

Day of Pampering

NEWS, PAGE 3

Star Truslow and Jillian Aburub of Dr. Hema Sundaran's office stand with Christine Eads, center, founder of the Duffy House.

Scout Plants Memorial Garden

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

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A 'Can Do' Kind of Show

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When people do something they're especially pleased with, they sometimes stand back and proudly say, "Tada." However, TADA also stands for the Theatre Arts Directors Association, comprised of the middle- and high-school the-

ater teachers and directors in Fairfax County Public Schools.

On Sunday, March 29, at 7 p.m., this group will present its second annual TADA Cabaret, in the Russell Theatre at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. Tickets are \$5 at the door or at www.fcpsdrama.com.

Directing this year's event is Robinson's theater director Chip Rome, and he said it's

School theater directors take the stage.

going to be a terrific and entertaining show, sure to please all ages.

"It's not true that those who can, do, and those who can't, teach," he said. "Because those of us who teach can do, too, and people should come see for themselves. It's also going to be lots of fun."

Besides that, the program is a fund raiser for TADA's "sunshine events" — births, deaths, illnesses, weddings and other important occasions within the theater community. "It helps us support our colleagues

at significant times in their lives," he said.

THE SHOW has eight acts signed up to perform, so far. "It grew to twice that number last year, so we'll see what happens as time goes on," Rome said. "There'll be skits, songs and dances. Some students will be in it as backup, or to accompany a performer, but the focus is on the teachers."

Fairfax High Theater Director Wendy

SEE DIRECTORS, PAGE 5



Dr. Pamela Marzban

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Anyone who has ever had an impression taken at the dental office, with a tray of messy impression material in their mouth for several minutes, knows that it can be an uncomfortable experience. As a dentist, I'm always looking for new ways to improve the patient experience in my office. I recently purchased a new state-of-the-art technology, which can eliminate this unpleasant procedure. It's called the Lava™ Chairside Oral Scanner C.O.S. from 3M ESPE, and it works by taking a digital impression of a patient's mouth—no impression material necessary.

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John Cook Sworn In as Supervisor

Civic activist succeeds Bulova, becomes third Republican on Board of Supervisors.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Kings Park Civic Association president John Cook (R) was sworn into office as the new Braddock District supervisor during a ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center March 17.

"You are quite an act to follow," said Cook to Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) during his remarks at the ceremony.

Bulova had served as Braddock supervisor for 21 years until winning the special election for chairman last month. Voters elected Cook March 10 to fill her vacancy in the local magisterial district seat.

After officially being sworn in, Cook pledged to help make the 187 neighborhoods of Braddock "the best they can be," and to pay attention to all issues, ranging from the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes project on the Capital Beltway to pot holes

on neighborhood streets.

But the newest member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors also signaled he would be active on countywide issues as well during his first speech as an elected official.

As president of his civic association, Cook said he accompanied Fairfax's zoning enforcement team into some of the Braddock District's most egregious examples of overcrowding, where too many people living in house at the same time.

"It is a moral outrage that in the middle of the wealthiest county in the country that we have blight of this sort."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

In the Ravensworth community, Cook saw a three-bedroom 1950s rambler converted into a de facto motel. The house basement had been divided up into eight bedrooms, with a family living in each one for \$400 per month, he said.

"It is a moral outrage that in the middle of the wealthiest county in the country that we have blight of this sort," said Cook.

"To those landlords who run these houses, I have you in my sights and I am coming



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) speaks to the crowd at his swearing-in ceremony in Fairfax County Government Center March 17.

after you," he said.

The new supervisor also wants to put money for school resource officers, who provide public safety in Fairfax County Public Schools, into the county budget. Cook is also concerned about the cuts to mental health and senior programs the have been proposed by county executive Tony Griffin for next year.

On real estate property assessments, Cook

said he "would not vote for a budget that would increase property tax payments."

COOK IS opposed to the county's affordable housing program, in which the government has purchased housing itself. The county could best provide affordable housing by working with the private sector to

SEE JOHN COOK, PAGE 9

Victims of Abuse Enjoy Day of Respite

Duffy House treats victims of domestic abuse to spa day.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

In one corner, a massage table is set up. Across the room, a woman kicks her feet up and enjoys a pedicure. At the station next to her, another woman is getting her hair cut and styled. The obvious first impression is that these women are lounging in some luxurious spa, immersed in the relaxation and serenity.

However, this place is not a spa. Welcome to the 2009 Duffy House Day of Pampering.

The Duffy House, an organization that offers long-term care and comprehensive support services for women and their children who are survivors of domestic abuse, came up with the idea as it waits for approval from the IRS to become a non-profit.

"We are currently in a holding pattern until the IRS approves us," said Christine



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

One of the Bethany House women receives a pedicure and foot massage from an employee at the Indulge Mobile Spa.

Eads, on-air radio host and Duffy House founder. "So we came up with things to do on our own [until then]. The women never pamper themselves. They are struggling to make ends meet so it is the last thing they

ever do."

UPON ARRIVING at the free event on Saturday, March 14, at Burke United Methodist Church, the women signed in, then

"It makes them feel like there are people out there who care about them."

— Catherine Hassinger, Bethany House executive director

relaxed in the candle-filled waiting room as they awaited their turn. Then, when called, the women were brought into a large room that housed all of the spa equipment, which was provided by several local supporters.

Employees from the Indulge Mobile Spa, a company that transports a "spa-on-wheels," were on hand to treat the women to manicures, pedicures and massages. Dr. Hema Sundaran, a dermatologist with offices in Rockville, Md. and Fairfax, had two employees from her office at the event to give the women facials. The third and final supporter was Leslie Kaine from Mary Kay Cosmetics, who provided makeup services.

SEE DUFFY HOUSE, PAGE 9



Run for the Ridge

Laurel Ridge Elementary Principal Larry Burke poses for a photo with Gayla

Hime, the Grand Marshall of the school's crossing guard. They are the 'star pupils' in the school's first ever 5k Run for the Ridge on Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m. They will be closing roads in the community for the children to run. The money raised will be used for new technology at Laurel Ridge Elementary.

Five Stabbed at a Burke Party

An 18th-birthday party quickly turned sour Saturday, March 14 when police received a call about a stabbing in Burke.

Police responded at approximately 12:30 a.m. to reports of a fight on the 5600 block of Castlebury Court and upon arrival, found four victims with stab wounds. According to witnesses, when a group of uninvited guests were asked to leave the party, a fight broke out.

During the fight, four men from Prince George's County in Maryland, ages 15, 18 and two at 20, sustained stab wound. The victims were promptly transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital when authorities arrived, where they were treated for non life-threatening injuries. Also, according to police, a fifth victim, a 22-year-old male, appeared at the Inova Alexandria emergency room several hours after the fight and was treated for stab wounds as well.

Initially, it was not clear if alcohol was a factor in the dispute, and authorities do not believe the stabbings were gang-related.

As of press time, no arrests have been made, and the investigation is continuing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

Kings Jesters Get 'Ugly'

The Kings Jesters of Kings Glen Elementary School present "Honk Jr.," the magical musical retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's classic story of "The Ugly Duckling." Sixty-five students have been working after school for three months so that they can bring the joy of live musical theater to their community. The musical is March 24-26, 7 p.m., in the school gym, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Pre-sale tickets are on sale through school office for \$4 or at the door for \$5.

Budget Town Hall Meetings

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) is hosting two town hall meetings about the Fairfax County budget. They're scheduled for Thursday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m., at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield; and Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., in rooms 9 and 10 of the county Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Call 703-451-5515 for more details.

Honoring Fallen Alumni

April 17 dedication is planned for WSHS memorial garden.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Corey MacRae wanted to leave something behind when he graduated from West Springfield High School. As an Eagle Scout, he needed to complete one, last, big project. With a little help from the former athletic director at the school, MacRae was able to combine the two, creating the Memorial Garden, a place where West Springfield alumni who died while on active duty in the military could be remembered.

"It was either going to be a memorial for Leslie Sherman or something for the people who died in the military, and I chose the garden," said MacRae, a senior who will graduate in June and plans to go to a college prep school in the fall. Sherman was a 2006 graduate from West Springfield and was freshman at Virginia Tech when she was one of the students killed during the April 16, 2007 shooting at the school.

So, with the help of then-athletic director Tim O'Reilly, MacRae got to work.

First, he researched all West Springfield alumni who died while in active duty in the military, in all conflicts after Vietnam. Then he had to reach out to the families and explain what he wanted to do. He envisioned a peaceful place on school property where people could get together, remember their friends, classmates, neighbors and loved ones, their names engraved for all to see.

O'Reilly helped MacRae obtain permission from principal Paul Wardinski.

"He agreed it was highly appropriate," said O'Reilly, now a subschool assistant principal at Chantilly High School. And it wasn't entirely without precedent at the school either — the athletic field is named for one of the fallen soldiers as well.

MacRae began contacting the families of the eight alumni, and they all agreed to have their loved one included in the memorial.

The names on the memorial include Craig Weeks, Navy, WSHS 1977; Thomas Tulenko Jr., Marine, WSHS 1978; Paul Taylor, Army, WSHS 1981; Mary Ellene Robertson, Navy, WSHS 1985; Ronald Mobayed, Navy, WSHS 1986; Anders Poremba, Marine, WSHS 1987; Mark Stubenhofer, Army, WSHS 1992, and Jeff Trowbridge, Navy, WSHS 1982.

"Once we found the families, the rest was easy," MacRae said. Some had moved out of the area, some had left the country, but a few were still in the neighborhood, like Sallie Stubenhofer.

Her son, Mark, was killed four years ago in Iraq. While the West Springfield Post Office was dedicated in his name a few years ago, Stubenhofer said she's honored to have her son included in this memorial garden.

"I have to say, I was very impressed with Corey," she said of MacRae. "Mark wasn't an Eagle Scout, but he was involved with everything like Corey is. Mark was an athlete, he was very involved in school,



Eagle Scout Corey MacRae stands next to the memorial to fallen military graduates of West Springfield High School.

he liked volunteering his time. Corey reminds me a lot of Mark."

The Stubenhofer family has also organized an annual golf tournament in Mark's name each spring, scheduled for April 27 this year.

WORK BEGAN on construction of the garden last fall. MacRae, along with some help from friends, family and other scouts, designed a garden with a Japanese maple tree on either side of the memorial stone, encircled with white flagstones and some decorative shrubs.

"I haven't seen how it looks when all the flowers are in bloom, but I hope it looks good," MacRae laughed. In addition to the volunteers who helped him plant the garden, MacRae got some help from a local Home Depot, the Merrifield Garden Center and Eastern Memorials, which helped with the memorial stone.

"The stone looks better than we hoped it would," the scout said.

MacRae and the families of those being honored will have the chance to see the garden in all its blooming glory during a dedication ceremony, scheduled for April 17 at 4 p.m.

While his work is nearly completed, MacRae is still receiving words of encouragement and appreciation from the families he's honoring.

"It was absolutely a no-brainer to say yes when he asked us," Stubenhofer said about including her son's name on the memorial. "I was surprised and impressed a young student would think of something that significant to so many people."

Stubenhofer, who lives in Springfield, said she hasn't seen the memorial yet, but is looking forward to having the comfort of being with other families who share this painful, deeply personal experience

SEE SCOUT, PAGE 8

NEWS

Directors on Stage

FROM PAGE 2

Knight is the producer, and Westfield High Theater Director Scott Pafumi, assistant producer. The stage manager is Woodson High Theater Director Terri Hobson.

This year's participants include Tim King, a Washington Irving Middle School teacher, accompanied by musicians from the school, performing the song, "The Origin of Love," from "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." The high-school theater director at Lake Braddock Secondary, R.L. Mirabal, will entertain with Miraband, a band of two students, an alumnus and Mirabal himself playing bass, guitar, piano and drums.

Ariel Baska of Rachel Carson Middle School is doing "Director's Notes," a comic monologue by Victoria Wood; and Philip Lee Clark will perform the song and dance routine, "Mr. Cellophane," from "Chicago." Stone Middle Theater Director Lois Walsh will sing and be part of a dance number.

Pafumi will sing the Bobby Darin classic, "Beyond the Sea," and Amy Hard, middle-school theater teacher at Robinson, will dance with some other instructors. In addition, Knight and Fairfax Academy Theater Teacher Mike Replogle will do a two-person, comedy scene.

"We have a good time," said Rome. "It's a very talented group of people, and the opportunity to see them demonstrate their skills for entertainment, and not just education, is certain to be worth one's time and money. Parking is free — and where else can you go to be entertained for five bucks? And the more, the merrier."

"Where else can you be entertained for five bucks?"

— Chip Rome, Robinson Secondary theater director

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OPINION

Fair Market Value?

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value?

Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of

foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties. If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the deadlines are fast approaching and the bur-

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

den of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the deadline to appeal to the Department of Tax Administration is April 3, and appeals to the next level must be postmarked no later than June 1. The second deadline could well roll around before a homeowner gets an answer to the administrative appeal, so it's important to engage in both processes at once.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> for instructions and information.

— MARY KIMM

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Perpetuating Lies

To the Editor:

The editorial ['Loop Hole Stays Open,' Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2009] is another bias opinion by your staff writer which is designed to infuriate the public over gun ownership and gun shows. Gun shows are well regulated, much more than the general public realizes, because newspapers fail to report the facts reporting selective views which support one side of the issue. If this so called loophole was closed, a law-abiding citizen would become a criminal in the personal sale of a gun to a member of his family or close friend if he did not do a back ground check and report the sale to the federal government. That is why Sen. Cuccinelli (R-37), who uses common sense, voted against this further intrusion by the federal government into our lives.

It is so easy to blame the crime on the guns without looking at the cause and contributing factors. When you disarm people, you automatically make the eligible victims for criminals.

There is no rallying outcry to ban automobiles that result in the loss of life or 42,000 people annually from auto accidents. Neither do we seem to be concerned that accidental deaths caused by physicians per year are 120,000. This compared to approximately 1,500 gun deaths per year out of 80 mil-

lion legal gun owners seems insignificant.

Let's talk about regulation. There are at least 271 Federal Gun Control laws and Virginia has at least 191 as of 2006. Because criminal activity is already outlawed, new laws tend to affect only honest individuals and not criminals, and so decent people object to them. The idea of gun control law has come to mean infringement law, a rule that incrementally disarms a civilian and has little or no bearing on crime control, which is supposed to be the goal. Infringement laws are illegal, and it's right for people to object to them and to the people who promote them.

The constant vilification of honest gun owners by the media, drumming on the public's fears and ignorance, makes the problem worse, in the way propaganda used to plague communist countries. Repetition of even the most self-evidently outrageous lies eventually gains acceptance, defying all logic or reason.

Maybe the opinion writer needs to visit a few gun shows and meet some of the people who are protecting his constitutional rights?

Charles Thomas
Burke

Dispelling Myths

To the Editor:

There are serious questions

about some of the assumptions and conclusions in The Washington Post editorial this morning.

Statement: Most people think the bell rings too early.

What could this assertion be based on? Results from the FCPS online survey show that over 37,000 parents are satisfied with the current schedule. That's three times more than the number who don't like the schedule, and more than four times more than the number of signatures on the SLEEP petition. (And, it should be noted, there are an unknown number of people who say that thought they signed the petition at one point, they no longer want later start times.) What is the basis for saying that most people want later start times?

Statement: People hate the schedule created by transportation officials.

It is not the "schedule" or flaws of iteration three that people don't like. It is the parameters put forth in the TTF proposal itself. Switching dismissal times for older and younger siblings; scheduling the last tier of schools to start well after 9 a.m. (9:20-9:40 a.m.) and to end after 4 p.m. (4:10-4:30 p.m.); and removing an hour of time from high-school students' schedules are all features of the Majority Report of the Transportation Task Force. These are the features that Fairfax County residents do not like.

Statement: There are real and significant benefits to later start

times on student performance and health.

The proven link is between "more sleep" and "learning and health." A critical look at the research on "late start times" and these factors shows a mixed bag of results. SAT scores in Edina actually went down; no study shows a statistically significant effect on grades (except a negative effect on grades when after-school activities were moved before school in Minneapolis); there's a trade-off in terms of increased alertness in the morning classes but more absences and early dismissals from afternoon classes. The conclusion that students get more sleep is largely based on geographic studies done in the 1990s.

Let's also dispel once and for all the myth that changing school start times is "no-cost." The Task Force was charged with two tasks: (1) find ways to increase efficiencies, and (2) investigate a late-start schedule. Increasing efficiencies will save money; but implementing a late-bell schedule will cost money. When combined, the effects are offsetting, and the overall proposal is no-cost. However, the two pieces do not have to be combined. They are separate decisions.

This is a challenging time for our school system, with issues from budgets to boundaries to be considered.

Lorraine Monaco
E-mail Submission

THE CONNECTION

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POLITICS

When Blue Was Green

Local Democrats cast ballots at St. Patrick's Day Straw Poll.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

If U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) annual Saint Patrick's Day fund raiser is any indication, the race to pick a Democratic nominee for governor has reached a fever pitch in Fairfax County a little less than two months before the June 9 primary.

Connolly's staff said about 500 people had indicated they would show up for the March 17 event at the Kena Temple in Fairfax. In the end, more than 1,400 people, the largest crowd in the event's 14 years, came to the party, said Connolly.

Charlottesville area State Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), Former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe and former Alexandria Del. Brian Moran (D-46) are competing to be the Democrat's gubernatorial pick.

RUSSELL COUNTY supervisor John Bowerbank, Virginia Beach City School Board member Pat

Edmondson, Democratic strategist Mike Signer and Virginia's former secretary of finance Jody Wagner are also facing each other in a primary for lieutenant governor on the same day.

Connolly allowed each of the candidates – including the Democrat's presumptive nominee for Attorney General, Vienna Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) – to speak in front of the large crowd of Democrats at the event.

But the real draw may have been the fund-raiser's straw poll, which some consider a bellwether for how Northern Virginia Democrats may feel about a race.

In 2006, Sen. Jim Webb defeated his primary opponent Harris Miller in the Connolly straw poll, an upset that many considered a turning point for the Webb campaign.

McAuliffe won the 2009 straw poll with 544 votes (58 percent); Moran came in second with 276 votes (30 percent); Deeds – the only non-Northern Virginian – followed with 114 votes (12 percent.) McAuliffe had arranged for staffers and supporters to attend the event by having his donors purchase several hundred tickets.

On the lieutenant governor side, Wagner won the straw poll with 48 percent of the vote; Signer, an Arlington County resident, came in second with 28 percent; Bowerbank and Edmondson both garnered 12 percent.

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PROPOSED NEW ISSUE

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Moody's: Aa3
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Scout Makes Memorial Garden

FROM PAGE 4

those who died," Wenzel said.

Like Stubenhofer, Wenzel has only seen the memorial in photos and is eager to see MacRae's completed work and meet him in person.

While he is no longer at the school, O'Reilly said he's proud MacRae carried through with his plan.

"My father and my brother are retired military people and I have always valued what they do for us as a country and as citizens. It is the right thing to do everywhere really," O'Reilly said.

MacRae also has the support of his parents, Cindy and Sandy MacRae. Corey MacRae is the last of three sons to complete their Eagle Scout projects, the third to graduate West Springfield, the third to make his parents proud by achieving the highest rank in scouting.

Cindy MacRae is busy making sure the branches of the military represented by those who will be honored are in attendance during the dedication. Of the eight men and women whose names are etched in the stone, four served in the Navy, two were in the Army and two were Marines

Cindy MacRae said that after her son graduates, the class of 2011 has agreed to maintain the garden, but said donations are being accepted at the school to pay for its upkeep. While the family hopes it will never be needed, space is available on the stone to engrave more names, should other West Springfield graduates lose their lives in the line of duty.

of loss.

"There's this silent bond that kind of happens among people who have experienced this same thing," she said. "It's very rare to be in a group where everybody gets it and you don't have to worry about who still feels uncomfortable, even four years after Mark's death. It's ... comforting."

Cathy Wenzel agreed. Her brother, Craig Weeks, was killed in a car accident while on temporary duty in California, just a few months before his son was born. Wenzel said her family, including her brother's widow, is planning to attend, making the trip to West Springfield from across the country.

To Help

Donations for continuing maintenance for the West Springfield Memorial Garden can be made by sending checks to West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

"Mom and I will be flying in from Washington State, and my brother, Blake, will be driving up from North Carolina," Wenzel wrote in an e-mail. "Craig's widow, Hai, is hoping to get leave from her job with the Navy Reserve. She has been stationed in Germany for the past several years, and will be flying in from there, if her leave is approved. I haven't heard if Craig and Hai's son, Craig, will be able to attend or not, but I hope so."

An older sister, Christie, will not be able to attend the ceremony. Also missing will be their father, who died about a year ago.

"He was very proud of Craig and his service and he'd be thrilled to have this memorial built to honor

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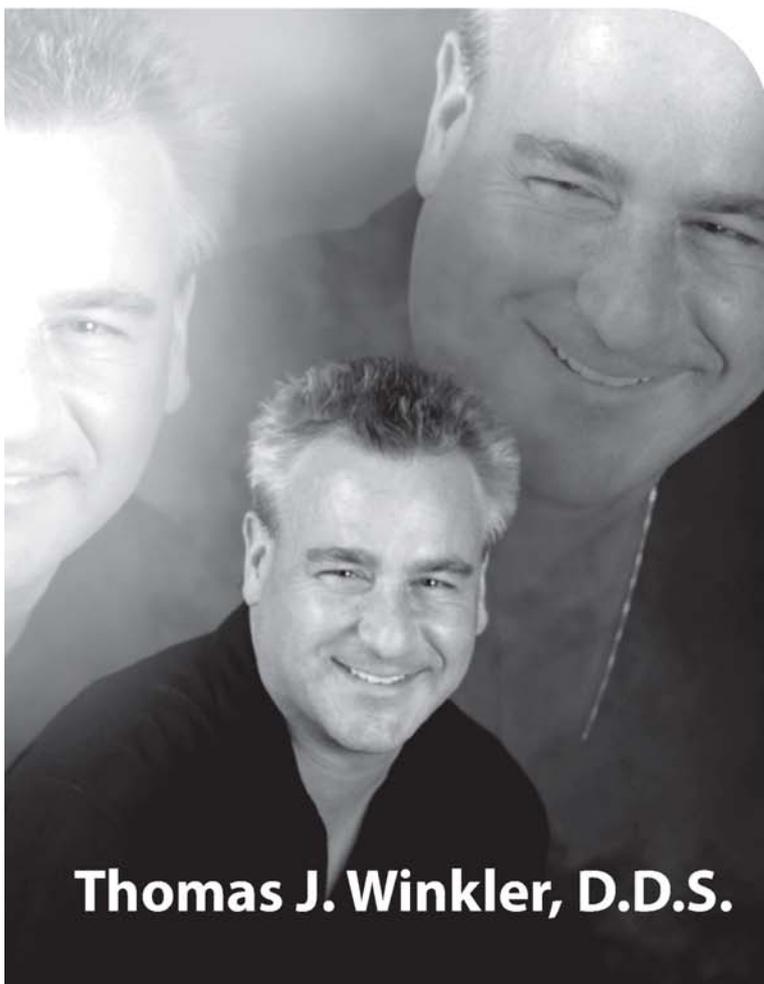
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NEWS

Duffy House

FROM PAGE 3

Additionally, the Rev. Janet Salbert, a pastor at the church, was on hand to provide emotional and spiritual support and advice to the women.

"Some of the women walked in and were not really sure what to do because they do not get pampered often," said Michelle Gates, Duffy House accountant and co-event coordinator. "They really had a great time."

SINCE THE DUFFY HOUSE is not officially open yet, each of the 46 women in attendance either lives at or is a graduate of the Bethany House of Northern Virginia, another organization offering assistance to women and children victims of domestic abuse. According to Bethany House executive director Catherine Hassinger, the relationship with Eads and the Duffy House began when Eads was seeking advice on what works and what to stay away from in creating a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

On the way out, the women left not only with gift bags packed with beauty supplies, but also with the knowledge that there is someone out there willing to lend them a hand.

"This is a very special thing for them," Hassinger said. "When they come into the shelter, they are coming from a different place, so this is really a treat. It makes them feel like there are people out there who care about them."

John Cook

FROM PAGE 3

include it in new development projects, he said.

The Braddock District supervisor said Fairfax County should set an example of how to transition from a traditional suburban community to a more urban locality. Like many other bedroom communities across the country, Fairfax was going through changes in how it is perceived and should be on the forefront of "suburban renewal."

Cook also said Fairfax should set an example of how to form a cohesive, multi-ethnic community, where people of all backgrounds work and live together in peace.

"We want people to look at Fairfax and say that is an example of how it ought to be done. That is an example of how people ought to live together," said Cook.

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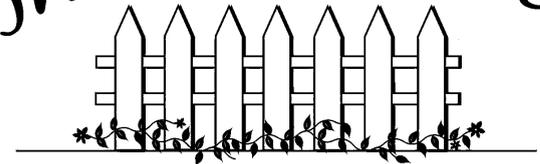
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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

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

Battlefield Band, 8 p.m. at The Barns. Traditional and contemporary Scottish music. \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Old School Freight Train CD Release, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Bedtime Stories: Windy Days and PJs, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about wind. Pajamas optional. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Let's Hear It for the Girls, 7 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book discussion group. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-978-5600.

Afternoon Reading Group, 1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Going Green, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs, and activities highlight Ireland. For ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Reading Across the Centuries, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Writer and university instructor Wendi Kaufman facilitates the discussion of Henrik Ibsen's "The Doll's House" and "Hedda Gabler." 703-644-7333.

Dan Levine Teaches the Business of Voice-Over, 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "You're On The Air...How to Really Make it In Voice-Overs" is designed to help students gain awareness and knowledge of the growing industry. Pre-registration required at 703-658-1201 or visit www.fcps.edu/acelasses.

Poorman's Lobster, American Groove and Fairgrounds Urban

Scientific, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Lara St. John, violinist, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Cinderella", 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Kosher Café and Laura Baron Jazz & Blues Concert, at the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 6 p.m. Chinese dinner costs \$20 for JCCNV members, \$24 non-members. 7:30 p.m. concert tickets in advance: \$15 for members, \$18 non-members; at the door: \$18 for members, \$21 non-members. Reserve at 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C. Hunks With Heart, 7-9 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A women-only auction and scavenger hunt, with fine food and jazz. 703-698-7080 or www.rmhc.greaterdc.org.

Once, Okay Twice, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Civil War Interpretive Center Lecture Series: Researching Civil War Soldiers 2 p.m., at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. C.K. Gailey, a full-time archaeology volunteer with the Fairfax County Park Authority, will



The Russian National Ballet Theatre will perform twice at the George Mason Center for the Arts, dancing 'Cinderella' on Friday, March 20 and 'Sleeping Beauty' on Saturday, March 21.

discuss the resources and methods used to research people who lived in the mid-1800s. Suzanne Levy, a librarian in the Virginia Room in the City of Fairfax Regional Library, will provide insight on the numerous resource available. The presentation will be followed by a tour of Historic Blenheim and the Interpretive Center gallery. This is part of a monthly series that contributes to the commemoration of the Virginia sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. For more, call 703-591-0560.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Sleeping Beauty", 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Four Season Gardening, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee Highway, Merrifield. Make the most of each season. Learn to design a landscape to look beautiful throughout the year. 703-560-6222.

Gardening: Make it a Family Affair, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fun and interesting ways to grow vegetables, herbs, cutting flowers and plants that attract butterflies and birds. 703-968-9600.

Gunston Hall Kite Festival, 12-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Hands-on colonial activities for children, an 18th-century puppet show, hearth cooking demonstrations, and exploration of a modern fire truck. Food service available for picnics. Bring a kite or

purchase one from the Museum Shop. The Garden Club of Fort Belvoir will offer spring plants for sale. \$10 adults, \$6 ages 6-18, \$2 ages 2-5 years. \$25 Family Admission for up to 2 adults and 3 children. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo, 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Murder at Gooseneck Lake, 7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Gather evidence and figure out whodunit. Cosponsored by the Friends of City of Fairfax Regional Library. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Make It Up As You Go, 1 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Have some laughs and develop your creative side by playing theater games at this improvisational comedy event. Ages 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Summer Rain CD Release Party, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays in University Mall, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Age 21 and up only. 703-385-5717.

Fallback Plan, Summer Rain CD Release Party, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association St. Patrick's Day Dance, 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls church. \$10 for NVCWDA members, \$12 non-members. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo, 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25.

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Todesbonden, Ephemeral Sun and Origin Theory, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Academy of Ancient Music, 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Hear all six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. Tickets are \$24-\$48. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Mason Select Women's Chorale, 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 2 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Open Mic Showcase Hosted by Ron Goad, 7-10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Fairy Fantasy, 2:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Enter a magical world with fairy-related activities and crafts. Fairy costume optional. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

That 1 Guy: unlike anything you have heard before, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

EDITOR'S PICK



Summer Rain is having a CD Release Party at Fat Tuesday's in University Mall on Saturday, March 21.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
Gan Israel Preschool Open House, Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Gan Israel Academy is a Montessori-influenced kindergarten and first grade that emphasizes Jewish elementary learning, located at Chabad of Fairfax, 3939 Prince William Drive, Fairfax. 703-426-1980 or ganisraelpreschool@gmail.com.

Genealogy Databases, 7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

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.

Awaken Your Intuition and Connect with Your Angels, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the Comfort Inn University Center, 11180 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. \$10. Register at 540-854-4841 or www.ipmers.org/nova.html.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Taylor Carson, Matt York and Andrew Hoover, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Rascal Rabbits, 10:30 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

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

Shepherd's Centers of Northern Virginia Volunteer Fair, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Regional Library, North Street and Old Lee Highway. Volunteer to help older people continue to live independently in their homes by providing transportation to medical appointments, enrichment programs, friendly caller/visitor services, minor home repairs, accompanied shopping, etc. For more, call the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke office at 703-323-4788.

It Takes a Village to Care for an Older Person. Learn about services in Fairfax County that can help caregivers and older people. 7-9 p.m., Braddock Glen Adult Day Health Center, 4027B Olley Lane, Fairfax. For more information, to register, or to request reasonable accommodations go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa, e-mail caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5205, TTY 703-449-1186.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

Paul Thorn, gospel-inspired Americana, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Garnet Rogers, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia Suicide Survivor Group, 7:30 p.m. at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia. Six-week series.

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Snuggle Up, 10:30 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Tales for Twos: Just Ducky, 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about ducks. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Used Book Sale, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Geshher Jewish Day School, 4700 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Thousands of gently read books at bargain prices. Adult fiction, non-fiction, children's books and a foreign language section, including Hebrew. All proceeds help expand the library collection at Geshher. 703-978-9789 or www.gesher-jds.org.

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All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

Bernoussi's Bat Benefits Bruins

Hit hard by graduation, Lake Braddock baseball has taken care of reloading phase.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Driss Bernoussi wasn't a spectator on last year's Lake Braddock baseball team, which won 23 games, at one point had a 20-game winning streak and advanced to the Virginia AAA state semifinals. He was a left-handed pitcher on a team rife with talented arms.

But Bernoussi watched players like Shane Halley (Virginia) and Shannon Mark (Christopher Newport) come through in the clutch, helping the Bruins hoist Patriot District and Northern Region trophies. He enjoyed the ride but wanted to contribute more.

So Bernoussi hit. A lot.

During the off-season, when most players simply hit the snooze button or, even they do make it to a batting cage somewhere, take half-hearted swings, Bernoussi

was hacking away, insistent on earning a starting spot.

"My first few years in the program, I was seen just as a pitcher, but I thought I could add another stick to the lineup," the 6-foot-4 Bernoussi said. "I saw what we could do last year, and I just wanted to be here, to be the man, to be on the field and to help the team out."

HIS EXTRA work has paid off. Bernoussi turned on an inside pitch during a scrimmage against Madison last Saturday, blasting a home run over the right-center field wall. Though he doesn't have a natural position yet, coach Jody Rutherford doesn't really care.

"As long as he's swinging the bat well,

"I just wanted to be here, to be the man."

— Driss Bernoussi, senior,
Lake Braddock Secondary

we'll find a place for him," said Rutherford, whose team won its first Patriot District title since 2004 by topping West Springfield and outlasted Chantilly, 9-6, to claim its sixth Northern Region crown.

"He's kind of growing into his body," Rutherford said. "He's more physically mature, and the culmination of his hard work has gotten him ready."

With several key losses from last year's team, Lake Braddock is hoping there's more like Bernoussi. In addition to Halley and Mark — the top two hitters on last year's squad — Lake Braddock lost its starting catcher, first baseman, second baseman and right fielder.

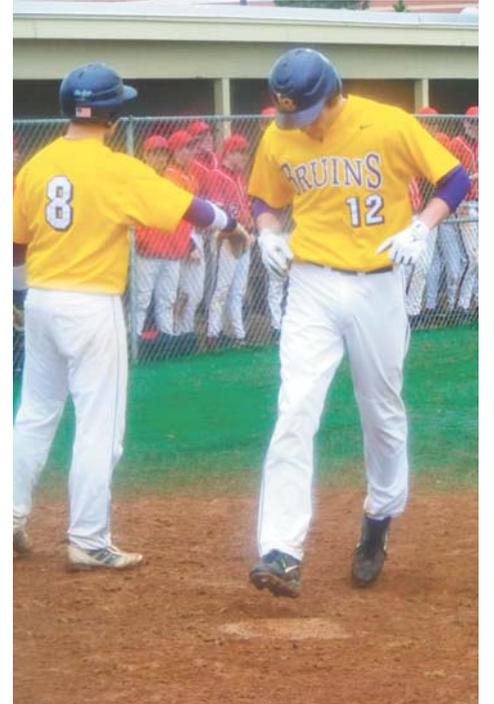
Rutherford's returnees include third baseman Kenny Towns, shortstop Ryan Lindemuth and ace pitcher Brian Derner, a lefty who's recovering from a broken collarbone. He's expected to make his first start around the team's spring trip to Charleston, S.C., which runs from April 6-10.

Lindemuth, a defensive wiz at shortstop who can also hit for average, will provide Lake Braddock with some stability up the middle. He's also an accomplished relief pitcher from last year's success and should parlay that into more innings this spring.

"Me and Driss [pronounced "DREE-se"] have been here for the past three years, and we've never really been the ones that everyone's been looking to," Lindemuth said. "But now that we're the older guys in the program, everyone is looking to us and we have to step up big and get them to play at a higher level as well."

ROBINSON, behind George Mason-signee Brandon Kuter, a 6-foot-6 right-handed pitcher and outfielder, hopes to improve upon last year's 15-9 season in which the Rams went 7-5 against Concorde District opponents and lost to West Springfield in the Northern Region quarterfinals.

With the losses of shortstop Jimmy Kalina,



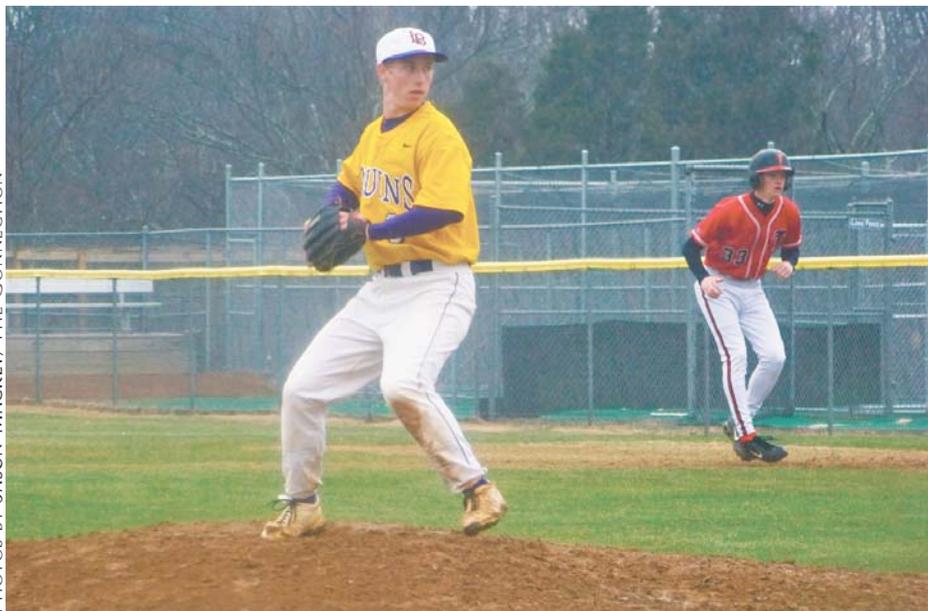
Lake Braddock's Driss Bernoussi comes around to score after his home run against Madison last Saturday during a scrimmage. 'It feels good to be another contributor to the team,' Bernoussi said.

first baseman Greg Jernegan and pitcher Eric Rabung, the Rams and second-year head coach J.D. Detwiler will turn to senior pitcher/shortstop Michael Del Buono, senior catcher Chris McCloud and senior second baseman Mike Kenah.

"We're in a situation like we were last year," Detwiler said. "We're looking at a bunch of guys who are either underclassmen or inexperienced."

"But the guys who are seniors, even though there aren't a lot of them, they've been on varsity for three years and they've done a great job of being leaders."

Kuter, who went 3-3 with a 3.11 ERA and 28 strikeouts on the mound last season, should see his innings increase significantly, as he'll team with junior Austin Freer atop the Rams' rotation.



Junior shortstop Ryan Lindemuth is one of several key returnees for the Lake Braddock baseball team, which went 23-4 last spring and reached the Virginia AAA state semifinals.

WEEK IN SPORTS

National Acclaim For Bruins

Junior Liana Epstein was at the forefront of several outstanding performances for Lake Braddock indoor track and field athletes at this past weekend's National Scholastic Indoor Track and Field Championships in New York City. Epstein earned All-American status by finishing third in the mile with a time of 5 minutes, 5.96 seconds. The girls' 4x800-meter relay

team (junior Kelly Hagan, sophomore Casey Lardner, senior Taylor Moore and Epstein) was also third with its time of 9:18.24, which was less than a second shy of the school record. The 4,000 distance medley relay team was the national runner-up with a mark of 12:01.86, and it broke the school record by more than 10 seconds. The four-some of Lardner, sophomore Becca Sinichko, Moore and Epstein broke the state record — set by Jefferson in 1998 — as well. Junior Alex Clark finished 14th in the 5-kilometer run with a time of 15:51.49, and he was one of only two Virginians to break

16 minutes in the event. Senior Mike Santano competed in the Pentathlon and was 11th out of 24 competitors with a score of 3,169.

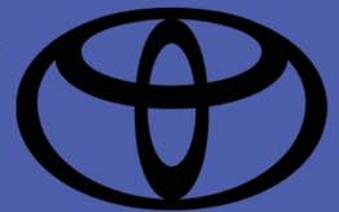
Braddock Girls' Tennis Cruises

Co-Champions of the Patriot District last spring, the Lake Braddock girls tennis team opened its 2009 season with a 9-0 win over T.C. Williams last Friday, March 13. Sophomore Shannon Lane Allin earned a 10-0

victory in her No. 1 singles match, while senior Chelsea Lane garnered a 10-3 win in the No. 2 singles match and junior Annette Cole won, 10-6, in the third singles match. Junior Megan Larsen, Sophomore Becca Kim and sophomore Tara Fialkow were also victorious. In doubles play, the No. 1 pairing of Allin and Lane won 8-0, and the Fialkow/Kim pairing and the duo of sophomore Nadia Laher and Cole also walked away with victories. Lake Braddock beat West Springfield Tuesday night, 8-1.

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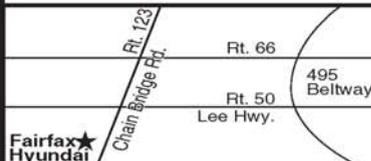
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NEWS

School Staff Proposes Buying GPS Systems for Buses

Just a few days before school Superintendent Jack Dale announced he might have to eliminate approximately 800 positions in Fairfax County Public Schools, members of his staff suggested purchasing global positioning systems (GPS) for those school buses that don't already have them.

At a March 5 School Board meeting, officials said GPS devices could help the school system save additional money on fuel because it would give school bus drivers the shortest. They proposed using \$500,000 saved in this year's budget because of reduced fuel costs to purchase the technology.

Several School Board members quickly rebuffed

the request.

"Why if we saved \$500,000 in fuel costs would we not apply it another way? I want to know the justification for making an investment in GPS when we may have to cut \$20 to \$30 million out of the budget already," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill.)

"I am skeptical of buying anything at this point. I am looking for anything to offset the unacceptable class size proposed," said School Board Jane Strauss (Dranesville.)

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Herrity Pushes Vote On Federal 'Card Check' Bill

Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) tried to force a vote at the county board level on the controversial federal "card check" legislation March 9. The federal bill has been pushed by the organized labor community and rejected by some business interest groups across the country.

Both the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell have recently been vocal about their opposition to "card check," which would ease the process for forming a union in the workplace.

Herrity said Virginia's status as a "Right to Work" state – a place where organized labor has less influence – has been a boon to the Fairfax County economy. Several businesses choose to locate in Fairfax instead of Montgomery County, Md. because of Virginia's labor laws, said Herrity.

"It provides us with a very real competitive advantage over the county across the river in Maryland," he said.

But several supervisors said that they either did not agree with the premise of Herrity's board matter or felt ambushed by it at the last minute. Many said it would have made more sense for Herrity to bring up the subject in the supervisors legislative committee meeting a few days earlier.

"I can't support this primarily because I don't agree with it. But I also really think this belongs in legislative committee," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).

"I have a lot stronger views on other legislation that goes before the U.S. Congress. ... I just don't think we should be taking a position on this," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

A great man is one who can have power and not abuse it.
—Henry L. Doherty

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Big Questions about Voting

Glitch in special election, but budget crunch causes Fairfax to go without voting paper trail until 2010.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

After the polls closed last week, one voting machine reported that 724 people had used it, even though officials at the precinct had recorded only 707 people walking through the door. There was also another voting machine at Fairview, which had already tallied 348 of the 707 votes.

Fairfax County election officials ultimately concluded that supervisor-elect John Cook (R) defeated at-large school board member Ilyong Moon (D) by a slim margin of 89 votes in the Braddock District's special election March 10.

But for almost 24 hours, officials could not call the race's outcome or even determine the number of ballots cast in the election because of the malfunctioning machine at the Fairview precinct in Fairfax Station.

When the machine was cracked open a day after the election, a more appropriate number of votes, 359, showed up on a roll of tape in the "ballot log" and among the "ballot images," or digital photographs taken of each vote cast on the machine. So far, no one is disputing the results.

Election officials are still unsure of what caused the voting machine to report the wrong number of votes in the first place.

"Once we ran the ballot log and the ballot images, we saw that there were 359 actual votes on the machine. We just don't know why the machine tallied up 724. ... We have one machine with an anomaly and we don't know what caused it," said Rokey Suleman, Fairfax County registrar.

"Nothing like this has ever occurred before. We don't know if the machine malfunctioned or if we did something wrong," said Suleman.

LAST WEEK'S voting machine problems are a sign of bigger problems ahead, said cyber-security expert Jeremy Epstein and other computer scientists. Fairfax County's electronic voting machines produce no ballots or paper trail and it would be impossible to verify the number votes or what they were cast for if an

electronic voting machine malfunctioned and voting information could not be retrieved. There is no hard copy or paper "back up" system if something goes wrong.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. ... When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do," said Epstein, senior computer scientist with the Cyber Security Research and Development Center at

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs."

— Rokey Suleman,
Fairfax County registrar



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's electronic voting machines do not produce a paper trail and are susceptible to program glitches, according to computer scientists who have studied the issue.

SRI International in Arlington.

Epstein, a Braddock District resident, said an overwhelming majority of computer scientists believe there should be a paper trail that can be independently verified.

"There have been many many bugs in election software over the years and, one day we may not be able to recover from it. This bug may have affected past elections and nobody ever noticed it before. It could have given the wrong number of votes to the wrong candidate and nobody noticed," said Epstein, who advocates for voting machine security both nationally and locally.

Epstein and other advocates prefer optical scan voting machines, which require people to fill out a paper ballot with a pencil before running it through a scanning tallying system. The optical scan machines leave a verifiable paper trail.

DURING LAST November's presidential and congressional elections, Fairfax County equipped each polling station with at least one optical scan machine, and gave people

the choice of using either an electronic device or the optical scan to record their votes. But the current county budget crunch led election officials to forego using optical scan machines and to rely entirely on electronic voting machines during the three special elections that have taken place in Fairfax County in 2009. Suleman said he also intends to

only use electronic voting machines with no paper options or backup during the Democratic primary for statewide races in June and the general elections, including the Governor's race, in November.

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs. We don't have money right now for paper ballots. ... The issue is the cost of paper. You have to understand that paper is expensive," said Suleman.

ACCORDING TO

Fairfax County budget documents, the three 2009 special elections – including a House of Delegates race that affected one precinct, a countywide chairman's race in February and the Braddock election – have cost the locality an extra \$300,000 this year. Printing paper ballots for the county chairman's race alone could have driven up the price tag another \$200,000, said Suleman.

If the county is offering paper ballots to voters, it is prudent to have enough to cover a voter turnout of 100 percent, plus a little, even though that number of people is very unlikely to turn up at the polls, said Suleman. According to county records, the voter turnout in November's presidential election, which was regarded as high, was 78.7 percent. In last month's special election for county chairman, it was 16.1 percent. "That is a tremendous amount of waste in paper but you have to be prepared for every voter to show up at the polls," said Suleman.

Still there are people who said they would be more comfortable with some wasted paper ballots than electronic voting machines. "I am not surprised that it is a little bit more expensive if you consider how many people in Fairfax County are going to cast votes in the governor's race. ... It is a little surprising to me that it costs \$200,000 for 400,000 sheets of paper," said Scott Surovell, chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Following the Braddock District election, he now expects the organization to look at a resolution calling for Fairfax County to do away with using its electronic voting machines altogether. "It is the only way to ensure that there is paper trail that reflects the voters' intent. ... The biggest concern is

that the voting machines can have malfunctions as they get older and may not reflect the voters' intent or record the votes correctly," said Surovell.

Epstein, who talks to people from all over the country about issues regarding voting machines, the voting machine malfunction in the Braddock district election could be the most serious malfunction noticed in the country so far.

"Nobody in the United States has seen anything like this. It is screaming and shouting that something is definitely wrong. ... I wasn't surprised that [the malfunction happened] but I was surprised how egregiously wrong it was," he said.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do."

— Jeremy Epstein, computer security expert

AS A SECONDARY issue, Surovell said he is also concerned about going through next fall's elections with only electronic voting machines because they take longer for voters to use than optical scan machines.

In November 2008, both Surovell and Suleman credited some of the success of the Presidential Election Day and its huge turnout to the fact that voters were given the option to use optical scan machines, allowing lines to move more quickly. Widespread

absentee voting at nearly a dozen locations helped as well, but that is unlikely to be available this November, also due to budget constraints.

"I am worried about moving people through the line on Election Day [in November 2009]. The registrar's office has proposed cutting out all satellite absentee voting which will make the lines on election day horrific," said Surovell.

Eventually, Fairfax will have to move away from electronic voting machines and toward an entirely optical scan system.

In 2007, Clifton Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) moved a bill through the Virginia General Assembly that prohibited localities from purchasing new electronic voting machines, requiring them to buy optical scan equipment when the electronic devices break down. Following the 2000 presidential election problems in Florida, Hugo chaired a bipartisan commission in Virginia that investigated the risks of electronic voting machine equipment.

"As someone who has both won and lost an election, it is OK to lose but you need to know that you truly lost. ... It will ensure the integrity of the voting system and the integrity of each vote to have a paper ballot," said Hugo.

"If the voter is not sure and doesn't feel confident that his vote was counted, then he will lose confidence in the entire system," he added.



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Great rambler in the heart of Springfield. Family room addition and expanded master bedroom HW floors in living room. Ceramic tile kitchen. Must see! Let us help you find and buy a foreclosure in Northern Virginia.
Barbara Nowak 703-503-1802
Gerry Staudte 703-503-1894



Mason Neck/Gunston Area **\$699,000**
New Home! 4br, 3 ba colonial w/ 2 car side load gar (not shown) and finished w/o bsmt. Hrdwd flrs main lvl, eat-in kit w/ adj 2 story fam rm, mstr br w/ sitting rm and deck on one acre. Builder can customize for you! Model available for viewing.
Cheryl Hanback 703-864-4321



Annandale **\$524,900**
Inside the beltway. One acre. Treed. Custom all brick. 5 BDR, 3 BA. New roof, new windows, new gutters, new garage door. Recent air & heat. Sold "AS-IS". Traditional sale.
Joe Soricelli 703-503-4031



Annandale **\$499,000**
Motivated seller. Large reduction in price. Shows like a model! New roof, windows, furnace, & gutters. Three finished levels, heated pool & hot tub. Won't last long!
Charlotte Whitney 703-503-1875



Clifton Area **\$675,000**
Five gorgeous acres backing to the Occoquan River, ready for your custom home and dock. Build your dream home or let me recommend a builder to help you design and build it!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Alexandria **\$102,000**
2 level townhome with 3 bedrooms, updated kitchen & baths, fenced back yard, carport parking.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885

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Waterford, VA

\$799,000

Stunning colonial 4 yrs old- 4 bedrooms - 3 1/2 baths - 3 car garage - 2 story FR & foyer - den - sunroom - MBR sitting room. Gorgeous mountain & wooded views!



Lorton Station

Close to Everything

\$389,900

Wonderful end-unit townhome with open floor plan, hardwood floors and plenty of light. Fantastic wrap-around deck backing to open space. Enjoy shopping and restaurants at Lorton Marketplace. Close to I-95, VRE, and Ft. Belvoir. For 24-hr recorded information call 1-888-495-6207, x231.



Mary Hovland

703-946-1775

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Fairfax \$295,000
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.



Fairfax \$624,900

Beautiful, move in ready! Cul de sac, backing to woods, private 0.9 acre! Hardwood floors, wonderfully updated throughout! Sought after neighborhood! Clifton/Robinson.



Clifton \$650,000

Attention Horse Lovers and Historical Buffs! Fabulous 4.2+ acre horse property w/6 stall barn, detached garage, pastures, AND an historical farm house!! Walk to 'Town of Clifton! Unbelievable opportunity to enhance this beautiful property! Clifton ES/Robinson SS!



Fairfax Station \$924,900

Absolutely Best Price/Best Condition Home in Fairfax Station! Elegant all brick updated colonial on premium 5 acre lot. Four large bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, 5 fireplaces. Outstanding finished walk out lower level! Beautiful!



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First OPEN Sunday, Mar. 22 Fairfax 22032

Robinson School Pyramid

Exceptionally lovely move-up home! Updated, New Siding, New Paint, 3 fin lvls, 4 lge BR, 3.5 BA, Office on Mn Lvl, Oversized yard w Sylvan Inground Pool, fully fenced. Quiet Cul-de-sac street, Huge parking pad for RV or Boat. Call Kay Hart for directions: 703-503-1860

Another Exceptional Listing coming soon:

Open Sunday, April 5 Fairfax 22032

Traditional Style with Contemporary Flair. Gorgeous light hardwood floors, updated, beautiful condition. Lovely yard, cul-de-sac street. Robinson Pyramid. Call Kay for information/sneak preview 703-250-HART Long & Foster, Realtors

Waiting to BUY until prices bottom out?

What happens to home prices as supply declines? Note that these are the listed homes in MRIS (as of 3/10/09) with 4+BR, 3+FB, 3 levels, 2+ garage, walk-out basement:

Price	Burke	Fairfax Station	Clifton
400-599,000	5	2	2
600-799,000	2	2	2
800-999,000	0	8	4
1,000,000+	1	10	7

Email Subject Line: It's MY Time! Sell me a great house before the prices go up



Carol G. Ford, REALTOR

GRI, ABR, Member REBAC

Real Estate Buyer's Agent

Council 703-503-4027

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Ann Witherspoon

703-503-1836



FAIRFAX STATION - CROSSPOINTE \$699,500

Dramatic 4 BR, 4.5 BA home w/bright, open floor plan - 1st Floor Master BR with luxury BA - 2 Fireplaces! Huge

gorgeous kitchen with all the bells & whistles. 2-story Family Room w/Overlook - Main floor study/library - Sparkling HW floors - Finished LL with full BA & wet bar. Plus much more! For a private tour or more information...

CALL ANN WITHERSPOON 703-503-1836

Sheila Adams

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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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Fairfax Station

\$849,000

Gorgeous 4BR, 2.5BA updated, waterfront Colonial on 5+ wooded acres. Charming interior with all modern conveniences. Updated kitchen, baths, Pella windows, Hardiplank exterior, landscaping & new HVAC. Picturesque view of lake, tiered deck, foot bridges, creek and in-ground pool. Convenient yet completely private location.



Fairfax Station

\$629,000

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.

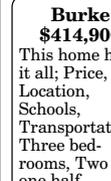


Richard Esposito

703-503-4035

Richard@LNF.com

Service is the difference I provide



Burke \$414,900

This home has it all; Price, Location, Schools, Transportation. Three bedrooms, Two and one half Bathrooms, Office and Recreation Room on Lower Level. Step from the kitchen onto deck overlooking your own in-ground swimming pool. What a way to enjoy time with family and friends. The recreation room is highlighted by a wood stove. Windows and carpeting have been updated.



Alexandria/Potomac Yard \$629,000

Minutes to exciting Potomac Yard featuring restaurants, theaters and shopping. One year old end unit townhome featuring hardwood floors, stainless and granite kitchen as well as a walk out recreation room for your enjoyment. Two car garage parking and convenient to Metro, Crystal City, and Reagan Airport.



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