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On Patrol

NEWS, PAGE 3

Deputy Gary Gaither, a 19-year veteran of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department rejoined the patrol beat after 12 years in undercover narcotics, five years of helping train deputies, and then desk work. A shift lieutenant, Gaither oversees the 40 or so deputies on patrol during a given shift and responds to calls in a supervisory capacity.

Democrats To Choose Gubernatorial Candidate

NEWS, PAGE 4

Hat Trick Highlights Broad Run's Title Win

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PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE CONNECTION

Observed and Overheard

During the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department's 11.5-hour evening patrol shift on Friday, May 22 from 3 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., police activity was slower than expected with the kickoff of Memorial Day Weekend. Below, a sample of some of the incidents that three Loudoun County Sheriff's deputies responded to that night, as well as snippets from radio dispatches and observations by the deputies.

4:49 p.m.: After sitting for 10 minutes in a striped area between a left-hand turning lane and continuing lanes of northbound Loudoun County Parkway at the intersection of Waxpool Road and Loudoun County Parkway, Loudoun County Sheriff's

ON PATROL

Deputy Mike Safford stops a man in a Toyota Solara convertible for running a red light while turning left

onto Loudoun County Parkway. Safford makes a quick u-turn, flips on his lights and siren briefly; the driver waves his hand in the air and pulls over. Safford issues the driver a ticket that will total about \$100 in fines, Safford said. "I always come to this light about this time of day," said Safford. "People are so focused on the car in front of them ... that they'll run that light by five, six seconds."

5:11 p.m.: Safford responds to a civil complaint in Brambleton Town Center where two drivers had a verbal altercation after one stopped to let off passengers and backed up traffic. Since it is a misdemeanor committed outside of his presence —

and the other driver involved was no longer on the scene — Safford told the woman who called police that he could not issue a citation. In such instances the most Safford said he would be able to do would be to take down a note in the incident report that would attach to the offending driver's vehicle registration, but he did not do that in this case.

5:38 p.m.: Safford stops to talk to another deputy at the intersection of Loudoun County Parkway and Ryan Road as the remnants of a two-vehicle hit-and-run are cleared up. Stop signs mark the three-way intersection now and traffic signals are in the process of being installed, but as of now this is a dangerous intersection, Safford said. In this case a white Ford Expedition — a large SUV — ran a stop sign, slammed into a Nissan Sentra — a small economy sedan, crushing the cars rear end — and kept going. The leading cause of such blatant stop sign violations is drivers being unfamiliar with an area, said Safford.

6 p.m.: Safford responds to assist on a medical rescue call. The woman for whom an ambulance is dispatched is reportedly elderly, highly intoxicated, and on blood thinners, and has fallen and struck her head against wrought iron and is bleeding from her head. Safford expects it to be a routine assistance call where he simply makes sure that everyone involved is safe and the situation is stable. The one possibility that could change that equation is if the subject in question is considered a danger to themselves

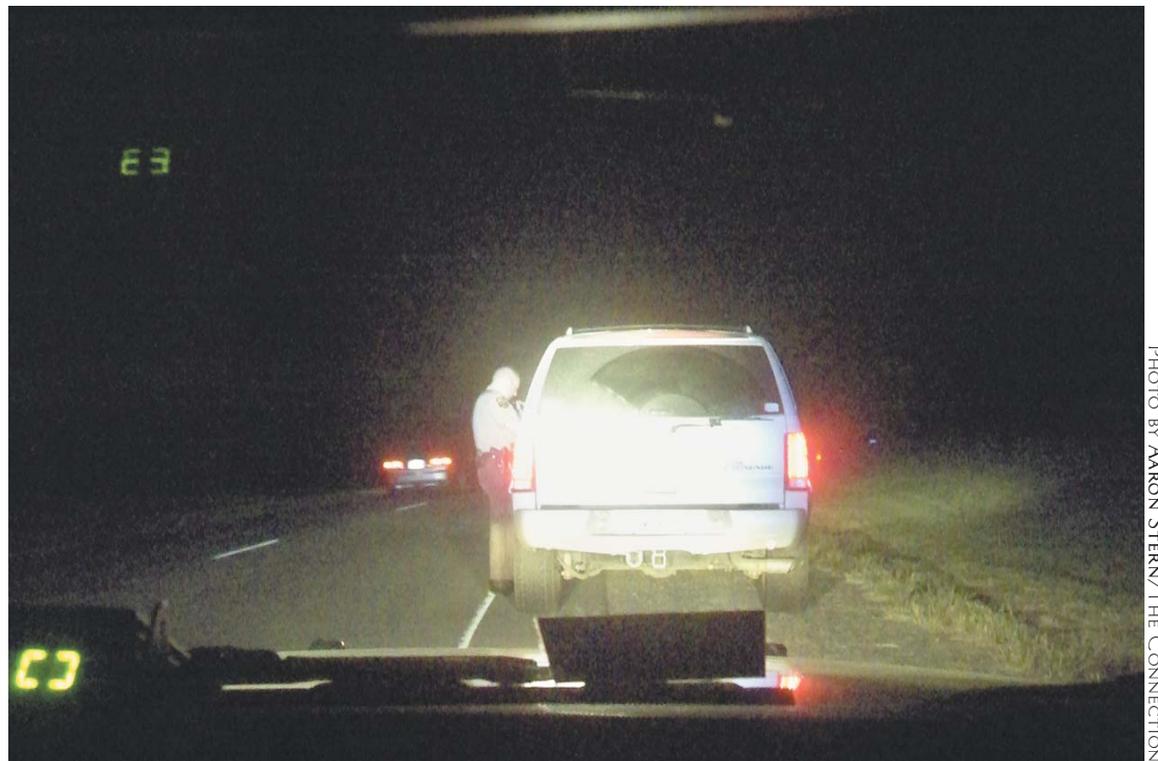


PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE CONNECTION

Deputy Eric Cote pulls over a Cadillac Escalade for having a headlight out. He issued the driver a warning and made a note about the stop in his onboard computer. Notes are not part of a legal record but come up whenever police look up the registration or licensing information. Traffic stops are the "most dangerous thing we do" said Deputy Mike Safford. Domestic disputes also lend themselves to volatility.

or to others and an Emergency Custody Order must be issued. In that case officers assume temporary custody of such subjects until a mental evaluation can be completed and the person can be released either into the custody of family or must be hospitalized for further psychological evaluation. Such cases tend to take up most of an officer's shift. That

turns out to be the case. The elderly woman is hysterical, her adult daughter can not reason with her, and Safford is forced to take her into custody. At midnight Safford is still listed on the dispatch roster as being in the emergency room with the elderly woman.

7:15 p.m.: Driving past the brand new

and unopened country club in the rising Loudoun County Estates, Lieutenant Gary Gaither notices a work van with its backdoors open. He

SEE OBSERVED, PAGE 8



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COME HIKE AT MADEIRA

Sunday, June 7: 1-3pm

Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt: Led by Madeira biology and environmental science teacher, Heidi Freeman. Appropriate for kids of all ages and their parents.

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On Patrol with Deputies on Friday Night

Unpredictable trumps routine.

BY AARON STERN
THE CONNECTION

A half hour before midnight on Friday, May 22, Loudoun County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Cote pulled over a white Cadillac Escalade luxury SUV on Loudoun County Parkway because one of its headlights was out. Lights flashing, his cruiser idling, Cote sat and waited for 10, 15, 20 seconds. He always does that, he said, to see if anyone inside the vehicle is moving around or doing "anything squirrely."

RIDE-ALONG Cote got out of his car and walked towards the truck. After checking for traffic, he approached the vehicle with a wide berth, his right hand held out cautiously to his side, his left hand directing a flashlight at the driver's window. When he got to the driver's window he closed the three feet or so that he had kept between himself and the vehicle. He spoke with the vehicle's driver for two, three minutes, then returned to his patrol car. He flicked on a muted red overhead lamp instead of the regular dome lamp as he pulled the vehicle's registration records and ran the driver's license through the



PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE CONNECTION

A man who crashed his bike behind the Southern Walk Plaza in Brambleton was transported to the hospital after midnight on Saturday, May 23. Originally described by dispatch operators as a single vehicle motorcycle accident, the call instead was a man who for unknown reasons crashed his bicycle. No witnesses saw the crash but a woman who found him laying unconscious made the emergency call. The difference between what a call is dispatched as and what it turns out to be is what Deputy Eric Cote described as a version of the childhood telephone game where an original message becomes misconstrued from party to party. Emergency callers are often distressed and consequently provide inaccurate or incomplete information to dispatchers who then interpret the calls as best they can before alerting deputies of the situation. For such reasons deputies are trained to park near but not directly in front of residences involved in disturbances so that they can assess the situation as they approach and keep a safe distance if necessary, Cote said.

onboard laptop computer mounted to the dashboard. The red light is so that he can't be seen

from outside his vehicle, Cote said. The driver's records didn't indicate a previous criminal history and the car — registered to an older man with the same last name, presumably the father of the driver who was college-aged, said Cote — also came back clean, though it was stopped for the same reason three months previously. Cote wrote a warning and returned to the vehicle in the same manner with which he approached it initially — the flashlight in his

left hand held to his ear and pointed at the driver's window, his right arm held outward. He returned the licenses and registration and walked briskly back to his car.

"Traffic stops are the most dangerous thing we do, because we're approaching the unknown" said Cote's fellow Sheriff's Deputy Mike Safford.

BY COTE'S ACCOUNT, Friday, May 22 was a very slow night par-

ticularly as it kicked off Memorial Day Weekend. Cote and other officers on duty that night said that they expected many alcohol-related calls and stops, but by 3 a.m. Cote had done little more than stop the Escalade and assist a rescue for a man who had crashed his bicycle in the back of the Southern Walk Plaza in Broadlands and was transported semi-conscious to the hospital.

Slow nights happen. As Friday's lack of activity indicated, there is little rhyme or reason to what creates busy nights versus slow ones other than the human stories behind each individual call and each stop that a deputy makes. That said, there are certain types of calls that naturally lend themselves to volatility. Nighttime stops like the one Cote made on the Escalade

"Traffic stops are the most dangerous thing we do, because we're approaching the unknown."

— Deputy Mike Safford, 2-year veteran

are always nerve-racking, but of all the calls a police officer will respond to on any given shift, it is the domestic disturbances that are the most volatile and unpredictable. They are the types of calls that remind an officer that no matter how

SEE ON PATROL, PAGE 8



Loudoun County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Cote runs a driver's license and registration through the onboard computer in his cruiser. The red light is for nighttime traffic stops so that he can't be seen from the outside, Cote said. A three-year veteran of the Sheriff's department, Cote, 34, served four years previously as CIA police and nine years before that in the Marines. The sense of duty and camaraderie provided in law enforcement is similar to that in the armed services and a reason why many ex-military pursue careers in law enforcement, Cote said.

Workspace on Wheels

Inside the patrol car of each Loudoun Sheriff's deputy are their tools of the trade. When Deputy Mike Safford slid into the seat of his vehicle as he began his evening shift one night last month he pointed them out. First is the car itself. Deputies that live in the county get to take their vehicles home, and as a two-year veteran Safford doesn't get the pick of the litter. His is a well-worn Ford Police Interceptor, (sold to the public as Crown Victoria) with 87,000 miles on it.

On the dashboard is a mounted radar gun, an older model that only registers the highest speed traveled by a car in a given pack of vehicles. It does this whether Safford is parked or travelling in that pack of cars. Newer models don't just register the highest speed, but tar-

get the fastest car itself.

Mounted to the dashboard is a tray into which fits Safford's Panasonic Toughbook, a touch screen laptop computer through which deputies get their calls from dispatch and can see the availability of other deputies on duty. Deputies can pull records, run registration information and make notes about the incidents to which they respond that are logged into a central system.

Beside the computer are two radio mics, one to communicate to dispatch with, the other attached to a speaker mounted to the vehicle through which Safford can communicate to drivers whom he pulls over.

In between the driver and passenger seat are plug-in battery adaptors for the

radar gun and the XM Satellite Radio system (the purchase and installation of which Safford said he paid for), a portable radio charger, a flashlight, and a large water bottle.

Mounted against the partition between the back seats and the front seats is a Remington 870 pump action shotgun and an M4 semi-automatic assault rifle.

Deputy Eric Cote has all those same things in the front of his car. In the trunk of his car is a road response kit with cones, flares, and a hazardous material kit complete with full body suit and gas mask. He also has an evidence kit, a riot helmet and a level four, rifle-proof ceramic plate vest that he picked up at his previous job as a police officer at the C.I.A.

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 ñ 1980), Wake Forest University (law degree ñ 1984)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: former Bath County

prosecutor; House of Delegates member (1992-2001), state Senator (2001 ñ 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 ñ 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.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/
THE CONNECTION

Loudoun Sheriff Deputies Eric Cote and Jason Totaro were honored for their work in keeping drunk drivers off the road during the 18th Annual Awards for Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety on May 8. Cote is stationed in the Sterling area and Totaro is stationed in the Ashburn area.

Combating Alcohol and Driving

Two Loudoun Sheriff's Deputies were recognized last month for their efforts against impaired driving at the 18th Annual Excellence in Community Service and Public Safety Ceremony. Deputy Jason Totaro and Deputy Eric Cote were among several law enforcement personnel from the region recognized at the ceremony organized by the Fairfax County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP). The ceremony honors officers in their efforts in curbing drinking and driving.

Totaro has been with the agency for nearly three years and is currently assigned to the Sheriff's Office Field Operations Division. In 2008 he removed 26 motorists from Loudoun's roadways who were driving under the influence.

Cote has been with the agency for three years and is also assigned to the Sheriff's Office Field Operations Division. In 2008 he removed 23 motorists from Loudoun's roadways who were driving under the influence of alcohol.

The ceremony was held May 8 at the West Park Hotel in Tysons's Corner.

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Dr. Ditaranto's special interests include pediatric and adolescent health care. His other interests include Attention Deficit Disorders in children and adults. Dr. Ditaranto also includes a special place in his practice for all his geriatric patients.

Mary Anest, FNP-BC

Mary is a family nurse practitioner with board certification from the American Nurse Credentialing Center. She received her undergraduate nursing degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, in 2003. After working on an orthopedics unit and then a high-risk obstetrics unit, she attended Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY.

Cynthia Hersh, FNP-BC

Cynthia is a graduate of Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing. In 1999 she graduated from Creighton University magna cum laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing and in 2001 with a Master's of Science advanced practice nursing degree specializing in family medicine.



Cynthia Hersh
FNP-BC

Dr. James
Ditaranto

Mary Anest
FNP-BC

42882 Truro Parish Dr. #201 - Ashburn, VA **703-729-1660**

OPINION

Vote June 9, Much at Stake

All 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 state wide 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.

Standing in Solidarity: Reflections of an Imam and a Rabbi

BY IMAM MOHAMMED MAGI AND RABBI ROBERT NOSANCHUK

None of us will soon forget the recent events in Riverdale, N.Y., leading to the arrest of men planning violence and spouting hatred against the members of a synagogue. But it does not and cannot stand alone in our memory as we meet one another as Muslims and Jews.

For nearly 10 years, our synagogue and mosque have engaged in dialogue programs and joint projects to raise awareness on issues pertinent to our faith and to build cooperation in our community. We have gained insight from each faith as both Islam and Judaism promote the dignity and integrity of every human being.

Learning from our dialogue as rabbi and imam, we are planning a visit to the Middle East to provide humanitarian aid to Jewish and Muslim communities and to build peace and compassion. And recently we began welcoming one another into our homes to acknowledge the heartfelt prayer and values of the other. During this past year, we held a pulpit exchange as rabbi and imam and members of the mosque at All Dulles Area Muslim Society of Sterling now visit the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation in Reston as a location for Friday Muslim congregational prayer.

We hope that these pictures of our communities sharing space with hospitality and shar-

On the Ballot

STATEWIDE

Democratic primary, Governor, choose one:
Terry R. McAuliffe, McLean, <http://www.terrymcauliffe.com>
Brian J. Moran, Alexandria, <http://www.brianmoran.com>
R. Creigh Deeds, Charlottesville, <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com>

Democratic primary, Lieutenant Governor, choose one:

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

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

Also on the ballot are Democratic primary races for Lieutenant Governor, House of Delegates 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 Loudoun Connection, Father's Day Photo Gallery, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Or e-mail them to loudoun@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 Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Our phone numbers will remain the same, with our central number 703-821-5050.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
703-917-6416

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King Street
Alexandria VA 22102
Call: 703-917-6431.

By e-mail:
loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY TONY HAYES

On Tour Members of Girl Scout Troop 4081 from Ashburn recently attended a driving tour at the Loudoun County Solid Waste Management Facility to see how a landfill works and to learn more about recycling. Fall 2009 landfill tour dates are still available, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Contact the Office of Solid Waste Management at 703-771-5514.

Ashburn 4-H Club Goes Flying

BY JORDAN RYAN
ASHBURN 4-H CLUB

On May 9 the Ashburn 4-H Club traveled to Purcellville for helicopter rides with the Young Eagles. The Young Eagles Program is an international program designed to introduce young people, ages 8 to 17, to the world of flying. The pilots are all flying enthusiasts who volunteer their time and aircraft to share this enthusiasm with young people. Who knows, maybe some of these youngsters will become pilots themselves one day. The Young Eagles Program has chapters in all 50 states and several foreign countries.

On May 9 we all drove to Mr. Smith's (also known as Jet Ranger George) house in Purcellville. First we signed in and then waited for our turn. Three children and one adult went on each flight with the pilot. Then when it was our turn we waited for a signal from the escort, and then got in the helicopter. Other volunteers helped us buckle into our seats and get our headsets on. When we took off we flew up and down, left and right, hovered, and even went backwards a little. Then we flew away and saw lots of houses, pools and farms. The rides lasted about 20 minutes and then we landed and other people went. Everything was very organized and kept moving right along.

Here are some quotes from Club members describing their experiences.

Jordan: "I felt like I was in an airplane with propellers and smaller."

Eilis: "It was so amazing because you got to see all different things and I saw a pool shaped like a guitar."

Connie: "It felt like I was gliding in the sky on a comfortable cloud."

Maddie: "It was phenomenal. I really enjoyed this

experience. We went to the right, left, up and down. I'm pretty sure all of the people who went on the helicopter ride felt very lucky."

Jake: "When I was in the front seat of the helicopter I felt like a pilot."

Amber: "It was amazing. I felt like a bird. I am sure there is nothing like it."

Colin: "There are not many words to describe it. It was an amazing experience I will never forget."

There were many people involved in making this exciting day happen. All of them were volunteers sharing their time and experience with a group of young flying enthusiasts. First was Ed Levine, who made it all come together. Ed, along with Carrie Moats, came to our 4-H Club meeting in March and introduced the Young Eagles Program to us. You can't believe how surprised we all were when Ed said we could go for free helicopter rides. Ed also took care of organizing the event. George Smith along with his wife Merlyn opened up their home to us and allowed their back yard to become a landing pad. George and Andy Ozols piloted the helicopter throughout the day. The administrative crew of Ginny and Rich Largent kept everything in order and provided certificates for everyone. The boarding crew of Ray Comley, Gary Sgarrella, and Brooke Levine kept a bunch of nervous kids organized, and made us all feel safe and kind of relaxed.

Everyone, who took a ride, is now registered as a Young Eagle and has his or her name listed in the world's largest logbook.

For further information about the Young Eagles Program go to: www.jetrangergeorge.com or www.youneagles.org. For further information about the Ashburn 4-H Club go to www.ashbur4h.org.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.

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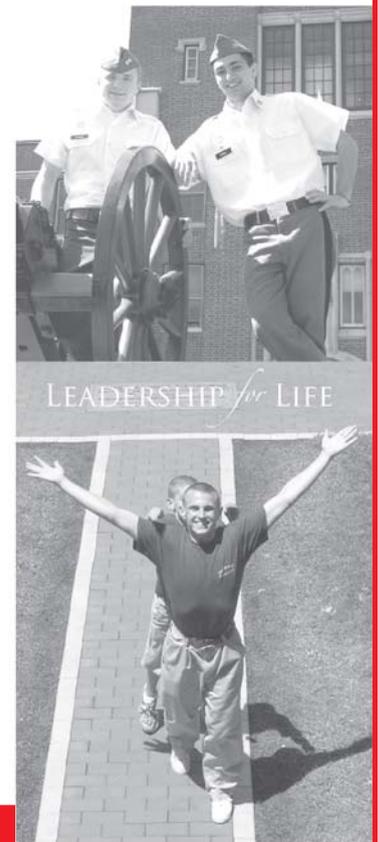
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2009

Summer/Fall Household Hazardous Waste Schedule

All Events are on Saturdays 8:30am-2:30pm Loudoun County Residents Only

Date	Location
June 27	Stone Bridge High School 43100 Hay Road Ashburn
July 18	Heritage High School 520 Evergreen Mill Road, Leesburg
Sept 19	Northern Virginia Community College 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway, Sterling
Oct 24	Harmony Intermediate School 38174 W. Colonial Hwy. Hamilton
Nov 21	Heritage High School 520 Evergreen Mill Road, Leesburg

For more information call the **Office of Solid Waste Management** at 703-777-0187 or visit our webpage at www.loudoun.gov/hhw



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 - Hobby Chemicals
 - Household Cleaners
 - Lighter Fluid
 - Oil-based paint
 - Paint Thinners
 - Pesticides/Insect Sprays
 - Pool Chemicals
 - Solvents
 - Stains/Varnish
- Call about other items.

We WILL NOT Accept:

Used Motor Oil, Antifreeze, Automobile/Lead-Acid Batteries, Propane Tanks, at these collection events. You can recycle them at the Landfill during normal operating hours.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks prior to event; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Family activities. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. B2R Open House will feature Dr. Divergent's Music Adventure Puppet Show, a lively romp and sing along with musical frogs, squirrels, a variety of other animal helpers at Lansdowne Town Center, 19329 Promenade Drive in Lansdowne.

Mother Goose Science. 1 p.m. at Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St. Children 2-4 can enjoy hands-on activities. Free. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.

Great Danes Rescue League. 5-8:30 p.m. Meet and Greet Great Danes at Maggie Moos in Stafford.

Bach to Rock. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Lansdowne Town Center. Open house for parents and children. Lansdowne Town Center, 19329 Promenade Drive, Lansdowne.

JUNE 5-7

Ten-Minute One-Act Festival. 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sterling Playmakers present a collection of short original plays. At Sterling Middle School, Holly Ave., Sterling. June 5 at 8 p.m., June 6 at 8 p.m. and June 7 at 2 p.m. \$5/one performance, \$7/three-day pass. Visit www.sterlingplaymakers.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

Nature Explorers. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Discover the outdoors with a grown up friend (ages 3-5). \$7/child. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

Bridal Open House. 5-7 p.m. Annalee's Formals in Brambleton Town Center, 42395 Ryan Road, Suite 104, Ashburn. Register online at www.wahmfest.org/bridalshow. Free event but registration required.

Sharon Thomas Experience (Jazz). 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

The "Bloody Eighth" Virginia Infantry- Then and Now, a lecture by Dave Purschwitz, Historian, 8th Virginian Volunteer Infantry. 7 p.m. \$5 admission. At Loudoun Museum, 16 Loudoun St., SW, Leesburg. Call 703-777-7427.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

"Integrative Nutrition: Using Food as Medicine on your Healing Journey." 2-4 p.m. At Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Conference Room A/B, across from the Birthing Inn in the back of the hospital, Leesburg. Call 703-968-9818.

Music Hall Concert. 7 p.m. . Accompanied by live musicians, our various choirs and music ensembles will perform a variety of selections including Enya's *Sail Away* and a John Williams Tribute, among others. At Sterling United Methodist Church. Call 703-430-6455 or go to www.sterlingumc.org.

Car Wash. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Briar Woods Music Boosters. At Briar Woods High School, 22525 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn.

Blood Drive. 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Organized by Sant Nirankari Mission (Universal Brotherhood of Greater Washington area) with the American Red Cross at Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling.

Charity Dog Walk. 10 a.m. for runners, 10:15 a.m. for walkers. Registration is \$20 onsite, which begins at 8 a.m.



White Dogwoods Watercolor by Judy Armstrong McDonnell.

Loudoun Sketch Club Art Show

The Loudoun Sketch Club Art Show offers artwork done by local members of Loudoun's first leading visual art organization. The show is at the Loudoun County Government Building lobby at 1 Harrison Street, Leesburg. Artwork may be seen and purchased from now through Friday, June 26. The Loudoun Sketch Club began in 1944 as an active group of local artists. Never far from its roots for light-hearted enjoyment of visual communication, the Loudoun Sketch Club provides a resource for serious collectors who appreciate the value of fine art produced in Loudoun County.

Activities and exhibits continue until noon. At Douglass Community Center in Leesburg. Proceeds benefit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter and Douglass Community Center Advisory Board for children's programs.

Kids' Fishing Derby. 9 a.m. to noon. Prizes awarded. At Claude Moore Park's two fishing ponds, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

National Trails Day. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join the Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club on marked 5K and 10K walks. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

Awesome Bug Hunt. 1:30-3 p.m. Hunt for insects over land and in the waters. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

Farmers Market Opening. The Brambleton Farmers Market will be open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org for more.

Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-noon. Adults \$6, Ages 3-8 \$4, seniors \$5, under 3 is free. Ashburn Volunteer Fire Rescue Department, 20688 Ashburn Road. Registration forms available at June 7 pancake breakfast. Visit www.ashburnfirerescue.org.

Cat Adoption Event. Noon to 3 p.m. Come meet special cats and kittens in search of homes. Sterling Petsmart, 46220 Potomac Run Plaza, Sterling. Call 703-691-HART (4278) or www.Hart90.org. Free.

MONDAY/JUNE 8

Buddy Day. 4 p.m. Children ages 6-8 are invited to bring a friend to the library for some awesome buddy games and a cool craft. Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay

Road, Ashburn.

Potty Party. 7 p.m. Learn a new approach to potty training with certified instructor Dana Carmichael. Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn.

Teen Reading Volunteers. 4:30 p.m. at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road. Teens will read aloud to 3-6 year olds. Free. Visit library.loudoun.gov for more.

Frogshackle Open House. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Explore the rock box and compare the crystals, turquoise and other minerals. Free. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

Bug Buddies. 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m. Search for beetles, ants, butterfields and other bugs (ages 3-6). \$10.50/child. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9

Teen Movie. 7 p.m. "The Day the Earth Stood Still." Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St, Sterling.

MOMS Club of Ashburn Meet and Greet event. 3:15 p.m. At the playground next to Breezyhill Pool. Call Jenn Schlosser, Membership VP, at 703-858-1918 or junejenn13@yahoo.com or visit the web site at www.geocities.com/momsclubashburn.

Keep Your Brain Alive. 11 a.m. Learn tips and strategies to keep your brain alive by working crossword puzzles. Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

JUNE 10, 17

Liturgical Poetry. Noon. Brown-bag lunch and Jewish learning topics. Send an email to JewishStudies.Teacher@gmail.com. For more information, call Michael

Leavitt at 703-598-2666 or email at JewishStudies.Teacher@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Bug Buddies. 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m. Search for beetles, ants, butterfields and other bugs (ages 3-6). \$10.50/child. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

Parent/Child Book Discussion. 7 p.m. In commemoration of Anne Frank's birthday, discussing "Twenty and Ten" by Claire Huchet Bishop. For ages 9-12. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12

Right Food Red (70's, 80's, 90's) 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

Great Danes Rescue League. Noon-2 p.m. Meet and Greet Great Danes at Felix & Oscar's, 6671 Backlick Road, Springfield. Call 703-866-0222.

Ashburn Classics Meeting. 10:30 a.m. At the Ashburn Village Mills Rec Center. Guest speaker Mary Fishback, Thomas Barch Library, who will offer information regarding a genealogical search.

Family activities. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. B2R Open House will feature Dr. Divergent's Music Adventure Puppet Show, a lively romp and sing along with musical frogs, squirrels, a variety of other animal helpers at Lansdowne Town Center, 19329 Promenade Drive in Lansdowne.

A Food Named "O". Medieval Jester

Mark Jaster presents his foolish antics, mute amusements and musical anomalies. 2 p.m. At Ashburn Library.

The Orrin Star Duo – An evening of Bluegrass, Folk and Humor. 8 p.m. Concert at UU Sterling, 22135 Davis Drive. \$15/donation.

SUNDAY/JUNE 14

Pooch Parade and Dog Show. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Ashburn Volunteer Fire Rescue Department, 20688 Ashburn Road. Registration forms available at June 7 pancake breakfast. Visit www.ashburnfirerescue.org.

Loudoun Symphony Gala. 4-7 p.m. A fund-raising gala with food, wine and music performed by the Loudoun Symphony. At the Briar Patch Inn Bed and Breakfast. \$75 tickets. Call 703-771-8287. Visit www.loudounsymphony.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 15

Teen Reading Volunteers. 4:30 p.m. at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road. Teens will read aloud to 3-6 year olds. Free. Visit library.loudoun.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 17

Baby Sign Language. 11 a.m. Dana Carmichael, certified sign language instructor. A beginning sign language class for babies ages 6 to 24 months with a parent or caregiver. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or 703-737-8100.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18

The Paper Bag Princess. 4 p.m. Listen to a story about Princess Elizabeth and afterwards make a crown and a paper doll. For children ages 6-9. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn.

Galileo Kids. 4 p.m. at Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St. Children 6-8 can learn about science through activities and more. Free. Visit library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.

Bilingual Story Time. 4 p.m. at Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place. Free. For children 2-6. Visit library.loudoun.gov.

Frogshackle Open House. 3-4:30 p.m. Explore the rock box and compare the crystals, turquoise and other minerals. Free. At Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Call 571-258-3700.

FRIDAY/JUNE 19

MOMS Club of Sterling. 10:30 a.m. Beth Barbaro will engage children in singing, dancing and games all set to music. At the Cascades Library. Visit www.geocities.com/sterlingmomsclub or email sterlingmomsclub@yahoo.com.

Signorello (Big Band Swing). 7:30-10:30 p.m. Lansdowne Resort's Free Summer Concert Series – on the Terrace. Executive Chef Jason Lage and the culinary team will be offering a variety of fresh grilled foods. Call 877-509-8400 or visit www.lansdowneresort.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20

Great Danes Rescue League. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Meet and Greet Great Danes at Stafford PetSmart, 1160 Stafford Market Place, Stafford.

Free lecture. 1-2:30 p.m. Dr. Edward Robinson – Crime Scene Investigation. The Smithsonian Naturalist Center in Leesburg, 741 Miller Drive SE, Suite G-2, Leesburg. Free. Call 703-779-9712 or 1-800-729-7725.

"Alice in Wonderland." 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The Theatre Department (NOVA-Loudoun) hosts McLean High's production of "Alice in Wonderland." Tickets \$10/general, \$5/children. Contact Natalie V. Safley nsafley@nvcc.edu or 703-948-7701.

SCHOOLS

Shayna Hume, a homeschooled student from Ashburn, will participate in the U.S. Naval Academy's Summer STEM program. The STEM Program gives students the opportunity to experience real-life applications of math and science principles through hands-on practical learning. Shayna is one of 200 children from across the U.S. invited to participate.

Josh Kane of Potomac Falls, an alumnus of the Department of Horticulture in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is a winner of the College Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Award for outstanding recent alumni is given each year to an alumnus from each department who has graduated within the past 10 years for his or her achievements since graduation. Kane received his bachelor's of science in horticulture from Virginia Tech in 1998. He is the head designer for Kane Lawn and Landscapes Inc.

Keith Long was voted by the Ashburn community to receive the Let's Dish! Teacher of the Year Award. The prize was not a trophy or plaque, it is a month's worth of dinners to help make the hectic end-of-the-school-year routine a little easier at home. Long, nominated by a student's parent Erin Stakel, is a second-grade teacher at Liberty Elementary in

South Riding. Long received over 2,200 of votes to come out a winner.

Loudoun's **Natural History Day Camp** will be held again this summer. Two sessions: June 22-26 and July 6-10; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., daily at The 720-acre Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Woods Road. For children entering 3rd through 7th grade. \$130/student. Visit www.LoudounWildlife.org or 540-338-6528.

Take a romp through the swamp at **Crocodile Dock 2009 Vacation Bible School**. It happens this summer, Aug. 3 through 7 from 9 a.m. to noon, at Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road. Registration begins April 15. All children aged 3 and potty-trained through rising fifth-graders. Registration is \$30 per child with a family registration maximum of \$65. 703-430-6455 or www.sterlingumc.org.

Registration began April 15, for **Sterling United Methodist Church's** annual summer camp program. All children aged 3 and potty-trained to rising 5th graders. The camp will run from July 13 through July 31, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Registration is \$125 per child per week. A discount is available for families registering three or more children. Call 703-430-6455 or www.sterlingumc.org.

FAITH NOTES

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks prior to event; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Brambleton Presbyterian Church will host its second annual "U2charist" — a worship service featuring the music of rock group, U2, performed live by the church's worship band — on Saturday, June 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Broad Run High School in Ashburn.

This special worship event is designed to raise awareness, compassion, and resources for the World Vision Senzani Vulnerable Children's Project in Malawi, Africa that seeks to provide food, education, and health care to orphaned and vulnerable children.

Brambleton Presbyterian is in partnership with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling the causes of extreme poverty and injustice. The cost for this project for 2009 is \$156,133 and our goal from this event is to raise \$7,000 to help the effort.

There is no charge for admission, but donations will be gladly accepted in care of Brambleton Presbyterian Church to benefit the World Vision Senzani Vulnerable Children's Project

Brambleton Presbyterian Church is a new church development located in the Brambleton community in Ashburn.

Unitarian Universalists of Sterling activities:

The 10:30 a.m. service at the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling on Sunday, June 7 is "Discovering Our Treasures." Children and adults of all ages made many discoveries in the Children's Religious Exploration and Adult Religious Enrichment programs this year. Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael and Linda Weaver, the Director of Religious Exploration, celebrate these discoveries and the many people who made them possible, as they invite you to consider what you treasure. The children's choir and their director, Kris Adams, will share their gift of music. UUS meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Sterling

Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Dr. off of Church Rd. near Rte. 28. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

The 10:30 a.m. service at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** on Sunday, June 14 is "The Service of the Living Tradition." The Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael leads this annual service of recognition, reflection, and passage. We will honor the births, deaths, and major life transitions that occurred between June 2008 and June 2009. Seniors from our Youth Group will bridge to young-adult hood, and we will hear special music from Kris Rector and members of the UUS Choir. The annual UUS Picnic at Claude Moore Park follows the service. UUS meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Dr. off of Church Rd. near Rte. 28. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

The 10:30 a.m. service at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** on Sunday, June 21 is "On Being a Father and Other Things I know nothing About." The jUSTUUS Rock Band and Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael celebrate fathers, and the beginning of the summer worship season, with live contemporary music! The service will invite us to reflect on the presence or absence of male role models in our lives. UUS meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Dr. off of Church Rd. near Rte. 28. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

The 10:30 a.m. service at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** on Sunday, June 28 is "What Does It Mean To Be Green?" Congregants John Botts and Scott Findley welcome us to explore spirituality and meaning in our lives, as we remember that we are part of a greater, natural world. This service will celebrate our environment and ask how we can ensure the integrity of our fragile planet. UUS meets every Sunday at 10:30 am at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Dr. off of Church Rd. near Rte. 28. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

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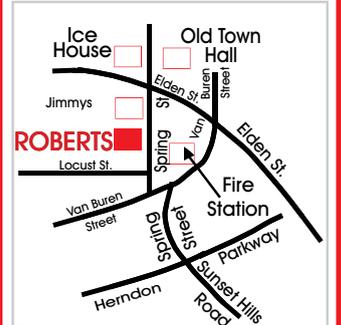
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On Patrol with Sheriff's Deputies

FROM PAGE 3

tame the job can be on any given shift, they must always be alert.

Rarely does a deputy fire his weapon; Safford said he unholsters his only for critical calls. Safford said that except for putting down deer struck by cars he hasn't had to fire his gun, but he knows the possibility is always there.

"You can be in this job and hopefully never have to do it in your career. You can do it in your first week. It just depends," Safford said.

That constant state of alert is something that Cote learned about early on as a Loudoun deputy. After serving in the Marines for nine years and working as a C.I.A. police officer for four years, Cote joined the Sheriff's department three years ago.

In his third month of training, Cote responded to a call of a domestic disturbance. The description from dispatch indicated that the husband and wife had been separated and that the husband's heart medication was somehow the root of the emergency call. Following another deputy to the scene, his training officer in the passenger seat of his cruiser, Cote and the other deputy driving made the mistake of driving to the house, instead of parking several doors down. Doing that allows a deputy to survey and assess the situation as they approach. But as they approached the house in their cruisers the husband came into view, standing in his driveway with a gun to his head. As they drew closer to him Cote had time only to shout "no" as he saw the man pull the trigger. The gun didn't fire. Then the man lowered the gun, racked the slide to put a bullet into the barrel and pointed it towards Cote's car and his training officer in the passenger seat. Not 10 feet away as they passed, Cote slammed on the accelerator. He didn't hear a shot. He and the other deputy parked, drew their weapons and took cover behind the cars and talked the man into putting the gun down. It turned out, said Cote, that the gun the man had was empty but the two others on his kitchen table were not and the man himself was a competition shooter.

Cote learned that night that no matter the nature of the call or the stop, always in the back of his mind he must be ready for any possibility.

"When bad things happen they kind of go downhill in a hurry,"



Deputy Mike Safford completed Officer Candidate School before deciding to pursue a career in law enforcement. A 2006 graduate of Buffalo State University, Safford, 25, joined the Loudoun Sheriff's Department because he heard it was a good place to work. Married last year, the evening shift from 3 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. allows him to maintain what he called a relatively normal time schedule.

Cote said. "You have to keep it in the back of your mind. If you don't, if you start to think like everything's okay, then you're in the wrong job."

THE PREDAWN BEATING murder of a Lansdowne man in March and the beating of his wife who survived the attack are not typical crimes in Loudoun, said Lieutenant Gary Gaither, a 19-year vet-

"When bad things happen they kind of go downhill in a hurry."

— Deputy Eric Cote, 3-year veteran

eran of the Sheriff's Department. Still, deputies see a lot of ugliness that can be emotionally straining and draining over time. Whether it is a domestic dispute, an overdose, an attempted suicide, handling the mentally ill, intoxicated citizens, or whatever else any given shift might throw their way, the emotional weight adds up. On the slow, uneventful night the deputies had to start Memorial Day weekend, the most notable incident that occurred was the death of a woman who for unknown reasons fell from a moving vehicle on Route 7 in Ashburn and was killed in traffic.

"It's kind of hard to explain," Gaither said of encountering ugliness every day. "You never get used to it. You become numb. Me myself, I strive to be a Christian."

Others find more self-destructive outlets, whether it be drink-

ing too much or simply bottling it up and trying to put on a brave face, something younger deputies tend to do, Gaither said.

The routine adds up as well, 12 hours on for two nights in a row, then two nights off, then three on, three off, and so on. Cote said getting off at 2:30 a.m. allows him to keep a relatively normal lifestyle, but Cote, as a regular on the night shift, has a reversed internal clock and personal schedule. Throw in the mandatory overtime of appearing in court during their off hours, and it isn't uncommon for deputies like Cote to get two to three hours of sleep the night after or before a shift and to try to catch a catnap in the station parking lot before they go back on duty.

But Cote said that was precisely what he wanted. Daytime duties tend to deal more with the aftermath of overnight crimes — taking robbery reports, for instance — and involve a lot of speed tickets and traffic accidents. Cote joined the department and picked the midnight shift — 7p.m. to 7a.m. — because he wanted to stop danger before it started.

For all the stress that being a deputy entails — from being constantly aware of and in the presence of danger, to having that sense of aroused suspicion trickle

Where Buffalo Roam

Last month more than a dozen Buffalo escaped from a farm near Bluemont in Western Loudoun County. One of the buffalo was struck by a vehicle on Route 7. The Sheriff's deputy who responded had to

Observed and Overheard

FROM PAGE 2

finds the keys in the ignition, no one nearby, and reports the vehicle as suspicious to dispatch.

8:43 p.m.: Gaither responds to a report of a cow on Sycolin Road. It is an unpaved part of Sycolin Road and upon responding there are no cows to be seen. He drives partway up a road towards a few houses, turns around and heads back up Sycolin Road using his mounted spotlight to look into a stand of trees that separates Sycolin Road from the cows' pasture. He finds the cows, who are wandering through the brush back towards their pasture. Gaither stops at two houses near the pasture to try to find the cows' owner but no one appears to be home at either home.

9:17 p.m.: A deputy responding to a call on Snickersville Road in western Loudoun calls wearily over the radio that he must divert because of cows on the road. Gaither says that it is the same officer that responded last month when a group of buffalo broke loose from a buffalo farm. One of the buffalo had to be put down after being struck by a car.

9:20 p.m.: Driving through Junction Plaza, Gaither issues a parking ticket to an SUV parked in the fire lane outside the Giant supermarket. As a shift lieutenant, Gaither oversees the deputies on duty that night and responds to calls in a supervisory capacity but does not make arrests. Gaither said that handling smaller matters like parking tickets helps to keep his deputies free for more urgent calls and stops.

9:51 p.m.: A call about suspected gunfire from Tamarack Court in Sterling comes over the radio. Gaither says that with it being a holiday weekend, he suspects it is someone shooting off fireworks.

11:32 p.m.: Deputy Eric Cote pulls over a white Cadillac Escalade SUV because one of its headlights is out. After talking with the

driver and running the vehicle's registration as well as the driver's licenses of both the driver and front seat passenger Cote writes a warning and lets them go.

12:21 p.m.: Cote responds to a call from a private residence near the intersection of Golden Meadow Circle and Ashburn Parkway about an anonymous doorbell ring and activity in the backyard that activated a motion sensor light. Cote investigates and finds nothing. He talks to the home's occupant, a high school-aged boy home alone. Across from Ashburn Parkway is a pond with walking paths, and another nearby park which mean that finding the culprit is next to impossible. "There's about 101 places anybody messing around here could've gone," Cote said. After briefly questioning a white male walking down Ashburn Parkway, Cote moves on.

12:42 p.m.: Cote responds to a call for a single vehicle motorcycle crash in back of Southern Walk Plaza in Broadlands. Upon arriving he discovers that it is a bicycle instead of a motorcycle, and the rider is laying on the ground intertwined with his bike, has a knot on his forehead. The subject speaks incoherently, repeatedly asking for someone named Britney. The subject also tries to get up several times, which Cote discourages by placing his foot lightly on the subject's arm. An ambulance and fire truck crew respond, place the man on a backboard and take him to a hospital. The man's bike remains behind, and with no patrol cars with mounted bike racks available to take the bike to the nearest station, Cote waits. And waits. Shortly before 2 a.m., after over an hour alone watching the bike, another deputy responds and takes possession of the bicycle.

into one's personal life, to being yelled at by bystanders and subjects at responses to the long hours and constantly shifting schedule — Cote said the reward of helping people outweighs such negative factors. That sense of common purpose and shared responsibility is why camaraderie among deputies is particularly strong, and that camaraderie is also a major appeal.

"Here you are, you come to this job, you both put the uniform on

and you would do anything for that guy," Cote said. That sentiment is why many ex-military members — Cote and Gaither both served and Safford graduated Officer Candidate School before deciding to pursue a career in law enforcement — are attracted to police work, Cote said.

Beyond the camaraderie and the sense of duty, it is the little things, too, that make the job worthwhile. As Gaither drove slowly through a neighborhood in the early evening, families were gathered for a small block party and barbecue. As he rolled past a couple of people waved and smiled. He turned a corner and as he did a girl playing in a sprinkler jumped and waved vigorously at the site of Gaither's SUV.

"This is the joy," Gaither said. "This is the joy, man, of the job. Having kids wave at you."



Benny is a 1 year old male, red and white, Domestic Mediumhair.

PET OF THE WEEK

To adopt a featured animal or any other animal, visit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter on Route 9 at the intersection of Route 704 in Waterford. General business hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and closed on Sundays. Adoption hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-6 p.m.; Wednesdays 1-8 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and closed on Fridays and Sundays. View other animals at <http://www.loudoun.gov/animals/shelter.htm>.

Death on Route 7 Being Investigated

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is investigating the fatality of a female victim on Route 7 early Saturday morning.

Around 1 a.m. Sheriff's Deputies responded to the area of Route 7 westbound at Claiborne Parkway for a report of a pedestrian struck

in the roadway.

The investigation has revealed the victim, Sofia Taj, 35, of Ashburn, VA, was a passenger in a moving vehicle when for unknown reasons she fell out of the car and onto the roadway. It is possible that other vehicles hit her. The driver of the vehicle that Ms. Taj

was a passenger in returned to the scene and has been cooperative with law enforcement.

Anyone who may have information regarding this incident or those vehicles is asked to contact Deputy Specialist J. M. McClintic at 703-771-5798 or to remain anonymous, call 703-777-1919.

Construction Meeting for Rt. 7

The Loudoun County Office of Capital Construction will hold a public information session about construction of the Route 7 & Route 607 (Loudoun County Parkway) interchange on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The meeting is scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Research 1 Building on the George Washington University campus, 20101 Academic Way in Ashburn. Staff will be on hand to answer questions about the project.

County Booth at Wine Festival

Loudoun County will be participating in the second annual Food and Wine Festival at National Harbor on June 6 and 7. Its booth will highlight wineries, restaurants and food crafters. General admission for the festival is \$65 for adults 21 years and older, \$30 for those ages 12-20 and \$15 for those ages 6-11. Children under 5 are free. See www.foodandwinenh.com.

A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit The Erikka A. Hayes Foundation, offering opportunities in the hospitality and foodservice industries to economically and socially disadvantaged individuals.

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Postseason Joy Ride Continues for Potomac Falls Soccer

Gryder's boys' team captures Region II title with OT win over Broad Run.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The key elements to the Potomac Falls High boys' soccer team's season tear has been outstanding team work and step-up individual performances by some of the Panthers' elite players.

Two of those players — senior midfielder Asa Fox and junior midfielder Conor Shanosky — both shined in leading Potomac Falls to a 2-1 overtime victory over Broad Run in last Saturday night's Region II tournament title game played at Park View High School in Sterling.

It was the 10th win in a row for Potomac Falls (16-5-1), including six straight in postseason play. On May 22, the Panthers captured the Dulles District tournament crown with a 2-0 triumph over Park View.

At the ensuing regional playoffs, Potomac Falls defeated Orange County, 7-0, and Brentsville District, 2-1 in overtime, to reach the championship game versus district foe Broad Run.

"There's a reason they've won 10 games



Broad Run earned a team trophy for winning the Dulles District regular season title this spring. Now, the Spartans are competing at the state tournament.

in a row," said Broad Run coach Jonathan Hicks, who's Spartans captured the regular season Dulles title this spring. "Their two players who scored against us — Conor and Asa — are two of the best around. Conor is probably one of the premier strikers in the state."

The finals contest was a gem with both Potomac Falls and Broad Run playing at a high level throughout the 40 minutes of regulation play and on into the extra sessions. It was late in the second, 5 minute overtime period where Shanosky, a tall, spectacular midfielder who had played brilliantly both offensively and defensively throughout the night, came up with perhaps the Panthers' biggest goal of the season.

After receiving a pass from the left corner of the field from teammate George Echert, Shanosky drilled a 22-yard shot in

from straight range. The ball struck off the left post and into the net, to give the Panthers a 2-1 lead with about 30 seconds remaining on the clock.

"Conor got possession and got himself positioned," said Potomac Falls coach Dave Gryder, of the scoring sequence. "He pulled off a [defensive] player, leaned back and hit it left footed with enough [power]. It hit off the left post."

Following an abbreviated Potomac Falls celebration as a result of the score, the game's final moments were played out with Broad Run unable to tally the equalizer.

It was a thrilling win for Potomac Falls which, earlier this week, opened up play at the state AA tournament with a Tuesday quarterfinals home game against Grafton (Yorktown) out of the Bay Rivers District.

While Potomac Falls was set to host Grafton in state quarterfinals action, Broad Run was set to hit the road with a Tuesday game at Jamestown High (Williamsburg), the Region I champion and member of the Bay District.

"We're going to states, we're still playing," said Hicks, the Broad Run coach following the stinging loss to the Panthers.

DURING POTOMAC FALLS' tremendous 10-game win streak, three of the victories have come over Broad Run.

"I think our players have gotten better and I think their players have gotten better," said Gryder, of his team's head-to-head matchups against the talented Broad Run team (15-7).

Earlier in the postseason, Potomac Falls had beaten Broad Run in the district semifinals.

Gryder said his team went into the region finals game against the Spartans motivated

Athlete of the Week



Jazmyn Ervins (far right), a member of the Stone Bridge High girls' track and field team, gives it her all in the 100 dash event at the recent Northern Region Championships. Ervins, running here against competitors from South County and Chantilly, finished ninth overall in the finals. The Bulldogs, in the girls' team standings, finished a strong fifth place overall out of 28 teams at regionals. The postseason event took place May 21-22 at Lake Braddock High School.

**Athlete of the Week Sponsored by
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Hat Trick Highlights Title Win

Broad Run girls now focused on defending state AA girls' soccer crown.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Broad Run High girls' soccer team did not allow for any uneasiness or latter game drama in its Region II title game against Dulles District rival Heritage last Saturday night at Park View High School.

Unlike the district championship game meeting between the two teams a couple weeks ago in which the defending state champion Spartans had waited until the contest's final 18 minutes of play before getting onto the scoreboard on way to a victory, Broad Run left nothing to chance in the region finals meeting.

The Spartans dominated from start to finish in defeating Heritage, 3-0, to successfully defend last year's region crown and enter this week's state AA playoff tourna-



The Spartans' Holly King scored all three of her team's goals against the Pride.



Whitney Church had two assists in Broad Run's Region II title game win over Heritage last Saturday evening.

ment with all the momentum it could want.

"We played really well today, I was really impressed with them," said Broad Run coach

SEE AA CROWN, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Next: AA Crown

FROM PAGE 12

Claire Collins, of her team. "They played a really good game — they connected with each other and were passing well. They're so excited [for states] and ready to play."

The Spartans, in the win, received a hat trick (3 goals) from senior midfielder Holly King. She scored twice over the game's first 20 minutes of play to help set the tone for the night. Then, her third goal less than 75 seconds into the second half effectively put the contest away.

"She's just a fantastic person, a wonderful young lady and an unbelievable soccer player," said Collins, of team leader King. "As a soccer player [at Broad Run] she's just gotten better and better. She's fun to watch."

Broad Run (19-0-1), with the win over the Pride, was scheduled to host Jamestown High (Region I) of Williamsburg in a state quarterfinals round game earlier this week on Tuesday. The winner of that meeting advances to this Friday's semifinals at Radford University. The state championship game is set for Saturday at Radford.

Broad Run is looking to become the first-ever state AA girls' soccer team to win consecutive state championships. A year ago, the Spartans went 24-0 on way to the state crown.

BROAD RUN PRESSURED the Heritage goal from the start of Saturday's region finals game, rarely letting up throughout the 80 minutes of action.

Capturing Region II Title

FROM PAGE 12

both by gaining the region title and earning the right to play a first round state playoff game at home.

"Both [Broad Run and us] are playing at states," said Gryder. "Knowing we had a chance to play at home, that was our big thing. [Our guys] knew what was at stake and they accomplished it. The game could have gone either way."

Potomac Falls scored the game's lone goal in the first half, that coming when Fox, the Panthers' standout midfielder, received the ball about 20 yards away from the Broad Run goal before dribbling through and

The game, originally set to be played a day earlier, had been postponed due to rain. When the contest did get played on Saturday, the weather was gorgeous and the Spartans were ready to play.

Less than 10 minutes into the game, King, off a corner kick assist from sophomore midfielder Whitney Church, scored on a header from the near post with 31 minutes, 43 seconds showing on the clock.

Earlier, in the minutes leading up to the game, Church had been practicing her corners, sending soft, lofting balls towards the front of the goal area. And in her team's first goal, she did the same thing and King made it pay off with her close range score.

"I love playing with Whitney," said King, who had gone scoreless but played well in Broad Run's 2-0 district finals win over Heritage on May 21. "She's like my little sister. She knows exactly where I want the ball every time. [On the score] I came in from the side and got the ball down."

Less than 10 minutes later, King and senior forward Kelly Evans teamed for a beautiful score. King had started the scoring play with a pass out to the right wing area to Evans, who settled the ball and assessed the situation before scooting a pass back to King towards the middle. King then shot the ball in from 12 yards out for a goal that made the score 2-0.

That was the score at half. "The first half we played really well," said Evans. "As soon as we get a first goal, we relax and just play the game."

around Spartan players, then knocking in a close range shot to make it 1-0 with just over seven minutes remaining in the half.

Broad Run came back early in the second half with a score of its own — a head-in goal from Kevin Reitzel off a corner kick assist from Danny Reategui less than four minutes into the half.

Both teams rushed the other team's goal area relentlessly thereafter, but neither could score again in regulation. Finally, the Panthers broke through following nine-plus minutes of overtime to garner the win. Ryan Howard, the terrific Potomac Falls goaltender, earned the win in net.

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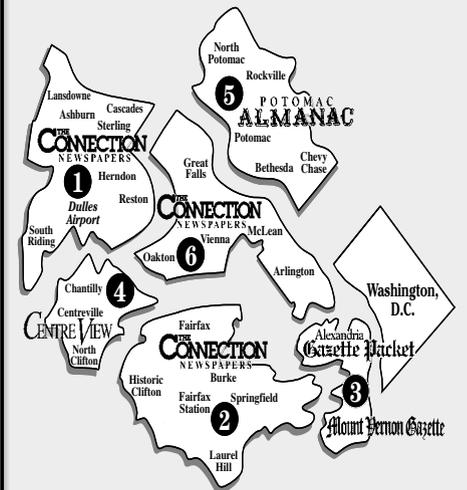
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Growing Pains



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Oregano, thyme, rosemary, sage, basil, mint; some of the home-grown herbs and spices a few of our friends are growing/cultivating; with distinction, from what I've heard. And as I was listening to the ebb and flow of how their gardens grow, I could not imagine for a moment, why in the world I would ever undertake such an endeavor. Nevertheless, the passion and enthusiasm with which these friends were discussing their gardening gains — and losses, was so heartfelt, so filled with conviction, I couldn't help but be drawn into the conversation.

And the conversation was wide-ranging, too, gardening wise; from south-facing, to potting, to planting, to trimming and pruning, to plant-life expectancy, to harvesting, to the impact of weather and watering. The tips/anecdotes/words-to-the-wise just kept coming. As for the words to the stupid (yours truly) all I could do was ask questions and listen in amazement as these friends spoke about the care and feeding, locally, of these centuries-old and historically popular spices. The conversation sounded similar to many I've had about sports; using past, present and imperfect examples of players, performances, statistics, tendencies, championships, etc., rather than planting location, depth, proximity, and too many other planting considerations lost in translation, to determine an appropriate course of action/pursuit.

As I listened, and unfortunately didn't really learn, since it was established that my life didn't really depend on the outcome, (which if it did, it was suggested, I might pay more sincere attention), I nonetheless marveled at the depth of information that our friends possessed on the subject, information I presumed existed, but never previously bore witness to.

It never ceases to surprise me the things; categories, hobbies, avocations, vocations, pursuits, that people are into, and aware of, most of which are usually beyond my comprehension — and grasp, quite frankly. And it's not that I'm stupid when I sit and listen cluelessly; it's more that I'm incredulous how little I know about so many subjects, one of which was discussed this particular evening: the trials and tribulations — and rewards, of growing herbs and spices in your own backyard. Who knew there would be such back and forth — and such knowledge, about such things? Not me (in case you didn't know that previous sentence was rhetorical.)

And though I am now not the least bit interested in tilling the soil at "Belly Acres," (our two-acre, non-ancestral home), I am nevertheless intrigued by the possibility. The only problem I foresee, other than all the obvious problems that you readers foresee, is what exactly would I do with all the herbs and spices if I were able to actually grow them? The closest I get to a spice is my aftershave. The closest I get to an herb is my neighbor across the street. I realize that herbs and spices have something to do with food and taste and cooking and food preparation, but that's no more my world than growing the stuff was in the first place. Oh, I can certainly appreciate the effort required to grow your own; my problem is, if I did grow it, would I have to eat it?

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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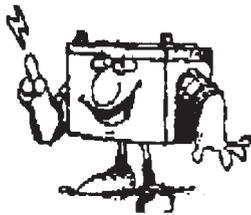
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