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Real-Life Look at Budget

Supervisor reflects
on week of
budget hearings.

BY JOHN FOUST
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

FRIDAY, March 27 - This was definitely not my typical day. My wife Marilyn, our son Patrick and I started the day in Lisner Auditorium for the ceremonial installation of Eric Holder as Attorney General of the United States. Marilyn has been partners with Sharon Malone, Eric's wife, for over 15 years and Sharon invited us to this historic event. Both Eric and President Obama spoke passionately about the importance of protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. It was an inspirational way to begin what promised to be a challenging week. After the ceremony, Marilyn went to the reception at the Justice Department. I headed back to my office to prepare for the upcoming Board meeting and four nights of public hearings on the budget.

SATURDAY, March 28 - I usually have many events to attend on weekends. Because I needed time to get ready for the coming week, I limited myself to three this weekend, all Saturday morning. I started early by visiting the United Prevention Coalition's substance abuse and violence prevention conference. From there, I headed to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department for a great "all you can eat" pancake breakfast. My next stop was Langley High School where I participated in a Post Legislative Session Town Hall Meeting conducted by Senator Janet Howell and Delegates Margi Vanderhye and Jim Scott. Then I went to my office and spent about six hours preparing for the Monday Board meeting. Before each board meeting, the supervisors receive a "Board book" that contains most of the material that will be covered at the meeting. This week the board book took up three separate volumes. Around 7 p.m., I went home, hoping to watch my alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh, defeat Villanova and advance to the Final Four. Oh well, there's always next year.

SUNDAY, March 29. Most of the day was spent at my office. In addition to the mate-



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust (D) writes a diary on the week of county budget hearings.

rials in the Board book, each supervisor typically prepares his or her own "Board matters" and presents them to the board for approval at the meeting. I spent a lot of time Sunday studying the Board book and preparing Board matters. As chairman of the Audit Committee, I prepared a Board matter that summarized the most recent audit report and moved that the board adopt it. My citizens' task force on the budget prepared an addendum to their initial report so I prepared a board item to share the addendum with all members of the board and county staff. I also prepared an item that asked the board to issue a certificate acknowledging the significant accomplishments and contributions of a constituent. Finally, the advertised budget recommended eliminating Connector Bus express service from the Herndon area to Crystal City and the Pentagon, so I prepared a request that staff determine how we can save these important transit routes.

MONDAY, March 30. The board meeting started at 9:30 a.m. One of the highlights of the morning was a presentation of the Advisory Social Services Board's annual report by Dranesville resident Marcus Simon. Marcus described a significant increase in the requests for assistance caused by the declining economy. He asked that the board maintain budget support for services that provide a lifeline to residents in time of crisis. I submitted my four Board matters and all were approved. After lunch, we held several public hearings including hearings on revenue enhancement items. Decisions on these items were deferred and will be made as part of the process of finalizing the 2010 fiscal year budget. At about 7:30 p.m. we began the public hearings on the budget. Speakers addressed many issues with several expressing their strong support for the supervised visitation program run by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and several others supporting funding for child care and early childhood education programs. Sixty-seven speakers were signed up but only about 45 showed up, which meant I was home by midnight.

TUESDAY, March 31. The public hearings on the budget resumed at 3 p.m. with 110 speakers signed up and a presentation from the School Board scheduled for 7 p.m. Since we are holding the public hearings on the budget four days this week, I have tried to limit the number of meetings I have in my office. Today, I had one meeting, at 10 a.m., with representatives of the Alliance for Human Services to discuss budget matters. Following that meeting, I reviewed and responded to some of the hundreds of emails and letters I have received about the budget. Then I headed to the Government Center for continuation of the public hearings. Recurring themes from speakers this evening asked the Board to protect the Penny for Affordable Housing, fund the supervised visitation program, and fund services for seniors and human services. We received excellent budget presentations from the School Board, the Volunteer Firefighters and the County's Employee Advisory Council. Once again, there were several people who didn't show up to testify and we adjourned by 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, April 1 - I had to be back at the Government Center at 3 p.m. for continuation of the budget hearings but this morning I needed to focus on a variety of other issues that are ongoing in the district. I met with staff members to get updates on projects involving HOT Lanes, trails, traffic calming, stormwater, land use, Dulles Rail and many other issues. And I continued to deal with the emails that keep coming. There were 141 speakers signed up today. This turned out to be the most interesting and enjoyable night of the hearings. The ARC of Northern Virginia advocates for people with severe physical and intellectual disabilities. They appear before the board regularly and they always have an entertaining way to make their point. Tonight dozens of their supporters showed up in pajamas and robes to make the point that they would have to stay home and not be able to work and contribute to our community if the board withholds funding for em

SEE PEOPLE, PAGE 4

Girls Go Digital

Microsoft hosts
DigiGirlz Day to
break stereotypes and
encourage interest
in engineering
and technology.

Gathered in Microsoft's Mid-Atlantic Office in Reston on Wednesday, March 25, a room full of engineers constructed and programmed robots while others wrote computer code and uses the cutting edge technology of the natural user interface of the Microsoft Surface.

While it may seem like a typical day at one of the world's leading technological corporations, those engineers were high school girls from Fairfax, Prince George's and Montgomery counties and they were participating in the third installment of Microsoft's DigiGirlz Day. DigiGirlz Day was an event for girls that aimed to dispel gender stereotypes in the technological industry, showing the more than 100 young women in attendance that the doors to the high-tech world are open to them as well.

"[Girls] shouldn't be intimidated by technology," said Donna Woodall, Microsoft's community outreach director and leader of the event. "It should be as much fun for girls as for boys. It's time for them to embrace technology."

ACCORDING TO WOODALL, since 1983, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to women dropped from 36 percent to 21 percent, so the event offered hands-on activities, informational lectures and guest speakers who all provided advice on how to navigate an industry many women are reluctant to enter.



**Kelly Crider,
George C.
Marshall
High School:**

"The event really opens your mind to so much that is out there. There is so much that you can do that you don't think can be done."



**Julienne
Samson,
George C.
Marshall
High School:**

"You think engineering is all about math and science, but it's all about creativity I'm more engaged than ever before [after attending DigiGirlz]."

SEE GIRLS, PAGE 7

People Share Stories on How Budget Affects Their Lives

FROM PAGE 3

ployment programs they use. Despite their disabilities and serious concerns about funding, they were in a great mood and lifted everyone's spirits before they finished speaking. The cookies they handed out were also much appreciated. The supporters of English as a Second Language for Adults also left a lasting impression. In very good English, these immigrants told of the frustrations they had experienced before learning English and how, because of ESL, they were now able to help their children with homework, get jobs and become active and contributing members of the community. Numerous issues were covered by other speakers including an excellent presentation by members of the Commission on Aging on the impact the proposed budget

cuts will have on senior citizens. Chairman Bulova is doing a great job running the budget hearings and everyone on the board seemed to be very interested in hearing from the speakers. I think we all realize our time will come to speak and negotiate over the budget, but our duty this week is to listen to what the speakers have to say. Once again, I was home before midnight.

THURSDAY, April 2 - This was the final day of public hearings. The process has been interesting and educational and, on several occasions, entertaining. Before heading to the Government Center, I met with the officers of the firefighters union. The advertised budget proposes huge cuts to public safety. They presented their suggestions for reducing costs while preserving jobs and services. As we struggle through this fiscal

crisis, I have been very impressed by all the county employee groups. They recognize the serious fiscal situation and are committed to sharing the pain. None of the employee groups are asking for salary or benefit increases but they are all concerned about preserving jobs and services to county residents. There were only 80 people signed up to speak tonight. Each night we have had some very courageous speakers tell their personal stories about how county-funded services have made a significant difference in their lives and the lives of loved ones. Tonight the stories seemed especially personal and compelling. We heard how cuts to Fastran bus service will affect one speaker's severely intellectually disabled daughter, how a relatively small county investment in Drug Court changes lives and enables people to return to their families

and become productive members of the community, how mental health services enabled a very impressive young woman recover from a severe nervous breakdown, how the victim of a violent assault relies on the services of Brain Injury Services, and many other stories about how the residents of Fairfax County have helped the most vulnerable and needy members of our community through the programs and services we provide. I left the Government Center by 7 p.m. and headed home. Although I was tempted to go to my office and respond to emails, I realized I will have all weekend to do that. I left the public hearings with a lot to think about thanks to the many who took time to address their concerns to the board. Their time, commitment and courage will help the board set priorities and it will make a difference.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Wednesday of every month. Free. To learn more, call 703-768-4841.

Conversation about the Middle East." Contact Anne at 703-448-6626 for the McLean meeting and Annette at 703-281-9715 for the Vienna meeting.

improve the watersheds of Fairfax County and ultimately the larger environment. Free. Call 703-242-6428.

205-9041.
"Cool Technologies." 7:30 a.m., Patton Boggs, 8484 Westpark Drive, Ninth Floor, McLean. "Cool Technologies for a Hot Government Market" will focus on high priority government programs and initiatives such as Network Centric Operations/Warfare, Cloud Computing and Cyberspace Security. \$45/ NVTC Members, \$75/non-members. Visit www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=COOLT-5.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. 7 p.m., Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. A group for anyone with multiple sclerosis and/or their family and friends will meet. The group meets the second

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

League of Women Voters. 12:30 p.m., Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Loughlin Ave., McLean; 7:45 p.m., Vienna Evening, 409 Beulah Road, Vienna. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will meet to discuss the topic "Strategies for a Safer World/Encouraging Public

Reversing the Damage to Our Watersheds. 7 p.m., Louise Archer Elementary School, 324 Nutley St. N.W., Vienna. Kay Fowler and Kim Scudera, founders of the Watershed Action Coalition, will describe how individuals can take action in their homes, gardens, and driveways to

NARFE Monthly Meeting. 1:30 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees will be holding their monthly meeting with guest speaker Bryan Bishop, lead attorney at Living Trust Attorney, Ltd., will speak on estate planning. Call 703-

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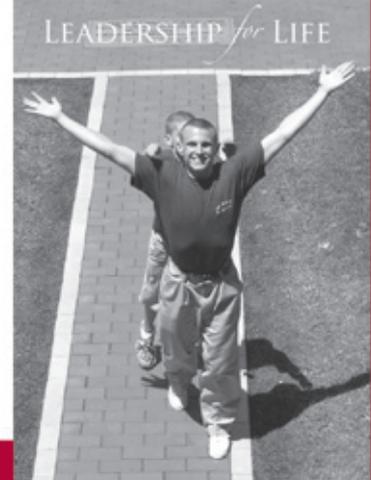
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Public Meeting on Library Renovation

A public information meeting will be held to review and discuss newly revised plans to extensively renovate the Dolley Madison Public Library in McLean. All interested residents are encouraged to attend the meeting.

The staff members from the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Capital Facilities Group will present plans for the library's renovation, stormwater management and landscaping for the site.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing for this project on May 6.

The public information meeting will be held on April 13, 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

For more information contact Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust's office at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or by email at dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 8



St. John's Episcopal Church
6715 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia

Invites you to
Good Friday and Easter Worship

April 10 - Good Friday

The Crucifixion of Jesus is observed in two services.

- NOON - 3:00 P.M. MEDITATIONS AND MUSIC
Meditations by the Rector on the Seven Last Words of Christ.
Anthems by Mozart, de Victoria and Handel
Sung by St. John's Choir.

- 7:30 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AND
A GERMAN REQUIEM by Johannes Brahms
Sung by St. John's Choir with instrumental accompaniment.

April 11 - Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.

WITH HOLY BAPTISM AND HOLY EUCHARIST

This traditional service from the time of the early Christian church combines readings from Holy Scripture of the story of salvation with Holy Baptism and the first Eucharist of Easter.

April 12 - Easter Day

St. John's Church joins with Christians around the world to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

7:30, 9:00, 11:15 A.M. - SERVICES OF HOLY EUCHARIST
Music with brass accompaniment

7:30 P.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST

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Marine Sgt. Steven Kiernan was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq when he lost both of his legs in May 2008. The leading foot patrol, Sgt. Kiernan and his team were hit by an IED, creating confusion in what had moments before been an ordinary day. Life saving measures were applied including tourniqueting both of Steven's legs, and he was loaded into a HUMVEE and transported to the Medivac and later transported to Germany, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and eventually to Walter Reed where he remains today receiving rehab and physical therapy.

Help Homes for Our Troops provide Sgt. Steven Kiernan with a home that will accommodate his needs and enable him to concentrate on recovery and his future.

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**Homes for Our Troops
Steven Kiernan Project
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Taunton, MA 02780**



Join us for a **Registration and Information Presentation** at:

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Tuesday, April 14
from 2:00-8:00 pm
Presentation at 6:30 pm



Sgt. Steven Kiernan

www.homesforourtroops.org/kiernan • 866-7-TROOPS • info@homesforourtroops.org

OPINION

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drive Safely In Work Zones

To the Editor:

In the next few months, most people will drive through a highway work zone. It may happen on the morning commute to the office or on a long trip to the beach. You'll notice the orange cones, caution signs, large trucks and equipment and white hard hats. But most likely, you won't see the faces of the people who are working to make your commute better, safer and more efficient.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The **Flint Hill Elementary Chorus** was invited to participate in the 2009 National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C., as part of the Mass Youth Choir on Saturday, April 4. Forty fifth- and sixth-grade students were among the 1,100 students from across the country singing a medley of songs.

Eliot Waxman, a social studies teacher at Oakton High School, has been selected as one of C-SPAN's 2009 Teacher Fellowship recipients and will work in the education department at C-SPAN for four weeks over the summer. Waxman has also been named a national finalist for Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards for his role in the C-SPAN and Cox Communications 2008 Campaign in the Commonwealth Tour. Waxman helped engage Oakton students in the 2008 election's political and electoral process through televised debates, polls, blogs, and a school-wide mock election.

George C. Marshall High School received 42 awards at the Fairfax

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.

Under those hard hats are the faces of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who work every day to improve your commute in many ways, big and small. A distraction of only a few seconds and one of those workers could lose his or her life.

At the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), we pride ourselves on making safety our number one priority. It is the first and most important thing we do every day. But our efforts alone aren't enough.

Drivers are also responsible for keeping work zones safe. It only

County Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at Robinson Secondary School March 27-29. About 400 projects were displayed (22 from Marshall) and judged by professionals. The project categories ranged from plant sciences to biochemistry, astronomy and engineering. Student Joseph A. Gerner was the winner of a "grand prize award" and will be going to International Science Fair in Reno, Nev.

Graduate students **David Keppel** and **Changhan Fu** of Falls Church were honored at Virginia Tech's fall Graduate Commencement Ceremony.

Patricia Elias of McLean was honored at Virginia Tech's fall Graduate Commencement Ceremony.

Aseem Deshpande of Vienna was honored at Virginia Tech's fall Graduate Commencement Ceremony.

George C. Marshall High School's student newspaper, "Rank & File," has earned a Silver Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). GCM's "Rank & File" is one of 62 recipients of this award which recognizes the student's writing

takes one speeding driver or one glance at a cell phone to end someone's life. And, that life could be your own. Eighty-five percent of those killed in highway work zones are drivers or passengers. Last year, seven people were killed in highway work zone crashes in Virginia. And although that's a 64 percent reduction in work zone crashes since 2007, we want to continue to reduce the number of work zone fatalities.

VDOT is working to prevent work zone crashes with the national observance of Work Zone Awareness Week, April 6-10. This

and photography as well as coverage and design. Well over 1,700 high school and collegiate submissions for the 2007-2008 school year were critiqued for this competition.

Caitlin M. Flaherty, Genevieve M. Fleming, Kim Ann Moore and Lyne Picard of Falls Church were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society at Marymount University.

Aimee J. Simons, Arezou Hope Ansari and Michael McGinness of McLean were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society at Marymount University.

Emily Gleason and Marissa Mondelli of Vienna were inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Honor Society at Marymount University.

Kilmer Middle School has been named a winner of the \$5,000 Best Buy Te@ch Awards for 2009. The students plan to develop a video-based curriculum to teach robotics to students across the U.S. and the world over the Internet using the equipment funded by the Te@ch award to purchase video editing

Moving Words 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 pm.
Dome Theatre, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Rosslyn
703-228-1854
www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural_affairs/movingwords.htm

Release of Poetic Voices Without Borders, 2

April 23, 2009, 7-9 p.m.
The Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. (across from the VA Square Metro, Arlington)
Please join us as we 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 email box.

year's theme is "Drive To Survive - Our Future Is Riding On It." Help us keep our work zones safe.

We ask that you follow these simple rules when you encounter a work zone; slow down, stay alert for changing conditions and avoid distractions. When you see the orange signs, avoid adjusting your music and talking on your cell phone. We do our best every day to ensure our highways are safe. We hope you will partner with us.

Morteza Salehi
VDOT District Administrator
Northern Virginia

software and video capturing devices. In their technology class, students have learned basic engineering and written programs. By using digital photography editing, CAD (computer-aided design), networking, programming, and robotics, the students can teach others what they have learned.

Gabriel Pinchev, a resident of McLean and a freshman at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, was named to honor roll with high distinction for the fall 2008 semester.

Lindsey Huizenga, a resident of Falls Church and a junior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, was named to the honor roll for the fall 2008 semester.

Rachel Vega, daughter of Bonnae Powers of Fairfax and Juan Vega of Vienna, took second place in Expository Speech in the Randolph-Macon Academy 10th Grade Speech Contest.

Heather Mella, a 2006 graduate of Madison High School, has been named to the dean's list for the spring and fall 2008 semesters at Christopher Newport University.

THE CONNECTION

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Girls Explore Science Through 'Tech Workshops'

FROM PAGE 3

Two activities that the girls engaged in were part of what the event leaders called "Tech Workshops." The activities, robotics and "Small Basic," exposed the girls to aspects of technology that did not focus heavily on math and science, rather exploring the areas of the high-tech industry that call for cre-

ativity and originality.

"We are trying to reengage them," Woodall said. "So we try to use fun ways to get them excited about technology and embrace it."

In the robotics workshop, the girls learned how robotics are in use in the world now and how to manipulate a Lego "Mindstorm" robot's programming language to

make it perform different functions. In the other workshop, the girls learned how to incorporate mathematics into the programming language called Small Basic to create graphics and even games.

AFTER THE WORKSHOPS, the girls heard from guest speakers Valerie Voci, president of VOICI Media Works East, who showed

the girls the latest technological innovations from Microsoft; Tracy Adams, director of Howard University's Society of Women Engineers, who talked about gender stereotypes in the industry and a group of women in an "Ask the Experts" career panel, which gave them advice on life and careers.

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

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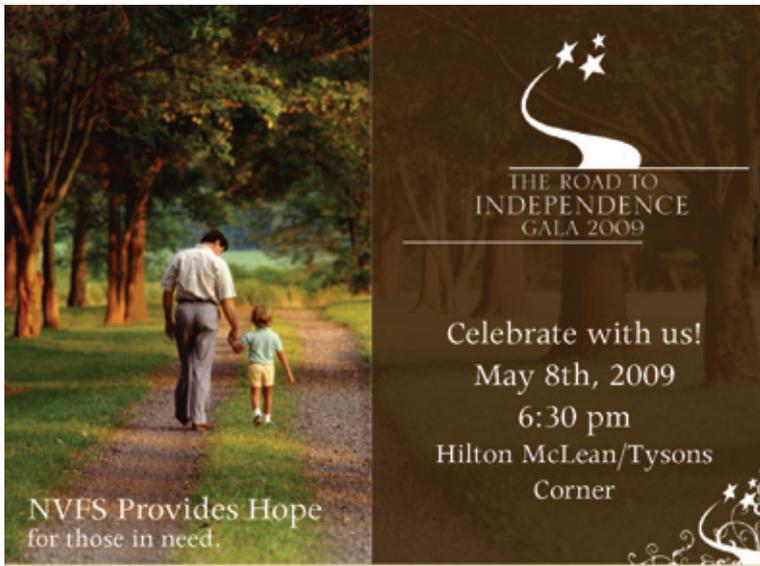


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Help • Hope • Here

Jo Cox, 80, Dies

Jo Cox, 80, a private piano teacher, died of pancreatic cancer on March 26, 2009 at Sibley Hospital.

Cox moved to McLean in 1971. From 1976 until her death, she volunteered with The Hospitality and Information Service, an organization dedicated to fostering relationships within the area's diplomatic community. She was a passionate cook as well as an avid watercolorist.

Cox was born to Canadian parents, Robert Jack and Dorothy Duncan Flatt, in Chicago and was raised in Thunder Bay, Ontario. She was a graduate of the Letchford School of Design in Toronto. While living in Canada, she worked as a character actress for national radio programs.

In 1948, she moved to Houston, Texas with her then-husband

David Lowe Stirton. Cox raised six children in Houston. The couple divorced in 1966 and Cox began teaching piano privately. She wed John B. Cox in 1967 and moved to Lake Valhalla in Morris County, N.J. Jo and John were married for 40 years.

She is survived by husband John B. Cox of McLean, former husband David Lowe Stirton of Houston, Texas, twins Kirk Stirton of New Orleans, La. and Lindy Stirton of McLean, twins Heather Stirton Gradison of Washington, D.C. and Betsy Stirton Nugent of Manassas, Va. (husband Steve Nugent), Laura Stirton Aust of Pelham, N.Y. (husband Tom Aust), Scot Stirton of Tulsa, Okla., Linda Cox Andrews of Decatur Ala, Joe Cox of Atlanta, Ga. (wife Lori), brother John Flatt, sister Sally Flatt Brown of Canada, 15 grandchildren, and three great



Jo Cox
grandchildren.

Her family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to The Hospitality and Information Service.

WEEK IN McLEAN

FROM PAGE 5 **Paulson Offers Business Counseling**

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) announce the appointment of Ron

Paulson as a resident counselor who will offer weekly business counseling sessions at the FCEDA headquarters in Tysons Corner. Paulson joins David Krauskopf as a resident counselor at the FCEDA. He will hold counseling sessions for business start-ups, existing business owners and FCEDA clients at FCEDA headquarters in Tysons Corner. Sessions are one hour long and by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, contact the FCEDA at 703-790-0600 or

SEE WEEK, PAGE 9



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WEEK IN McLEAN

FROM PAGE 8

info@fceda.org. For more information about SCORE, visit www.score.org.

Read-a-thon at Tysons Mall

As part of National Library Week (April 12-18), the Fairfax County Public Library goes to Tysons Corner Center on April 14 for a special Read-a-thon from noon - 2 p.m. in the children's play area in the Food Court on 3 (near the movie theatres). Tysons Corner Center is located at 1961 Chain Bridge Road in McLean.

Preschoolers and families can join Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth, Mr. Knick Knack, children's author Janet Stoeke, and other guests, including a firefighter and police officer, as they read from their favorite picture books. Attendees will enjoy a visit from a storybook character and activities for all ages. Stoeke's books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Barnes & Noble. Stoeke will appear at the bookstore at 2 p.m. following the Read-a-thon. For more information, call 703-324-8428 or check the library's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8

Vienna Tang. Vocals and piano. 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.

B for Ballet. 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and dance activities. Special appearance by Ballet Petite. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

Historic Vienna Speaker Series.

7:30 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. James C. Kirkland, pilot and author of the books "Tales of a Helicopter Pilot" and "Tales of a War Pilot" will speak. Kirkland served as a pilot during WWII and also as a helicopter pilot in the Korean Conflict in the 8055 unit made famous by the television series "MASH." Free. Call 703-938-5187.

The Bill Frisell Trio. 8 p.m., Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The Bill Frisell Trio will perform jazz fused with rock, country and bluegrass. \$25/person. Call 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

A Blind Tasting. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Enjoy two different classes of special tastings allowing each guest to test their knowledge and decipher different varieties.

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.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

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.

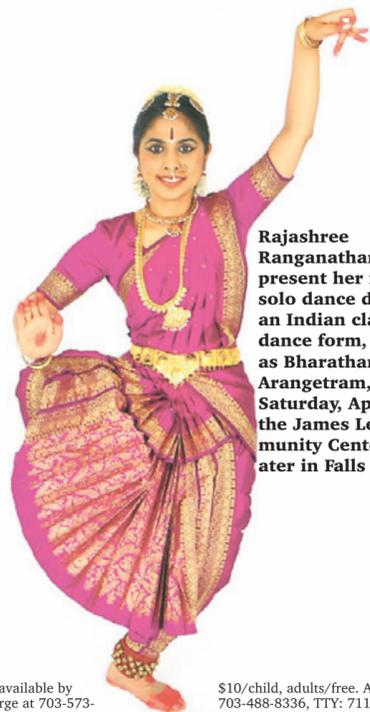
Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Deanna Bogart Band. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17 advance, \$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



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

\$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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. Email rsvprg@gmail.com

Afternoon Matinee. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. An afternoon movie and popcorn. Call or visit for movie title. Age 8-16. 703-757-8560.

Matt Wertz. 10 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Matt Wertz, whose album "Summer Sun" debuted at #5 when released, will play live. \$15/person. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Easter Egg Treats. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wildfire Tysons Galleria, Third Floor, 1714U International Drive, McLean. Dye Easter eggs and making your own Chocolate Peanut Butter Egg along with 9 News Now Anchor Lesli Foster and her daughter Jordan. \$10/parent and two children. Call Michelle Bringham at 703-442-9110 to make reservations.

Spring Garden Tour. 10:30 a.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join Chief Horticulturist Doris Rodriguez in a walk through the gardens and learn about spring flowering bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees that perform well in this area. Maintenance tips and availability of these plants will be discussed. Free. Call 703-255-3631.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m., Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. This year's event will feature over 10,000 eggs, lots of candies and special prizes for children ages one to nine. Children are divided by age group and will hunt for eggs full of treats and win special prizes. Participants must bring their own basket. Walk-in registration on the day of the event starts at 10 a.m. Hunt is held rain or shine. \$6/child. Call 703-324-8566.

Bunny Tales. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Bunny Tales is a special event that includes arts and crafts projects, a play area, entertainment and more. Participants will receive a picture with the bunny.

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McLEAN CONNECTION ♦ APRIL 8-14, 2009 ♦ 11

MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2009 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of the McLean Community Center Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

When & Where

Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the McLean Day 2009 Festival on Saturday, May 16, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

Requirements to Vote:

1. You must be a resident of the McLean Community Center tax district (Small District 1 of Dranesville District); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to vote for an adult candidate.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old to vote for a youth candidate. Youth voters must reside within the high school district of the candidate for whom they are voting.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license. If you do not have identification, you may sign a sworn statement.

Absentee Voting:

Any qualified resident may vote by absentee ballot. Residents may pick up an absentee ballot package at the Center's reception desk, Monday, April 13, to Wednesday, May 13, or may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or send a request by E-mail to "mail@mcleancenter.org," to have the package mailed to their homes. Completed ballots must be received by the Center by close of business on Wednesday, May 13. **Write-in candidates are allowed.**

Meet the Candidates

Adult Candidates — Three Positions Open

Susan Bourgeois

McLean residents of 10 years, my family and I have enjoyed the diverse aspects of MCC from classes, to the Firehouse, summer camps and theatre. Living within walking distance of the Center and the downtown business district, I have seen MCC as an important anchor providing a unique identity and service for our community. As a developer of neighborhood retail shopping centers, my professional experience will be an asset to MCC as it explores facility expansions in and around McLean.



Buckley Anne Kuhn Fricker

I have lived in McLean all of my life, except for when I attended college and law school. I own a small business here in McLean that serves senior citizens and I am a McLean parent with children in the Fairfax County schools. I feel my experience as a McLean "lifer," a business owner, an attorney, a senior issues expert and a parent of children ages 15, seven and one, would be a positive addition to the Board.



David Sanders

The Board's vice chairman, I currently chair the Capital Facilities and am a member of the Finance and Executive committees. Previously, as Finance chairman, I led two successful efforts to cut the MCC's tax rate by 10 percent and seven percent respectively. A lifelong McLean resident, my goal is for MCC to continuously improve its delivery of quality programs at a reasonable cost. Additionally, I am active in coaching McLean Little League, McLean Mustangs Football and McLean Youth basketball.



Edward J. Shahin, Jr.

An honors graduate of Cornell University, I serve on the Board and chair the Program Committee. I am on the McLean Project for the Arts' Senior Committee. I'm a strong advocate for senior and active adult programs, construction of a gymnasium at Spring Hill and an expanded facility downtown to include a revitalized teen center, a senior center and a black box theatre. I volunteer for the local Widowed Persons Service and was named the McLean Rotarian of the Year.



Youth Candidates — Two Positions Open

McLean High School area

James G. Bequai

A lifelong resident of McLean, I have attended both public and private schools in the area. Participation with my siblings in multiple sports activities over the years has allowed me to develop friendships within the McLean and Langley school districts. Having a sibling with significant disabilities has enabled me to be involved with non-traditional activities within the local community. This broader background will enable me to best represent the needs of the diverse McLean adolescent community on the Board.



Jennifer Dunn

I'm currently the Governing Board youth representative for the McLean High School district, and a junior at McLean High School. I've spent this last year helping to preserve and enhance Teen Center programming, volunteering at ArtFest, aiding in the selection of the new executive director, participating in the development of the FY2010 budget, and working on various other matters. I'd like to continue representing the interests of my peers by giving a voice to the teenagers of McLean.



Langley High School area

Angela Wertz

I'm a junior at Langley High School and I've lived in McLean all of my life. At the Center, I've participated in playgroup as a toddler, performed ballet at Alden Theatre as a child and ushered at plays as a teen. I am active in my community—in my church youth group and Girl Scouts, coaching MYI sports and working as a lifeguard/swim instructor. My experience as a leader and resident will make me a great addition to the Board.



McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

For more information, call 703-790-0123/TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org

FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, is celebrating Holy Week with the following services:

April 9: Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 12: Sunrise Worship at MBC Park at corner of Chain Bridge and Brawner Streets, 6:30 a.m.; Easter Worship Service, 8:45 and 11 a.m., Children's Easter Activities and Egg Hunt, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

Join **Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean** for its Holy Week worship services. They begin Sunday, April 5 for Palm Sunday at 8:30 a.m. (Informal service), 10:30 a.m. (Traditional service) and 5 p.m. (Contemporary/praise service). Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. and will include a commemorative foot-washing as well as communion. Good Friday's service, 7:30 p.m. on April 10 will feature the Passion play. Easter services will be held Sunday, April 12 at 8:30 a.m. (Informal), 10:30 a.m. (Traditional, with the Hallelujah chorus), and 5 p.m. (Praise). There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 11:45 a.m. for all children. For more information, call Trinity at 703.356.3312 or visit www.umtrinity.org.

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church - the historic church in McLean at the corner of Great Falls and Old Chain Bridge Rd. - is celebrating Easter with a new full time Pastor Rev. Deborah A. McKinley. Holy Week and Easter events at Lewinsville Church include:

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Footwashing; Good Friday - Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. - Service of Tenebrae (darkness); Great Vigil of Easter - Saturday, April 11 - 7:30 p.m. - Renewal of Baptism and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Easter Day - Sunday, April 12 - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Festival Worship, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, is celebrating Good Friday, Friday, April 10, with worship services. From 12-3 p.m., meditations will be given by Rev. Edward O. Miller Jr., and anthems by Mozart, de Victoria and Handel will be performed by the St. John's Choir. Also, "A German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms will be performed in English translation at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

An **Easter Egg Hunt and Egg Roll** will be held Saturday, **April 11**, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at New Life Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean. Children, up to age 11, can bring their basket and hunt for plastic eggs loaded with candy and toys or participate in an Egg Roll for prizes. Hotdogs, drinks and popcorn are free to everyone. Call 703-532-0161.

Providence Baptist Church invites community on Sunday, April 26, 6 p.m. for an evening of celebration with a variety of contemporary and traditional music and foods from around the world. Sing, listen to stories of how God has brought us together, and then enjoy some friendly conversation and a sampling of local and international cuisine. The church is located at the intersection of Route 7 and Lewinsville Road in McLean. For more information, call 703-893-5330 or check our website: www.providencetoday.org.



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FROM PAGE 10

Orchestra will perform several notable works. \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students, free/under 12. Go to the Alden Theatre Box Office or call 703-573-SEAT for tickets.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Easter Brunch. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Celebrate Easter with brunch. \$120/adult, \$39/child under 10.

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.

Spring Wild Flowers. 2 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. See some of the region's most beautiful spring wild flowers in this internationally recognized conservation collection. Free. Call 703-255-3631.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

18th Century Clothing Workshop. 6-8 p.m., Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Learn from experts the basics of 18th century clothing including shirts, trousers, waistcoats, caps, kerchiefs, shifts, petticoats, short gowns and aprons. Trace a pattern, examine examples of garments and obtain advice on your own clothing projects. \$5/person, \$3/Farm members and current volunteers. Reservations required; e-mail RSVP to kcannon@1771.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Book Discussion, 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for the title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Samantha & Dave. 7:30 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Samantha & Dave will perform live. Call 703-255-1566.

Bess Rogers with Allie Moss. 7:30 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bess Rogers and Allie Moss, both singer/songwriters, will perform live. Visit www.myspace.com/alliemossmusic or www.myspace.com/bessrogers.

Elena Gascho. 1 p.m., St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Harpsichordist Elena Gascho presents a recital. Free. Call 703-356-0670 or visit www.musicinmclean.org.

Tiny Tunes. 11:15 a.m., Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. Susan Hayes will delight the tiniest learners with music, movement, puppetry, American Sign Language and even some Spanish. Ages Birth-17 months with an adult. Visit www.classicnt.com.

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.

2009 Perspectives Series. 7:30 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eugene Robinson, a nationally syndicated columnist and political analyst, will present "Today's News: Who's Up, Who's Down and What's Really Going On?" as part of the 2009 Perspectives Series. Call 703-324-8428.



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Recalling the 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. See www.connectionnewspapers.com.



Jeff Allen (54) started all 12 games at center for the winning Elon University football team last fall.

JEFF ALLEN, LANGLEY

A SCHOLARSHIP was not in the plans, at least not at the start, for Langley High graduate and current Elon University rising football senior Jeff Allen.

Allen, who played the physically demanding center position on the offensive line for Langley under coach John Howerton, had selected Elon (Southern Conference), a Div. 1AA school in North Carolina, as the college of his choice. He wanted to play football, but had not been offered a scholarship from the academically renowned school. So he eventually decided he would try to make the team as a walk-on player his freshmen year.

With the help of Howerton, Allen promoted his football abilities to the Elon coaching staff by sending them a highlight football tape during Christmastime of his senior year in high school. But he had not heard back from the



Langley High graduate and Elon football offensive lineman Jeff Allen

“I basically came from out of the blue. I just kind of showed up.”

— Jeff Allen, Langley grad, Elon football offensive lineman

football office.

It turned out that the Elon football program was at the time in the middle of a coaching change. Allen found out

later his tape had likely been tossed aside. But, not to be discouraged, Allen sent a second tape to the new coaching staff. He

was informed, however, that the new recruiting class had already been selected. He was told he could try out for the team as a walk-on with scholarship money possibly available down the road if he made the team.

Allen did, in fact, make the team as a backup center. Not only that, he got put into a week-four game at Appalachian State (Boone, N.C.) that freshmen season, when Elon’s starting center was ejected.

He started a few more games that freshmen season. For the remainder of his freshmen season, Allen played a backup role with sporadic playing time, but it had been a successful first season for him. His play, in fact, had earned him a scholarship.

“My two goals [as a freshman] were to get onto the field and to be a scholarship player,” said Allen.

Last fall as a junior, it all came together for Allen, who started all 12 games for the 8-4 Phoenix, who barely missed the playoffs. Now, Allen, a business administration major with a concentration in management, is finishing his junior academic year at Elon and looking forward to next fall when he will play his senior season.

“I basically came from out of the blue,” he said, remembering that walk-on freshmen season. “I just kind of showed up.”

Allen, who has played under Elon coach Pete Lembo throughout his career, said “I knew I couldn’t slack off. I had nothing guaranteed.”

Allen credits his high school coach, Howerton, with preparing him for college football and the rigors of line play.

“His practices were set up [to teach] line technique,” said Allen, a two-time, First Team All-Liberty District center at Langley. “There was a good work ethic. It made a huge difference for me. I knew I was going to be ready for college [football].”

SEE RECALLING, PAGE 19

How Far Some Will Go

Thousands of dollars and miles.

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, aimed at 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 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 in
SEE HOW FAR, PAGE 16



LeighAnne Baxter, a senior on Robinson’s girls’ soccer team, earned a scholarship to Richmond.

FILE PHOTO

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.

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 now 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.

“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.

SEE WORLD WIDE WEB, PAGE 16

World Wide Web of Recruiting?

FROM PAGE 15

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 Johnathan McMillon (left) got a scholarship to run at Virginia State University next year thanks in large part to the online recruiting service, beRecruited.com.

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 — similar to beRecruited.com — and the author of an e-book on recruiting called "Make the Team," 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 show-

case 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."

Stopper's website, captainU, is a web-based software that helps student athletes through the recruiting process, helping

them devise a step-by-step strategy to pursue athletic opportunities after high school.

Potential recruits can create a profile on the site for free, but for \$39.95 a month, captainU advertises access to 15,000 college coaches. Stopper said 90 percent of captainU's class of 2009 has signed with a college for next year.

The Web site beRecruited was started back in 2000 now 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.

Still there are detractors. Bill Finney, the athletic director and women's basketball coach at Division III Marymount University in Arlington calls recruiting websites "a waste of money."

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. 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."

How Far Some Will Go for Recruitment

FROM PAGE 15

terested 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.

At camps Stephanie Sbardella frequents, players of all ages, not just college recruits, are welcome. Some feature instruction. Some are composed mostly of games.

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.

"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. 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.

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



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



FILE PHOTO

Stephanie Sbardella, a junior on South County's softball team, traveled to college camps almost every weekend.

for them," said Avi Stopper, who co-founded www.CaptainU.com.

"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."

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Case No: MSC08-03159
[PROPOSED] ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS
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porting Declaration of Harvey W. Stein, attorney for plaintiffs,
for this Order, and it satisfactorily appearing to the Court there-
from that defendants Aaron Hernandez and Spectrum Finan-
cial also known as Spectrum Financial Funding, hereinafter re-
ferred to as ("defendants") cannot with reasonable diligence be
served in any other manner specified in Sections 415.10
through 414.40 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and that a
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ant.
IT IS ORDERED that Summons be served by publication in
the McLean Connection, a newspaper of general circulation
published in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, hereby designated
as the newspaper most likely to give defendants actual notice
of the action, and that publication be made once a week for
four consecutive weeks.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of the Summons, a
copy of the Complaint, and a copy of this Order be forthwith
mailed to defendants at 1410 Woodhurst, McLean, Virginia.
Date: April 6, 2009
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
Notice of Availability of Competitive
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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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RECRUIT ME, PLEASE



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.

Recalling the College Recruiting Experience

FROM PAGE 15



PHOTO COURTESY/ANDERSON UNIV.

2007 Oakton High graduate Ashley Abed

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.

During her junior season at Oakton, the 5-10 forward believed she would fit in nicely with a Div. 2 college program.

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 freshman 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. 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.

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."

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, averaging 25.5 yards per catch.

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.

"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."

Price said 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.

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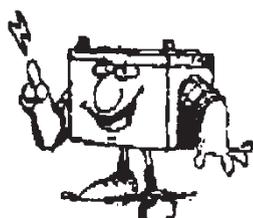
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