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PHOTO BY GINA J. URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

Morning Drills

CAMPS & SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

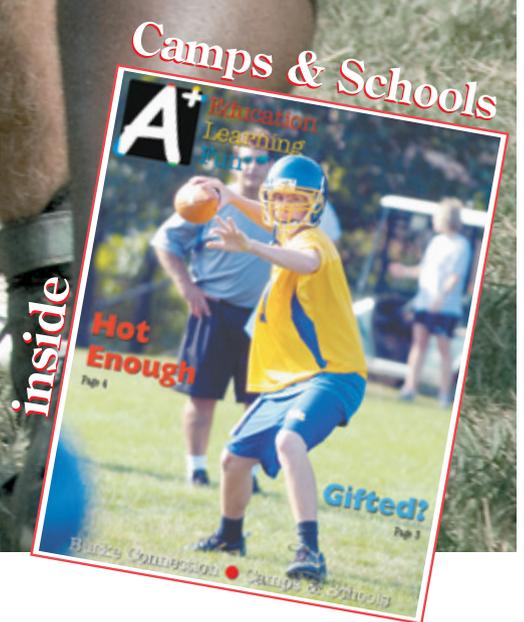
Dylan Evans prepares to hike the ball during Lake Braddock varsity's Tuesday morning practice.

Don't Cry For Huss

NEWS, PAGE 3

She Wrote The Book

NEWS, PAGE 4



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'Role of a Lifetime'

West Springfield choral teacher shares passion for singing, acting in 'Evita.'

BY MARIE FRENCH
THE CONNECTION

When final callbacks for the title role in Riverside Dinner Theatre's production of "Evita" were done, director Patrick A'Hearn was happy to have had his hunch confirmed. Erin Huss, a native of Springfield who began teaching choir at West Springfield last year, was perfect for the role.

"I had an inclination that she would be very right for the part," said A'Hearn. He did not pre-cast, of course, because a director never knows who might walk in, but Huss turned out to be the best vocalist who auditioned. "She just delivered."

"Evita" is a musical with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It is a story of Eva Perón, the second wife of Argentinean president Juan Perón. The musical was first produced in the late 1970s in London and on Broadway but some may better remember it from the 1996 film production of the musical starring Madonna in the lead role.

In fact, because he believes some people might remember the direction the film took, A'Hearn thinks Huss is even more suited to the role because she has "a vulnerability, a charm, an elegance" that Madonna also brought to the role.

"She has a poise and an elegance that the role calls for," said A'Hearn. "Her voice is absolutely beautiful."

"She has a poise and an elegance that the role calls for."

— Patrick A'Hearn

Huss graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor of music degree in music education and a masters of music in choral conducting, which she earned by working on the musicals of various student organizations, studying under the former president of the American Choral Director's Association and co-directing many of the school's choral ensembles.

She has also appeared in many musicals and is an accomplished vocalist who has performed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony, performed at the 2009 Illinois Inaugural Ball and performed as a vocalist alongside A'Hearn with the Rappahannock POPS Orchestra.

In musicals, Huss usually plays a light-hearted, funny character, so the role of Eva was a new experience for her. "Acting-wise it's been different," said Huss.

The musical, in Huss' opinion, is also not what people usually expect when they think of a musical because of its more somber, serious tone. "That's what makes it such a gripping story. Because it's different, it allows you to kind of think deeper than you normally would. It's based on actual events and it's very true to history," said Huss. "It's one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's masterpieces."

As Huss has no training in acting, she was a little uncertain about that aspect of the role. However, her director did not accept the limitations she thought she had. "He told me over and over that I had to trust myself more," said Huss. "He was able to



COURTESY OF RIVERSIDE DINNER THEATRE

West Springfield High chorus teacher Erin Huss stars in the Riverside Dinner Theatre's production of 'Evita.'

More

"Evita" is running through Sept. 13 at the Riverside Center Dinner Theatre in Fredricksburg, with a showing every Wednesday through Sunday. Call 540-370-4300 or go to www.riversidedt.com for more information.

pull things out of me that I didn't even know I had acting-wise."

For his part, A'Hearn thinks Huss does an excellent job with the musical, which he describes as "very intense, very emotional, very raw" and one of Webber's strongest vocally. "The acting in this part is just ex-

traordinary," said A'Hearn. "She just lends herself to it."

Although Huss had no time to perform during the school year, she enjoys performing and was very excited that this show ran in the summer.

"It's kind of an outlet. Being a musician, you always have this performing side as well as this side that wants to share your passion with others, which you mainly do through teaching," said Huss. "It's a relief in a way, it's a chance for me to kind of share my talents."

Huss has taught private lessons to young vocalists and assisted in directing at the University of Tennessee. The job at West

SEE HUSS, PAGE 6

Del. David Bulova Has No Republican Opponent

Son of county board chair has been in House of Delegates since 2006.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Del. David Bulova (D-37) is one of few Democratic incumbents representing Fairfax County in the Virginia House of Delegates that has no Republican opponent in the upcoming November election.

The only other Fairfax delegate district that definitely will not have a Republican candidate on the ballot is the 49th

House seat, represented by Del. Adam Ebbin (D). Ebbin's district has only a few precincts in Fairfax and is primarily located in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. It also leans strongly Democratic, having supported Gov. Tim Kaine (D) with 77 percent of the vote in a similar election cycle four years ago, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

BULOVA'S DISTRICT voted handedly for Kaine, with about 59 percent of voters

picking the current governor over his Republican opponent Jerry Kilgore in 2005. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds also won 55 percent of the vote in the district as an attorney general candidate four years ago, even though he ended up losing the statewide election to Republican Bob McDonnell, who is also running for governor this year.

But Bulova's district also overlaps with those of several elected officials who lean Republican, indicating his constituents tend to be independent-



Del. David Bulova



Chris DeCarlo

FILE PHOTOS

minded voters who do not necessarily vote along party lines.

SEE 37TH DISTRICT, PAGE 5

Keeping Her Promise to Sarah

Robinson grad raises money for cancer research.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Meredith Ross, 18, of Fairfax Station, is the type of friend who's loyal and true. When she gives her word, she keeps it. But cancer is a formidable foe that doesn't play fair, despite the best intentions of two, young girls.

Around Easter 2005, Ross' friend Sarah Winthrop learned she had liver cancer, and the two vowed to fight it together. But Sarah died that year, a week before Christmas.

"We were in eighth grade when she was diagnosed," said Ross. "And when we made the promise to each other that we'd beat the cancer and she'd be with Robinson's graduating class of 2009, we never thought she'd die."

Still, when Ross graduated in June, Sarah was there with her, in spirit, as Ross read a special tribute to her. She also accepted Sarah's diploma. After all, she said, "I promised we'd be on the podium together." When Ross received her own diploma, she told her classmates she did so "in honor of a Ram's promise to fight cancer until it is gone from this earth."

The day after Sarah died, Ross founded "The Sarah Project" to fight cancer through



Meredith Ross

"My friend Sarah never gave up hope."

—Meredith Ross, 2009
Robinson grad



DONATED PHOTOS

In 2008, Team STOMP (Sarah's Team of Motivated Power) had 15 members and raised \$2,000 at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. A year later, the team had grown to 125 members.

awareness and fund raising, and to support cancer patients. Then last year, when a friend named Erin shared her own cancer diagnosis, Ross sprang into action, organiz-

ing students at five local schools to show Erin they cared.

"I was not going to lose another friend to this killer," said Ross. "For six months, we

collected donations to fill a 'Take me Away (from chemo) Bag' with goodies, books on tape and soothing creams. Erin received

SEE IN SARAH'S, PAGE 15

She Wrote Manual for Autistic Classes

Karen Griffin Roberts' education manual wins George Mason University award.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

When Karen Griffin Roberts set out to return to school to get her bachelor's degree, she simply wanted to jump the gun and meet future federal requirements for preschool teachers. Instead, she became the creator of an award-winning educational manual and provided hope for millions of children with autism at the same time.

Griffin Roberts, a Burke resident, was selected as the recipient of George Mason University's 2009 Most Creative Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) Project Award for her senior project, which outlined education strategies for children with autism.

"I was shocked," Griffin Roberts said, describing her reaction to winning the award. "So many of my fellow BIS students had phenomenal projects and studies. I'm still not sure why mine was singled out among

them, but I am truly honored."

According to BIS Director Dr. Jeannie Brown Leonard, the BIS program recognizes students who produced exemplary projects in their senior capstone course at the end of every spring semester. The students are nominated for the awards by their individual BIS faculty mentors and, after a thorough selection process, were named and recognized after the undergraduate convocation ceremony.

Griffin Roberts was nominated by her mentor, Dr. Monimalika Day for her project, an educational guide entitled "Modifying the Preschool Classroom to Include Children with Autism: A Manual for General Education Preschool Teachers." The manual explains the developmental deficiencies that children with autism have and provides a researched strategy on how to incorporate them smoothly into a typical classroom.



CONTRIBUTED

Karen Griffin Roberts hold the 2009 Most Creative Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) Project Award, which George Mason University presented to her.

Griffin Roberts, a teacher for 18 years, with the last 10 spent teaching preschool at Burke United Methodist Preschool, drew the inspiration for the manual from her own person experience. Her son Kevin, 21, was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder, and as a teacher, she developed an interest in finding a way to make children with autism a part of a typical classroom. So, when she decided to

return to school, she registered in the individualized study program so she could pursue this interest.

"During years of teaching and raising my son with autism, I learned a lot about special education," Griffin Roberts said. "I thought my knowledge of autism with a preschool teaching background would be a unique perspective on teaching young children in special education."

SEE GUIDE, PAGE 15

37th District Race

FROM PAGE 3

Several members of the Fairfax City Council and the city's mayor are endorsed by the Republican Party. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who won a special election earlier this spring, also represents parts of Bulova's district.

According to Bulova, he has a good working relationship with local elected officials, including Republicans, particularly the City Council members, and so they may not be as inclined to run against him.

"We are still knocking on doors and doing all the regular campaign stuff."

— Del. David Bulova (D-37)

"We are still knocking on doors and doing all the regular campaign stuff, regardless of whether we have a Republican opponent or not," said Bulova.

Bulova does face independent candidate Chris DeCarlo and Independent Green party candidate Anna Choi on the ballot.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, Choi had raised no money for her campaign as of June

31, the end of the last campaign finance reporting period.

DeCarlo, who ran for Fairfax County Chairman last winter, has collected \$101 for his campaign so far and does not intend to engage in much more fund raising.

"I am not planning to raise money because that feeds into a lot of the political problems we have. Special interests donate money and then they too much political influence," said DeCarlo.

"I am trying to show people that they don't have to raise a lot of money to participate. They just need to collect 125 signatures and then their name can be on the ballot. You don't have to have a political party behind you," he said.



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PEOPLE

World Is His Classroom

West Springfield teacher wins History Teacher of the Year Award.

BY SARAH MOORE
THE CONNECTION

James Percoco, history teacher at West Springfield High School, is a busy man.

In addition to teaching courses at West Springfield, Percoco also serves as an adjunct professor at American University. He is an author, editor and winner of several awards for his books on history and education. He created an Applied History course which allows students to work at various historical sites in the area and was



DONATED PHOTO

"History did not happen inside the four walls of a classroom or between the covers of a book, I tell them."

— James Percoco

featured in a documentary film. He has also been featured in The Washington Post, Washington Times and C-Span and is winner of the Walt Disney Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award.

In July, Percoco won first place for the Third Annual Mount Vernon Teacher of the Year Award. The award was created to honor and encourage excellent teachers in Washington, D.C, Virginia or Maryland, said Nancy Hayward, director of programs at

James Percoco likes to ensure that his students have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom on field trips like this one to Gettysburg last year.

Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens.

"He has a body of work that can't be topped" she said of Percoco. "He teaches history in a very immersive way." As winner of the award, Percoco received a \$5,000 honorarium from the Robertson Foundation and an extensive field trip for all of his students to Mount Vernon Estates.

Percoco is known for giving his students opportunities to experience history in an authentic way. His Applied History course, he said, "was created to give each student an opportunity to work at an historic site and receive credit. ... Since 1991 students have worked approximately between

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 18

Huss Stars as Eva Perón

FROM PAGE 3

Springfield was her first real teaching job. "It was a learning experience. Any first year teacher position is difficult. You're kind of just thrown into this job that you think you're prepared for," said Huss. "There's so much that you didn't learn."

Assistant Principal Rebecca Brandt, who is in charge of West Springfield's music department, thinks Huss was an excellent choice for the new choral director. "She's got youth, talent, energy and everything we could ask for," said Brandt. "She was in those same groups that she's directing now when she was in high school."

THIS YEAR, Huss mostly stuck to the program her predecessor as choral teacher laid out. Next year, she will get a chance to use her particular talents in a musical theater class to be offered at West Springfield. "It certainly hasn't been offered there in a long time if ever," said Huss.

Under enrollment and a lack of student interest has prevented the class from being offered in previous years. Brandt hopes that Huss' particular gift for musical theater will spark student interest and enable the school to offer the class. "It's just another dimension of the full musical spectrum we hope to offer students."

Huss views her role as a learning opportunity as both a vocalist and an actor. "It's taught me more about the voice and has expanded my ability, which will only help me demonstrate technique to the students better."

"Evita" is running through Sept. 13 at the Riverside Center Dinner Theatre in Fredricksburg, with a showing every Wednesday through Sunday. Call 540-370-4300 or go to www.riversidedt.com for more information.

Huss is thrilled to be performing in the production. "Of course it's the role of a lifetime," said Huss. "I feel very honored to have been cast in the first place."

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAYS

Al-Anon Beginner's Meeting. 7-8 p.m., at Messiah Methodist Church, Room 212, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. See www.AlanonVA.com for more information and meeting times. For those whose life has been affected by another person's drinking, Al-Anon may help. Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and Friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Western Fairfax Republican

Women's Club Meeting. Kala Quintana, director of Public Outreach for the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, will be speaking on Northern Virginia's ongoing and current transportation issues. 6:30 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. www.wfrwc.org/.

SUNDAY/AUG. 30

NOVA Grassroots Rally for Bob McDonnell. 1-4 p.m. at Burke Lake Park. Meet and greet local candidates. Barbecue by Red, Hot

and Blue. Bring the family. Sponsored by Virginia Federation of Republican Women clubs in districts 8,10 and 11. Info call 703 591-7368.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 1

Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County, presented by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Business Assistance and the U.S. Small Business Administration. 8 p.m. at FCEDA headquarters, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Register at www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org/sb_seminar.htm.

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Government jumps into business for variety of reasons.

While private options of this amenity are plentiful, they are so expensive that they are out of reach for many even in our affluent area.

So government has jumped in to offer the opportunity at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone. It's not clear what the impact of the public option has been on the private businesses involved.

We're talking, of course, about golf courses. Joining a private country club can cost tens of thousands of dollars in original membership fees, plus thousands in annual fees.

But around Northern Virginia, there are many public options for golf, some nationally acclaimed, where one can swing the clubs around 18 holes for under \$30.

Offering access to recreational facilities at cost well below private options is a common activity for local governments. Water parks, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor tennis are all available in our area at reduced prices via government involvement. Recreation centers provide an affordable alternative to health clubs.

Localities offer summer day camps of many varieties, all at a fraction of the cost of private camps.

Public colleges and universities offer lower cost tuition than private colleges and universi-

ties. Publicly owned historic sites and park facilities compete with restaurants and banquet halls to host weddings and other events.

Do these public options hold down the prices at private camps, private colleges, private country clubs? That's unknown, but what we do know is that the public options make many things affordable and accessible to people who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

EDITORIAL Meanwhile people continue to pay a premium for the amenities, services and added value and availability of the private options, keeping those businesses in business.

Governments are also offering a private option for many things that previously have been strictly free public goods. One example is roads.

A private company is widening the Beltway, 495, from the Virginia side of American Legion Bridge to the Springfield Mixing Bowl. When it's finished, drivers will have the option to pay a significant toll to the company to ride in the "High Occupancy Toll" lanes to avoid the crowded but free lanes. Vehicles with at least three occupants will be able to ride in the new lanes for free.

— MARY KIMM

Supporting Cuccinelli

To the Editor:

Due to the massive federal spending and current economic conditions, it is more important than ever to see how our taxes are being spent, and soon, it will be easily accessible to Virginia residents thanks to Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37). The candidate for Attorney General of Virginia is committed to making government more open in order to battle corruption and hold politicians responsible.

Last year, Cuccinelli proposed a bill that creates an online database of federal spending, so taxpayers can easily track where their money is going and what it is being used for. Cuccinelli's work also makes it easier to monitor the success of government programs, which enables officials to improve the programs that work and eliminate the ones that are costing money with no results. He believes that all taxpayers have the right to know how their money is being spent, and is working hard to ensure that Virginia government is accountable.

As Attorney General, Cuccinelli has promised to continue his work in creating a more transparent government. His firm's commit-

ment to holding politicians accountable is extremely important in the role of Attorney General, and his ability to fix problems like this quickly is invaluable.

Robert & Gloria Kukler
Fairfax

Cuccinelli for Attorney General

To the Editor:

The contest for Governor of Virginia rightfully attracts most of our attention. The position of Attorney General, however, involves responsibility for the safety of all the citizens of the commonwealth and should not be viewed as just another partisan political contest. I have been observing the two fine candidates who are competing for our support. I have come to the conclusion, while both are good men, the one that stands out as the superior candidate is Sen. Kenneth Cuccinelli (R-37).

Like with most candidates you will not agree 100 percent, but was impressed that he was the first legislator to understand the impact on Virginia law of the recent Supreme Court decision requiring forensic scientists to testify in court and made a request that resulted in Gov. Tim Kaine (D) calling a special session to address this

issue.

Sen. Cuccinelli has the benefit of his experience on the Senate Courts of Justice Committee, which has put him at the center of every criminal justice issue that has come before the state in recent years. As an independent voter, I want an Attorney General who is knowledgeable about public safety. Please join me in supporting Ken Cuccinelli.

Michael Melillo
Fairfax

Shopping for Scam Artists

To the Editor:

He had a sense of urgency and secrecy in his heavy French accent.

"You have to do this assignment immediately. This is time sensitive," David Campbell said, over his cell phone in Montreal, Quebec. "They must not know the purpose of your assignment or the purpose will be defeated."

Campbell (probably not his real name) runs a scam operation. He mails unsolicited letters to people, pretending to hire them to evaluate stores. It's a twist of the "secret shopper" scam with the "money gram scam," and it's the latest prevalent scam hitting Virginia.

Local 'Public Options'

For public recreational opportunities, see:

- ❖ Northern Virginia Park Authority, <http://www.nvrpa.org/>
- ❖ Fairfax County Park Authority, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>
- ❖ Arlington County Parks and Recreation, <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/ParksRecreationMain.aspx>
- ❖ Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, <http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=700>
- ❖ City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, <http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation>
- ❖ Montgomery County Department of Recreation, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>
- ❖ Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, http://www.mnccppc.org/commission_home.html

While the letter that he sends out claims to be hiring you to pose as a regular shopper evaluating the work environment at stores like Wal-Mart, K-mart, Home Depot and McDonald's, his first assignment for you invariably is to test out the services at a money-transferring agency like Western Union or MoneyGram. The letter includes a check and a survey form that all appear professional and legitimate.

Initially, the bank might even cash the check, but then they discover later that the check's bad, and the money has to be paid back to the bank, after you've already mailed it back to the scamster, who is on the run looking for new victims.

"I'm always moving around," Campbell admitted.

Margaret and Larry Hoots of Norfolk received Campbell's assignment. But thankfully they didn't fall for it.

If you suspect you have received a scam letter like this, we encourage you to notify our office's consumer hotline, 800-451-1525.

Consumer protection is an important statutory duty of the Office of the Attorney General, and our staff can help.

Bill Mims
Va. Attorney General

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Demi Lovato and David Archuleta.

7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$49.50 and \$39.50, through www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

The Auld Shebeen D.J. Dance

Party from 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$5 cover charge, 21 and up only. Ladies free until midnight. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Thursday Theater.

11:30 a.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333. Bring a lunch and enjoy movies. Age 1-6 with adult. Registration required.

Afternoon Reading Group.

1 p.m., at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax, 703-293-6227. "Love Walked In" by Marisa de los Santos. Adults.

Raptor Conservancy of Virginia.

2:30 p.m., Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333. See these birds of prey and find out more about their place in the wild. Age 6-12. Registration required.

FRIDAY/AUG. 21

Kings Park Band.

7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. 703-324-SHOW.

Traditional Irish Music.

7-9:30 p.m.

Live music in the restaurant. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

The Auld Shebeen Live in the

Cellar from 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$5 cover. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Peter, Paul & Mary.

8 p.m. \$40 in-house, \$22 lawn. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Traditional Irish Session.

12-2 p.m. Come listen to musicians practice and play. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Traditional Irish Music.

7-9:30 p.m. Live music in the restaurant. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

The Auld Shebeen D.J. Dance

Party from 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. \$5 cover charge, 21 and up only. Ladies free until midnight. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic.

10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. Adults.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners

Association. 10 a.m., at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax, 703-293-6227. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults.



PHOTO BY GINA J. URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

The Kings Park Concert Band performs Friday, Aug. 21 at Lake Accotink Park.

Microsoft Powerpoint.

2:30 p.m., at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax, 703-293-6227. Learn how to put together an attractive presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint. Adults and teens. Registration required.

Dog Day Afternoon.

Treat your canine companion to a special cruise aboard Lake Accotink Park's pooch-friendly pontoon boat. It is for humans 8 and up, but dogs of all ages. The cruise is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. \$6 per person, but no charge for dogs. Limit of one dog

per person. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-569-0285 to make a reservation.

Sunset Cruise.

Admire the sunset and relax as you cruise the beautiful shoreline of Lake Accotink. An interpretive history of Lake Accotink Park and the area is included in the tour from 8-9 p.m. Beverages served on board. The cost is \$6 per person for passengers 18 and up. Call 703-569-0285 to make a reservation. Lake Accotink Park is located 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield

Nature Night Hike.

Hikers 7 and older will learn the nocturnal activities of the residents in the

surrounding woods at Lake Accotink Park from 8:30-10 p.m. Meet at the Visitors Center, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Bring a flashlight. \$5 per adult and \$3 per child under 16. To make prepaid reservation, call 703-569-0285.

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Sunday Brunch.

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations always welcome. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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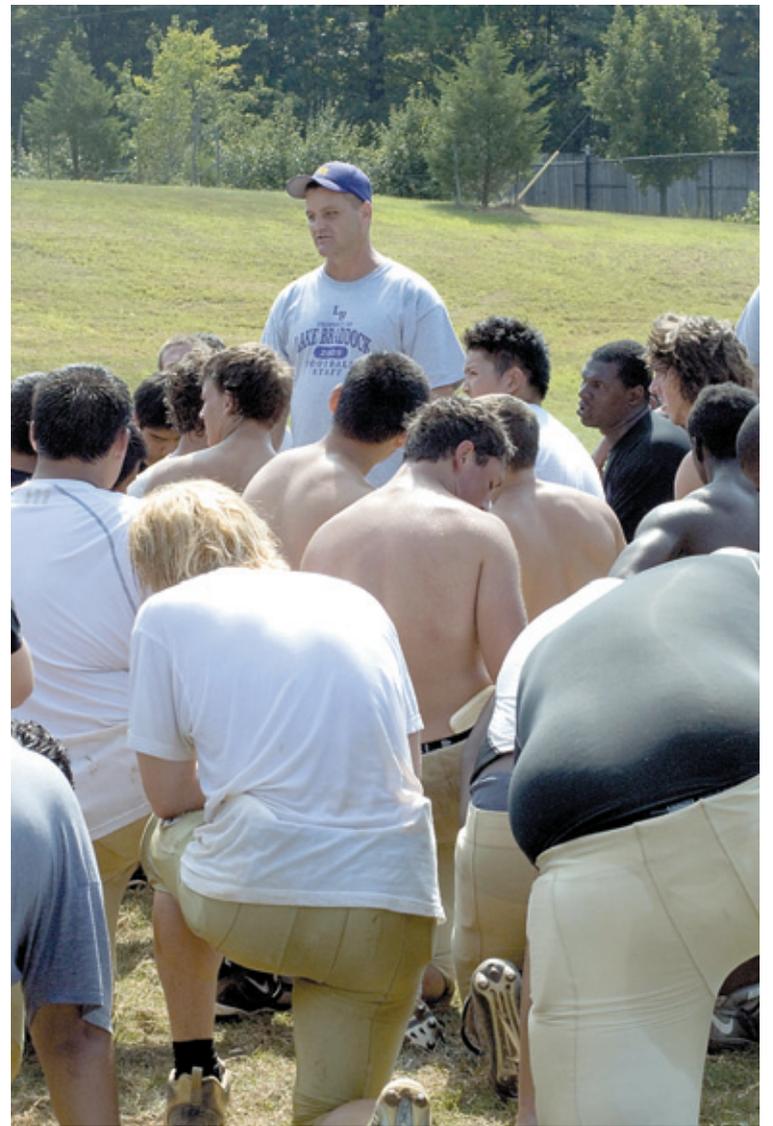
Morning Workout

Lake Braddock football team braves heat during Tuesday morning practice.

PHOTO BY GINA J. URICOLI/THE CONNECTION



At the end of football practice the team must run sprints across the field.



Coach Jim Poythress has the team 'take a knee' as he reviews their performance during Tuesday's practice.

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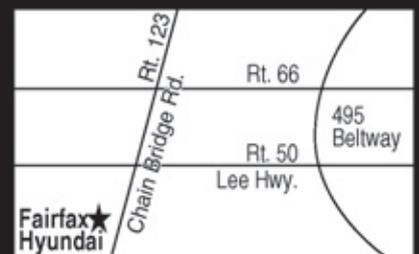


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Spartans Scramble in Season Opener

Golfers beat Annandale, lose by one stroke to Lake Braddock in tiebreaker.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Golf is jokingly referred to as a “good walk spoiled,” and West Springfield High’s Scott Lopez might agree with that after his season-opening round on Monday, Aug. 17 at Greendale Golf Club in Alexandria.

Lopez sliced his first tee shot into a patch of woods, eliciting a frustrated look on his face as he tried to keep it in his sight. Wandering through the woods with the aid of two other players, he finally admitted defeat to his lost ball and took a penalty stroke.

He dropped another ball down, refocused and then sent his second shot into a branch just a few feet away.

“You’ve got to be kidding me,” the senior golfer said.

Lopez walked the short distance to his ball and took his fourth shot on the par-4, barely halfway down the narrow fairway.

The first hole foreshadowed how the rest of the day would pan out for Lopez.

“My first shot was kind of what I wanted to do, but then it went far right,” Lopez said. “Nothing seemed to go right after that.”

WITH THE season opening against Lake Braddock Secondary and Annandale High in a tri-match, Lopez knew this wasn’t the start he had in mind.

“I felt like there was a lot of pressure,” Lopez said. “It was just mentally tough. I felt a lot of leadership since I’m a senior. I

wanted to show the younger guys I could perform.”

Lopez finished the course with a score of 43 in the nine-hole round, but he did manage to turn his game around, giving a glimpse of his usual talents with a birdie on hole seven and par on hole eight.

“I kept thinking about how I’m a lot better than this,” he said. “I just tried to tighten up and play like I normally play.”

Greendale Golf Club isn’t the longest course in the area, but Rachael Malenach, West Springfield’s golf coach, said it’s a tricky course for a variety of reasons.

“The tee shots are very tight, the greens are slow. It’s just very challenging,” she said. “One example is how the first hole lines up with the woods. Sometimes golfers don’t think to line themselves up properly with the fairway.”

Despite the less-than-ideal day from her top golfer, Malenach was pleased by the team’s overall performance.

“I’m very proud of my players,” she said. “It was their first match, and I can’t ask for more than their best. Their course management is getting better, we could use improvement in putting, but they’re getting better.”

West Springfield defeated Annandale 156-172, but a tiebreaker was used to determine a winner against Lake Braddock. Lopez’s score (43) and Lake Braddock’s Kenny Towns’ score (42) were used to determine the winner, giving Lake Braddock the win by one stroke.

“In the high school matches, you take the

“We still need some improvement, but I’m very proud of my players.”

— Rachael Malenach,
West Springfield golf coach



PHOTO BY REED ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Scott Lopez lines up a birdie putt on hole seven. He rebounded from a rough start at Greendale Golf Club on Monday, Aug. 17., with a par on hole eight.

top four scores out of six,” said Karl Kerns, Lake Braddock’s golf coach. “We were tied after four scores so we took the fifth-best scores.”

West Springfield’s top golfer was Matt Spooner, who shot a 38 and tied Lake Braddock’s No. 3 golfer, junior Justin Burns, for the top individual score.

“I just kind of scrambled out there,” said Spooner, a sophomore. “I made a chip-in on the ninth hole, but I wasn’t making a lot of great shots.”

Even though Spooner didn’t feel like he had the best day on the course, his coach was pleased with the result.

“He didn’t give up,” Malenach said. “I saw him on hole six and he didn’t look happy, but he got through it.”

Though Lake Braddock pulled out the win over West Springfield, ace golfer junior

Kenny Towns found himself alongside West Springfield’s Lopez in frustration.

Towns’ booming drive was on display, but mishaps near the end of the course and putts affected by the slow greens kept his score higher than normal.

“I chucked two balls in the water, and I just never recovered from that,” he said. “At the Cougar Classic [last week in Chantilly], the putting saved me, but today, I just didn’t putt very well at all.”

With the season starting at 1-1, Malenach knows there is room for improvement, but she is looking forward to facing off with Lake Braddock again.

“We still need some improvement, but I’m very proud of my players,” Malenach said. “We see Lake Braddock again in the Patriot Preview, so that should be a good challenge.”

Coach Charged with Online Solicitation

Police say Woodson assistant wrestling coach solicited minor online.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

A W.T. Woodson High School wrestling coach was arrested for inappropriate online discussions with a minor when the 14-year-old girl he thought he was talking to was actually a Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Deputy.

Gary Debrielle, 26, was an assistant coach at W.T. Woodson High School for the past two years. He was charged with attempted indecent liberties with a child and online solicitation of a child.

According to Fairfax County Public

School’s spokesman Mary Shaw, Debrielle was not a full-time employee with Fairfax County Public Schools. Shaw also said that Debrielle never taught in a classroom but interacted with students that he coached.

“He was never in contact with students [as a teacher in a classroom], and he is no longer employed,” Shaw said. “He was employed on a month-by-month basis.”

From July 10-14, Deputy Megan Warren of the Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Department posed as a 14-year-old girl online and engaged in conversations with Debrielle.

“[Debrielle] believed that he was speaking to a 14-year-old girl,” said 1st Sgt. Liz

Scott of the Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Office. “He engaged her in sexual conversation.”

The Spotsylvania Sheriff’s Office traced Debrielle’s screen name to his home in Chantilly and found that he was employed by Fairfax County Public Schools.

On Aug. 13, Warren obtained a warrant for Debrielle’s arrest, and he was arrested by the Fairfax County Police Department on Friday, Aug. 14. Scott said that Fairfax County Police arrested Debrielle because Spotsylvania Police cannot respond to a warrant issued on a person living in another

jurisdiction.

SCOTT EXPLAINED that in order for someone to be charged with online crimes of a sexual nature, certain guidelines must be met.

“The suspect must be aware the [other party] is under 18 and the [suspect must make] the conversation sexual,” she said. “[The officer] doesn’t try to cause them to engage in sexual discussion.”

Debrielle will be transferred to the Rappahannock Regional Jail. He will be held under no bond pending a court appearance in the Spotsylvania Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.



Gary Debrielle

POLICE PHOTO

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

MONDAY/AUG. 24

Half Price Night. 4-10 p.m. Half price on all our traditional Irish fare (excluding breakfast). Dine-in only. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 6 p.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. Adults.

TUESDAY/AUG. 25

Karaoke. 10-1:30 a.m. Sing your favorite tunes. No cover. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Pub Quiz Night. 8 p.m. Come test your knowledge with prizes and specials in the restaurant. The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub and Restaurant, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Inova Blood Drive. 1:30-6:30 p.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333. ID required. Appointments preferred; call 1-866-256-6372. Adults.

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

Teen Book Group. 6 p.m., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333. Find out what's hot and what's not! Age 12-16.



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Burke (22015)			
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8551 MAZZELLO PL	\$699,900	Sun 1-4	McWilliams/Ballard.....Amy Broderick.....202-288-8703
8450 GOLD SKY	\$369,900	Sun 1-4	Weichert.....Doris Crockett.....703-615-8411
6467 BLARNEY STONE	\$329,900	Sun 1-4	Weichert.....Jim Crockett.....703-643-9621

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5662 CLOUDS MILL DR	\$775,000	Aug 30 1-4	Keller Williams.....Dianne Rastelli.....703-609-9069

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COMMUNITY

In Sarah's Memory

FROM PAGE 4

thousands of good wishes on massive, poster-board cards. And in June, Erin's mother called to say, "Thank you, Meredith, we are done. The doctors say it shouldn't be possible so quickly, but there's no more sign of cancer in Erin's body."

Also last year, Ross joined the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, creating Team STOMP (Sarah's Team of Motivated Power). Fifteen students joined her and the little team earned \$2,000. Fast forward to 2009 and, with 125 members, Team STOMP is the largest team in Northern Virginia and is still growing.

The members come from 10 high schools, including Robinson, Lake Braddock, Fairfax, Woodson, Paul VI, Annandale and West Springfield. They plan to raise \$30,000. Second in fund raising, with \$27,000 amassed since January, they've outpaced nearly every corporate team in the area.

"We looked online at costs for liver-cancer treatment and found it's about \$30,000 a month for a child for chemo and radiation," said Ross. "We couldn't imagine how you'd pay for it, especially without health insurance, so we came up with the motto, 'Will you give a child another month?' How can you refuse that?"

The team's other motto is "Got hope?" because, said Ross, "My friend Sarah never gave up hope." So throughout the year, the team conducted fund raisers. "Someone told us we probably couldn't raise much, so we took it as a challenge," said Ross. "We held a lot of bake sales. We cooked and cooked and cooked and made \$1,000 a shot. And on snow days, we went door-to-door begging for donations to the American Cancer Society."

Robinson Associate Principal Rick Mondloch helped Ross plan an awareness-raising assembly in March, including dancing and Ross telling the students, "Sarah was a fighter, so rise up and fight back."

Guide for Autistic Classrooms

FROM PAGE 4

As a requirement for graduation from the program, Griffin Roberts had to complete a senior project, and the decision to create the manual was an easy one. Griffin Roberts said that she had included a child with high functioning autism into her general education preschool class and that he attained success in a mainstream kindergarten. In addition, she did an internship that summer with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine's Center for Autism in Baltimore, where she was able to observe autism classrooms, attend autism professional development classes and more. Based on those two experiences, she knew she had the research she needed to create an effective manual for teachers.

So far, the manual has been well-received, garnering positive reviews from many places outside of the George Mason community. Griffin Roberts said that she has received positive feedback from families that have children with autism, and said that her strategies have already been pitched to local preschools.

The education community has also responded well to the manual, with the Parent Educational Advocacy Educational Training Center being a prominent supporter of Griffin Roberts' work. The center, a non profit dedicated to improving educational opportunities for children with disabilities, has given

The team also sold hats and "Got Hope?" T-shirts. In May, besides participating in the Relay for Life, the members turned the movie, "The Rocky Horror Show," into a moneymaker by showing the film at school and having students act out the parts.

ROSS IS now enrolled in the President's Leadership Program at Christopher Newport University and will also study, part of the time, at Oxford. "I'll probably come back with an accent," she joked. She plans to major in pre-medicine (biology) and Spanish and minor in leadership. Her ultimate goal is a career in oncology.

"We already have a Relay for Life at CNU in May, and my roommate there and I are trying to put together a team," she said. "We may partner with companies at the corporate level to figure out how they do it. We're also trying to have the high-schoolers do it with younger students, too, to guide them so they'll know how to participate. That way, it'll be a long chain so we can eradicate cancer. My sister Emma, a junior, will take my place at Robinson."

Ross said the promise she made to Sarah fuels her devotion to the cause. "What makes it easier is that everybody knows somebody who either has or had cancer, so why not fight back?" she asked. "And if the person who has it can't do it, then do it for them. Anybody can help in any way; they can hold a car wash, bake sale, whatever they want."

For more information, contact Ross at mercedesbr@cox.net, visit www.cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345. Donations to Team STOMP for the American Cancer Society, may be made online until Aug. 30. Go to www.restonrelay.org, scroll down to "2009 team" and click on "STOMP 1."

"We need about \$3,000 more to reach our goal, and it's not easy," said Ross. "But on Dec. 19, 2005, the day Sarah died, I made another promise to her: To dedicate my life to fighting cancer. I'll never forget her."

the study glowing reviews and has posted the manual on its Web site.

"She's done a fabulous job," said Charlene Takemoto, executive director of the training center. "The manual not only has some solid ideas, but it also has a strong research foundation. There may be other interest in publishing it."

Currently, Griffin Roberts is beginning her second year in the masters of early childhood special education program at Mason on a full scholarship awarded after she completed her bachelor's degree. Since the scholarship is through a federal grant, she owes the federal government four years of special education teaching in some capacity.

Eventually, she hopes to be working in a preschool autism classroom or a classroom for young children with varied disabilities. In the meantime, however, she can take pride in the fact that she has helped people, and that others recognize it.

"Karen has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities by working on a cutting edge issue in the field of special education and early childhood education," said Day, in his nomination report.

Read the Manual

Go to www.peatc.org and look in the "News and Headlines" box on the homepage to download a copy of Griffin Roberts' manual.

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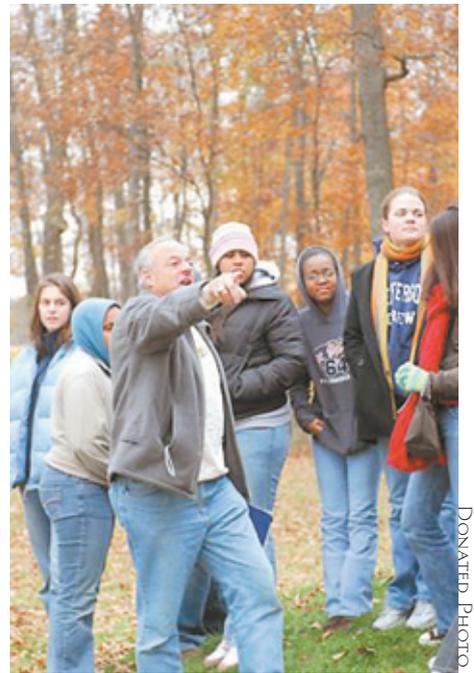
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ZONE 2: • BURKE
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ZONE 2 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

History Teacher Honored

FROM PAGE 6



DONATED PHOTO

James Percoco with his students on a field trip to Gettysburg.

25,000 and 30,000 hours of volunteer work at places like Mount Vernon, Ford's Theater, Gunston Hall, Arlington House and all over this area."

Percoco has taken all of his students on extensive field trips to historic sites ranging from President Lincoln's Cottage to Harpers Ferry.

"Mr. Percoco loves his field trips" said former student Priya Chhaya, a 2000 graduate of West Springfield who now works the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She said many of her career choices in the historical field were influenced by Percoco.

"Little things come to mind from running across the field at Gettysburg to reenact Pickett's charge, which allowed us to visually understand how that event took place" said Chhaya. "These trips really taught me ... that history does surround us. It does have a larger meaning beyond the words on the page, and, that conversely, what we do today does have an impact on the world around us."

"On Feb. 12 of this year, I was fortunate enough to spend the day with Mr. Percoco and some of his students in Washington, D.C. for the rededication of the Lincoln Memorial and the National Lincoln 'Teach-In' at the National Archives," wrote Paul Wardinski, West Springfield's principal, in his letter recommending Percoco for the award. "This was truly an event that his students, his parent chaperones and I will never forget—a learning opportunity and experience of a lifetime" he said.

New students in Percoco's class have much to look forward to as the year begins. But perhaps none are as excited for Sep-

tember as Percoco.

"As each summer draws to a close, I eagerly await another September" Percoco wrote in his application for the award. "Filling their desks in front of me on the first day of regular Virginia/United States history class, my students expect the traditional first day drill — a syllabus tied to a textbook. But a surprise awaits them. Explaining that much of their learning will take place 'out there,' I point out the window. History did not happen inside the four walls of a classroom or between the covers of a book, I tell them. It happened out in the world, and to that world they are dispatched."

Canine Influenza Outbreak at Animal Shelter

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax, is limiting public dog adoptions due to an apparent outbreak of canine influenza that was confirmed Thursday, Aug. 13. As a result, the pet adoption event planned for last weekend was postponed.

"While this illness is not contagious to humans, it does spread among dogs and we are taking precautions to limit its spread," said Animal Shelter Director Karen Diviney. "This illness is generally not life-threatening to dogs; however, in some cases, dogs can develop severe disease. Anywhere dogs congregate could be potential breeding grounds for the virus."

Two cases of laboratory-confirmed canine influenza at the Animal Shelter were confirmed; 12 dogs weren't exposed and 29

were potentially exposed to the virus and were being closely monitored for signs of illness. Pet owners can take certain steps to avoid their pets' exposure:

- ❖ They can temporarily avoid taking their dog to places where dogs gather;
- ❖ Ask their kennel if it's had cases of illness prior to boarding their dog;
- ❖ If their dog shows symptoms of respiratory illness (such as coughing or wheezing, runny nose or fever), seek veterinary care. For more information about canine influenza, see www.cdc.gov/flu/canine.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there is no evidence of transmission of the virus from dogs to humans, or to other household pets.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Burke residents **Charles Andrew Sniffin and Jenae Elizabeth Pinney** have graduated cum laude from Mary Washington University.

COLLEGE NOTES

The following Burke residents have been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg: **Unsk Choi, Bradford Clark, Daniel Crabtree, Brian Doyle, Jennifer Garrott, Danesh Gilani, Maximilian Gordon, Emily Hahn, Madison Hannon, Kevin Jarcho., Grace Lee, Katelin Lee, Steven Linett, Allison Pearman, Danila Podobed, Alexander Rosenberg, Tiffany Schoneboom and Elizabeth Terrell.**

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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE: PROPOSAL TO MODIFY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AT AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE. There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at the Chang's Auto Care Property, 6250 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, Virginia. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mr. Jang S. Kim to prepare a Corrective Action Plan Addendum to address cleanup of petroleum fuel contamination at this site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please contact: John P. Diehl, Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc., 43045 John Mosby Highway, Chantilly, VA 20152, (703) 327-2900. The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Remediation Division of the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ by August 18, 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Chapman of the DEQ at (703) 583-3816 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan Addendum submittal. The DEQ Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until September 24, 2009, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case: PC # 92-1134. Department of Environmental Quality, Remediation Division, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

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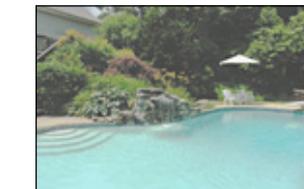
DATES IN 2009:	TIME:	From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.
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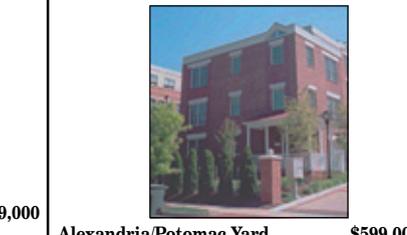
Lorton/Mason Neck **\$689,900**
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