Left Behind standards in these areas:

- Barcroft ES* - Math
- Claremont ES - Math
- Drew ES* - Reading, Math
- Hoffman-Boston ES* - Reading, Math
- Randolph ES* - Reading, Math
- Gunston MS - Reading, Math
- Jefferson MS - Math
- Kenmore MS - Math
- Swanson MS - Math

Note: An asterisk next to a school's name denotes that it is a Title I school, which means it has a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students. Only Title I schools are subject to federal sanctions if they do not meet No Child Left Behind standards.

nine schools missed the mark.

Macekura also said that, because AYP standards increase every year, some schools that didn't make AYP are still showing improvements. "They probably missed by a couple percentage points," he said. "They probably would have made it if they had last year's targets."

"I think it's frustrating for the schools that didn't make AYP," Macekura added. "It's frustrating for the hard work that they're doing."

Local Tax Delinquencies Spike

More than 2,000 Arlington residents and business owners didn't pay their real estate taxes on time by a June 15 deadline, the single greatest incidence of tax delinquency in County history according to Arlington County Treasurer Frank O'Leary (D). The delinquent taxes amounted to \$8,736,773 in uncollected funds for the County. As much as \$2 million of the uncollected funds were owed by businesses for commercial real estate, O'Leary said.

In the weeks following the June 15 deadline, the Treasurer's Office has been able to collect on more than \$7 million of the unpaid taxes. According to a statement, the Treasurer's Office mailed mul-

multiple delinquency notices and conducted automated phone calls to households that owed money. Additionally, O'Leary sent what he described as a "stern" letter to those who owed money and personally summoned the holders of the largest 140 debts to his office.

O'Leary attributed this spike in unpaid taxes to uncertainty in the economy. "People being laid off, hours being cut back, projects being cancelled, the fear of unemployment," he said. "In uncertain times, people try to postpone the payment of bills. In our case, I guess we just weren't a priority."

O'Leary also said that the raising of the County's real estate tax rate may have contributed to the high delinquency rate. This

year, the real estate tax rate for commercial property went up 19 percent to 97.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value. One business owner went delinquent on a \$350,000 tax bill, O'Leary said.

The Treasurer's Office also encouraged late taxpayers to enter the Taxpayer Assistance Program, which allowed them to receive a County-guaranteed loan from a local bank to pay their tax debts. For a ten percent fee, taxpayers can receive the loan from a local bank and then pay it off in six installments. "If they lack funds, the smartest thing to do is to go into this program," O'Leary said. For more information, call 703-228-3255.

-DAVID SCHULTZ

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POLITICS

Presidential Campaigns Come To Arlington

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Republican and Democratic presidential candidates, U.S. Sens. John McCain (Ariz.) and Barack Obama (Ill.), are investing lots of resources in the Old Dominion in the hopes that they can put Virginia's 13 electoral votes in their respective columns.

Arlington has already begun to see the effects of this political competitiveness. Both the McCain and Obama campaigns have set up major field offices in Arlington to coordinate their efforts in Virginia.

Raf Sanchez, a 20-year-old college student, is working as a coordinator in Obama's Arlington office, which was opened two weeks ago on the first floor of an office building near the Ballston Metro Station. He traveled here from his home in London to work on the Obama campaign.

"It matters to everyone that Obama gets elected," Sanchez said. "Europe is ready to stop hating the U.S."

Sanchez is staying in a group home in Alexandria and said that he loves doing grassroots politics in Northern Virginia. "I'm living with complete strangers," he said. "[But] Virginia is an important swing state."

Carole Foryst of Reston has volunteered for five previous presidential campaigns but she said that her involvement in the McCain campaign has been the most enjoyable.

"This is an amazing campaign compared to the others I have been in," she said. "People are very focused and very friendly. The number of volunteers that are coming in here is just waves. We have waves coming in here. There's a very good, positive energy here."

Foryst, who worked as a speechwriter for Treasury Secretary George Schulz during the Nixon administration, has been making political survey phone calls out of the McCain campaign's Arlington office every day. "I got involved because of my admiration for McCain and his ability to work in a bipartisan way," she said. "He's the man who can really bring us together and that's what I was really looking for."

Foryst also said that she was amazed at how prolific McCain's Arlington office has been in its fundraising efforts. "The money is just pouring in here," she said. "It is just unbelievable. Just from the mail ... we raised well over \$650,000 [last] Thursday."

CLARK STEVENS, the Obama campaign's spokesperson in Virginia, said that opening local offices is a way to get voters actively involved in the political process. "These offices are basically community hubs where people can go out and get the tools they need to go out and engage with their neighbors," he said.

So far, the Obama campaign has 33 field offices across Virginia, including four in the Northern Virginia areas of Centreville, Fairfax City, Mount Vernon and Arlington. Stevens said that the Arlington office has

seen a lot of activity since it opened up two weeks ago.

"We're seeing a lot of energy and excitement going on in that office," he said. "We're doing weekend canvassing where we're seeing hundreds of people come out and meeting their neighbors. We have voter registration going on every day in that office. We also have nightly phone banking. It's a great place for people to come in and learn about Senator Obama."

"We want to turn Virginia from red to blue," said Preet Kang, a volunteer from Washington D.C. who was working the phones last week at the Arlington office.

"We want to turn Virginia from red to blue."

— Preet Kang, Obama Campaign volunteer

THE MCCAIN campaign has gone one step further than Obama and has made its Arlington office the headquarters for its entire Virginia campaign. Located in a nondescript office building in Crystal City, the office also acts as the McCain campaign's headquarters for the mid-Atlantic region.

McCain spokesperson Gail Gitcho said that placing the campaign's Virginia headquarters in Arlington makes it easier to draw on the politically active volunteers of the Washington D.C. area.

"It's easy and convenient for volunteers to get involved in the campaign," she said. "That's how we based where our offices are going to be. We are opening up offices across the state to make sure that these volunteers who want to get involved have a headquarters."

So far, the McCain campaign has six offices in Virginia with two in the Northern Virginia areas of Fairfax City and Arlington.

The contrast between the Arlington offices of the McCain and Obama campaigns is stark. At McCain headquarters, staffers wear collared shirts with ties and slacks. Blue and gold campaign signs are taped to the windows along side glossy portraits of the candidate posing with his wife, Cindy, and appearing on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

"It's easy and convenient for volunteers to get involved in the campaign."

— Gail Gitcho, McCain Campaign spokesperson

COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

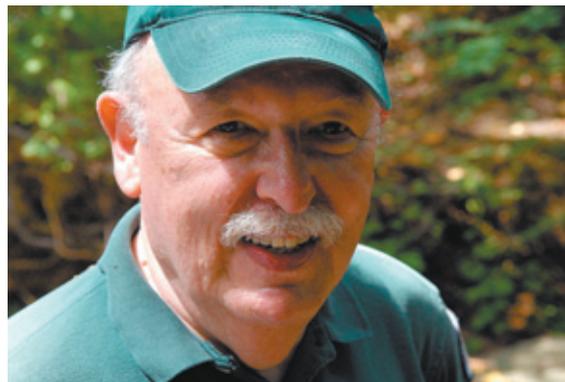


Barry Reler leads the group down the nature path to the where the creek begins to turn North.

Panning for Gold

Virginia sits near the top of the Eastern Gold Belt that stretches from Maryland and continues down to Alabama. Saturday afternoon, Gulf Branch Nature Center volunteer Barry Reler took a group of children and their parents down the creek to pan for the precious element. According to Reler, a member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club, "in 1782, Thomas Jefferson reported Gold was found in the Rappahannock, active mining in the state began in the early 1800's and continued until the Civil War." Two decades past before the mining was resumed and continued up until WWII. Upwards of 5000 oz has been found in Maryland and Virginia and shipped to the US Mint.

Reler took the group down the path from the nature center to where the creek begins to turn towards the Potomac at Chain Bridge. "Gold is usually found

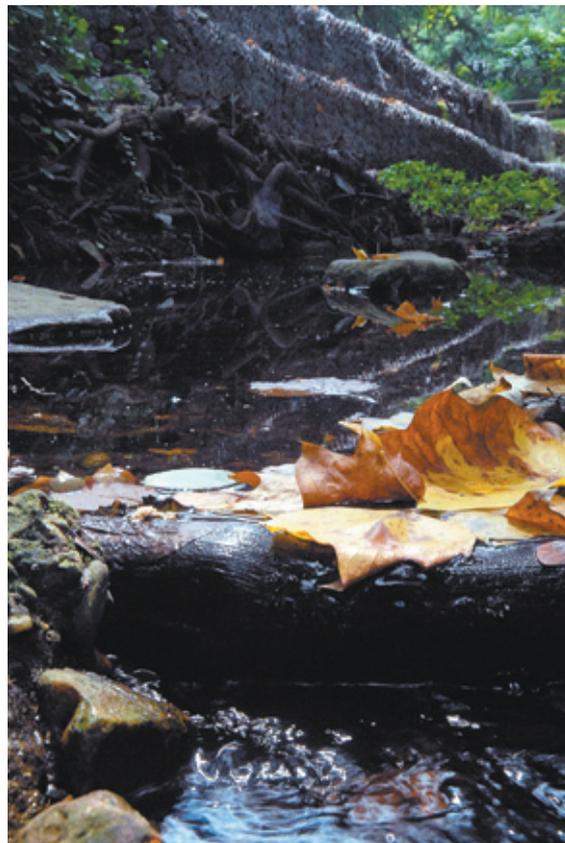


Barry Reler, a park volunteer and member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club explains that gold was formed 2 to 10 million years ago.

at the bends of creeks and rivers due to its heavy weight. Minerals such as quartz, pyrite and galena are usually found with Gold."



The children try the hand at panning for gold.



Gold is usually found in bends of creeks and rivers because of its heavy weight.

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PEOPLE

Getting to Know ... Gretchen Martin

This Arlington resident got a chance to work with priceless works of art.

Interning at the National Gallery of Art is a once in a life time opportunity. Arlington resident Gretchen Martin got that opportunity this summer when she did a nine-week stint at

the Washington D.C. art institution. Before this, she worked as a historic interpreter at the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. In an interview with the Arlington Connection, Martin talked about her

experiences at the National Gallery of Art and what it was like to work there.

What was the best part about working at the National Gallery of Art?

One of my internship responsibilities involved setting up and closing the information desks. To get to the various locations, I



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Gretchen Martin

would walk through the galleries at times when no one else was around, which was, as an art buff, a truly thrilling treat. Along with that, I was fortunate to work with a supportive group of people including the Gallery's phenomenal crew of volunteers. And finally, the Gallery provided informative sessions for the interns that exposed us to numerous aspects of museum life, including some that now seem quite intriguing to me.

Describe a typical day at the gallery for you.

I rarely experienced a "typical" day, which made my internship that much more rewarding. Each day presented new assignments and challenges, be it conducting

research for an upcoming tour or lecture, responding to public requests for information, or addressing volunteers' concerns, to name a few examples.

Was it intimidating to work alongside priceless works of art? Were you ever overwhelmed by the significance of the items in the gallery?

Working in such close proximity to the Gallery's incredible art collection proved to be more inspiring than intimidating. In some ways, I felt as though I'd come home! This isn't to suggest, of course, that I ever became unap-

SEE PEOPLE, PAGE 7

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PEOPLE

FROM PAGE 6

preciative of the art — quite the opposite. Every day that I was surrounded by such amazing paintings and sculpture reminded me that I'm definitely in the right field.

How did you get involved in art? Why do you want to pursue a career in art?

I am fascinated by the myriad stories surrounding each piece of art. Likewise, what motivates me about a career in the art world is being able to reexamine works and their stories, many that have yet to be discovered, through a new set of eyes — a postmodern lens, if you will.

You also worked at the Mount Vernon Estates as a historic interpreter. What was that like? How did working there affect your views on art?

My time at Mount Vernon impressed me with the efficacy of education departments at historic institutions. In fact, this experience opened my eyes to the world of community outreach programs.

What do you hope to be doing in five years? How about ten years? Twenty years?

I haven't a clue what five, 10 or 20 years from now will bring. If all goes according to my current aspirations, I'll be working in an art museum or gallery. In what capacity, though, I'm not yet entirely certain. If I can find a position where I'm able to make the visual arts a little more appealing, approachable and engaging for others, then I believe I'll have found my niche.

Where are you from? How old are you? What brought you to the Washington, D.C. area?

I'm originally from San Antonio, Texas. I came to Washington, D.C. because of a job I received with the federal government.

What is your favorite work of art? Why?

I couldn't even begin to pick just one work of art to call my favorite. And truthfully, I'm not sure I'd want to limit myself to that!

— DAVID SCHULTZ

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Prepare to Vote in November

Make plans now for Tuesday, Nov. 4.

You will want to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4. You'll want to be part of choosing the next president. In Virginia, you'll also choose a new U.S. senator to replace retiring John Warner (R), and you'll also vote in a contest for the U.S. House of Representatives.

To vote, you'll need to be registered. The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6.

Your vote has never counted as much as it could this fall. While Virginia has voted reliably for the Republican candidate for president for more than a generation, with hundreds of thousands of new voters, many in Northern Virginia, and Democrats winning recent statewide elections, both political parties are actively working in Virginia right now.

You'll also need to plan to spend some time at your polling place, because there is likely to be record turnout for this hotly contested election. When you go to vote, allow enough time to wait in line. Come prepared with identification, and know your rights.

Virginia voters are asked to show some form of identification when they go to the polls to vote—voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; social security card; any identification card issued by a federal, state or local government agency; or any employer identification card with a photograph.

But if you arrive at the polls without identification, you can still vote by signing a statement affirming your identity. Exception: If this is the first time you vote since registering to vote by mail, and if you did not include a copy of your ID with your application, and do not bring ID with you to vote, you cannot sign the affirmation statement; you can still vote, ask for and fill out a provisional ballot.

EXCERPTS from the State Board of Elections:
As a Virginia Voter, you have the following

rights:

- ❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials
- ❖ To vote if you have registered at your current address at least 29 days before Election Day.
- ❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.
- ❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.
- ❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate if the candidate of your choice is not on the ballot (except in party primaries).
- ❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.
- ❖ To have an officer of election or other person help you vote if you are physically disabled or unable to read or write. Blind voters may have anyone who is not their employer or union representative assist them.
- ❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID.
- ❖ To vote a Provisional Ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted. See "Provisional Ballots" below.
- ❖ To bring your minor child (age 15 or younger) into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.
- ❖ To vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close.
- ❖ To cast an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.
- ❖ To register to vote absentee in Virginia if you are a U.S. Citizen overseas and your last residence in the U. S. was in Virginia, or you are a Virginia resident away in the military.

IF YOU FEEL your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident before the polls have closed, preferably while you are still there. Contact

Resister, Vote

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6. To register to vote, download a form from:

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office. You can also register in person during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered.

IN ARLINGTON:

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To find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information."

Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day.

the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via email at info@sbe.virginia.gov.

The Voter Registrar will investigate your case and may be able to resolve the problem immediately.

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated or may be violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

Don't forget that you also have responsibilities as a voter, including:

- ❖ To treat the election officials with courtesy and respect.
- ❖ To keep your voter registration information up-to-date with your current address.
- ❖ To ask for help if you do not know how to use the voting equipment or have other questions about the voting process.
- ❖ To check your ballot for correctness before casting it. Once your ballot is cast, you cannot be given another ballot even if you think you voted incorrectly.
- ❖ To ask the election official to call the General Registrar's office before you leave the polling place if you have problems regarding your eligibility to vote or the casting of your ballot.

Country Needs Leadership on Global Warming

BY U.S. REP. JAMES P. MORAN
D-8

Over a year ago, the Supreme Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the express authority to regulate greenhouse gases as air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The Court further directed the EPA to decide whether the public health is being harmed by greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA had a historic opportunity to tackle head-on one of the greatest threats to our existence—global warming. Instead they balked

under pressure from the administration, concluding the problem is so complex and controversial that it cannot be resolved.

Of particular concern to EPA are the costs to the economy. That's reasonable. They caution, "The potential regulation of greenhouse gases under any portion of the Clean Air Act could result in an unprecedented expansion of EPA authority that would have a profound effect on virtually every sector of the economy and touch every household in the land."

But how can a problem as threatening as global warming be addressed without profoundly af-

fecting virtually every sector of the economy and touching every household? We are all responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, from the fossil-fuel-based electricity we use to cool our homes and businesses, to the gasoline that powers our vehicles and transports our consumer goods. Of course there will be costs, and virtually everyone will have to bear them.

But the consequences of the kind of inaction endorsed by the EPA are much greater. In a recent speech, Dr. James Hansen, the nation's foremost authority on climate change, warned in vivid detail that our climate is nearing a

dangerous tipping point and the elements of a global cataclysm are assembling. According to Hansen, arctic sea ice is melting, exposing darker ocean, which melts even more ice. Sea levels are predicted to rise at least two meters this century, displacing hundreds of millions of people. Arid subtropical climate zones have already expanded by about 250 miles, endangering native plant and animal species. If we allow this trend to continue, our arctic and polar species will disappear and other flora and fauna interdependent on their

SEE COMMENTARY, PAGE 9

ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Newspaper of Arlington
A Connection Newspaper

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COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 8

survival may also perish. Mountain glaciers, the source of water for hundreds of millions of people, will disappear. Ocean acidification will destroy coral reefs and the chain of sea life they support.

More immediate risks to the health of Americans would also occur due to a warming climate. These include more heat-related deaths, more heart and lung diseases, an increase in water- and food-borne illnesses, and health problems related to hurricanes, extreme precipitation and wildfires. Generally speaking, an increasingly harsh climate would greatly degrade our quality of life.

Locally, the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem is at particular risk from this warming phenomenon. A study by the National Wildlife Federation examined the effects on the Bay of a sea level rise of about two feet, less than half of what Dr. Hansen predicts. Maps accompanying the report show a shoreline that by 2051 is significantly eroded, and by 2100 is, in some areas, largely unrecognizable. By the end of the century, ocean beaches are predicted to decline by 58 percent and estuarine beaches by 69 percent. Wide-

spread shifts in ecosystem composition and the regional food web will place hundreds of species of fish, invertebrates, birds, and other animals in danger. The effect on homes and businesses in coastal communities would be devastating.

Twenty years have passed since Dr. Hansen first testified before Congress on global warming, warning that the Earth had entered a long-term warming trend and that human-made greenhouse gases were responsible. Dr. Hansen now tells us that the safe level of atmospheric carbon dioxide is no more than 350 parts per million and may be less. The current level is 385 ppm and rising about 2 ppm per year. He warns that a level of no more than 350 ppm is still feasible, but just barely – time is running out.

Maybe EPA is correct that regulation under the Clean Air Act is not the best approach to addressing climate change. But what alternatives are the Agency tasked with protecting the environment offering? What is needed from the President and his environmental experts is leadership, not contorted efforts to delay action while

SEE COMMENTARY, PAGE 15

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Upcoming Community Events:	Service Times:
<p style="text-align: center;">September 13 Spaghetti Dinner / Talent Show 6:00 p.m. The Arlington Youth Group will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Suggested Donation: \$5 per plate</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday: Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p>

Shuttles run Sunday mornings from Clarendon Station—see our website for details

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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Soloist At IOTA

Erin McKeown has been playing guitar for a few years and will be performing solo. Her favorite place to play is in front of an enthusiastic crowd, and mentions that no one can mistake her voice for someone else's. She will be at IOTA on Thursday, Sept. 4.

Introduce yourself or the band:

Hi, I'm Erin McKeown, and I am performing solo at IOTA.

How did you get your start in music and how long have you been performing?

I grew up in Fredericksburg, Va. playing piano, but only really got into music when I started playing guitar at 12. I had my first real performance when I was 18.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

I have many, but to pick a couple: sitting around at summer camp as a teenager singing songs with my friends. Or getting to share some very big stages with some very big heroes of mine.

Where is your favorite place to play, either publicly or personally?

I like any room that is filled beyond capacity with a hungry and enthusiastic audience.

Best compliment about a performance?

That I was myself.

What is your favorite piece of music and why?

I like a lot of music without words. Instrumental music lets me be with my own thoughts but with a soundtrack.

Describe your sound:

Especially solo, I mix a lot of different styles into a unique sound of my own. You'll never mistake my voice for anyone else's.

SEE NIGHTLIFE, PAGE 13

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LITERATURE

Legal Thriller Ends In Noose

A local lawyer's first novel centers on the trial and execution of Saddam Hussein.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

The tumultuous trial and chaotic execution of Saddam Hussein were so surreal that, at times, they seemed to be chapters straight out of a novel.

So it should come as no surprise that Chris Leibig, an attorney with an Alexandria-based law firm, has written a new legal thriller set in Hussein's murky final days.

Leibig's novel, "Saving Saddam," follows the life of Malcolm X Heinlein, a public defender in his mid-30's who is chosen to represent one of Hussein's former body doubles.

Heinlein meets with Ayesha

**"I thought that this trial in Baghdad is going to be something completely strange."
— Chris Leibig**

Qaddafi, the lawyer and daughter of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi who was to have represented Hussein, and uncovers a political controversy that eventually leads him to risk his own life for his client.

Leibig, who lives in Arlington and was a former public defender in Arlington County, spoke in an interview about how he came up with the idea for the book and how the writing of the book influenced his opinion of the former Iraqi dictator.

Why Saddam? What was your fascination with him?

I'm always looking for some idea that might be interesting to people for a novel. But what I first noticed about it was that I thought was fascinating when I heard that Ayesha Qaddafi was going to be one of his lawyers, which ended up not happening. So I just started practicing writing a story about that because I thought that was just totally bizarre. Then after that I turned it into something else. That was the first thing where I thought that this trial in Baghdad is going to be something completely strange. Although in the end, it really hardly got any attention at all.

Has your opinion of the whole series of events surrounding his trial changed as a result of writing this book?

No. It's just a novel so everything

in it is made up. I learned more about it from writing it but my opinion probably would have been the same. I have no major opinion on it. Obviously, he was guilty of atrocities and deserved to be punished. Nothing about the book calls that into doubt. It was just a topic that seemed like it could make an interesting current events novel.

Are you concerned that people might see the book and take the title – "Saving Saddam" – as meaning that you're sympathetic towards him?

If you read it you can see that it's not. But somebody might think that by reading the title.

What is the overall message of your book? What does your book say about U.S. involvement in Iraq?

I'd say there's not really an overriding message. It's really a legal thriller about a trial that happens to be that trial. There's not a political message in it. I just hope people would think it was interesting.

When did you get the idea to write this book?

I've been trying to write books for a while. I thought of the idea

in 2006 when the Saddam Hussein trial was going on and it was starting to get really strange ... I just started working on it and then I got busy with work so I abandoned it for six months or more. When the trial ended and they had that whole video with the hanging that was so bizarre, an editor that was helping me suggested that I pick it up again. So I spent a month trying to crank it out and finished it in March of 2007.

How long did it take you to write the book, overall?

It probably took me three months when I first started it. Then I stopped and picked it up again and then probably another two months.

Had you ever written a book before?

I'd written a novel before but nothing every happened with it. I still have it. I wrote it in 2004.

What was the topic of your first book?

The topic of the first book is about a group of kids who get in trouble and get put on trial for murder when they're in high school. One of the kids winds up being a lawyer and has to do a case in the exact same courtroom where he had previously been on trial.

How much of ["Saving Saddam"] is autobiographical? How much of Malcolm X Heinlein is based on you?

Really, it's not based on me. To be honest, I was a public defender once. So you take some knowledge from that. Anybody that's trying to write one of their first nov-

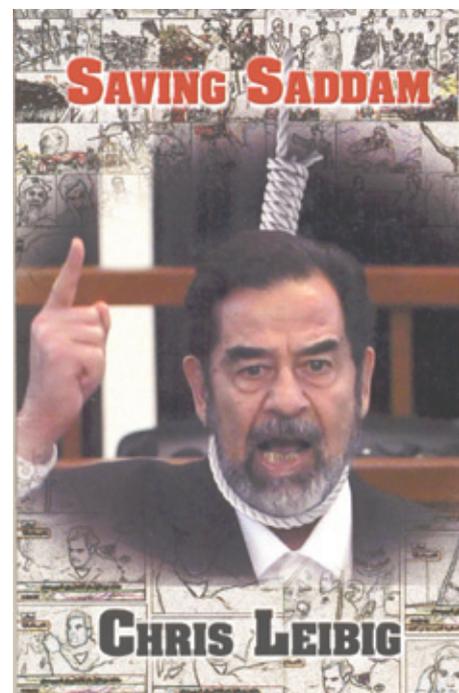


PHOTO COURTESY ARTNIK BOOKS

The cover of Chris Leibig's new novel, "Saving Saddam."

els, it's hard not to make it about the topic you know about. But the character is not me.

In the opening chapter of the book, Heinlein engages in some questionable legal practices [during a sentencing] where he tries to introduce polygraph evidence into a trial. Is this something you've seen someone else do? Is this something you've done?

I've never done that. It's something that comes up occasionally but that's just made up. The idea of having a sentencing hearing where you don't have much to argue really happens. But that little incident is made up.

How much of your experience as a public defender informs your writing?

The two novels I've tried to write, and I'm working on another one, all involve that sort of thing. So probably a lot.

What was that like, having to defend a lot of these clients who you knew were guilty but you still had to argue their case?

Being a public defender is really the most honorable thing you can do as a lawyer. Those people really need a good defense. The system is really a lot better when there are good public defenders. It's something that I think most people who do that job are really proud of. It's not something they're doing just to get a paycheck.

Do you ever watch any of those legal shows on TV? Do you think they're accurate?

I don't watch that many of them but they're all really well done. Some of the scenarios are pretty realistic. But really they're just for fun.

Yeah. They can sort of stretch situations sometimes.

Of course. Just like the novel.

ARLINGTON CONNECTION ♦ AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 ♦ 11

CALENDAR

Know of something missing from our community entertainment calendar? Send it to [The Arlington Connection](mailto:theArlingtonConnection@connectionnews.com), e-mail it to arlington@connectionnews.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTING:

See "Art at the Library" at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., through Sept. 30. Art by Noah Williams, George Van Dyke and Sherrill Anne Gross. Free. 703-228-5996.

ONGOING:

Customers at **Dogma Dog Bakery** in Arlington can "vote" by choosing dog treats named for their favorite presidential contender. A weekly tally of sales will be kept above the counter.

The **Arlington Artists Alliance** "Fall Colors Art Show" will be at the Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane from Oct. 1 through Dec. 1. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com for more.

The **Arlington Farmers' Market** takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon year round. Located at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for more on the market and vendors.

The **Columbia Pike Farmers Market** is located in Pike Park, corner of S. Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike. Open Sundays through November from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free.

Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road, presents "Unlocking the Secrets of Our Living Planet: A Guided Hike at Potomac Overlook" at 2 p.m. on **alternating Saturdays and Sundays**. \$3/person and reservations can be made at Potomac@nvrpa.org or 703-528-5406.

Weekly Farmers Markets at Ballston's Welburn Square, between N. Stuart & N. Taylor Streets across from the Ballston Metro station. The markets will operate every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Oct. 17, except for July 4. For directions and further information, visit www.ballstonfarmersmarket.blogspot.com or call 703-528-3527.

Enjoy **Roslyn Restaurants & Rhythms** on Fridays from 5-6:30 p.m. at Tivoli Restaurant, Sundays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Piola and Mondays from 5-6:30 p.m. at Café Asia. Free.

There are concerts in **Welburn Square** on Fridays along with Friday nights at Lubber Run Amphitheatre. There are **James Bond Film Festivals** on Mondays in Crystal City and Fridays in Rosslyn through September.

For more information on all of these events and more visit www.arlingtonarts.org or 703-228-6966.

Connect with people and the great outdoors with "Meet Me on Sunday...at Potomac Overlook!" series. The event takes place on Sunday afternoons between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park located at 2845 N. Marcey Road, Arlington. For more information, contact Potomac

Overlook Regional Park at 703-528-5406 or potomac@nvrpa.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27

Music Performance. The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform at 8 p.m. at Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial Drive. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Slither Hither. 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children age 3-5 can learn about snakes through stories and more. \$3/child. 703-228-3403 to register.

Civil War Discoveries: Camp Life. 10 a.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Children ages 7-12 can learn about camp life and the items that soldier's carried with them. \$5/person. 703-243-4342.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

Music Production. 4 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Teens can learn the process of making music. Free. 703-228-7783.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "Plumed Serpent" by D.H. Lawrence. Free. 703-228-7689.

Movie Watch. 1 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "August Rush." Free. 703-228-0032.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

Wine Tasting. 6:30 p.m. at Willow Restaurant, 4301 N. Fairfax Drive. Enjoy dinner with wine. \$95/person. www.willowva.com or 703-465-8800 for reservations.

Music Performance. Solas, a Celtic band, will perform at 8 p.m. at



PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Capital Area Bluegrass and Old-time Music Association gather at the Lyon Park Community Center for an informal jam session. The group has gathered at Lyon Park on the second and fourth Sundays of every month for the past 30 years, rain or shine, to play old fashioned, acoustic music on banjos, guitars, mandolins and other instruments. For more information, visit www.caboma.org.

Roslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent St. \$40/person. For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com. Information at www.planetarlington.com or 703-228-1850.

Music Performance. The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will perform at 8 p.m. at Air Force Memorial, One Air Force Memorial

Drive. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Stop in for Stories. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Central Youth Services, 1015 N. Quincy St. All ages can stop in for crafts, songs, stories and more. Free. 703-228-5946.

End of Summer Potluck & Bingo.

Noon-2:45 p.m. at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Bring a favorite salad dish to share, listen to music and bingo. Free. Contact the center to RSVP.

Movie Watch. 1 p.m. at Shirlington Branch Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Teens and tweens can watch "Spider Man 2." Free. 703-228-0032.

Insect Orchestra Campfire. 8 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can enjoy campfire activities, games, guests and more. \$3/person. 703-228-6535 to register.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

World Music Festival. 4-10 p.m. at Netherlands Carillon, beside the Iwo Jima Memorial. Hear music, browse crafts and more. Free. Visit www.planetarlington.com or 703-228-1850.

MONDAY/SEPT. 1

Labor Day.
Solar System Searchers. 7 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Families with children ages 7 and up can learn about the planets, spaceships and robots out in the sky. \$2/person. 703-228-3403 to register.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

Library Art Show. 9 a.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. See paintings by Noah Williams and more. Free. 703-228-5996.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

Performance. Isabella Chester will perform at Lebanese Taverna Restaurant, 5900 Washington Blvd., from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Visit www.lebanesetaverna.com or 703-841-1502.

Adult Bird Walk. 8:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults can take an informal walk through the parks in search of birds. Free. 703-228-6535 to register.

Wild Ones: Do Animals Have

Homework? 3:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 6-10 can learn about the animals that need to be taught skills to survive. \$3/child. 703-228-3403 to register.

Lost Songs of Broadway. 8:30 p.m. at Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. \$30/person. Hear music by Will Gartshore, Kimberly Sherbach and more. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-7328.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 4

Music Production. 4 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Teens can learn the process of making music. Free. 703-228-7783.

Dance Performance. Karen Reedy Dance company will perform at 6 p.m. on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage. Free. Visit www.reedydance.com for more.

Lost Songs of Broadway. 8:30 p.m. at Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. \$30/person. Hear music by Will Gartshore, Kimberly Sherbach and more. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-7328.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. See "Picturing Politics 2008: Artists Speak to Power" at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd from Aug. 15 through Sept. 27. See work by Rex Well. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or 703-248-6800.

Stop in for Stories. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Central Youth Services, 1015 N. Quincy St. All ages can stop in for crafts, songs, stories and more. Free.

703-228-5946.

Dance Performance. Karen Reedy Dance company will perform at 6 p.m. on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage. Free. Visit www.reedydance.com for more.

Lost Songs of Broadway. 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. \$30/person. Hear music by Will Gartshore, Kimberly Sherbach and more. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-7328.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Music Performance: Roslyn Jazz Festival 1-7 p.m. at Gateway Park, N. Lynn Street and Lee Highway

Centennial of Military Aviation. Enjoy a day-long open house at Fort Myer. Celebrate the 100-year anniversary. Free. Visit www.fmmc.army.mil or 703-696-3283.

Lost Songs of Broadway. 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at Signature's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. \$30/person. Hear music by Will Gartshore, Kimberly Sherbach and more. Visit www.signature-theatre.org or 703-573-7328.

Author Signing. 11 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 2800 Clarendon Blvd. Patricia Santana will sign copies of "Ghosts of El Grullo." Free. 703-248-8244.

Civitan Garage Sale and Flea Market. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at garage built over I-66 at N. Quincy Street.

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 14

Nightlife

FROM PAGE 10

Where have you toured?

All over the US, many, many times. Europe, the UK and Ireland a lot. I am dying to go to Asia and Africa.

Anything special about the upcoming show?

I've just finished recording a new record, and I don't often play solo, so I'll be debuting lots of new songs.

Future plans:

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Browse a variety of items including books, dvds and more. Free. 202-646-4507.
Shakin' and Quakin'. 1 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 6-12 can learn about the earth forces through games, crafts and more. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-338-6535.
Back to School Campfire. 7 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families can enjoy guests, treats and more. \$3/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Dog Days. Noon-4 p.m. at any NVRPA water park, including Great Waves at Cameron Run and Upton Hill in Arlington. \$5/dog. Dog must have current license and rabbies vaccination. Visit www.nvrpa.org for more.
Freedom Walk. 9 a.m. at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Honor the victims of Sept. 11. Register online at www.americasupportsyou.mil.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8

Music Production. 4 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St. Teens can learn the process of making music. Free. 703-228-7783.
Arlington History Bike Tour. Meet 9 a.m. at Ballston Metro Station. Bring lunch and water and bike anywhere from 1-23 miles visiting Four Mile Run, rose gardens and more. \$2/nonmember. 703-243-0179.
Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Discuss "In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India" by Edward Luce. Free. 703-228-5945.
Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Westover Library. Discuss "The Diagnosis: A Novel" by Alan Lightman. Free. 703-228-5261.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 9

Opening Reception. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. See paintings by Noah Williams and more. Free. 703-228-5996.
Birding Trip to Bombay Hook. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can search for birds at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. \$25/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.
Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.
Book Discussion. 1:30 p.m. at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive. Discuss "You Remind Me of Me" by Dan Chaon. Free. 703-228-7762.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.
Gemstone Club: Sapphire. 2:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 7-11 can take one home. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.
Monarch Magic. 3:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Preschoolers can learn about the monarch butterfly. \$3/child. To register, 703-228-6535.
Butterflies of the Fort Smith Meadow. 4 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Children ages 6-11 can look at butterflies and moths. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-243-4342.

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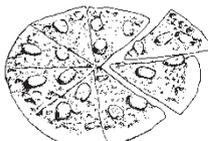
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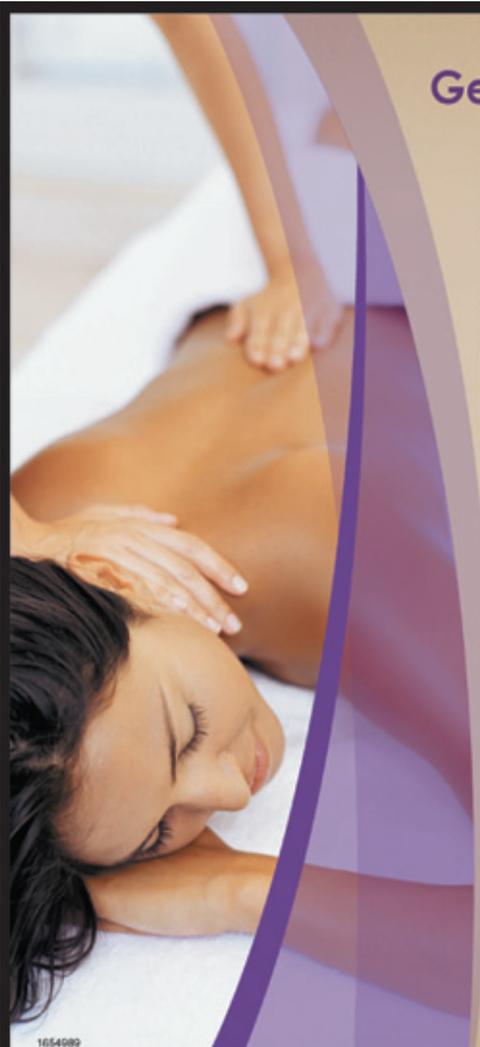
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COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 8

accommodating the profit motives of the corporations benefiting from the status quo. It has been 31 years since President Carter showed such leadership in a speech urging Americans to stop wastefully consuming energy and plundering the environment in search of declining supplies of oil and natural gas, and to accept the challenge of investing in alternative energy sources.

Vice President Gore now estimates the cost of transforming the nation to clean electricity sources at \$1.5 trillion to \$3 trillion in public and private money over the course of 30 years. "This is an investment that will pay itself back many times over," he says. "It's an expensive investment but not compared to the rising cost of continuing to invest in fossil fuels." It is certainly a better investment than the estimated \$3 trillion we will spend all told on the Iraq war.

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Welcome to the 2008 Connection Pigskin Preview. In this special section, you will find team breakdowns, as well as a glance around the region, a recap of last year's sanding and predictions for some week one match-ups. For a complete look at the football landscape, visit our Web site at www.connectionnewspapers.com. Special thanks to Robbie Hammer, Craig Sterbutzel, Louise Krafft and John Smith.

—ERIC J. GILMORE, MARK GIANNOTTO AND RICH SANDERS

Yorktown Patriots

Head Coach: Bruce Hanson, 24th year.

Career Record: 147-100

2007 Record: 5-6 overall, 4-2 National District (lost in Div. 5 playoffs)

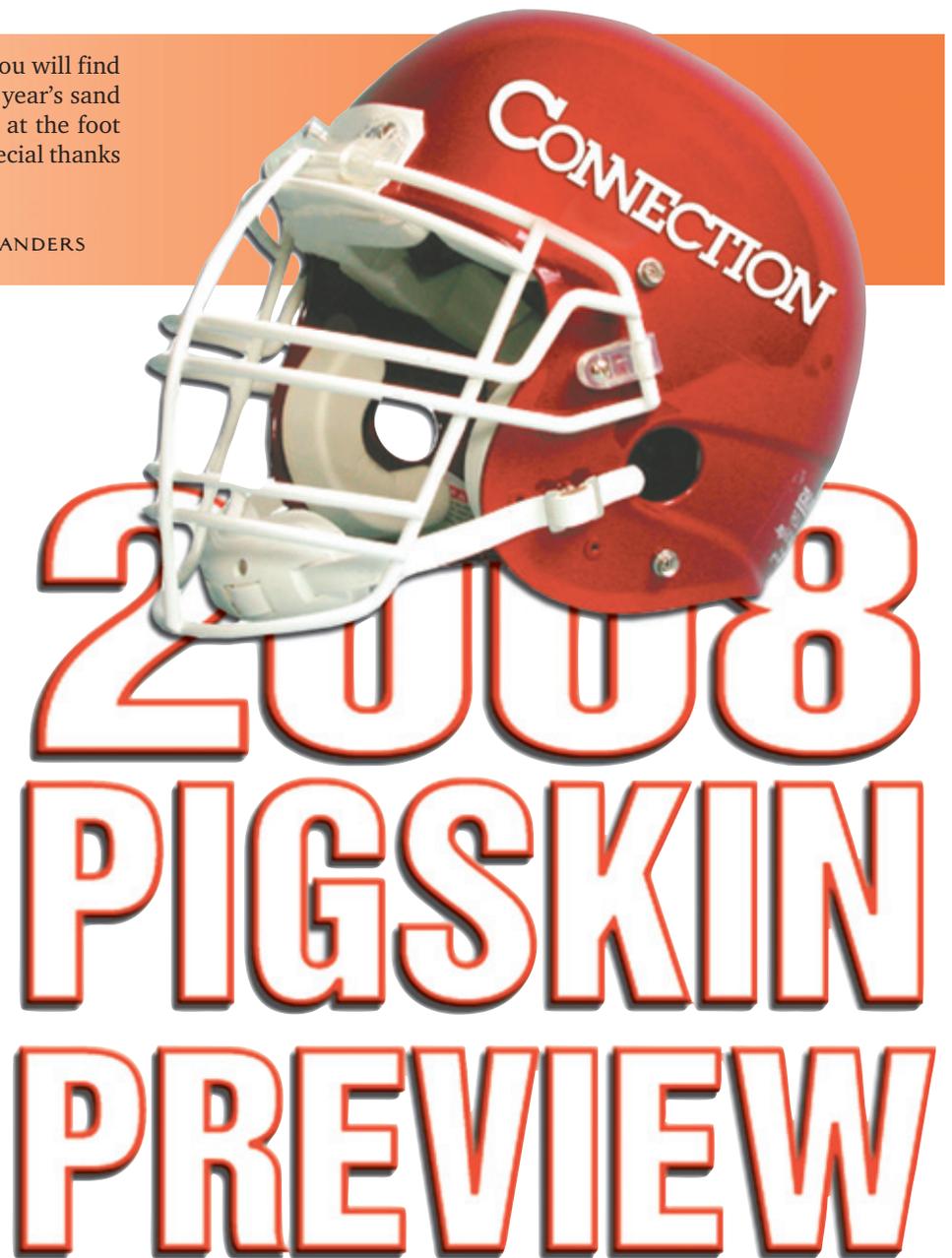
Returning Starters: three offense, five defense

Key Losses: TE/LB Chris Dola; QB/DB Tim Reynolds; RB/CB Ian Borthwick; TE/DE Max Ross; C/DT PJay Shuey; OT/DT Andy Samora; WR/S Tim Batol

Top Returners: ATH Kyle Toulouse, Sr., 6-1, 180; RB/CB Jared Smith, Sr., 5-8, 170; OT/DT Mike Schmidt, Sr., 6-2, 210; DE Derrick Stottler, Sr., 6-7, 210; FB/LB Kenny Bailey, Sr., 6-1, 180.

Fun Fact: The Patriots have not had a regular season losing record since 1995 and last won the Div. 5 Northern Region title in 1999. Prior to 2005, the

Coach's Comment: "We were the sixth seed last year. We've made it to the playoffs a lot of times in my career, but last year we only made it because of the expanded format...I think that we're going to be a team that is in every game. We play a tough schedule but I think we're going to be a tough ballgame for people. If things fall right, we could be a contender for the district."



Washington-Lee Generals

Head Coach: Josh Shapiro, second year.

Career Record: 4-6

2007 Record: 4-6 overall, 3-3 National District

Returning Starters: five offense, five defense

Key Losses: FB/LB Joe Pricone; WR/DB Daryl Carpenter; WR/DB Mustapha Jammeh; OL/DL Mahmood Bel-Hadh; TE/LB Tony Austidillo.

Top Returners: FB/LB Rock Battle, Jr., 6-0, 210; QB/WR/LB Karl Lendenmann, Jr., 6-0, 185; RB/LB Keith Johnson, Sr., 6-0, 190; WR/DB Rob Hemstreet, Sr., 5-8, 160; OL/DE Andrew McDaniel, Sr., 6-0, 265; OT/DT Conner Sharp, Sr., 6-3, 275.



Fun Fact: With a 21-14 victory over McLean, the Generals ended a three-year drought of winning a non-district game. The Generals had a three-game winning streak in 2007, and got nudged for the playoffs. Had Washington-Lee won two more games, it would have their first winning season since 1993. The last time the Generals won the district title was in 1975.

Wakefield Warriors

Head Coach: Keith Powell, second year.

Career Record: 2-8

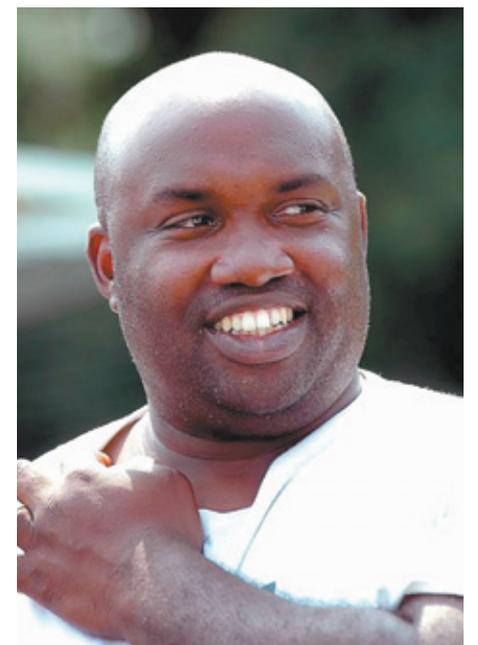
2007 Record: 2-8 overall, 2-4 National District

Returning Starters: seven offense, eight defense

Key Losses: RB/FS John Logan; RB/DB Cardell Haskins; OT/DE D'Vaughn Bell; DB Michael Tucker.

Top Returners: Johnathan Ford, Sr., 6-5, 190; QB/WR Andre Allen, Sr., 6-4, 205; RB/LB Romeo Goffney, Sr., 5-7, 205; OT/LB Curtis Smith, Sr., 6-0, 185; PK Roderick Likonko, Sr., 6-0, 175.

Fun Fact: Wakefield, unfortunately, is one of the most consistent teams in the state over the past eight years, actually ranking 10th. The Warriors won three games four times (2000, 2001, 2006, 2007) and one game three separate seasons (2002, 2003, 2005). They went winless in 2004.



A Coaching Establishment

Long-tenured coaches are rare — but highly successful.

By ERIC J. GILMORE
THE CONNECTION

Twenty-eight seasons ago, Vaughn Lewis, Mike Skinner, Dale Eaton and Gerry Pannoni were all neophyte Groveton assistants serving under Chip Armstrong, a then-recent high school graduate. It was so long ago that Lewis, the last coach at Groveton before it merged with Fort Hunt to form West Potomac in 1985, had to dig out the championship plaque just to jog his memory of who his boss was.

Being a full-time high school football coach is a job that is an annual commitment. So it's hard to blame Lewis, who has been coaching for more than a quarter-century, for blending seasons together.

"We were all coaching together," Lewis said of his colleagues who all

"It has gone from rock 'em sock 'em with who is bigger, stronger football to spreading it out, throwing the football more and trying to create running space."

—Vaughn Lewis, Edison head coach

became successful head coaches. "That was special because we were all fairly young."

A mere generation later, Lewis and many of the "old guard" are still around, having transitioned from eager assistants and coordinators into seasoned head coaches. But more than seniority and even more than X's and O's, the few remaining Northern Virginia treasures have continued to hover on the sidelines on Friday nights.

There is no instruction manual for high school football coaches, though they appear to all be a similar breed — tough-nosed, no-nonsense, fear-striking massive men. But aside from their ear-piercing whistles, the tutoring of teenagers and demand for discipline, all have done what quality coaches do. Gain respect. And win.

Bruce Hanson, the Yorktown head coach since 1981, epitomized his coaching passion when his Patriots squeaked through another win over archrival Washington-Lee at the conclusion of the 2007 regular season.



Westfield coach Tom Verbanic will have to rebuild after completing Westfield's second undefeated state championship run in 2007.

Hanson's loyal assistants had already carpooled over to his house, ready to decompress and dissect film, and yet the Northern Region's longest-tenured coach was still conversing candidly with two local sportswriters among sweaty socks.

"We're hoping to get back up," Hanson said Monday, reiterating the same message he made before bowing out to Lewis' senior-led Edison team in the 2007 playoffs.

A few weeks earlier, Lewis' Eagles had overpowered Washington-Lee, a district foe during a cold, sputtering November rainstorm. Lewis, and his ever-

supporting wife — an absolute essential — were the last two to be pried from the field, ignoring the miserable weather to chat more Northern Region football.



West Springfield should be one of the best teams in the Northern Region this season.

THE GAME HAS EVOLVED. But it's clearly still dominated by experience. Any of the long-tenured head coaches, West Springfield's Bill Renner, Annandale's Dick Adams, Robinson's Mark Bendorf and Westfield's Tom Verbanic, along with Hanson and Lewis, will admit the schemes vary drastically from the mid-to-late 1980s when wishbone and traditional triple-option offenses were the norm, as teams tried to overpower opponents with muscle and brute force. "The main change (since I started coaching in the area) is the game itself has changed a lot," Lewis said. "It has gone from rock 'em sock 'em with who is bigger, stronger football to spreading it out, throwing the football more and trying to create running space."

The spread schemes, which accentuates athletes' speed in space, is the rage as West Springfield, Westfield and T.C. Williams now employ varying degrees of pass-happy



Gerry Pannoni heads into year two at Centreville, but is no stranger to the area.

offenses.

"It all depends on how your kids fit," Lewis said. "We still ran the I-formation five years ago because we had a 225-pound tailback and some big boys in the trenches... The last four years we've had more athletes on the squad. It's only been the past five years we've gone spread or no huddle."

COACHES CARRY CREDIBILITY, especially the ones that have lingered. In the two Northern Region final games last season, there were nearly 80 years worth of head coaching experience, with Renner (Mount Vernon, Langley and West Springfield) facing Verbanic (Fairfax, Westfield) and Mickey Thompson (Park View/Sterling, Stone Bridge) clashing with Lewis (Groveton, Edison and Jefferson) for the third straight season.

Lewis' former Groveton assistant, Mike Skinner, took Centreville to four straight

SEE COACHING, PAGE 19

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

SPORTS: PIGSKIN PREVIEW

Northern Region at a Glance

National District

Edison



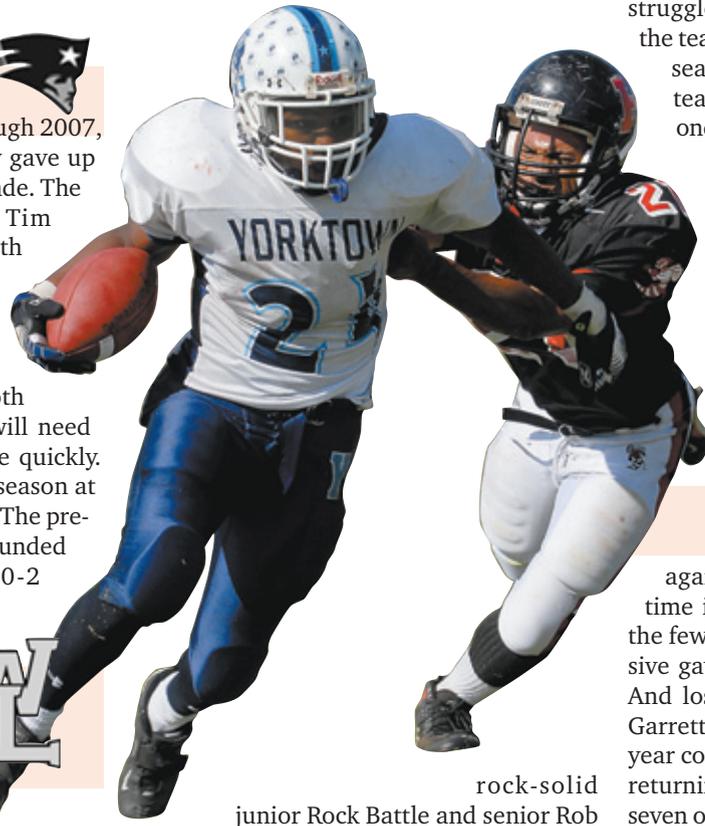
The Edison Eagles are the back-to-back National District champs and veteran coach Vaughn Lewis looks to have another solid squad. Gone are 28 seniors, including free safety Drew Baldwin (Yale), quarterback Ben Barber (Virginia Tech) and defensive back Kevin Carter (Fordham), who helped to score a school-record 498 points last season, but junior Levi Barber and senior Corey Washington should shoulder the offensive load. Massive offensive lineman Frank Figueroa (verballed to Penn State) will lead the offensive line, while seniors Josh Blair and Stephon Robertson will lead the defense. Edison — the Division 5 region champs in 2006 — will be tested early with three Patriot District teams to open the season.

Yorktown last year was no fluke.

Yorktown



The Yorktown Patriots had a rough 2007, especially on defense where they gave up 236 points — the highest this decade. The Patriots replace quarterback Tim Reynolds, but should be fine with shifty senior Kyle Toulouse manning the Wing-T. Senior running back Jared Smith provides speed in the backfield, but with only two all-district players last year — both of who graduated — Yorktown will need to the younger players to mature quickly. The Patriots finished the regular season at 5-5 for the third time this decade. The previous two times — Yorktown rebounded with solid 7-3 (2001) and 10-2 (2003) records.



struggled to change the losing culture — the team has gone 15-62 over the last eight seasons — while fighting injuries. The team improved, going 3-7 for the second straight year and scored 195 points — the highest this decade. Now, the Warriors will depend on rangy quarterbacks Andre Allen and Jonathan Ford, both of who stand over 6-foot-4. With senior Romeo Goffney in the backfield, Wakefield should have enough firepower to contend with fellow Arlington schools Yorktown and Washington-Lee.

Mount Vernon



The Mount Vernon Majors should give Edison a scare for the first time in four years with head coach Tom Glynn in his fourth season. The Majors, who run a lethal triple option, tasted the postseason last year, and should be one of the top teams in Division 5. Starting quarterback Brian Greene returns as do four massive offensive linemen, including 6-foot-6, 325-pound Zach Quigley. The Majors will have to replace its four all-district players, but with linebacker Kyle Ricks returning and one of the top junior varsity teams last year, Mount Vernon should prove that its 29-point blasting of

Washington-Lee



The Washington-Lee Generals took strides under coach Josh Shapiro, winning four games for first time in four years. Now, the Generals are eyeing the Division 5 playoffs for the first time in two decades. Even sweeter would be a win against rival Yorktown, which hasn't happened since 1982. Washington-Lee replaces Alex Wicks (1,253 passing yards, seven touchdowns) with junior Karl Lendenmann. Senior running back Keith Johnson (five touchdowns) is the team's leading returning rusher, while

rock-solid junior Rock Battle and senior Rob Hemstreet return defensively. With a weak non-district slate, the Generals could easily be 3-1 heading into a Sept. 26 showdown with Mount Vernon.

Wakefield



The Wakefield Warriors could be the most improved team throughout the region, though the final record may not indicate that. Last season, first-year Keith Powell

Falls Church



The Falls Church Jaguars struggled again in 2007, going 3-7 for the third time in four seasons. The offense scored the fewest points since 2003 and the offense gave up 352 — the most this decade. And losing likely Division I recruit Travis Garrett is a devastating loss. But seventh-year coach Anthony Parker is excited about returning 15 starters, eight on offense and seven on defense. An all-district receiver last season, Sam Gerima moves under center in the pass-happy offense. The Jaguars need to tally wins against non-district teams like Jefferson and Fairfax and also steal a couple in the district to finish with a solid record.

J.E.B. Stuart



The J.E.B. Stuart Raiders dipped into the past in re-hiring Ray Ferri, the same coach

SEE NORTHERN REGION, PAGE 19

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATORS: Week One

Each week, **The Connection's Pigskin Prognosticators** select winners from the top five prep games.

GAMES OF THE WEEK

1. W. Springfield at Stone Bridge
2. Oakton at Madison
3. Westfield at South County
4. Mount Vernon at T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac at Centreville
6. W.T. Woodson at Fairfax
7. Lee at Edison
8. Robinson at Lake Braddock
9. Alabama vs. Clemson
10. ECU vs. Virginia Tech

WEEK NINE SCHEDULE:

Games played Thurs., Aug. 28
 Hayfield at Marshall, 7:30 p.m.
 Annandale at McLean, 7:30 p.m.
 Lee at Edison, 7:30 p.m.
 Falls Church at Jefferson, 6:30 p.m.
 Broad Run at Wakefield, 7:30 p.m.
 Robinson at Lake Braddock, 7:30 p.m.
 Games played Fri., Aug. 29
 Oakton at Madison, 7:30 p.m.
 Wilson (D.C.) at Yorktown, 7:30 p.m.
 W.T. Woodson at Fairfax, 7:30 p.m.
 Mount Vernon at T.C. Williams, 5 p.m.
 George Mason at J.E.B. Stuart, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington-Lee at Dominion, 7:30 p.m.
 Heritage at South Lakes, 7:30 p.m.
 Westfield at South County, 7:30 p.m.
 West Potomac at Centreville, 7:30 p.m.
 West Springfield at Stone Bridge, 7:30 p.m.



Craig Sterbutzel

Sports Photographer

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. Stone Bridge
2. Oakton
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. Centreville
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Alabama
10. ECU



Mark Giannotto

Sports Editor

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. W. Springfield
2. Oakton
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Alabama
10. ECU



Rich Sanders

Sports Editor

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. Stone Bridge
2. Madison
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Clemson
10. Virginia Tech

Northern Region Div. 6 Power Points — 2007 Final

1.	Westfield	33.0
2.	Chantilly	31.0
3.	West Springfield	30.9
4.	Lake Braddock	28.7
5.	West Potomac	28.4
6.	Centreville	27.3
7.	Robinson	27.0
8.	South County	26.9
9.	Langley	26.8
10.	Oakton	26.1
11.	Herndon	25.5
12.	W.T. Woodson	25.1
13.	T.C. Williams	23.9
14.	Annandale	22.9
15.	Fairfax	20.9

Northern Region Div. 5 Power Points — 2007 Final

1.	Stone Bridge	31.7
2.	Madison	29.0
3.	Edison	28.8
4.	Marshall	25.8
5.	Mount Vernon	24.7
6.	Yorktown	24.0
7.	South Lakes	21.5
8.	Lee	21.1
9.	Washington-Lee	20.9
10.	Wakefield	18.9
11.	Falls Church	19.7
12.	McLean	19.2
13.	Hayfield	19.2
14.	Jefferson	18.5
15.	Stuart	16.4

2007 Final Standings

School	District	Overall
Liberty District		
Stone Bridge	7-0	14-1
Madison	5-2	9-3
Langley	5-2	6-4
Marshall	4-3	8-4
W.T. Woodson	4-3	5-5
South Lakes	2-5	3-8
McLean	1-6	2-8
Jefferson	0-7	1-9
Concorde District		
Westfield	6-0	15-0
Chantilly	4-2	8-3
Centreville	3-3	6-5
Oakton	3-3	5-5
Herndon	3-3	5-5
Robinson	2-4	6-6
Fairfax	0-6	2-8
Patriot District		
West Springfield	6-1	10-3
Lake Braddock	6-1	8-3
South County	5-2	6-5
West Potomac	4-3	8-4
T.C. Williams	3-4	4-6
Annandale	2-5	4-6
Lee	2-5	2-9
Hayfield	0-7	1-9
National District		
Edison	6-0	10-3
Mount Vernon	5-1	6-5
Yorktown	4-2	5-6
Washington-Lee	3-3	4-6
Wakefield	2-4	2-8
Falls Church	1-5	3-7
J.E.B. Stuart	0-6	0-10

SPORTS: PIGSKIN PREVIEW

Northern Region

FROM PAGE 18

who was fired in 2000 for winning only seven games over four years. But the Raiders haven't fared much better currently riding the Northern Region's longest losing streak — 24 games — dating back to 2005. In fact, things have been so bad that Stuart is 12-107 since 1996. But insert Ferri and his single-wing offense, along with junior quarterback Jason Friday and senior tailbacks Anthony Champ and Terrill Hawkins, and the streak should stop. The Raiders will be gunning for Group A George Mason in the season opener.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The **Paul VI Panthers** took a large step back in 2007, winning only one game after back-to-back 5-5 seasons under coach Pat McGroarty. But Paul VI only had six seniors on the roster, leaving a wealth of experience returning this season. The Panthers return starting junior running back Idreis Augustus, as well as Dan McGroarty, the coach's son, back after earning all-league honors at tight end last season. Basketball standout Dominic Sanders, at 6-foot-4, will give either senior Matt Richards or junior Trevon Bennett an athletic target at receiver. Both Richards and Bennett split time last season, and neither has locked up the starting slot.

The **Bishop O'Connell Knights** had a disappointing season in the uber-competitive Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, finishing 3-7 overall and 2-5 in the conference in 2007. O'Connell will have to replace West Point signee Matt Dillon on the offensive line, but only graduated three starters. The Knights had a bevy of underclassmen gain valuable experience, including first-team All-WCAC safety Justin Trimble, the coach's son, who has a brother already at West Point. Trimble, who will also be the feature back, and senior quarterback Sean Cabrera, a third-year starter, should anchor a strong senior class. The season opener at Ireton will provide a quick litmus test.

The **Bishop Ireton Cardinals** had a magical season in 2007, making it all the way to the VISAA state championship for the first time in school history. The Cardinals, ranked for three consecutive weeks atop the VISAA rankings, graduated 21 seniors, including West Point signee Anthony Rodriguez. Now coach Tony Verducci drops the interim tag and unveils a spread offense, where he will utilize junior speedster Doug Vines in space. Junior Mike Larrabee takes over at quarterback. Ireton will also have to win close games like it did in last season, when the Cardinals went 7-2 in games decided by a single digit.

Coaching Establishment

FROM PAGE 17

Northern Region title games, winning a Group AAA Division 6 state championship in 2000. He was the defensive coordinator for his former Frostburg State teammate Pannoni last season, before jumping to Stone Bridge to Thompson in the off-season.

"We all went our separate ways," Lewis said of his former Groveton staff. "Gerry (Pannoni) and I are the only ones left coaching now."

Thompson, winner of two of the past three Northern Region Division 5 titles and the defending state champion, has been coaching in the area since 1990, and has another loaded roster expected to repeat as state champs.

Annandale's Dick Adams won back-to-back Division 6 state titles in 1993 and 1994, while Robinson's Mark Bendorf (1997 and 2000) and Westfield's Tom Verbanic (2004 and 2007) also have two state titles. Bendorf and

Verbanic's schools were recently named among the top-20 programs of the past decade.

ASK ANY COACH, including McLean's Jim Patrick, who is in his first year, and he'll admit that hiring a quality staff is essential. Some coordinators may be coaches waiting in the wings, but if history is any indication, the fraternity isn't ready to initiate many new members.

But Lewis and Hanson, and the entire crop will eventually have to step aside, clearing a path for assistants that could represent the next generation of soon-to-be established coaches.

"I enjoy what I do and I'm very proud of what we accomplished at Edison and you can't accomplish unless you've got great assistants under you," Lewis said. "Having been an assistant at Groveton, I know that."

That part, at least, he does remember.

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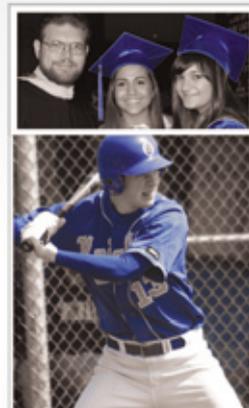
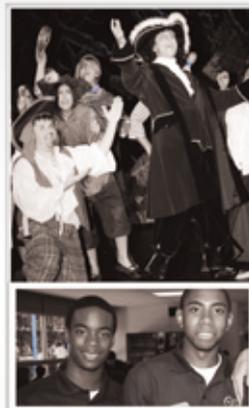
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21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE
IMPROVED REAL ESTATE
Improved by the premises known as
2024 N. Westmoreland Street, Arlington, Virginia

29 Misc. for Sale

PIANOS
1/2 Price
After more than 50 yrs - we're closing out!
Band Instruments, guitars, violins,
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Pianos starting at \$995
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26 Antiques

We consign/pay top \$ for antique/semi antique furn. including mid century & danish modern Teak furniture, sterling, mens watches, painting/art glass, clocks, jewelry, costume jewelry, etc. Call Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790.

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Elizabeth Trinh, dated August 24, 2006, and recorded September 14, 2006, in Deed Book 4021 at page 1539 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for Arlington County, at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 1:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 12, Ed Peete Company's 18 West Subdivision as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 3751 at page 57, as corrected in Deed Book 3754 at page 1271, among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2024 N. Westmoreland Street, Arlington, Virginia 22213.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$12,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

This sale is being made subject to two superior trusts.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

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Treasurer@USSVINOVA.org

21 Announcements

Public Notice
Invitation for Bid

Northern VA Family Service (NVFS), a private non-profit, is seeking bids for catering services for its Head Start and Early Head Start program in Arlington, VA. The successful vendor will be supplying 2 meals and 1 snack for 228 children including milk, 5 days a week, year round excluding federal holidays, and include all necessary serving supplies. USDA certification and local licensing is required. USDA and CACFP food service regulations apply.

Interested parties will submit a bid based on our menus, faxed to you per your request. Please call: 703-375-9170. Bids are due September 2, 2008 and must be mailed to the address below.

John O'Master
10455 White Granite Drive
Suite 100
Oakton, VA 22124
703-385-5261
Jomaster@nvfs.org

21 Announcements

FREE Bible Courses
Bible Correspondence Courses are available free of charge from WORLD WIDE BIBLE STUDY.
CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION are issued to each student who completes a course. These studies deal solely with facts of the Bible, are non-denominational and can be completed during spare time at home. These courses will increase your knowledge of The Bible and can give your life a fuller meaning.
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WWBS is sponsored by a group of Christians to encourage Bible Study.

28 Yard Sales

12 Garage Sales in 1 Neighborhood! Furn, bikes, kids stuff, books, toys, clothes. Sat Aug 30, 8-noon. Courts of Fox Mill (Pinecrest & Fox Mill Rd)

29 Misc. for Sale

\$250 KING Pillow Top Mattress & Box set (3pc)-Brand New, Never Used w/warranty. (Retail \$500+) Deliverable 571-926-1990

7 PC Cherry Sleigh Bedroom set - Brand new in boxes, Worth \$1200+ (Can help deliver) Asking \$575 571-926-1990

Power Recliner liftchair, petite size, never used, worth \$1,000 \$650 firm 703-266-2223

QN Pillow Top Mattress & box set Brand new in plastic w/warranty! Can deliver. (Worth \$300+) MUST SELL \$150 571-926-1990

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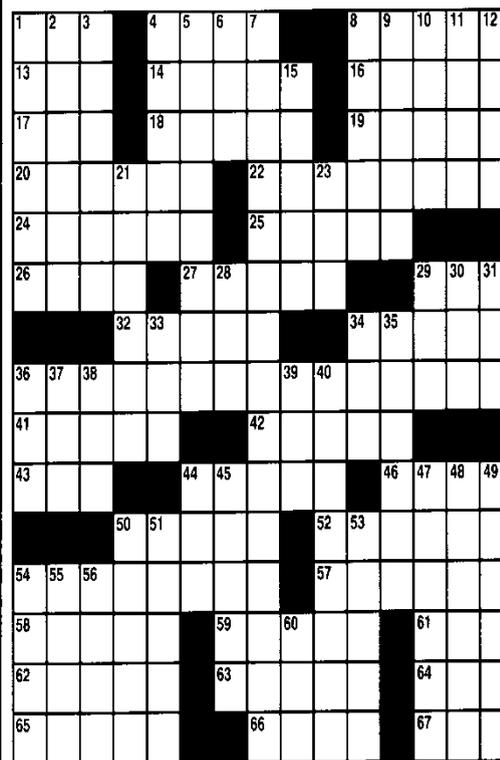
105 Health & Fitness

SENIOR (60+) WORKOUTS
Personal trainer will work with you 1-on-1 at my studio. \$45/hour. Certified; insured; 10 yrs experience. Call Mike 703-356-4006

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0325-6



- 29 Solitaire puzzle piece
- 30 Old French coin
- 31 Meditative thought
- 33 Hosp. scan
- 34 Fanatic
- 35 With 21-Down, composer of 36-Across
- 36 Combine
- 37 Hide-hair link
- 38 Rule out
- 39 Its anagram is a synonym of itself
- 40 Winemaking science
- 44 Ocean flier

ACROSS

- 1 Natl. Adopt-a-Dog Month
- 4 Concert gear
- 8 Knickerbockers
- 13 Malted drink that's not a malted
- 14 Experiences losses
- 16 Budget alternative
- 17 U.S. 36 crosses it
- 18 Accessory
- 19 Defraud
- 20 Obligated
- 22 With 54-Across, hit from 36-Across
- 24 Hosted
- 25 "— far, far better thing . . ."
- 26 North Sea feeder
- 27 Got off the ground
- 29 Popular candy
- 32 Tether
- 34 Heiress, maybe
- 36 Broadway premiere of 1946
- 41 Active

42 "Must—" (NBC slogan)

- 43 1939 Bogart title role
- 44 Actor Hawke
- 46 Mosque V.I.P.
- 50 Comical introduction
- 52 In the rococo style
- 54 See 22-Across
- 57 Weyerhaeuser Co. employee
- 58 Specks
- 59 On — (carousing)
- 61 "Platoon" setting
- 62 Canticle
- 63 Mantelpiece
- 64 I.O.C. member
- 65 Remains
- 66 Baseball's Ordoñez et al.
- 67 Blokes

DOWN

- 5 Assortment
- 6 Prized
- 7 Apt description of 1-Down
- 8 Treaties
- 9 Football's — Bowl
- 10 Axis figure
- 11 Capone's adversaries
- 12 Dance partner
- 15 Popular legend of Dutch origin
- 21 See 35-Down
- 23 Yang's opposite
- 28 London-to-Dover dir.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



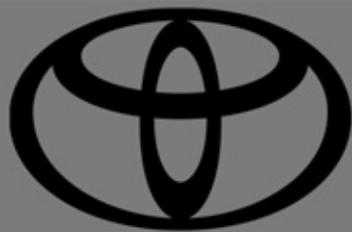
SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers each week, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle with your name and the puzzle number to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998!

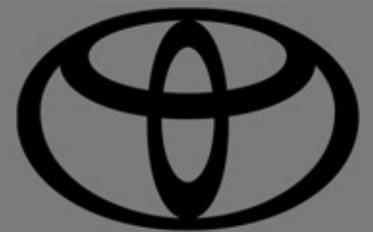
The winner of puzzle #0324-6 is:

Shully McCoy

Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.



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