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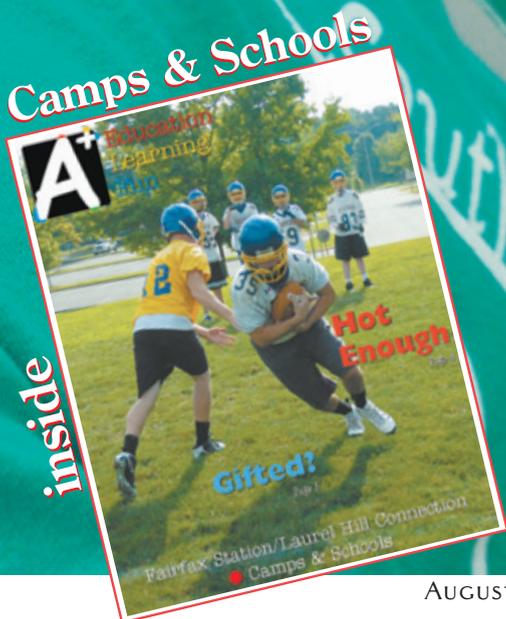
PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Emily Amon plays mellophone and Rebecca Burton plays the piccolo during a Tuesday, Aug. 18 rehearsal of the South County Marching Band.

All Together Now

CAMPS & SCHOOLS, PAGE 10

To the
Rescue
NEWS, PAGE 3



In Her
Memory
NEWS, PAGE 4

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Fairfax Station Charity with a 'HART'

Homeless Animal Rescue Team provides a no-kill animal rescue.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

In tough economic times, when jobs are lost and homes are foreclosed, animals often slip down the list of priorities. Many are displaced, some lose their owners, and many more simply do not receive the care they need. Fortunately, the Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART), a non-kill animal rescue and support group based in Fairfax Station, is there to fill the void.

HART, a non-profit, is comprised of volunteers who take in homeless dogs and cats and help them find new homes with loving owners. Utilizing relationships built over a number of years, HART is able to reach out to animal shelters across the state and even into Maryland to ensure that euthanasia is avoided when possible.

"We have the reputation of being the place of last resort," said HART's Nancy Tarr. "Many of our animals come from high-kill shelters, but we see the quality in lives and are willing to make an investment on it."



HART volunteer Eric Fargo with Jewel.

HART, incorporated in 1990, brings in animals from across the region and places them either in partner kennels or into foster homes, as HART lacks a central shelter. Tarr said that most of HART's dogs and cats come from Abingdon, where a local shelter with a 95 percent kill rate. There, a volunteer that compiles a weekly list of all the animals in the shelter and sends it to HART. Once HART receives the list, it advertises the animals in the area, and then when one is chosen by a potential owner, the animal

is transported to Fairfax County.

In addition to other shelters bringing them animals, HART also takes dogs and cats that owners simply cannot provide for any longer, which is quickly becoming a trend in the area. Charlene Bofinger, a member of HART's Board of Directors, said that since the economy took a turn for the worse, the number of owner abandonments has increased dramatically, and people are forced to make tough decisions about the allocation of finances.

"We have the reputation of being the place of last resort."

— Nancy Tarr, HART,
Board of Directors

"Given the economic times, rescue groups and shelters are getting a number of owner give-ups," Bofinger said. "We're getting a lot of calls from people losing their homes, and it's heartbreaking to know that people are not only losing their homes, but their animals, too."

Bofinger said that animal cruelty is responsible for a number of the dogs and animals being in HART's care, as well. Bofinger said that animal cruelty is quite common and she can offer many heartbreaking stories to illustrate her point. Bofinger said that HART recently received a pit bull that had been hung upside down from a tree and beaten by its owner when it showed a hesitancy to fight other pit bulls. In addition, HART was the rescue group that assumed control of all 46 dogs rescued from a puppy mill in Parkersburg last August.

ONCE THE animals are in HART's hands, they are vaccinated appropriate to age and undergo testing for heartworms, rabies and

SEE ANIMAL RESCUE, PAGE 7

Running for a Reason

South Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce to host first-ever 10K Life without Limits race.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes, one has to run to stay a step ahead of life's problems, and the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce has organized an event to do just that.

The chamber is sponsoring the Life without Limits 10K Run, Saturday, Sept. 12 to raise money for one of their newest members, United Cerebral Palsy of Washington and Northern Virginia (UCP). The event, which is first of its kind for the chamber, will take participants on a 6.2-mile journey through Lorton, starting and finishing at South County Secondary School.

"We are very excited for the race," said Dr. Audrey Pressensoto, a member of the chamber's board of directors and race plan-

ner. "We look for businesses or entities related to the chamber that we can support, and [UCP] is trying to establish visibility in the Lorton area."

The race was conceived by Suzanne Cissell, director of the area UCP, who was seeking an organization to sponsor a charity run. Cissell said that she was looking for a group that had the resources not only to provide one-time assistance to the UCP, but one with which the charity could form a long-term relationship. As luck would have it, the chamber happened to be looking for a charity to sponsor with a distance race at the same time.

"We kind of fell into each other's arms," said Cissell. "It was kind of meant to be. They were calling us asking to do a run, and we wanted to do a run."

"We kind of fell into each other's arms. It was kind of meant to be."

— Suzanne Cissell, UCP, director



Suzanne Cissell speaks to a group at an United Cerebral Palsy event.

Participants will be divided by gender and by age, with the overall top three male and female runners, and the first, second and third place runners in each 10-year age group receiving awards donated by local merchants and other race sponsors. According to Pressensoto, prizes will include gift certificates for \$125 running shoes from Newton Running, spa passes and more. Following the race, an awards ceremony will take place, complete with food, live music and appearances from local celebri-

ties, including the Redskins' cheerleaders, The Hogettes.

Cissell said the initial goal for the race will be to cover the race's expenses, and then raise an additional \$20,000. Cissell said that the money would go to raise money for a new center for post-high school aged men and women with cerebral palsy so that they can have a place to go, rather than depending on open rooms at local

SEE 10K RACE, PAGE 11

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 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, organizing 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



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.

(from chemo) Bag' with goodies, books on tape and soothing creams. Erin received 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 radia-

tion," 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

SEE IN SARAH'S, PAGE 18

Man Pleads Guilty To Child Abuse

A 32-year-old Lorton man is being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center pending his sentencing next month for child abuse and neglect causing serious injury. The victim was his infant son and, to protect the child's identity, The Connection is not revealing the identity of the father.

Fairfax County Police Det. Jeremy Hinson, with the Child Investigations Unit of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, explained the case against the suspect in a July 15 affidavit for a warrant to obtain the child's medical records from Inova Fairfax Hospital. The boy, who was 4-months old at the time, was treated there from

May 2-11.

Hinson was contacted May 5 by a Child Protective Services investigator and advised that the baby was admitted to the hospital, May 2, and underwent several tests which revealed evidence of child abuse.

According to the detective, a retinal scan detected blood and scarring behind the left eye; a CAT scan detected swelling of the brain; a spinal tap revealed red blood cells in the spinal fluid; an MRI found multiple, subdural hematomas in the cranium, as well as three ribs that were healing from previous fractures.

At the hospital, Hinson interviewed the father, who admitted to physically abusing his son.

Following an investigation, police arrested the father on May 8, charging him with child abuse and neglect causing seri-

ous injury. He appeared in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court on June 11 and, at that time, the case was certified to the grand jury.

The father was later indicted and, on July 20 in Circuit Court, he pleaded guilty. Judge Leslie Alden then set his sentencing for Sept. 18.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Canine Influenza 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

SEE NEWS, PAGE 5

FROM PAGE 4

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.

Child ID Kits Are Offered

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club of Central Fairfax, is offering Safe Assured identification kits to all Fairfax County residents. They'll be given out on Tuesday, Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Police Department, 3730 Old Lee Highway.

Parents will receive a full-color photo ID

and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information, and a family code word.

Private information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement. Missing posters can be created and printed directly from the mini-CD in English, Spanish and French. The Safe Assured ID kits are free; however, an appointment is necessary. Call Sgt. Pam Nevlud at 703-385-7966 for more information.

COLLEGE NOTES

Wootae Lee of Copperleaf Way in Fairfax Station was among those honored at Virginia Tech's fall Graduate Commencement ceremony on Dec. 15, 2008, in Cassell Coliseum on the Blacksburg campus. Lee received a master of information technology degree in information technology from the Graduate School.

Clifton resident **Olukemi O. Adegoroye** recently was awarded a National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarship. This award is supported by NMSC, which conducts the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Adegoroye is a student at The Madeira School in McLean and plans to study law in college.

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Getting To Know ...

Denise Miller, Fairfax County Chamber's new director of membership.

Number of years in the community. Born in Fairfax, raised in Leesburg.

Education. I graduated from Bridgewater College with a B.A. in Business

Your first job. Leasing consultant at Bellemeade Farms Apartment Community

Activities/interests/hobbies. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, participating in many outside activities, and volunteering with various charities.

Favorite local restaurants. Sweetwater Tavern

Community concerns. Lack of families receiving



DONATED PHOTO

Denise Miller

ing basic needs, due to the poor economy and lack of jobs.

Personal goals. To recruit new members and retain current membership base through engagement, assisting in making business connections, and adding value through the chamber resources.

What's the biggest challenge facing businesses right now? Lack of discretionary spending due to slow economy and people's concerns about their employment and financial stability.

What role can the Chamber play in meeting that challenge? Through the chamber's resources, we can promote new and existing business and make professional connections leading to future professional partnerships.

June Wedding for Vogel, Moberg

Eric Lawrence Vogel of Fairfax Station, the son of Dianne L. Vogel and the late Philip L. Vogel Jr., and Kathleen Marie Moberg of Yorktown, Va., the daughter of Stephen E. and Rebecca Moberg, were married on Saturday, June 27, at 5:30 p.m., at the James River Country Club in Newport News.

The wedding ceremony was performed outside on the beach of the James River with a dinner reception and dance immediately following inside the James River Country Club. Eric's sisters, Dana and Lindsey Vogel, were bridesmaids and Kathleen's sisters, Stephanie Moberg and Emily Block, were her maid and matron of honor.

Eric's best man was Daniel Choe, and his groomsmen were Robert Stump, cousin of the groom; Bryan Morrell, Paul Parkinson, Jeffrey Saferite, Dillon Bussert, Aaron Block, brother-in-law of the bride; and Stephen Anderson, cousin of the bride. Alexander Hail, cousin of the groom, was the ring bearer. Kathleen's other bridesmaids included Elizabeth Tatem, cousin of the bride; Monica Hutton, Anna Daughtry and Elaine Carpenter. Ava Christophel was the flower girl.

Eric is the grandson of the late Harold R. and Dorothy I. Mingirulli Sisson of Upper Marlboro, Md., and the late Philip L. and Theresa M. Mancini Vogel of Camp Springs, Md. Kathleen is the granddaughter of Robert Moberg and the late Shirley Moberg of Yorktown, Va; Roger and Mary Tatem of Newport News, Va; and, the great-granddaughter of Louisa McCormick of Williamsburg, Va.



Eric Lawrence Vogel and Kathleen Marie Moberg

Eric graduated from W. T. Woodson High School in 2002 and George Mason University in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in engineering, and he is a junior systems engineer at Science Applications International Corporation. Kathleen graduated from George Mason University in May 2009 with a bachelor of arts degree in English. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico and now resides in Fairfax.

Bryant, Filson Marry on Beach

The marriage of Sarah Marie Bryant of Fairfax Station, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bryant to Gregory Jerry Filson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Filson of Annapolis, Md. took place on May 2, at The Jubilee Mansion, Corolla, N.C. Pastor BJ Diamond officiated the beach wedding. The groom's uncle, Gilbert Guillen, provided acoustical guitar music for the ceremony. An outdoor poolside reception at the Jubilee Mansion overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Currituck Sound followed.

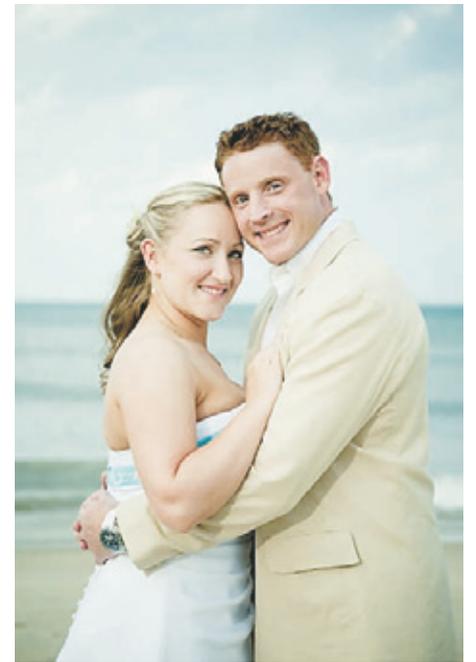
The bride is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nagrod of Clarksville, Tenn. and the late Mr. and Mrs. James Bryant of Clarksville, Tenn. The groom is the grandson of Mrs. Patricia Diamond and the late Bert Diamond of Crofton, Md. and Mrs. Barbara Filson and the late Robert Filson of El Segundo, Calif.

The bride's godmother, Mary Campbell of Phoenix, Ariz., and the groom's godmother, Diane Guillen of Temecula, Calif., gave the scripture readings. The bride's aunt, Mary Bryant, read a poem entitled "The Art of Marriage."

The bride's sister, Shelane Gaydos of Fairfax, served as the maid of honor. Danielle Winkler, Sara Guillen, Kristen Olsen, Lisa Barikian and Jennifer Thomas served as bridesmaids. The bride's daughter, Emma Marie Filson and niece, Nadia Gaydos, served as flower girls.

The groom's father, Gary Filson, served as best man. Shawn Bryant, Johnny Poss, Scott McKee, Jeremy Clark and Joey Weigle served as groomsmen. The groom's nephew, Trey Winkler, served as ring bearer.

The bride is a graduate of W.T. Woodson High School and received her B.A. in art and visual technology from George Mason University in 2006. The groom is a graduate of DeMatha Catholic High School, Hyattsville, Md. and received his B.A. in communications from George Mason University in 2005. After their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Rockville, Md.



Sarah Marie Bryant and Gregory Jerry Filson

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

The project was funded by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and supported

by the Lorton Resource Center Youth Activities Group, Mason Neck Lions Club, Williamsburg Square HOA, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

PEOPLE NOTES

Dr. Audrey Prestonsoto, president of Leadership Compass, LLC and a board of director for the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce was selected by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce to attend the Business LEADs Institute, the June 1-3 seminar in Washington, D.C. Prestonsoto, who was elected for her community leadership, joined 32 other business leaders from around the nation to learn how the business community can utilize its assets to drive positive transformation in communities across America in education and workforce training.

Animal Rescue

FROM PAGE 3

other diseases. Once the tests come back negative, the animal is spayed or neutered. If the animal is injured, the proper care is given, whether it is surgery or medication. Tarr said that if the animal is not spayed or neutered when the owner picks it up, the owner receives a certificate to get the operation done at a local veterinarian.

As rigid as the process is for the animals upon their arrival to HART, the selection of owners is even more so. Tarr said that HART takes the utmost care in selecting owners to ensure that the animal will be going into the best possible situation. Each applicant is interviewed twice, and upon successful completion of the two interviews, a home visit is made to check on the living conditions. Once the individual is deemed a good fit, then the animal is released.

"We try to get [the animals] into our system as soon as possible, so that they can find a home," said Tarr. "But we are looking for the best fit, not the first fit."

According to HART's 2008 Annual Report, the group rescued more than 2,000 animals last year and have their sights set on topping that number this year. HART conducts adoption events every Saturday at Petco stores in Chantilly and Burke, where people can choose dogs and start the application process. HART offers another event each Wednesday at the Austin Grille in Centreville, where the dogs are brought to the restaurant's patio and interact with potential owners.

Though the group receives help from the United Way and donations from the community, the 100-plus volunteers at HART still have their work cut out for them. However, the stories they hear from new owners provide more than enough inspiration to keep the fight going.

"The glowing stories about how the dog or cat changed the owner's life are what keep us going," said Bofinger. "In addition to helping animals, we're helping people, too."



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PEOPLE

Records Shattered

James Pope lifts a combined total of 1,545.5 pounds for four world records.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The thought of lifting 400 pounds might make some 50-year-olds' knees tremble, but for one Fairfax County sheriff's deputy, it led to four world records at the World Police and Fire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, earlier this month.

"Some people collect stamps at my age," said Master Deputy James Pope, a Bluemont resident who currently works at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center and has worked in the Sheriff's office for 20 years. "I prefer to lift weights."

On Aug. 5, Pope, 50, competed in the age 50-54 super heavyweight (weight over 275 pounds) category. He shattered the bench-pressing record with a lift of 418 pounds. The previous record was 352 pounds.

Three days later, Pope earned a gold medal in the push and pull competition with a bench press of 423.5 pounds and a dead lift of 705 pounds for a combined total of 1,127.5 pounds. All three were world records for his age group.

"That's just impressive," said Bruce Blechl, a lieutenant in the Fairfax

County Police Department and advocate for the World Police and Fire Games. "He's earned medals before, but getting records is even better."

Pope's records even earned him praise from the Fairfax County Sheriff.

"We are very proud of Jim and his accomplishments," said Sheriff Stan Barry in a statement. "His athletic excellence epitomizes the spirit of the games."

Pope has been power lifting competitively since 1988. He participated in the 2007 World Police & Fire Games and earned a gold medal in the push and pull contest and silver medal in the bench press.

He said that he had never heard of the games, until a request to research the games piqued his interest.

"Four years ago, Fairfax County put in a bid to host the games," Pope said. "The lieutenant in charge asked me to look [into the games] and I got interested in competing."

Pope said that he trained two days a week with a 3 1/2-hour cardiovascular workout.

While competition is the focus, the games' intent isn't just to prove whose safety department is the best in a variety of sports. They also help develop relationships with other public safety officers from abroad.



FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Master Deputy James Pope, 50, broke four world records at the World Police and Fire Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, earlier this month.

"I competed against departments from 55 countries," Pope said. "Most of the guys I competed against in Canada I saw from the 2007 games in Australia. It's just one big family there."

Pope's recent success also is helping to promote the World Police and Fire Games locally. The biannual games are coming to Fairfax County in 2015, marking the games' 30th anniversary.

Blechl said he thought Fairfax would be a great host when he competed in the 1991 games in Sweden.

"I met the captain of the Fairfax Fire Department in Sweden when I was competing," he said. "We both thought, wouldn't it be great to bring the games here?"

AFTER NUMEROUS failed bids to bring the games to Fairfax in past years, the selection committee selected Fairfax over Winnipeg and Toronto for 2015.

Blechl said that the organizers of the games cited Fairfax's accessibility, cost effectiveness and law enforcement memorials in the surrounding area as determining factors.

"I think they saw the passion and excitement we could bring to the games," said Sarah LaRose, director of communications for Fairfax County's tourism Web site. "The games started in the United States, so it's natural they wanted to celebrate the anniversary here."

With the 2015 games looming, Pope said he hopes that he'll be around to enjoy the fanfare and competition.

"I'm just trying to keep my foot out of the grave," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be around for the 2015 games."

"Some people collect stamps at my age. ... I prefer to lift weights."

— Master Deputy James Pope

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Pretty Boy Floyd and TBA. 8 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. 21+. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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.

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.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center behind the Sunoco Gas Station.

Jaxx Midnight Madness. 10:30 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. 21+. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Strange Safaris: Road Edge Habitats. Join a naturalist team from 10-11 a.m., at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield, to visit leaves and grass along roadsides, piles of detritus along streets and weeds growing in sidewalk cracks. This activity is

perfect for budding scientists ages 6-8. The cost is \$4 per person. To make a reservation, call 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/AUG. 22

Apex Booking and Outerloop Present: The Ultimate Battle - 25 Bands Needed! 12:15 p.m. at Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. 21+. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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. 703-569-0285.

Park Manager Walk and Talk. Join the park manager for his monthly walk from 5-7 p.m. Meet at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. This nature walk for adults is free. To reserve, call 703-768-2525.

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



PHOTO BY GINA J. URICOLA/THE CONNECTION

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

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.

Exercise Paddle Adventure. 4:30 p.m.-sunset at Pohick Bay Regional Park, 6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton. Paddle trip with interval training and endurance. General good health required. Must be 18 or older. Kayak experience necessary. Call 703-339-6104 for reservations (required), directions and other information. Cost: \$30 per person or group rate.

The Lions Club Flea Market. 8 a.m.-

4 p.m., at the VRE Parking Lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive/5701 Backlick Road, Springfield VA. Free. Vendors \$15. 703-960-6739.

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.

The Randy Thompson Band featuring Clifton's Colin Thompson on slide guitar, Dwayne Nitz on drums, Matt Booth on bass and Rickie Simpkins on fiddle 8-12 p.m., at the Heart in Hand restaurant,

7145 Main St., Clifton. \$10 at the door/\$8 in advance at The Clifton Cafe. www.randythompson.net.
An Afternoon of Music featuring Holly Allen and Downrange. 3-5 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. 703-584-2927

SUNDAY/AUG. 23

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lorton VRE Station Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton.

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS



Clarinet players Emily Swope, Ciara Watson and Deborah Blakemore share a laugh.



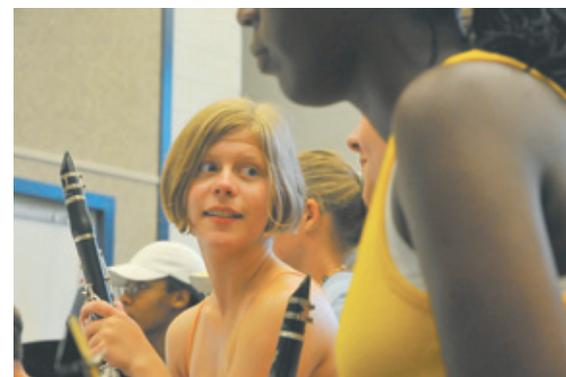
The tuba players rehearse.

Band Campers

South County Band preps for performance season.



Band director Alan Johnson leads the South County Marching Band through a preseason rehearsal Tuesday, Aug. 18.



Emily Swope during a pause in rehearsal.

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The drum line starts a marching drill in the parking lot at South County.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

10K Race

FROM PAGE 3

community centers. Cissell said that when these men and women were in high school, due to Virginia's exceptional special education programs, they were treated normally. However, when they graduate, Cissell said, they are relegated back to their homes because they have no place to go.

"These are middle class families with children with cerebral palsy who have graduated high school and want independence and want their lives back," Cissell said. "They just want a place to go."

Though economic conditions have slowed donations to the UCP recently, both the chamber and Cissell are optimistic that this event may not just be a success this year, but that it may become a community tradition that carries on for years.

More

Runners can register to participate in the Sept. 12 Life Without Limits 10K Run online at www.SouthFairfaxChamber.org/10KRun, or register in person on race day beginning 6:30 am at South County Secondary School. Registration fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 on race day.



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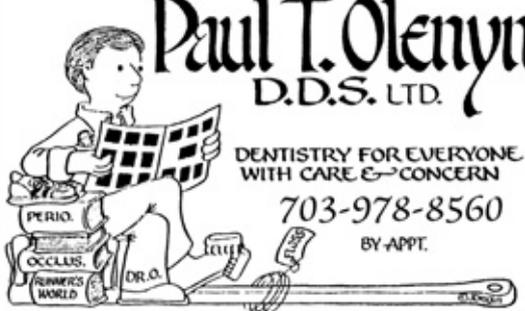
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The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.
—William James



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Parker Competes Along with Olympians

Lorton native sets sights on 2012 Olympic Games in London

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

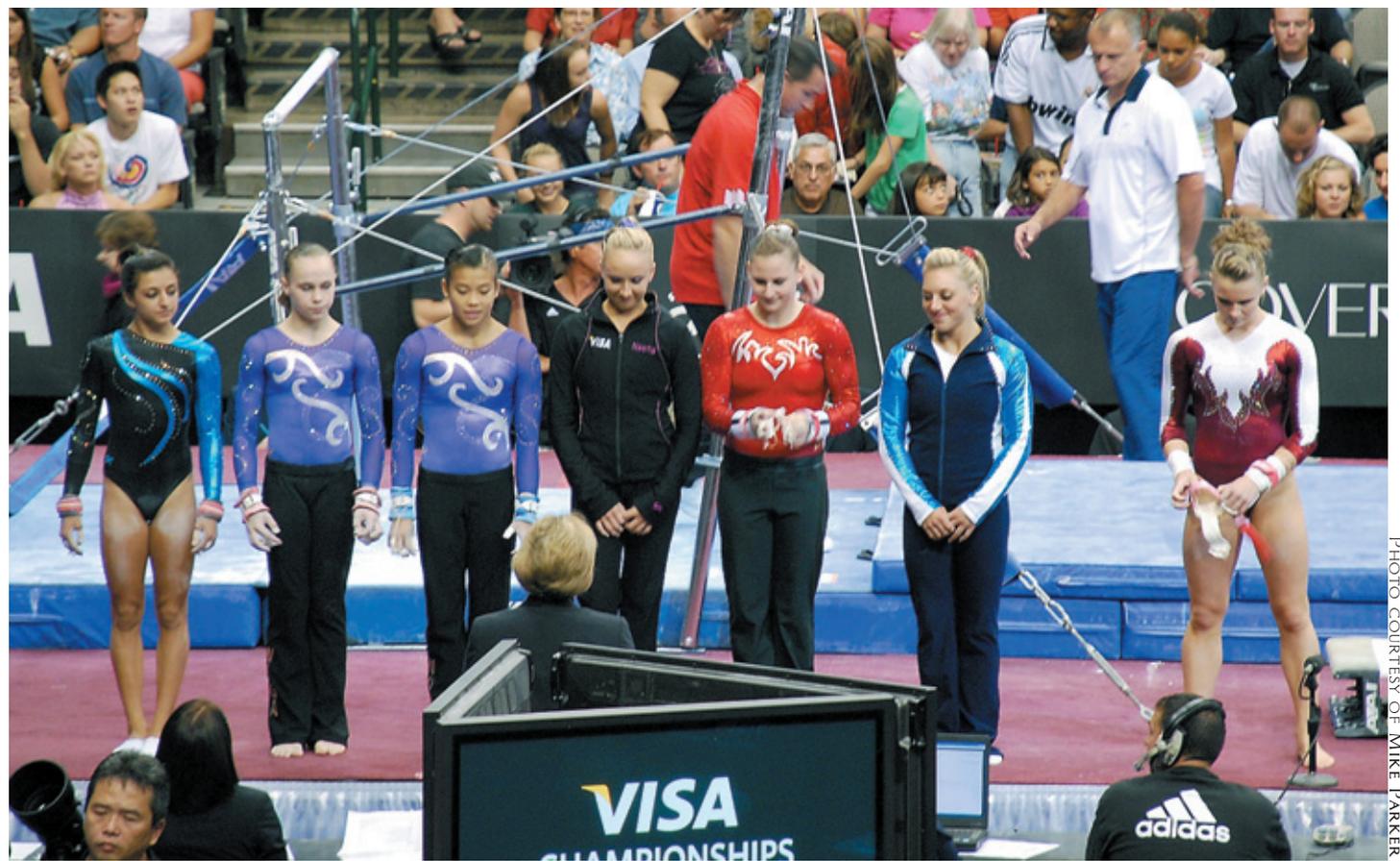
Focusing on her floor exercise routine, Brooke Parker knows that just one fall could ruin her chances at making the U.S. Women's gymnastics team.

She tries to calm her nerves, ignore the NCAA scouts who are watching and block out the fact that 2008 Olympic gold medalist Nastia Liukin is among her competitors. The roaring crowd and television cameras don't faze her.

"I really enjoy performing in front of the crowd," she said. "It's like they are cheering for me. It's encouraging."

Parker, a resident of Lorton, competed against members of the 2008 U.S. Women's gymnastics team at the Visa Championships in Dallas, Texas on Aug. 13 and 15.

"It's really exciting to be on the same mats as them," the 15-year-old gymnast said. "It's nice to know I'm on the



Brooke Parker, far left, competed against 2008 Olympians such as gold medalist Nastia Liukin, center, and other members of the 2008 Olympic gymnastics team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PARKER

"It's nice to know I'm on the same level as them"

— Brooke Parker

same level."

Her goal: Qualify for the national team with a score above 54.00 in a single round and take a spot in the top 10 against 19 other girls. It's a

challenge considering her competitors share the same dream she does, competing at the

2012 Olympic Games in London.

"If I can make the national team, then I go to the Olympic trials," she said.

Unfortunately, a fall on the balance beam at Thursday's preliminary put her just un-

der the 54.00 mark, hampering her national team goal this year.

"A fall is an automatic one point deduction," she said. "I just have to collect myself and train harder."

Parker improved her score on Aug. 15 with a 54.500, but finished 13th overall with a combined total of 107.950, missing the national team cut by only 1.45 points.

"It was my best meet this season," she said. "I learned to believe in myself, but it's intense against the top gymnasts. I'll try to add more difficulty to my routines."

Though Parker's ultimate goal is to compete in the Olympics, her gymnastics career started because of her interest in other sports.

"We wanted to have her train for other sports," said Mike Parker, Brooke's father. "Gymnastics teaches flexibility and endurance, but she just fell in love with gymnastics."

Brooke Parker said that the difficulty of the maneuvers a gymnast can execute drew

SEE PURSUING, PAGE 18

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. jurisdiction.

"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



Gary Debrielle

POLICE PHOTO

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.

OPINION

Public Options

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.mncppc.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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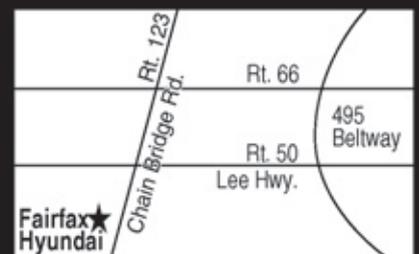


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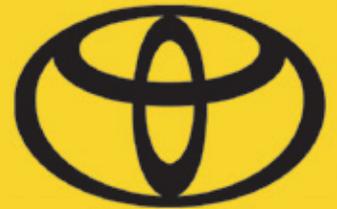


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In Sarah's Memory

FROM PAGE 4

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." 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 corpo-

rate 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."

Pursuing Olympic Dream

FROM PAGE 12

her to the sport. "The feeling of flipping around was really cool," she said. "It feels impossible, but you can do it. Everyday, I liked it more and more."

Her gymnastics skills came from hard work and training, but she credits some of her success to her family's athletic background.

Her mother, Nora Parker, was a soccer player at California State University in Long Beach, Calif., and her father is a retired Marine Corps major. She isn't the only gymnast in the family, her brother Jayce, 17, is a retired world-class tumbler.

Outside of the gym, Parker is a junior at South County Secondary School in Lorton, but her life as an elite gymnast has made her anything but an average teenager.

Her training schedule during the school year leaves little room for personal time and

studies. She attends class from 7 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., and then heads straight to the gym for a five-hour practice session.

"It's hard [being an elite gymnast]," she said. "I don't get a lot of time for friends or homework."

Mike Parker said Brooke's experience as a military brat prepared her for the rigorous schedule. "[She] comes from a military family so she's used to structure in her life," he said. "We do a lot together as a family on the weekends."

Even though Brooke Parker didn't qualify for the national team this year, it doesn't mean the dream is over. She'll enjoy a well-deserved two-week vacation and then return to her home gym, Capital Gymnastics National Training Center in Burke, to continue training.

"We'll start training for next season," Mike Parker said. "She may get invited to train at the national camp next fall."

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Haven of NOVA Volunteer Training.

Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Haven, an all Volunteer bereavement support organization, will be offering Volunteer training. The training will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for two weeks. call 703-941-7000. Visit www.havenofnova.org.

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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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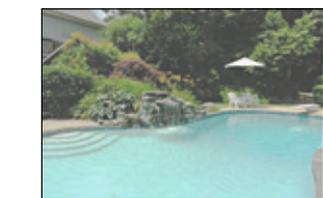
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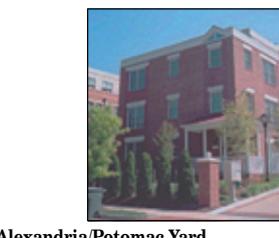
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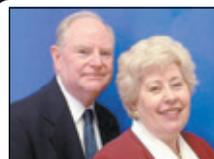
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