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# Raised Not Razed

NEWS, PAGE 4

The Acacia Masonic Lodge in Clifton  
is undergoing repairs and renova-  
tions. It has been the victim of  
flooding twice in recent years.



## Connolly Runs In 11th District

NEWS, PAGE 3

## David Guernsey Welcomes Bush

NEWS, PAGE 3

“

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# Connolly Seeks Higher Office

Fairfax chairman runs for U.S. Congress.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

*This is the second in a series of profiles about Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidates. Republican Keith Fimian's profile ran last week.*

**W**hen Chantilly resident Joe Carney first met Gerry Connolly 41 years ago, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors chairman was just a teenager enrolled in Carney's American history class at a seminary.

Then a Maryknoll priest, Carney, was 13 years older than Connolly but was nevertheless impressed by his student's intellect.

"He was the best student in my class. ... I thought, at 15 years old, he was asking questions that a college senior or a graduate student would ask," he said.

**CONNOLLY** is the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> District and faces Republican Keith Fimian in the election Nov. 4. The incumbent, U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R), is stepping down from of-

fice.

Connolly has served a little less than five years as Fairfax County's chairman. He was also the Providence District representative to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors from 1995 to 2003.

The Democrat's experience in local government gives Connolly a good understanding of some of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's biggest issues, such as the local impact of the military's base realignment and closure plan, he said.

If elected, Connolly would also bring a background in international relations to Congress. He worked as a staff member for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1979 to 1989 and has traveled to 76 countries.

The chairman's experience on Capitol Hill means he can also identify with federal employees, with many living in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Connolly also works part-time for a defense contractor, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), one of Northern Virginia's largest private employers.

"I have worked for very large federal contractors — that is the industry of Northern Virginia. That is what we do here. ... I can

**"He was a real live wire."**

— Mary Lee McIntyre,  
McLean resident



PHOTO BY JULIE O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) is running for U.S. Congress.**

advocate for that sector and those federal employees that live here," said Connolly.

**REGARDLESS** of his qualifications, several people said Connolly's mind would be his single greatest asset in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many, including those who sometimes butt heads with Connolly, immediately used words like "articulate" and "highly intelligent" when asked to describe the Fairfax County chairman.

Connolly makes an effort to be well informed. He reads, on average, one book per week in spite of his two jobs and a busy political schedule that has him out at public meetings at least six out of every seven nights.

"Gerry is extraordinarily bright and has a tremendous grasp of issues. He is extremely insightful about what is happening and

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 9

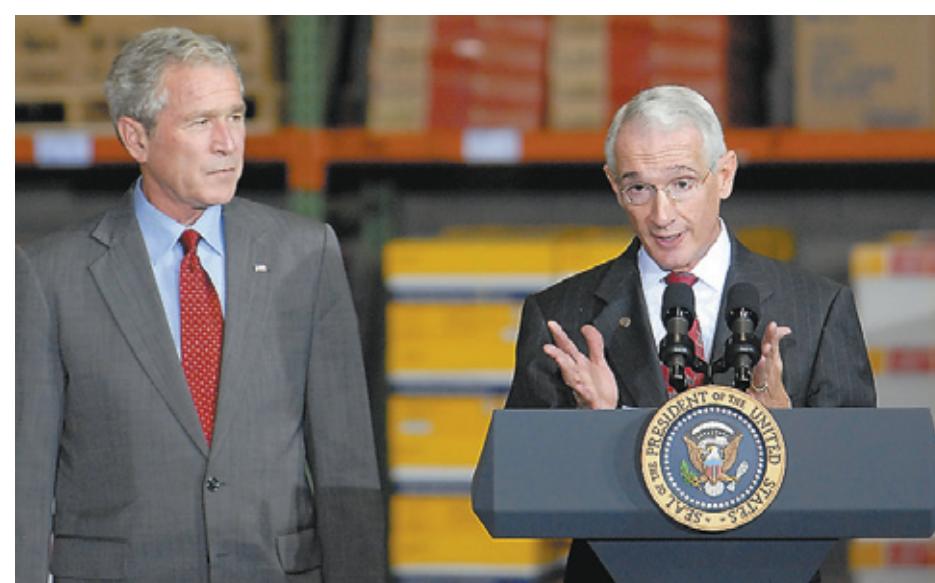
# Clifton Man Welcomes President Bush

**President speaks  
at Guernsey Office  
Products in Chantilly.**

**P**resident Bush came to Chantilly to address the local business community, Tuesday afternoon, but the seeds for the event were sown earlier, in a smaller meeting.

Clifton's Dave Guernsey, president and CEO of Guernsey Office Products, said the president chose to visit his company because "We're a Main Street business. Besides freeing up liquidity, the economic package is also designed to deal with issues in the Main Street business community."

It came about after Guernsey and about a dozen other businesspeople met with Bush a month ago in the old, Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. "He wanted to find out how the energy crisis was affecting businesses," said Guernsey. "I've got a fleet of 100 trucks I put out on the street each day and, every time I look at my fuel costs, I gasp."



Guernsey said Bush was "very engaging and down-to-earth, and we had a nice talk. Then this came, out of the blue. Friday afternoon, late, the White House called me and asked, 'Would you be willing to do this?' and I thought it would be cool to have this happen in Fairfax County."

Some 90-100 of his employees attended Tuesday's event, along with representatives of other area businesses, including Virginia Commerce Bank and the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce. First, though, came a smaller meeting at the Chantilly company between Bush and a handful of executives.

"It's an exciting opportunity to host the president in a private meeting and talk to him about what's on our minds," said Guernsey prior to the meeting. "He's coming to our house, and we're getting to have our say."

Guernsey said members of the local, business community are "generally appreciative that [Bush] and Congress have dealt with this crisis with the sense of urgency that it demands. The president really is concerned and wants to get it right."

— BONNIE HOBBS

the NFIB [National Federation of Independent Business], which has 400,000 members, and the White House is familiar with that organization."

The meeting lasted nearly an hour and

## NEWS BRIEFS



### Apple a Day

Second graders celebrate Apple Day at Clifton Elementary School. Caroline Oakley adds spices to the chopped apples

that will soon become applesauce as teacher Dawn O'Quinn looks on.

### Board Still Seeks New Building

The Fairfax County School Board has decided to stay the course when it comes to purchasing a second central administration facility.

During the body's late-night meeting Oct. 2, School Board members voted unanimously to extend the deadline under which the desired facility — adjacent to the school system's current administration building in Merrifield — could be purchased.

Fairfax County and the building owners now have until Dec. 1 to reach an agreement about the sale. Under the current agreement, the school system would spend approximately \$110 million on the purchase and renovation of the building.

The School Board had initially endorsed the purchase of the building last month, saying that it would promote efficiency and pay for itself through cost savings. But the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the proposal, unsure that the current financial climate was the appropriate time to be purchasing a new administrative building.

Several School Board members were upset that the supervisors had turned down their proposal. They said the new building would allow the school system to move staff from several smaller facilities and leased space into one place. It would also return money to the schools' operating budget, said School Board members.

"We could be putting money into schools which is being spent on 12 different [administrative] facilities," said School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence.)

The School Board plans to use the extended timeline to provide more information about the building purchase to the Board of Supervisors. The possibility exists that the school system could negotiate a better deal for the building.

"We have an excellent opportunity to improve upon the business model," said School Board chairman Dan Storck (Mount Vernon).

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Gerry Connolly

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

## NEWS



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

**Joe Jones and the Masons of Acacia Lodge No. 16 are having their meetings at the Henry Lodge in Fairfax while repairs and renovations are done to their regular meeting place.**

## Life Below the Floodplain

### Acacia Lodge undergoes repairs, after second flooding in three years.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hese days, the Acacia Lodge in Clifton is sitting just behind its regular spot these days, lifted up 3 feet high next door on property owned by the Clifton Betterment Association.

A small construction fence outlines the crater where the house once stood, as crews continue the work that they began shortly before Tropical Storm Hanna rolled through Northern Virginia, swelling local rivers which topped over to areas of land below the floodplain.

The Acacia Lodge was situated in one such area, and when Hanna was finished soaking the region, it left the outside and inside of the Masonic lodge flooded with water for the second time in three years. A similar incident happened in 2006, prompting the Masons of Acacia Lodge No. 16 to plan for over \$110,000 worth of renovations and repairs to the historic house, which was built in the 1800s. Ironically as work began several weeks before Hanna hit, the contents of the house were moved out to accommodate the repairs, saving them from flood damage.

"Part of our incentive for saving this building is because it's a valuable asset to this town," said Joe Jones, senior warden for the Masons who meet at

the lodge.

**THE BUILDING'S** foundation had not been on a firm footing since being moved to its current location in 1920. Back then, Jones said, workers didn't have any code to follow in terms of the foundation. In order to keep the wooden beams at the bottom of the house from touching the soil and rotting, workers put large rocks underneath the new spot before rolling the lodge over it with tree trunks and a team of horses.

Over time, the stones sank into the ground along with the home. The end result was that after construction crews got a look at the beams they would

be repairing, it was difficult to differentiate the damage caused by the recent floods from the damage caused by the sunken foundation and a century and a half of wear and tear.

William Baumbach, chairperson for the lodge's building committee, joked that his job up until the renovations consisted of making sure the light bulbs were changed. To save money on this job, Baumbach

Masons served as general contractors for the work.

"Once we get this major construction out of the way, it will probably be done with Masonic labor, too," he said.

**THE WORK** itself was divided into two phases. Work on phase one, currently in progress, is designed to protect the lodge's foundations from any significant flood damage in the future. After a more solid foundation of concrete is poured into the lodge's original

SEE LODGE, PAGE 22

## POLITICS

# Parties Court Muslim American Voters

Many local Muslims are likely to lean Democratic in spite of conservative social values.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Fairfax County resident Ashraf Sadrin arrived at a local meeting of Republican activists in September, he was starving and glad to see the complementary pizza.

Sadrin, a practicing Muslim, had not eaten since before the sunrise in observance of Ramadan. While other people grabbed slices, he waited diligently for 20 minutes until sunset — when observant Muslims break their daily fast during the month-long holiday.

But by the time Sadrin finally got to the food, he found only pepperoni and sausage pizza. Many Muslims do not eat pork and Sadrin had to pass on the pizza and head for the building's vending machine instead.

The political activists may have been a little unprepared or ignorant of Muslim practices, but incidents like the one above are important and show why the Muslim community should be more politically engaged, said Sadrin.

At least one woman approached Sadrin and asked why he was eating vending machine food over the pizza.

"She saw me at the next meeting and wanted to know more about Islam," Sadrin said. "When you keep an open mind and talk to people, they are no longer 'the other.'"

**OVER THE PAST** decade, the Northern Virginia Muslim American community has started to focus on civic engagement and gained more political clout.

The commonwealth has approximately 71,000 Muslim voters and about 87 percent of them live in Northern Virginia, said Mukit Hossain, a Cascades resident who founded the Virginia Muslim political action committee in 2002.

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Northern Virginia's largest mosque, hosted more political candidates than ever, 67, during its seventh annual civic picnic last year. In 2008, ADAMS Imam Mohamed Magid became the first Muslim to oversee one of the daily opening prayers for the Virginia House of Delegates.

"We have superb relationships with local politicians and they benefit from our support," Bob Marro, head of government relations committee at ADAMS, located in Sterling, said.

Local politicians are not the only ones trying to develop a relationship with the Northern Virginia Muslim community. Locked in a tight race for Virginia in November, the presidential campaigns are also reaching out.

Staff from Republican Sen. John McCain's cam-

paign met with a small group at the ADAMS main center Sept. 27. Democratic candidate Barack Obama has also contacted ADAMS.

"We think someone [from the Obama campaign] will be coming by as well," Rizwan Jaka, ADAMS board member, said.

Some people credit Virginia's Muslim community with handing Sen. Jim Webb (D) a victory over former Sen. George Allen (R) in 2006. Webb beat Allen by less than 10,000 votes in a race where more than 2.4 million ballots were cast.

Though Muslim voters are thought to have backed President George W. Bush in 2000, they had largely started voting for Democrats by the Webb-Allen election, said Abdul Kareem Jama, president of Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque in Fairfax County.

"It was the Muslim vote that made a difference in Jim Webb's race and the community is quite proud of its ability to make a strategic difference in Northern Virginia," he said.

**"There are definitely some issues where I fall a little bit more to right on the spectrum."**

— Asma Ahmad, West Potomac High School

he said.

"They see Bush and they say 'Whatever he is, I am not.' They decided they were a Democrat based on what they didn't like," said Sadrin, who added that Bush had "hurt the country."

This is, in part, true for West Potomac High School student Asma Ahmad. Ahmad, who is an officer in West Potomac's Muslim Student Association, joined the school's Young Democrats club after deciding to support Obama.

She likes Obama's economic policies, but also mentions Bush when talking about why she favors the Democrat.

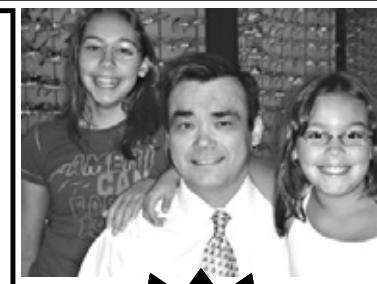
"I trust him more. ... And we have had a Republican president for the last eight years," Ahmad said.

But Muslims favor Democrats because they tend to have more agreeable stances on issues that are important to the community — like civil liberties, immigration and war, said Hossain.

**EVEN THOUGH** Hossain's PAC is not partisan, it endorsed only Democrats in Virginia's senate race as well as the three congressional races in Northern Virginia. It is backing Gov. Mark Warner for U.S. Senate, Rep. Jim Moran in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and Democratic candidate Judy Feder in the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

SEE MUSLIM, PAGE 9

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## PEOPLE

# Sharing the Holidays

Jewish congregations welcome new members during High Holidays.

BY MARC GOLDMAN  
THE CONNECTION

This week ends 10 days on the Jewish calendar considered the holiest of the year. The celebration of the Jewish New Year called Rosh Hashanah began on Monday night, Sept. 29. The annual period of spiritual renewal concludes on Oct. 9 with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

These days mark a new beginning for many members of the Fairfax Jewish community who have recently affiliated with a local temple. For others, the High Holidays reinforce a congregation's role as family away from family.

The community includes two congregations offering different approaches to worship — Adat Reyim in Springfield and Temple B'nai Shalom (TBS) in Fairfax Station. Adat Reyim is a Progressive Conservative congregation.

"Heavy emphasis on tradition, more Hebrew in our services while still addressing the challenges of modern society," said Rabbi Bruce Aft of Adat Reyim.

TBS is a Reform congregation that provides a variety of Jewish spiritual, social, and educational experiences for children and adults.

Membership is expected to reach approximately 500 families at TBS and 325 at Adat Reyim. "Most of our members are within five miles of temple," said Rabbi Amy Perlin, in her 21st year at TBS. "Still, the majority of the Jews in our area aren't affiliated, which is sad for me."

A seat at High Holy Days services combined with the start of religious school annually energizes new residents and previously unaffiliated families to pursue membership. In recent weeks, both congregations opened their sanctuaries to prospective new members offering building tours, time to meet the rabbis and even services "under the stars." In an effort to encourage young families to join and enjoy a savings on religious education, for the second year,

**"The majority of the Jews in our area aren't affiliated, which is sad for me."**

— Rabbi Amy Perlin

attending family programs, coming to services, getting to know the rabbis."

**ADDITIONALLY,** Perlin points to the emotional needs served by a congregation. "For many members, there just isn't immediate family right here. The temple through outreach by the rabbis or caring committees of members can be at nursing homes, hospitals, a member's house or just by phone when needed in a crisis."

"We are building a community of friends," said Aft.

And while membership has its privileges, Perlin views belonging as a crucial element to supporting and growing the Jewish community. "At this time of year, especially, we must ask ourselves 'How we as individuals are keeping the Jewish community alive,'" said Perlin. "It is a mitzvah (blessing) to belong."

## VIEWPOINTS

### What's the number one issue in the presidential race?



"The most important issues for me are the financial situation and foreign policy."

**Daniel Noon, Arlington**



"Right now, the economic issue."

**Grace Linsangan, Reston**



"The Iraq war."

**Michael Paquette, Fairfax**

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

TBS offered pre-K and kindergarten classes for free. In 2007, this program doubled the size of the kindergarten class.

While much of the membership activity occurs at this time of year, new families are welcomed all year, according to Perlin, the senior member of world's first all female rabbi team. "Especially around here, where there are so many military families moving in and out of the area," said Aft.

"When families are relocating to Northern Virginia they are looking for an area supportive of Jews," said Perlin. "We want to make Burke and Fairfax Station Jewish-friendly." To that end, Perlin works to ensure Giant and Great Harvest Bread offer traditional recipes for challah (braided bread eaten on the Sabbath) and Hamentaschen (preserve-filled, three cornered cookies for the holiday of Purim in the spring).

"When considering membership, families look at their connection with the rabbi, the educational programs, the sense of community and the proximity to their home," said Aft. To extend the reach of his congregation, Aft is planning several "Rabbi on Wheels" programs this year and will conduct services in community centers in residential areas just beyond the traditional reach of his congregational boundaries.

"Many new members come with a consumer mentality and wonder, especially in this economy, what they are getting for their dollar," said Perlin. "The members most connected to the Temple are the ones that make the most of the experience — trying adult education, attending family programs, coming to services, getting to know the rabbis."

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**Floyd Cooper and Ellen Kazimer**

### Kazimer Attends Writers Workshop

**E**llen Kazimer of Fairfax Station attended the 24th annual Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua, N.Y. in July. The workshop offered children's writers an intense program of one-on-one sessions, small workshops, and round-table learning. As part of the program, Kazimer met in manuscript consulting sessions with author and TV host Sandra Neil Wallace.



**Gail Ledford, left, has received the Cleary Award from SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) founder Dave Cleary and Board President Kim Fiske.**

### Ledford Receives SCAN Award

**S**top Child Abuse Now recently presented Gail Ledford with the Cleary Award. Ledford has worked to raise funds and develop SCAN's program design and delivery, laying the foundation for Alexandria/Arlington CASA, Parent Education and Public Education programs.

Over 14 years, Ledford has held numerous leadership positions on SCAN's Board, including two terms as president, and has worked to make Board recruitment and development fit more intimately with the organization's strategic direction. Her familiarity with child welfare issues both nationally and statewide, as well as her intimate knowledge of Fairfax County's programs and operations, have benefited SCAN in its own program development and organizational maturity.

The Cleary Award, named after SCAN founder Dave Cleary, recognizes individuals and organizations whose dedication and commitment to children and families stands out in ways that make a positive difference in the lives of children.



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# Voter Profile: Military Veterans

Virginia veterans active in both McCain and Obama campaigns.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**R**etired Brig. Gen. John Johns supported Sen. John McCain's bid for the U.S. presidency eight years ago.

"The first political sign I ever put in my yard was for John McCain in 2000," said Johns, who lives in the Lansdowne development in Ashburn. The retired Army officer attended the National War College with McCain and considers the Arizona senator a friend.

But Johns, who left the military 30 years ago, will not be supporting McCain in the upcoming election Nov. 4. The veteran was the keynote speaker at a "Veterans for Obama" event Oct. 4.

"John McCain is the only one that insists we need to stay the course [in Iraq.] It is tearing our Army apart. ... It is wrecking our military and John McCain is stubbornly staying the course," he said.

A political independent, Johns said he has supported other veterans, including retiring Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), but does not think military service should be a prerequisite to the presidency.

"I commanded at higher levels than John McCain but to say this would qualify me to be president is nonsense," he said.

**JOHNS' OPINION** is far from the norm. Veterans, both locally and nationally, have thrown a significant amount of their support behind McCain.

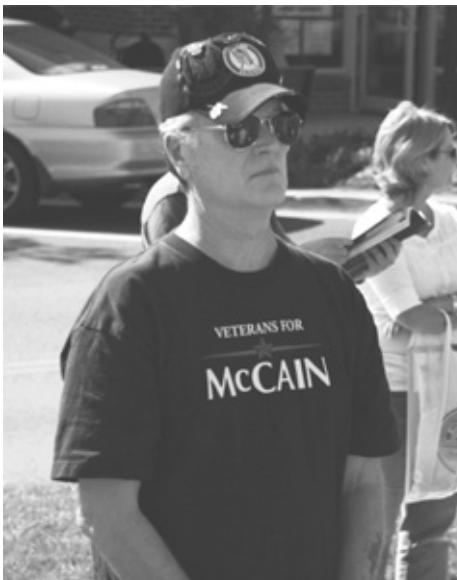
Only a few miles from the "Veterans for Obama" event where Johns spoke, the McCain campaign held a much larger event for supporters who are veterans. Twenty-one former leaders of the nation's largest veterans' organizations – the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars – also endorsed McCain Oct. 1.

"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain," said John Hunter, an Arlington resident who is one of the McCain campaign's 31 "area coordinators" for veterans in Virginia.

"I am definitely more likely to support a veteran because of his military training and love of country," he added.

Approximately 13.5 percent of Virginia residents are veterans, the fifth highest percentage of veterans in any state population.

Arlington County (12 percent), the City of Alexandria (13.3 percent) and Fairfax County (11.8 percent) also have a higher



**Arlington resident John Hunter attended a Veterans for McCain-Palin rally in Ashburn Oct. 4.**



**Loudoun County resident Thom Beres is a state director for Veterans for Obama.**

erans and our issues. ... I haven't really heard either presidential candidate talk about veterans issues," said Lew Lipscomb, commander of American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

Lipscomb knows several local veterans who are having problems acquiring adequate health care. Many veterans feel their illnesses are getting lower "ratings" and that they are receiving fewer benefits than they would if they had the same problem in other regions of the country, he said.

"We have veterans coming to us needing money. They think we are rolling in money and we aren't," said Lipscomb, at the Springfield Post's annual "Pig Roast."

According to Lipscomb, there are approximately 8,000 American Legion members in Northern Virginia and Post 176 is the largest, with about 1,600 members.

**MANY VETERANS** said they thought McCain, a former prisoner of war, would better meet the needs of the military and veterans if elected.

"He is one of us. He knows what it means to get shot at," said Charlie McKinney, an Ashburn resident and coordinator of the "Veterans for McCain" effort in Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district.

But Beres said McCain does not have a track record of being interested in veterans' issues.

"During [McCain's] 27 years in congress, he never volunteers to be on any committee or subcommittee

that deals with veterans and veterans' rights," said Beres.

**"I think you will find that officers skew Republican and enlisted folks skew Democrat."**

— Thom Beres, Veterans for Obama in Virginia

in the military until 2006.

Raines, a McCain supporter, said he has a hard time identifying with or condoning Obama's recreational drug use as a young adult. "I didn't smoke a single joint in high school," he said.

Veterans also put a premium on a strong national defense and the Republican Party is perceived to favor a stronger approach to national security.

"In presidential elections, I tend to lean Republican because of national defense issues," said Springfield resident Bill Hurd, who also supports McCain.

But veterans supporting Obama said there is misconception about the link between the military and the Republican Party.

"I think you will find that officers skew Republican and enlisted folks skew Democrat," said Beres, a retired colonel who served for 26 years.

Beres added that recent reports also show people currently serving in the military – about three-percent of Virginia's total population – prefer Obama to McCain. Accord-

ing to the Center for Responsive Politics, active soldiers had contributed more money in larger numbers to Obama than McCain by the middle of August. Among those people who were deployed, Obama had a six-to-one advantage over McCain, the same analysis revealed.

Despite what Republicans might say, Democrats are not "weak" on defense, added Beres.

"The defense budgets increase under Democrats. Republicans tend to spend more money on fighter planes and bombers. Democrats spend more money on soldiers and benefits," he said.

**VETERANS** on both ends of the political spectrum agree that the next president should to focus more attention on the needs of retired and wounded soldiers.

"We veterans are looking at how our future president is going to take care of veterans," said Beres.

**"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain."**

— John Hunter, Arlington

## COUNTY NOTEBOOK

### Fairfax Pushes To Extend Voting

Fairfax County wants to having the option of leaving the polls open later should the region experience inclement weather or another calamity on election day.

Over the objections of county staff, the Board of Supervisors may ask the Virginia General Assembly to provide them with the option of extending voting hours in special circumstances. The bill would not be considered until after the presidential election takes place Nov. 4.

Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) said he was upset on presidential primary day last February when Maryland was able to keep their polls open late during an ice storm but Northern Virginia was not.

"People were prevented physically from voting because they got stuck on a roadway," said Connolly.

Still, staff members said giving elected officials this power could open the voting process up to abuse. People could start extending polling hours in certain places as part of an effort to turn out more votes for the candidate of their choice, staff said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## POLITICS

# Connolly Points to Experience, Intellect

FROM PAGE 3

what direction should be taken to resolve conflicts," said Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), the Fairfax board's vice chairman.

Some who know Connolly from his work on Capitol Hill made similar comments.

McLean resident Mary Lee McIntyre first met Connolly in the 1980s when she and her husband, an employee with the U.S. Agency for International Development, lived in Lebanon.

"He was a real live wire, but he was able to see all the complexities that Lebanon presented," said McIntyre of Connolly. "I think he will be a great asset in Congress."

Arlington County resident and Republican Charlie Flickner worked on congressional foreign relations matters with Connolly and described him as smart, competent and politically savvy.

Connolly has done such an excellent job as Fairfax County's chairman that Flickner sometimes wished "Fairfax would just annex Arlington," he said.

MANY of Connolly's colleagues on the Board of Supervisors consider Connolly to be exceptionally effective leader.

"I think he does an outstanding job of keeping the board focused and helping us get our work accomplished," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Darnesville.)

At the beginning of his first term in 2004, Connolly called the board together to stake out specific and measurable goals for the county and the board. Under his guidance,

Fairfax has achieved or made significant strides toward meeting those goals set five years ago.

For example, the supervisors surpassed their goal of preserving 1,000 units of affordable housing, in part by dedicating a penny of the county's real estate tax rate — which totals a little over \$20 million annually — to assist with purchase and rehabilitation of lower-income units.

By setting measurable objectives, Connolly said government could judge its progress and make itself accountable to residents. Other initiatives under Connolly's watch included environmental benchmarks, with goals for stormwater management, tree preservation and acquisition of parkland and open space, and transportation improvements.

"I have an abstract belief that there is a bottom line that needs to be measurable. Rhetoric is fine. But are you providing measurable results that say you are effective in serving the citizens of the community?" said Connolly.

**THE CHAIRMAN** learned the importance of having a responsive and results-oriented government 18 years ago, when Connolly, as president of the Mantua Citizens Association, had to deal with an oil spill in his community.

Connolly found Fairfax County to be the only level of government that was responsive to the citizens' concerns at the time. Local elected officials put pressure on the federal Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the site and arranged for a survey

## Gerry Connolly

**Age:** 57

**Born in:** Boston, Mass.

**City/Community:** Mantua

**Family:** Wife Cathy, teenage daughter Caitlin

**Education:** Maryknoll College, B.A. in literature; Harvard University; M.A. in public administration

**Relevant Experience:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: chairman (2004 – present); Providence District supervisors (1995-2003); U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff member, 1979-1989

**Web site:** [www.gerryconnolly.com](http://www.gerryconnolly.com)

to investigate whether there had been an increase in certain types of medical illnesses as a result of the spill, said Connolly.

"I have never thought about running for local elected office prior to that ever. ... But it seared in my mind how important this level of government was and is to the community. It taught me a lesson about how important it is to focus on results and actually deliver," said Connolly.

Some say Connolly's focus on delivering results and achieving the county's goals has lead to a "bull-in-a-china-shop" approach to governing.

There is typically a lot of agreement among Fairfax County's supervisors and it is not unusual for the group to pass a resolution unanimously. But Connolly can be hostile toward people, including county staff, who disagree with him, said critics.

"When you are in agreement with him,

he can be very easy and very good to work with. The problem I have always found with Gerry is when you don't agree with him, he doesn't show the proper amount of respect. Gerry doesn't argue the facts. He attacks your motives," said Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully.)

He added: "The disagreements aren't always pleasant. ... Gerry's style tends to be one of intimidation, whether it is directed toward staff, me, Richmond or anyone else."

**BUT SEVERAL** of Connolly's other colleagues said he lets people voice their opinions, even when they disagree with him.

"Most of the time there is very little dissent and more of a discussion. ... When there have been differences on policy, I never felt like I have been denied my opportunity to speak," said Foust.

Though the incumbent, Davis has endorsed Republican Fimian over Connolly in the race for fill his seat, Connolly supporters said the incumbent has more in common with their candidate than the Republican running.

Both Connolly and Davis spent several years representing their magisterial district on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Davis was also Fairfax's sitting county chairman when he was first elected to Congress in 1994.

"The similarities between Gerry and Tom are very strong. They are both very bright and real policy wonks. They are issue-oriented people who get a charge out of politics and they both have wonderful senses of humor," Bulova said.

## Muslim Conservatives May Vote for Democrats

FROM PAGE 5

"If you look at the issues I have mentioned, it is fairly easy to see why we have been inclined to support Democrats," he said.

From 2005 to 2008, the Virginia Muslim PAC gave 63 percent of the \$20,000 it raised for state and county races to Democrats and 36 percent of the money went to Republicans. In the last two years, the PAC's Republican giving dropped off dramatically, with the group giving 96 percent of its resources to Democrats.

"[Our support for Republicans] is getting thinner and thinner for the very reasons I mentioned," Hossain said.

**STILL**, many Muslim Americans do not see eye-to-eye with Democrats on social issues like abortion, gay rights and sex education.

"Personally, I will vote [the Republican ticket]," said David-Imad Ramadan, a Dulles area resident who volunteers with Arab American and Muslim American outreach for the Republican Party of Virginia. Ramadan said he immigrated to the United States 20 years ago and eventually joined the Republican Party in part because he identified with its message of "family val-



PHOTO BY JULIE O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Del. David Poisson (D-32), in the front left, and Del. Tom Rust (R-86), on the right, attend an interfaith event at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society center in Sterling.**

ues."

But Hossain said many Muslim Americans will be able to overlook differences with the Democrats on the party's social agenda because they agree with them on more pressing matters.

"Most of the voters in this community think civil rights, human liberties and migrations are more important than social issues like abortion," he said.

Ahmad agreed, saying she was more concerned about how a candidate's policies

might impact the price of gas than a social agenda.

"There are definitely some issues where I fall a little bit more to right on the spectrum, but things that are social don't really bother me. ... I don't care what people do with their personal life," she said.

**IN SPITE** of all the Democratic nods, the Virginia Muslim PAC has not endorsed Obama in the presidential election. Some Muslims think Obama has snubbed the community, Hossain said.

Obama is Christian, but some of his detractors have tried to paint him Muslim in order hurt his chances in the election. Hossain said the way Obama has responded to such misrepresentations has been troubling for some Muslims.

Instead of just saying the statements were incorrect, Obama has said they were being used to "smear" him, a word which Hossain said implies that it is "physically awful to be Muslim."

Obama's statements about unilaterally invading Pakistan have also worried some Muslims and one of Obama's foreign policy advisors is also a strong supporter of Israel, Sadir said.

"He is not going to take the risk of not supporting Israel 100 percent," Sadir said.

# OPINION

# Signs of Life

**W**hile the economic news is enough to ruin your breakfast (and lunch, and dinner), there are signs of life and resilience here in Northern Virginia.

While unemployment climbs in other parts of the country, employment is stronger here than almost anywhere. Proximity to the federal government in general, and to the Pentagon in particular, continues to boost our economy and employment.

We can look forward to new federal jobs created to support oversight of \$700 billion in federal investment in mortgage-related debt.

The Treasury, along with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, should waste no time in fixing some of the problems at the root of the current housing and mortgage crisis. Adjustable rate mortgages should be rewritten or refinanced for a fixed rate of 6 percent for 30 years. Prepayment penalties should be abolished and banned. Every effort should be made to keep current homeowners in their current homes, and rescue them from the threat of foreclosure if they are able to make payments on the actual value of their homes at a reasonable and fixed interest rate. These steps will go a long way towards restoring a sense of confidence in the value of most families' primary investment. It's critical to let would-be homebuyers know that the end is in sight for prices dropping due to foreclosures.

On the home front, August home sales

showed signs of life here, even during a month notorious even in good times for low sales activity.

In communities that are served by the Connection Newspapers, in the month of August, more than 120 homes sold for more than \$1 million.

To give a sense of the variety of sales, the home that sold for the most money in the area in August was a four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath condo in Arlington, which sold for \$5.3 million.

A three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home on an acre in Alexandria sold for \$3.875 million. Two homes in McLean and one in Great Falls each sold for more than \$3 million.

A dozen more condos and townhouses in Arlington and Alexandria sold for between \$1.09 million and \$2.325 million.

A four-bedroom home in Vienna sold for \$1.6 million on Aug. 27. A four-bedroom home in Oakton sold for \$1.45 million on Aug. 29. Ten more homes in Vienna and Oakton sold in August for more than \$1 million each.

A five-bedroom, six-bath home on more than five acres in Clifton sold on Aug. 1 for \$2.388 million. A seven-bedroom home on five acres in Fairfax Station sold on Aug. 25. Several homes with Lorton addresses topped \$1 mil-

Northern Virginia, it's time to count your blessings; real estate market alive at both ends of spectrum.

lion, along with at least one in Springfield and one in Centreville.

A home on a little less than an acre on Broad Creek Place in Herndon sold for \$1.275 million on Aug. 21.

A six-bedroom home on half an acre in Ashburn sold for \$1.845 million on Aug. 6.

At the other end of the spectrum is a glimpse of affordability that we haven't dreamed of in this area in nearly a decade.

Some examples:

In Arlington, 10 condos sold in August for less than \$200,000, six of those for under \$150,000.

In Reston, 14 homes — condos and townhouses — sold for under \$200,000, with another 16 selling between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

In Herndon, more than 40 homes, mostly townhouses, sold in August for less than \$200,000, 15 of those under \$150,000. More than 20 more sold for between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Even in McLean, more than a dozen condos sold for less than \$300,000.

With homes at the top of the market selling, and new opportunities opening up at the affordable end of the market, our area's real estate market and home values should be reassuring.

## EDITORIAL

# Gatehouse II — A Bad Deal

For Springfield supervisor, FCPS proposal to purchase of office building doesn't add up.

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY  
R-SPRINGFIELD

**A**t the Sept. 22, 2008 meeting, the Board of Supervisors declined to provide the EDA bonding necessary to finance the purchase of the Gatehouse II building. The school system wanted to purchase the Gatehouse II facility in order to consolidate the administrative staff. While the formal vote was unanimous, there was significant disagreement among the Board of Supervisors. The school system is actively working to revise the proposal to bring it back to the Board of Supervisors.

I am a strong believer in consolidation and the efficiencies they typically bring. However, the proposal put forth by the school system was a bad deal. Here are just some of the reasons:

♦ **Purchase Price Too High.** The school proposed paying \$52M for a building that was purchased by the current owner for \$44 million just two years ago. Building values have fallen in the last two years. The schools consultant indicated it was a good deal because fully leased up the building would be worth \$60 million. However the building has no

leases.

♦ **Minimal Cost Saving.** The estimated cost savings over the 30 years was presented at \$22 million. This equals less than \$1 million per year. The savings for Gatehouse I was presented at approximately \$25 million but is now estimated to be at only \$10 million. As noted in the following two paragraphs the savings is both understated (no reductions for personnel efficiencies) and overstated (much of this benefit does not pass to taxpayers).

♦ **School Cost Savings Does Not Equal Taxpayer Savings.** Much of the \$22 million in cost savings results from the elimination of the cost of operating and maintaining the current buildings. However, the project as presented keeps all of the properties in Fairfax County's hands meaning taxpayers continue to pay the cost. Most of the buildings were proposed to be transferred to the Board of Supervisors but there was no discussion or plan on use or disposal of these properties — especially given our pending reductions — meaning that taxpayers likely would continue to bear the cost even if the schools did not.

## COMMENTARY

♦ **No Reduction of Personnel for Efficiencies.** The school claims that the consolidation of offices would result in efficiencies. However, the only positions that were eliminated due to this consolidation were the custodial and building maintenance staff. If there are real efficiencies then I would expect to see real reductions in staff being proposed as a result.

♦ **Failure to Consider Upcoming Administrative Staff Reductions.** The school administrative staff has grown at a significantly higher rate than the school population. Based on the current Lines of Business Review being undertaken by the school I would expect to see a significant reduction in administrative personnel. The proposal kept the school administrative staffing at the same level as current level when looking at the administrative facilities need for Gatehouse II.

There were several positive outcomes from the proposed purchase of Gatehouse II, the biggest being the availability of three schools currently used for administrative staff that are or will be needed as schools — Dunn Loring, Lacy and Devonshire. However, in my opinion, these positives were significantly overshadowed by the points above and may be able to be accomplished with staff reductions. In this time of limited resources, we need to be focusing on our teachers, school and kids and not adding administrative space.

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# NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

(D-At-large) said more information about the building purchase and certainly a better deal would be welcome.

"We were not overly convinced it was going to produce savings. The board wanted much more convincing evidence than what was presented," said Connolly.

Even with a new deal, the supervisors might still be skeptical about the plan.

"We are trying to save money and cut spending and the question is does it make sense to even be looking at this issue?" said Connolly.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Meet Candidates Oct. 14

The South County Federation will host a Meet the Candidates Night at their during their regular meeting. The event, scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m., will take place in the media room of South County Secondary School at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. On hand will be 11th District congressional candidates Gerry Connolly (D) and Keith Fimian (R).

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# There's The Rub

Entrepreneur spreads message of dry rubs through barbecue competitions.

BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter 20 years of being a graphic artist, Chris Capell was looking for a way to spice up his life through a career change.

"After 9/11, that was the point where it seemed to turn," said Capell, sitting at the counter of his partially renovated Fairfax home.

With a glut of artists on the market and the advent of computer programs like Pagemaker and Photoshop making it easier for businesses to do their own design work, Capell knew it was time to change.

"I realized that if people didn't want to pay me to develop their image and develop their company, I'd do my own," he said. "I decided to pick my own favorite passion and kind of created the company around that."

Capell's passion was barbecue and the company that he helped to create was Dizzy Pig, which produces dry rubs for grilling meat, chicken and fish.

Dizzy Pig's 10 rubs boast enticing names like Tsunami Spin, Dizzy Dust and Jamaican Fire Walk and are sold through its Web site [www.dizzypigbbq.com] and select outlets across the country.

"We mix all of the seasonings here in our basement," said Capell, assuring that USDA makes regular visits to his production facility. "We're still a teeny company, but we have customers in every state and stores in almost every state are carrying our stuff."

As a small company, Dizzy Pig has relied on some word of mouth to slowly expand its reach. Capell said that often it's the customers who provide leads on possible retail outlets. "They'll send us the stores they'd like to see it in and we'll send them a kit."

Locally, Dizzy Pig is sold at Whole Foods Markets. Capell has even put on a grilling demonstration at the Whole Foods in Fair Lakes.

**ANOTHER WAY** that Capell

promotes his business is by entering barbecue competitions. The impetus for this strategy came from Dizzy Pig's need for a little self-affirmation.

"People say they like it, but we started doing competitions to see if people were lying to us," said Capell. "We wanted to find out how we did in a blind judging situation. Using all our rubs on the competition

eraging four or five wins per year. "Half of the contests we're entering, we were winning," said Capell. "We had a pretty good stretch."

**ON OCT. 24** and 25, the Dizzy Pig team will be in Lynchburg, Tenn., for the 20th Annual Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational Barbecue.

"It's really the big game as far as barbecue competitions go," said Elizabeth A. Lewis, judge and media relations representative for the event.

Each year, 20,000-25,000 barbecue enthusiasts descend on the small Tennessee town of 361, which is more famous for its whiskey than its barbecue.

This will be Dizzy Pig's fifth year in a row in Lynchburg, having earned an invitation with a victory at the New Jersey state championship.

"It's a very prestigious competition, with 60-65 domestic and 10-20 international entries each year," said Lewis. Over \$30,000 in cash and prizes will be presented. The top six finishers in each of the categories receive a jug.

"We have two jugs for sauce and we've got a sixth place in ribs and chicken," said Capell. "We've gotten an award every year, but as far as overall, we've usually been right in the middle of the pack. Hopefully, things will be a little better this year."

Aside from the competition, the Jack Daniel's World Championship includes performances by cloggers and musicians, artisans, games and activities for children.

"It's bigger than Christmas in Lynchburg," said Lewis.

When Capell is not competing or mixing dry rubs, he's strategizing on how to take his basement company to the next level.

"We've got a lot of interest internationally — Australia, Denmark, Germany," he said. "That's my next goal, to get some distributors set up overseas and start shipment out that way." In the meantime, he anticipates staying in the basement for another year.

"One thing I found out early is that you've got to sell a bunch of rub to make any money," said Capell.

**"One thing I found out early is that you've got to sell a bunch of rub to make any money."**

— Chris Capell, Dizzy Pig



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL

**Chris Capell of Dizzy Pig**

## Grilling Tips

Chris Capell of Dizzy Pig has conducted demonstrations of his company's dry rubs at Whole Foods Markets around the Fairfax area. He also hopes to begin offering grilling classes. Here are a few pointers that Capell offers the home griller.

♦ **Don't overcook.** "Most people are overcooking their meat. By the time they get the color they want, it's overcooked on the inside. They haven't developed a feel for it or they aren't checking their internal temperatures."

♦ **Grilling is not baking.** "The conditions are different every time and you've got to have a feel for how the meat's coloring up. Do you need more heat? Less heat? It's a little more of an art."

♦ **Get a feel for the food.** "Observe and see what's wrong. Was it dry and pale on the outside? Did it have good color? Was it burnt and raw inside? ... On the outside you want a crust for flavor and browning for flavor. On the inside, you want it moist and tender to be perfectly cooked. Finding that balance is the trick."

♦ **Know your meats.** "Like boneless, skinless [chicken] breasts, I'll cook in like seven or eight minutes, while thighs I'll cook for two hours [on a lower temperature]. It's all finding that balance and finding out which part of the fire to cook under. People on their gas grill should be cooking up on the warming rack if they have something that needs to cook a while, like thighs. Thighs take a while to get the meat done by the bone. If you're grilling on hot and it's charred in 10 minutes, you've got a problem."

♦ **Hot and fast are sometimes best.** "For chicken breasts or a lean pork chop, you want to get that thing seared on each side, hot, fast, because by the time you're done searing, it's going to be done. But if you're going cooking low, you're never going to get that color by the time the meat's overcooked."

♦ **Use a rub.** "It's about the flavor crust. It's an easy way, and I think the best way ... to get flavor. You're building a crust on the meat. That's your flavor. That's what a rub does."

## LETTERS

### A Smart Move

To the Editor:

Low prices for real estate mean that property tax revenues have declined and local governments are strapped for revenue. However, these low prices also create real estate bargains.

A few years ago, Fairfax County Public Schools noted that its central office employees were scattered across the county — in expensive leased offices and in rundown former schools. In 2004, we and the Board of Supervisors agreed to a two-phase plan to move our central office staff into two new centrally located buildings. We would give up the leases, and transform old schools into new schools or community centers, meanwhile reducing our central office staff and saving millions. Both Phase I and Phase II would be funded with revenue bonds, which would be guaranteed by, and paid off with, the savings derived from the move. No money would come from the existing operating budget or from taxpayer-approved school bond issues. In fact, the move could free up money for both of these.

Phase I, completed in 2006, was a success. We reduced operating

costs, paid for the first building with savings from consolidation, and freed up vacant land and school buildings for community use. Consolidation reduced both traffic and air pollution.

This year we are ready for Phase II. The original concept of Phase II was to build another new building next to the Phase I building. But the real estate downturn presented a unique opportunity to save even more taxpayer funds. An existing building right next to the Phase I building can now be had at a bargain price. Buying and renovating this building will enable us to consolidate our other central office employees, saving \$7.5 million over the next three years, and tens of millions long-term. We can then terminate other leases, return buildings to the community and free up three buildings for use by children, some of whom now attend school in trailers.

The Board of Supervisors should support our efforts to operate more efficiently, save tax dollars and concentrate resources in the classroom.

**Dan Storck**  
Chair  
Fairfax County School Board

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# CALENDAR

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703-917-6459 or FAIRFAX@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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, OCT. 9

**Uli Jon Roth and more.** Age 21 and over. 8 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."** 8 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8-12 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 10

**Los Gatos, traditional Latin music fused with contemporary jazz.**

7 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-584-2900, www.workhousearts.org.

**Springfield Art Guild October Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. 703-644-6677 or magickalld@earthlink.net.

**Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa** brings an array of singers, dancers and musicians to the Concert Hall stage at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex is located on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Jon Oliva's Pain with Circle II Circle, Mantecora Division and more.** 7:30 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."** 8 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 11

**Fairfax Out of the Darkness Community Walk,** benefiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Registration will begin 8:15 a.m., with the walk scheduled to begin 9 a.m. at Shelter A at Burke Lake Park. To register or donate, visit www.outofthedarkness.org.

**Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa** brings an array of singers, dancers and musicians to the Concert Hall stage at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex is located on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**The Cold War Museum Conference on the 40th Anniversary of the Prague Spring.** Registration 8



a.m., program starts 9 a.m. Advance admission \$25, at the door \$30, students free. Lunch included. Collecting oral histories from Cold War veterans, "Spy Craft" by Linda McCarthy, the history of the Lorton Nike Missile site, and more. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. 703-273-2381 or museum@coldwar.org.

### Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL) Meet & Greets.

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Come meet some Danes, and ask volunteers any questions you may have. MAGDRL helps find homes for abandoned or homeless Great Danes; educational information will be available and donations appreciated. Felix & Oscar, 6671-A Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0222. MAGDRL will be at Felix & Oscar on the second Saturday of every month. www.nova-magdrl.org.

### Ultimate Warrior Challenge - Confrontation.

Professional mixed martial arts action. 6 p.m. Tickets \$28.50-\$128.50, (plus applicable service charges) available online at www.ticketmaster.com or via 703-573-SEAT. Visit www.uwcmma.com or www.patriotcenter.com. The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000.

### George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage

Blockhead."

2 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students, seniors and GMU staff. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

### 41st Annual Clifton Day

Celebration. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Live music, barbeques and baked goods, a petting zoo, face painting, a climbing

wall and children's games, a Civil war camp reenactment by the 49th Virginia, and pony rides for children by the Clifton Horse Society. Nearly 180 vendors will line Chapel Road and Main St., including basketry, ceramics and pottery, clothing, fabric, furniture, glass, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture and metalwork, stained glass and wood and decorative painting. Historic Town of Clifton, 7144 Main St., Clifton. 703-968-0740 or www.cliftonday.org.

### Third Annual Korean American Cultural Arts Festival.

6:30 p.m. Celebrating Korean traditional music and culture, with a performance by the "Nangye Gugak Orchestra," joined by prominent representatives of Korea's traditional arts community known as Intangible Cultural Assets. Tickets at www.tickets.com are \$40 general admission, \$20 seniors and students. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-507-4492.

### George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage

Blockhead."

2 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students, seniors and GMU staff. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

### Run for Wounded Warriors.

7 a.m. Once around the lake at Burke Lake Park, 4.7 miles. Race fees support the Wounded Warrior Project. \$35 in advance, or \$40 day of event. Free race t-shirt with registration. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Register online at www.jmwaller.com.

### Great Harvest Bread Company,

at 8170 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, will donate 100 percent of Sunday, Oct. 12 sales to non-profit Lorton Community Action Center's food pantry. Karlene Webster, LCAC Food Pantry Manager, 703-339-5161.

**The 41st Annual Clifton Day Celebration will be on Sunday, Oct. 12, featuring pony rides for children by the Clifton Horse Society, Civil War reenactments by the 49th Virginia, a climbing wall and children's games, a craft fair with nearly 180 vendors, live music, barbeques and baked goods, a petting zoo and historic displays.**

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

### Mushroomhead with The Autumn Offering and more.

All ages. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 16

### George Mason University Speaker Series.

Jonathan D. Moreno, Ph.D., David and Lyn Silfen University Professor, professor of medical ethics and of history and sociology of science University of Pennsylvania; Mind Wars: Brain Research and National Defense. 6 p.m.; free. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Mason Hall, Room D3AB, Fairfax. Call 703-993-1850 or visit http://chpre.gmu.edu.

### Opening Night for Third Annual Washington D. C. International Horror Film Festival

at Cinema Arts Theatre at Fair City Mall, at the corner of Main St. and Pickett Road in Fairfax. Doors open 9:45 p.m. Tickets \$12, age 17 and under admitted only with parent or guardian. Scheduled films are "Night of the Hell Hamsters," "Excision," "Crushed," "A Break in the Monotony," "Prombies!" and "Brain Dead." www.cinemaarts-theatre.com.

**Songs of a Lifetime, with Beverly Cosham, Charles Williams, and George Fulginiti-Shakar.** A gallery exhibition preview and reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by the concert at 7 p.m., on the second floor of Gallery (W-16) at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road in Lorton. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Contact kevinsheehan@lortonarts.org, 703-495-0001 or www.WorkhouseArts.org.

**Choptank Murphy,** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

**Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents "Dearly Departed,"** directed by C. Evans Kirk, at 8 p.m. in Wesley Hall, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. 703-660-2611 or www.presaleticketing.com.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 17

### Overkill with Warbringer,

Epicurean, Kneel to Zod, Tranquil Terror, Botched Autopsy and more.

All ages. 6:30 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. www.jaxxroxx.com.

### Virginia Opera's Verdi's Il Trovatore.

8 p.m. Soprano Eilana

## SATURDAY, OCT. 18

**The 2008 Northern Virginia Buddy Walk,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., hosted by the Down Syndrome

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Association of Northern Virginia, will take place, rain or shine, at the Fairfax County Government Center. 202-326-3152 or [www.dsav.org](http://www.dsav.org).

**Fall Watershed Clean-Up Day.** 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7550 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. 703-569-3464 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefront](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefront).

**The Flag Circle**, a fall festival featuring arts and crafts, craft-making demonstrations and old-time games for children and adults. Hayrides, music, food and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. 703-339-2385 or [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/mas.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml).

**Archaeology Day.** 12-4 p.m. With Gunston Hall's archaeology staff, screen for artifacts, clean and mend found objects, and become acquainted with basic techniques of the profession. To learn about important discoveries made on site, take the Hunting for George Mason's Garden tour at 1:15 or 3:15 p.m. Under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of five or more must make reservations. 10709 Gunston road, Mason Neck. 703-550-9480 or [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org).

**Hearts & Hands Bazaar**. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Crafters, vendors, collectibles, books, toys, and more. Coffee and donuts while you shop. Lunch and a Tea Shoppe available. Messiah Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-9862.

**Misfits with Not-Liable, So Damn Thirsty, Tolerance for Tragedy, The Buried, Tragically Forgotten.** All ages. 7 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

**Forgotten.** All ages. 7 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).



## Proposed widening of a portion of Telegraph Road (Route 611) in Fairfax County

### CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING

You are invited to attend a Citizen Information Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be given at 6:15 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. The meeting will be held at the Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall 1604, located at 7630 Telegraph Road in Alexandria, Virginia. Please use Entrance #9 at the rear of the school, which is directly accessible from Old Telegraph Road.

Find out about the preliminary project proposal to widen Telegraph Road from a two lane to a four-lane facility, with a curbed median, sidewalk, trail and on-road bicycle lanes. The proposed widening will begin at the intersection of Beulah Street (Route 613) and end at the intersection of South Kings Highway (Route 633).

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division, at the Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway in the Chantilly, VA (703) 383-2000 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0611-029-303, PE-102, RW-202, C-502

Federal Project: STP-5401; UPC: 11012

State Project: 0611-029-303, PE-106, RW-206, C-506;

Federal Project: STP-5401 (648); UPC: 58453

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## Walk Like MADD 2008 Saturday, November 1, 2008

We need your help now more than ever!

Drunk driving crashes continue to kill and seriously injure too many people. Survivors, friends and family are left with years of emotional, medical, legal and financial struggles. It's time to eliminate drunk driving!

Who: Everyone—children, teens, adults, families, pets!

What: 5k non-competitive walk

When: Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA

How: Register online at [www.WalkLikeMadd.org](http://www.WalkLikeMadd.org) (select "Fairfax, VA")

- Be a Team Captain! • Bring Your Dog! • Win Prizes!
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For more information, contact: Karen Horowitz  
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## SCHOOLS

# Out for a Run

Silverbrook students run to raise awareness of LCAC.

**O**n Friday, Oct. 3, Silverbrook Elementary School in Fairfax Station had its annual Fun Run. The entire staff and student body ran a marked track throughout the school grounds while parents and friends cheered. The event is an awareness project for the Lorton Community Action Center.



Silverbrook Elementary students get ready to run.



Student Council officers carry a banner during the Fun Run.



Students dash around the track.

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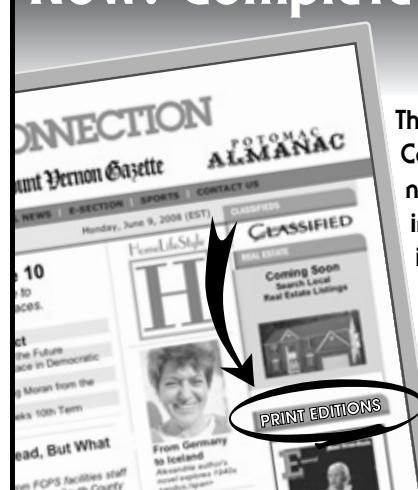
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6102 HOUSATONIC CT .....	5 ... 3 ... 0 ...	FFX STN ..... \$689,000	Detached .....	0.71 .....	FAIRFAX STATION
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8087 SAMUEL WALLIS ST .....	3 ... 3 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$414,000	Townhouse .....	0.06 .....	LORTON STATION
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8028 SAMUEL WALLIS ST .....	3 ... 3 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$399,000	Townhouse .....	0.05 .....	LORTON STATION
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8192 HALLEY CT .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$300,000	Townhouse .....	0.03 .....	GUNSTON CORNER
8320 SANDERLING WAY #40 .....	3 ... 2 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$300,000	Townhouse .....	0.03 .....	GABLES AT GUNSTON
8510 BLUE BIRD WOODS CT .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 ...	LORTON ..... \$299,900	Townhouse .....	0.05 .....	VILLAGE OF MOUNT AIR
9207 CARDINAL FRST LN #18 .....	3 ... 2 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$258,000	Townhouse .....	0.05 .....	GABLES AT GUNSTON
7811 STOVAL CT .....	3 ... 2 ... 2 ...	LORTON ..... \$225,000	Townhouse .....	0.04 .....	WILLIAMSBURG SQ
7923 TIMARAND CT .....	3 ... 2 ... 0 ...	LORTON ..... \$224,750	Townhouse .....	0.06 .....	POHICK SQUARE
8246 CATBIRD CIR #301 .....	2 ... 1 ... 1 ...	LORTON ..... \$219,995	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	0.03 .....	GUNSTON CORNER
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## VOLUNTEERS

**Assistance League**, a volunteer organization that runs two reading programs and provides support to women and children who have been sexually assaulted in Northern Virginia, is looking for new members. Call Beth at 703-648-1822 or email [ALNortherVA@yahoo.com](mailto:ALNortherVA@yahoo.com).

[www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.com](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.com)

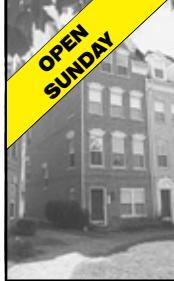
The Fairfax County Police Department is conducting its annual recruitment drive for the **Auxiliary Police Officer Program**. Duties include assisting with sobriety checkpoints, supporting programs like the Sexual Assault

Free and Empowered Class, conducting home security surveys and taking fingerprints at community events. Applicants must be in good health, without a criminal record or history of drug use and not be an applicant for police officer in any jurisdiction. 703-280-0701 or [auxiliarypolice@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:auxiliarypolice@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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9				

# SPORTS



South County senior Megan Rea initiates an attack Tuesday night against Lake Braddock. Rea, who as a midfielder excels on offense and defense, has been all over the field for the Stallions this season.

## Conte: ‘She’s So Dynamic’

Senior midfielder Megan Rea does it all for South County field hockey team.

BY JASON MACKAY  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t's the equivalent of football's Hail Mary play, ice hockey's penalty shot, basketball's last-second heave or a bottom-of-the-ninth, two-out single in baseball. In field hockey, nothing is quite like the excitement of a penalty corner.

When one team commits a foul in the other team's offensive zone, the referee's whistle is blown and anticipation builds, players knowing all too well that the game's momentum could switch at any second. It's an opportunity that teams, naturally, seek to capitalize on.

For a penalty corner, five defensive players stand in the goal while one offensive player attempts to hit a ball from the back line to a teammate outside of the offensive circle.

Outside of the obvious intention of scoring, one must do it fast before five sprinting defensive players arrive from the field's midpoint and the other five defenders emerge from the cage. Speed, strength and stick skills are all required.

Though the penalty corner isn't Megan Rea's only talent, it's yet another moment in which opposing coaches are forced to take note of the South County midfielder.

“On penalty corners, she's a scary person,” said Lake Braddock coach Diane Miller, whose Bruins snuck by the Stallions with a 3-2 win on Tuesday night. “You have to get out there on her because if she gets a hold of [the ball], it's going to be a pretty hard shot.”

**WITH LESS THAN 10** minutes to play and the game tied 2-2, South County was able to work a pass off of a penalty corner to Rea. Although the shot was ultimately deflected, Rea's blast still garnered its usual amazement.

Whether it's a strong hit, a pinpoint pass or just showing off by tapping the ball backward between her legs, Rea has been many things for the Stallions this season. On the other hand, Rea's pride-swelled coach could only think of one word to describe the player she says is the “best high school field hockey player I've coached.”

“She's just so dynamic,” said Leah Conte. “There's just no other word to describe her. She can do pretty much anything with the ball.”

And so Rea did on Tuesday night. Sure, some moments were comical, like when she nine-ironed a shot over the goal's upper right elbow early in the first half.

Another time, about 20 minutes into the

first half, Rea picked a ball out of Lake Braddock's offensive zone, spun around and without looking, delivered an on-point feed to a streaking teammate, senior Megan Wears, who scored both goals against the Bruins.

Rea, who is also one of the Northern Region's most accomplished defenders on the soccer field, enjoys the simple pleasures that field hockey has to offer.

“I like getting the ball up to my forwards and giving them the opportunity to score,” Rea said. “I like more of the passing game in field hockey where in soccer I usually just kick it.”

**AFTER ATTENDING** a field hockey clinic in the winter of 2005, Rea, then in eighth grade, started her career. That fall, she started with the South County field hockey program under Conte's direction. In three-plus years, Rea has amassed 23 career goals, 17 assists and was named the Co-Patriot District Player of the Year last fall along with Lake Braddock's Katie Klatt.

So, for someone who didn't start playing the sport until eighth grade but still succeeded right away, how in the world did all of this happen?

“I think she has matured tremendously over the four years I've been here, but just in the past two months she's really stepped up,” said Conte, whose team is 12-3 overall, 5-1 in the Patriot District. “I love soccer

SEE REA, PAGE 19

## Johnson To Coach Stallions

Wendell Johnson given first varsity head coaching opportunity.

BY JASON MACKAY  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen South County's Mike Pflugrath resigned his position as a team leader within the school's social studies department, long-time associate Wendell Johnson filled the void.

Then, when Pflugrath, who previously served as the South County boys basketball coach, was tapped as the school's new director of student activities on Sept. 8, another vacancy was created that Johnson would eventually fill, though he didn't know it at the time.

“There'll be a lot of the same terminology and the same things will continue on.”

— Mike Pflugrath

On Tuesday, the South County athletic department announced Johnson's hiring as the successor to Pflugrath, who had served as the Stallions' coach since the school opened in 2005 but relinquished the position upon becoming the new DSA.

“I had been a part of the program since we started here, and I was excited for the opportunity to continue on,” Johnson said. “I've worked with Mike for several years, so hopefully I can pick up where he left off. I think that's a good place to start.”

Johnson started his coaching career as a freshman coach at Woodson in 1996. He moved from Woodson to Oakton for two years and then back Woodson as a varsity assistant.

Johnson spent a few years coaching overseas and eventually

SEE PLUGRATH'S, PAGE 19

# Berman ‘Buckles Down’

Though off-season program was vital, Jared Berman credits mother for success.

BY JASON MACKY  
THE CONNECTION

If asked, Robinson senior Jared Berman will answer that it's only a trend. The graduation of every high school senior enables the emergence of another younger, successful runner.

Pose the question to Rams cross-country coach Jeremy Workman and he'll attribute the newfound success to Berman's off-season running program.

Ask another runner from around the Northern Region and the response could be silence. Most are too out of breath from chasing Robinson's new leading runner to offer anything the least bit coherent.

"He's always trained over the summer, but he really buckled down and was very determined to make himself one of the top runners," Workman said. "He does have a lot of talent, and we knew that if he did the work there would be a big payoff there."

Workman and Co. must feel like they've hit the Powerball. After finishing 50<sup>th</sup> in the state, 15<sup>th</sup> in the Northern Region and seventh in the Concorde District last season, Berman has been winning at a slightly more frequent clip this fall.

At the Oatlands Invitational on Sept. 20, Berman finished sixth with a time of 16 minutes, 8 seconds. Then, at last Saturday's Octoberfest on the 5-kilometer course at Great Meadow in The Plains, Berman had perhaps his best showing yet, turning in a time of 15:43 to grab third place.

"Saturday was the best performance, in my opinion, that he's ever had," Workman said.

**THIS PAST SPRING**, Berman started the madness. With a workout program that required around 35 miles a week to start, the Lynyrd Skynyrd-loving Berman didn't ask any questions and breezed through the workouts. By the end of the summer, that

workload was increased to between 55 and 60 miles a week.

"It's crucial to get your base before you start your workouts," said Berman, who hopes to run at Virginia or Virginia Tech this fall. "You don't want to work on your base during the season when getting your speed is imperative."

A lap around Robinson Secondary School measures 1.3 miles and the Rams typically run what are called "mile repeats," in which each runner must hit a specific time and Berman's typically falls between 4:50 and 5:07. Four or five are typically done each day.

Berman credited this training exercise, along with Workman's twice weekly "track workouts," where the Rams rattle off different amounts of 400-, 800- and 1,000-meter runs, as two of the more beneficial off-season training tools.

However, as much fun as those 1,072 speed bumps around Robinson can be, mile repeats and track workouts weren't the only reasons for Berman's emergence this season.

From July 21-Aug. 1, Berman, along with several other members of Robinson's team, attended Blue Ridge Running Camp, which takes place annually at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. There, Berman's typical day featured morning and afternoon runs, several instructional sessions and an obvious narrowed scope on all things running.

"He was already in good shape, and he wanted to make sure that he went to camp and got something out of that as well," said Workman, whose boys team won the Octoberfest team title. "I think he had a little bit of confidence from that as well."

Upon his return to Fairfax, Berman ran throughout August, increasing his mileage every week. Then, later in the month, he clicked on milestat.com, a popular Web site devoted to sports that, well, are measured in miles.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Here at the Oatlands Invitational on Sept. 20, Robinson's Jared Berman finished sixth, emerging as a star on the Northern Virginia cross country scene.**

There it was, an article about Berman's performance at a scrimmage on Aug. 27. On the 2.98-mile course at Burke Lake Park, Berman had held off Leoule and Tihut Degfae from Edison, twin runners from Ethiopia, who, with the departure of Joe LoRusso (Oakton), Brad Kenimer (T.C. Williams) and Bryan Landry (Jefferson), are favored to compete for the region title.

"That's when my head got a little big ... but not cocky or anything like that," Berman joked.

At that point, Berman knew he had arrived. An increased dosage of mileage and a five-day commitment to running in the Shenandoah Valley had propelled last year's 50<sup>th</sup>-best runner in the state of Virginia to the front page of milestat.com.

And, as it turns out, neither Berman's original reasoning nor his coach's truly explained his ascent to the top.

"My summer training was important, but there's one thing that helped me get where I am right now and that's my mom," Berman said. "She's always giving me that push to be better than I was in the past, and she always makes me go on my runs."

## Pflugrath's Assistant To Lead Stallions

FROM PAGE 18

returned, once again, to Woodson and was reunited with Pflugrath.

"I was the bad penny they couldn't get rid of," Johnson joked.

Johnson inherits a team that finished 7-16 overall, 3-9 in the Patriot District last season. The Stallions were eliminated by Annandale, 80-69, in the quarterfinals of the district tournament.

With the departure of talented center Chris Panneton, Johnson also inherits a

team that has more talent away from the basket than it has near it.

"We're going to have a team where our strength this year is going to be our guard play, where last year we had a real big presence inside," Brown said. "Now we have seniors that have been guards for a couple years, so I'll put the ball in their hands a little bit."

And that was the most important thing, according to Pflugrath, getting the ball quickly in the players' hands. The new DSA

knew what Johnson could offer and he also knew that it's now October. With the Stallions' first scrimmage scheduled for Nov. 18, a familiar hire with a proven track record was an easy decision for Pflugrath.

"I think it's really a benefit to the kids that we have someone in here that can have some consistency for them," said Pflugrath, who coached previously at Woodson and carries a 115-87 career record. "There'll be a lot of the same terminology and the same things will continue on."

## Rea 'Scary' Midfielder

FROM PAGE 18

players because they understand field hockey and it shows. It shows in how she plays."

"I guess some of it's mental, but I've played sports since my brother [David, 19] and sister [Nicole, 21] played," said Rea, who, as a devout Redskins fan, couldn't be more thrilled with the team's 4-1 start. "I played field hockey because my sister played, and then I ended up liking it more than soccer."

It's a preference that's just fine with Stallions soccer coach Maureen Saale, as long as she gets her star defender back this spring.

"I'm just glad that we have the opportunity to have her in the spring," said Saale, whose team only allowed 11 goals last season and finished 13-1-2. "I know that field hockey is her passion, and I do know that she's an asset to us on the soccer field. But if I compare the two, I know that she's the player on the field hockey team that they really look at to be successful."

## WEEK IN SPORTS

### Bruins Field Hockey Stays Perfect

After her team relinquished a two-goal lead, Lake Braddock field hockey coach Diane Miller wasn't as enamored with how well her team played in the first half of Tuesday night's Patriot District showdown at South County.

"Being up 2-0 and then having them score two goals, I could tell my team was really down," Miller said. "So I had to do a little yelling."

The increased volume must've helped, as senior Annie Stephens powered a shot past — and over — South County's goalkeeper with 2 minutes, 36 seconds left in the second half to seal the win. With a shot from the top of the circle, Stephens watched the ball deflect off of a defender's stick and sail over the keeper and into the goal.

With the win, the Bruins improved to 15-0 overall, 5-0 in district play. Lake Braddock will travel to West Potomac on Friday.

"Our first half ... that was probably the best half I've seen my team play in a long time," said Miller, whose team will travel to West Potomac Friday. "We let down a little bit in the second half, but we didn't give up and that's all you can ask."

Sophomore Brittany Hopkins scored unassisted with less than three minutes left in the first half, and Stephens scored her first goal of the game 35 seconds before half-time to put the Bruins ahead, 2-0. South County's Megan Wears scored twice in the second half to pull the Stallions (12-3, 5-1 Patriot) even.

## CAMPS & SCHOOLS

# Robinson DECA Goes Green

Students present Green Inn marketing research to members of Congress.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**R**obinson Secondary DECA students Sara Anderson, 17, and Matt Dunham, 16, presented their Future Inn Green marketing research project to members of Congress on Capitol Hill on Sept. 9.

Their year-long project featured suggestions on turning the Bennett House, an existing Manassas bed-and-breakfast, into a "green" business. They wrote a 30-page plan, put together a 15-minute presentation with display boards, and created a breakfast called "Green Eggs and Ham." Caroline Kotila also worked on the

project.

"**BECAUSE THE** focus was on a local bread-and-breakfast, which had once been a home, we learned about how easy it was to convert outdated appliances to becoming environmentally friendly," said Matt.

The students attended the State DECA Leadership Conference last March and placed in the top 10. Then they attended the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta last May, and also placed in the top 10. From there, they were invited to Capitol Hill to give their presentation.

"When I took them to Capitol Hill, I was just so taken aback. They just inspired me," said Casey Hepner, marketing department chair at DECA advisor at Robinson. "They

**"We learned about how easy it was to convert outdated appliances to becoming environmentally friendly."**

— Matt Dunham, Robinson DECA student



DONATED PHOTO

**Sara Anderson, 17, and Matt Dunham, with their DECA project on Capitol Hill.**

did a great job presenting their project to the congressman who were there. They weren't shy."

"It was really cool," said Sara, of giving the impromptu talks to lawmakers. "There were all these grownups surrounding us."

"It was great to see that people who are involved in making laws, and it was great to see that they were committed to marketing education programs and hearing about

the hard work we put into our project," said Matt.

The legislators will be voting on bills that directly affect career and technical education students.

The students wanted to maintain the traditional feel of the bed-and-breakfast, so they suggested energy-efficient appliances,

SEE CAPITOL HILL, PAGE 26

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## HEALTH NOTES

**Fairfax County is sponsoring a series of seminars to help older residents remain independent.** All seminars are at the David Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Pre-registration required. Spanish translation will be available. Call 703-324-7210 or email [jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:jennifer.edge@fairfaxcounty.gov).

♦Food Safety. Thursday, Oct. 16, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

♦Effects of Mixing Medications with Alcohol and Substances and Brown Bag Medication Review. Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

♦Improving Your Nutrition. Thursday, Oct. 30, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Substance Abuse Recovery Support.** Oct. 14, from 6-7 p.m. at Natural Horizons Wellness Center for an overview of the entire holistic substance abuse program, and how we can provide support on the road to recovery. 10640 Main St., Suite 300, Fairfax. 703-246-9355.

**The Living Longer and Stronger Senior Health Fair** will be hosted by Inova Fair Oaks Hospital on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall.

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♦Assisted Living information on housing and programs.

♦Pharmacy staff will be on hand to answer questions.

♦Medicare and Medicaid insurance and healthcare information.

♦Fairfax Area Agency on Aging information about local transportation programs, Meals on Wheels, Elder Link and more.

♦Surgical Services.

♦Endoscopy Unit.

Free giveaways, including a chance to win a gift card for \$100 worth of gas. The Seniors Health Fair is free, call 703-750-8800 to register.

**Flu Clinic** on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is \$30. Pre-registration required at flubusters.net/ClinicList.aspx or 866-782-3014. Hosted by the Terra Centre PTA, at Terra Centre Elementary School, 6000 Burke Centre Parkway.

**The Clifton Presbyterian Church Caregiver Support Group** meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-related problems. 703-830-9175.

**Body & Soul Fitness** classes are cardio and strength training sessions set to contemporary Christian music. Mondays and Fridays from 9-10:15 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Until Nov. 23. For more call Suzann Albanese at 703-372-2332 or e-mail [salbanese@cox.net](mailto:salbanese@cox.net).

Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at [www.lamaze-de.com](http://www.lamaze-de.com) or by calling 703-549-2226.

**Alzheimer's Family Day Center**, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. For more, call Greta at 703-204-4664 or visit [www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm](http://www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm).

## FAITH

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

**Springfield Harvest Festival and Chili cook-off**, a family-oriented day of fun on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 1-4 p.m. on the grounds of Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. A moonbounce, children's crafts a maze and games. Music begins at 1:30 p.m. with professional square dance caller Hal Miller. Chili Cook-off Competition participants may register entries by calling 703-451-2375. A \$10 Cook-off entry fee will be collected at the festival. Admission is free, and donations are appreciated.

**Singer-songwriter Bob Franke** in concert on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The concert is free but donations will be accepted to support Parents Circle-Families Forum, which promotes reconciliation between bereaved Palestinian and Israeli families. 703-764-0456 or visit [www.bobfranke.com](http://www.bobfranke.com).

**St. John's United Methodist Community Fun Festival.** Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rides, games, craft and vendor booths, music and more. Children and youth receive twenty free tickets; additional tickets \$1 each. St. John's United Methodist Church is located at 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-

256-6655 or [www.saintjohnsumc.org/funfair.php](http://www.saintjohnsumc.org/funfair.php).

**Broadway and Opera Night**, a free concert on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Featuring voice students from George Mason University performing classics from opera and the Broadway stage. 703-591-1927 or [www.fairfaxumc.org](http://www.fairfaxumc.org).

**Burke Presbyterian Church will present a sermon series, Faith for Tough Times**, based on the stories from the book of Exodus. Through Oct. 12. Worship times, Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Burke Presbyterian, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. 703-764-0456 or [www.BurkePresChurch.org](http://www.BurkePresChurch.org).

**Kol NoVa, The Jewish Youth Choir of Northern Virginia**, begins its new season on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4:30 p.m. Kol NoVa is a community choir for all interested singers in second through eighth grade. Rehearsals take place most Sundays at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax and performances take place at various community venues. 703-250-0554 or [www.carolboydleon.com](http://www.carolboydleon.com).

**The Cranford United Methodist Women will host a Fall Ham and Oyster Dinner on Oct. 18**, from 4-7 p.m., to benefit Women and Children Missions. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton. 703-339-5382.

**Jewish Rock Artist Sheldon Low**

performs at a family concert at Temple B'nai Shalom on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Temple B'nai Shalom is located at 7612 Old Ox Road, Fairfax Station. 703-764-2901 or [membership@tbs-online.org](mailto:membership@tbs-online.org). Visit [www.sheldonlow.com](http://www.sheldonlow.com).

**Applefest at Silverbrook United Methodist** on Saturday, Oct. 18. Barbecue chicken lunch, baked goods and yard sales tables. All proceeds go to local missions. Silverbrook United Methodist Church is located at 8616 Silverbrook Road Lorton. 703-690-4159

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parenting Seminar** for parents with children in elementary school on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. The free session will discuss helping your child be more successful in school, and at home. St. Andrew's Episcopal, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-455-2500.

**Solace for victims of abuse, as well as for those left behind after domestic homicide**, plus options to prevent additional tragedies, on Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. The Prayer and Awareness Day event will feature speakers Rev. Rose Robinson of First Baptist Church in Vienna and Rev. Coleman Tyler of Truro Church. Sponsors include NOVACO, Time to Fly and Bethany House of Northern Virginia, groups that offer shelter or services to help families escape domestic abuse. Visit [www.novaco.org](http://www.novaco.org) or [www.timetofly.org](http://www.timetofly.org).



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## COMMUNITY

# Lodge Raised for Repairs

FROM PAGE 4

location, floodgates specially designed to let water in underneath the house then drain it out after the water recedes are being installed to prevent future flood damage to the house. A bathroom addition is also planned.

"Essentially what phase one does is keep the lodge from falling down," said Jones, who said he'd like to see the job completed before the new year, though he called that notion "ambitious."

Baumbach said because the money was coming in bit by bit, renovations would have to be staggered as funds became available. Though he said he hoped to have the building back on solid ground in the next few weeks, it would be some time before their work was completed.

"There's not a defined completion date. We'll never be complete for the next five to 10 years because we're piecemealing a lot of this out," said Baumbach.

**PHASE TWO** is designed to both replace some of the existing utilities of the lodge as well as several renovations and additions that the lodge's owners had been planning to do. Electrical wiring that was estimated by Jones to be from the early 20th century will be replaced. Nearby power lines had to be reconfigured and moved for safety reasons.

"When we get done with this, we want it to be a facility that is appropriate for other organizations to use," said Jones.

Last summer, the Masons started the Acacia Lodge Foundation to raise money to pay for renovations to the foundation and first floor to make way for a museum detailing the history of the Masonic lodge and the greater Clifton area. Brant Baber, counsel to the Acacia Foundation, said members would be reaching out to local businesses and groups like the Clifton Betterment Association and the Fairfax County History



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**The Acacia Lodge next to the railroad tracks in Clifton was built in the 1800s. It has been flooded periodically by storms, most recently in 2006 and 2008.**

Commission for help in the next few weeks. The foundation itself has raised over \$13,000 for the project while members of Acacia and other Masonic lodges have raised approximately \$85,000. Parking cars during the Labor Day Car Show and selling barbecue and drinks during Clifton Day were two examples Baber gave of activities that members participated in to raise funds.

The museum itself would celebrate some of the historic aspects of both the Town of Clifton and lodge that has stood next to the railroad tracks for 88 years. Throughout those nearly nine decades, members say the history of the lodge is Clifton's as well. According to Baumbach, it was the first building in town to have electricity and a former

member of their lodge went down with the Titanic.

"We don't have any definite plans about the museum other than it's going to contain very significant old Masonic free mason related artifacts," he said. "We definitely want the Town of Clifton to supply us with some Clifton stuff [as well]."

In the meantime, members of Acacia Lodge No. 16 meet at Henry Lodge in Fairfax, waiting for their old lodge to touch ground and open its doors again. When asked why the members decided to spend over \$100,000 in renovations for a 19th century house, Baber said lodge members could have sold the house and shared a lodge with another Masonic group. In the

end, a combination of financial issues, the historic presence of the building and its Masonic connections won out.

"We investigated tearing down the building and then realized that it was a contributing factor to the historic buildings in town," said Baber. "We guestimated what the cost would be to fix up the historic building versus selling it and buying something else, and we determined that the most cost effective avenue was repairing the building. We could have easily sold it and done what other lodges do which is share a building, but since we've been so tightly connected with the Clifton community the past 87 years, we decided to stay there if we possibly could."

## Virginia Virtuosi Turning Classical Music Cool

String trio brings casual approach to classical music for broader appeal.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**V**irginia Virtuosi aims to make classical music more cool. This modern, 21<sup>st</sup>-century string trio is composed of three classically trained musicians — sounding somewhere in the neighborhood of Mozart, Shubert and Jean Luc Ponte.

In addition to offering chamber music concerts for adults, they take programs for youngsters into schools and parks: "Musical Camera Safari" has children guess the identity of animals based on musical portraits, like Saint-Saëns' classic "Carnival of the Animals" and by Beethoven.

"We give them a clue," said Nancy Jin, after making a meow sound with the violin. "Is this animal a swimming animal or a jumping animal?"

Tiffa Richardson, who plays viola, says she loves the educational aspect of their mission. "With the children, there's an emphasis on them interacting with us and responding."

Their program, "Who's on First Bass?" is

interactive and based on music and sports for kids in grades 4-8. It features "Concerto for Basketball" and "Rhythm Around the World," which offers music from Kenya, Ireland and Argentina.

"We try to break down classical music into easily understandable elements that would appeal to young people," said bass player Mark Bergman. To do so with children, he directs their listening to one or two points so they have something on which to focus their attention.

"With adults, we're able to play longer pieces of music," he said.

**"There's a reason why the music of Mozart resonates with people 300 years later."**

— Mark Bergman, bass player

### Upcoming Shows

#### Program One

- ◆ Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax.
- ◆ Friday, Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m., The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria.
- ◆ Sechs Ländlerische Tänze by L. Beethoven,
- ◆ Trio in C Major by W. Mozart,
- ◆ Explorations of a Theme by Jan Hammer by M. Bergman,
- ◆ Trio in B Flat Major by F. Schubert,
- ◆ Trapeze Quintet Op. 39 by S. Prokofiev.

A high school program called Dance Music in the Concert Hall explores 400 years of music chronologically from the late 17th century (Johann Strauss Jr.) to the artist for

SEE CLASSICALLY COOL, PAGE 26

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[jim.abernathy@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:jim.abernathy@westwood-baptist.org).

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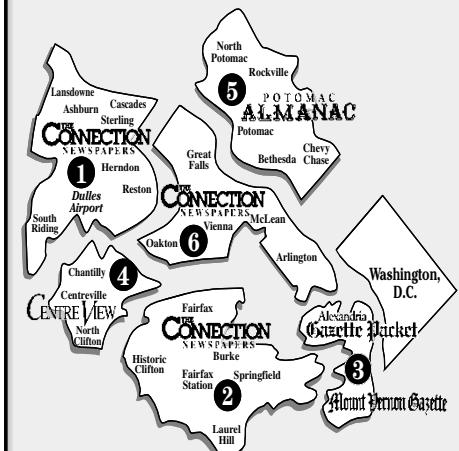
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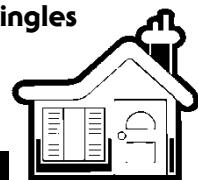
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## 21 Announcements

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Thank you St. Jude. J.K

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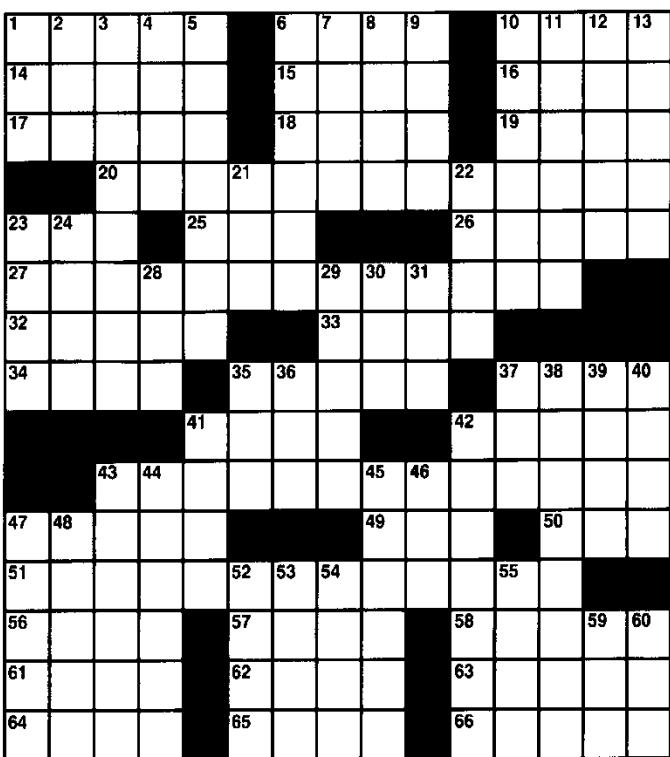
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# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0401-2



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

## ACROSS

- 1 Cutoffs, maybe, before they were cutoffs
- 6 Sound of breaking up?
- 10 Masterpieces
- 14 Sylvia Plath book
- 15 Religious image
- 16 Baker's need
- 17 Oft-quoted Yogi
- 18 Old Spanish kingdom
- 19 Coin no longer being minted
- 20 What happens when Kansas City wins a World Series?
- 23 Sea's partner
- 25 Draw
- 26 Boston team, in brief
- 27 Why is the milk production survey so screwy?
- 32 Kind of wrench
- 33 Like a Burns acquaintance
- 34 Sharp
- 35 Detroit's county
- 37 Item in which to do a plié
- 41 Resistance units
- 42 Not just a franchisee

- 43 Why is the drought-plagued swim club bankrupt?
- 47 Film maker Frank
- 49 Playboy head, to friends
- 50 Lake Okeechobee's state: Abbr.
- 51 What's the anagrammatic reason for these odd questions?
- 56 Kind of gin
- 57 Food for Fido
- 58 Songs "di sentimento"
- 61 High scores
- 62 1963 Liz Taylor role
- 63 Busybody
- 64 New England's locale
- 65 Fish locale
- 66 "Broca's Brain" author

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	N	A	G	A	B	O	D	E	P	A	U	L
T	O	F	U	N	O	D	A	L	E	D	N	A
E	A	R	N	K	N	O	C	K	N	O	C	K
W	H	O	S	T	H	E	R	E	A	P	P	L
M	A	S										
F	L	U	I	D	S	C	R	O	L	L		
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T	H	E	N	D	Y	M	A	N	Y	O	R	
E	R	R	V	O	I	D	E	D	A	N	N	
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A	I	R	E	V	I	N	C	E	C	R	U	
L	E	E	S	D	I	K	E	D	D	E	A	R

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The winner of puzzle #0331-2 is:

**Margot U. Marino**

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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

## COMMUNITY

# Classically Cool Trio

FROM PAGE 22

merly known as Prince.

Jin says she tries to teach the background of the music, and hopes they can take away some history and facts about what they listen to.

"Music can make you feel like you're leaping; it can inspire physical sensations," said Bergman. "So tapping into the way those gestures are related to the physicality of experiencing dance is an important part of why we presented the program."

The group formed when Mark and Nancy were giving educational programs and Richardson had moved back to the area. After playing a few concerts together, one at the Kennedy Center last December, "We just felt really good about the sound of the group," says Bergman. "I noticed each of the instruments blended in a harmonious way."

Originally from Southern Oregon, and now living in Singleton's Grove in Centreville, Bergman, 38, studied music for 28 years, honing his skills at Yale University, the Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music. A double bass player, he is a professor at GMU and is inspired by Edgar Meyer and John Paul Jones from Led Zeppelin. He says Bruce Springsteen's new "Magic" album is terrific.

From Kings Park, trio member Nancy Jin, 30, studied music for 25 years, honing her violin skills at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Yale University. Her musical inspiration comes from violinist Maxim Vengerov, and she admires the sounds of Kelly Clarkson and Christina Aguilera. She gives private violin lessons and lives in Stone Ridge in Loudoun.

Tiffany Richardson, 28, grew up in Fairfax Station now lives in Alexandria. She attended the University of Maryland (College Park) and the New England Conservatory of Music. She studied music for 18 years and is inspired by Dawn Upshaw, an opera singer, Tabea Zimmerman and Beyoncé. She teaches private violin and viola lessons and credits music with allowing her to travel to Russia, England and all over the U.S. "It's just opened up so many opportunities for me and it has created an enormous amount of discipline in my life."



Tiffany Richardson on viola

Bergman says the group uses popular music as source material, creating a "stained glass mosaic" for some of the music they perform. For example, they'll take fragments of "Miami Vice" theme song and mix in "When Doves Cry" by Prince.

"Classical music is dramatic," said Bergman. "It has a groove. It rocks. ... And I hope that the energy we're able to communicate, convinces people that classical music is every bit exciting as the loudest rock band, even though it takes place on a smaller scale."

Jin says that when playing rock and pop music on stringed instruments, she hopes to bring a more casual element to the musical experience. "We hope that when people come to our concerts, they don't feel like they need to get dressed up," she said.

"We're trying to make classical music more accessible to anyone in the community," said Richardson. "Not just those people who take lessons or choose to go to the symphony. I hope they can walk away with an emotional connection to something they've heard."

"There's a reason why the music of Mozart resonates with people 300 years later," said Bergman. "And that's because the sounds that he created resonate with what binds the human community together."

## Capitol Hill Presentation

FROM PAGE 20

found a climate control system that uses 33 percent less energy when people aren't in the room, and suggested new linens, towels, organic soaps and shampoos.

"The bed and breakfast owners planned to implement [the ideas] because they really liked them," said Sara, daughter of George and Diane Anderson of The Landings in Burke. She is also involved in Robinson's Varsity Dance Team, the Spanish Honor Society (vice president), National Honor Society, and is the president of Robinson Republicans. She hopes to attend

UVA.

Matt Dunham, 16, a senior, is the son of Scott and Katherine Dunham of Fairfax Club Estates in Fairfax. He is president of Spanish Honor Society, treasurer of the Key Club, a member of the Math and National Honor Societies and on the Board of Trustees at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church. He's considering studying marketing at Duke or the University of Virginia.

The three students have marketing class with teacher Casey Hepner. "We would spend a lot of time outside of school at each other's houses. We rarely did anything on our own," said Sara.

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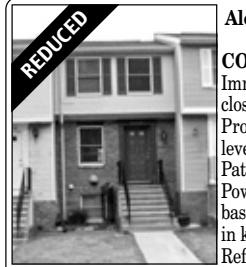
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