

# Fairfax Station ♦ Laurel Hill **CONNECTION**

Clifton ♦ Lorton ♦ Lorton Valley ♦ Crosspointe

# Haunted Hostess

NEWS, PAGE 4

Heather Cooper  
puts on  
Halloween  
Parables in her  
back yard in  
Fairfax Station.

## Crash Leads To Tragedy

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Body Found In Pohick Bay

NEWS, PAGE 3

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## NEWS

# Judge Sentences Day to 33 Months

**Fairfax Station man ordered to forfeit more than \$2 million.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**D**wight Freemont Day Jr., a Lorton businessman and Fairfax Station homeowner, was sentenced Friday to 33 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine and conspiracy to engage in an illegal gambling business.

U.S. District Court Judge Liam O'Grady ordered Day to forfeit more than \$2 million as part of his sentence and pay an additional \$250,000 fine, according to Dana J. Boente, acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Day was accused of distributing cocaine from his \$1.3 million Fairfax Station house on Rutledge Drive as well as from his business, KMN Sheet Metal in Lorton, according to the federal affidavit against him.

His business grosses more than \$10 million in sales annually, according to the business Web site. His 5-acre house and property, purchased in 2001 for \$970,000, was assessed earlier this year for more than

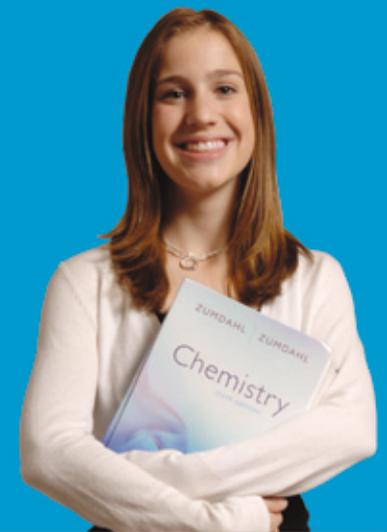


POLICE PHOTO

**Dwight Day Jr.**

SEE 33 MONTHS, PAGE 16

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## Drunk Driving Devastates 3 Families

**'Awesome night' involving alcohol, marijuana, loud music, reckless driving, ends in tragedy.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Three families were devastated by a drunk driving accident caused by a close friend of the two victims last Nov. 28, 2007 on Wolf Run Shoals Road in Fairfax Station.

Christopher Plaisier, 22 of Fairfax, was sentenced Friday, Oct. 24 in Fairfax County Circuit Court to three years in prison for DUI involuntary manslaughter.

Plaisier's 18-year-old friend, Morgan E. Cooke, suffered five days with massive injuries before dying on Dec. 3, 2007.

"The darkest days of my life," Morgan's father, Fred Cooke, said in the courtroom Friday. "She was my only daughter, my youngest child, and she truly was a Daddy's girl," he told Circuit Court Judge Jane Marum Roush.

**"Morgan trusted you to drive responsibly and you failed her."**

— Kay Cooke, victim's mother

"After grieving now for 10 months, I know I will grieve forever," he said. "We are sentenced to a life of perpetual sadness."

Morgan's brother Sean Cooke traveled immediately from Denver after his mother called to tell him about the crash.

"My mother could barely muster the strength to tell me," he said. When he arrived at Inova Fairfax Hospital, "the expression on my parents face is one I've never seen before."

"We all hoped for good news, but Morgan was so broken, they couldn't piece her back together," said Morgan's oldest brother, Kevin Cooke, 31.

**ON DEC. 3**, Morgan's kidneys started shutting down. Kay Cooke, Morgan's mother, asked nurses to dim the lights in the hospital room as her daughter's breathing became more labored.

"I rubbed her back and told her I loved

her," Sean Cooke said. "And then she was gone."

"Oh, God, our baby is gone, Oh, God, our baby is gone," said Morgan's mother.

Kay Cooke remembered thinking it was her daughter checking in when the phone rang as police initially called to tell them about the accident.

"Chris, you stole the most precious gift we ever had. Morgan trusted you to drive responsibly and you failed her," Morgan's mother said to her daughter's friend, the defendant.

To Judge Roush, Kay Cooke said, "It's madness that these children are dying on the roads."

**THE FAMILY** of Daniel Fath, of Fairfax, suffers a different tragedy.

Since the crash last November, Brenda Fath testified that her son, 23 at the time of the accident, has had seven different surgeries but remains in a "vegetative state"



FAMILY PHOTO

**Morgan E. Cooke died from injuries received in a November 2007 car crash.**

after enduring the most traumatic brain injury one could survive.

"His eyes are open, he can move a bit, but technically he is non-responsive," she said.

He remains in a long-term nursing home in Alexandria and his weight has dropped to 70 pounds. Her son's friends have stopped visiting, she said.

"My heart absolutely goes out to the Cooke family, but we lost a son, too," she testified.

From the witness stand, Brenda Fath turned to her son's friend. "My heart breaks for you, too.

There were three families devastated that night. It was a horrible, horrible tragedy."

Plaisier cried both from his seat at the defendant's table when he listened to family members of both of his friends and when he took the witness stand to tell his friend's

SEE THREE FAMILIES, PAGE 4

## Body of Missing Police Officer Found

**Officer's body discovered 100 feet from last known sighting during training exercise.**

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON  
THE CONNECTION

The body of 2nd Lt. Frank Stecco of the Fairfax County Police was discovered Saturday, Oct. 25 in Pohick

Bay. Stecco, 42, went missing four days earlier on Tuesday, Oct. 21 while participating in a helicopter rescue exercise at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Drowning was listed as the cause of death.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, Stecco's body was found approximately 100 feet away from where he was last seen before disappearing. The exercise, conducted by the Fairfax County Police Department, was designed to coordinate simulated rescues between boats and aircraft for potential victims of boating accidents. At approximately 2:47 p.m., Stecco was reported missing.

Air, water and ground search teams were dispatched to locate the officer once he went missing. For four days, police and fire de-

**"Frank was the kind of person that never passed on a practical joke."**

— Maj. Mike Kline, commander, Fairfax County Police Department technical services bureau

partment boats, helicopters and personnel from Fairfax County, Alexandria City combed Pohick Bay and Pohick Regional Park, with technical assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Canines trained to detect human scent scanned the grounds.

It is unclear at this time what role Stecco was playing in the exercise, as well as whether he was on a boat or in the water. He was wearing a dry suit designed for cold-water temperatures at the time of the exercise. He was not wearing a breathing apparatus and police department spokesperson Tawny Wright said his role did not require one.

The incident is under investigation by the Fairfax County Police Department, which is not releasing any further details at this time.

"The investigation will explore all facets and aspects of the exercise to determine what happened," said Lucy Caldwell, spokesperson for the Fairfax County Police Department.

Stecco joined the Fairfax County Police Department in 1989 after spending the previous five years in the U.S. Marine Corps stationed at Quantico Marine Base in Quantico. He spent 11 of his 19 years of service at the Mount Vernon District Station before leaving to join the department's youth services division. He received the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce the Silver Medal of Valor in 1994, the Bronze Medal of Valor in 1997 and a Certificate of Valor in 2000, all for actions above and beyond the call of duty.

Maj. Mike Kline, commander of the technical services bureau of the Fairfax County Police Department, worked with Stecco his rookie year in 1989 and later as Frank's immediate supervisor at the Mount Vernon Station in 1992. He described Stecco as a lover of boating and water-skiing, as well as an aggressive and courageous police officer who used humor to lighten the moods of his coworkers.

"Frank was the kind of person that never passed on a practical joke. That was kind of his way to deal with some of the stresses



POLICE PHOTO

**2nd Lt. Frank Stecco**

associated with police work," said Kline.

In 1994, Kline was Stecco's commanding officer when he and another officer rescued a man on fire after his trailer exploded at an Army trailer park, resulting in the first of three valor awards he received in his 19 years as a police officer. In 1997, he disarmed a suspect in a domestic violence shooting and in 2000 disarmed another man attempting to commit suicide. He transferred to the

youth services division of the department a month before his death to work with teens plagued by domestic and gang-related problems. It was his effort "to better solve problems before they became problems," said Kline.

Stecco is survived by his wife Julie; daughter Maria, 16; and sons Nicholas, 13 and Alexander, 10. Funeral services for Stecco are Thursday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m., at the Hylton Memorial located 14640 Potomac Mills Road in Woodbridge.

Reporter Chuck Hagee contributed to this story.

# Something Spooky Haunts Local Woods

Heather Cooper transforms her Fairfax Station yard into a Haunted Path and stage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

For the eighth year, Heather Cooper, 42, has transformed her backyard in the Havenwood neighborhood of Fairfax Station into a Halloween Haunted Path and stage. She puts on the popular Halloween Parables, and last Sunday's show theme was "Everything Is Not What it Seems."

"THE BEST thing about doing the show is seeing these children come out of their shells and become transformed," said Cooper. "Each child starts the show not knowing what to expect and by the end of the six weeks, they have come with ideas and excitement."

Cooper incorporates new characters with familiar ones in wild costumes: Pirates, Rumor Weed, Bloody Pink Gum Dudes, Veggie Tales and The Spies. She puts them in parables that she borrows from the Bible and other elements, like the musical, "Godspell."

"We try to teach lessons the whole way through," she said.

The parables combine what children love about Halloween with stories on how to be

**"The best thing about doing the show is seeing these children come out of their shells and become transformed."**

— Heather Cooper

a better person. "It's not looking at the dark side, but taking Halloween and turning it into something where we can accept other people and find the good in ourselves," said Cooper.

She starts writing the dialogue in August and her voice is digitized and recorded into a computer to create all the characters. The children rehearse for seven weeks, lip-syncing the lines and creating their own characters. It's open for anyone in the community; if a child is interested, he or she gets a role.

Starting out small with an eight-minute show the first year, the show is now an \$8,000 production with 917 items on Cooper's official "to-do" list. Some 67 parents helped organize the 48 children, even some Boy Scouts. Between 300-400 chairs are set up in her backyard for the audience. The stage is actually a converted children's playground with an added wooden support, 8,000 light bulbs, three fog machines and 700 electrical connections. Using a staple gun and chicken wire, volunteers apply lights and art work to the stage built by Mary and Terry Downs.

ALL THE CHILDREN decorate the



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Eli Downs, 12, of Fairfax City plays the fashion designer.

Haunted Path and make the cemetery. On web-spinning day, they spread the 263 spider webs. The Haunted Path has areas for pirates, snakes and Dracula, where the children act out using emotions, and ad-libbed body movements to create their own characters.

Cooper credits her friends and neighbors with helping: Mary and Terry Downs; Angela and Peter Duperrouzel; John and Sherry Long; Steve and Donna Cooper; David and Kathy Paxton, plus countless others who made it all happen. "They go above and beyond the call of duty," she said.

Hannah Patteson, 13, of Fairfax narrated

the play and plays Rumor Weed. "You get to learn all these dances and be with friends," she said, telling what she like's about the show.

Eli Downs, 12, of the City of Fairfax plays the fashion designer. "It's so much fun to dance and hang out with friends," he said.

Emily Dhue, 10, of Oakton is part of the Student Council and announces the parables. "I like decorating the haunted path and just hanging out," she said.

Zoe Cooper, 11, of Fairfax Station plays Biv, a popular person. "I like to act so this is

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 7

## Three Families Endure Aftermath of 2007 Crash

FROM PAGE 3

families about the night.

"I wish with everything I have I could switch positions with Morgan and Daniel, and they could be here with you all talking and laughing. I can't say how sorry I am for taking them from you," he said.

He told the families how much he loved both his friends.

"I can't say how sorry I am for what I've caused the Cooke family, for what I've caused the Fath family," he said. "I hung out with Daniel every day. I can't say how truly sorry I am for what I caused, for what I have done."

THE EVENING started out an "awesome night," Plaisier said.

Plaisier wanted to drive because he had the "nicest" car, his parents' 2003 black BMW 540i.

He and his friends — some legal, some underage — started out at a couple of bars where he knew waitresses he thought would serve them.

Later, after buying some liquor as well as some soda from 7-Eleven, they ended up southbound on Wolf Run Shoals Road.

"The whole ride from 7-Eleven, the windows were down, the music was blaring," Plaisier said. "I just wish I was paying attention to how fast I was going. I just got so caught up in the moment of the night."

WOLF RUN Shoals road is notorious for kids flying down and trying to "catch air," Kevin Cooke said. Cooke said he learned from police detectives that Plaisier's car struck the tree seven feet off the ground. Another back-seat passenger told Cooke's family that Plaisier drove 75 miles per hour on the road, and that he asked Plaisier to slow down.

"Morgan and Daniel had no chance of making it through the crash," said Kevin Cooke.

Plaisier's blood alcohol content was tested at .08, said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kelly Pearson, and he was also tested positive for marijuana.

"I felt 100-percent confident that I was

### Get Involved

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern Virginia, whose mission is "to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking," will host a walk, "Walk Like MADD" this weekend in Lake Fairfax Park in Reston to raise awareness and funding.

The walk is Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. To register as a walker or as a "virtual walker," visit [www.WalkLikeMadd.org](http://www.WalkLikeMadd.org) and select "Fairfax, VA," or e-mail [karen.horowitz@madd.org](mailto:karen.horowitz@madd.org) or call 703-379-1135.

able to drive," Plaisier said.

The last thing he remembers, Plaisier said, is waking up to his friend, a back-seat passenger with Fath, yelling.

At the hospital, Plaisier "asked the nurses constantly how everyone was. I didn't realize the severity of the situation," he said.

The prosecutor called the crash "avoidable," especially since Plaisier already had a "a wakeup call" when he spent two days

in jail in 2005 for driving a motorcycle 97 miles per hour in a 65 speed limit zone.

Plaisier's defense attorney Ted Sibert said he and his client never disputed that Plaisier drank, that he sped, that he made reckless decisions.

"This is an individual who hurt people who were very close to him," said Sibert.

"Morgan meant so much to Christopher and Daniel meant so much to Christopher," said Melinda Plaisier, Christopher's mother, to the two families. "I just beg you to know you have been in our thoughts and prayers since the accident and you will continue to be."

Friends of the Plaisier, Fath and Cooke families filled the courtroom Friday.

Judge Roush sentenced Plaisier to 10 years in prison, and suspended 7 years. She also ordered that he remain on probation five years after his release, perform 100 hours of community service, and surrender his license.

"Ms. Cooke wants me to try to end children dying on the road," the judge said. "I only wish I had that power."

# FAITH

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.

**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.

**Church Women United World Community Day "God's Wisdom Sets Us Free" service** on Friday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. at St. John's United Methodist Church, 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield. Barbara Teats will speak on prison ministries. Postal Forever Stamps will be collected for prison ministries. Reception to follow. 703-425-5625.

**Immanuel Christian School Fall Open House** on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 6915 Braddock Road, Springfield. Tours, classroom observation and curriculum available. Fall 2009 kindergarten-eighth grade registration is now open. 703-941-1220 or www.icsva.org.

**Divorce Recovery Workshop**, a nine-week program on Wednesday evenings through Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The program is free; book (used) is \$12. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Contact Mary Stedman at 703-569-9862, ext. 213, or mstedman@messiahumc.org.

**Arabic Bible Baptist Church** is located at 5424 Ox Road in Fairfax Sta-

tion. Pastor: Tony Ghareeb. Call 703-273-5599 or e-mail to Tghareeb@wmconnect.com.

**A casual worship service** with a praise band is at 9:45 a.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield. 703-451-8223 or www.sumcdisciples.org.

**The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS** group meets every Monday 7-9 p.m., at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is a group for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. For more, call Michelle Wright at 703-922-4295 or visit www.MOPS.org.

**Congregation Adat Reyim** offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:40 p.m. Hebrew school is available on Sunday at 9 a.m. and Sunday and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. Call 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreyim.org.

**Mom's Group**. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Ages 0-18 months.

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call 703-830-3175.

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church**, located at 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Wednesday Latin mass at 7 p.m. Call 703-817-1770 or visit www.st-andrew.org.

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# Getting To Know ...

## Richard J. Frisch, Fairfax County Chamber's new chief operating officer.

**O**n Oct. 14, Richard J. Frisch joined the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce as the organization's new chief operating officer. Frisch has 25 years of experience in the hotel management industry, serving most recently as the general manager of the Hilton McLean.

PROFILE

Enjoys a daily 2-mile walk, landscaping and he is an active book club member for the past five years.

**Favorite local restaurants.**

Meiwah Restaurant, J R's Stockyard Inn for BBQ.

**Community concerns.**

Labor and transportation.

**Personal goals.**

Continue to be a solid manager to achieve financial benchmarks. Grow revenue and continue to develop new business relationships.

**What's the biggest challenge facing Fairfax County businesses right now?**

What impact will the difficult global financial picture have on state and local government?

**What role can the Chamber play in meeting that challenge?**

Develop education programs to assist business leaders in managing through the volatile markets.



Richard J. Frisch

DONATED PHOTO

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

**Number of years in the community.**

Seventeen years in the Greater Metropolitan Washington area. Last 10 years as general manager of Hilton McLean in Tysons Corner.

**Family.**

Frisch is a resident of Bethesda, Md., with his wife Alison, a meeting and events executive for Courtesy Associates, Washington, D.C.

**Education.**

Frisch has spent his last 25 years in hotel management with Hilton Hotels.

**Your first job.**

Air Traffic Controller, United States Air Force.

**Activities/interest/hobbies.**

**Boy Scouts from Troop 1104 help Cub Scouts from Packs 1858 and 1861 launch model rockets**



## Rockets Soar High for Cub Scouts

**C**lifton's Boy Scout Troop 1104 recently helped the Cub Scouts of Pack 1858 (Willow Springs Elementary) and Pack 1861 (Clifton Elementary) aim high and shoot for the stars when they hosted a rocket launch. Boys of all ages launched rockets high into the sky and then waited to see where their rockets came down. The launch took place in the flood plain of the Town of Clifton.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 1104 presented each Cub Scout with a rocket and then helped them start the building process at a "how to" clinic presented to each Pack of Cub Scouts and their parents. Each Cub Scout then took on the task of completing their own rocket and painting or decorating it as they wished

prior to launch day. At the launch site, the Boy Scouts then loaded the engines into the rockets, set up each rocket on the launch pad and then showed the younger scouts the process to launch the rocket. At that point, each of the Cub Scouts then proceeded to launch their winged wonder into the great blue sky.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 1104 meet on Wednesdays, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Scoutmaster Bo Reese can be reached at 703-830-0048 or blreese1@cox.net. Also visit the Troop's Web site [www.troop1104.com] for additional information. Cub Scout contacts are Ken Fried (Willow Springs) at 703-631-6417 or Rob Jones (Clifton) at 703-752-0290.

## Michael C. Doughty Dies

**M**ichael Doughty died with his family at his side on Tuesday, Oct. 14 in Fairfax Inova Hospital while awaiting a heart transplant. He was born in New York, N.Y. to Lloyd and Shirley Doughty, growing up in Glen Head, Long Island, N.Y. He attended North Shore High School and graduated from William & Mary with a B.A. in history. After graduation he entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant.



Michael C. Doughty

FAMILY PHOTO

Doughty served his country for 28 years with

distinction and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He served in many duty stations during his Army tenure, including Germany, England, West Point, Alaska and the Pentagon.

OBITUARY

It was during his station in Germany he met his wife Susan and they were married on May 5, 1979 in Stuttgart, Germany. Doughty served in Central Command in Tampa, Fla. and was sent to the Middle East for the Desert Storm operation in 1991. In his logistical position, he was responsible for the positioning of U.S. armor assets that was at the core of this successful military campaign. During his service he also earned a master of business administration.

After his retirement he joined SAIC a military consulting company in McLean, until his death.

Doughty enjoyed traveling, golf, classical piano and especially his times on the beach at the Maryland shore. He was an avid reader, especially of history books and spent many hours in genealogy research. He is survived by his wife Susan of Burke; daughters Melissa of Baltimore, Md; Justine of New York, N.Y. and son Timothy who attends Virginia Tech. He also leaves a brother, Lloyd of Cumberland Foreside, Maine; two sisters, Elizabeth Noble of Tolland, Conn., and Elaine of Lynn, Mass. and many nieces and nephews.

VIEWPOINTS

## What's your impression of current presidential campaign advertising?



"I think they're terrible. I hate every one of them. You'd think that presidential candidates would be above such things."

**Linda Redonbo, Stanton, Va.**



"Most of it is negative advertising by both of them. It really doesn't help me understand much about them."

**Tip Kehoe, Burke**

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

COMMUNITY

# Halloween Parables

FROM PAGE 4

really fun for me," she said.  
 Kayla Duperrouzel, 9, of Burke plays "G," a popular person. She enjoys decorating the path and likes the fact that the play is so original.

Chloe Paxton, 11, of Fairfax, plays "Roy," a popular sister. "She used to be really mean and she learned her lesson and now she's really nice," she said.

John Carter, 11, of Fairfax plays the ex-vice president of the Student Council. "I'm a mean guy. I'm the second advisor of the group. We're trying to get elected every time."

Kelly Anderson, 12, of Fairfax is the Student Council president. "I'm evil. I'm the popular Student Council president. I try to cause their demise."

Abbey Melton, 9, of Fairfax is trying to get Kelly elected to the Student Council. She says she enjoys the weekly practice sessions.

Alex Min, 12, of Burke plays the lazy pirate on the Student Council. "I'm mean and I try to look good," he said.

Timothy Farr, 11, of Clifton plays the piano in the show (and in real life) and enjoys the acting.

Samantha Natour, 7, of Fairfax enjoys her role playing with a hula-hoop in the show because "you can dance around and play."

Rebecca Ward, 13, of Fairfax plays the nerdy secretary. "It's a lot of fun. I've been in it three years and I get to wear really cool glasses," she said.

In her day job, Cooper works as a consultant for special events at the White House, planning the Eas-



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Rebecca Ward, 13, of Fairfax plays the nerdy secretary.**

ter Egg Roll, the Fourth of July and state arrival ceremonies. She used to own a dance studio and is involved in her church doing musicals and choreography.

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## Vote: It's Never Mattered So Much

With presidential contenders paying weekly visits, potential value of single vote in Virginia has never been so clear.

It's not enough to have good intentions when it comes to voting. It's not enough to have registered. It's not enough to have talked about your candidate for the past few months.

You must actually go to the polls and cast your vote.

It isn't going to be easy. Your polling place will likely be jammed. There will be long lines.

If you don't leave enough time, you could be late for work. If you leave voting for the end of the day, you'll be allowed to vote as long as you were in line before 7 p.m. But if you get stuck in traffic, on your way home, you could miss your chance.

Make allowances, make room in your schedule to vote. If you are an employer or a super-

### Battle for Virginia

To see all Connection election coverage, see [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), or <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=321241&paper=71&cat=109>

visor, allow your employees time to vote if you possibly can.

Try to make the experience as easy as possible on everyone. Bring your identification. Be courteous. Insist on your right to vote.

Which presidential candidate garners Virginia's 13 electoral votes could come down to a very slim margin. Be sure your vote counts.

## Walk Like MADD

Last week, a young Fairfax man was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter, in a drunk-driving accident that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. Reporter Ken Moore tells the story in this week's Fairfax Connection: one family lost a beloved daughter after five brutal days clinging to life; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "un-

responsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change. (Read the story, "Three Families Devastated by Drunk Driving," at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com))

In coming weeks, Moore will tell the stories of other local families touched by the tragedy of drunk driving.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern Virginia, whose mission is "to stop drunk driv-

ing, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking," will hold a walk, "Walk Like MADD" this weekend in Lake Fairfax Park in Reston to raise awareness and funding.

The walk is Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., open to children, teens, adults, families and pets. To register as a walker or as a "virtual walker," visit [www.WalkLikeMadd.org](http://www.WalkLikeMadd.org) and select "Fairfax, VA," e-mail [karen.horowitz@madd.org](mailto:karen.horowitz@madd.org) or call 703-379-1135.

## We've Sacrificed

To the Editor:

Surprise! The government has been listening in on X-rated phones calls between Americans.

Justifying outrage after outrage with national security, the GOP has had its way with us for a long time. It questioned the patriotism of anyone objecting to the Iraq war, foreign prisons, rendition, torture and warrantless wire-tapping. Protesters were followed, filmed and herded into "free-speech zones." Now we learn that any American communicating adult feelings to a loved one is publishing salacious material to be replayed ad nauseum by those monitoring the phone and Internet lines.

It isn't true that Americans haven't been asked to make sacrifices. We've sacrificed our blood, our treasure, the integrity of our Justice Department and our national honor as those in power broke law after law. Is this finally enough? Do we get it now?

**Dianne Thomas**  
Fairfax

## Blue Star For Obama

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to your

Oct. 7 article, "Voter Profile: Military Veterans, Virginia Veterans Active in Both McCain and Obama Campaigns." As the wife of an enlisted Navy Corpsman who has served two tours of duty in Iraq and is getting ready for his third, I believe we need a commander-in-chief whose record demonstrates that he cares about the wellbeing of the troops and their families.

In the three years since our marriage, my husband and I have only spent a few months together. He has always been in Iraq or away in training, and he was even away when

I had our son prematurely and had serious complications during pregnancy. Barack Obama (D) will provide predictable deployment schedules and more downtime between deployments for our troops, while John McCain (R) voted against an amendment calling for adequate troop rest between deployments. Barack Obama co-sponsored the GI Bill, which John McCain opposed and then failed to show up to vote on. Time and again, McCain has said he supports the troops, but in truth he received a D from the non-partisan group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, compared to Obama's B+ from that organization.

As a member of the grassroots organization Blue Star Families for Obama, I am actively supporting Barack Obama's campaign. I hope other military families in our area will join us, visit our Website, [www.bsf4o.com](http://www.bsf4o.com), and hear from our members on the Web at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BlueStarFamilies>.

Barack Obama will deliver the change my family and all military families, truly need.

**Shana Johnson**  
Kingstowne

## Vote for Park Bond

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of the proposed bond to invest additional funds in Fairfax County parks. Given the rapidly diminishing green space in the county, securing additional funding to obtain land for new parks and to renovate existing park facilities is critical to ensure that parks are available to current and future residents of Fairfax County. Park funds support community gardens, nature and exercise trails, historical sites, public recreation centers, camp grounds and athletic fields. These resources play a vi-

tal role in maintaining community and social networks, physical fitness and sportsmanship. Parks are a place where residents can gather to pursue shared interest like gardening and horticulture, nature, art, history and athletics. They are a place where families and children can gather to learn and play. Parks represent a critical link to Fairfax's agrarian past.

**Steven Jones**  
Fairfax

## Connolly Backer

To the Editor:

As a supporter of U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), I offer my support for Gerry Connolly (D). At a time when we are faced with the consequences of a weakened reputation in the international community, we need to elect members of Congress who have the knowledge and experience to lead us in the right direction. Gerry Connolly's experience as a public servant with the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and wrote several published reports on U.S. foreign policy. It's time for pragmatic leadership and someone who can work in a bipartisan fashion.

**Taiji Suzuki**  
Burke

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# CRIME

Activities reported by the Sully District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Oct. 24.

## SHOOTING AT OCCUPIED VEHICLE

### Sully Road/Lee Jackson Memorial Highway.

A van was shot at and hit on Sully Road near Lee Jackson Memorial Highway on Friday, Oct. 17 at 8 a.m. The driver, a 37-year-old Leesburg woman, was heading southbound on Route 28 when she heard something hit her car. An investigation revealed the vehicle a 2007 Nissan Quest was struck four times, possibly by a pellet gun. One round fractured the glass on the passenger side of the vehicle and another shattered the rear window. The woman and her three children in the vehicle were not injured. The investigation is ongoing. A suspect was seen exiting from Sully Road onto westbound Route 50. The vehicle was described as a brown Toyota pick-up truck with a red stripe. The suspect was described as an older white man. He was clean shaven with very short gray hair and was wearing a long-sleeve black T-shirt.

## LARCENIES

- 12800 block of Braddock Road.** Wire stolen from residence.
- 6600 block of Briarcroft St.** Money stolen from vehicle.
- 7200 block of Ivakota Road.** Sign stolen from residence.
- 5600 block of Rocky Run Drive.** Cellular phone stolen from residence.
- 4700 block of Stonecroft Blvd.** Cellular phone and iPod stolen from school.
- 14300 block of Sullyfield Circle.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.
- 6300 block of Multiplex Drive.** Two cases of beer stolen from business.
- 5100 block of Westfields Blvd.** Case of beer stolen from business.

## VEHICLE THEFTS

- 6100 block of Strasburg Drive.** 2004 Honda motorcycle.
- 8300 block of Brockman Drive.** iPod and

- cellular phone stolen from residence.
- 4500 block of Colony Court.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.
- 8500 block of Doyle Drive.** Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.
- 2800 block of Farmington Drive.** Wallet, cellular phone and prescriptions stolen from vehicle.
- 2700 block of Fort Drive.** Wallet stolen from business.
- 4500 block of Lantern Place.** Money stolen from residence.
- 5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive.** Diamond necklace stolen from residence.
- 2500 block of Parkers Lane.** Handgun stolen from residence.
- 7800 block of Richmond Highway.** Shoes stolen from business.
- 8600 block of Richmond Highway.** Chainsaw stolen from vehicle.
- 6900 block of South Kings Highway.** Case of beer stolen from business.
- 4800 block of Welford St.** Cellular phone and key stolen from vehicle.
- 2600 block of Windbreak Drive.** Blackberry stolen from residence.

## VEHICLE THEFTS

- 3800 block of Laramie Place.** 2007 Toyota Camry.
- 7900 block of Richmond Highway. Mitsubishi Diamante.

Activities reported by the Franconia District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Oct. 24.

## LARCENIES

- 5200 block of Backlick Road.** Camera stolen from school.
- 6500 block of Braddock Road.** Camera stolen from school.
- 5900 block of Craig St.** License plate stolen from vehicle.
- 6200 block of Edsall Road.** Money stolen from residence.
- 5900 block of Erving St.** Checkbook stolen from residence.



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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. 30

**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 at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Watain with Withered, Book of Black Earth, Ancient Sacrifice, Recently Vacated Graves and more.** All ages. 6:30 p.m. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**Don Cobert,** 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,"** 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.

**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.

**Springfield Community Theater presents "PetPourri,"** 8 p.m. at the John Swazy Theatre, The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets at www.sctonline.org or at the door.

**Freaky Friday Fun,** from 2-8 p.m. at the Audrey Moore RECenter, 8100 Braddock Road in Annandale. Games, prizes, costume contest, candy, face painting, maze, pool fun and more. \$5 per child. 703-321-7081 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 1

**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 complex is located on the Fairfax campus of

George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Pro Boxing featuring Jimmy Lange.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30-\$500. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

**Young Peoples Theatre fall show, "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.,"** at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. 7 p.m. Reserved seats are \$10, unreserved seats are \$12. Group rates and military discounts are available. www.YPTNVA.com or 703-866-3546.

**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.

**Springfield Community Theater presents "PetPourri,"** 8 p.m. at the John Swazy Theatre, The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets at www.sctonline.org or at the door.

**Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children's Third Annual Star Kid 8K Run/Walk,** with separate Family Fun Run. Proceeds benefit the hospital's pediatric heart programs. Prizes, a visit from Ronald McDonald and children's activities. 8 a.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Adult registration \$20, children \$10. Register online at www.runwashington.com.

**Community Yard Sale to benefit historic Sydenstricker schoolhouse,** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 8511 Hooes Road, next to Sydenstricker Methodist Church, Springfield. Funds raised will be used by the Upper Pohick Community League to maintain schoolhouse built in 1927. Contact upperpohick@hotmail.com, or Judy Riekse, 703-455-9039.

**Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents "Dearly Departed,"** 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.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 2

**The Faceless with Abigail Williams, Decrepit Birth, Veil of Maya, Neuraxis and Azrael.** All ages. 6 p.m. \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**Young Peoples Theatre fall show, "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.,"** at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. 3 p.m. Reserved seats \$10,



**Ballet Flamenco José Porcel appears Oct.31- Nov. 1 at the Center for the Arts complex, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.**

unreserved seats \$12. www.YPTNVA.com or 703-866-3546.

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

**Pianist Jeffrey Siegel,** 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Children 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**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.

**Springfield Community Theater presents "PetPourri,"** 2 p.m. at the John Swazy Theatre, The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets at www.sctonline.org or at the door.

**Basket Bingo Fund Raiser,** sponsored by the South County Secondary School Orchestra Boosters. Doors open at 1 p.m., bingo starts at 2 p.m. in the South County School Cafeteria, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. The cost is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Extra bingo cards, raffle tickets, and refreshments will be available. write2debi@cox.net or 703-690-0788.

## MONDAY/NOV. 3

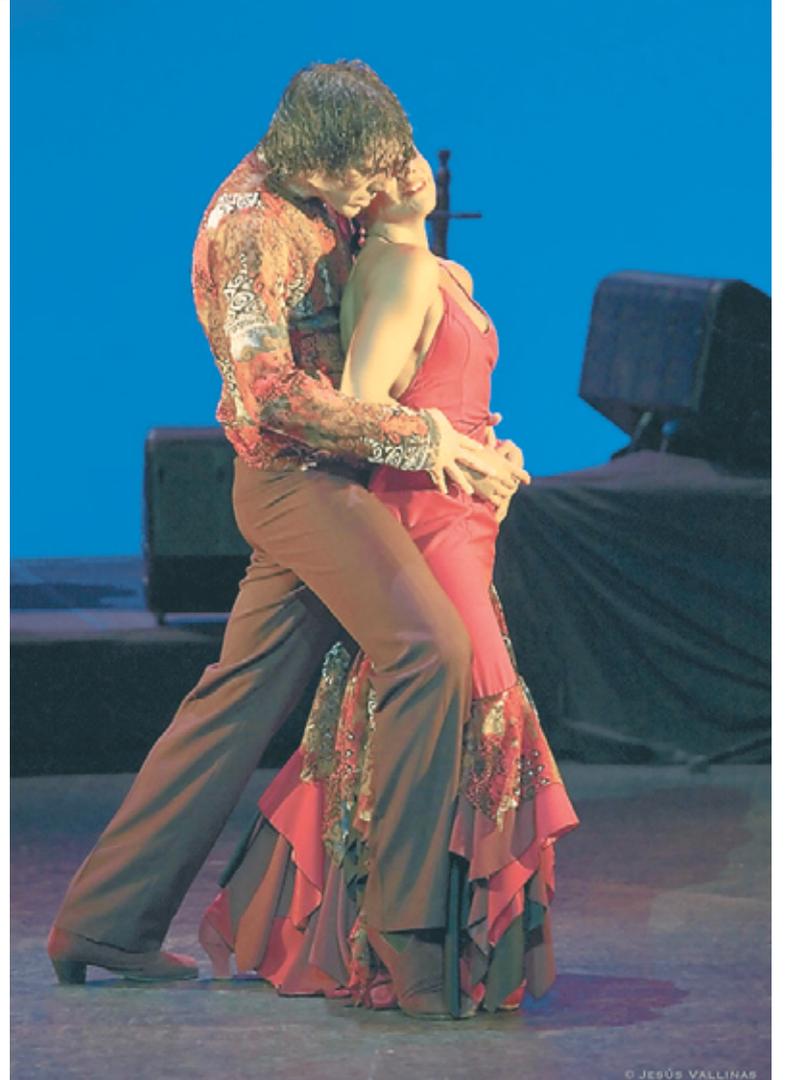
**Wii Games: Bowling.** 12:30 p.m. Active Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 5

**Practice Your English Conversation Group.** 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Lunch Bunnies.** 12 p.m. Age 1-5 with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

**Hugh Panaro,** 7:30 p.m. at West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Songs, conversation, photos and



autographs. Free. 703-913-3934.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 6

**Near and Far Sighted: Refocusing on Regionalism and Imports in Virginia.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Symposium on imported decorative arts objects and printed materials from 1607 to 1850. Reservations required. Call 703-550-9220 for a brochure and registration form. \$85, \$70 for Friends of Gunston Hall. 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. www.gunstonhall.org.

**Animal Tales.** 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Stories and fingerplays. Age 2-3 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

## Daytime Book Discussion Group:

"One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" by Aleksander Solzhenitsyn. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.  
**"The Laramie Project,"** 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Adults \$10, under 18 \$6. 703-446-1591.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 7

**Celtibillies, Celtic/Appalachian music.** 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**Panic At The Disco and Dashboard Confessional, with Plain White T's and The Cab, perform on Friday, Oct. 31 at the George Mason University Patriot Center.**

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Call 703-584-2900 or [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**Dare to Share's "Invincible Event"** at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$49, available at [www.dare2share.org](http://www.dare2share.org). George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Young Peoples Theatre fall show, "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.,"** at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. 7 p.m. Reserved seats are \$10, unreserved seats are \$12. [www.YPTNVA.com](http://www.YPTNVA.com) or 703-866-3546.

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

**Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors,"** 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Tickets \$17-\$34. Children 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com). Visit [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**Lunch Bunch.** 12 p.m. Bring lunch, listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

**"Footloose,"** 7:30 p.m. at the W.T. Woodson Performing Arts Department, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. 703-503-4600 or [www.wtdrama.org](http://www.wtdrama.org).

**"The Laramie Project,"** 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Adults \$10, under 18 \$6. 703-446-1591.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 8**  
White Lion featuring Mike Tramp

**with Baby Jayne, Bloodlines, Mis-Fit and more.** Age 21 and over. 8 p.m. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

**Dare to Share's "Invincible Event"** at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$49, available at [www.dare2share.org](http://www.dare2share.org). George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Family Outdoor Movie Night.** 7-9 p.m. Large outside screen, open concessions. \$15 per car. Occoquan Regional Park, 9520 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-690-2121.

**Young Peoples Theatre fall show, "Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.,"** at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. 3 p.m. Reserved seats \$10, unreserved seats \$12. [www.YPTNVA.com](http://www.YPTNVA.com) or 703-866-3546.

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

**Seventh Annual Franconia History Day.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Franconia Elementary School, 6043 Franconia Road. Free admission. Music, local history presentations, historical displays and trivia contest. Local authors book signing. Refreshments available. Contact Jim Cox at 703-971-7943 or [Franconiamuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:Franconiamuseum@yahoo.com). Visit [www.franconiamuseum.org](http://www.franconiamuseum.org).

**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago,** 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Children 12 and under half price. Charge tickets at 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

Visit [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**Friends of the Kingstowne Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

**"Footloose,"** 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. 703-503-4600 or [www.wtdrama.org](http://www.wtdrama.org).

**Theater of the First Amendment presents Jack Gilhooley's "The Warrior,"** at George Mason University's TheaterSpace at 8 p.m. The performance will be followed by a panel discussion on the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This play contains adult language. Tickets are \$15. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com). TheaterSpace is located on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**W.T. Woodson High School PTSA Craft Fair,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Frost Middle School, 4101 Pickett Road, Fairfax. Free admission. 703-321-8373.

**"The Laramie Project,"** 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Adults \$10, under 18 \$6. 703-446-1591.

**The Fairfax Master Naturalists Fall Tree ID Program,** 1-3 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park. Learn from Virginia Department of Forestry experts Jim McGlone and Bryant Bays and hear the latest about the emerald ash borer infestation. Meet in the main parking lot near the dam, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free, no registration required. Contact Karen Monroe at [FMNvolunteer@cox.net](mailto:FMNvolunteer@cox.net) or [www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html](http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html).

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**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

## 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

# First for Robinson — Twice

With a pair of first-ever individual titles, Robinson runners steal spotlight at Concorde finals.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

**C**oncorde District's championship meet on Oct. 22 offered an afternoon full of first-time occurrences.

For the first time during Robinson cross-country coach Jeremy Workman's 14-year tenure, senior Jared Berman won an individual district title. Also for the first time during Workman's tenure, senior Stephanie Bray won her first individual district title.

Although official statistics aren't kept on this one, for the first time during Workman's tenure a giant, fuzzy Ram mascot accompanied Robinson's runners at Burke Lake Park.

"We were ready," said Berman, who along with Bray grabbed his first-ever first-place finish Wednesday, Oct. 22. "We're extremely excited. This is something we've been waiting for."

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY PATRICK TAITANO/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior Jared Berman won the boys individual Concorde District cross-country title last Wednesday afternoon at Burke Lake Park, finishing with a time of 15 minutes 22 seconds.

# Walk On Opportunity at Va Tech

South County graduate Chris Panneton makes men's basketball team at Virginia Tech.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

**O**ne week it was a pair of sweatpants. The next week Chris Panneton was handed a T-shirt. For his third week of leg-burning, time-consuming work, he finally was given a locker to put both of them in.

The first six weeks of South County graduate Chris Panneton's time at Virginia Tech felt more like a "Seinfeld" episode than the start of a Division I-A college basketball career.

Though he was working out with the Virginia Tech men's basketball team, Panneton never really knew what his status was. As an eventual non-scholarship walk-on, it wasn't exactly anyone's priority to tell him.

"During the whole process, I had no idea what was going through [the coaches'] heads," Panneton said. "At the end of every week, I thought, 'OK, maybe next week ... maybe next week.' And when I finally knew, it was such a relief."

After six weeks of grueling workouts,

Panneton was finally assured of his status during a team breakfast. An assistant coach joked with him about now wearing No. 11, and Panneton, honestly, didn't know that he did.

In 2007-08, as a 6-foot-8 forward for coach Mike Pflugrath's South County Stallions, Panneton averaged 13 points per game, 8.3 rebounds per contest and made 31.7 percent of his three-point shots. About the only thing that he didn't make,

though, was a quick and simple decision.

Pflugrath, who was a teacher at South County before becoming the full-time director of student activities in October, taught Panneton every morning in his AP government class. The two of them had met previously at Panneton's house to map out several Division III opportunities and would discuss them frequently before class. Then one morning, when Panneton walked into

the classroom sporting a Virginia Tech sweatshirt, Pflugrath knew.

"As soon as I saw that I said, 'What happened?'" Pflugrath remembers of the exchange. "Chris said, 'I applied to Tech and I got in,' and I said, 'Chris, you understand that might end your basketball career because [Virginia] Tech is ACC. ... You're getting recruited by Division III schools.'"

Panneton didn't feel comfortable at any Division III school.

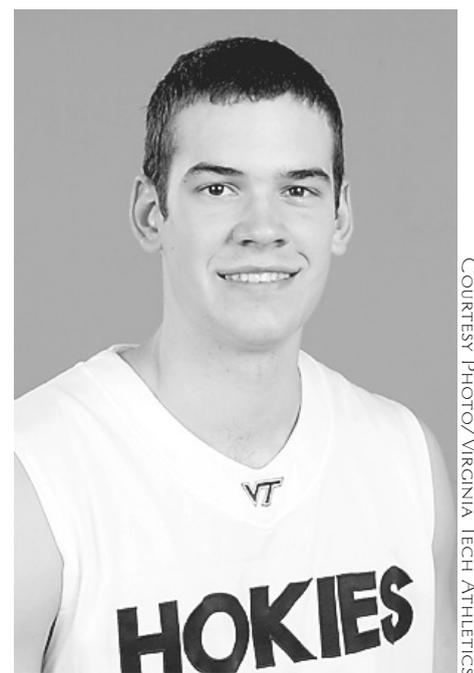
As a part of the recruiting process, Panneton worked out with potential teammates and attended his share of Division III games, but it wasn't where he saw himself fitting in. As the son of two Virginia Tech graduates, Panneton wanted to attend a larger school.

**"He had to sacrifice a lot of things and really put himself out there."**

— Mike Pflugrath

**A**T FIRST, Panneton didn't even consider playing basketball. A 3.5-plus GPA student with an SAT score of 1,930, he had no problem focusing solely on his education. Maybe college basketball just wasn't for him.

SEE WALK ON, PAGE 15



COURTESY PHOTO/VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETICS

After averaging 13 points and 8.3 rebounds per game last season for South County's basketball team, Chris Panneton decided to try and play as a walk-on this season at Virginia Tech.

# HOME SALES

09/02/08 ~ 09/23/08

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
9051 SWANS CREEK WAY	4	4	2		LORTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	1.12			CRANDALL
12635 WATER ST	4	4	1		CLIFTON	\$1,067,500	Detached	1.01			FROG HILL
8129 BLUEBONNET DR	5	5	1		LORTON	\$930,000	Detached	0.21			LAUREL HILL
7422 SOUTH REACH DR	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$815,000	Detached	0.80			SOUTH RUN
7300 CRAFTOWN RD	4	3	2		FAIRFAX STATION	\$810,000	Detached	6.32			FAIRFAX STATION
10737 BEECHNUT CT	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$775,000	Detached	0.75			WILDWOOD HILLS ESTATES
8123 AMERICAN HOLLY RD	4	4	1		LORTON	\$725,000	Detached	0.18			LAUREL HILL
7852 BRESSINGHAM DR	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$700,000	Detached	0.39			BARRINGTON
13927 SOUTH SPRINGS DR	5	3	1		CLIFTON	\$654,000	Detached	0.22			LITTLE ROCKY RUN
12743 CHAPEL ST	3	2	1		CLIFTON	\$640,000	Detached	0.17			TOWN OF CLIFTON
5591 ROCKPOINTE DR	4	4	1		CLIFTON	\$622,200	Detached	0.34			ROCKPOINTE
8502 CHASE GLEN CIR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$620,000	Detached	0.36			CROSSPOINTE
13946 STONEFIELD DR	5	3	1		CLIFTON	\$605,000	Detached	0.26			LITTLE ROCKY RUN
10854 HAMPTON RD	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$562,500	Detached	0.93			SANDY RUN ESTATES
7910 OAK HOLLOW LN	3	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$549,000	Detached	0.29			SOUTH RUN OAKS
9611 BURNT OAK DR	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$538,000	Detached	0.26			SOUTH RUN OAKS
5933 POCOL DR	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$535,000	Detached	0.50			VANNOY PARK
13305 CASWELL CT	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$528,425	Detached	0.21			MOORES HAMLET
13821 SPRINGSTONE DR	6	4	0		CLIFTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.21			LITTLE ROCKY RUN
8307 ALLERDALE CT	4	3	2		LORTON	\$520,000	Detached				VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
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8349 MIDDLE RUDDINGS DR	4	2	2		LORTON	\$514,000	Detached	0.08			VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
7211 MAIN ST	3	2	0		CLIFTON	\$499,000	Detached	0.23			TOWN OF CLIFTON
8142 GILROY DR	4	2	1		LORTON	\$450,000	Detached	0.14			LAUREL HIGHLANDS
8400 CHAUCER HOUSE CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.00			LORTON VALLEY
13066 QUARTZ LN	3	3	1		CLIFTON	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.07			ROCKPOINTE
9636 POTTERS HILL CIR	3	2	1		LORTON	\$382,000	Townhouse	0.05			GUNSTON HILL
9202 OX RD	4	1	0		LORTON	\$310,000	Detached	0.62			OX ROAD
7840 LAMBKIN CT	4	3	1		LORTON	\$301,000	Townhouse	0.05			SHEPHERD HILLS
7839 SEAFARER WAY	3	2	1		LORTON	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03			MASONS PASSAGE
7822 LAMBKIN CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.05			SHEPHERD HILLS
7324 ARDGLASS DR	4	2	1		LORTON	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.03			WORTHINGTON WOODS
7801 SHEPHERD HILLS CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$284,900	Townhouse	0.05			SHEPHERD HILLS
9220 MCCARTY RD	4	3	1		LORTON	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.03			GUNSTON CORNER
5738 HARRIER DR	2	3	0		CLIFTON	\$269,050	Townhouse	0.03			CENTREVILLE GREEN
7462 LARNE LN	3	2	1		LORTON	\$220,000	Townhouse	0.03			SOUTHGATE WOODS TOWNHOU
9123 ASPENPARK CT	2	2	0		LORTON	\$215,000	Townhouse	0.05			POHICK VILLAGE
7480 WOUNDED KNEE RD	2	2	1		LORTON	\$205,400	Townhouse	0.04			POHICK VILLAGE
7405 WHERNSIDE ST	3	2	1		LORTON	\$205,000	Townhouse	0.03			SOUTHGATE WOODS TOWNHOU
8244 CATBIRD CIR #301	2	1	1		LORTON	\$195,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				GUNSTON CORNER
8355 STATIONHOUSE CT	3	1	1		LORTON	\$190,000	Townhouse	0.03			PINEWOOD STATION
7938 TIMARAND CT	3	2	0		LORTON	\$163,000	Townhouse	0.05			POHICK SQUARE
9887 HAGEL CIR	4	2	0		LORTON	\$160,900	Townhouse				THE HIGHLANDS
9696 HAGEL CIR #39/E	2	1	0		LORTON	\$114,900	Townhouse				TERRACE TOWNE HOMES OF G
9692 HAGEL CIR #39/A	2	1	0		LORTON	\$110,000	Townhouse				TERRACE TOWNE HOMES OF G

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

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**What:** 5k non-competitive walk

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

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

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7688 GREEN GARLAND DR	\$529,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
7815 CLIFFSIDE CT	\$597,500	11/2 10-3	Re/Max	Isaac Tesfaye	571-234-2843
8258 GETTY CT	\$340,000	11/1 10-3	Re/Max	Isaac Tesfaye	571-234-2843
7372 DEANSGATE CT	\$545,000	11/2 12-3	Weichert	Isabelle Brugere	703-821-8300
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5960 MANORVIEW WAY	\$689,990	11/2 1-4	Long & Foster	Valerie Hardee	703-401-9169
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5306 SANDYFORD ST	\$564,000	11/2 1-4	Weichert	Joseph Davis	571-338-4989
6039 HEATHERINGTON PL	\$792,900	11/1 12-5	Christopher	Maureen Simpson	
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8515 SILVERDALE RD	\$565,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
11306 LILTING LN	\$2,450,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
10328 REGENCY STATION DR	\$1,029,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
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7304 OLD POHICK WAY	\$415,000	11/8 1-4	Long & Foster	Florence Stewart	703-244-4021
7101 PARK POINT CT	\$749,950	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
9703 RAMBLING RIDGE CT	\$894,950	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

### Burke

9737 IRONMASTER DR	\$549,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
9125 LAKE BRADDOCK DR	\$599,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
5990 POWELLS LANDING RD	\$379,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525

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**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. 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

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

**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).

**Fibromyalgia/Arthritis Support Group.** Meets the third Friday of each month at 1 p.m. at Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Call Barbara at 703-913-0890 or Maxine at 703-451-4558.

**The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter** of-

fers telephone discussion groups, called Tuesday Telephone Talks, every Tuesday from 12-1 p.m. Skilled group facilitator moderates discussions; metro-area residents may call in and discuss a wide range of caregiving topics. Call toll-free at 888.262.0101. For a list of upcoming discussion topics call 703.766.9007 or see [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca).

**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society** sponsors the 'First Connection' program, which matches patients newly diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma or another blood-related cancer — and their families — with cancer survivors who have lived through a similar illness. For more information on this program, call 703-960-1100, ext. 231.

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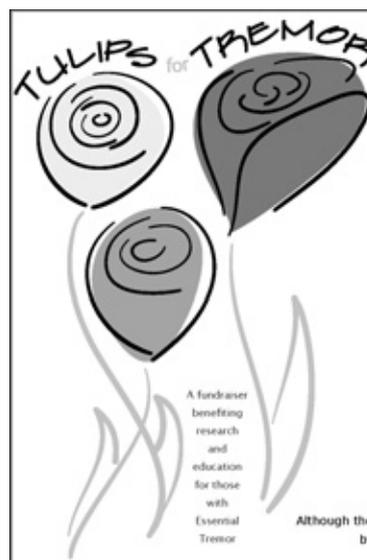
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SPORTS

# Robinson Runners

FROM PAGE 12

While Berman and Bray won their respective races in different fashions, both runners represent a reason for optimism at Robinson, as Bray led her girls team to a first-place finish, holding off Herndon, 40-52.

**WHEN BRAY MADE** her first pass through the crowd, she trailed Herndon's Hiruni Wijayarathne by nearly 10 seconds. After Bray and Wijayarathne wound around the amphitheater and ran parallel with a set of train tracks, Bray faced the same challenge.

Wijayarathne, who finished third in last year's district meet and second in last year's region meet, doesn't relinquish leads easily. Bray, who finished 10th and 32nd in those races, respectively, wasn't used to taking them away from her.

Still, with the word "believe" scrawled on her hand in black magic marker, Bray believed enough to make a push at Wijayarathne with about 90 seconds left.

"I had no idea I was going to be back that far, and then I was running and I thought, 'I think I can do it. I think I can do it,'" said Bray, who eventually passed Wijayarathne to take first place with a time of 18:22.

Bray moved to Fairfax County from Nease High School in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. prior to her sophomore season and was able to fly under the radar for part of that year. But after running a sub-18-minute time on the same course at Burke Lake Park, word got out about Bray's abilities.

**I N ADDITION** to growing three inches prior to her junior season, Bray not only had to adjust physically, but she

also had to deal with the mental strain that comes with battling someone like Wijayarathne race in and race out.

"I think she worked the hardest on coming back this year and really getting the confidence back mentally," Workman said of Bray's up-and-down junior season. "When you talk about her and Jared, they've really put in some very impressive workouts, and I think that builds confidence that you know you can do that in a meet."

Like Bray, Berman benefited from that newfound confidence, holding off good friend and training partner Chris Foley of Chantilly to win the boys individual title with a time of 15:22.

"The whole week, we were concentrated only on the race," Berman said.

"Every 10 seconds I was thinking about districts. I was visualizing the race in my head and everyone has to make a move. I thought about it every day."

So how does the emergence of Bray and Berman affect Robinson's program as a whole?

"We've had a good program for quite a while and it kind of re-emphasizes that with our team," Workman said. "Right now, our teams are going in the right direction at the right time. That's all, as a coach, you can ask for."

"You want your team to be as confident as it can be, running its best at the end of the season if you have hopes of doing anything special during the next couple of weeks."

Both Berman and Bray will take part in Thursday's Northern Region championships, which will be held on the same course. Start time is 3:15 p.m.

**"Our teams are going in the right direction at the right time."**

— Jeremy Workman

## Walk On Opportunity

FROM PAGE 12

When Panneton was accepted at Virginia Tech, he had made his decision and informed a few of the schools he had tried out for. American University, which also offered Panneton the opportunity to play as a walk-on, placed a phone call to Blacksburg to let the Hokies know that Panneton would be on campus.

Panneton and Virginia Tech's coaching staff began a dialogue and they agreed that Panneton would audition for a spot by working out with the team once school started.

"Obviously, he loves the school, being that he came here just to go to school," said Hokies assistant coach Ryan Odom. "We've been excited to have him. He's certainly a kid that cares about doing the right thing, working hard and trying to

help in any way possible."

"The hard work paid off for him," Pflugrath said. "He had to sacrifice a lot of things and really put himself out there, and I admire that because he stuck to his values."

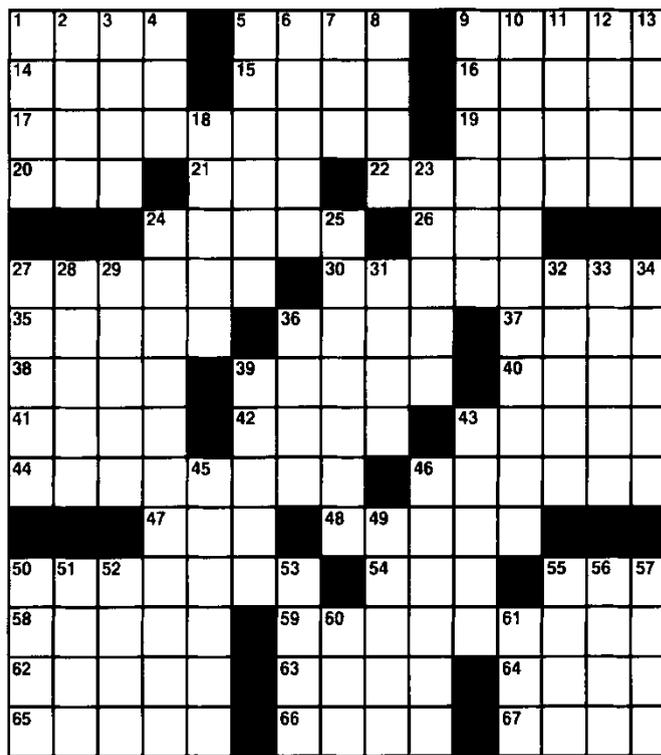
By making the team, Panneton isn't assured a four-year spot and he didn't pick up a lucrative scholarship offer. Still, it's entirely possible that on Jan. 4, 2009 Panneton could be sitting on Virginia Tech's bench at Cameron Indoor Stadium when the Hokies square off with the Duke Blue Devils.

"It won't even hit me that I'm going to be with the team during a game until I'm actually there," Panneton said. "I'm just looking to try and experience everything and take it in to the fullest because this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing for me."

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0405-2



Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

### ACROSS

- 1 Big first for a baby
- 5 Fly high
- 9 Burns's "sweet" stream
- 14 Louisville's river
- 15 Years ago
- 16 Skiing locale
- 17 Inflexible
- 19 Game with straights and flushes
- 20 Be in the red
- 21 Best seller's number
- 22 Scholarship allowance
- 24 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 26 Hans of Dadaism
- 27 Wyoming city
- 30 Crowd-pleasing basket
- 35 Throbs
- 36 Control knob
- 37 Writer — Stanley Gardner
- 38 Palindromic time
- 39 Long-winded
- 40 Detrained, e.g.
- 41 Apothecary's weight

### DOWN

- 42 — vera
- 43 Had control of the wheel
- 44 Witness
- 46 Junior high student
- 47 French article
- 48 Not be frugal
- 50 Kismet
- 54 Capone and Capp
- 55 "Steady as — goes"
- 58 Where Pocatello is
- 59 Having 20/20 vision
- 62 Emergency signal
- 63 Writer James from Tennessee
- 64 Holdup
- 65 Coin toss call
- 66 German mister
- 67 Brazilian booter

### ACROSS

- 4 Pea container
- 5 Oklahoman
- 6 Get-go
- 7 Hotshot
- 8 Stoplight stop lights
- 9 Have hopes
- 10 Like a hound
- 11 Cigarette puff
- 12 — to suggestions
- 13 Dilbert, e.g.
- 18 Bumps
- 23 Add up
- 24 Gaping
- 25 Swabbies

- 27 Seabees' motto
- 28 Squirrel's prize
- 29 Sand bar
- 31 Water-skiing locale
- 32 Wrinkle-resistant fabric
- 33 Martini garnish
- 34 "— and the Wolf"
- 36 Broad valley
- 39 Frost's "The Road Not —"
- 43 Crowded
- 45 Gazpacho ingredients
- 46 Person who handles bills
- 49 "On call" device
- 50 Potluck choice
- 51 Newswoman Magnus
- 52 Gilbert of "Roseanne"
- 53 "Uh-huh"
- 55 "Auld Lang —"
- 56 Get better
- 57 Border
- 60 Application form info
- 61 Thought waves, for short

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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# 33 Months

FROM PAGE 2

\$1.3 million.

Day, 45, pleaded guilty in August.

Day bought and sold cocaine to friends and business associates from January 2006 through May 2007. From September 2005 through May 2008, Day worked as a bookie in an illegal sports betting operation and used the Internet to accept bets, according to Boente.

More than six sources assisted police and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in identifying the conspiracy, according to a federal affidavit against Day.

One source claimed that Day provided the source cocaine about 300 times during the last seven years, according to the court documents.

Another source purchased 1 ounce of cocaine from Day for \$1,500 every two weeks the past two years, according to the affidavit.

While executing a court-ordered wiretap of Day's cellular phone in early 2008, agents heard Day "on several occasions taking and making bets with numerous subjects," according to affidavits filed by local police in Fairfax County Circuit Court.

"It became apparent to your affiant that Dwight Day was operating an illegal gambling/book making operation," according to the Fairfax Circuit Court documents.

More court-ordered interception of Day's cell-phone calls on March 28 provided information that another source, Day's ex-wife according to Fairfax court documents, was going to purchase cocaine from Day at his business.

Fairfax County Police stopped her vehicle and seized 1 ounce of cocaine, according to the federal affidavit. She faces a preliminary hearing on four drug and firearm charges in Fairfax County General District Court in December, according to court documents.

"Joyce Day stated that she had just purchased an ounce of cocaine from her ex-husband Dwight Day and that she purchased it for \$1,500. Joyce Day further stated that she currently does not work and her only source of income is a monthly payment of \$12,000 in alimony that she gets from Dwight Day," according to the Fairfax County affidavit.

Fairfax County Police arrested Dwight Day, who had \$5,300 in cash in his possession, on March 28 for distribution of cocaine.

Police executed search warrants at Dwight Day's residence and his business.

Law enforcement seized more than \$1 million in cash from Day between August 2007 and May 2008, according to Boente.

At least five rifles were also seized at his home. Day, a convicted felon and a regular cocaine user, was prohibited from possessing firearms, according to the federal affidavit.

He was charged in federal court for the gambling and cocaine conspiracy charges in May.

— KEN MOORE

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF HORRY )  
CASE NO.: 2008-DR-26-2386

Mary Roe,  
Plaintiff, )  
**SUMMONS**  
vs )  
John Doe, )  
Defendant, )

In Re: Ryan Grant Spriet Morgan  
(DOB: 9/22/03), and Emma Danyelle  
Spriet Morgan (DOB: 9/22/03), minors  
under the age of fourteen (14) years.

TO: the Defendant above named:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to Answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Complaint on the attorney for the Plaintiff at 1500 U. S. Highway 17 North, The Courtyard, Suite 301, P. O. Drawer 14950, Surfside Beach, South Carolina 29587, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to Answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for judgment by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Anne E. Janes  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
SHERRILL & JANES, PA  
Post Office Drawer 14950  
Surfside Beach, SC 29587  
(843) 238-8836 (v)  
(843) 238-3371 (f)

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION**

In the Family Court of the Fifteenth  
Judicial Circuit

Case No. 2008-DR-26-2386

MARY ROE,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
John Doe,  
Defendant.

TO: JOHN DOE, AN UNKNOWN FATHER:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED pursuant to the provisions of South Carolina Code, Ann., Section 20-7-1734 (1987), that the minor children, Ryan Grant Spriet Morgan and Emma Danyelle Spriet Morgan, reside with the Plaintiff who desires to adopt them. The Plaintiff has filed an adoption action in the above Family Court. The Plaintiff is herein referred to by a fictitious name. The natural mother of the minor children is Amy Danyelle Spriet, and the children were born on September 22, 2003 at Georgetown Memorial Hospital in Georgetown, South Carolina.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that within thirty (30) days of receiving Notice, you shall respond in writing by filing, with the Court in which the adoption is pending, notice and reasons to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond;

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Court must be informed of your current address and any changes in address during the adoption proceeding; and

Your failure to file a response within thirty (30) days of receiving Notice constitutes your consent to adoption of the children and forfeiture of all rights and obligations you may have with respect to the children.

When Notice of Intent to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond is filed with the Court within the required time period, you will be given an opportunity to appear and to be heard before the Final Hearing on the merits of the adoption. To file notice to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond in this action, you must notify the above-named Court and the Plaintiff's attorney, Anne E. Janes, Sherrill & Janes, PA, P.O. Drawer 14950, Surfside Beach, SC 29587 in writing of your intention to contest, intervene, or otherwise respond. The above-named Court must be informed of your current address or any change of your address during the adoption proceedings.

BE SO NOTIFIED.  
SHERRILL & JANES, PA  
Anne E. Janes  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
P.O. Drawer 14950  
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