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Folk Theater

NEWS, PAGE 4

South County theater students present their adaptation of the 'Tales of Trickery, 3 Indonesian Folk Tales,' during the 2009 VHSL Northern Region One Act Play Festival at Lake Braddock on Saturday.

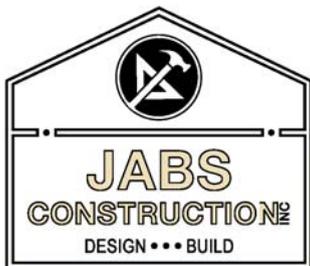
Bulova New County Chair

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King's Chapel Opens Its Doors

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION
CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16



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NEWS

Wright Sentenced

Lorton man
in federal court
for conspiracy.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

U.S. District Court Judge Liam O'Grady sentenced former Department of Defense official James E. Wright, 55 of Sterling, and John D. Villanueva, 45 of Lorton, to six months in prison for conflict of interest and conspiracy charges.

O'Grady also sentenced each co-defendant Friday, Jan. 30 to two years of supervised release.

Wright, Villanueva and a third person formed the corporation VMW & Associates, Inc. in order to obtain government contract work, according to federal court documents.

"The men agreed that Villanueva

"It is amazing what one well-placed bullet can do."

— James E. Wright, defendant

would be the president, all three men would be on the board of directors, and their ownership interest would be divided almost equally," according to the documents.

When the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) requested proposals for a contract worth \$450,000, Villanueva negotiated with another company to submit a proposal. If that company were to be selected for the contract, it would then subcontract the work to VMW, according to Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Wright served as the Director of the Security and Counterintelligence of the DTRA at Fort Belvoir. He acted as the "Source Selection Authority" who made the final decision to award the contract to the second company and that company then subcontracted all the work to VMW.

Wright never disclosed his financial interest in VMW, according to Boente.

On Sept. 16, 2004, Villanueva wrote e-mails to the Wright and

SEE CONFLICT, PAGE 16

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Bulova New Board Chairman

Democrat wins narrowly over Herrity.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) won the special election for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Feb. 3 by a narrow margin of less than two percent.

In a countywide race where 107,713 votes were cast, Bulova beat Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) by 1,217 votes, according to unofficial results reported by Fairfax County.

Bulova will be sworn in as the county chairman Feb. 6. She follows U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who resigned from the position in early January to join the U.S.

Congress.

As chairman, Bulova, a 21-year board veteran, has her work cut out for her in 2009.

Fairfax County must close a projected \$650 million budget hole in next year's budget and the supervisors would have to raise the property tax rate 14 to 15 cents just to keep most residents' property taxes approximately the same.

"This is going to be a tough time and I am going to need you to be understanding," said Bulova to the crowd during her victory speech.

THE BULOVA-HERRITY race is the closest high-profile county-wide contest between a Democrat and Republican in several years. With the exception of U.S. Sen. John Warner's last race, Democrats have typically dominated top-of-the-ballot elections in Fairfax for the past eight years.

Mark Warner and Tim Kaine won their respective races for Virginia governor in 2001 and 2005 with 54 percent and 58 percent of the vote in Fairfax County. Democrat U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) beat incumbent U.S. Sen. George Allen (R) with 58 percent of Fairfax's vote in 2006. Both Democratic presidential candidates — John Kerry and Barack Obama — also won Fairfax County, with

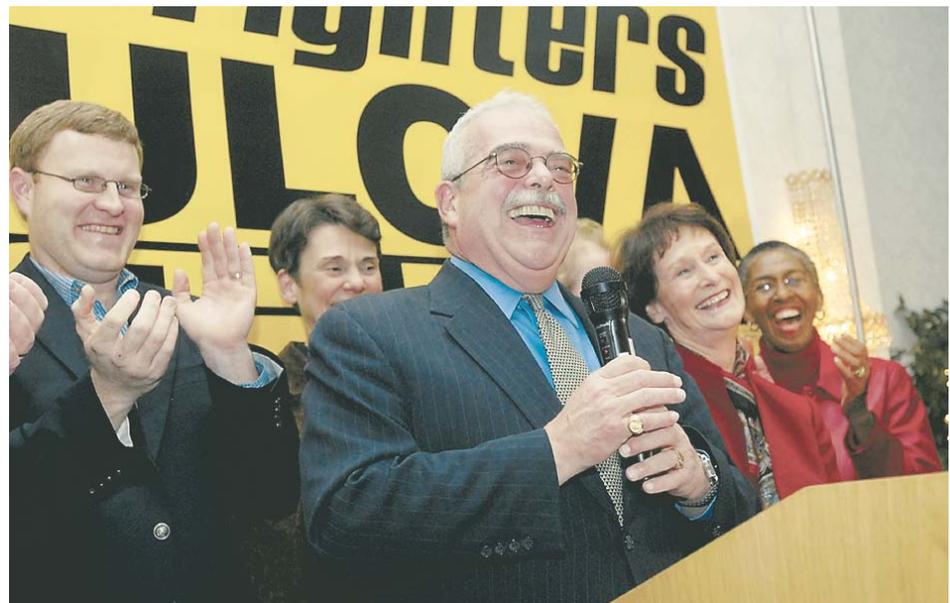


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) speaks to the crowd Tuesday at his election watch party at J.R.'s Stockyards Inn in McLean. Although unofficial results showed that he trailed Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) in votes for the county chairmanship, Herrity vowed not to concede until all the votes were counted.

52 percent of the vote in 2004 and 59 percent of the vote in 2008.

The last two Fairfax County chairmen, Connolly and Democrat Kate Hanley, also won Fairfax County chairman's race by a larger margin than Bulova.

Hanley beat former Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) in a 1995 special election with 52 percent of the vote and approximately 3,500 ballots. During her 1999 re-election campaign, she faced minimal competition from other candidates.

In 2004, Connolly won his first chairman's

race by nine points and approximately 17,000 ballots. Connolly then beat Republican candidate Gary Baise by over 20 points and 45,000 votes in 2007.

IN THIS WEEK'S election, Bulova also lost two magisterial districts, Mount Vernon and Dranesville, which Hanley and Connolly had won in the four most recent county chairman elections.

"Herrity was competitive in more magis-

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 18

Fairfax County Chairman Special Election Results:

*Fairfax County provided these unofficial returns for the Fairfax County chairman special election Feb. 3.

District	Voter Turnout (Percentage)	Bulova	Herrity
Braddock	22.7	8,750	5,849
Hunter Mill	15.5	6,655	5,129
Dranesville	17.1	5,810	6,252
Lee	13.3	4,665	3,489
Mason	15.7	4,510	3,519
Mount Vernon	14.7	5,066	5,256
Providence	14.7	5,148	4,356
Springfield	18.9	5,758	9,155
Sully	11.9	3,437	5,023

Herrity Concedes Close Special Election

Republican chairman candidate came close to a win, trailing Bulova by 1,217 votes.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Two hours after the polls closed Tuesday night, the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd at J.R.'s Stockyards Inn in McLean was tense but upbeat. Supporters of Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) run for the county chairmanship ate, drank, chatted excitedly and crowded around a screen where poll results were projected from a computer.

A campaign staffer continually refreshed the Web page, but the numbers hadn't changed for half an hour. Still, the gathering around the screen watched and waited. Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) was leading Herrity by about 2,400 out of 65,000 votes counted, but many of the Springfield polling places had not yet re-

ported their results, and the feeling was that the numbers could easily turn around.

In the end, Springfield came through for Herrity, with the second-highest voter turnout in the county — 18.9 percent — favoring the Republican by more than 3 to 2. The only district with higher turnout was Bulova's Braddock District, where her lead was smaller than Herrity's margin in Springfield.

However, by the time Herrity made his second appearance before the crowd around 10 p.m., faces had become stonier. With almost all of the results in, he was down by about 1,200 votes.

"We ran a very, very great campaign. We ran it against all odds," Herrity told his sup-

porters. "We were underdogs from the start." Former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis stood at his side during the speech, and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) was also on hand.

WHILE THE PRELIMINARY results showed him behind, about 3,000 votes had not yet been counted on election night and

"There's a large percentage of the population that are frustrated with the direction of the county."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

Herrity chose not to concede until the following afternoon, Feb. 4.

Herrity said he was not surprised by the 16 percent countywide voter turnout, noting that it was comparable to the turnout in the last special election for the county

chairmanship, the 1995 race between Democrat Kate Hanley and Republican Elaine McConnell. But he said he was pleased with his hometown turnout, noting, "I won Springfield big. [Bulova] didn't win Braddock so big."

Herrity said the election results, with a first-year Republican supervisor coming within a percentage point of chairing a county that has only one other Republican supervisor, were significant. "There's a large percentage of the population that are frustrated with the direction of the county," he said. "There are a lot of statements being made tonight."

Had he been elected chairman, Herrity said, he would have governed based on his platform of setting spending priorities with taxpayers in mind, directing school funds more toward teacher salaries than administration and advancing "common-sense" transportation solutions, such as the environmental impact study he has promoted for improving the Interstate 66 corridor.

Council May Buy 'Pink House'

During its Tuesday, Feb. 3 meeting, the Clifton Town Council unanimously agreed to explore the possible purchase of a real estate office building at 7157 Main St.

The property, dubbed "the Pink House" by Clifton residents because of the previous color of the building, is currently painted yellow and sits on Main Street near the railroad tracks. Council members floated the possibility that the property could be used as a potential location for many of the events, services and functions that currently take place at Old Town Hall.

Council member Patrick Layden said the town was exploring possibilities for a federal grant of up to \$200,000 in order to fund renovations at Old Town Hall. According to Layden, that money would go toward paying for site work, a new well and plumbing, the hiring of an architect, attorney, engineer as well as contract and permit expenses. Layden said the council did not yet know what if any stipulations or requirements came with the grant or a timeframe for the work to be done.

"I would say as the process goes forward within the next six-eight weeks, we've got to know that information," said Layden.

Council member Michael Anton, who ran the meeting while Mayor Tom Peterson tended to a death in the family, said he was in favor of exploring the possibility of purchasing the property out from the owners of the building.

"I think it's an opportunity to get rid of a property that's falling down and add another property that's already there," said Anton.

Anton said the property's owners were asking for as much as \$650,000, and requested that the council agree to a cap the dollar amount the town would be willing to spend to purchase the property. That decision was referred to a later executive session after Council member Wayne Nickum expressed concern about what public discussion of a cap limit might do to the town's negotiating leverage.

Nickum also came out in favor of negotiating the purchase of the house, saying the acquisition made sense regardless of what happened with Old Town Hall.

"It can be utilized right away and we could even consider renting out for small meetings," said Nickum. "We don't have that opportunity at present time at Old Town Hall."

Clifton resident and committee member Karen Arnold questioned the town's consideration of the purchase, saying it would take a private business out of the town during an economic recession.

"It seems to me that what's being considered here is for the town to take one very visible commercial building out of the private sector and turn it into a community use," said Arnold. "If you are really interested in supporting businesses in town, I would think you would want to provide an opportunity for [the property] to be sold within private sector so that we have a business people can see."

The motion to charge a town committee to negotiate the purchase passed unanimously. Council members said town attorney and Old Town Hall committee member Brant Baber would be representing the town in the initial negotiations.

— DEREK B. JOHNSON

Calendar Sales Come Up Short

Clifton Town Council member Chuck Rusnak gave an update on the town's 2009 calendar sales at a public meeting Tuesday, Feb. 3. Of the 250 calendars produced and purchased, he reported that 125 had been sold, approximately 50 calendars short of the figure he cited as necessary to break even.

Rusnak sought and gained approval from the council to produce the calendar last year despite a lack of available funds, saying he would personally cover any loss the town might take on out of his own pocket. On Tuesday, Rusnak announced that he had written a check for \$612 to the town, which he said would combine with the revenue taken from the calendar sales to make up the gap.

The calendars featured photographs and illustrations of Clifton locations submitted by local artists. Rusnak explained his rea-

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 16

NEWS

'A Dream Come True'

The King's Chapel conducts grand opening.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During Sunday morning's service at The King's Chapel, a non-denominational church in Clifton, Gene Heck officially presented the Rev. Bill Jeschke with the key to the building.

Heck was the project manager, overseeing construction of the new sanctuary and, although the congregants have been meeting there since late November, Sunday, Feb. 1, was its grand-opening ceremony.

"God brought us to the consummation of this work ... to build this house for His worship," said Jeschke. Then the members said, "To You, we dedicate this house," and Jeschke continued, "We have come to this day, and it is providence to fulfill a dream that was in the heart of God."

John Collins, one of the founding members, said The King's Chapel is an offshoot of the Christian Assembly Church, which began 30 years ago at Oakton High School. "We all came to know the Lord and were reborn and spirit filled," Collins said.

That church eventually moved to Tysons Corner, where it remains. But 13 years ago, The King's Chapel came into being as a sister church, meeting first at Lanier Middle School and, later, at Willow Springs Elementary.

Now, after a \$4 million building project which broke ground in April 2006, it has a new home of its own in the Braddock Woods community, at 12925



Pastor Bill Jeschke and wife Melanie in the new sanctuary.

Braddock Road, between Clifton and Doyle roads. The church has grown from its 30 charter members to about 150 regular attendees of various races, ages and ethnic backgrounds.

Robson Group Architects designed the new structure, and phase one is the 400-seat sanctuary/fellowship hall, plus classrooms for children and adults. Phase two will be a separate fellowship hall and a kitchen.

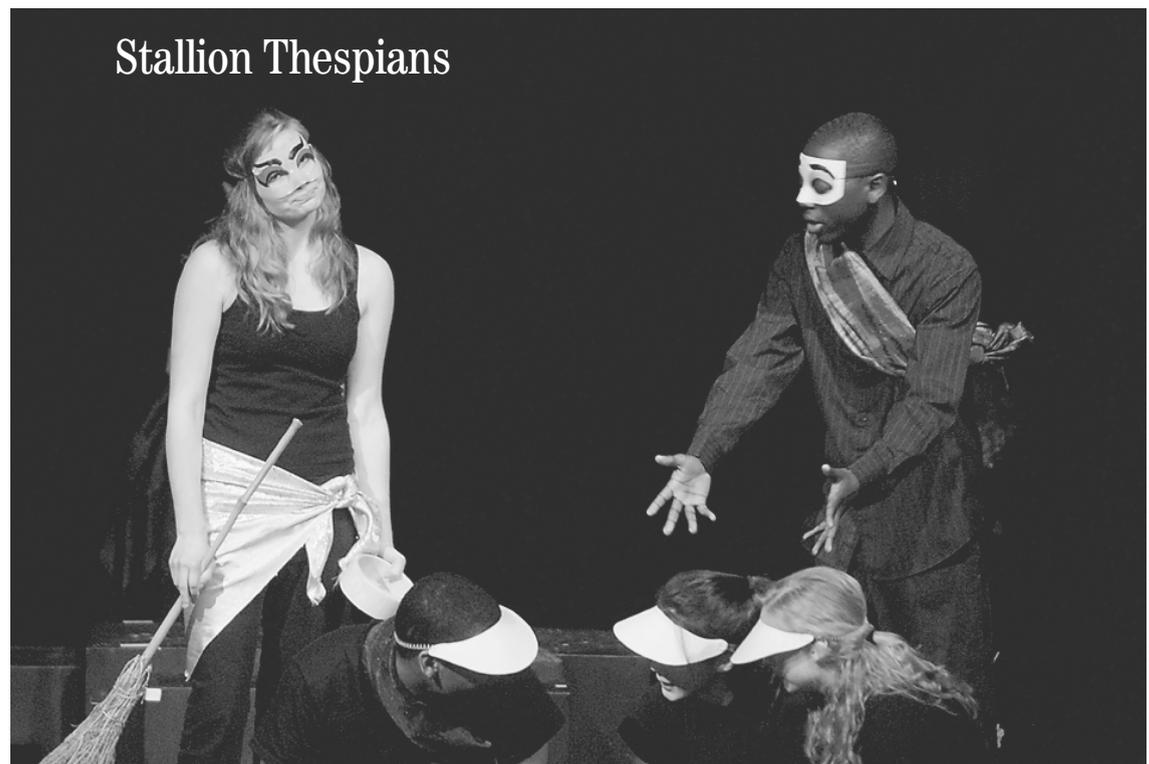
"We all came to know the Lord and were reborn and spirit filled."

— John Collins

ON SUNDAY, Jeschke said the building's "beauty, design and simplicity" have received accolades. But, he noted, "It's almost been made by invisible hands." He then praised and thanked the late Molly Woodell who donated a significant amount of money to help construct the church.

Jeschke also acknowledged the hard work and efforts of many other congregation members and their families who helped the building come to fruition.

SEE CHARITY, PAGE 16



Samantha Franklin portraying Kalabuat and Blake Albertson, portraying Raleb, while they participate along with other South County theater students during the school's adaptation of 'Tales of Trickery,' at the Northern Region One Act Play Festival at Lake Braddock on Jan. 31.

Taneja Sentenced to 7 Years

Fairfax man must pay \$33 million in restitution.

U.S. District Court Judge Claude M. Hilton sentenced Vijay K. Taneja, 48 of Fairfax, to 84 months in federal prison for one conspiracy to commit money laundering in a \$33 million mortgage fraud case.

Taneja, who was ordered to pay \$33 million in restitution to four financial institutions, will also serve three years of supervised release.

Taneja's company, Financial Mortgage, Inc. (FMI), originated and sold mortgages on residential properties throughout the metropolitan area. Before his company sold mortgages to financial institutions as long term investors, FMI used "warehouse lenders" to temporarily fund the mortgages before they were sold, according to Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Taneja defrauded a series of his company's lenders and other long term investors of \$33 million through several schemes: creating fictitious loans with bogus loan closings; selling the same legitimate loan to multiple investors; and pocketing proceeds generated from refinancing loans when the money was intended to payoff prior mortgages on the same properties, according to Boente.

Taneja's company filed for bankruptcy in June 2008.

Mortgage Fraud

Vijay K. Taneja used some of the following properties in his fraudulent schemes, according to court documents; property owners were unaware, and some properties were used repeatedly, defrauding different financial institutions:

- ❖ O'Hara Court Drive, Springfield, \$206,600, April 26, 2001
- ❖ Edinburgh Drive, Springfield, \$416,658, Dec. 7, 2007
- ❖ Summit Drive, Fairfax, \$2,950,000, Jan. 25, 2007; \$2,897,921, Jan. 25, 2007
- ❖ Becket Court, Fairfax, \$410,201, March 19, 2001
- ❖ Wildflower, Clifton, \$346,980, Sept. 14, 2007
- ❖ Split Oaks Lane, Burke, \$383,100, March 5, 2001
- ❖ Sawteeth Way, Centreville, \$412,413, Sept. 21, 2007; \$416,088, Nov. 23, 2007; \$415,916, Nov. 14, 2007; \$417,000, Sept. 28, 2007
- ❖ Poland Road, Chantilly, \$600,163, March 29, 2007; \$113,034, March 29, 2007

He agreed to pay \$8,141,327 in restitution to Franklin Bank; \$5,637,293 in restitution to First Tennessee Bank; \$7,503,350 to Wells Fargo Bank; and \$11,880,321 to EMC Mortgage Corporation, according to his signed plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria.

Special Agents of the FBI and the IRS conducted the investigation, which was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Learned.

— KEN MOORE

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(Snow Date: Thursday, February 12)

Potomac High School
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Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 5-9 p.m.

(Snow Date: Thursday, February 19)

Robert E. Lee High School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 5-9 p.m.

(Snow Date: Wednesday, February 18)

Minnie Howard School
3801 W Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

(In the event of inclement weather the public hearings will be held on the scheduled snow dates. Please call the INFO line at 1-877-395-95VA to confirm)

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Find out about the latest design plans for the proposed high occupancy vehicle, bus, and high occupancy toll lanes between the Pentagon and Garrisonville Road. Virginia Department of Transportation and Department of Rail and Public Transportation project managers will be available to answer your questions.

Review the proposed project plans depicting the major design features and the Categorical Exclusion documentation, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly VA, 20151 or VDOT's Megaprojects Office, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria VA, 22310 and at 86 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA, 22405. Property impacts and relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at these locations and will be available at the public hearing. You may also call toll free 1-877-395-95VA or visit our Web site at www.vamegaprojects.com.

Give your written or verbal comments at the hearing or submit them by February 21, 2009 to Ronaldo T. Nicholson, P.E., Regional Transportation Program Director, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA, 22310. You may also e-mail your comments to: Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes" in the subject heading.

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PEOPLE

Getting To Know ...

Brian Johnson, Greater Springfield Chamber's Business Owner of Year.

BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL
THE CONNECTION

For Brian Johnson, owner of Commonwealth Cooling & Heating in Lorton, the key to community involvement is customer service.

"Nobody is going to work harder for my business than me, and I think that is really important to remember," said Johnson.

That outlook is perhaps what inspired Johnson's colleagues in the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to name him their Business Owner of the Year at their annual banquet in December.

Here, Johnson offers a little bit about himself and reflects on the role that the small business owner can play in the community.

NUMBER OF years in the community. 20 years

Family. Brother is a Metro Transit Police Officer; sister is owner of White Bench in Middleburg, an upscale home décor store; wife works in the office for Commonwealth Cooling & Heating; son is playing machine pitch baseball with the South County Little League and daughter is in the Wonderful Terrible Two's.

Education. Master license for heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Your first job. Sheet metal fabrication for residential and commercial ductwork.

Activities/interests/hobbies. Boating, golfing, entertaining friends and family and contributing to our community.

Favorite local restaurants. Pane E Vino.

Community concerns. I hope that people really get out and support their local small business during these tough economic times.

Tell us about your business. We are a small family owned business that specializes in residential air conditioning, heating, hot water heaters, humidifiers and air purifiers. We are a Bryant Factory Authorized Dealer. To become a dealer, you have to attend yearly training classes and our technicians need to be NATE (North American Technician Excellence) certified. This ensures that only the highest trained professionals earn the title Factory Authorized Dealer. To learn more, visit our Web site at commonwealthhvac.com

WHAT DO you think about being named Business Owner of the Year? I was incredibly honored because we were nominated by a group of our peers. To actually be recognized for just doing our regular day-to-day job is amazing. We have always felt that our work ethic and dedication to our customers was something special and this award validated that.

What role can small business owners play



In December, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce recognized Brian Johnson, owner of Commonwealth Cooling & Heating, as its Business Owner of the Year. Johnson is shown here with his wife Amanda, who also works in the office of their family-owned business.

in the community? I think one of the most important things about dealing with a small business is customer service. It seems to me that customer service is not what it used to be. The do-whatever-it-takes to satisfy a customer attitude of old has been replaced by take it or leave it. This is even more apparent when you are dealing with an owner of a company that no longer deals directly with their customers. Nobody is going to work harder for my business than me, and I think that is really important to remember. I want to always have a face-to-face relationship with my customers. I want to know what they are saying first hand. And with the support of our local customers we

are able to give back to our community. The South County Little League has become very important to us. We sponsor a team every year.

WHAT GOALS do you have for yourself and your business? I would like to establish a well-known, quality business, in our community. I want people to know right away who to call when they need help with their heating and air conditioning equipment. I want them to know that not only do we carry quality equipment, but we have a knowledgeable staff that can handle any problem. I want them to know that we will take care of them, because without our customers, we would not be where we are today.

"I hope that people really get out and support their local small business during these tough economic times."

— Brian Johnson



New Patrol Leaders for Boy Scout Troop 1104 are Zach Beck, Colin Jones, Tyler Walter, James Mangahas, Garrett Clay, John Tolbert, Rory Walter and Aaron Christian. Not pictured are Kevin Mansouri and Andrew Ridenour.

New Patrol Leaders Named

Now is a great time to join Boy Scouts as this is the time of year that area Webelos II Cub Scouts prepare to cross over from their Packs to become Boy Scouts. For instance, Boy Scout Troop 1104 hosted Cub Scouts from several area Packs (1861, 1858, 1113 and 685) at one of their recent Wednesday meetings. The Cub Scouts visit several Troops to determine which one is the best fit for them. Any boy who has completed the fifth grade or is at least 11 and not yet 18, who is looking for and needs some outdoor fun, with a healthy dose of practical, life-long skills mixed in, should consider the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 1104 in Clifton (www.troop1104.com).

In addition to hosting the Cub Scouts, Boy Scout Troop 1104 announced new patrol leaders at the meeting. Patrol leaders will be in office for the next six months.

The Troop 1104 patrol leaders are: Senior Patrol Leader Tyler Walter; Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders Garrett Clay, Kevin Mansouri and Rory Walter; Patrol Leaders Aaron Christian/Moose Patrol, James Mangahas/Flaming Ninja Zombie Pirates Patrol, Zach Beck/ Pheasants, John Tolbert/ Bobcats Patrol, Andrew Ridenour/Dragons Patrol and Colin Jones/Hawks Patrol.

For more on Boy Scout Troop 1104 contact Scoutmaster Bo Reese at 703-830-0048 or blreese1@cox.net.



Allstate Grant Ricardo Cubillos, office manager for Allstate Agent Edward Hogg, recently presented an Allstate Foundation Agency Hands in the Community grant in the amount of \$500 to South County Secondary School. The Allstate Foundation awards the grants to honor qualified agents who volunteer in their communities. Cubillos has dedicated his spare time to South County Secondary by participating in their Teen Safe Driving presentations. Cubillos, left, is shown here with South County principal Jane H. Lipp, senior student Kayla Leaman and football coach Erich Gunderman.

COMMUNITY

King's Chapel Opens

FROM PAGE 4

Then he led the assemblage in prayer, saying, "Lord, be our vision, our director; show us the ways to go in the days ahead."

AFTERWARD, the members enjoyed a reception and chatted about their church.

"Looking around, you'll see happy and positive people," said Collins. "Everybody really believes and lives their faith." As for the new sanctuary, he called it "absolutely gorgeous — the most striking part is the awareness of the trees outside through the windows."

"We're just so grateful to the Lord for giving us a place to meet," said Jeschke. "Bill Robson did a beautiful design, and we're relieved that substantial completion is done."

"We're thrilled to be here," said Jeschke's wife Melanie. "It's so open and light-filled — just a beautiful space for worship, with the view of nature outside."

Oak Hill's Michelle Torbert said she especially liked "the message of the cross in each window."

Denise and Rick Haun were among the dozen or so people who founded the church with Jeschke and, said Denise Haun, "This is a dream come true, and we praise God that, with his provision, a little church like us had the means to put all this together."

She said the congregants there "have the love of God in them and they're willing to share that with others. They're generous, and they know how to put God's word into action."

"This is a special group of people, very loving and accepting," said nearly 20-year member Sonia Valenzuela of Falls Church. "You can be yourself and everything in your life doesn't have to be perfect."

"We love our pastor; his teaching just hits the heart," said Torbert. "And the church isn't so big that you can't know everybody. It really is a family. My husband and I have two teenagers and what drew us here is that there's a place for everyone to serve and be needed, and that's important to us."

She was also impressed that some members drive to this church from beyond Occoquan. "Not just on Sundays, but for everything," she said. "The fact that families were that bonded and connected here

told us that this wasn't just a church of convenience, but a place where you can really put your heart."

Barbara Heck and grown daughters Becky Fairchild and Sarah Roberts all live in Greenbriar, are longtime members and cater events for The King's Chapel. Roberts and Fairchild play violin and viola, respectively, for worship, and Roberts' husband Brian has been the church's associate pastor for 10 years. He's also a U.S. Marine lieutenant colonel, currently serving in Iraq.

Roberts said her church is special because "the people really pitch in. It's a service-oriented church." She said they don't just show up for services, but help minister to the youth and even babysit. "Our home groups help each other whenever something happens," she said.

For example, said Fairchild, "If there's an illness, you'll have meals for a month." Delighted to finally have a permanent building for worship, she said, "It's fantastic to not have to set up and take down chairs and the sound system, every week."

When it comes to caring and generosity, she said, it's hard to beat their pastor. "He gave away his kidney to a member," said Fairchild. "And when we were at Willow Springs, he'd vacuum the nursery at the end of services."

Heck also appreciates the attitude of the congregants, saying, "No matter what age you are, you're made to feel welcome." She said the new sanctuary will enhance the church's ability to minister to members of the community, such as providing childcare while young mothers listen to speakers relating to their needs. Besides that, said Heck, "Being the wife of the project manager, I'm glad it's finished."

"You can be yourself and everything in your life doesn't have to be perfect."

— **Sonia Valenzuela of Falls Church**

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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/FEB. 5

Deicide, Vital Remains, Order of Ennead, Adrift and more. 6 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$22 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. jaxxroxx.com.
Owl Tales, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about owls. Age 13-23 months. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Cardinal Forest Elementary Fun Fair and Silent Auction, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 8600 Forrester Blvd. in Springfield. Games, food, moon bounce, giant slide, cakewalk, raffles, and a silent auction of themed baskets created by each class. Game and food tickets sold at the door. 703-569-7518 or cjchastain@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY 13 with Cab Ride Home, The Buried, Crimson Hills and more. 7 p.m. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch for stories. Birth-5. 703-971-0010.

Workhouse Arts Center's SPOT-LYTE Youth Theatre Ensemble with "Art of Murder," 7:30 p.m. in the Workhouse Arts Center Gallery W-16, second floor, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The SPOT-LYTE company members do all of the work involved, both onstage and off. Tickets are \$10. 703-584-2900 or www.Workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Re-Aligned Godsmack Tribute, Method of Friction, Along Those Lines, Bitter and Bent. 8 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Cirque Éloize with Nebbia: a Magical Fog, 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46, and age 12 and under are half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Music Safari, 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Nai Kante Davis in an interactive music show with authentic African instruments and

clothing. All ages. 703-339-4610.
Chocolate Lovers Festival, Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Some events require a fee, and other events are free. 703-385-1661 or www.chocolatefestival.net.

Kung Food and Alex Rhoads, 7 p.m. at Coffihouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFIHOUSE.com.

Drummers and Drillers, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Watch woodpeckers and learn how to attract them to a yard. Reservations required for this adult program. \$6 per adult. 703-768-2525.

Workhouse Arts Center's SPOT-LYTE Youth Theatre Ensemble with "Art of Murder," 7:30 p.m. in the Workhouse Arts Center Gallery W-16, second floor, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900 or www.Workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Powerman 5000, Burn the Fields, Switch56, Not Liabile, Through Exile, Kamura and Psychotic Revelation. 5:15 p.m. Tickets \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. jaxxroxx.com.

Jewish Community Center Book Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike. The nine-day event celebrates Jewish literacy and includes author lectures and programs. LaurieA@jccnv.org, 703-537-3064 or www.jccnv.org for event schedules and costs.

Cirque Éloize with Nebbia: a Magical Fog, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performances on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Chocolate Lovers Festival, Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Some events require a fee, and other events are free. 703-385-1661 or www.chocolatefestival.net.

MONDAY/FEB. 9

Little Hugs, 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Valentine fun. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

Early Reader Book Discussion, 3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for titles. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

Soilwork Tour with Withersoul and Olympus Shall Burn. 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$22 in advance, \$25 day



The Micro Wrestling Federation will be descending on Jaxx Night Club in Springfield on Thursday, Feb. 12.

of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Jewish Community Center Book Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike. The nine-day event celebrates Jewish literacy and will include author lectures and programs, as well as books for purchase. Contact Laurie Albert at LaurieA@jccnv.org, 703-537-3064 or www.jccnv.org for the festival schedule.

VITA Tax Assistance, 6-8 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Hearty Fun, 10:15 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories, activities and craft about Valentine's Day. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Virginia Housing Development Authority Homeownership Education Seminar, 6 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Financial responsibility, using credit wisely and building financial security

through home ownership. Free food and giveaways. 703-323-3484 or jzahorian@nvcc.edu.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Quarterly Forum, 7:30-9 p.m. at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Jon Vrana will present Voices from City Point, describing first hand perspectives of civilian and military personnel thrust together at a small Virginia town that became Gen. Grant's main supply depot in the last year of the war, with repair shops, hospitals, bakeries and 22 miles of track connecting the wharves to the Union lines. Admission free, donations accepted. 703-425-9225.

Springfield Art Guild February Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St. Springfield. Contact Donnalynne Lefever at 703-644-6677 or magickaldl@earthlink.net.

Practice Your English, 10:15 and 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for

adults. 703-339-4610.
Science and Stories, 4:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and simple science experiments. Age 4-6. 703-249-1520.

Older Adults Book Group, 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Dreaming of the Bones by Deborah Crombie. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Micro Wrestling Federation. 9 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Early Literacy Storytime for Parent and Preschooler, 11 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

Bees and Bee Boxes at Home, 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. How to build and care for bee boxes. For ages 11 and up. Reservations

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

required. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

"Hay Fever," 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Too Pure to Die, Thick as Blood and Estates. 5 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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

Ponderings: Animals and Superstitions, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Debunking superstitions about animals. Reservations required. Ages 6-10. \$5. 703-451-9588.

"Hay Fever," 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

Be My Anti-Valentine, 6 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Protest everything that's lame about Valentine's Day while partying with other teens. Food, prizes and a complete lack of cheesy sentimentality. Age 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Workhouse Arts Center's Spot-LYTE Youth Theatre Ensemble with "Art of Murder," 7:30 p.m. in the Workhouse Arts Center Gallery W-16, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900 or www.Workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Friends Book Sale, 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Used Book Sale, 10 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Friends Book Sale. All ages. 703-339-7385.

Animal Sweethearts Dance, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Music, dancing,

crafts and more. Reservations required. For ages 3-8. \$6 per child. 703-451-9588.

Winter Tree Trek, 1-3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Explore the woods and develop tree identification skills. Adults. Reservations required. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

Sherlock Bones, 1-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Skulls, skeletons and self-guided activities. Free. 703-768-2525.

"Hay Fever," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL), 12-2 p.m. at Felix & Oscar, 6671-A Backlick Road, Springfield. MAGDRL will be at Felix & Oscar on the second Saturday of each month. 703-866-0222 or www.nova-magdrl.org.

Workhouse Arts Center's Spot-LYTE Youth Theatre Ensemble with "Art of Murder," 7:30 p.m. in the Workhouse Arts Center Gallery W-16, 2nd floor, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900 or www.Workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

N-Scale Model Trains Running at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum community room and caboose, 1-4 p.m. at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

The Virginia Opera and "Tosca," 2 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 1:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$44-\$98. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

"Hay Fever," 2 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

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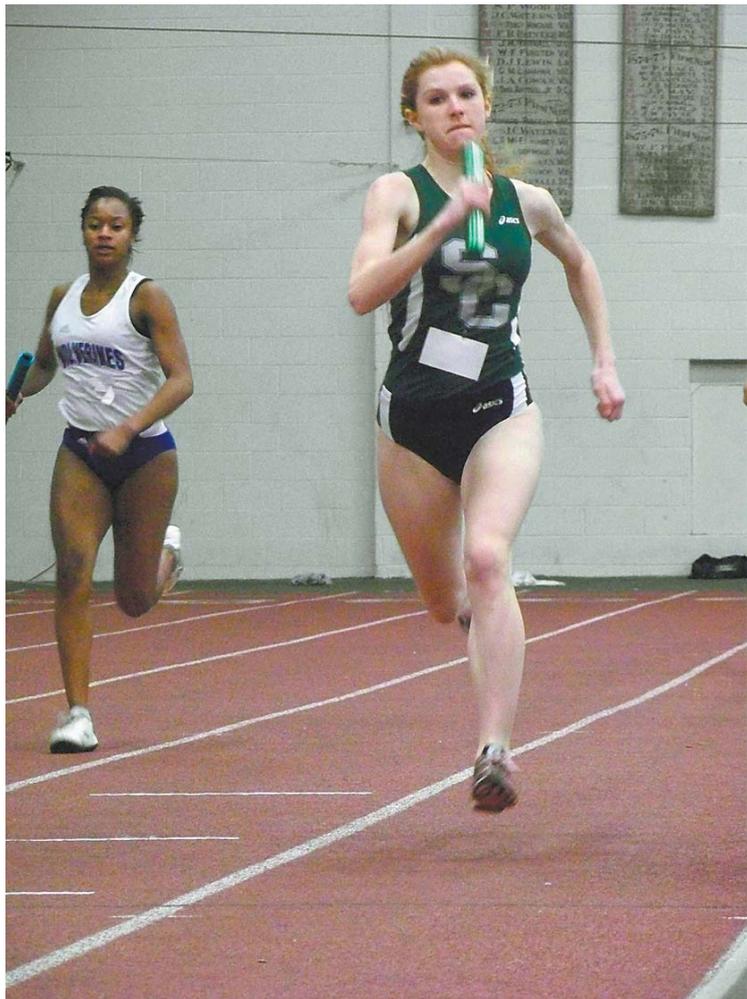


PHOTO BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION

South County indoor track and field program heads in right direction.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Saddled with perhaps the stiffest competition within the Northern Region, the South County indoor track and field program has yet to win a Patriot District title.

Unlike some other sports at the school, such as baseball or softball, which have combined to win four district crowns, second-year coach Greg Rowe is looking for small, step-by-step improvements.

And that's OK with the Stallions' runners, jumpers and throwers. After all, they have "Stallion Spotlight," a third-period daily news show that has publicized some of those accomplishments.

On the student-produced show, team members have personal-best marks read aloud and more attention is paid when a school record is set.

"I got a lot of compliments like, 'Oh, good job on your new personal record,' and then I had five people talking to me," said sophomore Sarah Chandler. "It was good."

Sophomore Sarah Chandler has set three South County indoor track and field records this season — 300-meter dash, 4x200 and 4x400 relays.

Chandler has made at least three appearances on "Stallion Spotlight." She broke her own school record from 2008 in the 300-meter dash with a time of 42.07 seconds, while running the anchor leg on two record-setting relay teams.

The 4x200 relay team, consisting of freshman Kiana Tarrant, sophomore Kelly Ross, senior Jamie Swogger and Chandler, ran a 1:53.96 on Jan. 3. Chandler also anchored the 4x400 relay team (Tarrant, junior Jackie Dunbar, Sheyda Khodaei), which set a record with its time of 4:11.31.

The 4x200 mark was later tied on Jan. 24 by the team of Tarrant, freshman Simone Ramdeen, Ross and Swogger.

ROWE CAME from Annandale High School prior to South County's inception in 2005. He had been the head indoor track and field coach there for four years, but valued the opportunity to start a program from scratch.

The move was a demotion of sorts for Rowe, but he didn't care. He knew he would have his chance to eventually serve as the program's head coach. He just didn't figure that it'd come in his third year.

"It's a credit to these kids."

— South County coach Greg Rowe

SEE S.C. RUNNERS, PAGE 11

Robinson Girls Depend On Defense

Robinson girls grab two weekend wins but falter against Chantilly on Tuesday.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Throughout much of the 2008-09 season, the Robinson girls basketball team has leaned on its stingy defense. While the offense, featuring two freshmen, a junior and two seniors, has plodded along at times, the team's defense has been able to consistently clamp down on opponents.

Entering Tuesday night's game at Chantilly, the Rams were allowing a respectable 46.2 points per game, a middle-of-the-road-type number in the ever-competitive Concorde District.

"Our defense has pretty much been the consistent part for us," said Rams coach T.J. Dade. "Offensively, we've struggled, and we've seemed to find little pieces to put together."

But against the Chargers, Robinson, according to Dade, played tentatively. The team wasn't closing out on shooters and

granted way too many open looks.

When the game ended, Robinson had suffered a 56-40 loss, allowing the fourth-highest point total all season and falling to 10-8 overall, 4-5 in the Concorde District. The Rams get back to action when they host Westfield on Friday night.

"In spurts, we started getting hard close outs, deflections and hard traps," Dade said. "It was a 'rollercoaster game' for us defensively."

The lackluster effort was made even more surprising because of the successful weekend that the Rams had just enjoyed. In victories over Washington-Lee and Centreville, Robinson had won by an average of 17 points per contest.

Furthermore, the win over Centreville, coupled with a 41-40 victory on Dec. 16, capped a season sweep of the Wildcats. But the Rams were unable to carry any of that momentum into Tuesday's game.

"[Tuesday] was a bit of a setback, but Friday and Saturday were huge," said senior

guard Katelyn Priftis, who led the offense with 10 points and knocked down a pair of 3-pointers. "I think we took a lot of steps forward and we took a couple back. But it's nothing that we can't mend.

"We're just going to practice really hard, not dwell on this game and take what we need to learn from this game and move on."

AFTER TAKING a 7-4 lead, Robinson allowed Chantilly to close the first quarter on a 10-0 run. The Chargers continued to surprise even their first-year coach Valerie Allen by knocking down seemingly every shot they took en route to a 28-18 halftime advantage.

"I knew it was going to be a tough game because Robinson is very physical," Allen said. "They have some good players on their team, and they're very well coached. I was not expecting a 16-point win."

Much like they have all season, Priftis and junior Sam Partonen guided the Rams offensively. Partonen finished with 10 points and collected five rebounds. She also drilled a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 13 (45-32) with 4 minutes, 38 seconds to play.

SEE RAMS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

'Defense is pretty much all heart, and I think that's something we definitely have,' said Robinson's Katelyn Priftis, pictured here battling for a jump ball against Chantilly Tuesday night.

Rams Depend On Defense

FROM PAGE 10

"We do what we need to do to help the team," Priftis said. "Whether it means that I score six points and she scores 12, or whether I score 12 and she scores six, it doesn't matter. On any given night, whoever needs to step up, steps up."

Despite Robinson's performance against Chantilly, Dade isn't worried. The defensive effort, while he may not be able to explain it, serves as more of the exception than the rule this season. Many times Dade has had to calm his team down, exhorting them to relax and not be so aggressive.

The Rams force an average of 23 turnovers and generate about 20 deflections per game, two numbers that often lead over pursuing an opponent. It's something Dade would rather work with than what he dealt with Tuesday night.

"I'd rather have an aggressive team and have to tone them down a notch than have to have them buy into being aggressive," Dade said. "Sometimes, we get over aggressive and that tends to take you out of defensive position."

SOMETHING ELSE that Dade would like to see altered would be his team's scoring balance. Freshmen Brigitte Kuter and



Fifth-year coach T.J. Dade has his Robinson girls basketball team at 10-8 overall, 4-5 in Concorde District play entering Friday night's home game against Westfield.

Megan Green have stepped into starting roles, but it's the upperclassmen that Dade would like to see more out of.

"The future looks bright for us, but I'd like to get some stuff done now," Dade said.

The Chantilly loss aside, Robinson has

been getting things done. In a tightly-packed Concorde District, which features a cluster of teams all battling for the right to face undefeated Oakton, the Rams still have two weeks to improve before the district tournament.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Rams' Stanton JMU Bound

If the months between November 2007 and August 2008 serve as an indication, the James Madison University football team should benefit greatly throughout the next four years from the contributions of Robinson senior Jordan Stanton.

A 6-foot-4, 242-pound defensive end, Stanton signed a Nationals Letter of Intent with the Dukes on Wednesday. Stanton joins a James Madison team that finished 12-2, losing to Montana in the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision semifinals on Dec. 13. The Dukes last won a national title in 2004.

"They were there from the beginning, and they've done such a great recruiting job with me," said Stanton, who recorded 83 tackles and four sacks this past season for the Rams (5-5). "My gut feeling was JMU, so I just went with it."

Stanton didn't start as a junior, contributing as a defensive substitution behind such talented players as Derek Qadir, Logan Perryman and classmate Ryan Holder. But during the off-season, Stanton added 40 pounds of

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS. PAGE 16

S.C. Runners Excel

FROM PAGE 10

"I didn't put a timetable on it," said Rowe, who started out as the distance coach, a position he occupied for two years at Annandale. "I really didn't know. I just figured it'd be a while."

The same could be said about his drive to work. Rowe lives 90 miles away in Woodstock, a small town located in Shenandoah County. The drive takes an hour and 45 minutes each way.

"It shows that he's really dedicated," senior Brett Mandeville said.

Sixty of South County's 120 team members are freshmen, which means that while Rowe expects to encounter some growing pains during the next two years, the rise of South County's indoor track and field program should come sooner rather than later.

"We've got some work to do," Rowe said. "It usually takes about four or five years to really get a program up and on its feet. But I think we're heading in the right direction and I'm pleased with the progress that the kids have made."

WHILE CHANDLER has been a stalwart for the girls team, Mandeville, a senior distance runner, has been equally as impressive on the boys side. According to Rowe, Mandeville ran around a 5:10 mile as a freshman. Now he runs two miles at a faster pace.

Mandeville has also had his share of record-setting segments on "Stal-lion Spotlight." As a junior, he shattered the 3,200 school record of 10:31, cutting more than 15 seconds off that time with his mark of 10:14.09.

Then as a senior this winter, Mandeville slipped under 10 minutes, clocking a 9:59.11. Junior Tom Schafer has also broken the original school record and Mandeville's first record with a time of 10:06.37.

"It's impressive to see how far he's come," Rowe said of Mandeville.

Mandeville said that Rowe has helped him with foot repetitions and turnover, essentially altering his strides so Mandeville's feet hit the ground more frequently during the course of a race. Mandeville also cited training with the cross-country team for his improved performance.

"The first two years I was here, the team was pretty strong," Rowe said. "But the improvement has surprised me. It's a credit to the other coaches in the program, and it's a credit to these kids."

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FAITH

Jubilee Christian Center will show "Fireproof" on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. The PG movie starring Kirk Cameron is about a firefighter fighting to save lives and his marriage. The movie is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Nursery and separate Youth and Children's activities will be available. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Arabic Bible Baptist Church is located at 5424 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. Pastor: Tony Ghareeb. Call 703-273-5599 or e-mail Tghareeb@wmconnect.com.

Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-9862 or www.messiahumc.org.

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❖ **Singles: Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus**, on Feb. 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. John Morrison will present the basics.

International Calvary Church Sunday services in English are at 9:45 a.m., Korean services at 11:30 a.m. and youth services at 11:30 a.m. Sunday School classes in English are at 11:30 a.m. and children's classes at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible study and Youth Meet-

ing are at 8 p.m. and Friday Prayer and Youth Meeting at 8:30 p.m. 5700 Hanover Ave., Springfield. 703-569-1918.

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. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreym.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield has Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., Hispanic worship service at 9 a.m., Korean worship service at 2 p.m., and an Ethiopian service at 12:15 p.m. Located at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. 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. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services are Sundays at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Children's Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. 703-451-5855.



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HEALTH NOTES

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke Adventures in Learning program meets each Monday, from March 23-May 4, 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m., at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Open to all adults age 50 or better. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. The six-week program costs \$30. Registration forms available at www.fairfax-burkesc.org or by calling 703-323-4788.

Healthy Heart Pass at South Run RECenter, on sale through Feb. 14. Passes include membership at nine RECenters, use of fitness facilities and

equipment, use of pool, spa and sauna, free XYO classes and Fitlinxx Computer Systems. 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. 703-866-0566

Lunch N' Life, on March 19 from 12-2 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. The program will be presented by Patrick Creed & Rick Newman, authors of "Firefight: Inside the Battle to Save the Pentagon on 9/11." Seating is limited. The cost is \$8. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161, by March 12.

The Clifton Presbyterian Church has a Caregiver Support Group that meets the second and

fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-related problems. 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at www.lamazedc.com or by calling 703-549-2226.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664 or www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm.

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Singman Wins Clifton Bee

Chile! That was the final answer for fifth grader Matthew Singman, winner of Clifton Elementary's 2009 Geography Bee. Competitors must be versed in geographical features, have an understanding of maps and keys and possess superior knowledge of continents, countries, states, cities, landmarks and places of historical significance. Matthew has completed his written test and now waits until March to learn if he is one of the 100 qualifiers for the State Geography Bee.



Geography Bee winner Matthew Singman with Clifton Elementary principal Arthur Polton.

PHOTO COURTESY SYDNEY SAWYER

COLLEGE NOTES

Clifton residents **Kristin Birk, Lisa Malachowski, Andrew Rowland and Stefanie Wisda** have graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg. Birk graduated cum laude, and Wisda graduated magna cum laude.

Fairfax Station residents **Lauren Westbrook and Candice Wise** have graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg. Westbrook graduated cum laude.

Clifton residents **Kristin Birk, Rebekah Goldman, Maxwell Greer, Karen Kim and Lane**

Smith have been named to the fall 2008 president's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Fairfax Station residents **Craig Brown, Courtenay Craven, Kevin Curry, Chrystine Kern, Molly McHarg, Ray Norby and Nicholas Papageorge** have been named to the fall 2008 president's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Sara Aultman of Lorton has been named to the fall 2008 president's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Clifton residents **Matthew Del**

Riego, Maureen Filak, Olivia Fritsche, Laura Gehring, Sara Hagan, Leena Khan, Amy Latchford, Susan Lilburn, Jennifer Lopez, Evan McGrew, Thomas Ryan, Adele Smith, Mathew Snow and Stefanie Wisda have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Lorton residents **Martha Alemayehu, Megan Arline, Lindsay Baldino, Molly Gandy and Bonnie Ratkiewicz** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

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OPINION

Importance of College Options

Northern Virginia Community College will have a growing and critical role in coming decade.

Here in Northern Virginia, residents, businesses and government all recognize the importance of quality public schools. Great schools benefit everyone, not just families with children in school.

In Fairfax County, the public schools absorb more than half the county funds available. In Loudoun, the percentage is much higher. Spending per student in Arlington and Alexandria demonstrate those localities' commitment to their public schools as well.

Another critical component of the quality of life, education and the economy here is the Northern Virginia Community College. While it's hard to overstate the importance of NOVA, the second largest community college in the nation with more than 60,000 students, will play an even bigger role in the decade to come.

WHILE NVCC (or NOVA as it is more commonly known), along with local school districts, has taken its share of budget cuts, the General Assembly should not take steps to cap

its tuition. Northern Virginia Community College offers access to high quality college classes and degree programs at a very affordable price (well under \$3,000 annual tuition for a full-time student) and also offers support to students with financial need in a variety of ways. The school must have some flexibility to manage its revenues to continue to meet growing demand.

NOVA is one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the United States, with students from more than 180 countries; international students make up about 20 percent of student population.

The community college conducts significant outreach to the many students in Northern Virginia high schools who could be the first in their family to go to college, many of them immigrants. This is a critical link to the American dream.

NOVA provides an affordable path to a four-year college degree, plus provides certificates

and training in careers high in demand like nursing and health care, "green" technologies.

With even many affluent families feeling the effects of the economic crisis, many students in Northern Virginia will need to find alternatives to paying full freight for four years of college education.

NOVA accepts IB and AP credits, so an advanced student from Fairfax County could arrive at NOVA with a year's worth of college credit, get an associates degree in one year at an affordable rate, and then transfer to a four-year college, finishing in three years and potentially cutting their college costs in half.

Students who graduate from NOVA with an associate's degree and a minimum grade point average are guaranteed admission to other Virginia colleges and universities, including George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and the College of William and Mary.

NOVA has campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge along with educational centers in Reston and Arlington. NOVA offers more than 160 certificate programs and degrees at the associate's level, along with distance learning programs.

— MARY KIMM

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EDITORIAL

Community Speaks Out on Start Times

FCPS considers later start times for high school students.

The following are excerpts from letters to the editor in reaction to Fairfax County Public Schools' study and proposal to set later start times for high school students. To read the full text of the letters, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Children who see their parents whine about an "early start" in a public newspaper will be some of the same children who are taking mommy and daddy with them along to job interviews later. This is not the kind of self-discipline that America was built on.

Benjamin W. Glass III
Fairfax

Every parent has already had to make adjustments for the current schedule, which is only approximately 10 years old, and has to keep adjusting when our family activities and schedules change, as they always do.

Caroline G. Hemenway
Herndon

The later school hour will not effectively change anything. My

own daughter, for example, will arrive home later, will still have the same amount of homework, which she will begin later, will get to bed later. I will bet it will be a "wash." As she is now, routinely up until 11 or later, I shudder to think how late "we'll" be up as I stay up with her for moral support. Yet, as an elementary teacher, I will be expected to report to school earlier, not to mention that my before school meetings that now start at 7:15 could start as early as 6:45.

Laura May
Fairfax High School Parent
Fairfax County Teacher

This change is unlikely to increase the amount our high school children sleep and it will have more of them out after dark in the evening (and/or reduce participation in extra-curricular activities); it will have very young children waiting for buses in the dark and likely getting less sleep; and, it will have a negative effect on family-work dynamics for many Fairfax County families.

I believe that the School Board should think hard before agreeing

to approve this change in the county schedule. ... I think the School Board is being sold a bill of goods by an organization that is addressing the needs of only one segment of our population.

Susan Merrill
Burke

The potential disruption to normal after-school activities and athletics is significant. There would be less time for after-school teacher-student meetings, clubs, music lessons, drama, band, etc. There would be less sunlight for outdoor athletic practices.

Sung-Joo Park
E-mail Submission

The final report is a treasure trove of relevant information. It portrays this information objectively and draws no conclusions from it, as every reader's situation will differ. Readers should form their own conclusions and then act in their own interests, and this reference material is intended solely to help them do that.

Your readers would be very well served to look over the TTF Final Report and use its materials to help them make up their own minds. It's posted on the FCPS Web site [<http://www.fcps.edu/fts/>

taskforce07/documents/index.htm].

Dick Reed
Chairman
FCPS School Board
Transportation Task Force

Sports programs are not in danger of being cut due to the proposed bell schedule changes. The School Board and the Board of Supervisors have asked for approaches for rescheduling, not for the elimination of sports. The RECenters have a special obligation to our high school teams. Fairfax County made the decision to put pools in the RECenters "with the understanding that they would provide a home for local high school teams."

Therese Tuley
SLEEP Chair
Robinson PTSA member
Fairfax Station

I see no reason why a high school student should be staying up past 11 p.m. ... This change is an adjustment to meet the convenience of families who don't have the discipline to keep kids on schedule and go to bed on time.

Lorenda Wieder
Fairfax

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Conflict Of Interest

FROM PAGE 2

the other co-conspirator that he feared federal contractors would be cut if President George W. Bush lost the 2004 election.

After first proposals had been submitted, Wright advised Villanueva to submit a document regarding past performance.

"Then turn it over to a trusted insider who can make the best of a bad situation," Wright wrote, according to federal court documents. "It is amazing what one well-placed bullet can do — but you gotta have the bullet."

"That's why our strategy of keeping 'W' on the inside ... is an operational imperative," Villanueva wrote, according to court documents.

A federal jury in Alexandria convicted Villanueva while Wright pleaded guilty to the same charges following the first day of the trial last October, according to court documents.

The FBI and Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) investigated the case, which was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Hanly.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

soning at the meeting, saying his aim in producing the calendar.

"I put the money up for the calendars, and was my pleasure to do it," said Rusnak. "We continue to promote the arts in the town and our photographers and artists, and I think we did that."

Rusnak said next month he would begin contacting town members who worked on the 2009 calendar to determine if they are interested in returning for the 2010 edition.

"Hopefully, [next] time we'll have the funds in the budget for a calendar," said Rusnak with a laugh.

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 11

muscle, sliced two-tenths of a second off of his 40-yard dash time (4.7) and beefed up his bench press by 100 pounds (310).

All the improvements resulted in a standout senior season during which he earned first team All-Concorde District, first team All-Northern Region and second team All-State honors. In addition to his tackle and sack totals, Stanton also forced two fumbles and blocked a punt.

"His work ethic was a great example to our younger players with what can happen when you work hard," Rams coach Mark Bendorf said. "Coming in to his senior year his goal was to establish himself as an important player on our team, and he did that. It wasn't easy, but he did that."

Now, with a desire to perhaps major in sports marketing, Stanton will try to make his mark on a new team.

"Football is a sport I love, and I knew I needed to work hard to continue this journey," Stanton said. "I really worked hard and did everything that I could."

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Peter Zheng, President

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Michelle Silvia, Owner

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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Supporters of Supervisor Sharon Bulova watch election results as they are released during a watch party at the Waterford in Fair Oaks.

Bulova Declares Victory

FROM PAGE 3

terial districts than I thought he would be. ... I think the Republicans are very motivated and the Democrats are feeling content," said Scott Surovell, head of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

According to Bulova, Democratic voters may also have been distracted by the winter holidays and historic presidential inauguration during short chairman's campaign.

Connolly added that Bulova also had to overcome Herryty's name recognition. Though Bulova has served on the county board two decades longer than her Republican opponent, Herryty's father, Jack, was a well-known Fairfax County board chairman for 12 years during the 1970s and 1980s.



Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) smiles after winning the Feb. 3 special election.

VOTER TURNOUT countywide was low, 16.1 percent, but higher than several polling place officials said they expected for a special election, particularly given the light snowfall in the morning.

Some residents who do not normally participate in "off year" elections said they felt compelled to show up because of the county's fiscal crisis.

"I do not usually vote in special elections but it seems like we have some financial issues in the county that we need to deal with," said Clifton resident Duane Freer, who supported Herryty.

Others said they had come out because one of the political parties had contacted them and reminded them the election was taking place that day.

"This is my first time voting in a special election. I am a member of the Democratic Women of Clifton and I got an email from them this morning that said we needed to come out and vote," said Dana Jones, a 22 year-old who brought her mother and sister to the polling station with her.

Residents who lived in either Bulova or Herryty's home magisterial districts were also motivated to turn out for the special election. Of the county's nine magisterial districts, Braddock — which Bulova has rep-

resented for over 20 years — had the highest voter turnout of 22 percent. Springfield — which Herryty and his father have both represented — had the second highest, with 18.9 percent.

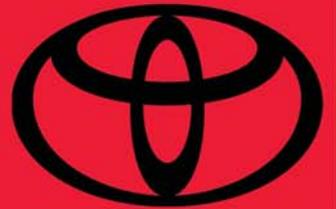
With 11.9 percent, Sully was the magisterial district with the lowest turnout in the special election. It is also the only district besides Herryty's Springfield that is represented by a Republican, Michael Frey, on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Nearly all of Fairfax County's recent chairman — Connolly, Hanley, Tom Davis, Audrey Moore and Jack Herryty — had "larger than life" personalities. But Bulova has a quiet, more measured leadership style, said Florence Naeve, who worked as Bulova's chief of staff for 20 years.

"Each chairman was right for their time and Sharon is right for the time we face now. ... People feel comfortable with her and both sides of the aisle trust her. She is a calm leader," said Naeve.

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