Burke
CONNECTION

Pink Power

News, Page 3

When Burke resident Allison Kelly found out she had breast cancer, she relied on her sense of humor to carry her through treatment.

‘Recruit Me, Please.’

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Arrest for Bank Robbery

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Burke Connection Editor Michael O'Connell
703-917-6440 or moconnell@connectionnewspapers.com

The Bald and the Beautiful

Burke woman relies on family, friends and fiery sense of humor to battle breast cancer.

By Amber Healy
The Connection

When Allison Kelly got the unexpected diagnosis of breast cancer a little over a year ago, she was stunned.

"My first reaction, honestly, was no. This doesn't happen in my family, so I can't have cancer," said Kelly, a Burke resident who began wondering if she'd be around to see her two young children graduate high school.

But Kelly, whose sense of humor is legendary among her friends and family, made the twin decisions that she'd learn everything she could about her disease and take the most aggressive course of treatment possible.

> "When I grow up, I want to be just like her."
>
> — Sandy Cohen, Allison Kelly's mother

The diagnosis could have come years earlier, she found out. Her twin sister's medical insurance provided for annual mammograms starting at age 35, but Kelly's insurance didn't recommend them until age 40. When she went in for her first mammogram, the lump was found, and her doctors told her it had probably been growing for about five years.

Luckily, the tumor was contained and had not spread into her lymph nodes, meaning her chances for finding cancer elsewhere in her body were small. To date, with her treatment almost completed, she has no trace of the disease anywhere.

So how did she make it from the stoic faces of doctors giving her news she never prepared for to, as she puts it, "kicking cancer's ass"?

With a sense of humor and a tough-as-nails attitude that did not allow cancer to consume her family's life.

When the time came for Kelly and her husband, Dieter, to share the news with their son, Matthew, now 4, and daughter Sarah, now 8, the adults sought the advice of Fairfax County's Life with Cancer program. Kelly credits Sage Bolte, a social worker with the organization, with helping her and her husband plan out the little speech they gave their young children. The couple waited until shortly before Kelly had her first chemotherapy treatment, knowing she'd soon start losing her hair, to tell their children.

Their children, it seems, have inherited their parents' sense of humor.

"We were so nervous because they were young and we didn't know how they'd react," Kelly said. "So we told them the whole thing, that I was sick and would be getting treatment, but that I'd be fine and I'd get better."

Sarah, Kelly recalls, was quiet for a moment, then asked her mother if she'd lose her hair. When Kelly acknowledged that yes, she'd lose all the hair on her body, the response was not what Kelly and her husband had expected.

Donated Photo

Allison Kelly, right, with her daughter Sarah.

"They cracked up," Kelly said "They thought it was hilarious that I'd be bald. From then on, we laughed our way through."

KELLY EXPERIENCED days when the tears would come instead of the chuckles. While she tried not to show her children her fear or her frustration, Kelly did tell them when she was having a rough day. They understood on days when she would return from her office in Washington, D.C. and went straight to bed. They knew why neighbors would knock on their door and present a seemingly endless line of pre-made meals that stocked their freezer for months.

In fact, her children were so nonchalant about the whole cancer procedure that when Kelly had to back out of chaperoning

See Humor, Page 8

How To Help

To help Allison Kelly and the millions of other women fighting breast cancer, go to www.avonwalk.org/goto/powerofpink. Allison Kelly's story, along with information about the upcoming Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, is available, along with a donation form.

Burke Teen Finds Success with Science

Naren Tallapragada of Burke

Narendra Tallapragada wins fourth place at the 2009 Intel Science Talent Search.

By Justin Fanizzi
The Connection

Nine months out of the year, Narendra Tallapragada can be found in a research lab performing experiments and testing his scientific hypotheses. The other three months, he spends his time developing cutting-edge technology for the U.S. Department of Defense at a non-profit based in McLean.

Then, after an exhilarating week in the nation's capital spent with Nobel laureates and preeminent professors, he is an award-winning scientist. He can do all of this, yet he still finds time to finish his quantum physics homework at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Naren, a Burke resident and senior at Jefferson, placed fourth at the 2009 Intel Science Talent Search, which took place March 10 in Washington, D.C. The 67-year-old contest, considered one of the nation's most prestigious pre-college national science competitions, drew more than 1,600 entries this year from high school seniors across the country.

"He is absolutely brilliant," Robert Latham, Naren's teacher and Jefferson research lab director said. "He is very articulate, extremely knowledgeable in all areas of math and science, and he is also a great person."

NAREN, 17, began working on the project he presented at the Talent Search more than two years ago. While working as a full time, paid employee of the MITRE Corporation, the non-profit in McLean, during the summers after his sophomore and junior years, he became interested in things like creating materials that would allow things that use electricity and light, namely computers, to be used in different, more advanced ways. Those new ways include computers that could be embeddable into clothing or even the human body to do things like regulating insulin pumps and more.

"I was really interested in putting computers in places where they were not," Naren said. "It could make the quality of life [for people] much better."

Naren then decided to incorporate his work from MITRE into the research he was doing in the labs at Jefferson to create his project for the competition, "Determining the Dielectric Function for Crystalline Solids from the Bottom up Using Atomic, Ionic, and Molecular Properties."

Naren described his project as a study of

See Fourth Place, Page 7

State Race Comes to Northern Virginia

Photos by Julia O'Donoghue

Gubernatorial candidates, from top, Robert McDonnell (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D) spoke to the Northern Virginia Technology Council at Microsoft's offices in Reston April 3.

Candidates speak to region's business people.

By Julia O'Donoghue
The Connection

Four candidates vying to be Virginia's next governor reached out to the Northern Virginia business community on Friday, April 3.

The Republican Party's presumptive nominee Robert McDonnell and three potential Democratic Party nominees — former Del. Brian Moran, state Sen. Creigh Deeds and former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe — participated in the Northern Virginia Technology Council's candidate forum at Microsoft's offices in Reston.

According to its Web site, the Northern Virginia Technology Council is a membership organization for the Northern Virginia technology community. It represents about 1,100 companies that employ more than 200,000 employees.

Three of the candidates have ties to Northern Virginia. McAuliffe lives in Mclean. McDonnell, Virginia's former attorney general, grew up in Mount Vernon. Moran lives in the City of Alexandria and represented the area in the House of Delegates.

Deeds is from Bath County and represents the Charlottesville area.

Residents will have the chance to pick between Deeds, McAuliffe and Moran in an open primary, where people affiliated with any political party can vote, June 9. It is assumed McDonnell and the Democratic nominee will face off in the general election Nov. 3.

> "Can you find someone who is willing to fix your bridge and lay asphalt for free? If you do, let me know."
> — Brian Moran (D)

AT THE FORUM, Deeds emphasized he is the "one candidate for governor who can bring together all of Virginia."

The state senator, who lives in a county in central Virginia without a single traffic light, has voted for transportation plans that would increase taxes and fees on his constituents for the sake of solving Northern Virginia's traffic problems.

Deeds said he tries to convince his neighbors that providing funding to ease Northern Virginia's road congestion is the right thing to do. Northern Virginia is the "bread basket" of the state and clogged roads and traffic jams in this region means fewer dollars for the rest of the commonwealth, he said.

Deeds added that Northern Virginia's tax revenue subsidizes many of the state functions in less affluent parts of the commonwealth, including parts of his state senate district.

"I told the rural people. You don't pay for your own schools," he said.

ON THE ISSUE OF education, McDonnell said he favors creating more charter schools in Virginia, which he said will improve access to education for at-risk primary and secondary students.

The former attorney general, who has lived in Virginia Beach and Richmond, added that he also supports a merit-pay system for teachers and principals in public schools.

Several of the "transportation priorities" McDonnell listed for the commonwealth were located in Northern Virginia.

See Candidates, Page 5

Teen Arrested for Robbery

Police charge juvenile for robbery, use of firearm in the commission of a felony.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

On March 4, two males robbed the Provident Bank at 5815 Burke Center Parkway in Burke. Now, Fairfax County Police have arrested one of the suspects, a 17-year-old Burke boy.

In a March 4 affidavit for a warrant to search the teen's home for possible evidence, Fairfax County Police robbery Det. Craig Guyton, with the Criminal Investigations Bureau, explained the case against him.

He wrote that, during the bank robbery, "One of the suspects was armed with a black, semi-automatic pistol and maintained control of the lobby while the other suspect vaulted the teller counter." Cash was taken from each teller by one of the robbers, and then both left the bank on foot.

Afterward, Guyton and another detective, B.A. Gaydos, viewed the bank's surveillance footage. One suspect's face was partially covered with a bandana, and the other suspect wore a ski-type mask, and Gaydos thought he recognized one of them as the Burke teen. [The Connection is not revealing his name because he's a minor].

Gaydos had previously arrested the teen; he therefore also knew his address and that he lived in the neighborhood behind the bank. So, wrote Guyton, "Police K-9 units responded to the scene and were able to establish a track from the crime scene to the wooded area behind the bank."

There, police found a black, ski-type mask and a dye-stained pillow case. According to the affidavit, "An amount of dye-stained, U.S. currency was found inside the pillow case."

Furthermore, some 30-45 minutes after the robbery, police Det. Earl Bowers was standing near the intersection of Oak Leather Drive and Burke Center Parkway when he saw a particular vehicle approach the intersection. A young woman was driving and, wrote Guyton, her male passenger "was acting in a suspicious manner and appeared to be avoiding eye contact with Bowers." Bowers then ran the vehicle's registration by the DMV and, stated Guyton, the driver turned out to be the "known girlfriend" of the Burke teen.

Guyton also wrote that a police bloodhound sniffed the mask that was recovered in the woods as evidence and began to track the specific scent on it. According to the affidavit, the dog "tracked through the neighborhood to the parking lot directly in front of [the Burke teen's residence] and also showed interest in the front door" of that home.

On March 9, Guyton also requested a warrant to search the teen's cell phone. He wrote that, after seeing the bank surveillance video, Gaydos believed the suspect "controlling the [bank] employees with the firearm and carrying what is believed to be a cell phone" looked like the Burke teen. Guyton obtained a warrant to take a DNA sample from the teen's cheek so it could be compared with the DNA found on the mask.

On March 18, Guyton obtained juvenile petitions charging the teen with robbery and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, and a detention order was issued for him. The next day, March 19, Guyton went to his home and took him into custody. The teen is to appear in court on April 7.

Military Notes

Air Force Airman Jennifer J. Koch has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Koch earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Joseph and Donna Koch of Tinsmith Lane, Burke.

Kmiec, Crawford Wed in Tenn.

Meredith Leigh Kmiec of Knoxville, Tenn. and J. Michael Crawford of Chattanooga, Tenn. were united in marriage Aug. 2, 2008 at 4:30 p.m., at Brainerd United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Revs. Michael Feely, Dennie Humphreys and Gloria Lightsey-Lewis officiated.

The bride is the daughter of retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. and Mrs. Kenneth Russell Kmiec of Burke. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Lamar Lightsey of Greenwood, S.C.; Mr. Alphonse Walter Kmiec and the late Mrs. Norma Harriet Kmiec of Fallston, Md. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sherman Crawford. He is the grandson of the late Mr. Francis Edward Williams, the late Mrs. Margaret Lewis Williams, the late Mr. Whipple R. Crawford, and the late Mrs. Vera Bryant Crawford of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Maid of honor was Marsha Lynn Kmiec of Greensboro, N.C. Bridesmaids were Christie Bledsoe Baggett, Lesli Ann Brown, Rachel Elaine Clements, Lindsey Ann Costello, Emily Cox Croffut, Lara Michael Kay, Melissa Lynn McGuire and Jennie Anne Nies. The Junior Bridesmaid was Chloe Marcelle Reilly. The flower girl was Lilly Grace Reilly. Best man was Max White Zarchin of Knoxville, Tenn. Groomsmen were Adam Lamar Foster, Dustin Franklin Lewis, Clifton Randolph Lowry, William Nathan Malone, Thomas Sterling Greene Mills, Michael Carl Quarles, Jeffrey Edward Stoneking and Cary Walters Tapscott. Ring bearer was Cavan James Reilly.

Meredith Leigh Kmiec and J. Michael Crawford were married Aug. 2, 2008 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

THE BRIDE is a graduate of The University of Tennessee Knoxville where she received a bachelor of science degree in communication studies and was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She is employed as a coordinator in interactive ad sales marketing and interactive ad sales for Scripps Networks Interactive in Knoxville, Tenn. The bridegroom is a graduate of The University of Tennessee Knoxville where he received a bachelor of science degree plant science and landscape systems. He is employed as assistant golf course superintendent of Fox Den Country Club in Knoxville, Tenn.

The couple honeymooned in Saint Thomas and resides in Knoxville, Tenn.

Candidates Visit Northern Va.

From Page 4

The Republican said he wanted to widen Interstate 66 inside the Capital Beltway and finish the Dulles Metrorail project on time.

He would also push for a high-speed rail system that connects Washington, D.C., Richmond and Hampton Roads.

McDonnell also supports transportation solutions like the high-occupancy toll lanes currently being constructed on the Beltway.

"It is not perfect but it will give real and effective choices to commuters," he said.

MCDONNELL ADDED that the lights on Route 7 should be synchronized and the state should utilize new technology that can locate accidents and traffic jams quickly.

When it comes to Northern Virginia's transportation woes, Moran said no one worked harder in the House of Delegates than he did. He said Virginia, particularly the General Assembly, has to be willing to make a larger investment in infrastructure.

"Can you find someone who is willing to fix your bridge and lay asphalt for free? If you do, let me know," said Moran.

Like McDonnell, Moran supports adding high-speed rail, for both freight and passengers, from Washington, D.C. to Richmond. He also said the Virginia Railway Express, Northern Virginia's commuter train, should be expanded.

Moran also backs the use of the public-private transportation act, which helped bring about the Dulles Metrorail project but has been criticized for not requiring companies to provide enough transparency.

"I have been a fan of [the public-private transportation act] and continue to be. It is one of the tools in the toolbox that we currently have. But we need more," said Moran.

As governor, McAuliffe said he would focus on growing Virginia's economy and creating jobs.

"I get it. I've done it. I've hired thousands of people and I want to be the number one job creator in 50 states," said McAuliffe, who has started many of his own businesses.

The Democratic political consultant raised a significant amount of money for Barack Obama's presidential campaign and McAuliffe said he would use his relationship with the sitting U.S. president to try and steer stimulus money to Virginia, especially the high tech corridor in the Reston and Dulles areas.

Northern Virginia businesses should be the front of the line when the federal government dumps billions of dollars into digitizing health records, said McAuliffe.

"I am going to call Barack Obama every day and say Virginia wants its fair share. I want Virginia to have more than its fair share," he said.

"As you all know, I am pretty good at getting money," added McAuliffe.

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Celebrating Poetry

The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers.

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and here at the Connection, we invite poets to send submissions for us to print.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city's poet laureate for a three year term.

This is one service local government could expand in these economic times; Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and "seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry."

VIRGINIA also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, claudiaemerson.org.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature, and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year.

Poetry Reading

Program places poetry on Northern Virginia Metrobuses operating in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Winning poets read their work. Tuesday, April 21, 7- 9 p.m., at Dome Theatre, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn 703-228-1854,www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural_affairs/movingwords.htm

Poetic Voices Without Borders, 2

April 23, 2009, 7 - 9 p.m., at The Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Celebrate the release of *Poetic Voices Without Borders, 2* and National Poetry Month. The poets will read from the anthology and their current work. 703-248-6800

Poem a Day

Go to www.poets.org to sign up for a poem a day in your e-mail box.

Understanding the Equation

School Board member responds to Pat Herrity's March 26 Commentary in the Connection.

By Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner
Providence School Board Member

Commentary

The past year has been sobering for the community in the face of fiscal crisis. The community rightly expects during such times a spirit of collaboration and problem solving among its locally elected officials. The School Board and the Board of Supervisors are meeting together — and our respective staffs are working together — more so in the past two years than in anyone's memory. We recently convened jointly the Smart Services, Smart Savings Task Force, consisting of three members from each board, to identify additional joint service delivery opportunities.

I was therefore dismayed to read Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) recent article regarding the school system's budget in which he makes a set of unsubstantiated and misleading claims.

An easy example is fuel costs. We budget vehicle fuel at $3.23 per gallon, the median price paid during the first half of the current budget year, not $5.20 per gallon. Further, a half-student increase in class size across the board and a freeze on compensation are already included in the School Board's advertised budget. When 86 percent of our costs are employee compensation and when 92 percent of our employees work in schools, we cannot avoid these areas to secure the savings of the magnitude required during this fiscal crisis.

WE ARE opening two new elementary schools next year to offset overcrowding in the western and southern areas of the county. We project that we will need to serve over 5,000 students more next year than in the current year. At a cost of $36 million, this projected growth could not come at a worse time. The solution however cannot be to wish the problem away. We must serve all students who enter our doors and we have no control over conditions that generate them.

Our projections are based on a methodology that is independently reviewed by experts at George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, as well as by Fairfax County's own demographer. Notably, FCPS averages a 99 percent accuracy rate for one-year projections versus actual school year membership.

Other facts include the following:

❖ Less than one percent of all FCPS-funded positions are nonschool-based administrators.

❖ FCPS shines in the current year annual Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE) Survey.

❖ WABE identifies that FCPS is the most efficient with a ratio of 0.89 percent of nonschool-based positions to school-based positions, with the next lowest ratio being Montgomery County with 1.1 percent.

❖ FCPS cost per student is $13,340 per student, nearly $2,000 lower than Montgomery. The extra cost to our taxpayers this year if we had the same cost structure would be equivalent to about 16 cents on the property tax rate.

❖ FCPS' cost will be further reduced by $500 per student under the approved budget.

IN TIGHT fiscal times, everyone agrees that savings must be taken in a proportionately greater measure from central administration. This is why, after accounting for new students, nonschool-based positions are reduced by nearly 5 percent, while school-based reductions are limited to less than 1 percent.

Each of the cluster offices consists of a total of three staff members (an assistant superintendent, a director, and a clerical person). Each cluster is responsible for approximately 30 schools, 2,000 school-based personnel, and 20,000 students; i.e., equivalent to a medium-size school system. Arlington County is approximately the size of one of our eight clusters. The span of control, with responsibility for monitoring, supporting and guiding its principals, is greater than most superintendents.

The FCPS top-to-bottom program and operations review sought to integrate services to reduce overhead and improve effectiveness. Both the Instructional Services Department (ISD) and the Special Services Department (SSD) are streamlined as a result of this process, resulting in the reduction of nonschool-based positions, a flattened hierarchy, and increased integration across both ISD and SSD services. ISD's 527 positions are notable. Accounted for centrally, 359 of these are actually school-based teachers of reading, music, art, ESOL, advanced academics, and career and technical subjects.

FCPS has remained remarkably successful in spite of a dramatic change over the last decade in the diversity of its students: Over 40 percent speak English as their second language; 20 percent of our students live in poverty. Yet 93 percent of our students go on to post-secondary education, our SAT scores are substantially higher than the state and national averages, and all our high schools are ranked by Newsweek as being in the top 4 percent nationwide.

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Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-917-6440

Justin Fanizzi
Community Reporter
703-917-6437
jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects
703-917-6417
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
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Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
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CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-518-4631
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Fourth Place at Intel Science Search

From Page 3

how a material's structure and composition affects the way the material interacts with light and electricity. Once a person learns how the material's structure determines the way it reacts to those things, Naren said, it is possible to discover different ways to alter the material so that it can interact with light and electricity in ways previously unknown.

"It's not high school level physics," Naren said. "It's a bit more complicated than that."

After developing the project mostly at his home and with some assistance from Latham and Dr. James C. Ellenbogen, Naren's MITRE mentor, the next step was for him to apply for the competition, which was anything but easy. For the initial application process, he had to write a 20-page paper outlining his project, collect several letters of recommendation and submit a grade portfolio. A panel of evaluators comprised of college professors then reviewed all of the applicants, settling on 300 semi finalists, which they eventually whittled down to 40 finalists.

> "It's a bit more complicated than that."
> — Naren Tallapragada

The 40 finalists then gathered in Washington, D.C., where they endured three 15-minute rounds of judged interviews and then set up booths science fair-style and held a public exhibition of their projects.

At the end of the two-day exhibition, the judges announced the winners. Naren, along with fellow Jefferson classmate Alexander Kim of Fairfax, both placed in the top 10 at fourth and seventh, respectively, marking the first time in competition history that two students from the same school were winners in the same year.

"This is a remarkable triumph for Narendra and Alexander and I congratulate them both on their success," U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said. "These honors are a testament to their hard work and their academic achievement. It also bears testament to the quality of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and the entire Fairfax County Public School system."

NAREN RECEIVED a package of prizes for placing fourth, including a $25,000 scholarship, a laptop, medal and plaque. Though the scholarship and new computer were great prizes, the honor of the recognition is what had the most impact on Naren.

"It was definitely an honor to be named fourth place," Naren said. "Not only was it an honor but it was a shock. Everyone there was so talented and you're being judged by scientists who are the best in their field. It was very flattering."

Graduation is nearing, which means that it is time for Naren to make his college choice. After being accepted to several schools, he has narrowed his list to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, though he said he is leaning toward attending M.I.T. and double-majoring in physics and electrical engineering.

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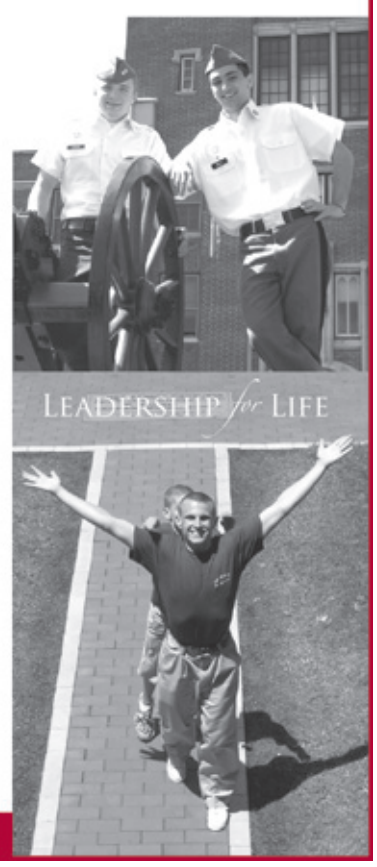

Humor Best Medicine for Cancer Patient

From Page 3

a field trip downtown, Sarah's teacher didn't even know she was fighting breast cancer.

Her husband calmly took over more responsibility at home, including the unorthodox task of shaving Kelly's head last year on President's day. They made jokes and thought up funny sayings for T-shirts while her hair fell to their deck floor while the kids played nearby.

"The night before my last chemo treatment, Dieter threw me a surprise party," she said. "He's just awesome. I'm very lucky to have him. He kept my head above water."

In addition to her husband and children, Kelly relied on her family: her mother Sandy Cohen, twin sister Tracy Grady, brother Jason Cohen and sister Samantha Tierno. Her friends and neighbors, some of whom had fought cancer themselves, pitched in as well, knitting scarves for her head, taking care of things around her house, planning fund raisers and doing whatever needed to be done to keep the family running during her treatment.

Her mom and her sister Tracy participated in the Avon Three Day walk in New York City in the fall of 2008. An emotional journey, Kelly had wanted to join them after completed the same walk in Washington last spring, but chemotherapy had left her exhausted and feeling weak. Little did the women know, their loved one was waiting for them at the finish line — sort of.

AT THE END of the walk, the women were emotional and were wishing Kelly was with them. Someone in the Avon tent was leafing through the Avon Impact Report, an annual statement on how much money the organization has raised for research. There, on the cover, was a picture of Kelly and other walkers from the event in Washington just months before.

> "I've laughed in its face."
> — Allison Kelly

"I knew I was going to get my picture taken, because when we were standing in the Survivor's Circle at the end of the walk, I was standing there, with my bald head, next to a woman in fairy wings and a woman who was just sobbing," Kelly said, adding that she felt "like Angelina Jolie with her posse" with all the photos that were taken as she walked in her pink T-shirt and without a head covering.

Sandy Cohen, Allison Kelly's mother, said when she first got the news, she felt guilty. "No parent wants her child to be sick and suffer," Cohen said. But as treatment went on, "her courage and humor never failed … because of the support she received (from friends and her husband) I felt better that I couldn't be there that often."

Cohen said she's proud of the aggressive way Kelly approached her fight. "She researched doctors, she spoke to neighbors and friends, she asked questions of her doctors and then asked more questions. She switched surgeons when she felt she did not agree with his procedures. She did all of this when some of us would have been hiding under the covers."

Her daughter is "the bravest person I know. When I grow up, I want to be just like her," Cohen said.

Tracy Cohen-Grady, Allison Kelly's twin, said she shared her mom's disbelief. "Our grandparents are still alive at the ages of 93 and 95," she said.

But she soon started a team to raise money for the Avon walk, complete with T-shirts labeling themselves "Allison's Breast Friends." That name is also on a pink Louisville Slugger bat that Cohen-Grady's husband gave her sister.

She's proud of her sister's head-on approach to life with cancer. "There is such a sisterhood between these women who have gone through this," she said. "I guess it would be like veterans that go to war. They experience such extreme emotion and physical pain."

Allison Kelly's husband, Dieter Kelly, admitted to experiencing days when he was really scared for his wife. Now that it's mostly over, however, the whole ordeal seems to have passed surprisingly quickly.

"From the day of diagnosis through the 15 or 16 month treatment plan, all of a sudden we were in the middle of it all," he said. "Then chemo was over, and radiation was over. Everything just kind of became part of the daily routine."

Remembering the day when he shaved his wife's head, Dieter Kelly said it wasn't a difficult thing to do. It actually made him think of the wedding vows they had taken eight years earlier.

"When we were standing up there getting married, I didn't think I'd ever do that," he said. "When we first found out about her cancer, I started thinking about the 'for better or worse' part, but this was just a bump in the road."

But during her fight with cancer, Kelly said she kept thinking about her daughter. "I wanted her to know that it wasn't going to stop me," she said. "When I first found out I had cancer, I couldn't say the word. Now it has no power over me. I've given it the middle finger. I've laughed in its face."

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Faith

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church offers the following opportunities at its two locations, 5114 Twinbrook Roard, Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton:

❖ **Maundy Thursday Worship** (Clifton and Fairfax) April 9, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Good Friday April 10**,12 p.m. (Fairfax) Children's Worship, 7:30 p.m.(Clifton); 7:30 p.m. (Fairfax) "A Vigil of Remembrance" by May Lu Warstler, a contemplative service based on the Gospel of Mark

❖ **Easter Sunday**, April 12, 6:30 a.m., Sonrise Communion Worship (Fairfax); 8 a.m., Communion Worship (Fairfax); 9:30 a.m., Contemporary Communion Worship (Fairfax); 11 a.m. Communion Worship (Fairfax); 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Communion Worship (Clifton).

Burke Presbyterian is offering a **Good Friday Service**, April 10. At 7:30 p.m. and **Easter services** on Sunday, April 12, 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Burke Presbyterian will be hosting the Grove City College Touring Choir from Grove City, Pa. on Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. The Touring Choir will provide music for the Maundy Thursday service. Burke Presbyterian is located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke.

Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia's Easter Worship Service on Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m., in the cafeteria at Providence Elementary School at 3616 Jermantown Road in Fairfax. Map and directions are available at mccnova.com or by calling the church office at 703-691-0930. Everyone is welcome.

Bulletin Board

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

Candidate Forum. The Democratic Women of Clifton, the Democratic Women of Lake Ridge and the Springfield District Democratic Committee are hosting a Candidate Forum from 3-5 p.m. at Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor, Jon Bowerbank, Pat Edmonson, Mike Signer and Jody Wagner, will present their views and answer questions. Attorney general candidate, Del. Steve Shannon (D-35), will also participate. All Democrats from Northern Virginia are invited to attend. For more, call 703-239-2616 or visit www.DemocraticWomenofClifton.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 20

Republican Women of Clifton offer a presentation by Sasha Gong, who grew up in China under a communist regime and experienced first hand the brutality of a totalitarian regime. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Clifton Elementary, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. Social gathering starts at 7 p.m.

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Recruit Me, Please

How Far Some Will Go

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By Jason Mackey
The Connection

Perhaps the only thing as practiced as Stephanie Sbardella's swing may be her penmanship. After each of the collegiate softball camps that Sbardella, a junior third baseman at South County, attends, she has made it a point to draft her own personal thank-you letter to that school's coach.

In the past two years, Paul Sbardella, Stephanie's father, can count on one hand how many times the family has stayed home for the weekend, instead of electing to attend some sort of camp or clinic, which the Sbardellas believe are imperative for Stephanie's recruitment as a college athlete.

During one particular weekend this past winter, the Sbardellas left Lorton on a Friday morning and drove to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke — roughly 350 miles away — for a camp. Later that day, they drove 167 miles to Charlestown, S.C. and stayed the night.

The next day, Stephanie Sbardella attended Charleston Southern University's camp from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and then hopped back in the car for a 10-hour drive to the University of Delaware, which was Sunday's destination, again for a camp.

"It's something that she's really interested in," Paul Sbardella said. "I'm just there to support her. … But it is a lot of driving."

Paul Sbardella estimates that he's spent between $7,000-$10,000 on travel expenses and fees associated with all of the camps, clinics and competitive tournaments that his daughter attended during the past year.

File Photo

LeighAnne Baxter, a senior on Robinson's girls' soccer team, earned a scholarship to Richmond after scoring or assisting on every goal the Rams scored during last year's Virginia AAA state tournament, which her team eventually won, 2-1, over Battlefield.

BY DIRECTING his own program at the high school level and also serving as an assistant soccer coach at Shenandoah University, Robinson girls' soccer coach Jim Rike has been on both sides of high-level recruitment.

Rike still attends camps as a Shenandoah representative but also hears about experiences that some of his high school players have had at them as well.

The defending Virginia AAA state champs, Robinson has four girls on its current roster committed to Division-I schools, with possibly two more on the way. To combat their rigorous club schedules, Rike has started to give his players at least one day off during the week, knowing that they had spent almost the entire weekend playing soccer.

> "You have to put college in your mind, but you also have high school to deal with, too. Because if you mess that up, you mess everything up."
>
> **— Jordan Stanton, Robinson senior, signed with James Madison**

"Five of my girls are on one club team, and they're approaching almost 150 games in a year of high level, premiere, showcase games because they keep going and going and going," Rike said. "I worry about the effect it's going to have on their bodies 10 years down the road.

"From my standpoint, as a college coach, I only need to see a kid a couple times to see whether he can play for me or not," Rike continued. "I don't see need to see him 40 times. I've told my girls that you can have three or four great games, but all it takes is one really bad game and that gets set in the coach's mind and it evens out."

Dan Anderson, whose son, Holland Anderson, plays linebacker for the Centreville football team, has tried to find a steady mix. The Andersons did fly to San Antonio over New Year's for the U.S. Army National combine, which included 500 of the top juniors from across the country.

But the father still wants the sport to be fun for his son, an approach that has led the Andersons to attend only three high-level combines: the U.S. Army National, the Nike Combine and the Schuman Underclassman Camp. Still, Dan Anderson said that his investment in his son's recruitment has cost more than $4,000 to date.

"You can't overwhelm them and it's got to continue to be fun," Dan Anderson said. "You have to have a balance, and you have to pick two, three or four camps and that's it. It really comes down to which ones invite you because anybody can go and pay their money."

And just because an athlete stands out at a camp, doesn't mean the college that notices will be a good match.

"What we find is that kids who go to these showcases get wrapped up in the recruiting cycle with schools that aren't good fits for them," said Avi Stopper, who co-founded www.CaptainU.com — a Web-based recruiting service designed to match families with colleges or universities.

File Photo

With 5,872 career passing yards — the 14th-most in Virginia AAA state history — West Springfield's Bryn Renner, committed to the University of North Carolina, has been one of the area's most sought-after recruits.

© 2009 Google Map

Sbardella family roadtrip: one weekend, more than 1,200 miles.

"You get a lot of people who go to showcases and often they do get seen, but it doesn't make sense and suddenly they have mismatched colleges on their list. It's really conspicuous that it's not a good fit."

MARK BENDORF has coached multiple sports in Fairfax County for 20-plus years.

See How Far To Go, Page 15

More at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

World Wide Web of Recruiting?

High school athletes, college coaches take recruiting to the Internet.

By Mark Giannotto
The Connection

Even before they became two of the top runners in the Mount Vernon High School track and field program, seniors Shaquille Thomas and Johnathon McMillon did everything together.

Friends since early childhood, the pair was nearly inseparable according to Thomas's mother, Susan Crawford — play dates, walking the halls in school, recreational sports teams.

Thomas, who lived on Fort Belvoir military base between 1999 and 2005 began running in 2000 in a program on base that his mother helped coach. He convinced McMillon to join him two years ago.

So it should come as no surprise that as they chase dreams of running track in college, the pair has decided to go through the recruitment process together.

The two don't look to be the prototypical recruits who make a college coach salivate. Neither has finished better than third at the Northern Region championships during the outdoor or indoor track seasons and both have thus far qualified for the state championships just once, each finishing outside the top-15.

"I didn't really start track seriously until last year, so I didn't really have any expectations about recruiting," McMillon said. That's why last year towards the end of indoor track season, McMillon's father, Ron, took his son's recruitment in a direction many in this area and around the country have — to the Internet.

One day while surfing the web checking out track results, Ron McMillon stumbled upon a service called beRecruited.com, one of several online services that, for a fee, helps connect high school athletes with college coaches.

Almost immediately, Ron McMillon set up accounts for both his son and Thomas, posting video he had taken from meets to the web. A year and a half later, Thomas has received interest from more than 20 colleges, while Johnathan McMillon is slated to attend Virginia State University on a track scholarship next fall.

"Usually, they wouldn't get this kind of attention unless they were some one-of-a-kind talent," said Crawford. "The kids who don't make the newspapers need something like this."

Photo by Louise Krafft/The Connection

Mount Vernon senior Johnathon McMillon (left) got a scholarship to run at Virginia State University next year thanks in large part to the online recruiting service beRecruited.com, which allowed him to post academic and athletic achievements, as well as video for coaches to look over.

PART OF THE REASON Avi Stopper got out of coaching college soccer at the University of Chicago was the misconception he perceived from recruits and their parents about how to get noticed on the recruiting trail.

A co-founder of captainU.com, which offers a somewhat similar service to beRecruited.com, Stopper thinks parents and athletes sometimes don't understand how college coaches think.

"A lot of people have the mentality that the way recruiting works is you go to showcase tournaments and then you get recruited, but that's really far from the reality," said Stopper. "There are 1,000 players at any given showcase and 50 college coaches and the odds of a college coach seeing you play randomly when you're doing something great is really slim.

> "You can't overwhelm them and it's got to continue to be fun."
>
> **— Dan Anderson, Centreville High parent**

Stopper's Web site, captainU, helps student athletes through the recruiting process, devising a step-by-step strategy. Potential recruits can create a profile on the site for free, with more services for $39.95 a month.

"The best way is to really commit to a self-marketing campaign," said Stopper. "That's an intimidating process for kids, but you need to prove that you're serious. … What we see is coaches love kids who do this. It removes a lot of the work for them."

Now beRecruited reports it has more than 150,000 athletes nationwide using its service, including 190 from Alexandria, 107 from Fairfax, 53 from Arlington, 31 from Reston, and 27 from McLean.

Jeff Cravens, the president of beRecruited, thinks the best evidence of just how many people need help with recruiting is seen in the site's newest service that allows parents to register to the site. In less than a year, more than 11,000 adults have signed up.

"I just think that this is a great place where you had a very inefficient process for years," explained Cravens. "I think people are getting more and more used to going online and finding the information they're looking for. We just give them a place to do that."

Unlike captainU and its step-by-step guidelines to getting a coach's attention, beRecruited is more social network. For free, athletes can set up profiles with their interests, academic performance, and athletic achievements as well as post photos. To get the deluxe package, including the ability to post video clips for coaches to see, prospective recruits must pay a one-time fee of $39.99.

STILL, THERE are detractors. Bill Finney, the athletic director and women's basketball coach at Division III Marymount University in Arlington calls recruiting Web sites "a waste of money," especially for student-athletes trying to make it to the Division-I level.

He says coaches are more savvy than to believe clips on the web that create the illusion of a basketball player with a 100 percent shooting percentage or a soccer player whose every pass results in a goal. With the chances of a professional sports career after college slim to none, he thinks recruits should be focusing on everything but athletics when looking for the right college.

"I would rather have my daughter go into the guidance office and say this is what I want to do the rest of my life," said Finney, who had one daughter play basketball at Georgia Tech and another play for him at Marymount.

"Instead of throwing away all this money, put the responsibility on your kids. Families can do all this on their own. All they have to do is research what colleges match both their academic and athletic needs and reach out to them. A lot of people are expecting someone to call them up and say we want you, but that's just not how it works."

Fresh Taste at the Ballpark

Photo by Michael O'Connell/The Connection

Washington Nationals' Executive Chef Phil Bucco surveys the selection of new food items available at Nationals Stadium the season.

Washington Nationals hope to win fans over with revised concession menu.

By Michael O'Connell
The Connection

In its sophomore season at the Nationals Stadium, Washington, D.C.'s Major League Baseball club is hoping the way to a fan's heart may be through his stomach. That was at least part of the message Stan Kasten, Nationals team president, offered Friday, April 3, during a "What's New at Nationals Park" media tour.

Between raindrops, Kasten showed off improvements that the team has made to the one-year-old stadium during the off-season, including a set of oversized starting line-up signs fashioned after baseball cards, additional picnic tables throughout the concourse and 7-foot tall bobblehead statues of the racing presidents, waiting to have their photos taken with fans.

But the centerpiece of the tour was the new food unveiled by Executive Chef Phil Bucco of the Levy Restaurants. During the off-season, the Nationals hired Levy as its new concessionaire and asked them to freshen up the stadium's menu.

From day one, Bucco sought to blow the stadium's menu out of the water. "We try to work in the local favorites as well as give a lot of new options," he said. "There are going to be a lot of surprises, from the healthy options that we're going to put out there now, from the upgraded items that we've put on." As an example, he pointed to the "quasi-dilla," an inside out sandwich with the quesadilla as the bread.

"It's filled like a sandwich," he said. "That kind of innovative approach is what sets us apart."

Among the other new items available at the park this spring are a variety of hamburger selections, including a spicy shrimp po boy and a veggie burger; a Healthy Plate cart featuring fresh produce; and The Big Catch, a Crab Louise sandwich. Lightly smothered in dressing, lumps of crab meat and thinly sliced red onions fill up The Big Catch's foot-long soft bun, making it the signature item of the new menu.

> "Coming to every game like we do, it gets a little boring eating the same thing all the time."
> — Jeff Saffelle, Alexandria

"We loved the Crab Louis sandwich," said Jeff Saffelle of Alexandria, who authors the Nationals blog Nats320 [www.Nats320.blogspot.com]. "The shrimp burger is very spicy. It's got a nice taste to it."

See Beyond, Page 13

Calendar

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Swing Speak, 8-10 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Dr, Fairfax. Complimentary swing lesson, 7:30 p.m. $10 per person. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Bill Frisell Trio with Rudy Royston and Tony Scherr. 8 p.m. at The Barns. $25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Swing Speak, 8-10 p.m. at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 7:30 beginner lessons. $10. 703-414-1745 or www.headoverheelsdancecom.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Poor Man's Lobster, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Chess Club, 3:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy, play the game. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Washington Saxophone Quartet. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS.

The Downtown Fiction, 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Chuck Brown General Admission dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. $30. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Deanna Bogart Band. 7 p.m. $17 in advance, at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $20 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

A Tribute to Allen Toussaint, with the Nighthawks, Mary Ann Redmond, The Grandsons, The Junkyard Saints, Tommy Lepson, The January Allstars, Jon Carroll and more. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. $25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Debacle and Reunion show, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Bharathanatyam Arangetram (formal solo dance debut) of Rajashree Ranganathan, 4 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Free. E-mail rsvprg@gmail.com with number of attendees before April 1.

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office will photograph and fingerprint your children, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Easter Eggstravaganza at Centerpointe Church, 4104 Legato Road, Fairfax. Free. Contact Master Deputy Sheriff Carol Dever at carol.dever@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-246-3279.

Complexions Contemporary Ballet. 9 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. Tickets are $42, $34, $21. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex is located on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Paid parking is located in the deck adjacent to the mainstage Concert Hall and free parking is located in university lot K. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

Crafty Kids, 3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Crafty fun. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

Book Discussion Group, 1 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly by Jean-Dominique Bauby. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Fairfax Bibliophiles Book Collecting Group, 7:15 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Topic for discussion TBA. Adults. 703-293-6227.

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

Bedtime Stories: Hop Along With Us, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about rabbits. Pajamas optional. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Writer's Roundtable, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Yummy Stories About Food, 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.

Needlework Group, 10:30 a.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. Adults. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Barrage. Fiddle music, song and dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. $27. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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

All the Colors of the Rainbow, 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.

Yoga for Preschoolers, 10:30

See Calendar, Page 14

Dining

Beyond Hot Dogs

From Page 12

Saffelle and his wife Sohna are season-ticket owners and expect to be at every game. Eighty-two home games means 82 opportunities to eat at the ballpark. The new expanded menu was something that they welcomed.

"We like the fact that there as some fresh new offerings," said Jeff Saffelle. "Coming to every game like we do, it gets a little boring eating the same thing all the time like we did last year. This spices it up and makes it a little different."

"They also introduced more healthy food," said Sohna Saffelle. "Since we like to eat healthy, we have a problem with potato chips and that stuff." She appreciated having healthier choices at the ballpark.

Along with the new menu, Kasten pointed to the availability of $5 tickets for every game and the proximity of the stadium to Metro as draws for people looking for an inexpensive evening out.

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Calendar

From Page 12

a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Have fun and get fit with your preschooler. Dress comfortably. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

Genealogy Databases, 2 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 resources. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

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.

Earth Day: Birthday! 10:30 a.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and a craft celebrating our Earth. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Afternoon Reading Group, 1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Devil in the White City by Erik Larson. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Boyd School Trike-a-Thon. 9:30-11:30 a.m., 3909 Oak St, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit St. Judes Research Hospital. For more, visit www.theboydschool.com, e-mail Fairfaxdirector@theboydschool.com or call 703-934-0920.

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

The Hint CD Release, 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $10 advance, $12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Barrage. Fiddle music, song and dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. $27. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

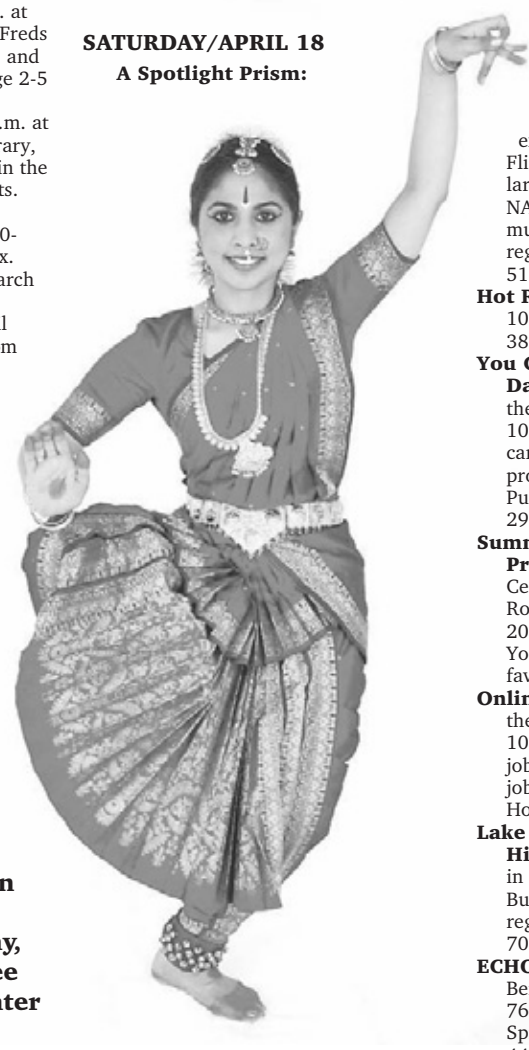
Lucky Dub and No Quick Fix, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Lake Accotink Adult Civil War History Program, at Braddock Hall in the King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The focus is on 1860's life in Fairfax County during the Civil War, the role of women during the war, slavery in 1860s society and period entertainments. $10 fee. Pre-registration required by March 28 at 703-569-3464.

Rajashree Ranganathan will present her formal solo dance debut, known at Bharathanatyam Arangetram, on Saturday, April 11 at the James Lee Community Center Theater in Falls Church.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

A Spotlight Prism:



Annual Young Artists Competition Concert. 8 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The 2009 Scholarship Winner of the City of Fairfax Band's Young Artists Competition will be featured. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $14-$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Sally Ride Science Festival, 11 a.m.-4:15 p.m. at George Mason University in Fairfax. Discovery workshops by local scientists and engineers, workshops for parents and teachers on ways to support students' interests in science and math, and speaker cosmochemist Laurie Leshin, director of sciences and exploration at the Goddard Space Flight Center and leader of the largest science organization within NASA. Lunch, activities, booths, and music included. $20. Advance registration required. 1-800-561-5161 or www.sallyridescience.com.

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

You Can Do it! A Get-With-It Earth Day Puppet Show, 10:30 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. How kids can make a difference by helping to protect Mother Earth. Presented by Puppetopia Puppets. All ages. 703-293-6227.

Summer Reading Program Sneak Preview, 10 a.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A sneak preview of 2009's Summer Reading Program. Youth Services Staff will discuss their favorite books. 703-249-1520.

Online Job Searching, 2:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for jobs and post your resume at major job sites such as Monster and HotJobs. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Lake Accotink Adult Civil War History Program, at Braddock Hall in the King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. $10. Pre-registration required by March 28 at 703-569-3464.

ECHO Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Bernadette Catholic Church Gym, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. 703-569-9160 or 703-440-1353.

Classes & Workshops

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.

DANCE

Learn the Social Dances such as ballroom, Latin, swing, night club, country western/ polka in Cy Richardson's group classes on Tuesday nights at the Oaks Community Center, 5708 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Six-week sessions, eight hours. $60 per person. Free make up class. Singles and couples welcome. Next session (Ballroom I and Ballroom II) starts April 28. Call Richardson at 703-250-5360.

Singles' Dance. Hearts in Motion School of Music & Dance hosts a Singles' Dance the third Friday of each month, 8 p.m.-midnight. Dances include cha cha, waltz, swing, hustle, El Paso, slow dances and line dances. Cost is $12 ($20 for couples). The school is located at 8600 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call Colleen at 703-437-1190.

Zumba Latin Aerobics classes are Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax until Feb. 26. $60. Call 703-385-7858.

City of Fairfax offers Swing Performance Routine sessions each Tuesday from 8-9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. For intermediate dancers. $72. Call 703-385-7858.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is currently accepting registrations. Stimulating courses for retirees and adults 50+. Locations in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling. Call 703-503-3384, e-mail olli@gmu.edu, or visit www.olli.gmu.edu.

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

Winter Pottery Classes. Susan Fox Hirschmann is currently enrolling beginner and intermediate adults. The class will include hand building and learning to "throw" on the potter's wheel. Call for class schedule. Tuition total: $355, including materials. 4810 Tabard Place, Annandale. For more information, call 703-978-1480 or visit www.silverhawk.com/ex99/hirshmann.

File Photo

A junior on South County's softball team, Stephanie Sbardella and her family have traveled to college camps almost every weekend.

How Far To Go

From Page 11

Currently, he's in charge of Robinson's football program, a perennial powerhouse when it comes to sending athletes on to continue their careers at the college level.

Comparing football's recruitment process to those of every other sport, Bendorf says is like comparing "apples to bricks." Loaded with revenue and resources at the college level, football coaches can often travel to visit recruits, both to meet them and to scout them.

"If you're a basketball coach or a lacrosse coach or a soccer coach or a swim coach, you have so many other opportunities because of those invitational meets, those tournaments, those fall leagues," Bendorf said. "Football has none of that. There is not AAU football."

What football does have, though, is the luxury of game film, which doesn't always exist when talking about field hockey or swim and dive. Coaches often rely on game film and in-person assessments during the fall, and only later do they factor in camp attendance.

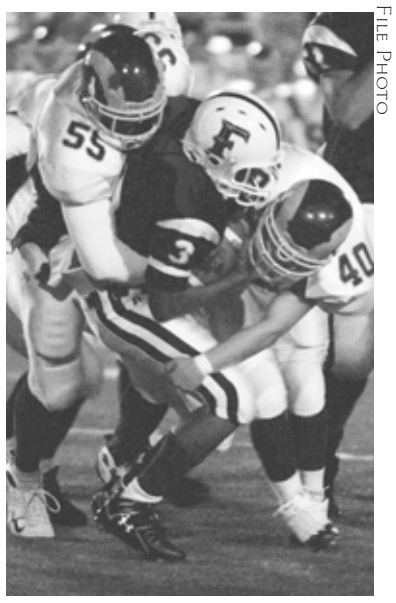
Jordan Stanton, a 6-foot-4, 245-pound defensive end for Bendorf's Rams, has signed with James Madison University. Despite attending one-day camps at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, Stanton, who benefits from impressive, measurable numbers such as his bench press (310) and 40-yard dash time (4.7 seconds), was eventually plucked away by the Dukes.

Before signing, Stanton analyzed James Madison's depth chart, its defensive system and evaluated his future coaches' personalities. Not only that, he put a strong emphasis on academics and the quality of the facilities where he would spend the bulk of his next four or five years.

"We didn't hit the panic button," Stanton said.

Stanton kept a positive outlook on the whole process, which, for better or worse these days, is becoming harder and harder to do.

"You have to put college in your mind, but you also have high school to deal with, too," Stanton said. "Because if you mess that up, you mess everything up."



File Photo

Signed with James Madison University, senior defensive end Jordan Stanton had 83 tackles and four sacks last fall for Robinson's football team. "I needed to take care of high school first," he said of the whole recruiting process.

More at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Many Kinds of College Recruiting Experience

Local athletes remember the highs and lows of choosing a college.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

Here is a look three college athletes from Northern Virginia – AJ Price (South Lakes), Ashley Abed (Oakton) and Jeff Allen (Langley). Each is pleased with where they ended up, but getting there was completely different for each, and anything but simple. For more on Price and Abed, and for Jeff Allen's walk-on story, see www.connectionnewspapers.com.

A.J. PRICE, SOUTH LAKES

A.J. Price, a 6-foot-4 inch football wide receiver at Penn State University, did not emerge into a major recruiting prospect until his senior year in high school at South Lakes.

That fall season, South Lakes coach John Ellenberger emphasized the Seahawks' passing attack, and Price had a breakout season, catching 32 passes for 816 yards and 11 touchdowns. He averaged 25.5 yards per catch and earned Second Team All-State accolades.

Major collegiate football programs, such as Duke, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and Penn State, contacted Ellenberger in order to make their intentions known about recruiting Price.

Each of those programs offered him a football scholarship. "I'm not really one for all the glamour and all, and I wasn't used to being the person being talked about. I tried to take it in stride," said Price.

Price, who graduated in 2008, will never forget the December day during his senior year that Penn State, under legendary coach Joe Paterno, offered him a scholarship. The moment came during the school day. Ellenberger, teaching an English class, got a call from Penn State and was told by a member of the Nittany Lions' football staff that they would make an offer to Price. The teacher-coach immediately found Price to give him the big news.

"I thought, 'Wow, not too many people experience this.'"

Price committed about a month later during a weekend visit to Penn State with his mother. "I told my mom on my birthday, then I told coach Paterno ... the next day at brunch."

> **"I told my mom on my birthday, then I told coach Paterno the next day at brunch."**
> **— A.J. Price**

Price said his recruiting experience in dealing with Penn State was outstanding. His contact person through the process was Penn State assistant coach Larry Johnson, a former head coach at T.C. Williams High in Alexandria.

"I love it [at Penn State]," said Price, a history major.

Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

AJ Price emerged to become one of the metro area's top receivers during his senior season at South Lakes, drawing the attention of several big-time college football programs.

FOR ASHLEY ABED, a 2007 Oakton High graduate, the path to becoming a women's college basketball player at NCAA Div. 2 Anderson University (S.C.) was an eventful journey.

The 5-10 forward said she always desired to play college basketball. During her junior season at Oakton, Abed believed she would fit in nicely with a Div. 2 college program.

Abed had to initiate contact with some of the schools she was interested in. Her high school coach, Fred Priester, made a highlight tape of Abed to give to schools.

She elected to accept an offer to play at Francis Marion University (Florence, S.C.). But during the summer prior to her freshmen year at Marion, Abed learned that a coaching change had occurred.

Abed did, in fact, like the new coach. But as things turned out, she received less playing time than she had hoped. "It was kind of my role to be a verbal player on the bench and to be a practice player," said Abed.

Following the season, she decided she would transfer.

Anderson University women's coach Jeff Dow, upon learning about Abed, was interested in recruiting her. She visited the campus and met the coach.

"I knew he was a coach I wanted to play for," she said.

But again, the school Abed was ready to attend made a coaching change. Dow, Abed learned the summer prior to her sophomore year, was leaving. The new coach would be Jim Brunelli.

Abed, it turned out, had a terrific season. The Anderson team was not expected to do well as a result of the late coaching change, but won the Conference Carolina championship and qualified for the NCAA Div. 2 tournament. Abed, a guard-forward, played 20-plus minutes per game.

"Coach Brunelli taught me a lot about myself," said Abed. "It felt really good to play and help a team win."

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

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Improved by the premises known as

7610 Savannah Street, #201, Falls Church, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Erlis Bonilla, dated May 24, 2005, and recorded May 26, 2005, in Deed Book 17328 at page 452 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, April 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 201, Building 7610, FALLS CHURCH GARDENS CONDOMINIUM, Phase V

Tax Map No. 049-2-31-10-0201

Commonly known as 7610 Savannah Street, #201, Falls Church, Virginia 22043.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of $19,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prensky
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2010

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2010. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available from www.grants.lsc.gov on April 10, 2009. In accordance with LSC's multiyear funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. The listing of service areas for each state and the estimated grant amounts for each service area will be included in Appendix-A of the RFP. Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) in order to participate in the competitive grants process. The NIC will be available from the RFP. Please refer to www.grants.lsc.gov for filing dates and submission requirements. Please e-mail inquiries pertaining to the LSC competitive grants process to Competition@lsc.gov

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21 Announcements

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
MECKLENBURG COUNTY FILE NO.: 08 SP 2435
FREDDIE RAY BLACK,
Petitioner.
vs.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PUBLICATION

KRISTY SAUNDERS BLACK
[AKA: Kristy Michelle Saunders],
Respondent.
and

DARIN RAMSEY,
and

CAROLINE ROSE BLACK,
Child.

TO: DARIN RAMSEY

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief being sought is Legitimation of a Minor Child (under the age of 16).

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 18th day of May, 2009, which is forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 6th day of April, 2009.

M. DeVondria McClure
Attorney for Petitioner
The Law Offices of M. DeVondria McClure, P.C.
3325 Washburn Avenue, Suite 212
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205
Telephone: (704) 372-2031

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People

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Eleven young volunteers from the **Lorton Community Resource Center (LCRC) Youth Activities Group** have completed a Storm Drain Marking and Education project, in the Williamsburg Square community in Lorton. The volunteers delivered educational flyers to each of the 150 residences in Williamsburg Square and fixed permanent markers onto all 29 storm drains along the streets of this community. The flyer is designed to educate the residents about the danger of dumping anything into a storm drain. Many people are unaware that the water entering a storm drain does not go to a wastewater treatment plan but flows directly into the nearest river or lake. Pollutants such as used motor oil, pet waste, trash and debris eventually flow into the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The volunteers were led by LCRC Coordinator **Katrina Hamlett** and **Leroy Washington**.

The project was funded by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and supported by the Lorton Resource Center Youth Activities Group, Mason Neck Lions Club, Williamsburg Square HOA, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The Fairfax Library Foundation has named the 2009 Friends Scholarship Fund Continuing Education awardees. They are **Renee Edwards**, Fairfax County Public Library Early Literacy Outreach Manager; **Carey Hagan**, Librarian, **Susan Ujka Larson**, Youth Services Manager and **Leslie Scully**, Assistant Page Manager from the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale; and **Andrew Pendergrass**, Branch Manager at the Patrick Henry Library in Vienna.

The Library Foundation's Friends Scholarship Fund encourages the continuing education among FCPL staff and volunteers by awarding scholarships that underwrite education outside of a formal degree program. The fund provides several full or partial scholarships twice a year ranging from $150 to $1,000 to support the training of individuals within the Fairfax County Public Library System.

Individuals demonstrating the potential for outstanding achievement in the library profession who are enrolled in an accredited Masters of Library Science program may apply for one of three competitive Academic scholarships awarded annually at $3,000 and a special $3,500 named scholarship honoring Library Director Edwin S. Clay, III. The Academic element of the Fairfax Library Foundation's Friends Scholarship Fund was established to deliver expert library services to County residents by attracting highly qualified future librarians to the Fairfax County Public Library.

College Notes

Kenneth Rubenstein has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus. He is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School, and is the son of Ellen and Steve Rubenstein.

Burke resident **Brian C. Yeagley**, a B.A. in psychology student, has been recently inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society at Marymount University. To be eligible, undergraduates must have completed 75 percent of their requirements with at least a 3.5 grade point average (GPA); graduate students must have completed 75 percent of their requirements with at least a 3.75 GPA. Additional considerations include good character, intellectual activities and leadership promise.

Kevin M. Keeney Jr., a resident of Burke, has earned a bachelor of science, information technology from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y.

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SCION

XD

33 MPG**

TC

29 MPG**

XB

28 MPG**

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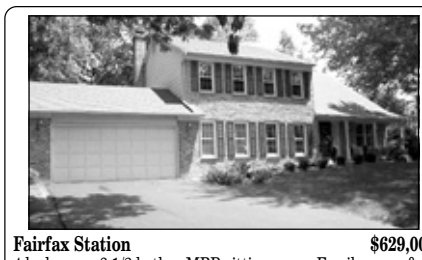

Fairfax Station **$629,000**
4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. MBR sitting room. Family room & den. Gorgeous landscaping with deck/pool/hot tub & fully fenced rear yard. Beautifully maintained home!

Lorton Station **$629,900**
A LOT to Offer!
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Lovely details in this 5 level home featuring 3 bedrms, 3.5 baths, wood floors on main and bedrm levels, formal dining and living rms, walkout recreation rm, den, kitchen & bath updates, fenced yard with brick patio. Great location near shopping & transportation.
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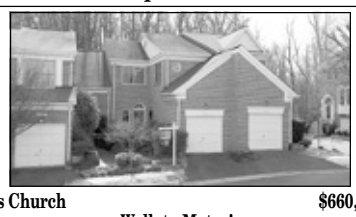

Falls Church **$660,000**
Walk to Metro!
McLean H.S. district! Luxury brick garage TH backs to wooded parkland! Tall ceilings, Hdwd flrs, updated kitchen w/ granite, 3BR, 3.5BA, walk out bsmt, home office!
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Burke **$2200**
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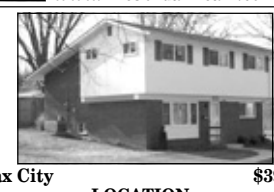

Fairfax City **$399,900**
LOCATION
4 fin levels/4 bedrooms/1.5 baths
New windows & doors/new carpet/
Refinished Hrdwd floors/gas heat & Water
*Close to GMU & Fairfax City
* Nice corner lot*Vacant and ready to go
Call for an appointment to see
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LEASE/PURCHASE PLAN AVAILABLE
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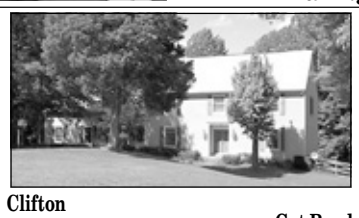
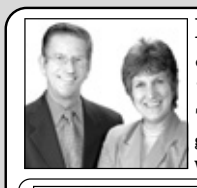


Clifton **$899,900**
Get Ready for Summer Fun!
Charming Colonial with Swimming Pool in serene setting on 5 acres! Total privacy yet very close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec. room.
See this property at www.GrainerTeam.com



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Springfield
$365,000
This 5 bd/3ba house in Monticello Woods is HUGE and ideal for a large family. Gleaming Hardwood Floors and Fresh Paint. Two large additions, plus a garage, with a country kitchen, beamed ceilings, rec room and family room and a den. Also has a large covered patio and deck. Walk to Springboard pool, park, schools and just a 3 minute drive to the metro station. A great home, at a great price in a great community.
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