

Springfield CONNECTION

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Amanda Pomeroy and her dog, Georgia, prepare to board for the Canine Cruise at Lake Accotink.

Dogs on The Water

NEWS, PAGE 4

Virginia GOP Sees Red

NEWS, PAGE 3

Olympian Recalls Munich Games

NEWS, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION HOME SALES, PAGE 20 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 21 ❖ FAITH, PAGE 25 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 21

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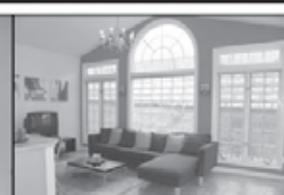
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Not without a Fight GOP grassroots groups push for candidates in 'battleground' state.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

This is the second of two stories about the November election and the efforts of grassroots organizations to get the vote out. To read the first story, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

“Fight to keep Virginia red” is a phrase that can be heard often when attending Republican fund raisers and events throughout Fairfax County. It has become a rallying cry for a host of grassroots organizations and a reflection of the party’s loosening grip in the Old Dominion State, which has voted solidly Republican since the 1960s.

In what promises to be another close presidential race, grassroots political organizations form the front lines of the conflict for many state and national campaigns looking to better understand the issues and needs of local residents. In return, grassroots organizations like the City of Fairfax Republican Committee (CFRC) and Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) say their local candidates benefit from the increased political awareness brought on by big nationalized races.

“When we’re out and it’s just a state race,

“When you talk to them about John McCain, they’ll think ‘OK, what else is going on?’”

— Jim Kaplan, chairman, City of Fairfax Republican Committee

or the only race is a delegate race, people aren’t always aware there’s something going on,” said Jim Kaplan, chairman of the City of Fairfax Republican Committee. “When you talk to them about [Republican presidential candidate] John McCain, they’ll think ‘OK, what else is going on?’ It also helps with recruitment of volunteers.”

Kaplan said his organization, made up entirely of volunteers, have been going door to door educating residents, handing out literature as well as coordinating with candidates’ campaigns.

As Election Day approaches, the FCRC will ramp up its activities, culminating in a “72-hour plan” whereby they will coordinate with county and state officials on how to best use their resources to maximize

Republican turnout starting three days before voters go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

“Here’s what we’re doing: we are working closely with those candidates to help them understand the Northern Virginia market,” said Terrie Rollins, president of the Republican Women of Clifton. “For example, we have traffic issues that might not be so prevalent south of us. We meet with [the campaigns] and say ‘Here are some of the problems we’re facing, what does John McCain or [U.S. Senate candidate] Jim



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Bonnie Fite, chair of the Republican Women of Clifton’s public relations committee, left, chats with former club President Elizabeth Schultz, right, and her husband Brian Schultz, middle.

Gilmore offer to help?’ We understand how the different areas are set up.”

THREE RACES remain firmly on the minds of GOP officials in Fairfax County. In the 11th Congressional District, newcomer Keith Fimian (R) is running against chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly (D). In the Senate race, former governors Jim Gilmore (R) and Mark

Warner (D) will battle to replace Sen. John Warner (R), who is retiring at the end of his term in 2008. In the presidential race, Sens. John McCain (R) and Barack Obama (D) are both campaigning to replace George W. Bush.

In two of those three races, the candidates face an uphill battle. Gilmore trails Warner

SEE LOCAL GOP, PAGE 18

The Race, The Medal and The Tradeoff

Former Springfield swimmer recalls path to gold medal finish at 1972 Munich games.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Springfield resident Ernest “Buddy” Belote still remembers the moment when he discovered his daughter was a gold medal Olympian and world record holder.

The year was 1972 and though both the Olympics and his daughter, Melissa were in Munich at the time, Buddy was staring nervously at a teletype machine as it pounded out the results of the 200-meter backstroke finals, one character at time.

Unable to make the games, Buddy Belote would get advance notice at the WTOP radio station where he worked

when Melissa Belote’s events would come up. After the results for the 200-meter finals came in and his daughter was declared the winner, Buddy Belote held his breath while waiting to see her time. Her Olympic teammate, Sue Atwood, held the world record of 2:21:50, and Melissa Belote, then 15, had not exactly hidden her desire to beat that time. The first number punched onto the page was a two, as in two minutes.

“And then the next number was a one,

SEE OLYMPIAN, PAGE 7

“When I say it’s a tradeoff, I mean I traded a lot of time with my friends to travel the world.”

— Melissa Belote Ripley

A gold-medal athlete at the 1972 Olympic Games, Melissa Belote Ripley is a swim coach in Arizona.



DONATED PHOTO

Broker Guilty of Fraud

The president of a Vienna real estate firm pleaded guilty Friday to defrauding clients of more than \$1 million.

Rajasekhar Marni, 47, of Reston, pleaded guilty to federal wire fraud and money laundering during a hearing Friday, Aug. 22 in federal court in Alexandria.

Marni faces up to 30 years in federal prison and a fine of \$500,000 and must make full restitution, according to U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg. U.S. District Court Judge T. S. Ellis, III is scheduled to sentence Marni in October.

Marni, the president of Loanworth Corporation, Inc. in Vienna, defrauded three sets of clients of more than \$1 million, according to Rosenberg and Joseph Persichini Jr., assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office.

In March 2006, Marni arranged to purchase a Fairfax Station house for \$889,000. Marni had the homeowners, who agreed to finance Marni's purchase, transfer the title to him while he signed a deed of trust detailing terms of the loan. But Marni never recorded the loan with Fairfax County although he submitted documentation transferring the title to him, according to Rosenberg. He eventually sold the property to a third party and used the proceeds to buy a house for himself in Vienna.

Marni also admitted to defrauding a Lorton couple by convincing them to transfer the title of their property to Loanworth, Inc. for six months. During that time, he took out more than \$227,000 loans against the property. After the title was returned, one of Marni's lenders foreclosed on the home, resulting in a loss of the victim's equity in the property, according to Rosenberg.

— KEN MOORE

Teens May Ride with Police

Fairfax County Law Enforcement Explorer Post 1742 is looking for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 to participate in a program designed to introduce members to the basics of law enforcement.

"These young men and women are afforded the opportunity to do ride alongs [with officers]. Usually there's an age limit to do ride alongs but with this program it's an exception to the rule," said Officer Eddy Azcarate, spokesman for the Fairfax County Police Department.

Explorers will take part in activities like fingerprinting, handcuffing, processing mock crime scenes and staffing police events. Older members will have the chance to practice shooting.

"I like to compare this group to a Boy Scout [or Girl Scout] group. It's the same kind of atmosphere," said Azcarate. "It's a great opportunity for a teenager to see what [law enforcement] is all about and what it entails."

Members will meet Sept. 22, from 7-9 p.m., at the Fairfax County Police Department Headquarters located at 4100 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax. An additional meeting takes place Sept. 29, from 7-9 p.m. in room 221C of the South County Government Center located at 8350 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. According to Azcarate, attendance is helpful but not required for participation.

For more information on the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Explorer Post 1742, call 703-246-4311.

— DEREK B. JOHNSON

8 Arrested at Checkpoint

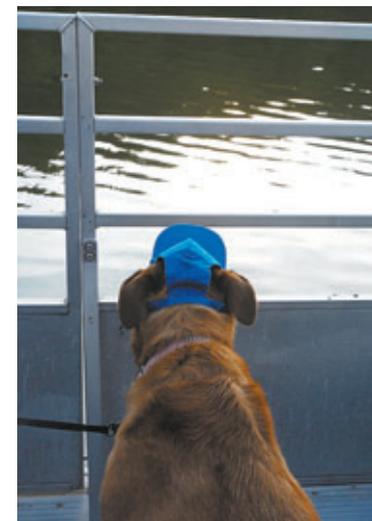
Fairfax County Police Department conducted sobriety checkpoints over the weekend in the Franconia Police District, making a total of eight combined DWI arrests, 12 summonses for traffic offenses and charging one person with public drunkenness.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, on Friday, Aug. 22, from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., officers cooperated with Division VII Virginia State Troopers to stop all motorists at the checkpoints to determine whether the driver had been impaired by alcohol or drugs. The initiative, working in conjunction with the 200 Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign, is designed to combine enforcement with education with the purpose of raising awareness to the dangers of drunk-driving.

NEWS



Susan Cash and her Australian shepherds, Glory and Twister, wait for the start of the Lake Accotink Canine Cruise on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Lake Accotink.



One of the many dogs to take advantage of the Lake Accotink Canine Cruise gets the best seat on the boat.



Dogs and their owners board a boat for the Lake Accotink Canine Cruise on Saturday, Aug. 23.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



The Lake Accotink Canine Cruise gives dogs and their owners a chance to see a part of the lake that they normally would not see from land.

Canine Cruisers

Dogs and owners cruise together on Lake Accotink.



Glory takes in all the sites of Lake Accotink.

CRIME

Activities reported by the Franconia District of the Fairfax County police department through Aug. 22.

GRAND LARCENY/ASSAULT/ARREST

6500 block of Frontier Drive. Two men were arrested after they allegedly attempted to steal an iPod. On Thursday, Aug. 14 at 1:30 p.m., the two men were inside the Best Buy store, located at 6555 Frontier Drive. Security employees watched the two men as they worked together to cut the alarm sensor off an iPod and conceal it. When the employees confronted the suspects they attempted to run. One suspect was apprehended but the other assaulted the employee and fled the store. Responding officers located the second suspect nearby a short time later. Marvin Mauricio Martinez, 21, of no fixed address, was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with aiding and abetting the concealment of merchandise valued at more than \$200. Carlos Rodriguez, 22, of no fixed address, was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with grand larceny, possession of burglarious tools and assault. The employee was not injured.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING

7200 block of Commerce St. On Sunday, Aug. 17 at around 5 p.m., police were called to an apartment in the 7200 block of Commerce St. for the report of a shot person. The investigation determined there had been a group of men in the apartment who began to argue over a business transaction. One person displayed a knife, another pulled out a gun and fired one round, striking an 18-year-old Springfield-area man

in the upper body. The group fled as police responded. The victim was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The three suspects were all described as black, from 20-30-years old. The investigation is ongoing. Detectives believe the victim and suspects are known to each other.

LARCENIES

5500 block of Alma Lane. Cash stolen from business.
6800 block of Bland St. Cash stolen from business.
6900 block of Bradlick Shopping Center. Purse stolen from vehicle.
6400 block of Brandon Ave. GPS stolen from vehicle.
6200 block of Brandon Ave. GPS stolen from vehicle.
6100 block of Cumberland Ave. License plate stolen from vehicle.
Edsall Road/ Industrial Road. License plate stolen from vehicle.
5300 block of Harbor Court Drive. Laptop computer, GPS and credit cards stolen from vehicle.
5600 block of Heming Ave. DVD player stolen from vehicle.
6800 block of Industrial Road. License plate stolen from vehicle.
6800 block of Junction Blvd. Two televisions stolen from business.
6600 block of Loisdale Road. Nine GPS units stolen from business.
6500 block of Loisdale Court. Purse stolen from business.
6400 block of Prospect Terrace. Computer stolen from residence.
6600 block of Quicksilver Court. Three diamond rings stolen from residence.

VEHICLE THEFTS

7100 block of Highland St. 1993 Honda Civic reported stolen.

7800 block of Loisdale Road. 1995 Honda Accord reported stolen.
5700 block of South Van Dorn St. Ford F550 pickup truck reported stolen.

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County police department through Aug. 22.

GRAND LARCENY/NARCOTICS/ARREST

Middle Ruddings Drive/ Fifth Place. Police were called to the area of Middle Ruddings Drive and Fifth Place at on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 1:53 a.m., for a vehicle tampering. Officers learned that an alert citizen watched as two males exited a waiting car and attempted to break into other cars in a neighborhood by pulling door handles. When the two suspects entered a parked car, the witness approached them and they fled. A female in the suspects' car drove away. Officers located the two suspects in the vehicle and the third suspect walking nearby. Further investigation determined the suspects were reportedly in possession of items stolen from other vehicles. In addition, one was in possession of drug paraphernalia. All three suspects were transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Yusuf Benghuzzi, 18, of the 6100 block of Lynley Terrace in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny and possession of drug paraphernalia. Patrick Hayward, 18, of the 5100 block of Celtic Drive in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny. Natasha Black, 19, of 6509 Walso Court in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny. An outstanding warrant for an unrelated case was also served on Black.

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Getting To Know ...

Brenna Dolan, who took part in Baltimore's Fashion Week.

BY ESTHER PAK
THE CONNECTION

Brenna Dolan is a rising ninth grade student who has walked the hallways every day at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. However, On Aug. 12-15, Dolan walked the runway at the inaugural Baltimore's Fashion Week. The event took place at the War Memorial Building in Baltimore, Md., and featured the newest designs of nine Baltimore's designers.

Brenna is a graduate of Barbizon Modeling School and is represented by L&M Modeling, but she is also experienced in the pageant arena. She first became involved in pageants at age 9, when she received some mail about the National American Miss pageant.

"At first, my mom and I laughed about it, but we realized that it wasn't a beauty pageant. It was a scholarship pageant based on poise, confidence and most of all, the interview," wrote Brenna in an e-mail to The Connection. She has been a resident of the Kings Park neighborhood in Fairfax for 12 years.

What is your most memorable pageant-memory to date?

My most memorable memory was when I was crowned Miss Virginia Jr. Pre-Teen 2003. I remember standing on the stage with bubbles floating from the ceiling and tears steaming down my face while I was being crowned. I love watching the video of me walking forward completely stunned that I had won.

How were you able to participate in Baltimore's Fashion Week?

My agent sent me an e-mail about an audition for fashion week back in November, and I was immediately interested.

What was your favorite aspect about being a part of Fashion Week?

There is no comparison for the feeling I get when I'm walking the runway in front of hundreds of people. You don't even see the audience because you're so focused on not tripping and just showing



Brenna Dolan models an outfit during Baltimore's Fashion Week.

off the garment you're modeling. It's so thrilling, and I can't wait to get back up there.

Did the event present any challenges?

PROFILE The only challenge was driving to Baltimore almost every weekend for fittings and rehearsals. I had to miss many swim meets and the first week of volleyball practice.

Favorite outfit you modeled for Fashion Week?

My favorite outfit was a dress made by LT Dickens. It was a gorgeous gold strapless dress with a low-waisted bubble skirt.

Do you see yourself pursuing modeling as a career?

Yes. I hope to sign with Elite model management or Ford models and possibly go international. "America's Next Top Model" is also an option.

Hobbies and extracurricular activities?

I play volleyball for my school on the freshman team. I take ballet, tap and pointe classes and swim during the summer. I also enjoy doing community service, being a Girl Scout and swing dancing for fun.



Katie Schmehl, 14, swims for the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team.

Katie Goes for Gold

With support of teammates, girl realizes dream of competition.

BY CIARA RICHARDS
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, July 21, Katie Schmehl of Falls Church realized her long-time dream of swimming with the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team. She swam in a B meet at the Forrest Hollow pool.

Katie, 14, has physical disabilities, is non-verbal and has balance and mobility issues. She also has moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

Katie's 12-year-old sister Tori swims for Sleepy Hollow Recreation Association every summer. For years, Katie has watched Tori go to practice twice a week and participate in the meets and has always hoped to join her sister on the team.

"Katie wants to do everything her sister does," said Tricia Schmehl, the girls' mother. "She has been really pushing this for the past three to four years."

Katie first competed on the Friday before the meet at Forrest Hollow. The team was having a reverse meet, where the parents swam while the children played the role of the parents and coaches. Katie was asked if she wanted to swim as well. As a result, Katie's first competition was against adults.

Katie was then asked if she wanted to swim at the meet on the following Monday, and she indicated that she did.

ON MONDAY, Katie's dream became a reality as the swim coaches, parent representatives and other members of the teams all helped to allow her to participate in the meet.

"Not only did they help us put her in, but they also rallied and really encouraged her," said Tricia Schmehl. She described how the cheers erupted as Katie was lifted out of the pool.

"This really improved and expanded her relationship with the kids at the pool," said Tricia Schmehl. She described how the experience allowed the children to see that Katie was not so different and that she could do the same things that they could.

Following the meet, Katie was presented with an award at the award ceremony for the team. "The parents and kids went nuts clapping. It was really overwhelming to see the support," said Tricia Schmehl. "Katie was so shocked, she had a big smile on her face."

"It was the highlight of the summer for us," Tricia Schmehl said. "My husband and I are still talking about it."

"It was the highlight of the summer for us."

— Tricia Schmehl

VIEWPOINTS

What's been the most memorable moment for you from the Beijing Olympics?



"Watching gymnastics, during the team events, when the gymnast missed sticking her landing."
Robey Manno, Burke



"Usain Bolt winning the 100 meters and 200 meters."
Everett Eberhardt, Fairfax



"Probably like everybody else, Michael Phelps."
Al Galberth, Burke

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

Olympian Recalls Record-Setting Race

FROM PAGE 3

and then we knew it was going to be faster than the world record. So the minute I saw that one, I knew she had done it, and I let out some kind of a 'Whoaaa!' said Buddy Belote.

THAT GARBLED expression may be the closest way to describe Buddy Belote's feelings about his daughter's accomplishments that day. As for the three-time Olympic gold medal winner herself, her memory of those few weeks in Munich remained sharp, even after 36 years. The world record for the 200-meter backstroke held a particularly quirky allure to her. The time, 2:21:50, also happens to be Springfield's Zip code.

"Everybody was kind of mesmerized because [of that]. When I went to trials, everyone was telling me 'Break your Zip code,'" said Melissa Belote Ripley, now married and coaching the Rio Salado Swim Club 12-and-under team in Arizona. "It became a cute little twist on the whole thing."

Though the opening ceremonies in Munich were staged Aug. 26, Ripley's first event, the 100-meter backstroke preliminaries, wasn't scheduled until Sept. 1. Her preparation was both dull and tiring. She

described her routine in the days leading up to her events.

"You literally sleep and swim," said Ripley, who attended Robert E. Lee High School.

Though her three gold medals were met with a wave of adulation and publicity back in the Washington, D.C. area, her accomplishments had to share the national and international stage with one of the more newsworthy Olympic Games of the last 50 years. Mark Spitz shook the world by winning seven gold medals and setting world records in every event, the U.S. Basketball team saw its undefeated streak snapped in the infamous USA-USSR gold medal game and Australian swimmer Shane Gould won five medals, three of them gold.

When asked about her place in those Olympic games, she said she was tremendously proud of her accomplishments but "When you think of the '72 Olympics, you think of Mark Spitz and Shane Gould".

However, all of those events took a backseat to the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches that were taken hostage and later killed along with a German police officer by the Palestinian militant group Black September. Ripley said those events probably overshadowed her accomplishments, particularly on the world stage, but that she

received more than enough attention when she returned home to Springfield.

Buddy Belote, recalled agreeing with his wife not to even discuss the possibility of the Olympics with their daughter until the day she eventually qualified for them.

"We didn't want to put her under that kind of pressure, so we didn't talk about it while she was working her way up," said Buddy Belote, who shared a birthday with the opening ceremonies of the 1972 games.

Ripley discussed some of the normal teenage social activities she missed out on due to her commitments as an Olympic and international swimmer.

"The thing is, it's a tradeoff, and I was very fortunate because I knew that if I went to the dance after the football game or whatever else was going on that I still had to get up in the morning and go to practice," she said.

She missed 86 days of school that year, and the days she did spend were usually exhausting. On an average school day, the alarm clock would go off at 4 a.m. By 4:45 a.m., Ripley would be in the water practicing until 7 a.m. She didn't have a first period class, and so was able to go home, lay down for half an hour while her mother prepared breakfast before driving her to

school.

"When I say it's a tradeoff, I mean I traded a lot of time with my friends to travel the world," said Ripley. "That's basically how I look at it. By the age of 21, I had visited over 40 countries."

AS A COACH with a son and daughter both involved in swimming, Ripley said she keeps her medals in a safe-deposit box, choosing, as her father did, not to burden her children with the pressure to live up to any standard other than those they set for themselves.

"They know it's all packed away and all there," Ripley said. "Someday, it's all going to come out but there's something about telling your children 'You're the ones growing up now, you need to know this is your home where you can display all your stuff.'"

Ripley said she's been watching the current Olympics, which saw American swimmer Michael Phelps break Spitz's record en route to winning eight gold medals in eight competitions. Like her father, she doesn't wait for the events to air on television to learn the outcomes.

"I can't stand not knowing. Then, when they show it on TV, I know exactly what to look for," she said.

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www.internationalchildrensfestival.org

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Does Fairfax Give Fair Grades?

Panel discusses whether tougher grading scale put students at a disadvantage.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

If a high school student earns a 92 percent average in the fall semester of their honors calculus course, what grade do they receive?

Well, it depends on where they live.

If the student attends a Fairfax County Public School, she earns a B plus. If she goes to a school across the Potomac River in Montgomery County, Md., the student receives an A.

The discrepancy in grade point averages (GPA) for the same grade in an honors class is even wider.

In Fairfax County, a 92 percent in an honors calculus class translates into a 3.5 GPA. In Montgomery County, the same score would earn a 5.0 GPA for that course.

FAIRFAX COUNTY employs a tougher six-point grading scale than the traditional 10-point scale used by Montgomery County and several other school systems.

In Fairfax, students must earn a 94 percent to receive an A, an 84 percent to earn a B and a 74 percent to earn a C. The 10-point scale awards an A for a score of 90 percent, a B for a score of 80 percent, and a C for a score of 70 percent.

Fairfax also adds a lighter "weight" to the GPAs of students who do advanced coursework.

Fairfax County will bump students up a .5 point on the GPA scale for a course an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) class. But students who take an honors course receive no GPA benefit. In Montgomery County, students enrolled in both honors and AP/IB classes automatically earn a 1.0 GPA bonus.

Some parents and students said these differences in grading add up and ultimately hurt Fairfax students. Last January, a handful of county residents formed FAIRGRADE, a coalition that advocates for changes to Fairfax County Public Schools grading policies.

One McLean High School graduate speculates that his GPA would have been a 4.1 in Montgomery County, even though it was only a 3.4 in Fairfax. Had he received above a 4.0 GPA, the student would have been considered one of McLean's valedictorians and said he might have been looked at more favorably by colleges.

In addition to college admission, a student's GPA impacts whether they qualify for merit-based scholarships, college hon-

ors programs, collegiate sports programs and "good student" car insurance discounts.

According to FAIRGRADE, there is proof that Fairfax County students receive GPAs that are, on average, lower than their peers.

The organization's analysis shows that about 10 percent of Fairfax students have a GPA of 3.75 or higher. In other comparable school districts across the country, the share of students with a GPA of that caliber is closer to 20 or 30 percent, they said.

"Our kids will be reviewed against kids from

Montgomery County. ... And our kids are competing with fewer A's," said Megan McLaughlin, a co-founder of FAIRGRADE, parent and Braddock community member. McLaughlin has also worked for admissions offices at Georgetown and Duke universities.

FAIRFAX COUNTY Public Schools agreed to review the impact of its grading policy in response to the agitation of FAIRGRADE and other county residents.

Pat Murphy, an assistant superintendent with the school system, said he expects to issue a report on Fairfax County's grading

policies to Superintendent Jack Dale by late fall. The school system also held a "Grading Policy Round Table" — which more than 200 residents attended in the middle of a work-day — Aug. 25. The round table featured

college admission officers from the University of Maryland at College Park, George Mason University, University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins University.

Of those admissions officers who attended the forum, the reactions to FAIRGRADE's proposed changes to Fairfax's grading policies were mixed.

None of the admission officers thought the change from a six-point to a 10-point scale would hurt Fairfax County Public Schools reputation. But most had doubts that it would have much of a positive impact on how Fairfax County students would be viewed by college admissions officers.

"I couldn't care less if [an A means] 94 to 100 or 90 to 100," said Greg Roberts, the



School Board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville) chats with FAIRGRADE co-founder Sara Pacque'-Margolis after a Grading Policy Round Table Aug. 25.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

University of Virginia's senior associate dean of admission. Roberts has also worked in admissions at Emory or Georgetown universities.

Virginia reviews its undergraduate applications holistically and the admissions officer has a profile of the school district and individual school the student attends. They try to put the students' grades in context and not just judge by how high their GPA may be or how many A's they might have, said Roberts.

"We try and get an understanding of what the grade means in that school and in that class," he added.

IF FAIRFAX changed its grading policy and started awarding more A's, Roberts and the other three admissions officers said it would not result in more Fairfax students being accepted to their institutions.

"This is not going to be a silver bullet. Don't get too far out ahead as to how much this would change things," said Andrew Flagel, the dean of admissions at Mason.

Flagel added that, even if the grading policies changed, it is not clear that student grades would alter that drastically. Teachers have a lot of discretion when it comes to grades and could continue to give the same marks regardless of the policy change, he said.

Hopkins undergraduate admissions dean, John Latting, said moving toward awarding more A's could actually hurt higher achieving students. When more students receive A's, it is harder for colleges and universities to discern whom the very high achieving students are, he said.

"If the number of A's given out increases by three times, then the value of the A goes down," said Latting, who has also worked at the California Institute of Technology and

Stanford University.

Latting added that certain regions of the country, such as California, are famous for grade inflation. Other areas, like New England, are known for having "depressed" grades.

He suggested the school system first look at increasing the GPA "weights" awarded for honors and AP/IB classes, so that those students injecting more "rigor" into their coursework are rewarded.

But all admissions officers acknowledged that Fairfax's grading policy probably drives down the amount of scholarship money students receive. Few national scholarship programs — such as those offered by large business organizations — "reconfigure" student GPAs to account for a tougher grading scale or "weighting" system the way a college admissions office would. Many simply have a GPA cut off that Fairfax students might be less likely to meet.

"There is more substantial argument on the scholarship side," said Flagel.

A few FAIRGRADE members also point out that Fairfax County's grading policies could put students at a disadvantage with colleges and universities outside of the region.

One panelist, Woodson PTA president Catherine Potter, said many schools farther away from Fairfax County are not familiar with the school district's reputation and do not account for its tougher grading policies.

"FCPS is not well known once you leave the mid-Atlantic area," she said.

During her son's college search last year, Potter said she discovered that some schools, including the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), do not account for "pluses" or "minuses" on grades, meaning that a B plus — or 93 percent in Fairfax County — would be looked at as a B.

OPINION

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

Fimian Backer

To the Editor:

Keith Fimian, 11th District congressional candidate, has repeatedly stated that issues like energy, economy and national security are more important than cultural issues, and I think he's right. While social issues like abortion rally the activists, rising gas prices and falling home values affect everyone, and we need a congressman that will be responsive to those needs.

I have been disappointed that Gerry Connolly (D) hasn't taken a position for or against offshore drilling, despite the fact that 75 percent of the country and Demo-

crats like Mark Warner and Jim Webb support it. I was even more disappointed that Gerry Connolly supported raising the gas tax, despite the record highs we're already paying.

Keith Fimian believes in commonsense principles he learned when he built his successful business from the ground up. Unlike Gerry Connolly, he's not beholden to anyone, and he put forward many ideas on how to solve our country's problems. Connolly believes he can hide out until Election Day because he already has it wrapped up. I hope

the voters of the 11th District will prove him wrong.

Stephen Spiker
Fairfax

Defending TJ
To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the July 31 article entitled "Seeking More Diversity at TJ."

As a parent of grade school and middle school children, I would like them to have the same chance at getting into Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology as anyone else. All students should be judged on the same

scale. If quotas were established requiring a certain number of students to be selected from each middle school, then the candidates with the highest qualifications wouldn't necessarily be the ones chosen to attend TJ. The same thing would happen if race quotas were established. Students should not be discriminated against just because they are white or go to a certain middle school where there are several highly qualified applicants. Let's not undermine the high quality of the Thomas Jefferson student body.

Charlie Peterson
Springfield

Register, 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.

Fairfax County Office of Elections
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0081
703-222-0776 phone
703-324-2205 fax
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information

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.

EDITORIAL
❖ 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 any person assist them. Other 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 the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via e-mail at info@sbe.virginia.gov. The Voter Registrar will investigate your case

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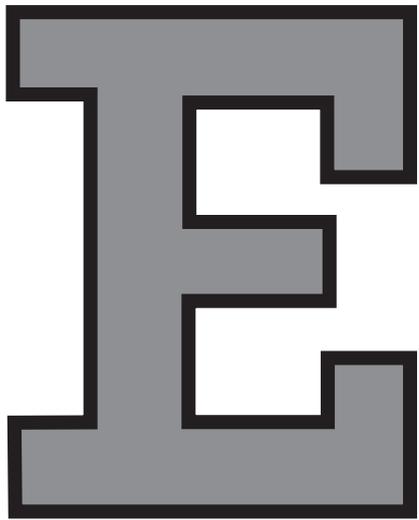
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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



Ciao Roma, oil on canvas by Lisa Neher



Kitty Hawk, oil on canvas by Lisa Neher

Fairfax Art League's September show is "Two of Four," with Lisa Neher as the artist of the month. A versatile artist who expresses exuberance through numerous media, Neher displays in oil for this show. The artist's reception will be Monday, Sept. 8, from 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served; admission and is free. The show runs from Sept. 8 through Oct. 2, at Fairfax Old Town Hall, second floor, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free parking in nearby city lots. The building is wheelchair accessible with a ramped entrance on Main Street and elevators to second floor. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 703-273-2377 or City Park's Art Line at 703-352-ARTS ext. 5 or visit www.fairfaxartleague.com.



Tulips in Light, tempura by Yasuko Riggs

The Springfield Art Guild will feature artists Yasuko Riggs and Ginny Oetjen-Gerdes through Sept. 17, at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 703-339-4610 or contact Deena Sanks at 703-825-1334 or deenalynn@msn.com.



A variety of antique cars and trucks were on display for the 2007 Clifton Car Show. The annual event returns on Monday, Sept. 1, raising money for Life With Cancer.

Hot Rods for a Hot Day

Ninth Annual Clifton Car Show benefits charity.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Hot rods and cool cars will be rolling into the Town of Clifton on Monday, Sept. 1., from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., for the ninth annual Labor Day Car Show.

About 400 cars will be on display on Main Street — everything from antiques, street rods, customs, classics to motorcycles. Some Smart Cars and hybrids will be on display, but the main attraction will be the antiques. Last year's event drew about 2,500 people.

The Clifton Lions Club will be selling hotdogs and hamburgers. The Clifton Presbyterian Church will offer meatball subs and the Pink Pantry will serve coffees and pastries. Mayor Tom Peterson will be selling ice cream in his shop as well.

In addition, a deejay will be playing oldies and visitors may win door prizes and dash plaques will be presented to the first 250 show vehicles.

Fifty trophies will be awarded this year, with about 40 of them being "Participant Pick" awards, the remaining being specialty trophies like Ladies Choice, Best Motorcycle, Best Antique, said organizer Jim Chesley. Specialty trophies will be in the shape of 10-inch painted plates.

This year's show benefits Life with Cancer, which provides classes through the Inova Healthcare System, support, information and education to people facing cancer. Life With Cancer offers program and services free of charge to people with cancer and their relatives regardless of where the treatment is received. Life With Cancer will have its own booth at the show.



At last year's show, Paul and Pam Balash share information about their 1942 Willy's Coupe Gasser with onlookers.

"The more I looked at it the better I liked it," said Chesley. "When my dad died in 1994. It would have been nice to have a support group back then," said Chesley.

In addition, a 50-50 raffle will give away a DeWalt leather Cycle jacket personally autographed by Matt Kenseth for \$5/ticket or 5/\$20. Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Registration is \$15 at the gate. For show and vendor information, contact Jim Chesley, 703-830-2129 or by e-mail jchesley@aol.com. To learn more about the event visit www.customcrusiersnova.com. For more about Life With Cancer, call 703-776-2841 or visit www.lifewithcancer.org.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

Russian Cultural Heritage Night.

Traditional Russian music played on traditional instruments such as the balalaika. 7:30 p.m. Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Free. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Time for School. Stories and activities about starting school. Age 3-5 with adult. 1 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call to register 703-339-4610.

The Wild Creatures of Fairfax County.

Learn about the wildlife found at Hidden Pond Nature Center and other parts of Fairfax County, and meet some live critters. Presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. 10:30 a.m. All ages. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Call to register 703-451-8055.

Sonata Arctica with Blood Corps. 7 p.m. All ages; \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

City of Fairfax Alte Kameraden German Band. Featuring the Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden Bavarian band.

You are invited to AUG-toberfest with authentic fest musik and "gemultichkeit". 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Ponderings - Local Geology. Try panning for gold and use a microscope to spy on micro minerals at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This program is suitable for children ages 6 to 10 years. Reservations are required. The cost is \$6 per child. To reserve, Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. call 703-451-9588.

After Dark in the Park - Eels.

Explore creek life at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The program ends with a campfire and s'mores. Wear shoes that can get wet. For children ages six years and older. Reservations required. \$8 per child. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Call 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

Back to School Local Band Bash.

1:15 p.m. All ages; \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 31

Potomac Hosta Club. 12 p.m. Picnic, Hostas auction and plant exchange. Heather Hills Nurseries at 8111 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. New members always welcome. For more information, call 703-866-2211 or visit hostaclub@gmail.com.

Krass Judgement Fest. All ages; \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 1

Labor Day Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Street rods, customs, antiques,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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CALENDAR

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR FAIRFAX@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FROM PAGE 11

muscle cars, classics and more. Food and music, prizes and trophies. All proceeds benefit Life with Cancer. On the streets of Historic Clifton. Call Jim Chesley, 703-830-2129.

Labor Day Picnic. St. Mary of Sorrows Church is hosting its annual Labor Day Picnic on the church grounds. Open to all. 10:20 a.m.-5 p.m. This will begin a year long celebration commemorating St. Mary's founding 150 years ago. Live bands, historic reenactors, 1850s games, rides, raffle and bingo. Food, crafts and baked goods for sale. Located at the intersection of Fairfax Station Road and Route 123 in Fairfax. 703-978-4141.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

A is for Apple. 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 2-3 with adult. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

Practice your English. 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 4

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. "Mohawk" by Richard Russo. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

Back-to-School Beauty. Hair care and hairstyle tips for teens. 4 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

Leukemia Cup Regatta. The National Capital Area Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society invites area sailors and power boaters to the Leukemia Cup Regatta. 12 p.m. The National Capital Area Chapter Honorary Skipper, Tyler McDille, will be participating in the Regatta in his first experience outside his home since he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia when he was 8 months old. One-Design and PHRF style boats welcome. Races will take place throughout the day. Spectator boats will be available to take people out, \$10 per person. Registration fees vary per boat. Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King St., Alexandria. Call Loree Lipstein at 703-960-1100, or visit www.leukemicup.org/nca.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. Bring Lunch and come for stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-971-0010.

On the Go. 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities about things on the move. Age 15-35 months with adult. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Call 703-451-8055.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Impaled with Phobia, Malignancy, Illogistic, Maruta, Freehand Arson, Emesis. 6:15 p.m. All ages. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

Propagation Series: Seed Saving. 9:30-11 a.m. Learn the basics of seed saving, including seed harvest, drying, cleaning and storage. Venture into the gardens with Mary Frogale, propagation horticulturist, and collect seed to take home from unique annuals and perennials. \$22.



The Potomac Hosta Club will host a picnic, hosta auction and plant exchange on Sunday, Aug. 31, at Heather Hills Nurseries in Fairfax Station. Bring a dish to share and a plant to swap. New members are always welcome.

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Family Fun: Monarch Magic. 2-3:30 p.m. Children 5 and up with accompanying adult explore the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Make a caterpillar cage, add a milkweed snack, and adopt a tiny larva to take home to release in your own garden. \$10/project. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Canoeing. Learn the basic mechanics of canoeing with an emphasis on safety and enjoyment. 1-3 p.m. Then take to the water and experience the 55-acre lake, the wetland, streams and views of waterfowl and marsh life while paddling a canoe. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Canoes and life jackets are provided. Bring a water bottle and snack if desired. The cost is \$12 per person. For reservations, call 703-569-0285. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield. Visit <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Dog Days. 12-4 p.m. Participating parks include Bull Run Water Park in Centreville, Downpour Water Park at Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, Great Waves at Cameron Run Regional Park in Alexandria, Pirate's Cove at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Lorton and Upton Hill Regional Park in Arlington. Admission is \$5 per dog. Dog owners must fill out a liability waiver and dog must have a current license and rabies vaccination. For more information, including directions to any of the facilities, visit www.nvrpa.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony following morning session of the Board of Supervisors' regular meeting, approximately 12 p.m., at the 9/11 Memorial Grove behind the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The rain site for the ceremony will be the Government Center Forum. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/161.htm.

The Ashley Fister Cole Foundation sixth annual Driving for Surviving Melanoma Charity Golf Classic. 1 p.m. at Stonewall Golf Club on Lake Manassas, 15601 Turtle Point Drive, Gainesville. All net proceeds from this year's tournament will help fund the trial study programs of researcher Dr. Wen-Jen Hwu at the University of Texas' MD Anderson Cancer Center. Play golf with free range balls, a cart, greens fee, lunch, unlimited beverages on the course and dinner, \$175. Hole sponsors with signs and a special message on one of the tee boxes, \$200. Visit www.ashleyfistercolefoundation.org.

Fall Crafts. 3:30 p.m. After-school activities and crafts. Age 6-12. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-971-0010.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Go, Dinos, Go! 10:30 a.m. Stories and fun about dinosaurs. Age 2-35 months with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 3 p.m.

Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Call 703-451-8055.

Book Chat. 4 p.m. Stop in to share current favorites or hear what other people are reading. Adults. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. 703-451-8055.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 9

What's New in Picture Books. 7 p.m. Learn about new books to use with preschoolers. Childcare certification available. Adults. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 10

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

All About Bugs! 7 p.m. Meet and learn about creepy crawlies. Age 6-12. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

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Workhouse Offers Showcase for Arts

New arts center in Lorton seeks to bring artists, viewing public closer together.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

When the overcrowded and run-down Lorton Reformatory closed in 2002, the debate began in the community about what to do with the land the prison complex sat on.

The facilities at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton were already steeped in history. Originally established by Congress at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt in 1910, the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton was designed to use its own prisoners to work the land. Over the decades, it became famous as the site where 123 members of the National Women's Party housed and mistreated after picketing Woodrow Wilson's White House in 1917, as well as a housing site for Nike anti-aircraft missiles during the Cold War.

In recent years, the prison's historical significance took a backseat to its reputation as a community eyesore. With the week-long grand opening of the Workhouse Arts Center on Sept. 19, 2008, the Lorton Arts Foundation seeks not only to transform that reputation with a massive, multi-faceted renovation of the facility, it hopes to put Lorton on the map as one of the preeminent institutions of artistic expression in the Washington, D.C. area.

"This is a world-class arts center in your backyard,"

— Tina Leone, CEO of the Lorton Arts Foundation

"This is a world-class arts center in your backyard," said Tina Leone, CEO of the Lorton Arts Foundation.

THE EFFORTS and resources required to make that world-class center a reality were daunting. The prison complex is nearly 100 years old. The various utility lines including sewer, water and electricity all had to be replaced, as well as large-scale construction and renovation efforts on the buildings themselves. The



PHOTO BY SAM FUNT/THE CONNECTION

The first floor of the two-story gallery which is part of the Workhouse Art Center. The Workhouse is located at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton and the grand opening to the public is Sept. 19, 2008.

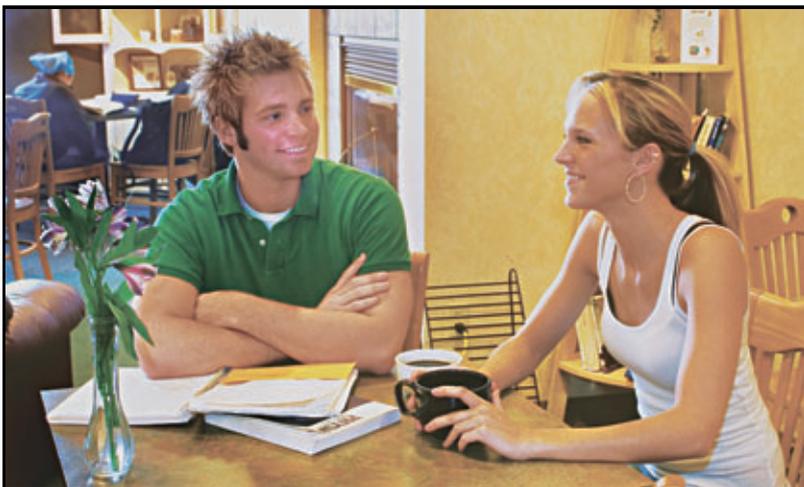
Workhouse, currently in what is being called "Phase one," consists of 10 buildings, mostly former prisoner dormitories, revamped into art studios, galleries, workshops and exhibitions. Classes in subjects like acting, dancing, ceramics, painting, photography and sculpting will be offered to the public and studio space will be leased out to area art-

ists.

"There is nothing like this in the United States," said Leone. "We've looked."

The goal of the center is two-fold: create a regional hub that will act as a magnet both for established artists to display their work

SEE NEW ARTS. PAGE 25



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HEALTH & FITNESS

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

GriefShare. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. at Agape House. Seminar and support group for people grieving a loss. Each of the 13 sessions includes a video and group discussion. Join at any time; new series begins Sept. 4 through Dec. 4 (excluding Nov. 27). Child care on request. Sydenstricker United Methodist Church Agape House, 7230 Sydenstricker Road, Springfield. 703-451-9021.

General Bereavement Support Group, a support group for those who have experienced the death of a significant person in their lives – a parent, a child, a sibling or a friend. HAVEN of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, is offering a free bereavement support group. The group will begin Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 7:30-9 p.m. and will meet every Wednesday evening for 6 weeks. For information, call 703-941-7000, or visit www.havenofnova.org.

EZ8 Women's Running Camps will begin Sept. 2 at Burke Lake Park for an eight-week program. Beginner to Intermediate female runners are invited to register in advance for one of two

camp meetings three times per week. Call 703-586-5037 or visit www.ez8chicks.com.

Substance Abuse Recovery Support. For support in dealing with a substance abuse issue, come to the Natural Horizons Wellness Center, 10640 Main St., Suite 300, Fairfax, on Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 6-7 p.m. for an overview on the holistic substance abuse program and how it can provide support on road to recovery. Limited space; call 703-246-9355 to reserve.

Burke Internal Medicine, 5631 Burke Center Parkway, offers free health evaluations for individuals ages 55 and over who have no current health cover-

age. Included in the offer is a free cholesterol screening, blood pressure screening, diabetes screening, personal risk assessment and consultation. To make an appointment, call Dr. Nabil Andrawis or Dr. Nashwa Gabra at 703-250-5171.

The Northern Virginia Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Fibromyalgia Support Group offers a support group the third Saturday of every month from 2-4 p.m. at the Mason Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Open to anyone interested in CFC, FM, Mitral Valve Prolapse Syndrome/Dysautonomia and orthostatic intolerance. Free; free parking. No stairs to climb. Refrain from wearing

scented products. For more contact Elly Brosius at 703-968-9818, cfsupportowner@yahoo.com or visit www.geocities.com/cfsnova.

The Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia, LLC monthly meeting, Sept. 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.. Physicians' Conference Center, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Fairfax. "Meet & Eat" begins 1:30 p.m., program begins at 2 p.m. Speaker: Bruce Frishman, President, New Hampshire Pharmacy & Medical Equipment. Topics include relationship between health insurance/benefits and ostomy supplies coverage and latest ostomy products. Call 703-802-3457 or visit www.ostomysupportofnova.org.

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FINANCE AND BUSINESS

The Financial Education Center for Women Entrepreneurs conducts several classes at the Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, Suite C, Springfield. Limited scholarships available for all classes. For more, call 703-768-1440 or visit www.cbponline.org.

Financial Planning for Separation and Divorce. Thursday, Sept. 11 from 7-10 p.m. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. This seminar covers all financial components of the property settlement agreement from preparing documents for an attorney to the signing of the agreement. Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

PAINTING & DRAWING

Art Classes. Springfield Art Guild and Lorton Arts Foundation member Maureen Wolford teaches classes that focus on enhancing and refining basic drawing and painting techniques involving color, perspective and shading. Materials include watercolor, tempera, pastel, acrylic and oil; machine sewing, beginner needlepoint, architecture, art history and more also explored. Ages 8 to adult, flexible schedules. Call Maureen at 703-455-4473 or visit www.lifethroughart.com.

Art Classes in Burke. Classes are

available for children 5-8, 8 and up or teens/adults in drawing and watercolor painting. All classes meet at the Ponds Community Centre, Burke Centre. Drawing Plus Color for 5-8-year olds and art lessons for 8 and up are on Tuesdays or Saturdays. Art Workshop & Chinese Brush Painting for teens/adults are Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m.-12:30. Class sessions vary from 7-10 weeks. Call Carol Zeitlin at 703-250-6930 or www.geocities.com/czeitlinschneier or e-mail.

SPORTS

Skating Lessons. Skater's Quest of Fairfax gives free skate lessons with a qualified professional. Lessons take place at Dick's Sporting Goods, 12501 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax. To register or for more information, visit www.skatersquest.com or www.freeskatelesson.com.

LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Northern Virginia offers golf clinics for girls throughout the Northern Virginia area. All girls rising grades 1 through 12 are invited. Parents and girls may register online at www.GirlsLoveGolf.com. For more, contact Elena Melchert at Elena@GirlsLoveGolf.com or 703-475-4163.

PARENTING

Mommy & Me. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia offers Mommy & Me classes for children 3-months-old to 2-years-old. Circle time, singing, games, crafts, story time and more. Class locations include Fairfax and Springfield. For more information on times and locations, call Laurie Albert, JCCNV at 703-537-3064 or e-mail LaurieA@jccnv.org.

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'Never Settle'

Adult and Community Education provides leg up for adults seeking road to success.

BY BRENDA SIMMS
THE CONNECTION

In a full auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center on Friday, Aug. 15, several dozen adults made their way down the aisles to accept certificates from the county's Adult and Community Education (ACE) program.

At the ceremony, a recent graduate was one of the evening's student speakers. Donna Rae Ponzette finished the physical therapy aide program last year and returned to speak to the graduates about her experience.

Two years ago, Ponzette found herself looking at a Fairfax County Public Schools ACE catalog that arrived in the mail. She was 40 and described herself as "80 pounds heavier, sitting at home with a baby." Yet, she remembered that she had always loved being a student.

Ponzette called the ACE office to find out more, especially about funding. After meeting Lorraine Obuchon, a career information specialist, she was told she was eligible to participate in a particular program of ACE called Education for Independence (EFI). A full scholarship for her classes would be provided.

Because it is designed for single parents,

single pregnant women and displaced homemakers, most of EFI's participants are women. Men are eligible, Obuchon said, if they have custody of their children. The program has additional requirements. Participants must qualify as low-income, be unmarried, be legally able to work in the U.S. and have an advanced command of English.

Obuchon explained that an application, interview and assessment process also helps EFI determine if a potential student is a good fit for the program. She discovers a student's expectations and determines her level of motivation. Academic classes are paired with workshops that teach interview tips, networking, professional image and other "soft skills."

Popular fields of study included phlebotomy and dental, medical and administrative assistant training.

Does anyone drop out the program? "It's kind of a rare occurrence," said Obuchon, because "they're at a stage in their life where they really, really want to do this. Especially with their kids in mind, they're the sole provider and they're thinking 'I can't struggle any more.'"

In fact, she said, the program often has a waiting list for admission. Thirty-nine students graduated this year. Many participants have tried different careers and want to

"If you want to go further, it can be done."

— Donna Rae Ponzette



PHOTO BY BRENDA SIMMS/THE CONNECTION

Donna R. Ponzette, a previous graduate, spoke at the Adult and Community Education graduation ceremony on Aug. 15.

move into more economically viable professions than they actually enjoy.

AT THE AUG. 15 graduation ceremony, several infants and young children could be heard in the audience, underscoring the idea that the certificates earned would be affecting many lives.

The commencement speaker, State Sen. George Barker (D-39), reiterated Ponzette's accomplishments. "But was that the end of her education?" he asked. "No. She's moving forward."

After graduating in the top of her class, Ponzette went on to secure a student loan, complete her first year at Northern Virginia Community College, volunteer at Mary Washington Hospital and be an intern at a physical therapy clinic.

From the podium, she told the students, "Never settle. ... I hope to go on one day and speak to you when I am Dr. Donna Ponzette."

Later, she said she noticed some graduates seemed to be satisfied with their progress, ready to put away their books.

Some walked up to her and told her of how much they had endured. "They think that's good enough. But if you want to go further, it can be done," she said.

What they don't know is that Ponzette face other obstacles. A divorced mother of three, Ponzette was caring for her youngest child while attending school. In addition, she didn't have a vehicle of her own for a long period of time, her laptop was stolen, she suffered a stroke, and the 80 pounds was lost through long walks and gym workouts paid by a friend.

Ponzette found out that employers often were looking for even more training beyond her ACE certificate. "It was not easy. I even went to interviews where people did not show up. I waited for two hours. ... [Students] have to prove themselves to be friendly to people, show they can win people over."

She still calls on her counselor, Obuchon, for letters of recommendation.

"This should be a stepping stone," said Ponzette. "I'll probably end up going to school for 20 more years."

Local GOP Groups Prepare for November Election

FROM PAGE 3

59-33 in the latest Rasmussen poll, and internal polling released by Connolly's campaign showed Fimian trailing 52-21. The presidential race is far closer, with McCain and Obama in a statistical tie, 45-45, according to Rasmussen polling. However, the Virginia went for Bush 54-45 in 2004 and has voted to elect the GOP nominee in 12 of the last 13 presidential elections, often by similar margins.

Becky Stoeckel, Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee said that certain factors, like not having an incumbent running and demographic changes in Northern Virginia, could help to explain some of those tightening factors.

"Well as you know, in '04 we had an incumbent president, she said. "Virginia was not perceived as a battleground state. I think it might have been a little bit easier then, with an incumbent."

Kaplan said he has noticed the change from past election cycles.

"I do think [the changes] are real, I think there's a change of people coming into Northern Virginia," he said. "We've seen a growth in technology jobs and contracting jobs. A lot of new people who are coming from urban areas. A lot of people are leaving because they can't afford to live in Fairfax County anymore."

Stoeckel rejected the notion, however, that a broader shift is occurring in Virginia politics, saying that other than the Northern Virginia area, the state remains solidly conservative.

"There's been a perception of a demographic shift in Virginia. That we're now a battleground state, that [people] think we're up for grabs. I personally don't think that's the case," she said.

Likewise, Kaplan said he was not overly

concerned, judging by what he's seen in Fairfax.

"I recognize polls show that in generic votes for Congress or president, Democrats seem to win. When you put names on the ballots, McCain is tied or up. So what I see in the city is we're not voting the generics, we're voting for the people," he said.

Meet and greets serve a vital role in connecting the community to their Republican candidates, according to Rollins. Surrogates from the McCain and Fimian campaigns were in attendance, along with a host of officials, including Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and John Brownlee, a candidate for the Republican Attorney General nomination, a race that will take place next year.

Rollins said that the more local the races

are, the more impact organizations like hers can have on the outcome.

"People can feel and touch a local candidate easier than they can a national candidate. We have Keith [Fimian] come to our meetings. We've talked with him. On a national scale, it's a little harder to do that," she said.

The RWC, started in 2006, has around 110 members and, according to Rollins, that number is rising. Throughout the next 70 days, her organization will host meet and greet events like the Aug. 24 barbecue and also staff phone banks for each of the three candidates. Like the CFR, they are coordinating with other organizations in order to provide assistance when and where they need it, including sending volunteers over to support other grassroots, county and state branches of the GOP election apparatus. "We may get only 24 hours notice for an event," said Bonnie Fite, chair of the RWC's Public Relations Committee. "I know I've responded to some of them. We have to be flexible too."

"People can feel and touch a local candidate easier than they can a national candidate."

— Terrie Rollins, president, Republican Women of Clifton

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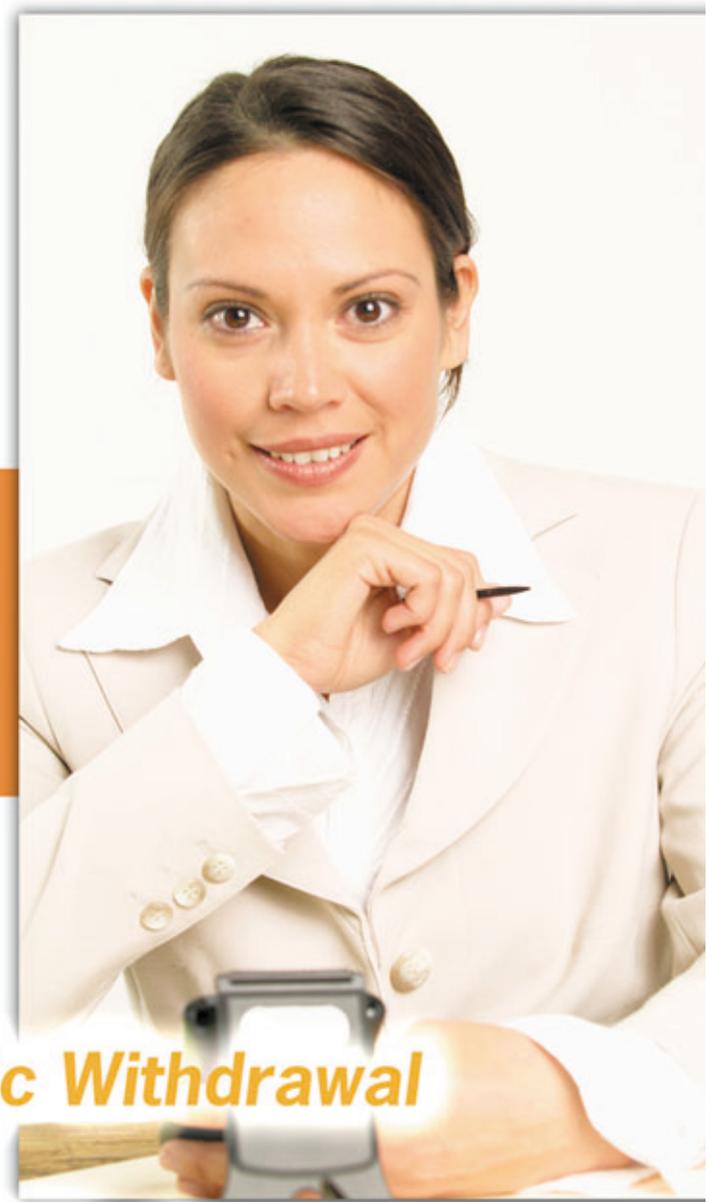
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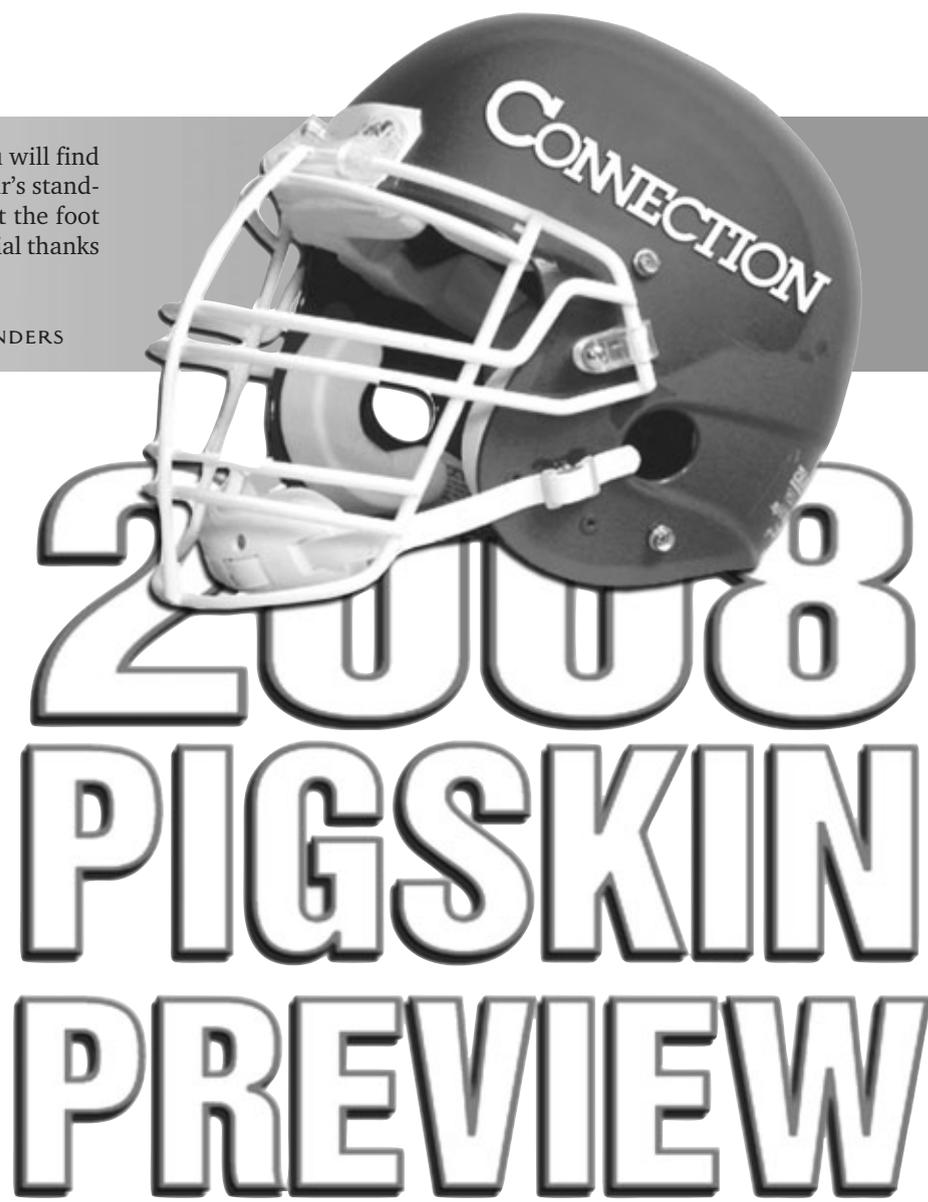
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Welcome to the 2008 Connection Pigskin Preview. In this special section, you will find team breakdowns, as well as a glance around the region, a recap of last year's standings and predictions for some week one match-ups. For a complete look at the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

—ERIC J. GILMORE, MARK GIANNOTTO AND RICH SANDERS



Lee Lancers

Head Coach: Rob Everett, third year
Career Record: 7-14

2007 Record: 2-9 overall, 2-5 Patriot District (lost in first round of Div. 5 playoffs)

Returning Starters: four offense, eight defense

Key Losses: QB Kelly Fitzgerald; K/P/WR Tad Dickman; RB/OLB Pierre Williams; TE/DL Richard Yount; OG/NT Remy Green

Top Returners: FB/DE Anthony Nsekela, Sr., 6-1, 230; TE/ILB Kyle Addy, Sr., 6-1, 220; OG/DL Bingham Togia, Sr., 6-2, 240; WR/DB Sharam Obed, Sr., 5-8, 160; RB/FS Dante Taylor, Sr., 6-1, 180; OL/DL; C/DL Colt Whisenant, Sr., 6-1, 245

Must win: Week Five, Sept. 26 at South County

Fun Fact: Lee was 2-9 last season — its worst record this decade. But based on the Power Points, it squeaked in past a four-win Washington-Lee team that had played a weaker schedule.

Aspect to Watch: Do-everything quarterback Kelly Fitzgerald was all over the field last season, so how will junior Greg Lopez respond now that he has the reigns to the offense? Also, Lee lost its first seven games last season, before rebounding. If the same slide happens this year, will the Lancers continue to play with the playoffs in sight?



Lee	
Aug. 28	at Edison
Sep. 5	at Westfield
Sep. 12	Centreville
Sep. 19	West Potomac
Sep. 26	at South County
Oct. 3	Lake Braddock
Oct. 10	at Annandale
Oct. 17	Hayfield
Oct. 24	T.C. Williams
Oct. 31	at West Springfield

West Springfield Spartans

Head Coach: Bill Renner, 10th year.

2007 Record: 10-3 overall, 6-1 Patriot District (lost in Div. 6 region final)

Returning Starters: eight offense, seven defense

Key Losses: P/PK Tyler Bitancurt; DB Tim Baldwin; WR Josh Vellejos; OL Adham Talaat; DB Mohammed Seisay

Top Returners: QB Bryn Renner, Sr., 6-3, 190; RB Brandon Bailey, Sr., 6-0, 185; WR Andy Stallings, Sr., 5-10, 170; WR Tucker Tobin, Sr., 6-0, 195; OL Corey MacRae, Sr., 6-4, 235; DE/DT John Lockwood, Sr., 6-2, 240

Must win: Week One, Sept. 29 at Stone Bridge

Fun Fact: Considering they were a part of the highest-scoring game in Northern

Region history last season, it should come as no surprise the Spartans scored over 30 points in 11 of their 13 games.

Aspect to Watch: Senior quarterback Bryn Renner has accrued headlines after pledging to UNC, but the key will be how the offensive line creates holes for senior running back Brandon Bailey. If Bailey can stay healthy, it will force defenses to pick their poison. Also, Stone Bridge scored 56 points in the season opener last season. Will the defense be improved?



West Springfield	
Aug. 29	at Stone Bridge
Sep. 5	Edison
Sep. 12	at Robinson
Sep. 19	Hayfield
Sep. 26	at Annandale
Oct. 3	West Potomac
Oct. 10	South County
Oct. 18	at T.C. Williams
Oct. 24	at Lake Braddock
Oct. 31	Lee

Edison Eagles

Head Coach: Vaughn Lewis, 14th year.
Career Record: 97-51

2007 Record: 10-3 overall, 6-0 National District (lost in Div. 5 region final)

Returning Starters: four offense, six defense.

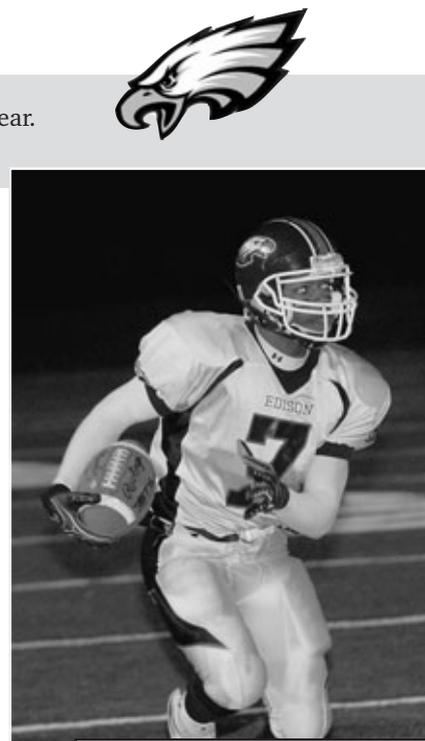
Key Losses: QB/WR/DB Ben Barber; WR/FS Drew Baldwin; RB/DB Kevin Carter; K/P Paul Bergstrom; RB/DB Akeen Perry; WR/DB Kendall Wallace

Top Returners: RB/LB Stephon Robertson, Sr., 6-0, 205; OG Frank Figueroa, Sr., 6-4, 280; WR/QB/S Corey Washington, Sr., 5-9, 165; C Medhi Cherfi, Sr., 5-11, 265

Must win: Week Four, Sept. 19 at Mount Vernon

Fun Fact: Edison and Stone Bridge have played in the Div. 5 Northern Region title game for the past three seasons, with the Bulldogs winning the rubber match in 2007 en route to the state title. The same two teams are again slated to be the top contenders for the Div. 5 crown.

Aspect to Watch: The quarterback situation was fluid last season with Ben Barber commanding the offense. But how will his younger brother, Levi Barber, and Corey Washington do when they have the spotlight? Also, with Edison playing in the National District, will the starters be tested enough heading into the playoffs?



Edison	
Aug. 28	Lee
Sep. 5	at West Springfield
Sep. 12	South County
Sep. 19	at Mount Vernon
Sep. 26	Wakefield
Oct. 3	at Yorktown
Oct. 10	Stuart
Oct. 17	at Falls Church
Oct. 24	Washington-Lee
Oct. 31	at Chantilly

SPORTS: PIGSKIN PREVIEW

Hayfield Hawks

Head Coach: Billy Pugh, 10th year.

2007 Record: 1-9 overall, 0-7 Patriot District.

Top Returners: ; QB Anton McCallum, Jr., 6-0, 175; LB Laurent Newsome, Sr., 6-2, 210; C Taylor Kewer, Sr., 6-1, 185

Must win: Week Two, Sept. 5 vs. Wakefield

Fun Fact: Ever since South County opened four years ago, the Hawks are a combined 4-26. In the five prior years, Hayfield was a combined 27-22.

Aspect to Watch:

Hayfield departs the Patriot District after this season — a move that was necessary given the huge discrepancy in scores and depth. With Pugh having accumulated a 1-19 over the past two seasons, does he show enough for school officials to keep him in 2009?

Hayfield

Aug. 28	at Marshall
Sep. 5	Wakefield
Sep. 12	at Westfield
Sep. 19	at West Springfield
Sep. 26	at West Potomac
Oct. 3	Annandale
Oct. 10	T.C. Williams
Oct. 17	at Lee
Oct. 24	at South County
Oct. 31	Lake Braddock



Lake Braddock Bruins



Head Coach: Jim Poythress, fifth year.

Career Record: 42-29

2007 Record: 8-3 overall, 6-1 Patriot District (lost in first round of Div. 6 playoffs)

Returning Starters: one offense, two defense

Key Losses: QB Shane Halley; WR/DB/KR Keon Robinson; FB Michael Harrison; OL/DL Judson Gates; OL/DL Robert Vickers; TE James Phillips

Top Returners: QB Ryan Curtis, Jr., 6-2, 195; DE Kyle Merrell, Sr., 6-3, 200; C/DE J.C. Weidinger, Sr., 6-0, 185; OL Khamrone Kolb, Jr., 6-6, 300

Must win: Week Five, Sept. 26 vs. T.C. Williams

Fun Fact: Lake Braddock held four different opponents to single digits, including two shutouts. The 124 points the

Bruins gave up last season were the least throughout the Northern Region.

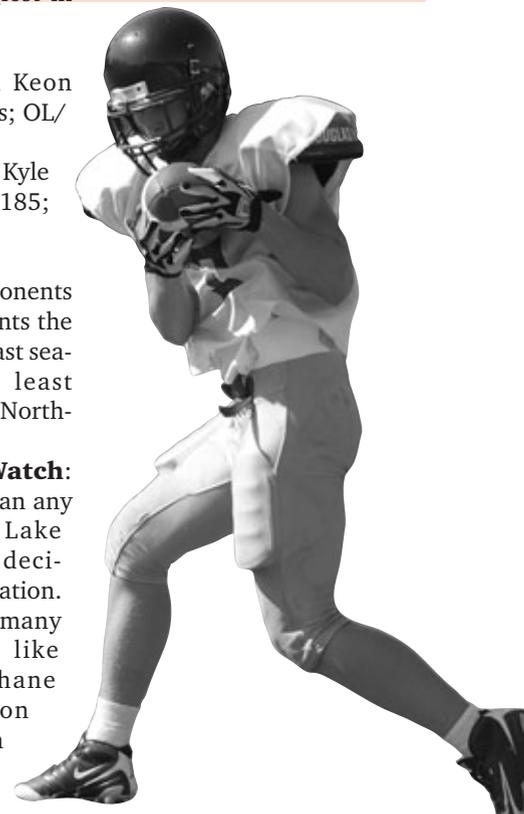
Aspect to Watch:

Perhaps more than any other team, Lake Braddock was decimated by graduation. Having lost so many key players, like standouts Shane Halley and Keon

Robinson, who will step up to fill their shoes? With games against Robinson and W.T. Woodson to open the season, there isn't much time to find the answers.

Lake Braddock

Aug. 28	Robinson
Sep. 5	at Woodson
Sep. 12	Stuart
Sep. 19	at South County
Sep. 26	T.C. Williams
Oct. 3	at Lee
Oct. 10	at West Potomac
Oct. 17	Annandale
Oct. 24	West Springfield
Oct. 31	at Hayfield



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Northern Region at a Glance

PATRIOT DISTRICT

West Springfield



In 2007, the **West Springfield Spartans** made the Northern Region final for the first time in 14 seasons, eventually losing to Westfield. Coach Bill Renner's son, quarterback Bryn Renner — a UNC recruit — will command the offense (2,749 passing yards, 32 touchdowns) along with senior tailback Brandon Bailey (1,438 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns). The Spartans have to improve defensively (having relinquished an average of 32.7 points per game over the past two seasons), but return the majority of their offensive line and are poised for a possible state championship run. But tilts against Stone Bridge and Edison in the first two weeks of the season will be brutal tests.

West Potomac



In 2007, the **West Potomac Wolverines** went 8-4 — the team's best season since 2000, the same year it last made the playoffs. The Wolverines reversed a 41-0 regular season loss to Lake Braddock when they narrowly defeated the Bruins in the playoffs. West Potomac graduated 13 starters, including two Division I signees. But quarterback Cole Walter (2,195 passing yards, 26 touchdowns), running back Daniel Baker (542 rushing yards, five touchdowns) and speedy wide receiver Kristian Rodriguez (395 receiving yards, four touchdowns) return for an offense that averaged 39.5 points during a four-game stretch last year. The key will be avoiding injuries and maintaining momentum once the district season starts.

South County



The **South County Stallions** took another step forward in 2007, making the playoffs for the first time in school history. After starting the season 1-3, the Stallions won five of their last six regular-season games to sneak into the eighth and final Division 6 playoff spot. Coach Pete Bendorf will run a spread offense, going with either junior Aaron Andrews or sophomore Evan Beal at quarterback. All-district playmaker Titus Pennington graduated, so senior Eric Dorsey will step in at running back. The Stallions do return three offensive linemen and eight starters on defense. The experience — and youth at quarterback — will be tested when South County faces Westfield and Edison within the first three weeks.

Lake Braddock



It's hard to believe, but the **Lake Braddock Bruins** were winless four seasons ago. The 2007 season yielded an 8-3 record — the team's most wins this decade — and a Patriot District co-championship. More importantly, the Bruins made the Division 6 playoffs for the first time in eight years, losing at home to West Potomac. But things will be drastically different as Lake Braddock graduated two-way all-district standouts Shane Halley and Keon Robinson. Actually, of the 12

all-district selections, only junior linebacker Chris Lavery returns. The Bruins will again rely on defense, where they've yielded an impressive 14.5-point per game average over the past three seasons.

T.C. Williams



The **T.C. Williams Titans** grabbed momentum heading into the off-season with a comeback-behind 15-14 victory over West Potomac in the season finale. The win vindicated Dennis Randolph's first season, despite the school finishing 4-6 for the fourth-straight season. The Titans have to replace Jamal Ford at quarterback and all-district selections Quintas McCorkle and Carlton Dotson on defense. Offensively, seniors Dominique Copeland, Marcus Via and 6-foot-4 Zach Goehler return, giving Randolph weapons to toy with. Over the past eight years, T.C. Williams is only averaging 13.6 points per game, which led Randolph to install the spread in the off-season. A possible playoff berth hinges on whether the Titans can conquer their non-district slate.

Annandale



The **Annandale Atoms** took a small step backwards last season, after winning the Patriot District in consecutive years, going 4-6 — the team's fewest wins in six seasons. So longtime coach Dick Adams will turn to senior quarterback Cason Kynes, an all-district strong safety last season. Kynes accounted for more than 1,600 yards of total offense in 2007, powering the offense to four games over the 33-point mark. Defensive tackle Shane Doty, the only other 2007 all-district selection will anchor the defense. With depth being a potential problem, Annandale can't afford any injuries to its two-way players. It will also have to navigate Oakton and Chantilly in the first three weeks.

Robert E. Lee



The **Robert E. Lee Lancers** won two games in 2007, but still inched into the Division 5 playoffs on merit of its brutal schedule. The 2008 slate is just as tough, as the Lancers open with perennial powers Edison, Westfield and Centreville. It's hardly an ideal setting for third-year coach Rob Everett to unveil a new quarterback and backfield. Junior Greg Lopez takes over for Kelly Fitzgerald at quarterback, Jazmier Williams and Dante Taylor will step in at running back and potential Division I recruit Anthony Nsekela and Jabrill Mara will be their lead blockers. The Lancers return eight starters defensively, including all-district linebacker Kyle Addy. With the tough schedule, any win will be cherished.

Hayfield



The **Hayfield Hawks** may be looking forward to next season, when quarterback Anton McCallum will be a

third-year starter and when the school transitions to the easier National District. Over the past two seasons, 10th-year coach Billy Pugh has gone 1-19 while getting outscored by a combined 522 points. In the season finale, Hayfield succumbed to Lake Braddock, 63-14, just a week after getting blasted by West Springfield, and much of it has to do with enrollment. Hayfield, a Division 5 school, has 1,500 kids compared to five other district schools with at least 2,000 kids. With Wakefield — its only win last season — much improved, wins will be scarce.

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 (Ben Barber's younger brother) and senior Corey Washington should shoulder the offensive load. Massive offensive lineman Frank Figueroa (verbalized 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.

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 Yorktown last year was no fluke.

Washington-Lee



The **Washington-Lee Generals** took strides under coach Josh Shapiro, winning four games for the 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 coach Keith Powell 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 team's highest total 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.

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 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.

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 defense gave up 352 — the most this decade. Having likely Division I recruit Travis Garrett transfer out of the area doesn't help the team's chances. 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 this off-season, re-hiring Ray Ferri, the same coach who was fired in 2000 for winning only seven games over four years. But the Raiders haven't fared much better and are 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.

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

“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

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 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. Hanson's loyal assistants had already carpoled 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-laden 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.

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



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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



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

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 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 Spring-

field) 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 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.



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

COMMUNITY

New Arts Facility Set To Open in Lorton

FROM PAGE 14

and amateur students looking to hone their craft.

The foundation also has plans to operate the center as a venue for festivals, events, performances and exhibitions. "Phase two" of the Workhouse Arts Center, planned for construction in 2009, will add a 300-seat performance theater, a music barn and 40 live-in studio apartments leased out to artists who will live, work and display their art on-site. Plans are also in the works to create a museum

EACH ARTIST at the Workhouse, according to Leone, has submitted their work to be reviewed by a panel of critics selected by the foundation before they become contributing members of the Workhouse Artist Association.

Alex Beard demonstrated the versatility of the center when discussing his involvement during the opening festivities. A drawing artist and oil painter by trade, Beard will be displaying his work in the main exducing several workshops with children. The desire by the Lorton Arts Foundation to make the Workhouse Arts Center equally accessible to the public as well as the artist appealed to him.

"It will be one of the few places, maybe



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Lorton Arts Foundation CEO Tina Leone said she was determined to make the Workhouse Arts Center a magnet for professional as well as local artists.

unique in this respect, where it will be able to bridge the arch between arts and crafts, the artists and the public," said Beard, who owns studio galleries in Soho, N.Y. and New Orleans, La. "The fine artiste and the true craftsman are ultimately doing the same

thing."

Those points were echoed by Leone.

"We will not only bring the best of the art world to Lorton, but also remain community-oriented and provide these opportunities to everyone," she said.

One local group anticipating the September opening of the Workhouse is the Springfield Art Guild. The SAG has been invited to be the first group to show in the center's main gallery space.

"The members of the Springfield Art Guild were instrumental in supporting the Lorton Arts Foundation's efforts to open the workhouse," said Sharon Mason, executive arts director for the Lorton Arts Foundation. "They have helped for five years with things like feasibility studies leading up to the county's signing of the lease. We chose the Springfield Arts Guild to be one of the first to exhibit because of the effort they made to get us to where we are."

Like the Springfield Arts Guild, many art groups around Fairfax County have no galleries, according to Mason. The Lorton Workhouse Arts Center will feature art from these groups regularly.

TO AVOID depending on county funding to prop the center up financially, Leone said she was hired in 2002 to devise a business plan that would make the Workhouse a self-sustaining entity. The center has already leased out all available studio space to local artists two months before September. Plans are underway to build a performing arts center where accredited courses will be offered.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Ekoji Buddhist Temple Seminar on Everyday Nembutsu Practice. Saturday, Aug. 30, from 12-4 p.m. Free seminar and lecture with guest speaker Rev. Harry Bridge from the Lodi Buddhist Church; light lunch provided. The Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lake Haven Lane, Fairfax Station. Call 703-239-0500 or visit www.ekoji.org.

Messiah United Methodist Church is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-9862 or visit www.messiahumc.org.

❖ A Community of Contagious Joy. Sunday worship: 8:15 (with Holy Communion every Sunday), 9:30 and 11 a.m. (Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month)

❖ Block Party, Sunday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. Food, dunk tank, face painting, balloon art, spin art, clowns inflatable games, castle moon bounce, human car wash, variety show and more. Collections taken for Nothing But Nets and items for Flood Buckets for flood recovery in the midwest.

St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church is hosting an Egyptian Bazaar, on Saturday Sept. 20 and Sunday Sept. 21, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Egyptian food and music, children's games and rides; car wash; antique furniture; jewelry and imported goods for sale. Church and school tours available. St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church, 11911 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Call 703-591-4444.

ESL Program at St. George's

UMC. English as a second language classes are offered from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Registration is on Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. with classes from Tuesday, Sept. 9 through Nov. 20. Call 703-385-4550.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will offer registration for fall ESOL classes on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and Thursday, Sept. 4 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and again 7-9 p.m. The church is located at 9350 Braddock Road. Fall classes run Sept. 16 through Dec. 4 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., and 7-9 p.m. A \$50 fee will be collected at the first class. Call 703-323-5400.

Community Fun Day will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 from 12-5 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke, between Rolling and Guinea Roads. Free pony rides, a giant slide, face painting, games, food and more. Visit www.ststephensfairfax.org or call 703-978-8724.

Family Movie Night. Saturday, Sept. 6. Preschool show at 8:15 p.m., family film at 9 p.m. Movie is free; popcorn and lemonade will be available. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Call 703-451-2375.

Community Picnic. Sunday, Sept. 7. On church grounds, following 10:30 a.m. worship, food, music, games, a moonbounce and face painting. Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Call 703-451-2375.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



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(Near West Springfield High School)
(703) 569-9862

Sunday Services
8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Heartline Contemporary Service 7:15 p.m.

Sunday School
9:30 am & 11:00 am
"Serving God by Serving Others"
Visit our website: <http://www.messiahumc.org>



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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night
Family Ministry 5:45 p.m.
Rev. James K. Abernathy
Senior Pastor

703-451-5120
www.westwood-baptist.org
8200 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield

Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran... 703-451-5855
St. John's Lutheran Church... 703-971-2210
St. Marks Lutheran Church... 703-451-4331
Immanuel Lutheran Church... 703-549-0155

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Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862
Springfield United Methodist... 703-451-2375
St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655
Sydenstricker United Methodist... 703-451-8223

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Love International Church... 703-354-3608
New Life Open Bible Church... 703-922-7577
New World Unity Church... 703-690-7925
International Calvary Church... 703-912-1378

Presbyterian

Grace Presbyterian Church... 703-451-2900
Harvester Presbyterian Church... 703-455-7800
Kirkwood Presbyterian Church... 703-451-5320

Assembly of God
Word of Life Assembly of God... 703-941-2312
Harvest Church... 703-971-7070

Baha'i Faith
Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest...
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Community of Faith Tabernacle... 703-455-4594
Fellowship Baptist Church... 703-569-5151
First Baptist Church-Hayfield... 703-971-7077
First Baptist Church-Springfield... 703-451-1500
South Run Baptist Church... 703-455-4521
Westwood Baptist Church... 703-451-5120

Bible
Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124

Catholic
St. Bernadette's Catholic Church... 703-451-8576

Christian Science
First Church of Christ, Scientist... 703-941-7540

Church of Christ
Central Christian Church... 703-971-0277
Springfield Church of Christ... 703-451-4011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...
703-451-0631

Disciples of Christ
Springfield Christian Church... 703-354-4994

Episcopal
St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088

Evangelical Covenant
Community Covenant Church... 703-455-4150

Jewish
Adat Reyim Congregation... 703-569-7577
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Education Begins Before College

Better Business Bureau offers advice for college bound students and their parents.

BY EDWARD JOHNSON

SENDING a child off into the world of higher learning can be an apprehensive time for all concerned. For students and parents alike, it is bittersweet. It is every parent's hope that with the new found independence, their child will embrace academia, learn, grow and put into practice the everyday life skills they have been taught. As the days draw closer to an empty nest, parents often impart words of wisdom. Some financial advice may also be in order.

Aside from the inherent benefits of saving money, starting early means taking advantage of what Albert Einstein described as one of the most powerful forces in the universe: compound interest. For example, if a freshman saves \$50 every month and puts it into a high interest savings account or money market account that earns 5 percent interest, by graduation they will have saved more than \$2,660 including dividends.

♦ **Pay your bills on time.**

U.S. PIRG found that more than 40 percent of college students who managed their own credit cards had paid bills late or paid at least one over-the-limit fee. Credit card companies often charge late fees

Last year alone, approximately 2 million students graduated from high school and headed to college. While most were equipped with bedding and books, many were ill equipped on the subject of financial literacy. According to a 2007 survey by Charles Schwab, fewer than half of teens considered themselves knowledgeable on how to budget money (41 percent), how to pay bills (34 percent) or how credit card interest and fees work (26 percent).

as high as \$40. Add to that any accruing interest, which can be upwards of 30 percent, and college students will quickly see how much can be lost by not paying a bill on time and in full. Aside from the immediate benefits of paying bills on time — specifically, reducing needless spending on fees and interest charges — it is an important way for college students to begin building a healthy credit report.

To help build a foundation of sound financial habits, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) offers the following advice for parents to bestow on their college bound children:

♦ **Guard your personal information.**

When comparing the age demographics of ID theft victims in the U.S., young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were the second highest age group at risk for fraud according to an annual survey by Javelin Strategy and Research. Javelin also found that, in cases where the victims knew how their ID was stolen, 79 percent of the time it was stolen by someone they had contact with. Therefore, preventing ID theft is important both online and offline. Parents should encourage their students to shred unnecessary documents that include personal information such as social security or bank account numbers and keep a close watch over credit and debit cards and checkbooks.

♦ **Be responsible with credit cards.**

According to a U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) survey, two out of three college students report having a credit card, of which about two-thirds are responsible for paying their monthly bill. Overall, freshmen responsible for their own cards had average credit card balances of \$1,301. While having a credit card is an important first step for a college student to start building a credit history, parents need to stress the importance of using credit responsibly. This includes having a minimal number of credit cards, paying off the balances every month and keeping a reign on spending.

♦ **Start saving money now, even if it's just a small amount every month.**

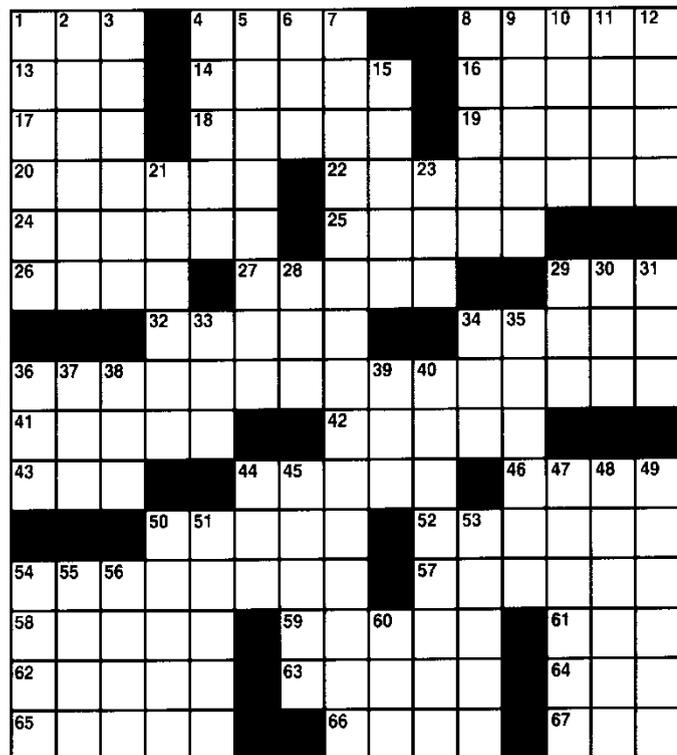
Developing good saving habits early on will help a college student reap the ben-

Edward Johnson is president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the greater Metro Washington, D.C. region.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0325-2



- 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
- 45 Word with bore or wave
- 47 Selleck TV role
- 48 Not troubled
- 49 36-Across star
- 50 Brouhaha
- 51 Bridge positions
- 53 Some school methods
- 54 1979 disco classic
- 55 Circus cries
- 56 Kings Peak locale
- 60 Jonson work

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

- 1 36-Across surname
- 2 What adjusters adjust
- 3 Playing card combo
- 4 Designer Simpson

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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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 #0324-2 is:

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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.

SENIOR LIVING

Senior Facilities Fair, Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. Learn more about the offerings of eight senior living facilities. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke, between Rolling and Guinea Roads. Call 703-978-8724.

The 2008 The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is Sept. 20-Oct. 2, with

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George Mason University, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is looking for a Coaches' Secretary whose duties include clerical and administrative support. Required qualifications include strong interpersonal/organizational skills; strong computer skills (i.e., word processing, database, spreadsheet, e-mail and Internet experience); ability to manage multiple tasks; and the ability to work with a diverse group of people. Preferred qualifications include demonstrated experience in a secretarial position, and knowledge of intercollegiate athletic programs. To view the full position description and to apply for position 01985z, go to <http://jobs.gmu.edu/>. Salary: \$27,801. Deadline to apply is Sept. 8, 2008. AA/EOE

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-St. Francis de Sales

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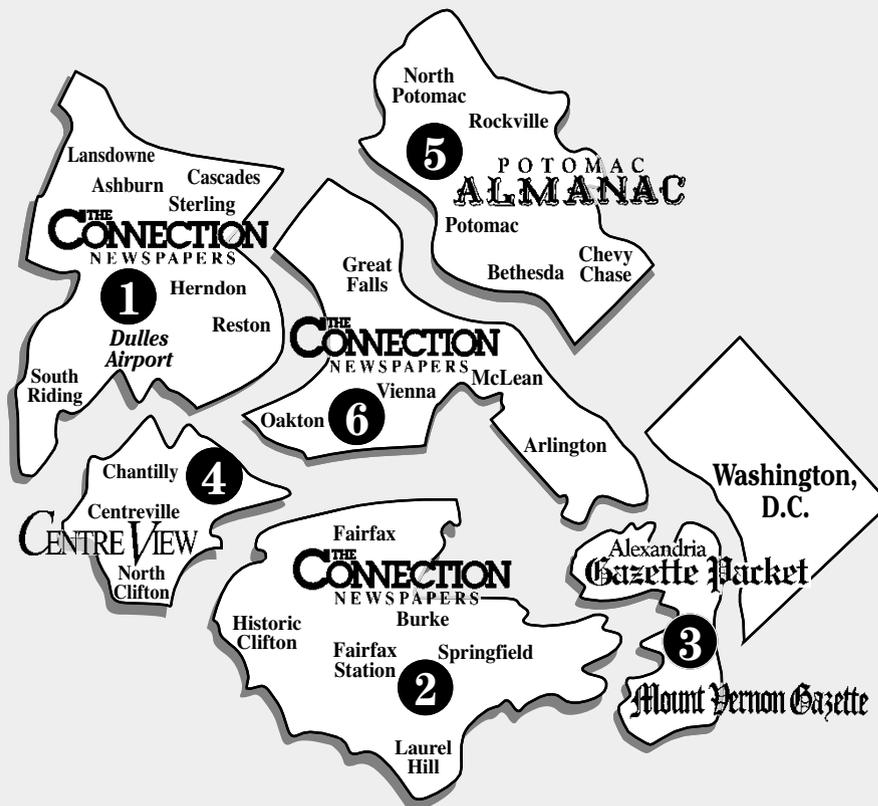
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21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Improved by the premises known as
9556 Hagel Circle, Lorton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Santos Alfaro, dated December 5, 2007, and recorded December 10, 2007, in Deed Book 19694 at page 2031 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:
Tax Map No. 107-4-11-12-C
Commonly known as 9556 Hagel Circle, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 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 6.25 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.

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 any 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. 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
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21 Announcements

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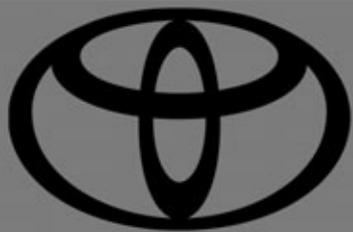
21 Announcements

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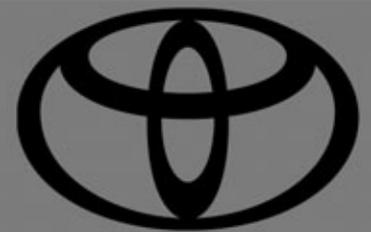
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Fairfax Station \$1,575,000 Drastic Reduction! REDUCED 125K! Spectacular all- brick estate home on five wooded acres yet close to all amenities. Over 7000 sq ft.

finished, 5/6 bedrooms 5.5 baths, 10' ceilings, 6 fireplaces, 3- car garage, huge updated kitchen, banquet sized dining room, sunroom, library, grand foyer with Waterford chandelier.

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Clifton/Frosty Meadows \$975,000 Excellent Value! Charming Colonial with Swimming Pool in serene setting on 5 acres! Total privacy yet very

close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec.

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