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Chasing Kites

NEWS, PAGE 3

Castaway In Lorton

NEWS, PAGE 3

In Krista's Memory

NEWS, PAGE 2

Andy Jang, 6, of Oakton, chases a kite being flown by his mother while attending the annual Gunston Hall Kite Festival in Lorton on March 21.

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A Reason To Race for Hope

Friends, family of Krista Thompson team up to raise money in her honor.

By JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Krista Thompson wore many hats. At South County Secondary, she was an honor roll student, received a varsity letter in swimming and played violin in the symphonic orchestra. On the athletic fields she was active in field hockey and tennis. As a friend, she drew people to her and as a daughter, well, she was so loved that she was even referred to by a friend as her “daughter from another mother.”

After doing so much for others throughout her 17 years, the people who were closest to Krista are on a mission to give back to her in the best way they know how.

Almost 4 1/2 years ago, 13-year-old Krista Thompson was diagnosed with a brain tumor. In an effort to raise money to help find a cure, her family and close friends formed a team for the 2005 Race for Hope 5K Run/Walk. Now that she is gone, they are still participating, still to find a cure, but also to keep her memory alive.

THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE began in October 2004, but according to family and friends, only those who knew of the diagnosis knew anything was wrong. Her mother, Kathie Thompson, said that after



CONTRIBUTED

Krista Thompson

learning of the diagnosis, she would not talk about because she wanted to be treated like any other child. In fact, her mother said, many of her fellow students assumed that she was just sick and had gotten better because she blended in so well.

“Krista was one of a kind,” said Kim Giammaria, a family friend and Team Krista

member. “A lot of people didn’t even know that she was sick because she handled her treatments like a champ and never complained. I’m still in shock over the fact that she is not here.”

Upon hearing about the diagnosis, Susan Hamon, a neighbor and family friend, began to organize a team for D.C. Race for Hope, an event that raises money to find a cure for brain tumors. She gathered Krista’s family and friends and reached out to people she knew to form the team what was then called Krista’s Red Sox to race in the May 2005 installment.

Though Krista was aware of the team formed in her honor, her mother said that Krista did not think twice about it. The one thing that did stick in her mind, however, was seeing several race participants adorned in T-shirts that read “survivor.” At that point, Kathie Thompson said, it hit Krista that not all of those stricken with brain tumors survive.

“She was only 13 at the time, so it did

not really occur to her [that people were honoring her],” Kathie Thompson said. “She never gave it much thought.”

AFTER WATCHING HER FAMILY and friends help in the fight to find a cure for four consecutive years at the Race for Hope,

Krista died in late October 2008. Now, participating in the Race for Hope for the first time without Krista, those same people have brought their fund raising and team participation to a new level.

Lead by a team of captains instead of just one, and sporting a new name, Team Krista hopes to leave its mark on this year’s event. With more than a month to go until the Race, Team Krista leads more than 200 other teams in terms of dollars raised, with more than \$11,000, surpassing their goal of \$10,000. In addition, the team is in second place for total participants, having 99 people registered as members. For these

SEE FRIENDS, PAGE 4

“Krista was one of a kind. I’m still in shock over the fact that she is not here.”

— **Kim Giammaria, Team Krista member and family friend**



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* Data from the “Freshman Survey” collected by the Cooperative Institutional Research Institute at UCLA.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Rob and Jami Carson of Fairfax and their son, Landon, sample period-related food while attending the annual Gunston Hall Kite Festival on March 21.

Thrill on a String

Families flock to Gunston Hall Kite Festival.



A variety of activities were available to keep children and their families busy at the annual Gunston Hall Kite Festival on Saturday, March 21. A bubble machine was a popular activity for the children.

Lorton Goes Hollywood

Workhouse Arts Center will offer film festivals, monthly screenings.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE CONNECTION

For years, Lorton resident Carol Mather woke up in the middle of the night to the screech of prison sirens alerting the neighborhood of an escape attempt at nearby Lorton Prison.

"We had a telephone number we would call and everything, to let us know what the situation was," said Mather, laughing at the memory of those nights. Now she calls it a dream come true to see the prison fortifications torn down, and a vibrant arts center put up in its place.

"I was excited beyond words," said Mather of hearing about the plans for the site's transformation into the Workhouse Arts Center, a project of the Lorton Art Foundation. She was one of the first people who volunteered her time when the center opened.

"Ideally, I would want the Workhouse Film Institute to become a regional magnet for the arts – film being one aspect of that."

— Joseph Wallen, director of Performing Arts at the Center

The brick buildings and watchtowers are still there, but gone are the fences and concertina wire. The Workhouse Center has been officially open for six months and has already developed facilities for a variety of art forms. The Film Institute is the latest of such efforts. They will screen films once a month, and will also host film festivals and competitions.

Joseph Wallen, director of Performing Arts at the Center, expressed his hope that Saturday night, March 21, would launch a program rich in the art of film. The Workhouse will be offering classes in all aspects of film and production, and will include an outreach program to local artists. Whenever possible he hoped to bring in VIPs and experts from the film industry to talk about their projects.

The film screened last Saturday was "Iron Jawed Angels" which documents the imprisonment of women suffragists at Lorton Workhouse in 1917. Neal McBride, of South Springfield, spoke before the screening about plans to build a National Women's Suffrage museum nearby. He is a member of the Lorton Arts Foundation Heritage Committee and also discussed plans to build the Turning Point Memorial specifically to honor the events that took place at the prison, which led to women's right to vote.

More than 1,000 students have already signed up for a full catalog of classes, and the center hosts over 150 artists in residence. The class offerings cover a full range of visual and performing arts and are constantly expanding. They include digital

SEE FILM, PAGE 15

Turning a Page

Actress Tina Louise visits Lorton Arts Center April 4.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

It's been decades since Tina Louise left America's most famous island and living rooms, but she has never dropped out of the public eye.

These days, Louise's adoring fans are a little younger, and know her better as an author than the copper-haired vixen from "Gilligan's Island."



DONATED PHOTO

Tina Louise

"I signed 300 books today at a school in New Jersey," said Louise, with a sigh, from her New York City home. "I've been doing this for 12 years now and I just love it."

Louise is the author of "When I Grow Up," a children's book that compares what animals do with various professions. She will be signing copies of her book at the Lorton Arts Foundation Workhouse on Ox Road on Saturday, April 4, and she hopes the audience is full of young, smiling faces.

Her inspiration for the book, and her involvement in the New York City literacy program, Learning Leaders, came from the low literacy levels that were front-page news when Louise moved to the city in the 1990s. She felt compelled to get involved, but she wasn't sure what she could do or where to start.

SEE FROM GILLIGAN'S, PAGE 15

Teacher Charged with Assault

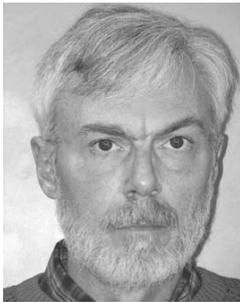
Fairfax County Police have charged a Gunston Elementary School teacher with aggravated sexual battery. He is Rodney Bower, 54, of the 2400 block of Temple Court in Alexandria.

Police were contacted last Friday, March 20, to investigate an alleged sexual assault that occurred sometime between Sunday, Feb. 1, and Saturday, Feb. 14. They say the alleged victim, a female student at Gunston Elementary, was reportedly touched inappropriately by Bower in her home.

According to police, he was tutoring her when the reported assault took place. The child did not require medical treatment. Bower turned himself in to detectives on Monday, March 23 and was formally charged. He was released the next day, March 24, from the Adult Detention Center on \$20,000 bond. He has a May 1 court date.

Bower has taught in Fairfax County Public Schools since 2000 and has been at Gunston since 2005. He teaches fifth grade and accelerated math but, according to school system spokesman Paul Regnier, he's now been placed on unpaid leave.

The investigation is still ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.



Rodney Bower

POLICE PHOTO

— BONNIE HOBBS

Meetings for 2010 Budget

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) and School Board Chairman and Mount Vernon District Representative Dan Storck are hosting two joint public meetings on Fairfax County's Advertised Fiscal Year 2010 Budget and the School Superintendent's Advertised Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. The meetings will be Wednesday, April 15, 7 p.m., at Lorton Station Elementary School Cafeteria, 9298 Lewis Chapel Road, Lorton and Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m., at Walt Whitman Middle School Lecture Hall, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Hyland and Storck will make opening comments followed by brief budget presentations by county and school staff, then open up the floor for questions and comments.

The Board of Supervisors will mark-up the Advertised Budget on Monday, April 20 and is scheduled to adopt the Budget on April 27.

The School Board will conduct public hearings on May 12 and 13 and is scheduled to adopt their Budget on May 21.

Town Council Meeting April 7

The next meeting of the Clifton Town Council is Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall. It's at 12641 Chapel Road in Clifton.

Corrections

The article "Academy Proposal Generates Traffic Concerns" [Connection, March 19-25, 2009] contained an error in the quote by Lorrie Appleton. The correct quote is: "Our community has six feeder schools totaling 11,800 students. A portion of those students travel on buses on Popes Head up to four times a day."

In the article "Performing a Cook Family Business" [Connection, March 19-25, 2009] contained several errors. Ben Cook played Tad Lincoln. Katharine Cook's name was misspelled. The Cook children study at the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center in Landsdowne, with Ben taking classes four days a week. Ben feels more comfortable "dancing and acting." "Macbeth was co-directed by Teller with Aaron Posner.

NEWS



DONATED PHOTO

Krista's Red Sox, as the team was known prior to this year, walk together proudly displaying their team's banner.

Friends March in Krista's Memory

FROM PAGE 2

efforts, Thompson and Hamon were named "Team Captains of the Week" for the second week of March by race organizers, an honor they insist was only made possible by the commitment and dedication of the entire team.

Team Krista was able to raise the money by utilizing several different tactics. First, each member of the team has contributed some money and have reached out to people they know and have asked those people to spread the word further. Second, the team has spent many hours sitting in shopping centers and in front of Starbucks Coffee, selling raffle tickets for an iPod for \$3.

Community businesses have also reached out, with the Glory Days Grill restaurant chain offering its support. According to Hamon, people who eat at any of the restaurant locations can save their receipts

How To Help

On Friday, March 27, 5-9 p.m., members of Team Krista will be at the Lorton Glory Days Grill, 9459 Lorton Market St., Lorton to collect receipts. Diners can hand over the receipt for their meal to a team member and the restaurant will donate 10 percent of cost of the food to the team. Also, visit Team Krista's home page at www.braintumorcommunity.org/site/TR?team_id=19200&fr_id=1340&pg=team to register for the team or to donate money.

and give them to Hamon, who will in turn hand them over to the restaurant. Glory Days will then donate 10 percent of the food purchases from all of the receipts to Team Krista for the Race for Hope.

"We're doing a little bit of everything," Hamon said. "We've got all kinds of little things going on to try to raise money and get people involved."



DONATED PHOTO

Silverbrook principal Dr. Melanie Mackin and Silverbrook fifth grade teacher Megan Beavers smile with their trophies.

Silverbrook's On Court Triumph

The staffs of William Halley and Silverbrook elementary schools met Saturday evening, March 21 for the first HalleyBrook basketball game at the South County High School gymnasium.

Besides watching energetic game, the sell out

crowd watched halftime entertainment, vied for door prize offerings, ate great food and enjoyed great community spirit.

The two schools are looking forward to a rematch next school year, though the final score was a close one — Silverbrook 19, Halley 14.

NEWS

NOVA Begins Registration

Registration begins March 31 for the summer session at Northern Virginia Community College. Students may register online, 24 hours a day online at www.nvcc.edu or by telephone at 703-323-3770. For help, visit a campus in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield or Woodbridge.

The 12-week session starts May 18 and ends Aug. 10. NOVA also offers two six-week sessions during the summer, allowing students to earn credits quickly. The six-week sessions start May 18 and June 30. College students home for the summer are welcome to earn NOVA credits that transfer to their four-year residential colleges. NOVA has articulation agreements with dozens of colleges and universities to ensure the seamless transfer of credits.

Students who prefer independent study can choose distance learning courses, most of which can be completed online. Distance learning sessions start May 18, June 1 and June 22. To learn about distance learning courses, go to <http://eli.nvcc.edu>.

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an evening with **Tina Louise**
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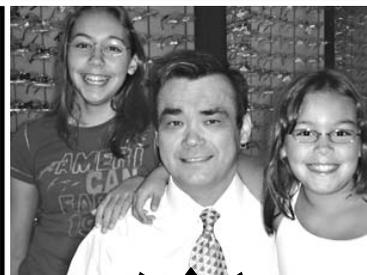
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Elections You Can Believe In

Without a paper trail, electronic voting will fail.

It should serve as a national wake-up call. Here in Northern Virginia, more than 700 votes cast in one precinct in a special election earlier this month were called into question when a voting machine malfunctioned.

The voting machine reported that 724 people had used it, even though officials at the Fairview 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.

Officials were unable to declare a winner in the race for more than 24 hours while they moved and opened the rogue machine. The conclusion: John Cook (R) defeated at-large school board member Ilryong Moon (D) by 89 votes in an election where more than 13,000 voters cast ballots.

Read reporter Julia O'Donoghue's story on the problems with voting machines at <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=326931&paper=73&cat=109>.

The March 10 special election was held to choose the successor to Sharon Bulova (D) for

Braddock District supervisor.

There were no optical scan machines available for the special election because election officials were trying to save money; there was no paper trail to back up questions about the accuracy of the electronic voting. Rokey Suleman, Fairfax County registrar, cited the high cost of paper.

But the costs of any legal challenge to the results would make the cost of paper pale by comparison. The loss of voter confidence would have more disastrous and far-reaching effects.

Computer experts warn that relying solely on the software inside electronic voting machines is a formula for disaster. Most of the rest of us who are not computer experts have seen first hand what can go wrong when computer hardware or software malfunctions, and the importance of good (or any) back-up systems.

Virginia will hold very important elections in June and November. The contest for Governor alone will be hotly contested and could be very, very close, both in the June primary and

the November general election. Remember that Bob McDonnell, now the Republican candidate for Governor, became Attorney General in the last election by a margin of 360 votes out of nearly 2 million votes cast.

Every seat in the House of Delegates will also be on the ballot in November. In Fairfax County at least, election officials do not plan to offer the optical scan/paper ballot as an option.

Nearly 80 percent of registered voters turned out for last November's presidential and congressional elections, and Fairfax County equipped each polling station with at least one optical scan machine, giving voters a choice. This plus the many voters who were able to vote absentee in person ahead of time were part of the reason Election Day went smoothly.

Offering the choice to use paper ballots and optical scanning machines doesn't address the question of a possible failure of an electronic machine and the need for a paper trail.

Local jurisdictions around Virginia should ponder a worst-case scenario now — the results of a close contest could be unreliable or undeterminable because of voting machine malfunction. The costs involved would dwarf the costs of setting up back-up systems now.

EDITORIAL

School Budget: Changing the Equation

Supervisor calls for fiscal transparency, accountability and efficiency in FCPS budget.

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY
R-SPRINGFIELD

Our world-class schools are the number one reason businesses and families are attracted to Fairfax County. That quality carries a price. The school system accounts for more than half (54 percent) of all county funding. The county is facing a funding shortfall of \$650 million this year. Still, even in this difficult economic climate, we need to ensure the quality of our schools. However, this does not excuse the school budget from the healthy scrutiny these tough times dictate. It is past time to change the equation on how we discuss the school budget.

The old equation repeated year after year is to exact pressure on the Board of Supervisors to give more money to schools by putting unpopular cuts and damaging reductions to children on the table. Every budget cycle, we go through the same formula: the School Board warns that if they don't get the money they requested, teacher salaries will be cut, our competitiveness will be lost, class sizes will be increased and a sport (pick one, it changes every year) will be eliminated.

It's time for a new equation, one that relies on fiscal transparency, accountability and efficiency. We must direct resources to our students and their classrooms. We must be vigilant and evaluate administrative overhead and school operations to maximize money for teachers and classrooms. In trying economic times that are resulting in cuts to fire, police

and nearly every service supported by the county, the School Board is asking for an additional \$25 million. Clearly, there is need for an open dialogue on how to fund our priorities without asking for more from taxpayers.

I believe this starts with having the School Board and staff make some tough choices in areas that have not been openly discussed in the past. These include the following:

❖ Perhaps the biggest variable in the school budget is the \$40 million for a

projected 4,400 increase in school population. The School Board cites its belief that more students will arrive from Prince William County and that there will be a shift from private schools. The increase in students moving into Fairfax County in response to policies implemented by Prince William County did create a one-time spike of 2,500 students in the school population last year. The School Board has turned that blip into a trend. In fact, evidence shows that the migration has stopped. More disturbing, FCPS has not analyzed where the 600 new students joining this year came from.

❖ Why do we have 17 assistant superintendents who each earn a six-figure salary?

❖ Why is our assistant principal to student ratio so much higher than surrounding counties?

❖ We need to find efficiencies in our budget by combining resources between our county government and schools, like libraries, human resources departments, legal counsel and fi-

COMMENTARY

nancial systems as I proposed last October.

❖ Why haven't we automated our school transportation system? Transportation is a major cost of the school system yet we still plan our bus routes with paper, scissors and envelopes.

❖ Why are we projecting fuel costs at \$5-\$5.20 per gallon?

❖ Why did we grow from four areas to eight clusters — doubling our administration?

❖ Are the 470 lesson plan developers in the Division of Instructional Services helping or hurting our teachers?

EACH OF these represents the potential for millions in savings without impacting classrooms. Increased class sizes and having our teachers fall further behind other area schools in salaries is not acceptable. We need to begin an open and honest discussion about the school budget.

It is the aim of every public official in Fairfax County to ensure that Fairfax County schools remain the best in the nation. Unfortunately, we too often overlook commonsense solutions to our problems. I hope we use the current economic and budget challenges to start a discussion on changing the equation of the school budget and usher in an era of fiscal transparency, accountability and efficiency. It is high time to renew our focus on teachers and improving class sizes. Please ask your School Board member to change the equation. Ask for the money we need to ensure the continued success of our schools. But also put the tough questions to the School Board and administrators to make sure your tax dollars are being used wisely — for our students, our teachers and our classrooms.

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Newspaper of Fairfax Station, Laurel Hill & Clifton
An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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COLLEGE

Nate Hough of Fairfax Station has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Grove City College in Grove City, Pa. Hough is majoring in electrical engineering. He is a 2008 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School and the son of Scott and Linda Hough of Fairfax Station.

David Adams of Fairfax Station has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the College of William and Mary. The junior is majoring in economics and finance.

Hannah Blechman of Fairfax Station will perform in Carlo Goldoni's "Servant of Two Masters" at Wittenberg University of Springfield, Ohio, from Feb. 26-March 1.

Dana Kreyenhagen of Fairfax Station has been named to the fall 2008 president's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Clifton residents **Margaret Boatner, Hayne Chun, Andrianna Backhus and Sierra Stoney** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Fairfax Station residents **Rachael Flaks, Matthew Robinson, Ashley Reed and Claire Tuley** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Lorton residents **Savreen Hundal, Jacob McCrumb and Dallas Stapleton** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

FAITH NOTES

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church Ladies Guild will serve meatless meals every Friday during Lent, through 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.epiphanyfourload.org.

Messiah United Methodist Church is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For more information, call 703-569-9862 or visit www.messiahumc.org.

♦ **A Community of Contagious Joy.** Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m., with Holy Communion every Sunday; and , 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

♦ **Heartline:** An interactive praise and worship service, Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

* **Spring Community Concert – The Messiah Festival Choir presents: Karl Jenkins:** The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace to be performed on Sunday, April 5 at 3 p.m. at Messiah. Karl Jenkins is a well known composer and director in Europe.

♦ **Women's Lenten Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, March 28, at 8 a.m. Contact the church office at office@messiahumc.org to make a reservation.

♦ **Independent Living Project for Seniors.** A six-week program beginning Monday, April 20 from 12:45-1:45 p.m. sponsored by Messiah and Fairfax County. It is designed to promote information to older adults in the Springfield/Burke area. To register, contact Irene Rich, Director of Congregational Care at 703-569-9862, ext. 210 or irich@messiahumc.org.

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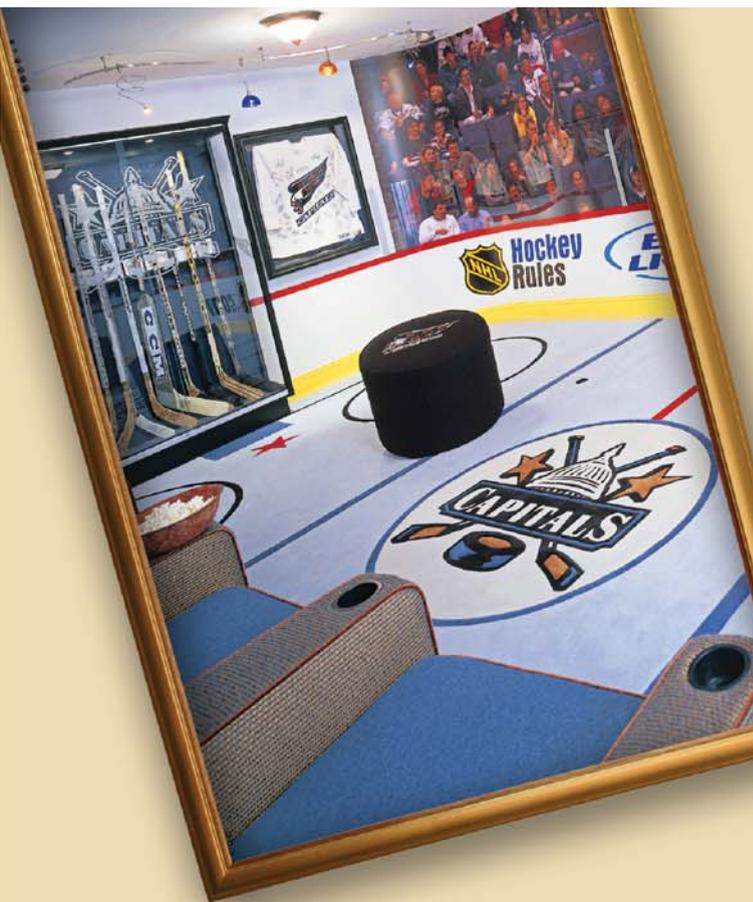
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CALENDAR

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/MARCH 26

Don Cobert, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

Lamb Frolics, 10:30 a.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Enjoy a drop-in storytime with books, songs and fingerplay about lambs. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Preschool Storytime, 1 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Join us for stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

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

Tell It Again, 6 p.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Hear the story "Dora the Explorer: Eggs for everyone/Huevos para todos" in Spanish and English. Age 4 to 12 with adult. 703-451-8055.

"So You Want To Be a Star..." 2 p.m. at HeartBeats Music & Dance, 8060 Rolling Road, Springfield. A free lecture for aspiring dancers, singers, actors and their parents by Peter Sklar. Reservations required. For ages 6-18 only. No one under age 18 will be admitted without their parent or legal guardian. 703-440-9000.

Semi-annual Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Thousands of used books at great prices. Early bird sale for Friends of the Library only, 4-8 p.m., at Burke Centre Library,

5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Don Cobert, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

Burke Centre Friends Book Sale, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

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

Frayz, Oz Boyz and Dave the Barber, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Employment Workshop, 7-10 p.m., at the Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Presented by the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services the workshop includes Interview Do's and Don'ts, Tips for Job Applications and Dressing for Success. In addition, the University of Phoenix will offer a free scholarship workshop for parents on how to find and apply for scholarships for college-bound teens. Both Events are free but require pre-registration by calling Chris Goldbecker at 703-278-8605, TTY 711 by March 25. For more, contact Christopher.Goldbecker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Semi-annual Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Thousands of used books at great prices. 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

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 28

The Northern Virginia Chorale and the NVCC Annandale Chorale present "Shakespeare in Spring," 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music, George Shearing's Music to Hear, Joseph Haydn's The Creation and more. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Age 12-24 \$10, under 12 free. www.northernvirginiachorale.org or call 703-239-2180.

Don Cobert, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

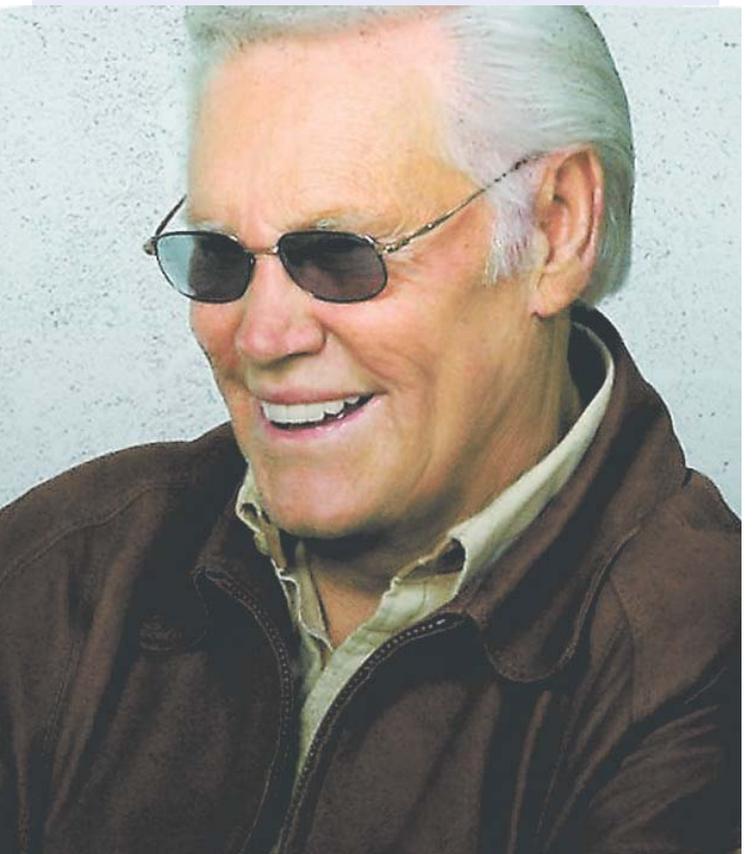
George Jones and "Conway Twitty: The Man, The Music, The Legend, The Musical," 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$34.50, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT.

Book Signing and Story time with Susan Crites, local award winning children's author of "I Love You More Than Rainbows." 1-4 p.m., Springfield Borders, 6701 Frontier Drive, Springfield. 703-924-4894. www.susancrites.com.

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

Kaydee Puppets, 10:30 a.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Puppets perform "The Little Red Hen's Wacky Week" and "The Princess and the Pea." All ages. 703-971-0010.

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



George Jones and 'Conway Twitty: The Man, The Music, The Legend, The Musical,' appear at the Patriot Center in Fairfax on Saturday, March 28.

interaction with music professors Clyde Shaw and Doris Lederer. clorange@su.edu or acambel@su.edu.

Messiah United Methodist Church Women's Lenten Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m. at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Reserve at 703-569-9862 or office@messiahumc.org.

"So You Want To Be a Star..." 4 p.m. at HeartBeats Music & Dance, 8060 Rolling Road, Springfield. A free lecture for aspiring dancers, singers, actors and their parents by Peter Sklar. Reservations required. 703-440-9000.

Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Participants will work in an assembly line operation mixing, bagging and boxing dry ingredients of a high-protein, vitamin-rich, chicken-rice casserole. Child care provided. Contact LaRae Curry at 703-455-5124. www.stophungernow.org.

Sponge, Dirt, Crooked Crow, GI9 and Crow Moon, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$17 in advance, \$20 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Clifton Horse Society Annual Meeting, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Hemlock Overlook, 13220 Yates Ford Road in Clifton. Bring a dish for the potluck. Contact Ursula Moore at 703-830-1965 or jeffursula15@cox.net.

Semi-annual Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Thousands of used books at great prices. 4-8 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Evening of Jazz with Dick Hyman presented by the City of Fairfax Band. Master class 2 p.m., at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, Grand Tier III, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Concert is 8 p.m., at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The master class is free and open to the public. General admission concert tickets are \$13 Adults, \$7 Seniors. Free

admission for children and students 18 and under. Doors open one hour prior to concert. Free parking. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxband.org. Group discounts are available with advanced sales. For more information or to reserve a seat, call 703-757-0220 or e-mail info@fairfaxband.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. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 29

Karaoke, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

Empowered Women International Multi-Media Exhibition Reception, 2-4 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center Gallery W-16, second floor, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Featuring the We the People Project, an art exhibition that highlights a vision of America today, and includes storytelling, poetry and music from participating artists. The exhibition runs through April 4. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event, 1-4 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Child care provided. Contact LaRae Curry at 703-455-5124. www.stophungernow.org.

Sing Me Insomnia, six Watt, Beatnik Flies, Fight Cloud, The Cliched, Thomas, Ugly Thrash Demon, Stuck in the Mud, The Offset and Nightmare Ritual. 4:15 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$8 in advance, \$10 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FOR FAMILIES



The Kaydee Puppets perform 'The Little Red Hen's Wacky Week' and 'The Princess and the Pea,' at the John Marshall Library on Saturday, March 28.

MILITARY



Air Force Airman Ryan E. Haas has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Regina Speziale of Knollbrook Drive, Clifton. Haas is a 2008 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

Midshipman Rebecca Grimes of Fairfax Station was one of the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy students that marched in the inauguration parade for President Barack Obama on Jan. 20. Grimes is a graduate of Paul VI Catholic High School, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Grimes of Fairfax Station.

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Alex Caldwell was a second team All-Northern Region middle for the Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team. This season, he has been forced to initiate the team's offense as an attackman.



Kyle Merrell, a defender, was a second team All-Patriot District selection for the Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team last spring.

PHOTOS BY KARL EVANS

Position Shift Yields Results for Bruins

Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team looks to buoy the loss of 17 seniors.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Facing the net head on, Alex Caldwell, like many, feels most at ease. The Lake Braddock senior was a second team All-Northern Region middle last spring for the boys' lacrosse team, scoring goals often by dodging one defender and then charging, with a full head of steam, toward the cage.

Where Caldwell is not as comfortable is behind the net, a place where he has been shifted to this season. Though as a junior

he emerged as one of the area's top goal-scoring threats when the Bruins' went 11-5, Caldwell, because of the graduation of 17 seniors, has been asked to play as an attackman.

The move plants Caldwell behind the opposing team's goal. He eventually makes his move to the right or left, keeping his back to the goal and then either passes to a teammate or spins to fire a shot on net.

On Friday, March 20, for the Bruins' Patriot District opener against Annandale, Caldwell found himself behind the Atoms' goal with three minutes left in the third

period. He looked left. Then he moved right. Instead of turning to shoot, Caldwell, appearing very much at ease, fired a pass to a teammate stationed to the right of the cage.

The goal pulled Lake Braddock within three, but Annandale escaped with an 11-7 win. Moreover, the play was a quick snapshot of Caldwell's growing comfortability up front, something the Bruins will surely benefit from this spring.

"It's a little bit more difficult than it was

last year," Caldwell said, "but I kind of like it a little bit."

"It's a little bit more difficult than it was last year, but I kind of like it a little bit."

— Alex Caldwell, senior,
Lake Braddock Secondary

THE CHANGE, which still has Caldwell marked by the opposing team's long pole defender, was initiated by head coach Steve Price, who's in his 34th year of work at Lake Braddock. Price also wasn't shy about stating his

expectations.

SEE LB LACROSSE, PAGE 12

South County Enjoys 'That Clean Slate'

Stallions girls' lacrosse gets fresh start under first-year coach Liz Schaffner.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

In the early stages of the spring sports season, almost every coach spent countless hours on the practice field, prepping his or her team for regular-season play and trying to iron out any deficiencies that haven't been corrected from last year.

South County girls' lacrosse coach Liz Schaffner adopted a different approach, at least with respect to the emphasis on last spring, when the Stallions went 13-4 and lost to W.T. Woodson in the Northern Region semifinals.

Schaffner's stand comes partly out of necessity and partly out of desire, as she was

hired to assume the reins at South County in October with little sense of the Stallions' strengths and weaknesses in 2008.

That's just fine, according to the coach. It gave Schaffner an opportunity to construct a program from scratch, which is one of the primary reasons the long-time George Mason University assistant landed at South County.

"You can start with that clean slate," said Schaffner, whose team has won two out of its first three games this season. "I don't know who was scoring all of the goals last year, but I know who's doing it this year and so far it's working for

"I don't know who was scoring all of the goals last year, but I know who's doing it this year and so far it's working for us."

— Coach Liz Schaffner, South County Secondary

us."

Schaffner came to South County having no prior experience at the high school level. She helped start the SuperNOVA Select Lacrosse Club five years ago, and, during a 10-year run (1998-2008) at Mason, looked after a defense that was consistently one of the conference's best, setting a school record for fewest goals allowed (121) during her

first season of work.

So far this spring, Schaffner has changed little in how she handles practices and drills.

"We're still learning the sport of lacrosse," Schaffner said. "Winning is still important. It's not the only thing, but it's definitely still important. So I want the players, whether they're playing for my high school team or my club team, to be prepared."

One of the players that should help South County this spring, senior midfielder Caris Moses, was one of the few that Schaffner knew prior to taking the job, thanks to SuperNOVA. According to Schaffner, Moses, normally quiet and reserved, has developed into an important leader this season.

With her ability to control the offensive end, Moses should help create more opportunities for junior midfielder Megan Wears, sophomore midfielder Erica Binzer and junior attack Rachel Covas. Schaffner praised Wears' talents on draw control, Binzer's "lightning-fast" speed and Covas' scoring touch. In a 15-9 loss to Langley on March 12, Binzer had six of the team's goals.

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8506 OAK CHASE CIRCLE	5	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$753,000	Detached	0.29	CROSSPOINTE
9895 CHAPEL BRIDGE ESTS DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$737,000	Detached	0.67	CHAPEL BRIDGE
9105 OAK CHASE CT	5	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$707,000	Detached	0.35	CROSSPOINTE
8125 RONDELAY LN	4	2	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$687,500	Detached	5.01	RONDELAY
7908 WILD ORCHID WAY	4	3	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$670,000	Detached	5.01	DOMINION VALLEY HUNT
8897 RHODODENDRON CT	6	4	1	LORTON	\$650,000	Detached	0.23	LAUREL HILL
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8962 BIRCH BAY CIR	4	3	1	LORTON	\$510,000	Detached	0.16	LAUREL HILL
7998 ALMEDA CT	4	3	1	LORTON	\$481,000	Detached	0.09	EVANS
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8247 SINGLELEAF LN	3	3	1	LORTON	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.07	LAUREL HILL
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Lovely Colonial w/ dramatic & open floor plan w/ 2 story foyer, vaulted clngs, 2 brk frpls, deck & patio overlook dense woods, sunny eat-in kit w/ island & blt-in desk, loads of hrdwd flrs, 4BR, 3.5BA, fin bsmt w/ den & rec rm, MBA w/ sep tub & shower & skylt, MBR w/ walk-in closet, walk to school & more.



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



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Burke/Longwood Knolls \$599,950

Sold in 13 Days

Lovely home on private flat & fenced lot w/ deck & gazebo, eat-in kit w/ SS appliances & granite cntrs, dramatic flmlyrm w/ cathedral ceilings, hrdwd flrs, huge fin bsmt w/ recrm, 2 dens/BR & full bath, huge MBR w/ sitting rm & lux BA w/ jetted tub & double sinks, replaced windows & HVAC & more.

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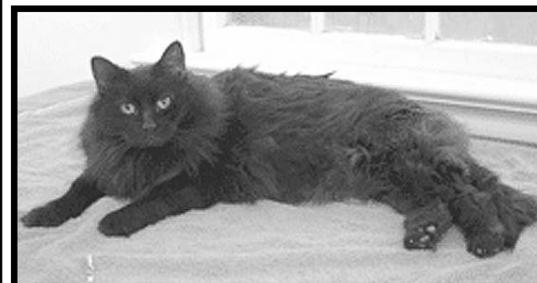
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LB Lacrosse

FROM PAGE 10

"Alex has got to be the leader on the field offensively," Price said. "He's got to control the ball."

The next most pivotal Bruin figures to be Ryan Luria, a junior attackman who tweaked his knee against Annandale, though the injury doesn't appear to have any lingering effects. Kyle Merrell, a second team All-District selection last spring, returns to shore up the Bruins' defense.

Another key for Lake Braddock this season will be replacing second team All-Region goalkeeper Will Peabody, who's now at the U.S. Naval Academy. Junior Wyce Asmati filled that role against Annandale, with Price praising the performance that his goalkeeper turned in.

But the most significant change for Lake Braddock this season revolves around Caldwell, whose brother, Anderson Caldwell, was an honorable mention All-Region attackman last season but was also one of the 17 seniors who graduated.

The two housemates shared a strong chemistry on the field last spring. This year, Alex Caldwell finds himself trying to play both roles. And trying to lead his team back to the region tournament.

"It's different this year," Alex Caldwell said, "knowing that he's not down there to catch the ball when I need him to."

Brennan Miller
Tosses No-Hitter

In his baseball team's Patriot District opener against Annandale on Friday, March 20, South County senior Brennan Miller tossed a no-hitter, striking out 10 batters during his seven scoreless innings of work. He allowed only one walk during the 8-0 win.

"He was in command of every single pitch that he had."

— Stallions Coach Mark Luther

Miller didn't throw a ball in three innings, and the right-hander threw a total of 84 pitches, 63 of which were strikes. Eighty percent of those strikes came on the first pitch.

"He was in command of every single pitch that he had," Stallions coach Mark Luther said. "He was in a little bit of a zone that night."

Brennan's gem, while dominant, was also historic. Since South County's first baseball season in the spring of 2005, no pitcher had ever thrown a no-hitter.

With the win over Annandale, coupled with a 12-0 defeat of West Potomac on Tuesday, South County improved to 2-0 this season. The Stallions have an early-season test this Friday as they'll entertain last spring's Patriot District and Northern Region champs, Lake Braddock.

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VIEWPOINTS

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"I want to be an Air Force pilot or a lawyer."
Jacob Lewis, 11, Lorton Station



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From 'Gilligan's Island' to Lorton

FROM PAGE 3

At a United Nations dinner one night, she began talking with a woman who had been involved with N.Y. School Volunteers, a group that worked to improve literacy in city schools. That program morphed into Learning Leaders, a volunteer literacy tutor organization, and with that, Louise became an advocate for children, especially in the areas of literacy and physical education.

"The first time I walked into a public school, I felt very happy," she said. "It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

"It's a very beautiful experience to be in front of children and work with them."

— Tina Louise

MANY CHILDREN didn't know what they wanted to be when they grew up and they didn't really know what options they had, Louise explained. That's how she got the idea for the book, by taking children's love of animals and their imaginations and putting the two together to show children they could be anything they dreamed.

Eventually, when she was on tour promoting "When I Grow Up," she started asking children what kind of careers they might want to pursue. She would ask who wanted to be an architect, and count the number of hands that went up.

During last week's visit to New Jersey, she finished her talk by asking the children how many wanted to be president.

"I walked around the gym and had some teachers helping me to count because I wanted to make sure we got every single little hand," Louise said. "There were over 150 hands raised. It was just wonderful."

Speaking of the presidency, Louise said she was able to give a signed copy of her book to the Obama family back when Barack Obama was still a senator. She has a framed letter from the new president thanking her for the gift to his young daughters.

During her short stay in Northern Virginia, Louise said she hopes to be able to stop by Capitol Hill to urge legislators to work on restoring physical education for all children during the school day. From talking with students, she's distressed at the lack of physical education classes and the rising rates of obesity among the youngest citizens.

"I'm a workout fanatic," Louise said. "I think that's one of the biggest problems in public schools today. I believe schools should have physical education from first grade up. I also think schools should send information home to parents to let them know what children are being fed and I think kids should have a better idea what they're eating."

Working for literacy and physical health are the "most important things" in Louise's life these days, she said, and she wouldn't trade them for anything.

Louise is currently working on her second children's book, but declined to give away details about the project because she's looking for a publisher. She would say that the book may explore what children and grown ups alike can do about the environment. This would actually be her third book. The first was a memoir, "Sunday," which chronicles what Louise calls an "unusual"

Meet Tina Louise

The Lorton Arts Foundation is sponsoring an evening with Tina Louise on Saturday, April 4 at the Workhouse on Ox Road. Louise will be reading from and signing copies of her book, "When I Grow Up." Tickets are available at www.workhousearts.org.

childhood.

It took a while for her to find a publisher for her first book, which she relates to children by saying sometimes they're going to have difficulty in reaching some of their goals. But if they keep trying, she said, anything is possible.

"Things take time," she said. "The first publisher I talked to wouldn't publish the book, but I worked hard until I found someone who would publish it the way I wanted it done. It paid off."

WHEN LOUISE comes to Lorton, she is hoping to see quite a few children in the audience and is eager to ask them about their dreams for the future.

"I just think they're all so beautiful," she said. "They all look like Renoir paintings to me, just beautiful."

Louise is at least the second high-profile celebrity to visit the Workhouse, the first since the establishment's grand opening last fall. Through a long-time friendship with one of the Arts Foundation's staff members, she accepted an invitation to visit and read excerpts from her book.

Sharon Mason, executive director at the Lorton Arts Foundation, said she is thrilled to have Louise, who she called an "icon" in American entertainment, reading at the Workhouse.

"We thought this would enable us to cast

a wider net to schools and other literacy programs that have been started by Caren Hearne, our education program specialist," Mason said. "Including local children in this event was a major draw for us."

The Arts Foundation has partnerships with Lorton Station, Gunston and Featherstone elementary schools and Woodbridge High School that have been notified about the event, and Mason is hoping for at least 35 students that evening.

Excitement is starting to build for the reading, Mason said, with TV and radio interviews already lined up. Not bad for the Workhouse, in its sixth month, and a sure sign of things to come, she hopes.

"Given all the years Tina has been in show business, we are certain this should be a wonderful night," she said. "We're excited about the Q&A session. ... She's been a performer on the Broadway stage, dramatic actress and of course the famous Ginger from 'Gilligan's Island.' We're delighted she can share her years with her fans at LAF."

Julie Curtis, marketing and communications specialist at the Arts Foundation, said Louise's visit is just the start of a long line of special visitors and new events at the Workhouse.

"We're starting to do more with our Film Institute and we'll have an event with Tippi Hendren coming up in May, so there's a lot going on," Curtis said.

Since its official opening last fall, the Workhouse has already expanded its reach into the community, bringing in visual and performing arts as well as history buffs for a series of exhibits on the women's suffrage movement and Lorton's past, she said.

"We have a lot to offer, especially with the series of classes we offer to the community," Curtis said. "We just keep building on the ideas that keep flowing from our staff and volunteers."

Film Institute

FROM PAGE 3

media classes, yoga, tap dance, film lab and oil painting, just to name a few.

The Workhouse Arts Center is a complex of 30 historic brick buildings on 55 acres, and its transformation is still not complete. Phase I, which was dedicated to the studios for the visual arts, is finished. Phase II for the performing arts is now underway. When completed, the two-story brick building across from the main gallery will house a 300-seat black box theater for hosting a wide range of performing arts.

When asked about his hopes for the future of the center, Wallen said, "Ideally, I would want the Workhouse Film Institute to become a regional magnet for the arts – film being one aspect of that. Having one of our festivals nationally recognized would be a dream."

Film lovers gather at the Workhouse Arts Center on Saturday, March 21 for a screening of 'Iron Jawed Angels.'



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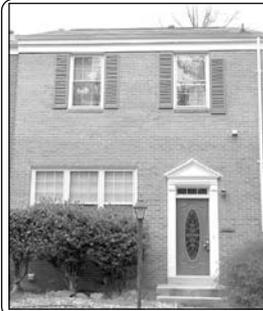
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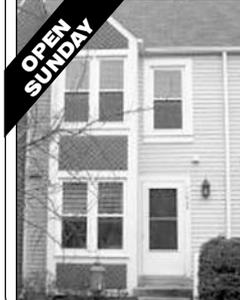
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