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Stallion First

SPORTS, PAGE 12

South County second baseman Taylor Dillow records an out during last Saturday's win over Centreville, which delivered the first-ever region crown for a South County team.

66 Years For Koger

NEWS, PAGE 3

State GOP Picks Cuccinelli

NEWS, PAGE 3

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Couple Donates Land for Park

Land expands Pohick Bay Regional Park.



DONATED PHOTO

On Monday, June 1, longtime Mason Neck residents Gary and Charlotte Knipling finalized a deal to donate land to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The Mason Neck property was donated to expand the boundaries of Pohick Bay Regional Park.

The land is along Gunston Road and surrounded on two sides by Pohick Bay Regional Park. The property serves as a key trail connection for the Red Trail that traverses much of the park. The property will also be a public access point to the trail network.

The Kniplings join a long and distinguished list of individuals who have contributed to the region by donating land to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The lands of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Temple Hall Farm Regional Park, Blue Ridge

Mason Neck residents Gary and Charlotte Knipling finalize a deal to donate land to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA). The Kniplings are shown here NVRPA Executive Director Paul Gilbert to signing off on the arrangement.

Regional Park, Red Rock Overlook Regional Park and Aldie Mill Historical Park were all donated to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

"Many of the parks enjoyed by thousands today would not be here if it were not for the generosity of land donors," said NVRPA Chairman Su Webb.

— DANA ESPOSITO

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Cuccinelli Wins GOP Nomination

Two Fairfax County representatives to face each other in attorney general's race.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Burke resident Kevin Morse has been an engaged Republican voter for years.

As an active member of his homeowners association, Morse keeps up on policy issues before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Virginia General Assembly. He attends meetings with his local elected officials and asks questions about specific issues, like those related to transportation and the Dulles Rail project.

But Morse had never attended the Republican Party of Virginia's statewide convention until last weekend. This year, he was motivated to drive to Richmond and participate in the event so he could support his local state senator, Ken Cuccinelli (R-37), in a bid to become the Republican Party's nominee for attorney general.

"I think he has been a great state senator. I don't always agree with him. But if he disagrees with you, he tells you. He doesn't

try to smooth things over," said Morse.

Cuccinelli, a Centreville resident and Northern Virginia's only Republican state senator, easily won his political party's nomination for attorney general at the Richmond Coliseum May 30. His opponents, former federal prosecutor John Brownlee and former Arlington County School Board member Dave Foster, threw their support to him at the conclusion of the first ballot count.

During the convention, former Attorney General Bob McDonnell, who faced no opposition, was also officially named the Republican candidate for governor.

Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling easily defeated challenger Patrick Muldoon for his re-election nomination. Pat Mullins, a

former Fairfax County Republican Committee chair, was elected head of the statewide party over Bill Stanley.

WITH APPROXIMATELY 7,000 delegates, the 2009 convention was the largest for Virginia Republicans since the early 1990s.

"Republicans are tired of getting pushed around in Fairfax County."

— Anthony Bedell, chair of the Fairfax County Republican Committee

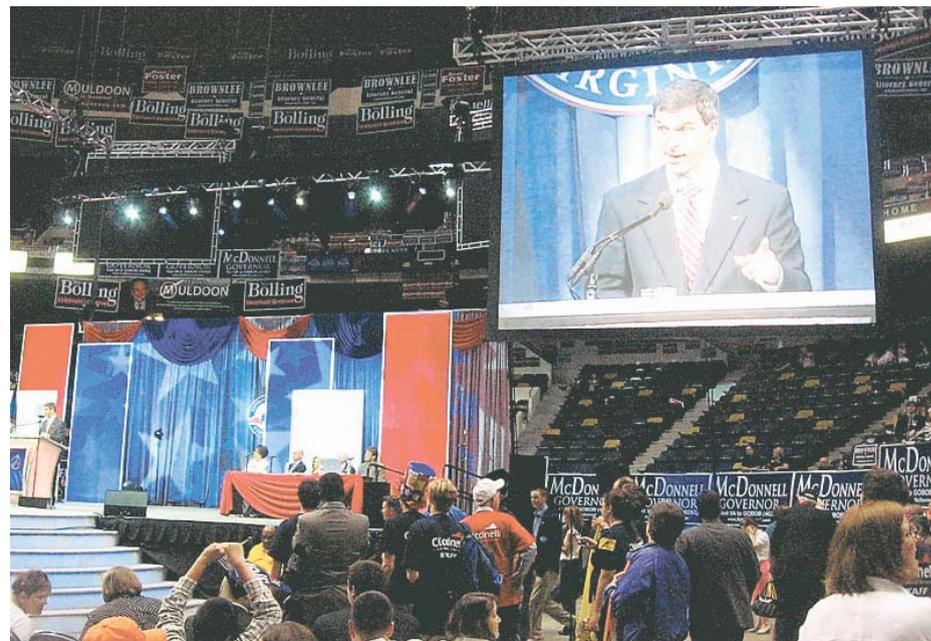


PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) accepted the Republican Party's nomination for attorney general at a statewide convention in Richmond May 30.

Fairfax County, alone, had over 1,600 people register and 1,200 people show up to participate in Richmond. Last year, between 600 and 700 Fairfax County residents registered to be delegates and even fewer attended the state convention, said Anthony Bedell, chair of the Fairfax County Republican Committee.

"Republicans are tired of getting pushed around in Fairfax County," he said.

Like Morse, several Fairfax County residents who don't normally attend conventions came to Richmond primarily to help Cuccinelli secure the nomination.

"Ken has been very instrumental in mental health issues and I wanted to support him," said Springfield resident Addison Smith, who has not attended a Republican

SEE CUCCINELLI, PAGE 18

Jeffrey Koger Sentenced to 66 Years

Embezzler of homeowner associations sentenced for 2008 shooting spree.

BY KEN MOORE AND
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The survival of six innocent victims — three civilians and three officers — "is a miracle," said Judge Jonathan C. Thacher.

"Only by the grace of God did the [shooting] spree not result in mass casualties," the judge said.

A bullet remains lodged in Scott Duke's sternum from the night of Feb. 2, 2008, when Jeffrey Scott Koger, 39, of Herndon, fired a revolver randomly

at Duke and five others in Alexandria and Fairfax County.

"Having to look at the person who tried to take your life, never knowing you, is kind of hard," said Duke, Thursday, May 28 at Koger's sentencing hearing in Fairfax County Circuit Court. "I thought of my family and them getting a call saying, 'Your son was shot in the chest.'"

Najib Gerdak, 27, of Franconia, attempted to help Duke; Koger then shot Gerdak multiple times. Bullets went through Gerdak's shoulder, spine, colon and groin.

"There's not a moment it doesn't affect me. I have to look at the holes in my body all the time, so you always remember," said Gerdak, who testified how Koger pointed a gun at his head.

"He asked me twice who my savior was," Gerdak said. "I didn't do anything to him, so tell me why I

should get shot?"

In February 2008, Gerdak was at the peak of his profession, he said, cutting hair and teaching stylists about the latest and upcoming trends. Now nerve damage impairs his ability to move his hands and bullet wounds have robbed his strength.

"I used to be able to bench a house, now I can hardly carry my book bag," he said, explaining how he lost most of his clientele and earns 75 percent less income than in 2008.

More than 100 people visited Gerdak at the hospital the day after Koger shot him. Recently, he returned for one of his many follow-up procedures at the hospital for surgery to remove a bullet from his spine.

Gerdak said he thought of his parents as he lay on the cold wet street with Duke,



SHERIFF'S PHOTO

Jeffrey Koger

thinking he and Duke were going to die.

"Can you imagine getting a phone call at four in the morning, 'Your son's been shot four times in the spine, stomach, leg and chest,' and seeing him in the hospital on machines and wondering if he's going to walk again," said Gerdak. "No one should have a right to take your life but God. I think Mr. Koger thought he was God that night."

THE TWO MEN weren't Koger's first victims on Feb. 2, 2008.

Shortly before in the City of Alexandria, Koger shot taxicab driver Bereket Tewelda, 36, who was stopped at a traffic light at Seminary Road and North Beauregard St.

Koger pulled up behind him in a 1990

SEE KOGER, PAGE 18

"Koger set about to cause harm, death and devastation."

— Judge Jonathan C. Thacher

Photography Competition At Lorton Workhouse

The Workhouse in Lorton will present its first photography competition juried by Ann Shumard, curator of photographs from the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Submissions are due June 15 and the exhibit will run July 29-Aug. 22. Shumard will award a \$500 Best in Show and three Equal Merits of \$150 each. Professional and amateur photographers 18 years and older are invited to submit up to three photographic images. Prospectus and entry form available on www.workhousearts.org.

Lorton 7-Eleven Robbed

A Lorton-area 7-Eleven convenience store was robbed at gunpoint Thursday, May 21. According to a Fairfax County Police release, a man entered the store, located at 9804 Gunston Road, at approximately 3 a.m., and produced a gun and demanded money. The cashier, a 27-year-old male, complied and was not injured.

The suspect was described as white and about 20-years old. He was between 5 feet 6 inches and 6 feet tall, weighed between 150 and 175 pounds and had black hair. He wore a red hooded sweatshirt, a red bandana, a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Murder-Suicide in Lorton

A husband and wife were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide in Lorton on Friday, May 28. According to a Fairfax County Police release, officers responded to a report of a shooting at approximately 2 p.m. to a home on the 9600 block of Hagel Circle. Upon entry of the home, police located the bodies of a man and a woman, which were initially discovered by a concerned relative checking on the couple.

After investigation, police determined that the husband, Robert Julius Neal, 54, shot his wife, Jacqueline Neal, 45, in the upper body and then shot himself. Autopsies are slated to be conducted by the Office of the Medical Examiner to confirm the results of the investigation.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Woman Dragged into Car, Police Investigate

Fairfax County Police responded to a call of a young woman who was reportedly dragged into a car against her will in the Lorton area Wednesday, May 27.

The caller reported seeing a young woman being forced into a vehicle against her will by an unidentified man and woman in their 40s or 50s in the 7000 block of Newington Road at approximately 10 a.m. According to police, the victim, described by the caller as white or Hispanic in her late teens or early 20s, was reportedly yelling for help as she was forced into a black, four-door SUV.

The man was estimated to be about 5 feet 10 inches tall and weigh approximately 240 pounds. He was wearing a brown jacket and jeans. The woman was about 5 feet tall and approximately 200 pounds and was wearing a white coat.

According to police, the victim has not been identified

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NEWS



The recipients were given certificates by the Board of Supervisors at their June 1 meeting.

Lord and Lady Fairfax Reign

Supervisors name 2009 Lord and Lady Fairfax honorees.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

In a time of dismal events and dark stories, a light emerged this week with the declarations of the 2009 Lord and Lady Fairfax honorees.

The awards, which recognize Fairfax County citizens who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism or other special accomplishments, are given each year to a man and woman from each district, chosen by the respective district's supervisor.

This year's honorees for the Mount Vernon District are Lord Gilbert McCutcheon, Mount Vernon's representative on the Park Authority Board, and Lady Christine Morin, senior staff aide for Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). The pair, along with the other district's honorees, was recognized at the Board of Supervisors' June 1 meeting, where they were brought up in front of the crowd and given a certificate.

McCutcheon, 93, has been Mount Vernon's Park Authority representative for the last 17 years and the Market Master of Mount Vernon's Farmers Market for 27 years. McCutcheon also received a 2008 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award from the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society, as well as Board of Supervisors' prestigious Lawrence V. Fowler Award.

"He's just a person who gets things done," said Hyland, of McCutcheon. "The energy he has is just amazing. He has distinguished himself with his service in the two capacities."

MORIN IS responsible for the South County Middle School's advancement in the Capital Improvement Program and its eventual construction through her involvement in the creation of the South County Middle School Solutions Group, a grassroots organization that linked together neighborhoods, advocacy groups and elected officials to ensure that a middle school would be built.

"It's overwhelming," said Morin, of her selection. "It was a huge community effort that involved hundreds of people in South County and we are almost there. It's exciting to see our work come to fruition."

Following the supervisors' meeting later in the day, the honorees were invited back to the Fairfax County Government Center for a reception where

the lords and ladies could be recognized publicly. At the reception, each of the honorees was introduced and their accomplishments summarized and then enjoyed a fully catered meal from Coastal Flats of McLean.

"[The reception] was a very nice way to honor these folks and to say 'thanks' for what each of them have done," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). "They are great people who, through volunteer work, made a difference in their communities."

TO DATE, more than 470 individuals have been named Lord or Lady Fairfax by their district supervisors.

"They are great people who, through volunteer work, made a difference in their communities."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

and an investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Taxi Driver Carjacked

A taxi driver was robbed and carjacked in Alexandria Sunday night, losing his money and vehicle. The 60-year-old driver responded to a customer request at the Comfort Inn on South Van Dorn Street at approximately 11:20 p.m., and upon pickup, the customer asked to be driven to two locations.

According to police, at the second location, 6001 Farrington Ave., the customer demanded the driver's money and the driver complied. The customer then exited the vehicle and approached the driver's door, threatening the driver and demanding that he get out of the cab. When the driver exited, the customer got into the driver's seat and drove away. The cab was recovered several hours later back at the Comfort Inn. No one was injured.

The taxi driver described the suspect as black, approximately 40, with a heavy West African accent and a sturdy build. He was between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed around 175 pounds. He wore a rust-colored short sleeved dress shirt and black pants.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

House Fire Consumes Home

A fire destroyed a home and displaced two adults and their child Tuesday, June 2 in Fairfax Station. Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to call of a house fire at 8632 Eagle Glenn Terrace at approximately 8:40 p.m.

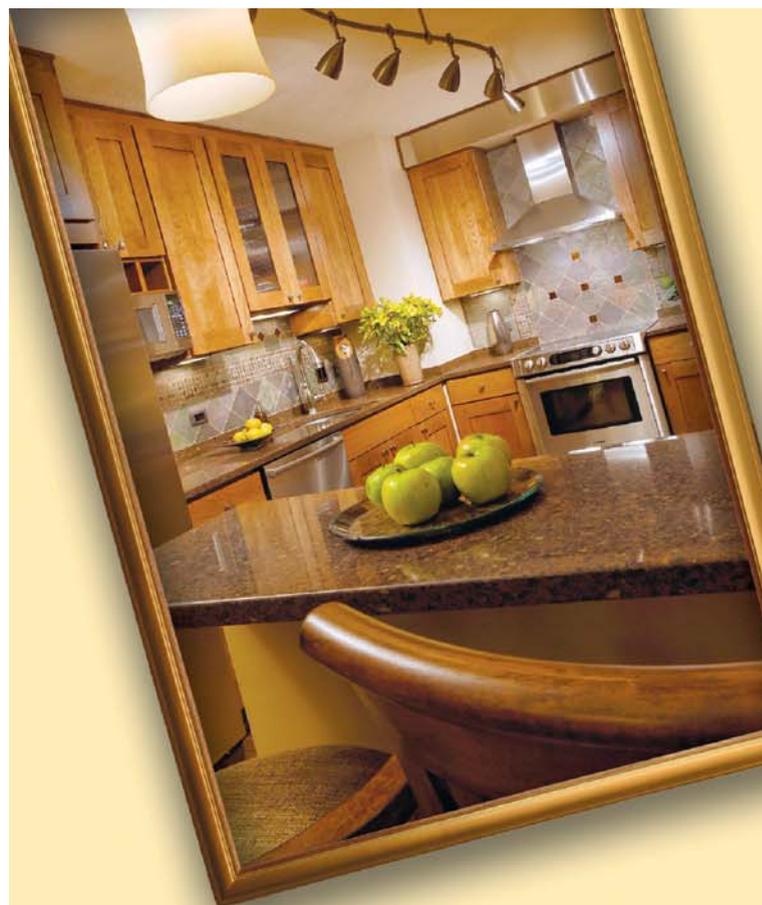
Upon arrival, they encountered heavy fire from the rear and smoke from the eaves of the two-story home and brought the fire under control in about one hour. Though no injuries were reported, as no

SEE NEWS, PAGE 7

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Primary Tough Choice for Dems

Strong candidates lead to indecision?

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

With the Democratic gubernatorial primary less than two weeks away, Scott Surovell still had not made up his mind about his vote.

Surovell, a Mount Vernon resident, is not a typical voter. He is the chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, one of the largest local Democratic organizations in the commonwealth. Surovell is paying very close attention to the race and the three candidates — state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe and former Del. Brian Moran (D-46).

"These candidates are pretty similar on policy. There are subtle differences but they are all strong candidates. I think the question a lot of people are trying to answer is which candidate would be the best to go up against Bob McDonnell," he said. "I am actually undecided. I have really been struggling with this myself."

Many other likely voters are having a tough time choosing a candidate in Democratic Party's gubernatorial primary June 9.

"It was a tough decision. We are have embarrassment of riches this time around and it was a tough choice to make," said Greg Zimmerman, a Democratic activist from Arlington County, who would not reveal who he was supporting publicly.

"I think, for Democrats, I think this primary is really difficult," said Loretta Nawakowski, the Democratic Party's captain for the Greenspring voting precinct, which traditionally has the highest election turn out of any precinct in Virginia. Though the residents are known for being politically active, attendance at a candidates' forum May 14 on the Greenspring campus was particularly high, about 250 people.

Volunteers who have knocking on the doors of reliable Democratic households in Northern Virginia have also found a lot of uncommitted voters.

"I am going door to door and a lot of people are undecided," said Steve Baker, an Arlington resident who supports McAuliffe.

Voters may be having a tough time choosing a candidate because the three men in the race are similar in many respects.

Deeds, a native Virginian who lives in Bath County where he grew up, likes to tell the story of his mother only giving him a few \$20 bills in his pocket when he went off to college.

McAuliffe, a McLean resident, started a driveway paving business at 14 years old in upstate New York so that he could pay for school.

Moran, a former state delegate for the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County, recalls when he father was laid off and his employer towed away the company car they

CREIGH DEEDS



Age: 51
Residence: Bath County, Va.
Hometown/Grew Up In: Bath County, Va.
Family: Wife Pam and four children
Education: Concord College (bachelor's degree in 1980), Wake Forest University (law degree in 1984)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: former Bath County

prosecutor; House of Delegates member (1992-2001), state Senator (2001 in present)
Web site: <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com>

used as a family station wagon.

All three candidates promise to make Virginia the epicenter of green technology and jobs. McAuliffe talks of turning chicken waste into fuel. Deeds wants to build an algae-to-fuel plant in Hampton Roads. Moran calls for wind farms off the coast of Virginia Beach.

Northern Virginia, they all expect, would be a hub of green job research and take part in developing things like the smart electrical grid and clean coal technology. "I think we can build on the technology companies that we already have here," said Moran.

Moran, in particular, appears to be trying to set himself apart by running to the left of his primary opponents on social and environmental issues.

If elected governor, Moran promises to seek repeal the 2006 Marshall-Newman amendment, which defines marriage as between a man and woman and bans marriage-like contracts for same sex couples. "We should not be placing discriminatory language in the Virginia constitution," said Moran at the Greenspring forum.

As a state senator, Deeds voted in favor of the same-sex marriage amendment in 2006. McAuliffe said he does not support gay marriage but is fully supportive of civil unions. But he has said multiple times that the campaign should focus on other issues.

"If we don't fix the economy, we are going to go backwards on several fronts folks," said McAuliffe at an Annandale debate.

Moran has spoken out against drilling for oil or natural gas off the coast of Virginia and opposes the construction a new coal power plant in Surry County between Richmond and Hampton Roads.

On the issue of offshore drilling, McAuliffe backs limited exploration for natural gas but not for oil. Deeds said he would support some exploration for oil and natural gas.

McAuliffe says if elected governor, he would work to push all payday lenders, which provide small, short-term loans at a very high interest rate, out of Virginia.

Critics of payday lenders said many people become trapped in a unending cycle of debt through these types of loans, which

TERRY MCAULIFFE



Age: 52
Residence: McLean, Va.
Hometown/Grew Up In: Syracuse, NY
Family: Wife Dorothy and five children
Education: Catholic University of America (bachelor's degree -1979); Georgetown University (law degree in 1984)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: Democratic National Committee chairman

(2001-2005); confidant of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; national finance director of President Jimmy Carter's 1988 re-election campaign
Web site: <http://www.terrymcauliffe.com/>

they can never afford to pay back.

McAuliffe has also been critical of Virginia's largest utility company, Dominion Power, for not being open to renewable energy and energy efficiency proposals. "There should be no more rate increases until they agree to move on wind and solar power," said McAuliffe, who is not accepting donations from Dominion or the company's political action committee.

Dominion Power has been the largest business interest or individual contributor to Virginia's statewide political campaigns over the last 13 years. Since 1996, the utility company has donated \$5.2 million to political candidates, \$2.45 million to Democrats and \$2.65 million to Republicans. Both Moran, who has accepted \$46,800, and Deeds who has accepted \$57,200, from Dominion since 1996,

said McAuliffe's pledge to turn down Dominion money is hollow because the McAuliffe campaign held a fundraiser at the home of Thomas Capps, Dominion's retired president.

When there is consensus on an issue, such as the need for quick job creation, the candidates have different approaches.

Deeds, who represents the Charlottesville area, wants to use Virginia's well-regarded higher education system to spur growth and new employment.

McAuliffe would have a hands-on approach to attracting business to Virginia. As governor, he intends to be the commonwealth's number one salesperson and business recruiter.

"You all know I am good at getting money out of people," said McAuliffe at a meeting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council. The candidate, who once wrestled an alligator for a campaign donation, revolutionized political fundraising for the national Democratic Party.

Moran, who runs his own small law office, said he intends to shore up the economy by supporting and promoting small businesses.

"I have created a business in Virginia, a small business," said Moran.

If elected, Moran's first action as governor would be to convene a bipartisan sum-

BRIAN MORAN



Age: 50
Residence: City of Alexandria
Hometown/Grew Up In: Natick, Mass.
Family: wife Karyn and two children
Education: University of Massachusetts, Amherst (bachelor's degree), Catholic University of America (law degree)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: former Arlington County

prosecutor, House of Delegates member (1996-2008), House of Delegates Democratic caucus chair (2001-2008)
Web site: www.brianmoran.com/

mit of business community members and government leaders to brainstorm about the best ways to address the current economic situation in Virginia. The summit would not just address job creation but also housing needs and other problems that have cropped up in the down economy.

"We need a governor who puts the people first," said Moran at the Greenspring forum.

Deeds and Moran have similar professional backgrounds. Both worked as local prosecutors and are currently lawyers at small law firms. They are also both former members of the House of Delegates. In 2001, Moran replaced Deeds as the House of Delegates Democratic caucus chair when Deeds won his election to the state senate.

A fixture of political talk shows, McAuliffe is one of the most recognizable Democratic Party figures on the national stage, even though he has never held elected office.

McAuliffe is trying to reshape his public persona into that of a Mark Warner-like businessman, who does Democratic Party activism on the side. He has rescued both a failing bank and Florida home building company during his career. Through these and a few other business ventures, McAuliffe said he has created several thousand new jobs.

Deeds and Moran tout their legislative experience in Richmond as an asset.

Deeds said he was able to get legislation passed as member of the minority and the majority party in the House of Delegates and Senate.

"I am going in knowing that system like the back of my hand," said Deeds.

While McAuliffe talks about needing to win more Democratic seats in the House of Delegates, Moran points out that he has actually done that as head of the House of Delegates Democratic caucus.

"I helped build the House Democratic caucus from 33 members to 45 members," said Moran.

McAuliffe, who has lived in McLean for almost 20 years, does not seem phased by his lack of experience at the Virginia statehouse. The Washington insider is running as a Richmond outsider.

"If you are happy with Richmond, I am not your guy," said McAuliffe.

See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com for more.

NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

one was home when the fire started, a pet dog died in the fire.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental and originated on the stovetop in the kitchen and extended throughout the structure. The damage is estimated at \$400,000.

Alcohol Stings Net One Arrest

Officers from the West Springfield District Station Neighborhood Patrol Unit conducted stings at several locations in the Springfield, Fairfax, and Lorton areas June 1 as part of the ongoing Youth Alcohol Enforcement/Prom and Graduation campaign.

The stings were conducted using one team consisting of one plain-clothed officer, two uniformed officers, and one cadet. The cadet entered stores and attempted to purchase alcohol. When asked if he was 21, the cadet responded with his true age and date of birth. If asked for identification, the cadet told the clerk that he had no identification with him. Finally, if the sale of alcohol took place, the plain-clothed officer would take possession of the alcohol from the cadet and make the appropriate charge.

Twenty-four locations were entered and one arrest was made at the Safeway at 9525 Braddock Road in Springfield for the illegal sale of alcohol.

BULLETIN BOARD

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

The Arlington Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America will be conducting a shoreline cleanup of trash at Mason Neck State Park as part of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clean the Bay Day. All volunteers are welcome but minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The cleanup is 9:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. Participants will meet in front of the Park's Visitor Center and should dress for the weather conditions, as this event will be r rain or shine. 703-200-3994 or send an e-mail to fairfaxwatershed@yahoo.com, http://waterquality.awardspace.com. Mason Neck State Park is located at 7301 High Point Road, Lorton.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9

South County Federation Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Southcountyfederation.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

Bereavement Workshop. Learn about the grief process and other issues about grief. Free. 7-9 p.m., at Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. For registration and information call 703 941-7000. Visit Haven's Web site at www.havenofnova.org/.



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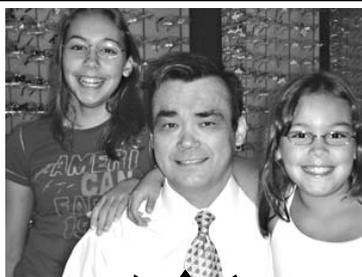
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OPINION

Vote June 9, Much at Stake

Polling places open, all registered voters eligible.

Every polling place in Northern Virginia will be open on June 9 for a Democratic primary, with two statewide races and several important contested primaries locally.

Much is at stake for Democrats in choosing a candidate for Governor.

The contentious, high volume campaign between the three candidates, Terry R. McAuliffe of McLean, Brian Moran of Alexandria and Creigh Deeds of Charlottesville will be settled by voter turnout on June 9. Primaries like this in Virginia often garner embarrassingly low turnout given how much it matters.

The winner will seek to extend the leadership of Mark Warner (D) and Tim Kaine (D), the current and past governors, facing Bob McDonnell (R) in the general election in November.

Virginia desperately needs strong leadership at the top for the sake of the economy, transportation, healthcare, education, public safety and the needy.

The governor of Virginia is limited to a single four-year term.

See www.connectionnewspapers.com for more coverage of the race.

Also on the ballot are Democratic primary races for Lieutenant Governor, House of Del-

egates in Vienna, District 35; Arlington, District 47; and Falls Church, District 38.

Because voters do not register by party in Virginia, all registered voters are eligible to vote in the June 9 primary races.

For information on where to vote and more, see www.sbe.virginia.gov.

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

We prefer digital photos, but we also accept prints. We will do our best to return hard copies of photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

Send photos to McLean Connection, Father's Day Photo Gallery, 1606 King St., Alexandria,

to be a successful governor. I invite you to join me in voting for him on June 9 in the Democratic primary.

State Sen. Chap Petersen
D-34

Vote for McAuliffe

To the Editor:

With the Primary Election now less than a week away, our state's needs have never been greater. We face bleak economic times in Virginia, and we need a governor with an unprecedented ability to set the agenda and to get things done.

LETTERS

This year, the one candidate who fills that bill is Terry McAuliffe. Throughout his campaign, he has listened to Virginians' ideas, regardless of their political leanings, and he has pledged to keep listening once elected. Terry knows a good idea when he hears one, and he has pledged himself to turning the best ideas for moving our economy forward into reality once he's elected governor. Put simply, Terry will put Virginia first and get our economy growing again.

That's why he has my vote, and he needs yours too. This Primary Day, June 9, is going to determine the future of our commonwealth, so be sure you vote — your regular polling place will be open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

Bruce H. Neilson
Fairfax

No Contribution Limit Needed

To the Editor:

In the May 13-19 issue, your publisher, Mary Kimm, argued in favor of limitations on contributions to candidates for elective office in Virginia, like the limits imposed by the Federal Election Campaign Act and many other states. However, she never explains why such limits are needed, saying only that it would be "sensible" to do so.

Why?

The most frequent rationale for limits on campaign contributions is to prevent corruption. However, corruption thrives only in the dark. Because, according to Ms. Kimm, "Virginia ranks among the best states in disclosure," corruption has not been, and will not be, a significant problem in Virginia.

On the Ballot

STATEWIDE

Democratic primary, Governor, choose one:

- ❖ Terry R. McAuliffe, McLean, www.terrymcauliffe.com
- ❖ Brian J. Moran, Alexandria, www.brianmoran.com
- ❖ R. Creigh Deeds, Charlottesville, www.deedsforvirginia.com

Democratic primary, Lieutenant Governor, choose one:

- ❖ Jody M. Wagner, Virginia Beach, www.jodyforva.com
- ❖ A. Michael Signer, Arlington, www.mikesigner.com
- ❖ Jon I. Bowerbank, Withdrawn 5/18

VA 22314. Or e-mail them to south@connectionnewspapers.com.

We're Moving

The Connection, including our entire group of 17 weekly newspapers, is moving its headquarters this week from Tysons Corner, a location we have enjoyed for well over a decade, to Alexandria.

Our new address is Connection Newspapers, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Our phone numbers will remain the same, with our central number 703-821-5050.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Endorsing Deeds

To the Editor:

Tuesday, June 9 is "primary day" for Democrats across Virginia. I am writing to let you know of my support for Creigh Deeds for the Democratic nomination for governor.

I serve with Sen. Deeds (D-25) in Richmond and know him to be a stalwart advocate for all Virginians, regardless of status or region. Throughout his 18 years in the Assembly, he has supported legislation to protect our environment, support our teachers and assist our elderly.

Last summer, Sen. Deeds stood with Northern Virginia Senators like me and Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) to pass SB 5009, which represented the most comprehensive state solution for Northern Virginia's transportation problems since the 1980s. It is the only legislation in my tenure, which actually transferred state revenue to our region in recognition of our special needs. Of the three candidates running for governor, Sen. Deeds was the only one to take a leadership role on this critical legislation that was killed by the House of Delegates.

Sen. Deeds understands Northern Virginia. He has what it takes

THE CONNECTION

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FAITH

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.

Healing Service at Jubilee Christian Center on Sunday, June 7, 6 p.m., with Rev. Mike Zello Jr., director of the Fredericksburg Teen Challenge as the guest speaker. The JCC is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170, www.jccag.org.

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

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

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

❖ **Church-Wide Outdoor Movie: "Grease."** Come Friday, June 19, at 8 p.m., for first summer movie on the lawn at Messiah UMC.

❖ **Sacred Echo: A Six-Week Women's Bible Study.** Wednesdays, June 24-Aug. 5, in room 261, read and discuss Margaret Feinberg's "The Sacred Echo: Hearing God's voice in every area of your life." Come at 7 p.m. for cappuccinos and fellowship. Study time will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Free child care available upon request.

Fairfax Presbyterian Church worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Contact 703-273-5300 or fpc@fairfaxpresby.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Through Truck Traffic Restrictions Fairfax County

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting written and telephone comments regarding the restriction of through truck traffic for the following route:

Route 2912 (Randolph Drive), between Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) and Route 620 (Braddock Road). The proposed alternate route for trucks is via Route 236 (Little River Turnpike), between Randolph Drive and Braddock Road and Braddock Road, between Little River Turnpike and Randolph Drive.

Comments can be sent to Regional Traffic Engineer, 14685 Avion Parkway Chantilly, Va. 20151; or you may call (703) 383-2400.

"Me and My Dad"

To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

PhotoB@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Laurel Hill Connection,
"Me and My Dad Photo Gallery,"
7913 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102

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Jerusalem Baptist Church...703-278-8166
Shiloh Baptist Church...703-550-8557
Virginia Korean Baptist Church 703-425-1972

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THINGS TO DO

Experience Happy Music, Played Sadly

Washington Balalaika Society celebrates 20th anniversary.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Think Russian folk music. Think “Dr. Zhivago.” Think all-volunteer, unpaid musicians ages 8-80’s. That’s the Washington Balalaika Society (WBS).

The 65-member orchestra is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with the spring concert, “Those Were the Days,” on Saturday, June 6 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria campus of Northern Virginia Community College. Members of the 90-voice Metropolitan Chorus will also be performing in Gliere’s Hymn to a Great City and Borodin’s Polovtsian Dances from the opera “Prince Igor.” Barry Hemphill is its director. Alexandria’s Mayor William Euille will welcome the audience.

For the unfamiliar, popular Balalaika songs are “Sabre Dance,” “Moscow Nights March” and “Those Were the Days.”

“It is emotional music. It’s music that you tend to remember,” said founder Max McCullough, 72, of McLean. “Russian music, mostly in minor keys, is either sad or happy music with a sad sound that really reflects the long 2,000 years of suffering and toil as the history of the Russian people.”

McCullough moved here from Houston where he was president of the Houston Balalaika Society with his wife Francie Fite, a divorce attorney. They organized the group with the help of Joel Leonard of Alexandria. With only eight musicians at the

start, the concerts were informal but quickly earned notices. A life-long amateur musician, McCullough would learn to play almost all of the stringed instruments and be conductor for its first 14 years.

“Because we were here in our nation’s capital, we attracted some attention,” said McCullough.

One of the first shows was at The Birchmere and one of the earliest suc-



Sasha Budashin

cesses was pairing up with the Paul Hill Chorale at The Kennedy Center, which is now called the Master Chorale of Washington.

A milestone came in 1998 when they were selected to help celebrate the 850th anniversary of the founding of Moscow at Carnegie Hall.

Organizer Joel Leonard, 70, of Alexandria said he found people from the Tacoma Mandoliers who could play mandolin, and



Conductor Svetlana Nikonova, artistic director and arranger

trained them on playing the domra. The first real concert was at Langley High School.

“As soon as people found out about us, we were in demand from the very beginning,” said Leonard.

What is it about Balalaika music that’s inspiring? “It’s the richness and emotionalism of the music. I loved it the minute I heard it,” said Leonard. “We try to maintain our focus on the traditions of the great folk orchestras of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and use the same arrangements.”

Leonard discovered that his parents were of Russian and Ukrainian descent, but never talked about it when he was growing up. “They were Jews who were forced to immigrate.”

While conducting a two-year search for the Russian conductor, Svetlana Nikonova,



Falls Church resident Andrei Saveliev

SEE BALALAIKA, PAGE 14

To Go

“Those Were the Days” featuring Russian, Ukrainian and eastern European folk music. Arrangements by composers such as Khachaturian, Gliere and Borodin.

Saturday, June 6
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert hall, NVCC, Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria

Svetlana Nikonova — Conductor
Alexander Tsygankov — Domra
Anatoly Panchoshny — Basso
Andrei Saveliev — Balalaika
Tickets: \$35 reserved box seats; \$25 general admission; \$20 seniors; \$15 groups and students; Free-Children 12 and under with adult.

Order online at www.balalaika.org
Send check to WBS, 4910 Gadsden Drive, Fairfax VA 22032. For information and group rates, call 703-549-2010.



WBS Orchestra

The WBS Orchestra is organized in instrumental sections similar to a symphony orchestra, under the direction of a conductor. The instruments include domras in five voices (first and second prima domra, alto, tenor and bass), six sizes of balalaikas (prima, sekunda, alto, bass, contrabass), guslis, accordions/bayans, wind instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and folk winds), and both conventional and folk percussion instruments.

The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra in costume.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Summer Fun Family Info and Family Literacy Night, 6-8 p.m., at Lynbrook Elementary, 5801 Backlick Road, Springfield. Local vendors and teachers demonstrating family literacy games.

Daytime Book Discussion Group, 12 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Comedy Night at Jaxx with Justin Kincaid and Friends. 8 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$5. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

The Workhouse Spot-LYTES Present: 'Moonlight and Magnolias', a comedy by Ron Hutchinson. 8 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900.

Threat Signal, G19, Cab Ride Home, Kysmet and Murder the Element. 6 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$12 in advance, \$14 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Celebrate Fairfax Festival. Enjoy rides, concerts, performing arts, exhibits, food and fireworks. 6 p.m.-midnight, at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Bluegrass and BBQ feast. All you can eat dinner with bluegrass bands, Blue Grass Gospel Express and All4Hym. 5:30-10 p.m., at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. \$15 for those 13 and older. \$5 for those 7-12; free for 6 and under. Call 703-971-4673 or visit <http://public.serviceu.com/ticketing/default.asp?orgID=11684> to purchase tickets.

The Workhouse Spot-LYTES Present: 'Moonlight and Magnolias', a comedy by Ron Hutchinson. 8 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900.

The Fif, Violet Says 5 and The Echo Boom. 9 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Celebrate Fairfax Festival. Enjoy rides, concerts, performing arts, exhibits, food and fireworks. 10 a.m.-midnight, at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Kayak Tour of Historic Alexandria Waterfront. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Launches from Belle Haven Marina, 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Reservation required. \$45. kayak@nvct.org or 703-354-5093.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

Celebrate Fairfax Festival. Enjoy rides, concerts, performing arts, exhibits, food and fireworks. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Ssssnakes! Learn about the native

species of scaly reptiles at Huntley Meadows Park 12-1:30 p.m. A naturalist will lead a discussion and walk in the park. This program is perfect for families with children six and older. Learn about the natural habitat of snakes. Learn that we need not be fearful of them. The cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child. Reservations are required. Call 703-768-2525 to reserve. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd., in Alexandria.

MONDAY/JUNE 8

Kingstowne in Stitches. 7 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Spend an evening in the company of other needleworkers. Adults. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9

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

Lighters and Matches Are Tools for Grownups Only. 10:30 a.m. at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. A puppet show presented by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department that focuses on fire safety. Participants will receive a helmet, activity book and parent brochure. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-7385.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening at the New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. Appointments

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Hunt's Powerful Performance Nets Title

With 3-1 victory over Centreville, South County softball claims first-ever region crown.

JASON DEVANEY
THE CONNECTION

South County senior shortstop Meaghan Hunt is not known as a power hitter by any stretch. She hit exactly one home run in each of her first three seasons on the Stallions' roster and mustered the fourth of her career earlier this season at a tournament in Myrtle Beach.

On Saturday afternoon, May 30, however, Hunt proved that she has plenty of power on reserve. She just needed to find the right time to use it.

Facing Centreville in the Northern Region softball final at Madison High School, Hunt displayed some of that hitting prowess. She broke a scoreless tie in the top of the fourth inning with a towering solo home run to right field, which cleared the fence and collided with a second, tree-lined fence that signifies the end of school property.

Two innings later and with the game knotted at one run apiece, Hunt smashed a double off of Centreville pitcher Jess Ferrick to deep center field that fell just a few feet short of another round-tripper. The hit knocked in two runs, which proved to be the decisive ones in the Stallions' 3-1 victory. It was South County's first region softball title in school history.

"I couldn't really tell if it was a fastball, to be honest with you," said Hunt, when asked what she saw

in the pitch that cleared the park. "I just saw it come right up the middle of the plate and had to go for it."

With the win, South County (27-1) advanced to the Virginia AAA quarterfinals. Facing Central Region runner-up Atlee on Tuesday, South County pulled out a 2-1 win.

For the record, the pitch Hunt saw was a fastball. A high one. Had she not swung, chances are the umpire would have called it a ball. But the left-handed hitter turned on the pitch and sent the grapefruit-sized sphere for quite a ride.

Hunt joked that when she stepped in the batter's box in the fourth inning, she "was looking for another home run so I could top my season record, which is one." Cross that one off the list.

"That was a big home run in the fourth inning," South County Coach Al Thompson said. "Usually, once we get one, the game's pretty much over. But not tonight. [Centreville] answered properly for a championship team. They didn't quit, they put one in to tie it up. Just what they needed. They made it a game, just what we wanted."

Centreville evened the score in the bottom half of the fourth, courtesy of a Cara Donovan sacrifice that plated Ferrick. After a scoreless fifth inning, Hunt once again

found herself at the plate in another clutch situation.

WITH TWO OUTS and runners at first and second in the top of the sixth, Hunt dug her feet in, put the bat on her shoulder and stared out at Ferrick. A wild pitch that bounced short of catcher Victoria Marvin allowed both runners, Kayla Reisinger at first and Stephanie Sbardella at second, to each advance one base. Two pitches later, Hunt blasted another fastball

"I just saw it come right up the middle of the plate and had to go for it."

— Meaghan Hunt, senior,
South County Secondary



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Meaghan Hunt led the South County softball team with a home run, a double and had all three RBIs during a 3-1 win over Centreville in the Northern Region title game over the weekend.

SEE FIRST-EVER, PAGE 13

Badr, Makumbi Fuel Late-Season Run

Even the goalkeeper scores as Rams cruise to Northern Region title game victory.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Alex Makumbi found Samir Badr just to the left of where Badr surprised himself and anyone watching on Saturday afternoon, May 30, at Madison High School. With an ear-to-ear smile, Makumbi put his arms around Badr and the two began to yell. They had something to celebrate.

Although Makumbi's goal in the 50th minute of the Robinson boys' soccer team's title match with Westfield would give the Rams all the offense they would need, Badr's goal required more attention. Not only did it come from 68 yards out on a free kick, it came from the team's goalkeeper.

"You never expect that to happen," said

Robinson coach Jac Cicala, whose team pulled off a 3-0 victory over Westfield. Robinson, however, unexpectedly dropped its Virginia AAA state quarterfinal game against Mills Godwin Tuesday, losing 1-0 on penalty kicks.

But Cicala's team was able to enjoy its end-of-the-season success because of Makumbi and Badr, two players with entirely different responsibilities who somehow converged to accomplish the exact same thing. It was even something they had talked about prior to the game, too.

Because Saturday's game was played as a continuation of a rainout on Friday night — started with 15 minutes, 58 seconds left in the first half — Robinson's players drove themselves to Madison instead of taking a bus.

During that trip, Makumbi sent a text

message to Badr, telling him that he was going to score an important goal in only a matter of hours. Badr, though not serious, sent a message back to Makumbi telling him he was wrong. If his team needed a key goal, Badr was getting it.

MAYBE THE two exchanged a few text messages before the postseason started. In the Concorde District title game, Makumbi scored the Rams' lone goal during a 1-0 win over Centreville on May 15. Badr, a U-17 national pool team player, has provided the Rams with a clean sheet during every one of his starts this season.

"We bring a lot of heart, a lot of determination and a lot of fight," Badr said. "We care a lot of making a difference. We care a

lot about shining. In the finals, I think it's important that guys step up, and I think me and 'Koko' are the quality that can."

Early in the second half against Westfield, Makumbi corralled a pass a few yards away from the top of the 18-yard box. After turning, he saw that there wasn't a Westfield

defender to be found. So Makumbi took a few steps forward and fired a shot past the goalkeeper, Kody Palmer. Badr's goal would come nearly seven minutes later and senior defender Jimmy Brewer converted a penalty kick in the game's 65th minute.

"The ball was in the air, and I trapped it," Makumbi said of his goal. "I guess the defenders got confused, so I just kept on go

"We care a lot of making a difference. We care a lot about shining."

— Samir Badr, junior,
Robinson Secondary

SEE RAMS, PAGE 17

SPORTS

Rams' Jumping Dunleavy Breaks Loose

Girls' lacrosse advances to Virginia AAA state final with Chantilly on Saturday.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Megan Dunleavy stood opposite Broad Run goalkeeper Allison Bogle with less than 18 minutes remaining during the Robinson girls' lacrosse team's Virginia AAA state semifinal matchup Tuesday night, June 2 at Westfield.

With a free-position shot, the senior attack/midfielder was granted a chance to fire away at Bogle, an unobstructed view that wouldn't require any sort of dodge, spin or jump.

That's not to say Dunleavy wouldn't try some sort of acrobatic leap anyway.

"Since I was little, I've always kind of jumped when I shot. It's a habit," said the 5-foot-4 Dunleavy, who eventually did score her fifth goal of the game on a jump shot from point-blank range. "I guess since I'm short, I try to get a higher shot on the goal."

Dunleavy's teammates wouldn't need any assistance getting a lift, as they cruised to an 18-5 win. Now Robinson's victory sets up yet another date with Chantilly, a team the Rams (18-3) have already played three times this season. That state final matchup is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, at 6 p.m., at Westfield.

In the Concorde District final, Robinson ended the game on a 3-0 run to hand the



Pictured here with freshman Katie McHugh, senior Megan Dunleavy, right, scored five times during the Robinson girls' lacrosse team's 18-5 win over Broad Run Tuesday night.

Chargers a 9-8 loss. In the Northern Region title game on May 20, Robinson scored four unanswered goals in the final 8:36 to seal a 10-9 win.

In that region title game, Dunleavy was a visible presence on offense. She just wasn't much of a presence within the team's record book, scoring just one goal. And during the Rams' 15-5 state quarterfinal round win over Albemarle, Dunleavy again scored only once.

Considering the fact that she has a lacrosse scholarship to the University of Virginia and has totaled 72 goals this season,

Dunleavy's lack of production did not exactly come as a welcomed change of pace.

But what head coach Alison Neun explained to Dunleavy was that in the state playoffs scouting reports are designed and followed. Although opposing teams may struggle to locate Robinson even with a portable navigation system, they know about Dunleavy and what she can do on a lacrosse field.

"Everybody has your number and everybody learns who your top players are," Neun said. "You have to get used to that attention and adjust to it. If they're marking

"I guess since I'm short, I try to get a higher shot on the goal."

— Megan Dunleavy, senior,
Robinson Secondary

tighter on you, you have to help your teammates out."

It didn't take long for Dunleavy to make the adjustment. With Broad Run taking a looser approach on her, Dunleavy opened the scoring for Robinson only 62 seconds, finishing off a pass from teammate Tory Barron.

In the first five minutes of the game, Robinson jumped out to a 4-1 lead on three more goals from Rachel Moody, Barron and Eastman before Broad Run's Nina Duney scored to make it 4-2 with 20:07 remaining.

Freshman Katie McHugh (two goals, assist) and Moody (four goals, two assists) followed with a pair of goals before Broad Run cut its deficit to two (6-4) at 9:53 of the first half.

But Robinson closed the first half on a 4-0 run, as the Rams got tallies from Rachel Moody, McHugh, Dunleavy and Sarah Moody, who scored off of a free-position shot with 0:27 left before halftime to the make the score 10-4.

To start the second half, Dunleavy scooped up a ground ball and, without breaking stride, beat Bogle to stoke a 5-0 run for the Rams. After that jumping free-position shot, Sarah Moody added her second of three goals on the night, and Dunleavy tallied again make it 14-4 at 14:35.

Bruin Relay Takes First

The Lake Braddock girls' 4x800-meter relay team of Kelly Hagan, Casey Lardner, Taylor Moore and Liana Epstein (along with reserves Becca Sinichko and Megan Bumgarner) finished first this past Friday, May 29 at the Virginia AAA state outdoor track and field championships in Newport News. The foursome clocked a time of 9 minutes, 19.11 seconds. As a team, Lake Braddock finished ninth with 24 points, while Landstown captured the state title with 73. Epstein took second in the 1,600 run with a time of 5:01.66, while Sinichko placed third in the 300 hurdles at 43.77. On the boys' side for Lake Braddock, Matt Hoogland's fifth-place pole vault mark of 14 feet served as the top performance.

Genamarie McCant of Robinson placed fifth in the 400 dash at 56.71, and Joey Muzzio was sixth in the high jump at 6-06. Hayfield's Megan Clark tied for sixth in the pole vault with her mark of 10-3, while Jefferson's 4x800 relay team of Ronit Malka, Katherine Sheridan, Stephanie Marzen, Kimee and Moore finished second at 9:25.42. West Springfield's 4x800 relay team (Alex Watt, Paige Kvartunas, Anna Barber and Sarah Lepley) was fourth at 9:33.53.

The Edison boys' team tied for 15th place with 14

points, while Western Branch won it all with 62. Tihut Degfae took third in the 800 with a time of 1:55.62, while his twin brother, Leoule Degfae, placed fourth in the 1,600 at 4:15.61. With a time of 8:01.24, the Edison boys' 4x800 relay team of Amit Vohra, Leoule Degfae, Teddy Holmes and Tihut Degfae finished sixth. On the girls' side, Myah Hicks finished second in the 800 (2:12.29) to propel the Lady Eagles to a 25th-place finish with a total of eight points.

Nguyen a Duke

WEEK IN SPORTS

South County senior tennis player Michelle Nguyen recently signed with James Madison University. In four years,

Nguyen compiled a 48-0 record against Patriot District opponents during the regular season and won four district titles. This season, Nguyen led the Stallions to a 15-1 record as they split the Patriot District crown with Lake Braddock. "We are very excited to add Michelle to our new incoming freshman class," said James Madison women's tennis coach Maria Malerba in a press release. "I believe she will add valuable depth to our singles lineup while also having an impact in doubles play. Her best tennis will definitely be at the college level."

First-Ever Title

FROM PAGE 12

to the fence to score the go-ahead runs.

It didn't matter that Hunt was thrown out at home on the next at-bat, a single to center on which she tried to score. The damage had been done. It was now up to starting pitcher Chelsey Dunham, the Northern Region Pitcher of the Year, to keep her composure, throw strikes and record six outs.

Again, consider that done.

"Chelsey is obviously a fabulous pitcher," said Thompson, of his hurler, who finished with eight strikeouts and displaced five hits. "But like any other pitcher she can get hit. And she knows that, it doesn't fluster her. They hit us really well, McLean hit us really well, but we've got great defense. She bears down, tells them what to do, takes over as the team leader."

Centreville had two runners on in the home half of the sixth with one out, but Dunham ended the threat with a strikeout of Donovan and a fly out by Courtney Burke. In the seventh, it was three up, three down for the Wildcats. Two lineouts and a pop out sealed the region title for South County.

The game was billed as a pitching duel that would pit Ferrick against Dunham. Although only four total runs were scored, it was a far cry from being dominated by the players standing on the rubber 43 feet away from home plate. The teams combined for 13 hits and only 11 strikeouts were recorded.

GMU Conference a Confidence Booster

Giddle school girls attend leadership conference at George Mason University.

BY DANA ESPOSITO
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday May 30, 15 girls from every middle school in Fairfax County attended the annual FCPS Middle School Leadership Conference at George Mason University. Teachers at the middle schools nominated the girls, who were mostly eighth graders.

Dr. Carol Robinson was the principal at Luther Jackson Middle School when she came up with the idea for the conference eight years ago. She inspired by the book "Reviving Ophelia" by Mary Pipher, which was about confidence and self esteem for girls. Robinson, who is now a specialist in the FCPS Office of Educational Planning, came up with the idea to start at the middle school level as a way to encourage girls to graduate from high school and set career goals.

The middle school principals attended Saturday's conference as chaperones and to give support to their students. According to Robinson, George Mason was very supportive of the conference, which counted among its corporate sponsors Northrop Grumman



Students listen to a conference presenter about future career paths.

PHOTO BY DANA ESPOSITO/THE CONNECTION

and the Washington Redskins. FCPS paid for most of the conference costs.

The girls met at their middle schools that morning and traveled by buses to GMU. They were given purple conference T-shirts, which they wore as a way to provide unity.

Girls attending the conference were chosen for their leadership potential. This was opportunity to hear different perspectives, which they may not have heard at home or school. The conference brought women from the community such as Realtors, doctors, dentists, and discussions about college. The presenters serve as role models of pos-

sible careers for women. The conference is to motivate girls to believe in themselves.

Poe Middle School Principal Sonya Swansbrough spoke about how past conference attendees go into the middle schools to speak to the girls about attending. "They form almost like a mini sorority and share their past experiences and gain more confidence from attending," Swansbrough said.

"We normally get 15 nominations from each school, but if we get more we invite them, we never turn girls away," Swansbrough said.

The girls came with different goals and

"I wanted to learn about different forms of leadership and girl power."

— Rejuianatu Bangura

reasons for attending. Rejuianatu Bangura, an eighth grader from Hayfield Secondary School, came to learn about leadership. "I wanted to learn about different forms of leadership and girl power," she said.

Seventh grader Katie Hough of Lake Braddock Secondary wanted to come to "hear about potential careers, and see what the conference was all about."

Robinson Secondary eighth-grader Michele Alva wanted to "learn about careers, going to college and ways to lead." Her schoolmates Alejandra Guterrez and Rayza Rodrigo said that's why they were there as well. After attending the conference, Rodrigo wants to attend college.

High school students and past conference attendees served as hosts to help assist the girls around George Mason. Lake Braddock senior Alissa Hamby chose to help out with the conference to "encourage girls to go to college."

Some of girls at the conference said that they plan on looking into possible leadership opportunities in high school such as student government and clubs.

A similar program took place Saturday afternoon for boys with male presenters.

Balalaika Society Marks 20 Years

FROM PAGE 10

42, they formed a guild and started fund raising and going after grant money. Leonard calls her very gifted. "She pushes you to sound better and better," he said.

Once they hired Nikonova to be artistic director in 2003, they made the leap to sounding more professional. Playing since the age of 6, Nikonova attended the musical college and conservatory in St. Petersburg. By age 30, she was conducting the top Russian folk orchestra in her country. Her husband plays bayan (accordion), daughter Vavara plays percussion and son Zachar plays cello.

"Since we are a Russian folk instrument orchestra, we are trying to play more Russian music with Russian composers," she said. "We are trying to bring the spirit of Russian music and culture here."

She says she teaches mostly English-speaking Americans how to "feel the phrase" — how to interpret the Russian folk traditions.

"Most Russian songs are sad but we have a lot of happy songs," she says. "It's like every culture. ... We have a lot of sad music stories but we also have a happy side of the culture."

Falls Church resident Andrei Saveliyev, 45, has been playing the Balalaika instrument all of his life. He's also a Balalaika music teacher. A graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory, he moved here in 1997 from Russia and works by day for Ikea.

He says Balalaika music, with its lush, soulful melo-

dies, was more popular over the Russian radio about 30 years ago than it is today. He compares the faster Balalaika songs to American square dance music because of its rhythms. It's what farmers used to play for entertainment after a long day in the fields.

Saveliyev enjoys bringing the "Russian experience" to American audiences. "We were raised on those melodies," he said.

Teresa Allen, 51, of Fairfax is a general internist by day, who plays the prima domra in the WBS. She started out playing violin and mandolin and didn't even know what a domra was. "I walked in with minimal knowledge and found that they were so open and helpful, and I feel like I really progressed in the last few years."

"It's really nice to be able to join a group and know relatively little about a particular type of music and to grow with that and to learn," Allen said.

Board Member Elizabeth Gardner of Arlington was trained in opera and classical music then switched to playing instruments. After taking guitar lessons from a Ukrainian, who was the concert mistress of the Washington Balalaika Society, she says she got hooked on the orchestra.

One of the perks of the WBS is it has several smaller ensembles that get hired to play at public events, like the Northern Virginia Arts Festival last week. There's also a Children's Music Academy that teaches children ages 7-14 to play Russian folk instruments. Classes are taught by Nikonova and meet Saturday afternoons once a week. For more information, call 703-644-9151.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

will begin at 9 a.m. Packages start at \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment call 1-877-237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-Registration is required.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10
Springfield Art Guild June Meeting and Art Competition. 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St. Springfield. 703-644-6677 or magickaldl@earthlink.net.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11
Redemption Thursdays. 8 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling

Road, West Springfield. \$5 in advance, \$7 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12
The Workhouse Spot-LYTES Present: 'Moonlight and Magnolias', a comedy by Ron Hutchinson. 8 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$10. 703-584-2900.

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

City of Fairfax Concert Band performs 7:30-8:30 p.m., as part of the free Braddock Nights summer concert series at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free. Concerts are cancelled if it is raining. If there is a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to the start of the show for cancellation updates. For more, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13
Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. All ages. 703-339-4610.

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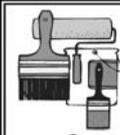
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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Robinson's Alex Makumbi (13) congratulates Samir Badr after the netminder scored during the 57th minute of the Rams' 3-0 Northern Region final victory over Westfield last Saturday.

Rams Find Way To Win

FROM PAGE 12

ing straight."
 "It was a breakdown in our game plan," said Westfield Coach Tom Torres. "We were supposed to have someone tight on Koko and someone covering five yards."

IT WAS at this point that Robinson could've relaxed, realizing that Makumbi's marker, combined with Badr's goalkeeping, probably would have been enough. In 11 contests since a 3-2 win over Herndon on April 23, Robinson held its opponent scoreless during regulation play, a stat undoubtedly attributable to Badr's presence.

Makumbi, meanwhile, has etched his name on a few stat sheets and on some he has not. But his contributions throughout the postseason were essential nonetheless. Cicala, in his second year at Robinson, credited Makumbi not only for his scoring touch but for the trickle-down effect that his presence has on the rest of the Rams' offense.

"He's so strong," Cicala said. "He creates problems for defenses. You have to respect him because you can't let him go. He might not have the stats that a [Westfield senior] Sean Murnane has, but he creates problems."

PROBLEMS STRUCK for Robinson (15-2-2) and Westfield Friday, at 4:48 p.m. After play was halted because of rain for 26 minutes, the two teams stepped back on the field to resume the region title game at 5:14 p.m. But 39 seconds of clock time later, the game was called for the evening and restarted Saturday at noon.

"Those are the type of things that we can't control," Badr said of restarting a day later. "What happens with the weather, we can't really control that. We knew that the game was going to be played, and we knew we had to have the right mindset to go into it."

Koger Says He Doesn't Remember 2008 Shootings

FROM PAGE 3

Jeep Cherokee, got out of his car, walked to the taxi driver's window, and fired several shots at the driver, a man he didn't know.

Tewelda still feels pain, can't sit for more than an hour or stand more than a half-hour at a time and has more than \$170,000 of outstanding medical bills. Tewelda has trouble supporting his family now, he testified.

Thacher sentenced Koger Thursday to serve 66 years in prison for three counts of malicious wounding, three counts of the attempted capital murder of three police officers and two counts of use of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

"Koger planned, prepared and armed himself and set about to cause harm, death and devastation. What makes it worse is he had no specific target, but randomly selected his victims," the judge said. "It's a miracle they survived. They survived to endure a life of pain and multiple disabilities."

VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER Jonathan M. Groner pursued Koger after Koger shot his first three victims.

Koger drove up to 80 miles per hour to elude police on Franconia Road, before crashing into a traffic control box in front of the Springfield Shopping Mall.

"The defendant got out of the vehicle with the firearm in hand," Groner testified in earlier case hearings. 'I said, 'Drop the gun, drop the gun,' over and over again."

When Koger fired his weapon, Groner and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Police officers shot back, hitting Koger in the mid-section.

Police found two additional revolvers and more ammunition in Koger's Jeep.

"As I sit here in the courtroom and see all the people who were affected, it's overwhelming," said Metro Transit Officer Gary Taylor. "Our lives were irreversibly changed that night.

Taylor has two sons, one 20-years-old, the other a teenager. "I didn't hug my kids that much before," he said.

Officer Heidi Rivas, a single mother of an 8-year-old son, remembers thinking her son would be without his mother.

"It's made me very alert and cautious. I feel like I'm on duty, 24/7 now, because I never know what'll happen at any time," she said. Her own mother asked her to quit her job, she said.

Metropolitan Transit Officer William Birmingham, an investigator, was formerly trained for combat as a Marine sergeant, he said.

"I thought, 'I can't believe this is how

I'm going to die, right here, right now,' and I thought about the chief telling my then fiancé that I was dead," said Birmingham.

All the officers testified how the incident affects their families, their wives and their children the most.

"I think about how things can turn from benign to chaotic pretty quickly," said Groner.

Koger embezzled \$3 million from 400 homeowner associations using 140-bank wire transfers before the shooting spree.

Koger was the former chief financial officer of his father's real estate management firm, Koger Management Group, which filed for bankruptcy in July 2007.

KMG collected homeowner association dues and provided a variety of financial and maintenance services for homeowners associations with 70,000 members in Virginia.

HOAs in virtually every part of Northern Virginia were affected including in Ashburn, Chantilly, Arlington, Burke, Springfield, McLean, Reston, Herndon and Alexandria, among others.

Robert Koger, the father, reported to Fairfax City Police in November 2006 that he believed his son had embezzled \$800,000, kicking off the investigation.

Last February, U.S. District Court Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced Koger, who pleaded guilty in November to wire fraud and income tax invasion, to 66 months in prison and ordered that he pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution as well as \$775,272 to the IRS for tax evasion.

Koger's emotional problems escalated as he tried to provide a lavish lifestyle for his wife, his defense attorney said.

"Mr. Koger's actions were ultimately

derived not from pure greed, but rather as a result of his severely deteriorated mental-health state coupled with an unhealthy need to provide for his wife," said Peter D. Greenspun, at Koger's sentencing in federal court. Untreated mental health challenges included Koger's bipolar disorder, alcohol dependence, bulimia nervosa and borderline personality disorders.

"No one had any idea of the depths of his emotional problems because emotional issues weren't discussed in that family," said Anita Boss, a forensic psychologist who testified last Thursday. "His mental state was in a severe downward spiral in the six months preceding this event."

PROSECUTORS FROM Fairfax County and Alexandria City spoke last Thursday.

"Our purpose is to establish justice for the gaping and permanent holes [Koger] in-

flicted on the lives of innocent victims," said Randy Sengel, Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney.

"The officers who placed their lives on the line, and Mr. Tewelda and the others who were injured by his rampage, those are the ones who need a sense of hope," said Sengel. "We need them to walk out of this courtroom with a sense of value and respect."

Full recoveries won't happen, said Casey M. Lingan, Fairfax County Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney.

"The emotional effects struck as deep as

the bullets that struck their bodies and also derailed the dreams of these families forever," he said.

"The crimes prove he's capable of murdering people, not just one, but six.

That's a person who can't be allowed out

"I've learned piecemeal over the past year what happened, and I'm horrified."

— Jeffrey Koger

in society."

Crying, Koger apologized to the law enforcement officers and the civilians he injured. Koger said he has no recollection about what happened.

"I've learned piecemeal over the past year what happened, and I'm horrified," he said. "I'm extremely sorry, if I could take it all back, I would. I feel horrible, the pain I caused is remarkable."

But Judge Thacher rejected Koger's claim that he doesn't remember. "While convenient, it's just not credible," he said.

Lingan took a different approach.

"So you don't remember?" Lingan said, cross-examining Koger after Koger's apology.

"No," said Koger.

"So you don't have to live with the memory of lying in your own blood for the rest of your life?" Lingan asked.

"No, I don't" said Koger.

Cuccinelli Wins GOP Attorney General Nomination

FROM PAGE 3

convention since former Gov. Jim Gilmore was nominated.

CUCCINELLI hoped to get the support of approximately 70 percent of the Fairfax County delegates, though ballots at a convention are not counted on a one person-one vote basis. Instead, the votes are weighted based on how many Republican voters participated in a recent statewide election.

Fairfax County leans Democratic but it is also the most populous locality in the Virginia and so also has the largest number of Republican voters. Bedell said it is awarded 1,200 convention delegate votes, about 10 percent of the overall delegate votes in the commonwealth and more than any other jurisdiction.

"We are, by far, the largest delegation fil-

ing in the state," he said.

VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS typically decide their contested statewide nominations through a convention, rather than a primary election.

Some activists said a convention format fires up the base and give candidates momentum headed into the general campaign season. Conventions also tend to benefit disciplined and well-organized campaigns, like Cuccinelli's, that can convince people to travel hundred of miles and possibly sit through several hours of voting.

But conventions also limit participation. Last year's Democratic primary in the 11th Congressional District drew 24,575 voters, more than three times as many people as participated in the convention from the across the entire commonwealth.

"This is kind of neat but there is the inconvenience of it," said Morse of the con-

vention.

SINCE ONLY the very motivated participate, conventions also tend to produce more conservative candidates, which some complain are not as appealing to the general electorate.

Cuccinelli, for example, is more outspoken on social issues than most other Republicans holding elected office in Fairfax County. During his convention speech, he mentioned his strong support for gun rights and a state constitutional amendment that defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

"I have been the most aggressive pro-life leader in the Senate," said Cuccinelli, whose wife home-schools several of their seven children.

Some Democrats said Cuccinelli's chances of winning a general election against the Democratic nominee for Attorney General,

Fairfax County Del. Steve Shannon (D-35), are poor because of the Republican's stances on issues like abortion and guns.

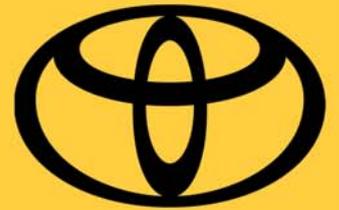
EVEN THOUGH the Republican represents Fairfax County, he does not appeal to Northern Virginia voters in general. He won his 2007 re-election campaign by less than 100 votes in his western Fairfax County district, they said.

"I would be very surprised if he won. He barely won in a district drawn to be heavily Republican," said state Senate majority leader Dick Saslaw (D-35), who represents Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria.

Others said the Democrats should not underestimate Cuccinelli. He may have won his last election by slim margin but it was in a year when Fairfax County's two other Republican state senators lost to Democratic challengers. The candidate was also outspent by a 2-to-1 margin in the race.

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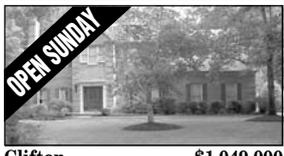
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