

# Springfield CONNECTICUT

Franconia ♦ Kingston

Speaking on  
Capitol Hill

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Springfield Theatre  
Stages 'Fantasticks'

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Hannah Lyon, 9,  
dances with her  
brother, Josh, 3,  
while attending the  
annual Animal Sweet-  
hearts Dance at the  
Hidden Pond Nature  
Center on Feb. 14.

# Love Dance

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

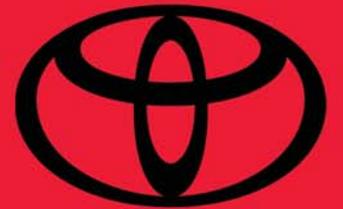
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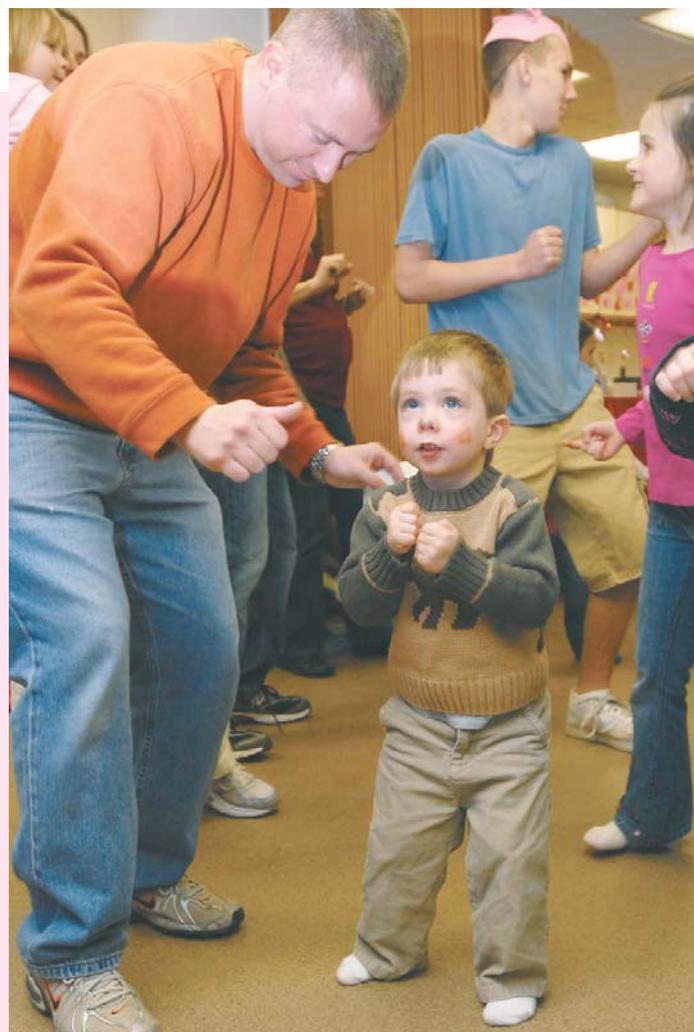
# NEWS

## Love in the Air

### Hidden Pond hosts Sweethearts Dance.



Area children and their families listen to a Valentine's Day animal story at the Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield on Feb. 14.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Andy Hawthorne of Springfield, and his son, Drew, 3, spent part of their Saturday morning dancing to a variety of songs while attending the annual Animal Sweethearts Dance.

## Speaking for SCHIP

### Springfield woman testifies on Capitol Hill for Child Health Insurance Bill.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**K**athy Paz-Mingledorff, 29, of Danbury Forest in Springfield will go down in history of being the poster child of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

The SCHIP Program provides health insurance to 11 million low-income children and pregnant women who are legal immigrants. It helps them get the doctor's visits and medicines they need to stay healthy.

**HER STORY** started in March 2002, when at the age of 22, she was in the U.S. Marine Corps and in perfect health. She became pregnant with her son Alex and for some mysterious reason, he was born 15 weeks prematurely. He stayed in intensive care for three months and required high-cost specialists and medications. He was given Medicaid and remained on that for his first two years.

Because of all Alex's expensive health care needs,

Kathy Paz-Mingledorff was unable to work. If she returned to work, the social workers told her that her Medicaid coverage would stop. When he son turned 4, she looked into the SCHIP program and was approved.

"A lot of people feel like SCHIP is a handout — and they disagree with its approval because they feel like they're just promoting poverty and allowing people to just manipulate the government and take money," said Paz-Mingledorff. "But we wouldn't have been able to survive without Medicaid and SCHIP."

Her son was seen by neurologists, cardiologists, pediatric eye specialists and gastroenterologists. He was tube-fed 100 percent of the time up until age 2. Without SCHIP, Paz-Mingledorff said she couldn't afford to purchase Alex's supplies — tape, IV pole and feeding tube that went into his stomach.

"There's so much stuff you have to have, and that wasn't including the medication or the physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy," she said.

With seven hospitalizations, the expenses were astronomical: \$800,000 by the time Alex was 2 and \$1.5 million by the time he was 5.

"We had to make choices that would affect whether (son Alex) would live or die," she said.

Paz-Mingledorff remained on SCHIP for two years,

**"We had to make choices that would affect whether (my son) would live or die."**

— **Kathy Paz-Mingledorff**

SEE MOTHER, PAGE 7

## McKay, Bulova Ask To Revisit BRAC 133

### Send letter to President Obama.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**rees have been clear-cut, bulldozers have moved substantial dirt, and, the first signs of serious construction are underway.

But, all that has not stopped Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee) and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) from writing a letter to President Barack Obama seeking to reverse the U.S. Army's decision to relocate 6,400 personnel of the Washington Headquarters Services agencies to Alexandria's Mark Center. McKay and Bulova are still touting the GSA Warehouses in Springfield as the better site.

Known as BRAC 133, the 6,400 personnel is the final contingent in the overall plan to relocate 19,300 jobs to Fort Belvoir as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report. In addition to BRAC 133, 8,500 personnel would be based at Fort Belvoir's Engineering Proving Grounds just off the Fairfax County Parkway in the Lee District, 3,400 personnel will be on the main post, divided between various entities and the new DeWitt Army Community Hospital and 1,000 personnel will be based at Belvoir's Rivanna Station in Charlottesville, Va.

The acreage at Mark Center, when fully developed and constructed for BRAC 133, would become a part of Fort Belvoir. The requirement, that any BRAC territory become part of the mili

SEE BRAC 133, PAGE 16

## Connolly Votes For Economic Recovery

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined other Democrats in the U.S. Congress in voting for the \$800 billion economic recovery package President Barack Obama signed into law earlier this week.

"All of us can nit pick, but the county is in the worst economic mess we have seen in 70 years. ... I thought the bill was very thoughtfully crafted to address some of the innovative parts of the economy that have been starved for investment," said Connolly of the bill that has been criticized by Republicans.

The new congressman said he personally met with 15 economists, including conservatives who worked for President Ronald Reagan that said the country needed a stimulus package in order to rebound from the current recession.

"They told me 'you must act and you must act now,'" he said.

Connolly was particularly pleased about the expansion of "weatherization" projects that the economic stimulus money would allow to take place. Increased "weatherization" of American homes means that the country as a whole would become more energy efficient and U.S. residents would not only save money on their utility bills but also reduce their impact on global warming, he said.

Connolly was also excited about money in the package set aside for growing mass transit and broadband access across the country. He said both transit and broadband could create new opportunities for economic development, possibly in remote parts of the United States.

"I was living here before the Metro opened and I personally have seen the transformation that can take," said Connolly.

The local congressman expects some of the stimulus money to be used to complete the Fairfax County Parkway and hopes to see some of the "new start" transit projects dollars go to "phase II" of the Dulles rail project, which would extend the line into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County Public Schools is also like to benefit directly, he said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Congressmen Introduce Bill To Ease Returning Workers

U.S. representatives Gerry Connolly (D-11), Jim Moran (D-8) and Frank Wolf (R-10) recently introduced a bill that would remove financial penalties that retirees currently endure if they chose to return to the federal workforce.

Under the current system, people who have left the federal government put their retirement benefits in jeopardy should they chose to return to their old jobs, said Connolly.

"We want to allow some people who expertise we need to return. For example, we need more people who can manage large complex contracts that the federal government out sources and we need to attract some of these people back to the federal government," said Connolly.

"We do not want to penalize people if they are returning to federal service," added Connolly.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Saslaw Casts Deciding Vote Against Energy Efficiency Bill

Several environmental groups are balking at state senator and Democratic Majority leader Dick Saslaw's decision to cast the deciding vote against a bill written to ensure more energy efficiency in Virginia.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 18

## NEWS



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

From left, George Willis, Jon Roberts, Andrew Ennis, Christina Kidd and Joseph LeBlanc rehearse a scene from 'The Fantasticks.'

## 'Fantasticks' at New School

Springfield Community Theater celebrates 50th year with a musical.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

The Springfield Community Theatre is staging a stylized version of the play, "The Fantasticks." The musical originally opened off-Broadway in 1960 with a 25-year-old Jerry Orbach (think "Law and Order") as El Gallo.

The musical has a small cast, sparse scenery and realistic people. The intention is an open stage surrounded on three sides by audience members. Characters speak to the audience upon entrance to the stage. Actors never leave the stage, but sit in the unlit area or turn their backs to the audience.

"EVER SINCE it came out, 'The Fantasticks' has been playing somewhere in the world every day all these years," said Donald Neal, director, who has been in community theater for 60 years. Depending on one's frame of reference, he said the musical is either a fable or a fantasy.

The play is about two fathers who have a son and daughter who are young teenagers who fall in love. The fathers forbid the relationship which makes the two lovers want to see each other even more.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Springfield Community Theater has rehearsed for three years at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Annandale and this is its first season at its new performance venue — The New School in Fairfax.

"It's kind of been a moveable feast with an uncertain season," said Neal. "We have performed in churches, in schools, even the parochial schools. We have a new board and we are pulling the theatre

back together.

"This season, we're doing three family shows to bring our audiences back to let them know we're alive and kicking."

Performances are set for Feb. 27, 28; March 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8 p.m. and Matinees on March 1, 8, 15 at 3 p.m. at The John Swazy Theatre at The New School of Northern Virginia in Fairfax.

Ticket prices are \$15, \$13 for students and seniors; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. For reservations, call 703-866-6238.

Christina Kidd, 15, of Fairfax Station plays Luisa who's in love with Matt, the boy next door. "She's romantic and dreamy and she kind of loses her mind," Christina said of her character. "She has these crazy daydreams about how the boy she loves in a hero."

The fun part, Christina said is that "She wants to be a princess to have her happy ending. ... She imagines her life in a more romantic way than it really is."

This is Christina's first show with the Springfield Community Theatre and her first comedy. She's been dancing since she was 4 and taking voice lessons since age 10. Christina is homeschooled and plans to study musical theater in college.

Andrew Ennis, 20, of Annandale plays Luisa's love interest Matt. "This is the first time he fell in love," said Ennis, who works in retail. "It hit him really hard."

His biggest challenge, Ennis said, are the two big

SEE 'FANTASTICKS', PAGE 7

### More

"The Fantasticks" runs Feb. 27, 28; March 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8 p.m., with matinees on March 1, 8, 15 at 3 p.m. Performances are at The John Swazy Theatre at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15, \$13 for students and seniors; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. For information, call 703-978-7650.

## THE COUNTY LINE

# Schools Float Second HQ Building Proposal

Supervisors will discuss project at Feb. 23 meeting.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools has revived a proposal to purchase a second building for its central office staff after initial efforts to acquire the property stalled last fall.

According to school staff, the new office building would allow the school system to consolidate many of its central administration functions on one Merrifield campus and could result in cost savings.

But following a closed door meeting in September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the school system's first plan for building acquisition. Several said they were skeptical that the \$110 million purchase was fiscally prudent, particularly in the current economic downturn and as the county faced a projected \$650 million budget deficit.

"The deal that was presented before I felt very strongly was something we should not do. I thought they were paying too much for the building," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

On Feb. 23, school officials will return to the supervisors with a new, cheaper plan to purchase the property at 8111 Gatehouse Road. In a matter of months, the cost of the project has gone from \$110.1 million to \$94.5 million and the savings estimate associated with the project has grown from \$22.2 million to \$62.2 million over the next 30 years, they said.

ACCORDING to the school system, these additional savings were realized primarily because the owner agreed to drop the price of the building from \$52 million to \$45 million. Officials have also agreed to scale back their renovation plans for the building from \$58.1 million to \$49.5 million by eliminating plans to acquire new furniture, add parking and improve traffic flow on the site at this time.

The school system had also identified one more leased building, the Instructional Center Support Systems warehouse, which could be vacated if the school system moved into the new Gatehouse property. The rent on the warehouse is currently about \$502,000 annually and could go toward covering the cost of the building purchase instead, said officials.

Since school officials brought forward the proposal this fall, the number of positions that would be eliminated as a result of the move has also increased from 18 to 28. By



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

The school system is coming back with a proposal to purchase this building for administrative purposes.

cutting 10 more jobs, the school system would gain an extra \$2 million annually in cost savings, according to documents explaining the merits of the building purchase.

**YET SEVERAL PEOPLE**, including at least two supervisors, are still skeptical of the plan. They question the merits of the school system's business case and wonder whether purchasing administrative offices during the county's worst financial crisis in history is politically palpable.

Many argued that too much of the discussion about the building's purchase has taken place out of the public eye in "back rooms." Some critics said that the school board should have conducted more outreach to the public on the project.

"I would think spending \$100 million would be something that they would want the community to respond to. I don't see why they can't take this out to the community before making a decision on it," said Michelle Menapace, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D) said she is attempting to make the dialogue over the building purchase more transparent. Instead of having conversations about the project behind closed doors, the supervisors and school officials will discuss the new building acquisition proposal in public Feb. 23.

"I think it is appropriate and long overdue for us to have that discussion out front," said Bulova, who added that holding a public hearing on the project did not seem necessary.

The supervisors are unlikely to vote on the proposal directly after hearing the school system's presentation next week and would probably make a final decision about the building at a later meeting. In the mean-

time, Bulova said the school system has set up meetings with community stakeholders to brief them on the revised building purchase plan.

"I encouraged presentations to be made to as many community organizations and groups as possible," said Bulova.

FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt added that many major county organizations, including the local federation of civic associations and chamber of commerce, had endorsed the previous plan.

"These are not groups that were going to support anything we put in front of them," he said.

**STILL, THERE** are some groups and supervisors who said it is not likely that they will be talked into supporting the purchase of a building for central administrators under any circumstances.

"I don't understand why anybody would think it was a good thing to do," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

Herrity questions much of the school system's analysis of the cost savings the project would achieve.

Some of the cost savings show up because the building purchase has only been compared to one other option — the construction of a new administrative building, said Herrity. According to the Springfield supervisor, the financial picture, and savings, could change drastically if the building purchase was compared to other scenarios — such as maintaining the status quo.

The school officials' numbers also assume that the school system would have to continue leasing office space for the same price it currently does if officials did not have the opportunity to move into the newly purchased building. But many of the school system's leases are up for renewal next year and it is likely officials could negotiate better rates at that time, said Herrity.

And though the price of the building has come down, Herrity added that it is still too high. The property's present owners paid \$45 million for the building in 2006 and the school system should not be paying the

exact same price in 2009, when the commercial real estate market is in decline, he said.

"Their financial model is off. They are making the numbers work to justify what they want to do," said Herrity of the current proposal.

Scott Chronister, who helps lead the Fairfax Coalition of Advocates for Public Schools (Fairfax CAPS), agrees with Herrity. He is concerned that many of the cuts to bring the project's cost down will reappear in future years.

Chronister said he anticipates the traffic changes that were originally planned as part of the project will be completed at a future date and that the school system will eventually purchase new furniture for building, even if they took out those expenses in their recent proposal.

"We are going to pay for those traffic changes as a result of [the project.] They are just taking it off the books and not reflecting it in the project right now so they can show some additional savings," said Chronister.

**THE SCHOOL SYSTEM** had predicted its first administrative building, Gatehouse I, would save them over \$20 million. Instead, the building ended up reducing costs by \$10 million, in part because they were unable to eliminate as many positions as they had originally planned.

"The first cost savings weren't what they said they were going to be," said Herrity.

Tistadt said the school system is likely to "realize" most of the costs savings that they had originally slated for the first administrative building project when they purchase the second office building.

At the request of Herrity and other supervisors, the school system will also present "status quo" and "lease" options along with the building purchase and building construction scenarios next week, he said.

But the school system also has pressing facility needs that would make the purchase of second administrative building advantageous, said Tistadt. The school system intends to convert many of the smaller office buildings where central office workers are currently housed into schools sites to deal with the county's growing student population, he said.

Some of the supervisors still think the administrative building purchase will be a tough sell to the public in a year when county residents are being asked to make large sacrifices in other areas of the budget.

"I think [the project] is a concept that has come at the completely wrong time. The perception of this matters. When you are increasing class sizes and cutting police services, I don't see how you can agree to purchase a new office building for administrators," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

"I just don't know that this is the right time to invest \$100 million in an administrative building. It definitely sends a wrong signal," said Foust.

## PEOPLE

# Soldiers Start Operation Soccer Smiles

Soldier explains how simple gift helps troops reach out to Afghan children.

BY LT. COL. JAMES S. OVERBYE  
U.S. ARMY

I am an active duty infantry officer, currently assigned as a Brigade level Embedded Transition Team or ETT. My team and I are assigned to the 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps of the Afghan National Army. Our mission is to coach, teach and mentor the 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps in Zabul province to become capable of conducting independent military operations. We live in close proximity to, train with and fight with our Afghan brothers. There are a total of 14 mentors currently working with the Brigade staff and headquarters. In addition to the mentorship we provide, we can also assist the Afghans by providing coalition effects when we get into a fight. These include such things as Close Air Support (CAS) or Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC). MEDEVAC can be essential to moving any wounded Afghan soldiers off the battlefield and to care very quickly.

The 2nd Brigade of the 205th Corps operates in Zabul province. Zabul Province is a rural province located in Southern Afghanistan. It is approximately 17,500 square kilometers of harsh terrain, with a population of around 365,000. The province is very poor and about 96 percent illiterate.

The climate here is also very harsh, with much of the area of Zabul consisting of high desert or mountains. The elevation here is approximately 6,000 feet in the valley, and much higher in the surrounding mountains. The province also has shares a border with Pakistan. The predominant language spoken in Zabul Province is Pashto.

The 2nd Brigade consists of five subordinate battalions or Kandaks. Each Kandak has approximately 600 soldiers. The first, second and third Kandaks are all rifle Kandaks. The 4th Kandak is a Combat Sup-



Soldiers distribute soccer balls to young people in Afghanistan.

port (CS) Kandak and has an artillery battery, an engineer company and a recon company. The 5th Kandak is the Combat Service Support (CSS) Kandak and has all the associated logistical support assets for the Brigade. There are ETTs assigned with each of the subordinate Kandaks. These ETTs live and work with the Kandaks they are mentoring. Generally, each of these Kandak level ETTs consists of approximately 14 Americans. These Americans are deployed on small Forward Operating Bases throughout the 17,500 square kilometers of the province that the Brigade is deployed over, so my soldiers and I get out to some fairly remote parts of Afghanistan on a routine basis.

In our patrols with the Afghan National Army throughout the province, we come into contact with a lot of children that live in some very poor and challenging conditions. Nearly 50 percent of Zabul Province is under the age of 18, so there are a lot of young people here. We continue to be impressed how friendly and open they are to us, and everyone wants to try and do something to help them and make their lives just a little bit better.

A few weeks back, one of the officers on my team, Maj. Aaron Wolfe, received some soccer balls from someone back in the

States. On a recent patrol, we had the Afghan National Army soldiers we were with pass these balls out to the children we encountered in the villages. The soccer balls were a great success with the kids and they really enjoyed them. An Afghan National Army officer mentioned that it is "better to have the children learning to play soccer than learning to fight."

Soccer balls provide a couple of advantages; first, they are something that kids can play with collectively, encouraging them to play together. Secondly, they provide the young people with something to do, a short distraction from the normal occurrences of their day-to-day lives. Lastly, when they are given to them by fellow Afghans serving in the Afghan National Army, the children see the balls as coming from the legitimate government of Afghanistan. This helps to promote the government in the eyes of the young people, something that we very much want to do in an environment like Afghanistan, especially in a province which has so many young people. The only problem we have now with our program is that we ran out of balls. This is where Operation Soccer Smiles comes in.

I got the idea for the Operation from a woman in Texas that sent us some care packages through the Anysoldier.com pro-

"They provide the young people with something to do, a short distraction from the normal occurrences of their day-to-day lives."

gram. In her note, she asked if there was anything else she could do to help, and I mentioned our desire to obtain some soccer balls. Since she is a graduate from Texas A & M, and lives near the campus, she mentioned that she would approach the university about making a donation. She also thought that perhaps other schools, sports organizations, churches or other organizations might want to get involved. Since the goal of the program is to collect soccer balls for young people, she aptly suggested that we call the program Operation Soccer Smiles.

The operation is still in its very early stages, but we hope to receive our first balls shortly. Once that is done, we will provide photos to those organizations contributing, so they can see the benefit of their contribution. Who knows, perhaps there is someone out there that may be interested in supporting this program by developing a Web site or something. I really don't know the best way to move forward, as I am a soldier and not a businessman or marketing person. I do know however that providing soccer balls to young people may potentially have a very positive influence on their lives here in Southern Afghanistan.

*Editor note: Jim Overbye, now serving in Afghanistan, headed George Mason University's ROTC program. Overbye leads a team of 14 U.S. mentors embedded with an Afghan army brigade of about 3,000 Afghans. Also among the team of 14 is George Greanias of Springfield. The Connection will print occasional updates from these local soldiers. To contact Overbye, send e-mail to me at mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com and I will forward the messages. In this week's dispatch, Overbye seeks donations of soccer balls for Afghan youth.*

## PEOPLE NOTES

**The Phillips School** on Braddock Road in Annandale was chosen by Ernst & Young to be a recipient of their corporate volunteer program. Projects planned include one-on-one mentoring sessions, painting playground equipment, grounds beautification, creating memory books for children in foster care and painting a mural inside the school. The Ernst & Young employee volunteers, Phillips students, staff and trustees work side by side, with three teams throughout the school and the grounds to complete their assigned projects. Ernst & Young will provide all of the necessary supplies needed for the days' activities, and will be filming an internal use only Mid-Atlantic Cares Day

corporate documentary featuring Phillips children and staff. Founded in 1967, Phillips Programs is a private non-profit organization comprised of two special education day schools and community service programs, Phillips Teaching Homes and Phillips Family Partners, dedicated to serving the needs of children with mental, emotional and behavioral disabilities, and their families throughout the Washington, D.C. area.

**Brian P. Foley** has been named provost of Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus (MEC) in Springfield. Foley will serve as the executive and academic leader for the MEC overseeing all campus plan-

ning, development and policy matters. In addition, his responsibilities as provost will include coordinating the budget, personnel management and recruitment of faculty and staff; as well as program development and specialized accreditation.

Prior to his appointment, Foley served the college in various positions including special assistant to the president, dean of Allied Health and acting dean of Nursing & Surgical Technician, and most recently as interim provost.

Before joining NOVA, Foley spent 30 years as an Army Medical Services Corps Officer. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2001 with the rank of colonel. His military assignments culminated in his

appointment as the deputy commander for administration at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Foley obtained his bachelor's degree in Sociology from Providence College, R.I. He received a masters in education degree from Georgia State University and was awarded a master of health administration from the U.S. Army Baylor University Graduate Program.

**Mary Beth Hazelgrove** has been named executive director of Preemies Today, headquartered in Springfield. Her responsibilities include coordinating current programs, meeting with NICU staffs and determining how Preemies Today can help given available

resources, offering lectures and discussions, recruiting and coordinating volunteer efforts and continuing and expanding the company's presence in the community. She will also collaborate with various non-profit agencies, both locally and nationally, geared toward improving outcomes for children born prematurely.

Hazelgrove earned a bachelors degree in history from the University of Mary Washington. She has license to teach elementary education in the state of Virginia and has taught in Fairfax County Public Schools. Prior to teaching, Hazelgrove was a Peace Corps volunteer in Eastern Europe, where she taught in a small village school.



From left are U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Kathy Paz-Mingledorff, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Lily Paz, Alex Paz, Adam Mingledorff, Dr. Jennifer Howse and U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.)

## Mother Speaks on Capitol Hill

FROM PAGE 3

then eventually she found a better job and obtained private insurance. "We used the program as it was intended to," she said. "It was a step for us to be able to get back to supporting ourselves. It helped us to make it."

"Kathy's story was very compelling because the insurance that she had through Medicaid and SCHIP really helped her to move forward to the position she is now," said Donna Dei, state director of program services for the Maryland National Capital Area Chapter of the March of Dimes. "SCHIP helped her over the hump."

"[Alex] is doing very well now, but that did not come without a price tag and without the need for some type of health coverage to get the family through."

Paz-Mingledorff has been active with the March of Dimes for six years, since her son turned 1. As founder and president of Premies Today, a nationwide sup-

port organization for families of premature children, she's also been an on-call advocate for the organization.

In 2007, the first time the SCHIP bill came up for reauthorization, Paz-Mingledorff was invited to testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of families of children with disabilities. The bill passed both the House of Representatives and Senate, but President Bush vetoed it twice.

The reauthorization deadline was extended to March 2009, so when the Democrats took the House this last election, they pushed for the passage again.

"It was amazing to be part of the democratic process," Paz-Mingledorff said. "We were extremely happy with the passing," said Paz-Mingledorff "When it was going up to be signed by the Senate, Nancy Pelosi wanted the kids up there for a conference she was having. ... It was an amazing day."

President Obama authorized expanding SCHIP coverage from 7 million to 11 million youngsters earlier this month.

## 'Fantasticks'

FROM PAGE 4

monologues that he has by himself. He says he loves community theater, having performed in about 20 plays counting high school. He aspires to be a professional actor on Broadway. "They're good people and very supportive," he said of his colleagues.

Fred Lash, 64, of West Springfield plays the aging actor Henry who is part of a Shakespearean travelling troupe.

"He's an optimist. He sees everything in a grand and glorious way," says Lash, who works at the U.S. Department of State, office of press relations.

His biggest challenge the Indiana native said is "keeping my Shakespearean accent and not slipping into my 'Hoosier-ese.'"

Lash describes the Springfield group as vibrant. "Community theater should be fun because you don't get paid for it."

Jon Roberts, 60, of Great Falls plays the role of Hucklebee, Matt's father who's obsessed with gardening. He's plotting to have his son marry his next door neighbor's daughter.

Roberts' biggest challenge is making sure the dance numbers are as absurd as they need to be. "It's a total change from my day job, which is why the whole thing is fun," said Roberts, who works as a patent lawyer in Reston. "In this show, you're permitted to be somebody totally different."

He particularly likes Springfield Community Theatre because "You get an opportunity to do many different things which is fun," he adds.

Joseph LeBlanc, 65, of Arlington plays the girl's father Bellomy, who's trying to arrange his daughter's life. "So as fools, they make foolish plans, which, of course, turn out disastrously at first, but this being a romantic comedy, eventually works out."

George Willis, 46, of Springfield plays El Gallo, the narrator/bandit and catalyst in the show. "He plays the closest thing to a villain. He's manipulative and mysterious and helps facilitate the whole ruse," said Willis, who works as an engineering consultant.

The fun part for him is "I'm the guy who knows what's going on in everything. With lots of stage direction, I stand there and look good."

### CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**The Workhouse Arts Center**, a program of the Lorton Arts Center, has a variety of beginning, intermediate and advanced visual arts and performing arts classes. Drawing, painting, glass, ceramics, fiber arts, photography, creative writing, dance, theater and film. 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 703-584-2900 or [www.lortonarts.org](http://www.lortonarts.org).

**The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** is currently accepting registrations for the Winter 2009

term. Stimulating courses for retirees and adults 50+. Locations in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling. Call 703-503-3384, e-mail [olli@gmu.edu](mailto:olli@gmu.edu), or visit [www.olli.gmu.edu](http://www.olli.gmu.edu).

**Colorful World**, a small minority women-owned education consulting organization in Springfield providing diversity education consulting, training and resources, offers several classes at the center, 7001 Loisdale Road, Suite C-215, Springfield. For more, visit [www.colorfulworld.com](http://www.colorfulworld.com) or call 703-778-9910.

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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. 19

**South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC) Kick-Off Meeting**, 6-9 p.m. at Pane è Vino Restaurant, 9020 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite E, Lorton. SFCC brings together diverse business and civic leaders in Lorton, Laurel Hill, Newington, Fort Belvoir, South Springfield, Burke, Fairfax Station, Clifton, Occoquan and Woodbridge. Monthly meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, in the Media Center. All interested parties are invited to consider membership. www.SouthFairfaxChamber.org.

**Make New Friends**, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about friendship. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**L.A. Theatre Works and "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial,"** 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

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

**Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual Mardi Gras Casino Night**, 7-11 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road in Springfield. Prizes, food and fun. Area restaurants and caterers will be featured. Tickets in advance \$55, at the door \$65. 703-866-3500.

**Winter Night Hikes**, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Reservations required. Adults \$5, under age 16 \$3. 703-569-0285.

**"Making Connections Arts Marathon,"** a 24-hour festival of theater, art, music, film and dance activities starting 8 a.m. at George Mason University's Fine Arts Building, Performing Arts Building and the Johnson Center, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free. 703-993-8898. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa for a schedule of specific events.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**VITA Tax Assistance** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

**Weekend Pohick Rangers**, 10 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. First of a five-part program on decomposers, mammal tracking, freshwater ecosystems, nocturnal wildlife, reptiles and more. Reservations required. For ages 9-12. \$75. 703-451-9588.

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

**Wonderful Wetland Waterfowl**, 2-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Look for green-winged teals, pintails, swamp sparrows and more. For age 9 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

**Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra**, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 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 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Age 12 and under, half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

## Second Annual Monopoly

**Tournament**, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Glory Days Grill, 9459 Lorton Market St., Lorton. All proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. Entry fee \$25, including breakfast and lunch. First prize \$500. Contact Ron Kowalski at 1-888-495-6207 ext. 7 or www.lortonmonopoly.com.

**Men's Praise Movement Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Rd, Springfield. Free, for men age 16 and up. menspraiz.blogspot.com or e-mail ronkronz@gmail.com

## SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**Open House**, 2-4 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Park programs, natural resources, park and community history and more. Free. 703-569-0285.

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

**Drumline Live**, 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 6:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

## MONDAY/FEB. 23

**Rolling Valley Elementary Kindergarten Information Sessions** 10:30 a.m. at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. For parents of students who will be 5 by Sept. 9. 703-923-2700 or CerryChechile@fcps.edu.

**Writer's Group**, 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read material aloud for feedback. Adults. 703-339-4610.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 24

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

**It's Mardi Gras Time!** 4:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Celebrate Mardi Gras, its foods and traditions. Age 13-18. 703-339-7385.

**Book Discussion Group**, 7:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**St. Andrew's Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at 6509 Sydenstricker Road in Burke. Funds are raised to help youth mission trip to repair homes in Elmira, N.Y. for people with limited finances. The church youth cook and serve the meal, usually wearing Mardi Gras costumes. Contact Lisa Wakeley at lisaw@standrews.net.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

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



**The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Eleventh Annual Mardi Gras Casino Night will be Friday, Feb. 20 at the Hilton Springfield, with prizes, food and fun. Area restaurants and caterers will be featured.**

adults. 703-339-4610.

**Kingstowne Library Writers Peer Review Group**, 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Review peers' works and receive feedback. Adults. 703-339-4610.

**Mother-Daughter Book Club**, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls age 9-11 and their mothers. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 26

**Preschool Storytime**, 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

**Stories and Science**, 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories, activities and an age-appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult. 703-971-0010.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 27

**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.

**SAW Songwriters Showcase**, hosted by Margot MacDonald. 7 p.m. at Coffihouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFIHOUSE.com.

**Hike: Early Signs of Spring**, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Discover wood frogs, skunk cabbage and more. For ages 6-10. \$5 per child. 703-451-9588.

**Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics,"** 8 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**The Viandante Quartet**, 3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performed

by members of the Shenandoah University Conservancy. Includes opportunities for audience interaction with music professors Clyde Shaw and Doris Lederer. clorange@su.edu or acambel@su.edu.

**Frogs, Turtles and Snakes, Oh My.** 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Meet local critters, presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. All ages. 703-971-0010.

**VITA Tax Assistance**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

**Memory Cookbook Writing**, 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Author Kay Karim on crafting and publishing a family cookbook. Adults. 703-971-0010.

**Go Fish**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free one-day trout fishing pass. Learn catch-and-release fishing techniques. Program suitable for ages 7 and up. \$15 per child, accompanying adult free. 703-569-0285.

**Dave Parsons Dance**, 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. The company includes Billy Smith, a 2007 George Mason University dance alumnus. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics,"** 8 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 1

**Liberty Lecture Series: The Battle Over the Constitution: Reading the 18th-Century Constitution in the 21st Century**, 3 p.m. at

Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Has the Constitution been implemented as the Founders intended, and did they foresee the Constitution responding to evolving social circumstances? 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org to register.

**Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics,"** 8 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

**Studio 4 Galleries Artist's Reception**, 2-4 p.m., featuring the works of the thirteen Studio 4 resident artists at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9524 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The exhibition runs from March 4-April 26. Hours are Wednesday-Saturdays from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sundays 12-5 p.m. Visit www.workhousearts.org for a list of Workhouse artists, art classes and special events. 703-584-2974.

**Purim Pulse: A Community High School Purim Party**, 5:30-8 p.m. at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Purim party for eighth-12th graders, with interactive DJs and dancers, concert lighting, costume contest, American Idol-style contest, photo novelties and snacks. \$10. www.adatreyim.org.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 3

**Computer Tutoring**, 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get one-on-one help with computers, common software applications and navigating the Internet. Call for details and to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**VITA Tax Help**, 6-8 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Tax help. Adults. 703-339-4610.

**Teen Book Club**, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Fun, food and great book discussions. How Not to Be Popular by Jennifer Ziegler. Age 12-18. 703-249-1520.

# COLLEGE NOTES

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

Soccer player **Hannah Pearson**, a senior at the University of Mary Washington has been named to the 2008 National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas All-Mid Atlantic Region team. Pearson was named to the region's third team. Pearson, a midfielder, led the Eagles with 16 points on seven goals and two assists this season, as UMW finished with an 8-6-5 overall record. She posted two game winning goals. Earlier in the fall, Pearson was named to the All-Capital Athletic Conference first team for the second straight year. The W. T. Woodson graduate closes her career at UMW with 22 goals and 15 assists.

Jordan Ryan of Springfield has graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Suzanne Carole Stickel of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at The University of Virginia's College at Wise.

Kathryn Lois Strandell of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at South Dakota State University College of Arts and Science in Brookings, S.D.

Kyle Emily Schmitz of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Shepherd University

of **Shepherdstown, W.Va. Schmitz, a junior, is the daughter of Dave and Holly Schmitz.**

Haley Schmitz of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Radford University's College of Visual and Performing Arts in Radford. Schmitz, a sophomore, is the daughter of Dave and Holly Schmitz.

Catherine Rupp of Springfield has been awarded a bachelor of science in nursing from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Ill.

Kristin Taylor Staffo of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Washington and Lee University in Lexington. Staffo is the daughter of Gary T. Staffo and Jocelyn E. Owens of Springfield.

Lauren M. Harper of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va.

Holly-Tenya Hantke of Springfield has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. Hantke, a senior Spanish major, is the daughter of Jeanette Hantke.

Alexander Davis of Springfield has graduated magna cum laude from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Jillian Harris of Springfield has graduated cum laude from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.



Jason W. Gillis has received a bachelor's degree in computer engineering with honors from Virginia Tech. He was on the dean's list for six semesters and is a member of the Gold Key Honor Society. He completed a cooperative education program with General Electric FANUC Robotics and GE Industrial Systems, and is currently a computer systems engineer. The 2004 graduate of West Springfield High School is the son of Susan and Matthew Gillis of Springfield.

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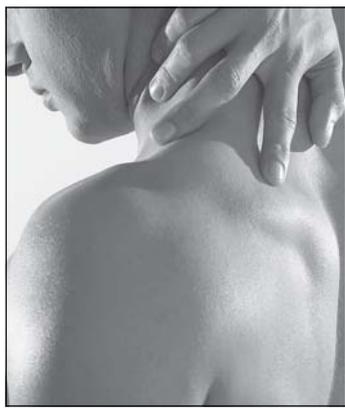
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## COMMUNITY

# State Award for Eckerlin

**NVCC biology professor has taught for more than 40 years.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**D**r. Ralph P. Eckerlin, 71, of the Ravensworth Farm area of Annandale has received the 2009 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Dominion. Twelve faculty members from Virginia's public and private colleges and universities received the award, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration and public service.

In his 38th year at Northern Virginia Community College, Eckerlin, a longtime biology professor, is the only community college faculty member to receive the award this year.

"My job is to try to make the difficult stuff more understandable. And yet, we have to maintain a standard, otherwise our degree doesn't mean much," said Eckerlin.

He teaches the advanced human anatomy and physiology courses as well as general biology, and an overwhelming majority of those people are not even science majors.

NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. congratulated Eckerlin on behalf of the College. "We are very pleased Dr. Eckerlin was selected for this prestigious honor. Throughout the years, Ralph has consistently demonstrated his strong commitment to teaching while also pursuing significant research in his field. His dedication was confirmed by the many letters of recommendation written by students and colleagues in support of his nomination," Templin said.

"He's committed to teaching. He does a good job at it," said Dr. Alfred Gardner, curator of North American Mammals at the National Museum of Natural History. He's known him for better than 20 years. "He's fairly low key but he's earnest."

A colleague of Eckerlin for 42 years, Walter Bulmer recommended him for the award. "He's a very dedicated person to his profession. He's one of those kinds of people who stays at the school until 7:30 at night and he's there 7 days," he said. "His students seem to like him. He always gives them extra help."

As a co-author of the biology laboratory manual in use at the Annandale Campus, Eckerlin has influ-

enced the education of thousands of students.

"I enjoy what I do and what I do mostly is teaching," Eckerlin said. "I have been a professional teacher for more than 40 years and it is still a pleasure to get up in the morning and go to work. At the community college, we see the broadest spectrum of ages and abilities. The challenge for me is to try to reach all of them."

Believing hands-on training to be an important learning tool, Eckerlin has led or co-led several student trips to study tropical biology in such places as Mexico, Central America, the Bahamas and the West Indies, providing experiences that are unusual for community college students.

As a parasitologist with numerous interests, Eckerlin has described four new species of parasites: a protozoan, a louse and two fleas. He has also published on ticks, nematodes and trematodes.

Eckerlin is also a prolific writer. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, has contributed three book chapters and edited a volume of contributed papers for a book on Appalachian Biogeography for the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He has been a member of the editorial board for the journal "Comparative Parasitology" for 24 years and served that publication as editor for five years.

Eckerlin doesn't just belong to 14 professional organizations, he has an extensive record of service to those groups. In addition to serving as president of the Entomological Society of Washington, Helminthological Society of Washington, Virginia Association for Biological Education and the Tropical Medicine Association of Washington, he readily shares his expertise with many professional committees.

Eckerlin has a doctorate in parasitology from the University of Connecticut. When he's not teaching, he enjoys travelling to Alaska, Australia, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Costa Rica. He and his wife Mary live in Annandale and have two daughters, Laura and Linda.



**Dr. Ralph Eckerlin**

**"My job is to try to make the difficult stuff more understandable."**

**— Dr. Ralph Eckerlin, NVCC Biology Professor**

## HEALTH NOTES

**How To Handle Backcountry Emergencies.** Northern Virginia Community College is sponsoring a hands-on Wilderness First Responder course March 7-15 in Springfield. This intensive backcountry medical training course will show how to deal with medical emergencies when miles from help. Graduates will be certified by Wilderness Medical Associates. Call 703-323-3230 and ask for Continuing Education at Northern Virginia Community College or Wilderness Medical Associates at 1-888-WILDMED.

**The Fairfax County Health Department's Adult Day Health Care Centers and the George Mason Regional Library** are offering a series of three free seminars for caregivers dealing with the care of adults having cognitive or physical disabilities. The seminars will be held at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. For registration or to request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-750-3316. TTY 771

◆ Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.:

Caregiving Options for Adults.

◆ March 7, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: Dealing with Alzheimer's and Dementia Management at Home.

**Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia LLC monthly support group meeting,** Sunday March 1 at 1:30 p.m. at Inova Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Fairfax, Physicians Conference Center. Free. Lisa Khan, representative of ConvaTec Ostomy Products will discuss newest advances. 703-802-3457.

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# Meet Palmer from 'Poly

With 609 wins, coach travels from California to Franconia.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

Most freshman girls basketball assistants don't have 609 wins on their résumé. The majority of them haven't been mentioned in a Hall of Famer's acceptance speech and very few, if any, have a building named after them.

Then again, Hayfield's Ron Palmer wasn't the typical freshman girls basketball coach when he applied for a position with the team in 2005.

**"When I was at Poly, we were the T.C. Williams of the area."**

**— Coach Ron Palmer, Hayfield Secondary**

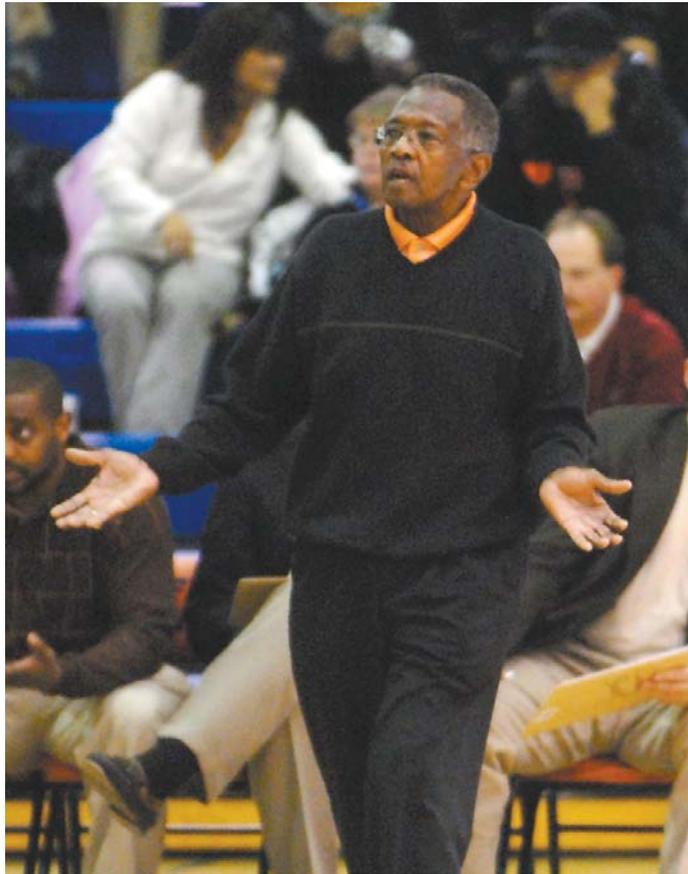
bit of experience."

That Palmer had. He coached at California's Long Beach Polytechnic High School for 25 years and amassed a record

Palmer, who's now in his second year as the head coach of Hayfield's boys basketball program, has taken a rather circuitous and successful route to his current job and it started with that consultant-like position for the Lady Hawks.

"We ran an ad for an assistant freshman girls basketball coach," said Steve Kewer, Hayfield director of student activities, "and at that point you're just looking for someone who has a little

SEE ALONG, PAGE 14



FILE PHOTO

**In his second year on Hayfield's bench, boys basketball coach Ron Palmer has the Hawks at 18-5 entering Thursday's Patriot District semifinal matchup with Annandale.**

# Biddison to West Springfield

With departure of Bill Renner, J.T. Biddison takes over on Spartan sideline.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

Offense has been the hallmark of West Springfield's football program lately. After the departure of 10-year veteran Bill Renner in early December, the team could take a decidedly defensive shape this fall.

J.T. Biddison, who spent the past six seasons as the head coach at Marshall High School in Falls Church, was chosen late last week to succeed Renner. A self-described defensive specialist, Biddison hopes to improve a defense that allowed 28.8 points per game last fall.

Still, Biddison doesn't want to change much from a high-flying offense that accumulated 527 total points, 5,910 yards of offense and scored an average of 43.9 points per game last season.

"I'm sure I won't have the exact same philosophies of coach Renner, but I like scoring points," said Biddison, who accumulated a mark of 26-36 at Marshall, his first head-coaching job. "I've been coaching offense

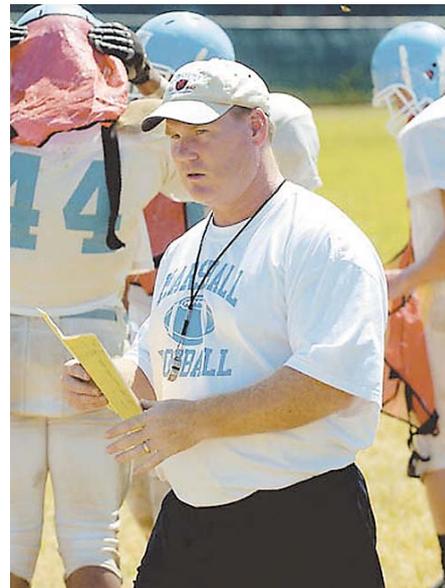
the last couple years at Marshall, but my passion is more on the defensive side of the ball. So, I'll probably take a look at how the defense is run over there."

Biddison inherits a West Springfield team that finished 8-4 last season and reached the Division 6 semifinals, dropping a 49-43 heartbreaker to eventual region champion Oakton.

The Spartans will lose quarterback Bryn Renner, tailback Brandon Bailey and wide receivers Andy Stallings and Tucker Tobin to graduation, but they return backup tailback Dan Collins, who ran for 351 yards and three touchdowns during a 72-47 quarterfinal win over W.T. Woodson.

Biddison, a W.T. Woodson graduate, spent seven years after college as an assistant coach at his alma mater and then moved to Lake Braddock for three more. He assumed control of a downtrodden Marshall program and had the Statesmen at 7-3 in his fourth year.

"[West Springfield] had had a very strong program, especially in the last couple of years," said Biddison, who teaches math and



FILE PHOTO

**J.T. Biddison, who spent the last six seasons as the head football coach at Marshall High School, will take over the West Springfield Spartans this fall.**

special education. He hopes to land a teaching job as well at West Springfield. "I'm real excited to be a part of the Spartan community."

## WEEK IN SPORTS

### Borja Overcomes Sickness

Initially asked to talk about his 6-1 win over Oakton's Chris Butters on Feb. 14, Hayfield senior Ray Borja declined the offer. The 125-pound wrestler was sick and he needed to see a trainer.

Borja grabbed a bag of ice, placed it on the back of his neck and hoped that his fever would stay down. On Tuesday, Borja topped out at 102 degrees, but none of it mattered after he won his second consecutive Northern Region title.

"It feels good to repeat last year's championship, but I guess my sickness prevented me from doing my best," Borja said. "But it did help me focus. My coach [Roy Hill] says when you're sick you're more focused because you know what you need to do to win."

Borja, along with teammates Shane Schumack (second, 160); J.P. Ithier (third, 130); Lewin Romero (third, 135); and Ronnie Ours (fourth, 140); will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state finals at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

"I'm definitely looking forward to states and being healthy," Borja said. "I can't wait."

### Springfield Swim Shorts

The Lake Braddock girls swim and dive team earned a fourth-place finish at this past weekend's Northern Region championships. Behind the fifth-place 200-yard medley relay team (Christina McGarry, Alessandra Troncoso, Jordan Parry and Alyssa McGarry), the Bruins totaled 190 points. On the boys side, Lake Braddock took 12th with 88.5 points, led by its fifth-place 200 medley relay team (David Maquera, Tyler Ogren, Nick Laffose and Troy Chewing) as well. ... The Lee boys, keyed by Steven Gifford's seventh-place finish in the 100 freestyle (48.09) were 15th. ... West Springfield's girls earned 10th place and the boys team took 18th. Kathryn Sieracki was the girls team's top finisher, taking fifth in the 200 IM with a time of 2:13.78. John Trope was fifth in the 1-meter dive for the boys with a score of 421.05. ... Edison's David Kiss earned second in the 100 fly (50.18) for the ninth-place Eagle boys.

### Bruins Take Advantage

Ask any coach after any sporting

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 13

## SPORTS

# Along Came Palmer from 'Poly

FROM PAGE 12

of 609-150. Moreover, his teams won 19 district titles, eight region crowns and both state and national titles.

Oh, and come to think of it, Palmer also coached MLB Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn and the NFL's Willie McGinest. Gwynn even cited Palmer's influence during his 2007 induction speech.

"When I was at Poly, we were the T.C. Williams of the area," said Palmer, whose team opened its Patriot District tournament Tuesday night with a 58-34 win over West Potomac and will face Annandale Thursday night at Lake Braddock.

**SO HOW DOES** a California High School Hall of Famer, whose former employer named its gymnasium the "Ron Palmer Pavilion," end up on Telegraph Road?

In 2001, Palmer's wife, retired from a career spent as a personnel director in both the Long Beach and Pasadena school districts. But, like her soon-to-be restless husband, that didn't stop her from accepting a job at America's Choice, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit that focuses on evaluating and improving education systems.

Ron Palmer, 70, was still a few years away from retirement, so it was decided that Marietta Palmer would take the job and the next three years were spent flying across the country to see each other on breaks and holidays.

Then in 2003, Palmer retired and moved with Marietta to a house next to Edison High School in Alexandria. However, Palmer's granddaughter was diagnosed with cancer and he spent all of 2004 back in Long Beach.

When his granddaughter eventually succumbed to the disease, Palmer returned to the area in 2005 and answered Kewer's ad for an assistant freshman girls basketball coach.

**"Basketball is basketball, and if you love basketball you love to be around it"**

— Coach Ron Palmer, Hayfield Secondary

"It was a good experience because I don't think we won a game that year," Palmer said. "You need something like that every once in a while to put everything in perspective."

Palmer started under head coach Richard Carlock, who saw an opportunity to learn a thing or two about the profession. Carlock, now in his fourth year, has been trying to mold the Hayfield girls program into a consistent winner.

"I spoke with him on a daily basis, trying to persuade him to help me on the girls varsity side," Carlock said. He's talked to me about being patient. Coming from a man like that, that's very strong to me because he's been there."

From his initial job on the freshman team, Palmer took a varsity assistant job with Hayfield's boys team the next year. Then after head coach David Abella stepped down prior to the 2007-08 season, Palmer interviewed for the head-coaching job.

Almost comically, Palmer didn't list his 609 wins during the interview process. He also didn't mention the Ron Palmer Pavilion or that he used to make Tony Gwynn run suicides.

"He's a modest man because he never talked about that at all," Kewer said. "When [Abella] took over, we had just been split with South County, so we lost players, people and population, and coach Palmer has brought stability back into the program"

"Basketball is basketball, and if you love basketball you love to be around it," said Palmer, whose team was 14-8 last season and has a record of 18-5 entering Thursday's matchup with Annandale. "The whole thing about basketball, it's teaching.

"A lot of people refer to it as coaching, but if you put the emphasis on teaching then the experience is the same. If you only worry about winning, you'll never understand what basketball is all about in terms of relating to kids and helping them grow."

FROM PAGE 12

event and they won't deny it: home-field or home-court advantage is exactly that, an advantage. But in gymnastics, that advantage has an added level of importance because competitors don't have to adjust to a new set of equipment.

"You're comfortable because you know what to expect," said Lake Braddock coach Ellen Hagan-

### WEEK IN SPORTS

Bowerman after this past weekend's Northern Region championships, which took place at Lake Braddock. "It's what they practice on every day."

Lake Braddock took advantage of its familiar surroundings with a second-place finish, trailing Chantilly by a score of 144.250-138.775.

The Bruins were led by senior Emily Parillo, who finished second on vault, tied for sixth on bars, first on the balance beam and second on floor. Parillo trailed only Chantilly's Elly Taura for all-around honors, 37.675-37.525.

"I just wanted to hit all of my events," said Parillo, who, along with her team, will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state championships at West Potomac. "The crowd was really good and they helped me a lot."

Edison's Hannah Tecson finished eighth in the all-around portion, tying for 24th on vault (8.750), sixth



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Lake Braddock senior Emily Parillo finished second to Chantilly's Elly Taura during the all-around portion of the Northern Region girls gymnastics finals.**

on bars (8.925) and fourth on the balance beam (9.050). She also took 17th on floor (8.950). The Eagles earned 129.525 team points, good enough for sixth place.

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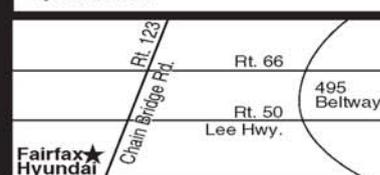
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# OPINION

## No to Gatehouse II

### Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated inside the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

#### EDITORIAL

## Setting Record Straight

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a constituent who was concerned about a vote I made in Richmond that they thought would change the prohibition against legislators raising money during session. This was absolutely not the case. House Bill 1634 would have made it unlawful to attend any charitable or community organization fundraising event during session, even though a legislative campaign would not benefit in any way. These events help build community and help good causes. I often attend these events as a private citizen or benefactor. This bill did little or nothing to reform campaign finance. Therefore, instead, I voted for my good friend, Del. Chris Saxman's (R-20) bill, HB 1635. As amended, this bill would prohibit all gifts to legislators during session, anything from a dinner, to a T-shirt, to a potato chip at a reception. This bill also did not change the prohibition against fund-raising during session, which all members of the House of Delegates adhere to, myself included.

Legislation is very complicated and often good intentions can have unintended consequences. This is why I voted against HB

1634 and for the much stronger HB 1635. House Bill 1635 is real campaign reform.

Please feel free to call me about legislation you have questions about during session. I have been in contact with hundreds of constituents during the General Assembly Session and would like to hear from you.

You can reach me at [deldmarsden@house.virginia.gov](mailto:deldmarsden@house.virginia.gov) or 800-889-0229.

It is an honor to represent you and I look forward to seeing you back in the district when I return from Richmond.

**Del. David Marsden**  
D-41

## A Rooster In Any Language

To the Editor:

Some years ago, when I was teaching English to ninth graders, we were studying etymology, the origin of words.

I said, "Do you know in Spain that the roosters say 'cocorico'? Why is that?"

The class came up with several explanations, the most memorable one was "The farmers speak to them in Spanish."

After a minute or two some students began to have peculiar expressions in their faces so I

laughed and said, "Roosters make the same noise the world over, but in Spain its spelled cocorico."

Today's teenagers may be street-wise but in some ways they are still childlike.

Now in Springfield, we have a restaurant called "the cock-a-doodle-doo" in English!

**Grace O'Donoghue**  
Springfield

## Bell Schedule Changes

To the Editor:

I noticed that there have been a few letters in various editions of the Connection Newspapers recently from parents who had concerns about the possible bell schedule change being looked into by the Fairfax County School Board. There are several points I would like to address in depth.

I would like to reassure these parents that their fears of permanent and crippling disruption are unfounded, as evidenced by the many school systems across the country and in our own backyard, which have made this change successfully.

I would like to note that studies have shown that teens in school systems with later start times do gain an average of one hour of sleep per night. I would like to point out that sleep (an average

of 9 1/4 hours) is just as important to adolescents as for younger children for the important developmental work teens are still doing in their bodies and brains, as well as to ward off stress-related disorders such as obesity, diabetes, depression and even the common cold (see research on the relationship between the stress hormone cortisol, which is processed out of the body during sleep, and these disorders at the National Sleep Foundation [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)).

The proposed bell schedule takes into account the sleep needs, learning windows and biological clocks of both elementary-age children and teens (again, see the NSF Web site for the research). More refinements should be worked on by Transportation staff to collapse the bell schedule "window" (time between earliest and latest start times), and FCPS staff are working to find solutions to possible conflicts for after-school programs, sports and activities—conflicts that have been resolved in other jurisdictions.

Give them a chance to smooth off the rough edges, then look at the full proposal in light of the well-researched, long- and short-term health and learning benefits for Fairfax County students.

**Lisa Priebe**  
SLEEP Pyramid Coordinator  
South County Secondary  
Springfield

— MARY KIMM  
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# NEWS BRAC 133

FROM PAGE 3

tary base to which it pertains, is part of the 2005 BRAC law.

**IN SEPTEMBER 2008**, Mark Center was picked as the new home of BRAC 133 over the Victory Center on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria and the GSA Warehouses in Springfield. Both of the other sites have immediate access to rail mass transit, Mark Center does not. That fact has been the major complaint of those favoring the GSA site.

"The jobs being moved to the Mark Center currently are from the Pentagon and Crystal City — locations with transit readily available. Now employees at the Mark Center site will be moved away from direct transit services," McKay and Bulova stated in their Feb. 13 letter to President Obama and U.S. Reps. James P. Moran (D-8) and Gerald Connolly (D-11).

"Transportation should have been a key component of the BRAC 133 decision; however, it does not appear to have been sufficiently factored into the decision. We believe the Army's decision will put more cars on the road, and pull more people off mass transit," they stated.

"The Army explanation is that the BRAC deadline of 2011 drove their decision and that the Mark Center was the only location that met the Congressional deadline," McKay and Bulova said.

"Now that we have a new administration with a transit friendly agenda, we must take another look at this decision. The BRAC 133 decision was a perfect example of old policies; where instead of looking at the long term effects of a decision a premature one was made to meet a paper deadline. New leadership should take a fresh look at utilizing the GSA site for BRAC 133," they stated.

Moran's office said they had received the letter but as far as they were concerned the matter was closed as far as BRAC 133 was concerned. "We did everything we could to have the GSA site become the new home of BRAC 133. But, we will continue to pursue the GSA site for use in the future by other government agencies," said Moran Press Secretary Austin Durrer.

**AS FOR FORT BELVOIR**, they also acknowledged that in their view the Mark Center site was moving forward. "We are now in an execute mode," said Donald Dees, public information officer, Fort Belvoir. "We will continue to do what we are doing under the BRAC orders unless we are told otherwise. Anything else would be speculative on our part and counter productive for us."

Connolly was not available for comment as of Tuesday afternoon. However, last Thursday morning, while speaking at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting, he called for the Army to "revisit their decision" to place BRAC 133 at the Mark Center. "I think BRAC 133 can be revisited," he said without giving any specifics.

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AT&T Corporation intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 4904 Mattie Moore Court in Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22030. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as Boulevard Estates will consist of the construction of a 50-foot by 50-foot fenced compound that will enclose a 125-foot tall monopole with a four-foot tall lightning rod. A strong-well box and CSC cabinet, and an electric meter and telco board will be installed in the southern corner of the compound. Additionally an 11-foot by 11-foot concrete pad will be installed in the northern corner of the compound. Equipment cabinets and associated equipment will be installed on the concrete pad and an icebridge will extend from the equipment to the monopole. AT&T antennas will be installed on the monopole at a height of 120 feet. Underground power and telco lines will extend southwest and then southeast from the electric meter and telco board located in the southern corner of the compound to an existing utility pole located along Mattie Moore Court. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o markos9@atcassociates.com

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## Hamilton, Sibert To Wed

**Patti and David Hamilton of Springfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Kincaid Hamilton, to Chadd Edward Sibert. The bride is a 1998 graduate of West Springfield High School who received her bachelor's degree from James Madison University and her master's degree from Shenandoah University. Hamilton works as a pediatric physician assistant in Reston. The groom is the son of Barbara and Thomas Sibert of New Oxford, Pa. He graduated from Penn State University with a degree in industrial engineering, and works as a cost engineer for the Department of Defense. An April 2009 wedding is planned in Springfield.**

FROM PAGE 4

The bill would have required utility companies to reduce their energy consumption 19 percent by 2025 and lead to a reduction in the monthly electric bills of most Virginia residents, according to the environmental groups.

"He has ignored the wants of his constituents and most of the people in Northern Virginia," said Allison Fisher, with Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, a group that works with faith communities to combat global warming.

Saslaw did not respond to The Connection Newspapers phone calls asking him to comment.

Fisher said a few members of congregations in Saslaw's senate district, which straddles Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria, as well as students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology had traveled to Richmond to ask Saslaw to support the bill.

But Saslaw was the final representative and only Democrat on the State Senate's Commerce and Labor Commit-

tee to vote against the legislation Feb. 9.

Without his vote, the bill's tally has been seven Democrats in favor and seven Republicans against, according to the Virginia General Assembly Web site. Northern Virginia's two other senators on the committee, Toddy Puller and Mark Herring, voted in favor of the legislation.

"His record on environmental issues is abysmal and it doesn't reflect his constituents' general concern for the environment," said Glen Besa, from the Virginia chapter of The Sierra Club.

The commonwealth's public utility companies had fought the bill and those companies rank among Saslaw's largest political contributors. Dominion Power, Virginia's largest utility company, has been Saslaw's largest political donor over the last 12 years, giving \$115,508 to his campaign overall, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

"As majority leader, one of his responsibilities is to raise money for the Democratic Party and big polluters are big contributors," said Besa.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## FAITH NOTES

**Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church Ladies Guild** will serve meatless meals every Friday during Lent, Feb. 27-April 3. Meals will be available for takeout or dining in, at the church at 3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale. Pirohi, haluski, homemade vegetarian soup and desserts, Slovak and Ukrainian handiwork and ceramics, nutrolls, cookbooks and more. Call 703-573-0777 Fridays after 12 p.m. or visit [www.epiphanyofourlord.org](http://www.epiphanyofourlord.org).

**Tying the Knot: A Pre-Marriage Workshop for Couples.** March 12-April 2, 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. \$75 per couple. To register visit [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

**One God Ministry Church**, located at 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, has launched a new Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11

a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women's, Men's, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or [www.onegodministry.org](http://www.onegodministry.org).

**Lord of Life Lutheran Church** presents Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth and better manage their finances. Contact Arlene K. Darke at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. 703-323-9500 or [adarke@lordoflifelutheran.com](mailto:adarke@lordoflifelutheran.com).

**New Women's Bible Study** meets at Jubilee Christian Center on Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. The study will focus on "Spirit, Soul, and Body" by Andrew Wommack. \$10 per person. Nursery provided for registered children. 703-383-1170 or [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).



**Louisa County \$1,250,000**  
Spectacular 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3730 sq.ft. estate located on 97 pastoral acres with gorgeous views. E-mail: dan.racette@longandfooster.com  
**Dan Racette 540-894-7777**



**Fairfax City \$549,625 City Lifestyle**  
Walk to everything in charming downtown Fairfax from this elegant townhome. With over 3300 finished sq. ft. this home offers the best in quality and design. The master suite complete with loft and gas fireplace is a must to see while the updates and upgrades are to numerous to list.  
**Ellie Wester 703-503-1880**



**Burke \$225,000 Not Your Average Condo!**  
Wooded 41 acres make this condo development an oasis in the midst of Burke. 1226 SF 2 BR, 2 BA. Updated MBR BA. Fresh paint. Full size washer & dryer in unit. Ample storage.  
**Melody Elliott 703-963-8074**



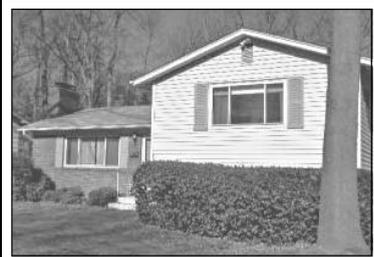
**Gainesville \$337,500**  
Live 55+ your way ... serenity, activities, golf in Heritage Hunt adult community. Easy care rambler - 2 BR, 2 bath, gourmet kitchen, LR, DR, den, 2 car garage & patio. Across from golf course & close to clubhouse, fitness center & pools.  
**Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747**



**Alexandria \$385,000**  
All brick rambler with 2 car garage, sun room addition, loads of updates on great lot just minutes to metro, 1495 & 195.  
**Rob Paxton 703-307-4268**



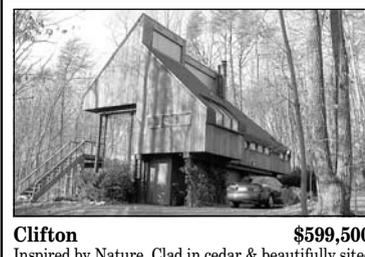
**Alexandria \$500,000**  
This 5BR, 3.5BA colonial features updated kitchen with GE appliances, maple cabinets. French door to sunroom. Hardwood floors on main and upper level. 2 FP Close to Kingstown shopping and dining, and all major routes. Also close to 2 military bases.  
**Ramesh Amini 703-503-1482**



**Fairfax City \$524,900**  
3 BR, 3 BA, 4 Level Split on Army Navy CC Golf Course HWD FLRS on Main & Upper Levels, New Heating & Cooling, Hot Water Heater. Minutes to Vienna Metro.  
**Cyndi Burruss 703-395-2310**



**Springfield \$510,000 Spacious Front Porch**  
3 Level Colonial. 4 BR, 3.5 Baths + Den. Kitchen Island w/Jennaire. Fam Rm w/BI Bookshelves, Fpl & SGD to patio & fenced yard. Skylight. Bsmt exit. 2 car garage.  
**Joel Lutkenhouse 703-969-6442**



**Clifton \$599,500**  
Inspired by Nature. Clad in cedar & beautifully sited in the treetops this 3 bed, 1.5 bath contemporary home brings the outdoors in thru walls of glass & skylights! Dramatic 2 story great room, kit w/greenhouse windows, terra cotta tile & SS appliances, hrdwd flrs thruout. Large deck & two + car garage. Private one acre near village of Clifton.  
**Debbie Besley 703-346-5103**



**Alexandria/Mt. Vernon \$739,900 Often Sought, Seldom Found**  
Stately colonial with beautiful backyard in water-oriented community. Totally renovated kitchen, custom patio/courtyard, and much more. For 24 hour recorded information, call 1-888-495-6207 x222.  
**Ron & Susan Associates 1-888-495-6207 x222**



**Alexandria \$519,900 Lake Devereux**  
Lakefront Community! Close to Metro! Remodeled home on large fenced yard! New kit with rich cherry cabinets, granite & SS! Huge 2 car garage! BR, 3 updated BAs!  
**David Billups 703-690-1795**



**Springfield \$850,000**  
Luxurious 4BR/3.5BA/2Car Home w/ 200K in upgrades. Over 5,000 sq. ft. Perfect for Entertaining. Gourmet Kit w/42" Cabinets, Double Ovens, Granite Counters. Morning Rm w/ Skylights. Master Suite w/40K remodeled Spa Bath. Sitting Rm can be converted back to 4th BR. Fully Finished Basement with Rec. Rm, Den, Full Bath. Lots of Storage. Owner Interior Designer. West Springfield Pyramid. Photos cindykojm.com.  
**Cindy Kojm 703-503-1819**



**Alexandria City \$492,500 Sunny Brick End Townhouse**  
3 BRs, 3.5 BAs, hardwood floors, step down living room w/fireplace, formal dining room w/ bay window. Close proximity to DC, Pentagon, Old Town Alexandria, Reagan Airport, Crystal City & Potomac Yards.  
**Flo Nystrom 703-934-8222**



**Manassas \$249,000**  
3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse. Many new improvements. Already to move into.  
**Bob Berrent 703-503-4194**



**Arlington \$750,000**  
Fantastic 4 BR, 3 BA Arlington home. Main level features 3 spacious bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, large living room w/ fireplace, huge dining room & gorgeous hardwood floors. Lower level features second master bedroom, library, recreation room & laundry room. Enjoy the convenient location & completely private lot.  
**Ngoc Do & Associates 703-740-9145**



**Burke \$414,900**  
Welcome home to Cardinal Glen. This home has it all: size, 3 bedrooms on the upper level, office/guest room on the lower level, private swimming pool, location, and schools. The rec room is highlighted by a wood stove and updated windows.  
**Richard Esposito 703-503-4035**



**Bryce Resort \$159,000**  
3 BR/3BA condo at Bryce Resort perfect for vacation or rental home. Open floor plan leads to large deck with beautiful year round views. Immediate occupancy! Less than a 2 hour drive from Metro DC. Great community in the heart of Shenandoah County!  
**Jack Holleman 703-503-1813**



**Fairfax Station \$675,000**  
4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. MBR sitting room. Family room & den. Gorgeous landscaping with deck/pool/hot tub & fully fenced rear yard. Beautifully maintained home!  
**Betty Barthle 703-425-4466**



**Mason Neck/Harbor View \$980,000**  
This spectacular luxury waterfront home is immaculate! Located on secluded 1.93 acre lot with beautiful views of Massey Creek and deep water access to the Potomac River. Access to Community Marina.  
**Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899**



**Burke Centre \$324,850**  
Beautifully Re-modeled! Lease/Purchase Plan Available. 4BRs, 2.5BAs, contemporary style TH style home w/new dishwasher, new hwd flrs on main lvl, new w/ carpet on upper lvl, new paint throughout! Large wood deck w/storage shed, icemaker refrigerator, window treatments, washer/dryer & more. Robinson HS District. Close to all amenities. Quick Possession is OK & OWC Rental!  
**Steve Childress 703-981-3277**



**Alexandria \$349,900**  
Original owner offers well kept 3 BR, 1.5 BA Parklawn rambler. Solid brick with hardwood floors, radiant heat, approx. 1/4 acre fenced lot. Great neighborhood close to schools, shopping, and transportation.  
**Janice Clark 703-400-1995**



**Clifton/Frosty Meadows \$899,900**  
Charming Colonial with Swimming Pool in serene setting on 5 acres! Total privacy yet very close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec. room. See this property at www.CliftonMLS.com  
**Ann Grainger 703-503-1870**



**Fairfax \$430,000**  
Spacious 3 Br., 3 level TH that boasts hardwoods in kitchen, HVAC new 08, Windows 08, Neutral carpet 08, Shows like a model. Fireplace, Brick patio backs to trees. Walk to shopping.  
**Cyndy Patrick 703-851-7198**



**Herdon \$634,000**  
3/4 acre fenced yard perfect for anything! 2 decks! Beautifully maintained 4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath home. Spacious rec room, computer/den room and store room on lower level. Very generous room sizes throughout. A rare find at this price!  
**Betty Barthle 703-425-4466**



**Fairfax \$460,000**  
A haven so close to everything! 4/5 BR, 3BA, tucked away in a tree-lined cul-de-sac setting. Hardwoods, professionally painted, remodeled baths, updated windows, siding, roof. Sought-after neighborhood & schools, close to VRE & metrobus.  
**Mary Hovland 703-946-1775**  
**Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421**

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**West Springfield \$459,900**  
4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Family room addition with gas FP. Fully remodeled kitchen. LR has custom built-ins surrounding FP. Hardwood flooring. Spacious deck with hot tub. Cul-de-sac location.



**Lorton Station \$569,900**  
**Join the Fun!**  
Beautiful 4BR, 3.5BA home across from new Lorton Town Center! Gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, fully-finished lower level, and deck - backs to trees. For 24-hour recorded information, call 1-888-495 6207 x223.



**Mary Hovland**  
703-946-1775  
**Cathy DeLoach**  
571-276-9421  
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**Fair Lakes Area \$365,000**

Stunningly Chic! This attractive 3 bedroom, 3.5 baths townhome has been polished from top to bottom. Gleaming hardwoods, designer paint,

great fixtures, freshly tiled baths, updated kitchen & more. Large kitchen w/plenty of space for table + access to deck for entertaining. This sunlit home has low HOA fees, extra parking, close to transportation & Wegmans!



**Fairfax \$325,000 Lovingly Maintained**

This beautifully maintained TH features upgraded Kitchen cabinets, newer appliances, separate LR/DR w/SGD to brick patio & fenced yard. Freshly painted, newer carpet, replacement windows, and newer HVAC.



**Clifton \$1,999,900**

Spectacular double winged Custom Built Williamsburg Colonial on one of the most outstanding 5 acre settings in Clifton. Original owners, built in 1995, so many custom details throughout this gorgeous all brick home. 5bd/6.55ba/4fp, two master suites, one on main level, 3 car garage. Absolutely breathtaking!

For more photos check out [www.hermandorfer.com](http://www.hermandorfer.com) or [www.marshawolber.com](http://www.marshawolber.com)



**Clifton \$1,325,000**

Arts and Crafts Colonial with beautiful angles, porches, trim and details! Attention to detail in every home! Four finished levels with over 6000 finished square feet. Built in 2007 with all the upscale touches every homeowner could wish for! 4bd/4.5ba/4fp.

For more photos check out [www.hermandorfer.com](http://www.hermandorfer.com) or [www.marshawolber.com](http://www.marshawolber.com)



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1-888-529-HART

**Burke Centre RENTAL \$2200**

Great Single Family home with many updates, double garage, nice yard on cul-de-sac street. Available immediately.

Call Kay for Details  
703-503-1860

See [carolfordsellshomes.net](http://carolfordsellshomes.net)

Introducing Virginia's House and Home Newsletter Updated on the 2nd of each month with expanding statistics - plus timely local and syndicated articles. Available in MRIS (11/10/08-2/10/09) are these detached homes FOR SALE with number already SOLD (since 11/10/08 in parentheses):

Price	Burke	Fairfax Station	Clifton
200-399,000	10(21)	0(0)	0(0)
400-699,000	42(37)	11(8)	21(7)
700-999,000	3(1)	28(8)	18(6)
1,000,000+	2(0)	14(1)	23(5)

Email Subject Line: Request a Buyer's Preview



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Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS  
**Ann Witherspoon**  
703-503-1836



**FAIRFAX STATION \$659,900 CREAM OF THE CROP!**

Just unpack & settle into this like new home! Updated from top to bottom including windows, kitchen, baths & much more - 4 BR - 3 1/2 BA - HW throughout main level - Skylights - Finished LL w/walk-out to trees - Not far from Mercer Lake - This one is a 10+ + Call or email ANN WITHERSPOON for your private showing! 703-503-1836 & [ann@annwitherspoon.com](mailto:ann@annwitherspoon.com)

**Sheila Adams**  
703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million  
Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member,  
NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



**Fairfax \$514,900**  
Gorgeous 4 Level Split in popular Kings Park West, a quiet neighborhood with lots of charm. The lovely tree-lined street gives you the feel of country living close in. This beauty features 4 BRs, 3 Full Baths, located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Remodeled Kitchen & Baths, Hardwood floors, Gas Fireplace & much more. Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703.503.1895



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[www.ngocdo.com](http://www.ngocdo.com)



**Fairfax Station \$649,000**  
Immaculate Crosspointe home on quiet lot, backing to huge wooded common area. New windows, updated kitchen w/ accent lighting, Silstone countertops & additional cabinets. Fantastic addition of sun room & mudroom/laundry room adds plenty of living area & walks out to tiered composite deck. Fully finished walk-up basement with built-in office area.



**Fairfax Station \$925,000**  
Private circular driveway leads to meticulously maintained brick & stone colonial on 5 acres. Level yard, stunning deck w/hot tub, serene setting. 2 story family room, large office, well designed kitchen, sunroom, formal living & dining rooms. Walk-out basement ready to finish the way you'd like.



**Richard Esposito**  
703-503-4035  
[Richard@LNF.com](mailto:Richard@LNF.com)  
Service is the difference I provide



**Springfield \$835,000**  
Brand new brick front home! Three levels, 4 bedrooms, 3 car garage, gourmet kitchen, 2-story foyer & family room, separate dining room, formal living room, library, master suite with a luxurious master bathroom. The lower level has walk-up stairs.

**ELLIE WESTER**

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[ellie.wester@longandfoster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfoster.com)



**Springfield West \$509,900**  
**Almost 1/2 acre**  
Imagine your own peaceful sanctuary in the heart of West Springfield featuring 5 bedrooms and three full baths. Easy living in this spacious Rambler with a full finished walkout basement, hardwood floors, 1 car garage on a cul de sac. Available for 6 months rental at \$2,395.

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