

Burke **CONNECTION**

Pair of Queens

NEWS, PAGE 3

Last year's Homecoming queen Laura Stickford, left, poses with current Lake Braddock queen Erin Kraft during half-time of the Bruins' Homecoming game Friday night.



Fighting Cancer

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY GARY BLACK/THE CONNECTION
SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 19

Spring Returns To Local Gym

SPORTS, PAGE 17



NO TRICKS



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JBG ROSENFELD RETAIL

NEWS

PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION



Seniors Taylor Gaines, middle, and Leslie Berkowitz, right, sell baked goods for 25 cents during the festivities.

PHOTO BY GARY BLACK/THE CONNECTION



Homecoming queen Erin Kraft with her father, Mark Kraft.

PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION



Lake Braddock graduate Laura Stickford, last year's Homecoming queen dances with senior Mehdi Abadi during celebrations before the Homecoming game Friday, Oct. 17.

House Party

Bruins celebrate Homecoming, crown new queen.

Father, Daughter in Fight of Their Lives

Inspired by daughter's battle with cancer, local man to box in Patriot Center match.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

For the past 12 weeks, "Tattoo" Tom Mitchell has been training for the fight of his life. When he steps into the ring at the Patriot Center on Nov. 1 for his first professional boxing match, the opponent taking his punches won't be the man he's looking at, but cancer.

Mitchell got a call last summer from his then 17-year-old daughter, Shayla, who was living with her mother in Manassas at the time.

"She said she hadn't been feeling well and asked if I'd take her to a doctor," said Mitchell, his arms and neck covered with tattoos, earning him his nickname.

"I figured we'd go, she'd get some antibiotics and that'd be the end of it," he said.

But the doctors told Mitchell and Shayla that she'd have to stay overnight in the emergency room — the pain she'd been feeling was from a tumor two-thirds the size of her chest, which had caused one of her

lungs to collapse and later aggravating an arrhythmia that she had probably had since birth.

After a few days and nights of tests, Mitchell got the news that Shayla had stage three Hodgkin's Lymphoma, an aggressive form of cancer.

Prior to her illness, Mitchell admits he and Shayla had just started getting to know each other after years of estrangement. However, whatever happened in the past no longer mattered. He focused on doing everything in his power to make her better.

"In life, I've discovered, you don't always win, but you always fight."

— "Tattoo" Tom Mitchell

DOCTORS' VISITS, overnight stays in the hospital, long talks about cancer and treatment and comfort have followed. Shayla has had four surgeries to install, rewire, replace and remove a pacemaker to treat the arrhythmia, and eventually they decided to take their chances and go without.

When Shayla was healthy enough, she received stem cell infusions and injections of marrow taken from her hips, but her



'Tattoo' Tom Mitchell has been training at L.A. Boxing in Centerville in preparation for his Nov. 1 match at the Patriot Center.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

white blood cell counts fell just prior to the procedures.

Mitchell doesn't sleep much these days, he admits, spending every waking hour caring for his daughter, who moved in with him full-time last fall.

"I've been there to hold her hair when she got sick and I've been there to hold her hand

when her hair fell out," Mitchell said. "I've been there to hold her hand when she was scared. But most importantly, I think, we were there together to hold each other and to laugh when we can."

Mitchell needed to do something produc

SEE MITCHELL, PAGE 19

WEEK IN BURKE

Tina Hone Moves to Breast Cancer Foundation

At-large School Board member Tina Hone recently started to oversee the government affairs office for the world's largest non-profit dedicated to breast cancer research, Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Hone will serve as central liaison to the White House, U.S. Congress, state legislatures and policy makers out of the Texas group's new office in Washington, D.C. She left her previous job as executive director of events for the publication, "Congressional Quarterly," earlier this month.

"[Komen] is the largest contributor to breast cancer research besides the federal government. ... The frequency of breast cancer is such that there isn't a person in this country who doesn't know somebody that has been affected by it," said Hone.

The new position may also be a boost to Hone's work on the school board, leaving more flexibility in her evening schedule to attend meetings.

"Komen was well aware of my commitment to the school board when they hired me," said Hone.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Business Leaders Seek Changes in Grading Policy

Some local business leaders expressed concern that the school system's current grading scale could hurt Fairfax County's economic competitiveness and financial standing last week.

They joined advocacy group FAIRGRADE in asking the school system to switch from the six-point grading scale it currently uses to a more lenient 10-point grading scale. The group is also asking that more "weight" be assigned to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and honors courses when calculating student grade point averages (GPAs.)

Those calling for change said that Fairfax's grading policies are unusually tough and give a "deflated" picture of student achievement. Pupils in comparable school districts, like Montgomery County, Md., receive higher grades and are at an advantage when applying for college admission and scholarships, they said.

Any threat to the reputation of Fairfax's school system could have spill over effect in the business community, said Andrew Robinson, a senior vice president with ICF International and Fairfax County resident.

Businesses tout the excellent reputation of Fairfax County's public schools as a major incentive for relocating to the area.

"We use the school system as a recruiting tool. ... You don't move here for the traffic or the cost of living," said Robinson. "Any damage to the school system's brand will show up in real estate values."

Fairfax County Public Schools is currently investigating whether there is evidence that students have been placed at disadvantage due to its own grading policies. Staff to release a report on the grading system by the end of the year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Joseph T. McGucken Dies

Joseph T. McGucken, a long-time resident of Springfield and a recent resident of Frederick, Md., died on Sunday, Oct. 12. McGucken was a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School

and attended Mount Saint Mary's College in

OBITUARY Emmitsburg Md. Born on Oct. 19, 1964, McGucken is survived by his mother, Josephine McGucken of Frederick, as well as two brothers and five sisters. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

NEWS



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Using federal funding, plans for a pedestrian overpass would provide greater access to Burke Virginia Railway Express Station.

Wrong Side of Tracks

Burke residents pursue pedestrian overpass for VRE station.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Under the direction of Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), Fairfax County has sent out initial feelers to the state for a bridge and overpass project that would start at Guinea Road and open up pedestrian access to the Roberts Road Burke Centre Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station.

"I think it's important to provide pedestrian connections or multimodal connections for transportation," said Bulova.

The project is still in its infancy. So far, engineering plans won't be drawn up until a source of funding can be found for the project. Bulova estimated the total cost of the project to be in the neighborhood of \$2 million-\$3 million.

"All that's been done right now is essentially a feasibility study to see if this is going to be done and what's a way that it could be designed," Bulova said.

IN 2003, when Fairfax County was considering putting a VRE parking garage near Burke Baseball Field to increase parking and ridership at the station, Bulova created a citizen task force to provide community input and recommendations throughout the process. Stephen Schrobo served as chairperson of the operations committee on that task force. While

studying the potential impact the garage would have on aspects like traffic, rider migration and pedestrian safety, he said a safe, easily accessible link to the station was needed for communities like Colony Park and Barton's Grove situated north of the tracks. In his 2004 recommendation to Bulova and the county, he included preliminary plans for an asphalt path at Guinea Road, a paved-over pedestrian crossing at the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and an elevator providing wheelchair access to the VRE garage itself. Because the citizen task force recommendations are not binding, the plans were not included in the overall proposal.

Schrobo, who also serves as president of the Barton's Grove Homeowner's Association, said he had polled his 33-home community to determine how much they used the Burke VRE station.

"At least a third or so of the residents in my community use the VRE either every day or once a week, including me," said Schrobo.

Kevin Morse served on the parking garage task force in 2004 and wrote the original proposal for the pedestrian overpass into the project. He said the overpass would give the option of using the VRE to many communities north of the railroad tracks by making it

more convenient to pedestrians and bicyclists.

"It was a priority because to build that type of facility and spend that money on a garage and not have good access on the north side, we felt was really [a hole] in the project," Morse said.

Schrobo agreed with that assessment. While working with the VRE to calculate the volume of pedestrian traffic that would occur once construction was

— Kevin Morse

SEE PEDESTRIAN, PAGE 5

NEWS

Pedestrian Overpass Sought

FROM PAGE 3

completed, he estimated that the walk from Colony Park to the VRE station was approximately two-thirds of a mile. By illegally crossing the railroad tracks, pedestrians could dramatically reduce their walk to approximately one-quarter of a mile. That created an incentive to use the unsafe method of travel, he said.

"When you look at some of the studies about how far people are willing to walk, during the summer it's around a mile or so," said Schrobo. "During the winter it decreases to less than half a mile, especially because of the darkness and cold," said Schrobo.

Morse said the overpass would eliminate any safety concerns that once existed.

"We'll see people trespassing over the tracks, so obviously that's a big no-no coming from the railroad," he said. "Nobody's been hit that I know of but it's something you certainly want to avoid."

BULOVA RECENTLY sent out an e-mail to community organizations within the Burke area asking for letters of recommendation to send to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, a state agency appointed by the governor to dole out federal funds to projects that enhance transportation opportunities. Schrobo sent one on behalf of the Barton's Grove Homeowner Association, as did Dale Zehner, CEO of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

"Unfortunately, VRE staff have witnessed people crossing the tracks to reach the station or destina-

"It's important to provide pedestrian connections or multimodal connections for transportation."

— Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock)

tions beyond. This is a matter of grave concern for VRE," Zehner wrote. "As such, we strongly support this project as it would radically improve safety as well as provide a multimodal transportation connection for a large portion of the Burke community."

Mary Cortina, a community lead for the design committee of the VRE garage task force, said in her letter that the overpass would have ancillary benefits.

"This project should be considered for its merits as a transportation project first and foremost. However, investing in pedestrian infrastructure that connects transit facilities to local neighborhoods will collectively lower our dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gases, and improve the connectivity and 'walkability' of our neighborhoods," wrote Cortina.

Bulova said she is confident that the project meets the criteria, but that the county would be willing to accept funding in phases in order to get a concrete plan on the table. If federal funds cannot be secured from the Commonwealth Transportation Board, she said other avenues such as a future county bond referendum, grants and other sources of federal or state funding would be explored.



"Facing the Challenges of Aging: Maintaining Independence, Dignity and Choice"

An Event for Seniors and Caregivers

Please join us at St. John's Lutheran Church for an informative event that addresses issues facing seniors and caregivers. Barbara A. Watts, RN, CHPN, is a Community Outreach Representative for Evercare Hospice & Palliative Care. She will provide education and information on the topics covered in this event. Attendees will learn about care and treatment options as well as methods for communicating effectively with medical professionals.

Giveaways and handouts will be provided. A continental breakfast will be served.

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PEOPLE

Something Spooky in Clifton

By STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Cet ready for some Howling Halloween fun. The annual Clifton Haunted Trail will be Saturday, Oct. 25 in two versions in Clifton's Eight-Acre Park. Tickets are \$7.

Eight-Acre Park is lined with volunteers dressed as ghouls and gobblins. The trail includes 13 skits or re-enactments and six scenes set up with lighting and props. Instead of vampires, visitors will meet "Goth"-pires, new creepy scenes and Civil War ghosts. A few of the skits involve strobe lights, which can be disorienting.

Some of the performers are from Upstart Crow theater group and some of the props are being donated by the Alliance Theater.

The "scary, full-fright" trail is from 7-10 p.m., and the "not-so-scary" trail for elementary-age children is from 5-6 p.m.

Parents should accompany children along the trail as opposed to just dropping them off.

Last year, more than 1,000 people at-

tended, and organizer Deb Dillard said the biggest crowds came between 8-9 p.m. This year, she suggests the best time to arrive is at 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. Be sure to wear sensible shoes as it may be muddy.

Dillard said the experience is reminiscent of somebody telling spooky stories in a safe environment. "You can laugh at the end and say, oh, nothing was real in there," she said.

Children may wear costumes but no face masks of any kind. Dillard suggests that parents not bring children who are easily frightened. At the end of the trail, visitors will find a booth where they can vote on their favorite skit and favorite scene.

The event also features Monster Movies

Under the Moon — "Ghost Busters" and "Young Frankenstein," courtesy of Cox Communications. Hot apple cider, cookies and snacks will be available as well.

Parking is available at the Clifton Floodplain and Clifton House Shops where hayrides will take

people to the park.

The event is a grassroots effort with some 150 volunteers helping to setup and break down the event. Most of the volunteers

"You can laugh at the end and say, oh, nothing was real in there."

— Organizer Deb Dillard



The bridge leading to Clifton's Eight-Acre Park, home of Clifton's Haunted Trail.

come from outside the Town of Clifton. "They show up for the love of Clifton," said Dillard. Volunteers are still needed to help break down the decorations the day after.

For details, go to www.cliftonva.org. or call Deb Dillard at 703-815-9073.

VIEWPOINTS

From where do you get most of your news?



"All sources, Internet, TV."
Brad Aefsky, Fairfax



"Any convenience store I can find a paper,"
Scott Long, Manassas

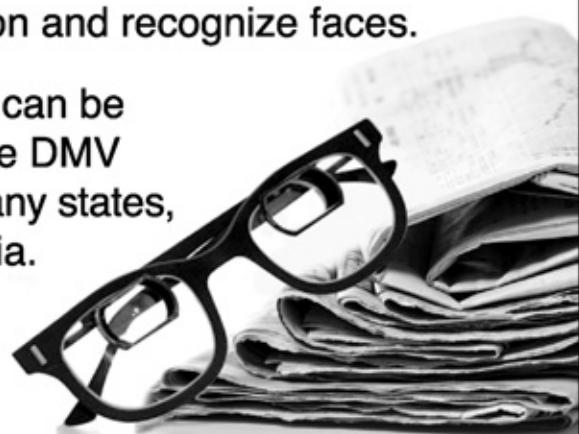
— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

Legally Blind?

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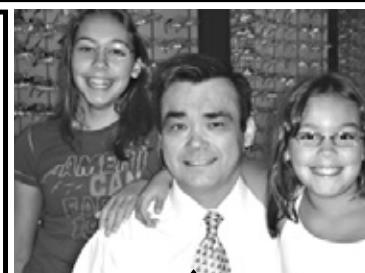
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OPINION

Connection Endorses ...

... three candidates in three House races.

Gerry Connolly in 11th

US. Rep. Tom Davis (R), who decided earlier this year that he would not seek reelection, served as a remarkable advocate for local needs, and his departure could raise concerns about representation.

Gerry Connolly (D), currently chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, more than meets the challenge.

Connolly has led Fairfax County with vision, enthusiasm and direction. Connolly's focus has helped achieve important results, including dedicated funding for affordable housing and the environment and significant investments for transportation. Connolly's intellect and drive have supported the quality of life in Fairfax County.

Connolly has supported intelligent approaches to sustaining and improving public safety. An excellent example is providing after-school programs in middle schools as part of a gang prevention effort.

Along with his local government credentials, Connolly brings more than a decade of experience on Capitol Hill in foreign affairs. His experience and intellect position him for success in representing this diverse district, including the interests of federal employees and government contractors.

Connolly has also exhibited unwavering support for the extension of rail through Tysons and Reston and out to Dulles Airport. Keeping this project on track will require continued vigilance from Congress.

Vote for Fimian

To the Editor:

People should know all of the facts before voting. Elect experience and not inexperience. Unlike Gerry Connolly, Keith Fimian is not a career politician. Gerry Connolly was busy mismanaging Fairfax County finances for over five years, while Keith Fimian was busy managing a thriving small business. Keith Fimian will fight to preserve Virginia's prosperity in a time of economic certainty. A vote for Keith Fimian is a vote for personal freedom and a responsible government. Vote McCain/Palin/Gilmore/Fimian.

Barbara Tate
Woodbridge

George W. Bush With Lipstick

To the Editor:

The FDA's buying PR so we won't remember they haven't protected consumers, and DoD budgets \$300 million to produce "information/

Frank Wolf in 10th

As a member of Congress, Frank Wolf appears to consider how he can use the power of his office each day to make the world a better place. He is a man with empathy and a moral compass.

After 28 years in office, he is, if anything, more passionate than ever about human rights — working to curb human rights abuses in Darfur and other places around the world to shine the light on abuses and atrocities.

Wolf is also passionate about problem solving on a local level. In particular, Wolf has worked to contribute to solutions for the region's traffic congestion, from promoting flextime and telecommuting especially for government workers, to funding for Metro, to thoughtful and incremental approaches such as spot intersection improvements and timing of traffic lights. His ongoing support of rail to Dulles is critical, especially from his vantage point as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

EXAMPLES OF his leadership on public safety issues include his early warnings and funding to help fight gang activity, and his efforts to fight the spread of methamphetamines.

Wolf is creative at problem solving, now working to establish a blue-ribbon panel to examine federal spending and tax policies to develop holistic proposals to head off the impending federal budget train wreck.

psychological operations" (more PR) in Iraq. Remember all the lies: Iraq, signing statements, torturing prisoners, wiretaps? We've had eight years of shell games and misdirection to guide public perception away from reality.

With her astounding self-certainty, Sarah Palin fits right in. Despite the talking points drilled at McCain's ranch, behind the smiles, winks, waves and nods to hockey moms and Joe Six Pack, there's no substance. She's George Bush with lipstick.

And she could be a heartbeat away from 72-year-old McCain's presidency.

Dianne Thomas
Fairfax

The Big Picture

To the Editor:

As the presidential election quickly approaches, I'm concerned about the number of fellow Christians I've met who are neglecting the full range of issues at stake. So many have told me that they're

planning to vote for John McCain simply because he's a Republican, and the Republicans have historically held more biblical views on abortion and gay rights. But this year, the Democrats have a candidate who I believe is actually more thoughtful and expressive about his faith in Christ — Barack Obama. I'm writing to encourage my fellow believers to seriously consider what Obama has to say rather than just writing him off because he's not a Republican.

Remember: Jesus didn't affiliate Himself with any particular political party.

As a longtime evangelical Christian and political independent, I've voted for many Republican candidates in the past, but I've also supported Democrats and even a few candidates from smaller third parties. The way I see it is that God wants us to vote according to the person and the issues — after thoroughly thinking and praying about them — rather than simply rubber stamping a candidate because of his or her political party.

Christians who stay narrowly focused on just the personal mo-

rality issues (which, by the way, Obama cares about, as he explained in the recent civil forum hosted by Saddleback Church) without giving enough attention to broader justice issues can become just like the Pharisees Jesus chastised in the Bible. The Pharisees were so fixated on just a few issues that they couldn't see the big picture of what God was trying to do.

So this is my plea to my fellow Christians: Before this upcoming election, please consider all the issues about which God cares, not just a few. What about empowering parents who are struggling to afford the cost of college for their kids? What about protecting the environment — God's creation — as He calls us to do?

We urgently need a new president who will look beyond just a few narrow issues and work for God's will to be done on all the issues. I'm convinced that Barack Obama is the man we need this time around.

Whitney Hopler
Fairfax

THE CONNECTION

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FAITH

St. John's United Methodist Church "Dollar Day" Yard Sale, on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield. All proceeds go to church missions. 703-256-6655 or www.saintjohnumc.org.

Solace for victims of abuse, as well as for those left behind after domestic homicide, plus an offering of options to prevent additional tragedies, will be offered 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 such as the Rev. Rose Robinson of First Baptist Church in Vienna and Rev. Coleman Tyler of Truro Church. Organizations sponsoring the event include NOVACO, Time to Fly and Bethany House of Northern Virginia, groups that offer shelter and/or services to help families escape domestic abuse. Visit www.novaco.org, www.timetofly.org or www.bhnv.org.

Jubilee Christian Center "Trunk or Treat" Halloween alternative for families and children on Friday, Oct. 31, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The event is free and features a hayride, laser tag, moon bounce and other games, prizes, food and candy. Youth activities for grades 7-12 inside the church. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Springfield Christian Church Bazaar, on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 5407 Backlick Road, Springfield. Bake sale, vendors, crafts, jewelry and more. Lunch will be available for purchase and a handmade quilt will be raffled. Proceeds go to support church missions. 703-354-4994.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Bazaar, on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 5407 Backlick Road, Springfield. Bake sale, vendors, crafts, jewelry and more. Lunch will be available for purchase and a handmade quilt will be raffled. Proceeds go to support church missions. 703-354-4994.

The Church of the Nativity in Burke offers a Grief Support Group for all who have suffered the death of a loved one and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, in the school building, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, and are open to all adults at no charge. For more, call Carol Mack at 703-533-2951.

Christmas Bazaar is Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Local crafters, a room just for children to shop in, a tea room, and a Grandma's Attic with "nearly new" gifts. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-455-2500.

United Methodist Women's 22nd Annual Craft Fair. Thursday, Nov. 20 from 4-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. Silent auction, juried arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery and more. Proceeds support Outreach programs. St. Matthew's United Methodist church, 8617 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. 703-425-3376.

Church of the Nativity offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

The Bahai of Fairfax County Southwest offers "Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity" for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 22015.

The Church of the Nativity in Burke offers a Grief Support Group for all who have suffered the death of a loved one and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, in the school building, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, and are open to all adults at no charge. For more, call Carol Mack at 703-533-2951.

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To have community events listed, email southcalendar@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/OCT. 23

Los Straitjackets and Laika & The Cosmonauts. 8 p.m. Surf rock at The Barns. Ticket Price: \$18. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

One Republic. 8 p.m. \$30. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Daryl Davis, 8-10 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Complimentary swing lesson, 7:30-8 p.m. \$12. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Rock 4 Rescue Benefit Concert, 6:30-11 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. With local vocalist Emma Bailey and Pat's Blues Rhythm Band. Proceeds benefit GoodDogz.org. www.rock4rescue.org or 571-233-4557.

Ken Ludwig's "Shakespeare in Hollywood," 8 p.m. at TheaterSpace on George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Tickets \$12, \$8 for students and seniors. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu.cfa.

Acoustic/pop/folk. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

F.A.N.tastic Fridays Free Family Autism Night. 7-8:30 p.m. A free drop-in program for families who have a child between the ages of 3-22 years of age on the autism spectrum. Games, arts and crafts, sports. Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road Fairfax. 703-324-5517 or Katelyn.murdock@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Providence Players in "Rough Crossing" by Tom Stoppard. Adults \$15, students and seniors \$12. 7:30 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra: Classic Big Band Music from the Swing Era. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS.

Ken Ludwig's "Shakespeare in Hollywood," 8 p.m. at TheaterSpace on George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Tickets \$12, \$8 for students and seniors. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu.cfa.

Fall Photography Workshop for amateur photographers. Free. 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-343-0848 or www.bchristopherphotography.com/workshop.

SATURDAY/OCT. 25

The 14th annual VolunteerFest, a community-wide day of service. Volunteer projects include building outdoor classrooms, assembling care packages for troops overseas, creating a wildlife habitat and assisting with community events, at

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

37 locations throughout Fairfax County. For specific projects and locations, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or contact Christine Morrison, 703-246-3727 or cmorrison@volunteerfairfax.org.

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Marcelo Lehninger, Conductor Finalist. Angela Cheng, Piano. 8 p.m. ConcerTalk with Marcelo Lehninger at 7 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25-\$55 at 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxesymphony.org.

American Freedom Festival, featuring Alan Jackson with Trace Adkins. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$62.50-\$120, through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. www.patriotcenter.com.

Seldom Scene Benefit Concert, 5:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, for the Child Rescue Centre(CRC) in Bo, Sierra Leone. Visit www.seldomscenebenefit.com.

23rd Annual Lake Braddock PTSA Arts & Crafts Showcase and Silent Auction. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Handmade jewelry, knits, pottery, woodcrafts, photography, original artwork and more. Food available for purchase. Admission \$3, seniors 65+ \$2, under 18 free. Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Proceeds support PTSA activities and teacher mini grants. Visit www.lbbptsaa.org.

Fairfax Corner Fall Festival, 4 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4245 Summit Corner Drive Fairfax. Interactive activities on family health and safety, nutrition education and community awareness. Contact May Canete, 703-227-0894.

Children's Concert, 1:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke. More than 130 high school students in five ensembles from the Lake Braddock Choral Music Department. Admission is \$2 or two canned food items to be donated to ECHO, a local nonprofit providing charitable assistance in the Springfield and Burke areas of Fairfax County. www.members.cox.net/lakebraddockchorus.

The Providence Players in "Rough Crossing" by Tom Stoppard. Adults \$15, students and seniors \$12. 7:30 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Ghost Train at Burke Lake Park. 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Ride the Ghost Train through the Haunted Woods, past the Witches Junction and through the Fairytale Loop. Appropriate for children through age 10. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$4, children under age two are free. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. 703-323-3230.

The Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show, with cut Mum cultivars, hanging baskets, container-grown varieties and sprays, Fukusuke exhibits and a design competition on the theme "Trick or Treat." The show will be open from 2-5 p.m. at the Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks location, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-560-8776.

Ken Ludwig's "Shakespeare in Hollywood," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at TheaterSpace on George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Tickets \$12, \$8 for students and seniors. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Ghost Tours through the City of Fairfax. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Moore House, 3950 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Listen to tales of Civil War soldiers and spies. 703-385-8414 or www.fairfax.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

Costume Halloween Run, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Lake Park's picnic shelter A, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Ages 13 and up start at 9 a.m., ages 12 and under start at 9:15 a.m. \$5 for age 12 and under, \$10 for age 13 and up. Reservations required. 703-866-0566.

SUNDAY/OCT. 26

Luis Miguel. 7 p.m. Tickets from \$68 to \$98. George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or visit www.patriotcenter.com.
Ghost Train at Burke Lake Park. 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Ride the through the Haunted Woods, past the Witches Junction and through the Fairytale Loop. For children through age 10. Costumes encouraged. Tickets are \$4, children under age two are free. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. 703-323-3230.

The Old Dominion

Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks location, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-560-8776.

Heather Cooper's Boneyard: "Everything is NOT What it Seems", 6 p.m. at 6601 Rutledge Drive, Fairfax Station. 571-238-7691.

MONDAY/OCT. 27

Open Mic, hosted by David Cotton. 7 p.m. Free. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566.

TUESDAY/OCT. 28

An Evening with Willy Porter. Guitar/folk/pop. 8 p.m. \$20 in

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

BURKE CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
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Friday, Oct. 23 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

The Fairfax Jubil-Aires "Guest Night," from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, at the corner of University Blvd. and Main St. in Fairfax. Looking for male singers of all ages and musical backgrounds for an evening of Barbershop music and some traditional Christmas music in Barbershop style. Refreshments available. Ron Obermeyer, 703-978-7691 or luv2bbs@yahoo.com. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

Mothers First Burke/Fairfax. 10 a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 29

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. 8 p.m. Bluegrass and gospel at The Barns. Tickets \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

THURSDAY/OCT. 30

Braddigan. Acoustic/rock/reggae. 7:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Ken Ludwig's "Shakespeare in Hollywood," 8 p.m. at TheaterSpace on George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Tickets \$12, \$8 for students and seniors. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu.cfa.

FRIDAY/OCT. 31

Ballet Flamenco José Porcel. 8 p.m. Tickets \$22-\$44. Children 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts



The Rock 4 Rescue Benefit Concert will be on Thursday, Oct. 23, at Jammin' Java, with proceeds to benefit GoodDogz.org.

complex, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Panic At The Disco and Dashboard Confessional, with Plain White T's and The Cab. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29.95-\$39.95, at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Call 703-993-3000 or visit www.rockbandlivetour.com.

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9721 WATERLINE DR	\$474,950	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli....703-862-8808

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tjohnson@connectionnewspapers.com

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See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com on Saturday
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CRIME

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County police department through Oct. 17.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/ ARREST

6000 block of Burke Commons Road. Police arrested a 59-year-old Burke-area man after he allegedly touched a woman inappropriately on Saturday, Oct. 11. The 31-year-old Springfield-area woman was shopping inside the Wal Mart store, located at 6000 Burke Commons Road, around 12:30 p.m. when she noticed the suspect following her. After a short time the suspect approached the victim and inappropriately touched her. The victim screamed and employees came to her aid. The suspect fled from the store prior to the arrival of officers. An investigation led police to Michael Ovenden of the 10200 block of Chase Commons Court. He turned himself in at the West Springfield District police station and was charged with sexual assault. The victim did not require medical treatment.

LARCENIES

5600 block of Castlebury Court. Cash stolen from business.

4700 block of Commons Drive. Airbags stolen from vehicle.

7600 block of Fullerton Road. Computer stolen from business.

5400 block of Helm Court. CD player stolen from vehicle.

5800 block of Parakeet Drive. Tools stolen from vehicle.

4700 block of Parkman Court. Airbags stolen from vehicle.

6100 block of Pond Lily Court. iPod stolen from vehicle.

8700 block of Wadebrook Terrace. Catalytic converter stolen from vehicle.

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OPEN SUNDAY 10/26 1-4**

This immac home sits on a premium private fenced lot w/remodeled eat-in kit w/SS appliances, finished bsmt w/ new carpet, familyrm off kit w/frplc, deck, fresh paint, lovely hrdwd flrs, remodeled bath w/jetted tub, 4 large BR, replaced roof, siding, windows, water htr, driveway & more.



**Alexandria/Cameron Sta
\$549,950
Quality-Built End Unit**

Sunny 4-lvl home w/garage, eat-in kit w/breakfast bar & gas frplc, hrdwd floors main lvl, fresh paint, dual zone HVAC, beautiful city views from top flr, 3BR, 2.5BA, spacious master suite, MBA w/double sinks & sep tub & shower, comm pool & gym, walk to shops, restaurants & park.



**Alex./Cameron Sta. \$309,950
Walk to Everything!**

Immac 1 bedroom + den overlooking the swimming pool w/1.5 baths, garage parking, marble gas fireplace, MBR w/ walk-in closet, balcony, light Pergo type flooring, crown molding, shuttle to metro, walk to the park, pool, gym, library, coffee shop & more.



**Fairfax Sta/So. Run \$749,950
Walk to Burke Lake**

This lovely Colonial sits on a picturesque cul-de-sac w/3/4 acre flat fenced yard, eat-in kit w/granite & newer appl, finished bsmt w/full bath & custom bar, 2-lv deck, dramatic MBR w/cathedral clngs & walk-in closet, MBA w/skylt & granite, replaced roof, siding & HVAC, walk to Burke Lake & comm pool & more.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



The League of Women Voters®

2008 FALL VOTERS' GUIDE

GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008 POLLS OPEN 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The Leagues of Women Voters of Alexandria, Arlington, the Fairfax Area, Falls Church, Loudoun County, and the Prince William County Member-At-Large Unit, are cooperating with The Connection Newspapers to produce this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in choosing candidates for election to public office.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia sent questionnaires to candidates for the United States Senate, and the above-mentioned Northern Virginia Leagues sent questionnaires to all candidates for the United States House of Representatives as well as local candidates, whose names were qualified to appear on the November 4, 2008 ballot. Biographies and responses to the questions appear as written by the candidates and are not edited except to comply with Voters' Guide style and stipulated word and space limitations. A "://" at the end of the biography and/or responses indicates the word limit was exceeded. The candidates' original responses are on file with the Northern Virginia Leagues of Women Voters. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot, as determined by lot by the Virginia State Board of Elections.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters does not support any political party or candidate.

For additional information on the Fall 2008 Voters' Guide, or The League of Women Voters, please contact the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area at 703-658-9150 or visit www.lww-fairfax.org.

For additional information on the November 4, 2008 General and Special Elections, voter registration, the district in which you are eligible to vote, where to vote, or absentee voting, contact the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb. For information in the City of Fairfax, please contact the General Registrar at 703-385-7890 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/Register/GeneralRegistrar.asp. You can also contact the Virginia State Board of Elections at 800-552-9745 or visit www.sbe.virginia.gov.

You may also find comprehensive, nonpartisan information on the November 4, 2008 Election at www.VOTE411.org, sponsored by the LWV Education Fund.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE

All voters are required to present identification at the polls in order to vote. PLEASE BRING IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008.

Acceptable forms of identification can be any ONE of the following:

- Virginia Voter Information Card
- Original Social Security card
- Valid Virginia driver's license, or special identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Military Identification
- Identification issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of the Commonwealth's political subdivisions, or the United States
- Valid employee identification card containing your photo and issued by your employer in the ordinary course of the employer's business

If you do not have an acceptable form of identification, you must complete, under oath, an Affirmation of Identity BEFORE you can vote.

ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES – VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE

Barack Obama
Joe Biden
Democratic Party – Challengers
www.barackobama.com

John McCain
Sarah Palin
Republican Party – Challengers
www.johnmccain.com

Chuck Baldwin
Darrell L. Castle
Independent Green Party – Challengers
www.votejoinrun.us

Bob Barr
Wayne A. Root
Libertarian Party – Challengers
www.bobbarri2008.com

Cynthia McKinney
Rosa Clemente
Green Party – Challengers
<http://mckinney-clemente.org>

Ralph Nader
Matt Gonzalez
Independent – Challengers
www.votenader.org

UNITED STATES SENATE

THE OFFICE

TERM: Six years

SALARY: \$169,300

REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE:
30 years of age; U.S. citizen for at least nine years; resident of state represented

DUTIES: Originate and pass legislation, approve presidential appointments, ratify treaties, conduct impeachment trials

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

What is the most critical **ECO-NOMIC** problem faced by the U.S. and what legislation will you propose to solve it?

How should the U.S. deal with current **IMMIGRATION** issues?

Should the federal government ensure all Americans have access to affordable **HEALTHCARE**? Please explain.

Mark R. Warner

Democrat - Challenger



CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATE – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

BIOGRAPHY: Warner served as governor of Virginia from 2002 until 2006. His administration inherited \$6 billion in budget shortfalls, and ended with a surplus. He is a former high-tech business person, co-founding Nextel. He and his wife, Lisa Collis, and their three daughters, Madison, Gillian, and Eliza, live in Alexandria.

ECONOMIC: I believe we need to create a real national energy policy. We need a fresh approach that invests in renewable energy, allows states to drill offshore in an environmentally safe manner and eliminates our dependence on foreign oil. By making these new investments in solar, wind, nuclear, cleaner coal and electric and hybrid vehicles, we can create new world-class jobs here at home and make our nation more secure. A new

energy policy will also help us take-on the threat of climate change, letting us reassert America's moral standing in the world.

IMMIGRATION: Our immigration policy demands a comprehensive solution. First, we need to secure our borders by increasing border patrols and utilizing improved technology to prevent undocumented people from entering the country.

Second, we must enforce existing immigration laws. The federal government should hold responsible business owners who knowingly hire undocumented workers.

Finally, we need to deal with the estimated 12 million workers who are here illegally. They should be required to pay back taxes, pay a fine, and learn English as they begin the path toward

legal status.

HEALTHCARE: Yes. It is morally wrong that 47 million to 50 million Americans don't have access to healthcare in this country, but it is also wrong that we pay twice as much per person as our competitors around the world and we don't get twice as good a value.

We need to bring down the price of prescription drugs, so Americans no longer pay the research and development cost for drugs for the rest of the world. We must make sure every American has access to affordable, universal health care coverage.

CONTACT: www.markwarner2008.com
703-962-8551

James S. "Jim" Gilmore III

Republican – Challenger



BIOGRAPHY: A Richmond native, Jim Gilmore is the son of working class parents who served as a member of U.S. Army counter-intelligence; a crime busting prosecutor; Attorney General and Governor. The former chairman of the anti-terrorism Gilmore Commission, Jim Gilmore is a recognized authority on national security.

ECONOMIC: The most serious economic problem facing our nation is the need for a comprehensive energy plan and a lack of domestic energy resources. As a member of the U.S. Senate I will push for a broad based energy plan that will include conservation, the use of alternative energy sources like wind and solar, an expansion of nuclear energy, clean coal technology and lifting the government's restrictions on drilling for oil offshore as well as in ANWR in Alaska. If we

increase America's domestic energy resources, including drilling for oil that is now restricted by Congress, we can bring down the price of gasoline, create jobs and make our nation independent from hostile foreign energy sources.

IMMIGRATION: We are a nation of immigrants. Immigrants from all over the world have been extremely important to the development and the success of our nation. However, if we are going to keep channels of legal immigration open, we must enforce our existing immigration laws. As a former member of U.S. Army counter intelligence and the former chairman of a much heralded government commission dealing with the homeland security concerns facing our nation, I believe keeping America safe requires that we control our borders. And as a former prosecutor and Attorney General,

I believe we must obey the law.

HEALTHCARE: Every American deserves access to affordable, high-quality, and reliable health care. In order to achieve this goal, I support a broad range of health care reform measures including tax reform to help people buy health insurance and maintain health savings accounts; making it easier for small businesses to provide health care for their employees by allowing them to form Association Health Plans; implementing medical liability reforms to reduce frivolous lawsuits and bring down health care costs; improving health information technology to decrease medical errors and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of medical treatments.

CONTACT: www.jimgilmoreforsenate.com
info@jimgilmoreforsenate.com 703-504-9041

VOTE
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2008

CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATE – CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CANDIDATES FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE (CONTINUED) – VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE



Glenda Gail Parker *Independent Green - Challenger*

BIOGRAPHY: Business owner consultant, mother of three, grandmother of five. Senior budget analyst with over twenty years experience with high-dollar value government programs, retired Air Force Officer. Woman of strong faith and family values. Light-rail advocate.

ECONOMIC: There are two: the energy crisis and the \$9.5 Trillion Federal debt.

We must encourage alternative fuels, such

as hydrogen, and remove the financial barrier that prevents the building of Rail. Rail is the best way to ease the painful traffic congestion we experience everyday, to respond to higher fuel prices, deteriorating roads and budget gridlock without an end in sight. We could build fuel-saving light rail for one-fifth the cost of the deadly toll roads being constructed!

Save fuel, save lives and provide jobs at the same time! We can grow our economy with Rail and therefore grow revenue. Payment on the Federal debt is now second only to the Defense Department budget. Rail is a positive

solution that cuts our dependency on foreign oil and lets us get out of the mess in Iraq.

44,000 Americans are killed on our roadways every year. 320,000 are maimed or injured. We need More Trains, Less Traffic.

IMMIGRATION: Most immigrants are just trying to provide for their families and they contribute to the economy. In fact, we believe we will need legal immigrant labor to build Rail. We must abide by our existing laws and adequately fund enforcement.

Join us. Run for office as our candidate.

HEALTHCARE: We believe that everyone

in America should have access to affordable healthcare insurance. Just imagine being able to purchase – for about the price of a cell phone contract – a health care card that would enable health care for six months and purchased from the gift-card rack at the train station or grocery store!

Building Rail will provide good-paying job and access to good paying jobs.

Join us. Run for office as our candidate.

CONTACT: www.gailparker.us
gailparker2006@aol.com 703-960-5602



William B. Redpath *Libertarian - Challenger*

BIOGRAPHY: I am National Chairman of the Libertarian Party. I ran for the House of Delegates (1993), Virginia Senate (1998) and Governor (2001). I am a financial analyst specializing in media and telecommunications. Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst, and two business valuation designations. BA, Indiana University. MBA, University of Chicago.

ECONOMIC: The most critical economic problem facing the US is our aging population and the coming entitlement spending explosion.

I support the Cato Institute's "6.2% Solution" for Social Security, in which individuals would be able to invest 6.2 percentage points of their payroll tax in personal accounts, with the employer's 6.2% paying for transition costs and disability and survivors' benefits. Under this plan, people would own their personal accounts and be able to pass them to heirs. This plan would help restore Social Security to long-term solvency and provide workers with higher benefits than would Social Security, although people who want to stay in the current Social Security system could do so.

Social Security will run a deficit by 2017; Medicare is already doing that. Medicare

needs to be reformed with prepaid Medicare accounts for workers. The prescription drug benefit should be repealed. Seniors should be allowed to opt out of Medicare without losing Social Security benefits or receive a voucher—that could be supplemented with private funds—to purchase health insurance from competing private insurers or to deposit in a Health Savings Account.

Federal Medicaid spending should be frozen at current levels, distributed to states as unrestricted block grants, and phased out over time, with this program becoming the responsibility of the states.

IMMIGRATION: There should be open, but

regulated, immigration to the US. If someone has no criminal record, does not have a communicable disease and is not reasonably deemed a security threat, that person should be able to come to the US with a path to citizenship, including amnesty for those already here, provided that no welfare benefits are made available.

HEALTHCARE: No. It does not have that power in the Constitution. Additionally, health care is not a right, as it requires the talents and resources of other people.

CONTACT: www.redpath2008.com
bill@redpath2008.com 703-864-2132

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CANDIDATES FOR THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – 11TH DISTRICT (Voters in This District Vote for Not More Than One)

THE OFFICE

TERM: Two years

SALARY: \$169,300

DUTIES: Legislative powers, with responsibility for making laws, raising revenue and adopting the federal budget; sole power of impeachment

BIOGRAPHY AND QUESTIONS

BIOGRAPHY: Background provided by each candidate.

THE QUESTIONS

What are your top three **GOALS** for the next Congress?

What are your **BUDGET** priorities for program funding and deficit reduction? Do you believe that both could be accomplished and, if so, how?

What do you believe are the most critical **ENERGY** problems facing the U.S. and what legislation and/or other steps will you support to solve them?

What other **ISSUES** are important to you?

Joseph P. Oddo *Independent Green - Challenger*



Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly *Democrat - Challenger*



Keith S. Fimian *Republican - Challenger*



BIOGRAPHY: Joseph Oddo is a freelance writer and political coordinator. He advocates for national high-speed rail development; scrapping the tax code; and protecting our civil liberties. Oddo earned a Public Policy degree from Penn State Harrisburg.

GOALS: 1) Stop the wanton waste of our tax dollars being siphoned off through no-bid defense department contracts. 2) Commit to developing a national high-speed rail transportation infrastructure connecting the most populated cities of America with the long-range benefit of reducing our dependence on oil. 3) Encourage alternative energy expansion

creating jobs in the solar, wind and renewables industries.

BUDGET: First we must install an auditable accounting system at all federal agencies including Defense so that we account for our expenditures and stop the waste, fraud, abuse and improper payments. Second, I encourage replacing the federal income tax with a national consumption tax as detailed in HR 25 – the FairTax. This will be revenue-neutral and encourage relocation of manufacturing in America creating jobs across the country and strengthening our economy. These steps will balance the federal budget and pay off

the deficit.

ENERGY: We must unite behind the creative "Green" initiatives offered by Michael Bloomberg, T. Boone Pickens and others.

ISSUES: I advocate for more candidates, less apathy. 50% of all elections have only one name on the ballot, and that is dangerous for our democracy. We encourage average citizens to take an active role in elections, join with a campaign and run for office. We need more choices on the ballot and media coverage/inclusion in the debates for independents who make the ballot. I want to ensure our citizens get a better education than what the

experience to Congress. Before serving in elected office, I spent 10 years staffing the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It's time for a change in our foreign policy and I believe my experience can help to bring about that change. As a local government official, I have spent 14 years dealing with the unique challenges of our community and building a government that works. I'm proud that we've been named the Best Managed County in the nation. I want to bring the same approach to Congress that I've brought to my work in Northern Virginia. Government should work and it should get results. I think that's the standard we need in Washington.

CONTACT: www.gerryconnolly.com
info@gerryconnolly.com 703-314-1473

ENERGY: We need a comprehensive approach to end the reliance on foreign oil. That means no single solution that the simply-minded career politicians provide us, but a comprehensive solution that includes more drilling for domestic oil, expanding safe nuclear power, developing clean alternative energies like wind, solar and bio-diesel. We need it all for a stronger economy free of foreign oil and a cleaner environment.

ISSUES: Fixing our economy and reducing gas prices are my top priority. Transportation and making health care more affordable are priorities as well.

CONTACT: www.keithfimian.com
Keith@fimianforcongress.com 703-217-3721

SOLs and teaching to the tests have developed. I am concerned that our civil liberties are being threatened by those invoking fear. We need to stop using war as a foreign policy tool. We need to restore our status as a peace-seeking nation, and stop the reckless military misadventures around the globe.

CONTACT: VoteJoinRun.us
jo4congress@aol.com 703-338-0200

SPORTS

Olympian Visits Old Gym

Justin Spring, 24, takes questions from eager, audience at Capital Gymnastics.

By JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

It was a situation loaded with irony. As Olympic gymnast Justin Spring answered youngsters' questions Tuesday at Capital Gymnastics in Burke, the occasional thumping, gymnastic outburst could be heard, proving yet again that some children just can't sit still.

For Spring, he's used to it. At age 5, he began training at Capital Gymnastics and during that time became one of the most notorious headaches for Barry Neff, who has owned the gym since 1990.

While Spring was that rambunctious child that no one could seem to settle down, he was also that one destined for bigger and better things.

After competing on the bronze medal-winning men's gymnastics team during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, Spring offered a question and answer session and then signed autographs at the gym where he trained for 13 years.

"I spent my whole life training for that

"It sounds so cliché, but never giving up works."

— Justin Spring

FOR THE PAST MONTH, Spring has been crisscrossing the country with the 2008 Tour of Gymnastics Superstars, an event featuring fellow Olympians Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson, as well as teammates Jonathan Horton and Joseph Hagerty.

Spring and Co. will visit the Verizon Center on Oct. 30, but this sudden trip home came about because of a three-day break and a trip from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Realizing that the bus had to drive past his parents' new house along Interstate 95 in Lorton, Spring, impulsively, asked if the bus driver could just drop him off. As the

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds of Fairfax County, Virginia, in addition to the parks and park facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$77,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance the cost of providing additional parks and park facilities including the acquisition, construction, development and equipment of

additional parks and park facilities, and the purchase of easements for the preservation of open-space land and the development and improvement of existing parks and park facilities by the Fairfax County Park Authority, and including an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 allocable to the County as its share of the cost of parks and park facilities to be acquired, constructed, developed and equipped by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority?



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Burke native Justin Spring dropped by Capital Gymnastics on Tuesday to sign autographs and participate in a question and answer session at the gym where he trained for 13 years.

one moment," said Spring, 24, a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School. "It's cool to come back and see the people that helped me along the way and see the place that kind of jump started my career."

bus chugged along through Fredericksburg, Spring, impulsively again, asked Horton and Hagerty if they'd like to stop with him.

"Ain't much else to do," Horton cracked at the time.

On the tour, Spring, Horton and Hagerty had been wearing down. With five shows in five nights, they had conquered one of the tougher stretches during the three-month run. As seemingly perfect as the Beijing Games were, Spring's life after has become somewhat of a grind.

"I've been home literally six days in the past three months," said Spring, who has a house in Champagne, Ill., near where he went to school at the University of Illinois. "We've been living out of two bags and on a bus the majority of the time."

"Sometimes, we're in a city for 18 hours. We get in about 6 a.m., finish up sleeping, and you have the show at 5 p.m. Then you hop on the bus an hour after the show is done to get to the next city."

SEE SPRING, PAGE 18

WEEK IN SPORTS

Orchard Named Diver of the Week

Austin Orchard, a sophomore at VMI and a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, was selected as the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association's Diver of the Week for meets competed Oct. 6-12. A native of Alexandria, Orchard won two diving events against Georgetown, the first collegiate meet of his career. Orchard established a new CCSA record in the three-meter event with a score of 229.65. He came up just shy of the one-meter record, finishing with a score 224.70.

Streak Snapped For Fairfax

Without a loss since Sept. 5, the Fairfax field hockey team started to stress itself out. Whether it meant focusing more on a specific color of hairband, the same pair of socks or how some of the Rebel players laced up their spikes, the thoughts started to drift more toward the streak and away from the goal at hand.

And with Tuesday night's 2-1 overtime loss to Chantilly in the semifinals of the Concorde District tournament, coach Amber Beaudoin's team received a not-so-gentle reminder of what's important.

"They put so much extra pressure on themselves because they were trying to keep a winning streak alive," said Beaudoin, whose team possesses a 16-3 record and finished the regular season as the district's top seed. "We were hoping the loss would be last week ... if we really had to lose."

With individual efforts from senior captains Lisa Charney (15 goals, four assists) and Shelby Storosh (nine goals, seven assists), perennially overlooked Fairfax has changed its approach to focus on the upcoming Northern Region tournament, which begins early next week.

Gymnastics Superstars

On Oct. 30, Burke's Justin Spring will perform as part of the 2008 Tour of Gymnastics Superstars, at the Verizon Center with fellow Olympians Nastia Liukin, Shawn Johnson and Jonathan Horton. Tickets are available at the Verizon Center box office and at all Ticketmaster locations. Tickets may be purchased over the phone at 202-397-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOND REFERENDUM VOTE YES OR NO

PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES BONDS

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds of Fairfax County, Virginia, in addition to the parks and park facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$77,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance the cost of providing additional parks and park facilities including the acquisition, construction, development and equipment of

This Fall 2008 Voters' Guide is brought to you as a public service by:

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The Connection Newspapers**



VOTE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008



Clifton Haunted Trail

Saturday, October 25th

5 pm–6 pm: "not so scary," 7 pm–10 pm: "scary"

\$7 for all tickets (kids & adults)

Once again, we Cliftonites take perverse pleasure in scaring you but good, for a small sum of your money and a larger portion of your pride. Oh, come on, give it a go—There's always the chance that this year you won't scream...And even if you do, the chainsaw will drown out all but the shrillest of the shrieks.

It's only 8 acres of woods—what could possibly happen to you?



~ Not for Young Children or Scaredy Cats ~

Wear sturdy shoes ~ Hot and Cold drinks and Goodies for Sale

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I-66 to Fairfax County Parkway South, to Braddock Road West, to Clifton Road. Hang a left and follow Clifton Road a few miles to the Town of Clifton, where you'll bear right at the T and follow signs for parking. Call 703-968-0740 with questions.

JIMMY LANGE IS BACK!



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PATRIOT CENTER**
FIGHTS 7:30PM, DOORS 6:00PM

**Main Event: Jimmy Lange vs. Grover Wiley
Plus six more exciting bouts.**

IPBOXING.COM

For tickets, call Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT (7328), go online to www.ticketmaster.com or visit the Patriot Center Box Office.

SPORTS

Spring Visits Old Gym

FROM PAGE 17

But Spring loves it. He always has. Since he started at Capital Gymnastics, Spring has wanted to do nothing but bounce around, run, jump and just basically let off some energy.

STARTING AT age 5, he began training with Steve Sheinman, who didn't hesitate to sit Spring down in the facility's office as a time out of sorts. After fulfilling his media obligations Tuesday, Spring even asked Neff what had happened to the chair where he used to sit.

"We're over here doing pommel horse and he's over there diving off the rings," Neff joked. "You'd sit down and you'd talk to him and he'd say, 'I got it, I got it,' and 20 minutes later he'd be out doing the same thing."

"The kid just hasn't grown up. He's still the same hyper, energetic kid that he's always been," said Spring's next coach, Carlos Vasquez, who typically works with Capital's older male gymnasts.

Spring began to work with Vasquez at 12 and



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

As a member of the U.S. men's gymnastics team, Spring won a bronze medal in the team competition.

started to channel that abundance of energy.

At Lake Braddock, Spring won the all-around national championship as a senior and became a 12-time All-American and the 2006 Big Ten Gymnast of the Year at the University of Illinois, where he now serves as an assistant coach.

But even with his developing success, injuries soon became a major factor. After enduring shoulder, knee and a pair of ankle surgeries within an 11-month window prior to the Olympic Trials, Spring's availability for Beijing started to become a question mark.

Spring rehabbed enough to make the team, an experience that led to his most simple and profound advice of the evening.

"It sounds so cliché, but never giving up works," Spring said. "It really does work. If you really want to accomplish your goals, you can. You're going to have setbacks. Nothing's going to fall in your lap, but if you really want something, you can go out and accomplish it."

ALL-STAR CHARACTER EVERY NIGHT

Buy a Wizards All-Star Mini Pack and receive:

- A discount off of the gate ticket price
- Tickets to 13 Wizards games that sold out in 2007-2008
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COMMUNITY

Mitchell Trains for Fight

FROM PAGE 3

tive, he said, a way to deal with the frustration of knowing he couldn't do anything to help his oldest child. Mitchell decided to take matters into his own hand and returned to boxing.

"The last time I was in the ring, I won a boxing match, so technically I'm undefeated," he joked. He was 11 at the time.

Mitchell began training at the L.A. Boxing gym in Centreville, spending several hours a day training, lifting weights and getting into what he calls the best shape of his life.

As a former body piercer and one of the original artists at Comes a Time Tattoo in Fairfax, Mitchell has known the Lange family, including tattoo artist Johnny Lange and boxer Jimmy Lange, for years. Jimmy Lange, a father himself, would often ask how Shalya's treatment was progressing, Mitchell said.

After he had been training for a few weeks, Mitchell called up Jimmy Lange and joking asked if he might be interested in having Mitchell fight a bout against cancer during his Lange's planned return to the Patriot Center. After a few days, Jimmy Lange called Mitchell and said he liked the idea of him going into the ring, but as a serious fighter in a real fight.

"He knows full well I'm not a serious fighter," Mitchell said. "But he agreed to help me train and turn me into a professional."

WITH A LITTLE HELP from the trainers at L.A. Boxing in Centreville, including "Cold Blood" Patrick Budde, Stennis Floyd, Lonnie Hawes, Matt Alvin, branch owner Tate Marshall and coach Tony Burnell, he's ready to fight.

The Lange family went a step further and agreed to let Mitchell sell some tickets to the event. Twenty percent of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to Growing Hope, a Fairfax Station-based nonprofit organization that provides outings and support for families with children fighting cancer. So far, Mitchell said he has raised several thousand dollars for Growing Hope, but he wants to do more.

"In life, I've discovered, you don't always

win, but you always fight," he said.

The Lange family have been proud to work with Mitchell in promoting the fight and his dedication to training, especially since this will most likely be his only fight.

"What he's doing is no joke, and he's taking it very seriously," Jimmy Lange said. "But with what he's going through, I can't even fathom it."

Jimmy Lange's father, also named Johnny Lange, said his son has made a point to embrace various charitable organizations through his boxing. He auctions off the custom-made, embroidered cloaks he wears into the ring and donates some of the proceeds to charity. This fight will be no different.

A section of seats on the floor of the Patriot Center will be donated to veterans currently undergoing treatment for a variety of injuries at area hospitals. Those who purchase the seats, which will be sold at discounted prices, will have their names read aloud during the event and listed in the evening's program, Johnny Lange said.

Mitchell is happy to be helping Growing Hope, an organization started in 1998 by three parents whose children had been diagnosed with cancer.

"These parents knew first hand the needs of children in treatment, so they set out to start a charity with a mission of fun," said board member Lisa Tignor.

Each year, Growing Hope provides pizza parties, ice cream socials, a trip to the Big Apple and Ringling Brothers circuses, Tignor said. In addition, they provide support and books to parents and, when possible, help fulfill wishes for children over 12.

Growing Hope tries to make a difference in the life of a child in treatment for cancer, and we have no overhead, so 100 percent of donated money goes to the children and their families."

How To Help

To learn more about "Tattoo" Tom Mitchell, his daughter Shalya's battle with cancer, and the Nov. 1 boxing match at the Patriot Center, go to www.noturningback2008.com. Tickets to the event can be purchased by e-mailing "Tattoo" Tom Mitchell at tattootom@cox.net or by calling him at 703-250-8777. Donations can be made to Growing Hope, P.O. Box 151, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

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Gorgeous home with gourmet kitchen, finished basement, custom built-ins, flag stone patio. Close to Town Center, VRE, and more. For 24-hr recorded information, call 1-888-495-6207 x200



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North Springfield \$505,000
North Springfield
\$525,000
Bank Owned. Expanded colonial featuring main level master bedroom, wood floors, family room with fireplace, double decks, large back yard, upgraded kitchen with granite. Off street parking.

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Reston \$129,900
Bank owned * Property sold as is condition * Sun filled end townhome * Front & back patios * 3 Bedrooms * Enjoy all the Reston amenities: pools, tennis, sports, trails, playgrounds and more *

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Springfield \$2050
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Falls Church \$1995
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Fairfax Station \$789,900
Further Reduction!
Exceptional Value! Immaculate well maintained 4BR, 2.5 BA home on 5 acres. Fabulous setting among towering hardwood trees. Delightful sunroom with vaulted ceiling and wall of Pella windows and doors. 3 finished levels with many upgrades including granite kitchen with downdraft cooktop and recent appliances.

See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



Fairfax Station \$1,575,000
Price Reduced 125K!
Spectacular all-brick estate home on five acres close to all amenities. 7000+ fin sq ft. 5/6 bedrooms 5.5 baths, 10' ceilings, 6 fireplaces, 3 car garage, huge updated kitchen, banquet sized dining room, sunroom, library, grand foyer with Waterford chandelier. See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



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Burke \$159,000
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Alexandria \$535,000
This 5BR, 3.5BA colonial features updated kitchen with GE appliances, maple cabinets. French door to sunroom. Hardwood floors on main and upper level. 2 FP. Close to Kingstowne shopping and dining, and all major routes. Also close to 2 military bases.

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