

Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill
CONNECTION

Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

Ready To Swap

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**Christine Morin
speaks at the
South County
Middle School land
swap public hear-
ing Wednesday,
Sept. 23.**

**Insuring Those
With Autism**

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**Clifton Day
Comes to Town**

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Get Ready for Clifton Day

Forty-third annual festival comes to Clifton on Sunday, Oct. 11.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Food, crafts vendors and demonstrations, Civil War re-enactors, children's activities, live music, a petting zoo, Irish dancers and pony rides — all this and more are part of the 43rd annual Clifton Day festival. Taking place throughout the Town of Clifton, it's slated for Sunday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Rain date is Oct. 18. Admission is free; parking, \$5/car.

"It's in a nice, rural setting and is a real family event," said Clifton Day Chairman Fred Ansick. "There's a little something for everyone."

The Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) puts on the event and shares the proceeds with all the town's nonprofit organizations, including the Clifton Lions Club, Girl and Boy Scouts, Clifton Presbyterian Church, Clifton Gentleman's Club, Clifton Woman's Club, the CBA and the Acacia Lodge. "It's the largest fund raiser for all the nonprofits in Clifton," said

Ansick.

Attendees may come via the Virginia Railway Express train or park in one of the five lots, located at Clifton Elementary, the floodplain, Kincheloe Road, Newman Road and Chapel Road at Frosty Meadows. Shuttles will be available to and from the latter two lots. For more information, see www.cliftonday.com.

More than 200 vendors will be selling a variety of items, such as jewelry, candles, plant hangars, glasswork, children's clothing, baskets, ceramics, wood-working products, furniture, mixed media, needlework, quilts, sculpture, metalwork, seasonal decorations and holiday items, sports memorabilia, toys, stained glass, and watercolor and oil paintings.

Artisans will also demonstrate how to carve wood, spin wool, weave, create pottery and silhouettes and make walking sticks, baskets and candles. They'll be in the area of Ayre Square.

Antiques vendors will be behind the Heart in Hand restaurant and in front of the fire station on Chapel Road. "Some of them have been coming here for 20 years," said Ansick. In addition, a flea market will be in the post office area on Chapel Road.

Civil War re-enactors Tony Meadows and the 49th Virginia Infantry will be encamped in the yard across

"It's in a nice, rural setting and is a real family event."

— Fred Ansick,
Clifton Day chairman

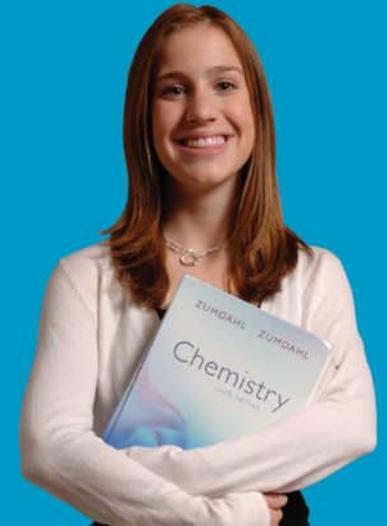
SEE CLIFTON DAY, PAGE 4



FILE PHOTO

Banjo player Jim Haner of Williamsport, Pa. performs during last year's Clifton Day.

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Families Fight for Insurance

Parents of autistic children join forces to fight for better insurance coverage.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

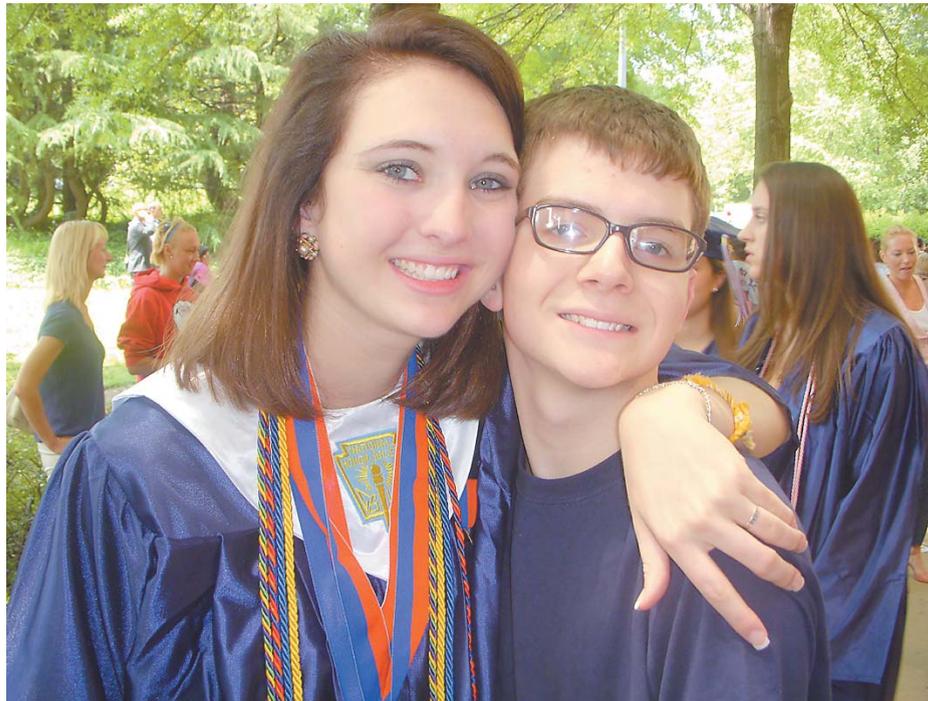
Donna Shank sees the unfairness in insurance coverage every day, looking at her sons Ryan, 7, and Daniel 12.

When Daniel was diagnosed with leukemia in 2006, he was treated by doctors for his illness without question, with all his medical needs met and covered by his family's medical insurance. Now in remission, he's a testament to the good health care available in Northern Virginia.

Ryan, however, isn't quite as fortunate. It seems autism isn't as worthy of quality medical care, paid for by insurance, as cancer.

Shank first became concerned about Ryan's development when he was roughly 16 months old. Like most parents, she said she expected him to meet certain developmental milestones at the same time as his older brother.

"I could whisper behind him or call him quietly from another room, as a way of 'testing' his hearing, and he'd respond," she said. "Other times, a loud bang such as some-



DONATED PHOTO

Sydney Quigley poses with her brother James Quigley on her graduation day. James has autism and his mother, Teresa Champion, is among those fighting to secure better insurance coverage those with autism.

thing falling or someone whistling, whereas it would startle everyone else, Ryan would be unreactive."

An initial hearing test was unresponsive due to his young age — patients need to be cognizant of responding with a certain behavioral reaction — and a second, more advanced test determined he had excellent

hearing.

Ryan was officially diagnosed when he was 33 months old; more than a year after Shank was first concerned.

"We lost more time than should have been necessary while we underwent the hearing tests and the lengthy wait lists to be seen by a provider," she said, as waiting lists for

More

The first Autism Summit is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria. More information is available at <http://vapnova.org/>. For more information on the JLARC study on autism coverage is available at <http://jlarc.state.va.us/reports/Rpt388.pdf> and <http://jlarc.state.va.us/meetings/June09/autismbrf.pdf>.

providers were often four months or longer and her own doctors and pediatricians were not able to provide any recommendations for specialists.

Autism is considered a spectrum disorder; those afflicted by it have any number of symptoms ranging from mild to severe. With these shades of complexity comes a surprising new trouble: fighting with insurance providers to have these therapies and treatments covered under existing policies, as not all therapies or treatments are effective with all people on the autism spectrum.

THAT DISPARITY is the crux of the issue of obtaining coverage for children with autism, said Nathalie Molliet-Ribet, chief legislative analyst for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission in Richmond. She was part of a team that recently conducted a study of the services available to families with autistic children and com

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 14

South County Land-Swap Process Inches Along

Hearing addresses proposed land swap between Park Authority, school system.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Another step was taken Wednesday, Sept. 23 toward the completion of the land swap between the Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Public Schools so that long-awaited construction can begin on the new South County Middle School.

The Park Authority conducted its final public hearing in the land exchange process at the Herrity Building, giving the public one more chance to voice its opinion on the proposed land swap.

"It is a solution to end the overcrowding at South County Secondary School," said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) in a written statement read by Senior Staff Aide Christine Morin. "The Park Authority is in a unique position to help us realize this goal."

The discussion of a land swap arose in early 2008, when the South County Middle

School Solutions Group presented the idea to the Board of Supervisors. Though the original plan has been altered, the main details of the plan remain the same. The swap calls for FCPS to swap a 40-acre vacant parcel of land off Laurel Crest Drive for a 40-acre parcel of land within Laurel Hill Park owned by the Park Authority.

After the swap, FCPS would use the park's land to build the middle school adjacent to South County Secondary, where they can share recreational and educational facilities. Before construction could begin, however, FCPS would have to demolish 12 dilapidated buildings from the former Nike Missile Site, which used to be housed on the property. The Park Authority would use their acquired land, most likely, to build athletic fields.

Park Authority Project Manager Michael Lambert said at the meeting that both sides stand to gain from the swap. While the swap would give FCPS the land and move it closer to the proposed winter 2010

groundbreaking, Lambert said that the Park Authority would see several benefits, mostly of a financial nature. Lambert said that by swapping the land, the Park Authority avoids the cost of having to tear down the

12 Nike Administrative buildings and would save money by having a shared entrance to the property off of Laurel Crest Drive.

"We will see substantial cost savings from having the shared entrance off of Laurel Crest Drive and 118 shared parking spaces," Lambert said. "The new park parcel also has greater developable area for fields."

IN ADDITION to reading Hyland's statement, Morin also testified on behalf of the South County Middle School Solutions Group to voice the group's support of the swap and to thank the Park Authority for its efforts in bringing it to fruition. Morin

also noted that the swap has the community's support and asked that the Park Authority to be cautious in its subsequent planning process once the swap is completed.

"There is a shared vision for this community and [the Park Authority] has actively listened and responded."

— Christine Morin, South County Middle School Solutions

"We ask that you be judicious during the planning process," Morin said. "There is a shared vision for this community and you have actively listened and responded."

The Park Authority's planning process that Morin mentioned still lies ahead and figures to be the most contentious phase in the process, accounting for the low attendance of the meeting. While, as Morin said, most of the community supports the swap itself, many of those same supporters are concerned about the athletic fields that the Park Authority is proposing for their new

SEE LORTON, PAGE 5

Hispanics Match Asians as Largest Minority in FCPS

The Hispanic student population could be poised to take over as the largest ethnic minority community in Fairfax County Public Schools if enrollment trends continue on the same trajectory as seen in recent years.

The school system bases its official population count each year on the number of students enrolled at the end of September. For the past 23 years, Asian students have emerged as the largest ethnic minority in Fairfax schools.

Last fall, Hispanic students made up about 18.1 percent of Fairfax's 168,782 pupils, coming very close to the number of Asian students, about 18.5 percent of the schools' population.

White students are the largest racial group in Fairfax schools overall, about 46.2 percent of the population in 2008. Black students were about 10.5 percent of the school system during the 2008-2009 school year.

Other ethnic categories that the government tracks but include "Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders" and "American Indian/Alaskan." Students cannot be counted as being in more than one ethnic category, though there are "undesignated" or "multiracial" options.

In 1986, Asian students, then nine percent of the countywide student body, first surpassed black students, who were 8.7 percent of the student body, as the largest ethnic or racial minority group in the school system.

But the number of Hispanic students has been growing faster than the number of Asian students since at least 1991.

Annual growth in the Asian student population reached a high point in 1999 and 2000, when the number of Asian pupils in Fairfax grew 6.5 percent for two consecutive school years.

In some years, the number of Hispanic students has grown at nearly double that rate. The largest jump came between 1999 and 2000, when the percentage of Hispanic students enrolled in Fairfax schools increased 12.8 percent between the annual student counts.

Ten years ago, Asian students made up 10.4 percent of Fairfax's total student population and Hispanic students made up 4.8 percent of Fairfax's total student population.

According to the U.S. Census, the Asian population is still the largest ethnic minority in Fairfax County as a whole, with about 160,560 people, or 17.5 percent of the locality's population in 2008. About 14.1 percent of Fairfax's total population was Hispanic the same year.

Fairfax has a rather large Asian population when compared to the rest of the United States, where people who are Asian made up about 5 percent of the total population in 2008.

Fairfax's Hispanic community is slightly smaller than the country's as a whole. In the United States, 15.4 percent of the population is Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Clifton Day Returns Oct. 11

FROM PAGE 2

from the Clifton Town Meeting Hall on Chapel Road. The Blue Star Mothers of America, a nonprofit group in support of those currently serving in the military, will have an information table near the Acacia Lodge. It's a nationwide group seeking new members to start a branch in Northern Virginia.

The Clifton Lions Club will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers near the Heart in Hand. The Hungry Mouth Café, run by the Clifton Gentlemen's Club, will serve red beans and rice at Chapel Road and Main Street. The Clifton Presbyterian Church will offer a crab-cake dinner and the Baja Fresh will offer fish tacos on Chapel Road. The Boy Scouts will serve apple cider, lemon sticks and baked goods on Main Street and Chapel Road, and Cub Scouts will be selling cotton candy and beverages in the gazebo in the park.

Colonial Kettle Corn will be available at the corner of Pendleton Street and Chapel Road, and two vendors, one at each end of Main Street, will be selling funnel-cakes. Peterson's Ice Cream will be open for business, as will the town shops and restaurants, and the Acacia Lodge will also serve food.

A plethora of children's activities will be offered in the town park, off Chapel Street. A petting zoo will feature a pony, sheep, rabbits and other farm animals. Children can enjoy free face-painting, moonbounces from Jumpworks, a woman riding a unicycle and a children's storyteller. The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Academy will give pony rides in front of the barn behind the Acacia Lodge.

Also on tap is a full slate of live entertainment on the main stage on Chapel Road. Performing will be the Irish Dancers; the Barbara Sheppard Dance Acad-

emy; Fused-Local, a rock band comprised of children 12 and under; Wayward Street Players, a string band; City Dwelling Nature-Seekers, playing acoustic rock; and headlining will be the Colin Thompson Band, performing rock and blues music.

Adding to the festivities, the Banjo Man will stroll through the streets, entertaining the crowd. "He comes from central Pennsylvania and did a great job for us last year, so we pulled him back," said Ansick.

Also during Clifton Day, the Acacia Lodge, in conjunction with the Appalachian Bowhunters Association, will host a display of mounted, local and North American animals such as white-tailed deer, bobcats, bears, foxes, geese and waterfowl. Donations will be accepted at the door toward the renovation of the lodge's building. The Virginia game warden will be there, and Fairfax County's biologist will answer questions.

For years, Ansick worked the festival parking at Clifton Elementary. Then, he said, "The mayor [Tom Peterson] asked me to take over the whole show, three years ago, and I've been doing it ever since." What makes him continue, said Ansick, is "the pleasure of serving the community. It benefits the nonprofits, the local businesses get new customers and it's also a way to advertise our town."

The event's main sponsors are Ourisman Toyota, Wetland Studios and Solutions, ING and Rulyscapes, and Ansick appreciates their help, plus all the time and effort put in by the Clifton Day volunteers. He's also proud of what the festival provides.

"We try to offer a variety of activities to interest all ages," he said. "It's the best day in Clifton because it's full of smiles and good times. It's a true, community event in which all the local residents participate, in one way or the other."

Northern Virginian Commuters Ride More Transit

Northern Virginians chose to ride transit significantly more in 2008 than in 2007, according to a recent study American Public Transit Association.

In the Washington D.C. region, the number of trips made on transit systems, including bus and commuter rail services, increased three percent from 2007 to 2008. Across Virginia, transit ridership increased four percent during the same time period.

But in Northern Virginia, the increase in transit trips from 2007 to 2008 was greater than overall figures for the region and commonwealth.

According to the study, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) system saw an 8.93 percent increase in the number of trips made. There were approximately

3.5 million VRE trips in 2007 and 3.8 million VRE trips in 2008.

Use of the Fairfax County bus system jumped by 12.64 percent, from 8.4 million trips in 2007 to 9.4 million in 2008.

Arlington Transit saw the largest increase in trips on its bus system, according to the study. The Arlington buses went from 1.1 million trips in 2007 to 1.4 million trips the next year, a jump of 24.11 percent from year to year.

The Alexandria Transit Company increased the number of trips its patrons took from 3.9 million in

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 5

MAKE A BREAK FOR IT



INTRODUCING NEW SERVICE FROM LYNCHBURG TO THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

Whether you need a break from traffic, or just plain need a break, let Amtrak® Virginia do the driving for you. Starting October 1st, a new train will originate from Lynchburg for the first time. This daily roundtrip will be

available for **Lynchburg-DC-NY-Boston** and more. And now couldn't be a better time to try it because we're giving you a break on the price. Go to amtrakvirginia.com/HotDeals for special offers and pricing.



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Lorton Land Swap

FROM PAGE 3

parcel of land.

The bulk of the concern about the installation of the athletic fields comes from the residents of the neighborhood that borders the north end of the land that the Park Authority would receive. They feel that the lights that are proposed for the field would lead to several problems, including light and noise pollution, foot traffic and the loss of property value.

Terry Weimer, a resident of the adjacent neighborhood and meeting attendee, said that he is concerned that the lights would not only illuminate his house, but also that games at the fields would last until 9 p.m. or 10 p.m., creating noise that would keep him and his neighbors awake. Also, Weimer said that with new fields, more people would probably park their cars in his neighborhood and walk between their homes to reach the fields. All of these issues, he said, would have a negative impact on the value of his home.

"These aren't the things I intended to be behind my house when I paid a lot of money for it three years ago," Weimer said.

Currently, the land swap proposal is awaiting approval by the General Services Administration, and the Authority has deferred decision on the matter until then. If the Park Authority ultimately approves the swap, the exchange of land deeds can take place in December, and their master park planning process will follow.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

2007 to 4.1 million in 2008, an increase of 4.63 percent.

The City of Fairfax bus system saw the smallest increase, going from 1.06 million trips in 2007 to 1.08 million in 2009, an increase of 1.49 percent.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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 And at our Fair Oaks Location - Sat., 1 - 6 p.m. & Sun., 12 - 4 p.m.
POTOMAC ROSE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL ROSE SHOW

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New Fall hours begin Oct. 1: Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sunday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
www.MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

How would you like state of the art LASER dentistry without drills or needles?

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This new Waterlase® is a breakthrough in comfortable dentistry. The laser sprays a computer-controlled spray of air, water and laser energy at the decay in the tooth. The laser energy is absorbed by the water and the energized microscopic water droplets are what actually remove the tooth decay. Rarely is a shot necessary to numb the patient. Since no heat is generated from the laser the Waterlase® is very safe to use on everyone.

What are the benefits of Waterlase® dentistry?

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Heat, vibration and pressure are the primary causes of pain associated with the use of the traditional dental drill. Since cutting both hard and soft tissues (teeth and gums) with the Waterlase® does not generate heat, vibration or pressure, many dental procedures can be performed with fewer shots, less need for anesthesia, less use of the drill and fewer numb lips!

The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

■ Great for Teenagers

The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But **KNOWING** you're getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can't feel the needle--especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become **afraid of the dentist**, so they don't grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

By incorporating laser technology into our dental practice, we are changing dentistry. It is no longer yesterday's world of painful shots, large silver mercury fillings, and fearful patients. Lasers have improved the lives of patients and their dentists.

Technology is something that makes life better. Better in this case is better clinical results, improved patient comfort, less use of anesthesia and antibiotics.

We are proud to be one of the first dentists in Fairfax County to offer this revolutionary technology. Since August 2003, Dr. Fox has completed over 3,000 laser fillings with no needle/no pain/no numbness. If you've been putting off going to the dentist because you were nervous about the drill and needle, you don't have to put it off any longer!

For more information about our dental practice please visit our website at **www.larryfoxdds.com**



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Farmers Markets Still Open

There might be a chill in the air, but local farmers markets will be open well through October, with many open well into November and beyond, with markets in Alexandria and Leesburg open year round.

Farmers markets are a wonderful source of locally grown and produced items, including fruits and vegetables of many kinds, greens, apples, pumpkins, chrysanthemums, meat, dairy products, flowers, eggs, honey, baked goods, and more. The markets are colorful and friendly, and often also offer live music. Many markets include experts on gardening, landscaping and cooking. Recipes and tips for cooking with local produce are available.

But many farmers markets report a drop in customers after Labor Day.

Buying from local markets promotes local, sustainable and organic agriculture, and the local economy. Buying food grown close to home helps the environment and helps reduce global warming by saving the energy used to transport the produce.

Taking children to the farmers market to help pick out their fruits and vegetables can help expand their horizons on healthy foods.

One more way to support local businesses and the economy.

In Fairfax County, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm>
Mount Vernon Farmers Market, Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through Nov. 24, Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane
Fairfax Farmers Market, Tuesdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through Oct. 27, Van Dyck Park on Old Lee Highway
Vienna/Oakton Farmers Market, Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through Nov. 18, Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road
Frying Pan Farmers Market, Herndon, Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., through Oct. 28, Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, in front of Frying Pan Country Store
Wakefield Farmers Market, Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m., through Oct. 28, Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale.
Herndon Farmers Market, Thursdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through Oct. 29, Old Town Herndon, 777 Lynn St., next to the Red Caboose
McLean Farmers Market, Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., through Nov. 20, Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road in McLean
Kingstowne Farmers Market, Fridays, 4-7 p.m., through Oct. 30, Kingstowne Town Center near the Sunoco Gas Station.
Burke Farmers Market, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through Oct. 31, in the Virginia Railway Express Parking Lot at 5671 Roberts Parkway
Reston Farmers Market, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.,

through Oct. 31, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston
Lorton Farmers Market, Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., through Oct. 25, Lorton VRE Station Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton.

In Alexandria, see <http://alexandriava.gov/FarmersMarket>
The Old Town Farmers Market in Alexandria is open year round, Saturdays, 5-10:30 a.m., at Market Square, 301 King St., with free parking in the Market Square garage during the hours of the Farmers' Market.
Del Ray Farmers' Market, Corner of East Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., through the first Saturday in December
Upper King Street Fresh Farmers' Market, King Street Gardens Park, 1806 King St., every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m., through Oct. 29
West End Farmers' Market, Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive, Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. through October.

In Fairfax City, see www.fairfaxva.gov/farmermarket.htm
Downtown Fairfax Coalition Community Market, the corner of West and Main streets, Fairfax, Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., through October. 703-430-6164.
Sunday Farmers Market in Fairfax, corner of Old Lee Highway and North Street, in the George Mason Square lot, Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., through October. 703-430-6164.

LOCAL MARKETS

How Ignorant?

To the Editor:

I am frankly baffled at the notion advanced in the latest radio and TV ads from the Creigh Deeds (D) campaign. Bob McDonnell (R) throwing us to the Dark Ages? I wonder, how ignorant does Mr. Deeds think women in Northern Virginia are?

Following the train of thought of many of your female readers, women have evolved into competitive individuals independent of their place of work, be it the home or the corporate office. I'm insulted by the assumption that as an opposition candidate Deeds can throw out there the existence of an academic paper to not only erase a man's record but that he should overlook a fundamental aspect of his persona that negates any of the negative assertions about social issues claimed in the ad. I'm referring to not only being married to a working woman but having raised three amazing girls, one of which is an Iraqi War veteran and all three who are independent hard working, well-grounded individuals.

Bob McDonnell is not a newcomer on the Virginian political landscape. He has already been elected to office achieving an impressive record of legislative accomplishments counting on bipartisan support. So I find it com-

pletely devious to mischaracterize this candidate based on an academic paper long before his years as attorney general of the Commonwealth.

I find it condescending that Mr. Deeds should underestimate our intelligence as single-issue voters. While we care about social issues, you'd be hard pressed to find a head-of-household, male or female, not concerned more with providing for their families and putting

food on the table. At a point when the economy is pressing hard on our pocketbooks and un-employment risks hitting the double-digits, Mr. Deeds' position appears, frankly, incomprehensible. And to drive my point of his inability to connect with the Virginian professional or mom, he has just been exposed on tape supporting tax increases if he becomes governor. Talk about total out-of-touch approach.

So to all our Virginia female voters, you're smarter than Mr. Deeds presumes.

Remember Bob McDonnell not only has a thesis, which was just that, theory, but he has three amazing individuals who are living proof of where he stand on women's issues.

L. Kendall
Fairfax Station

'We All Lose'

To the Editor:

Every year we have an election in Virginia. This year is of particular concern for me. The types of candidates I see on the Republican side are determined to bring back "family values" according to Bob McDonnell, and that scares me.

I have worked in family planning with women who are poor, middle class and rich, and I know that they all come, and they all need services. What are they looking for? Good reproductive choices, family/sex education, available contraceptives, counseling, resources that really are in place, and yes, the right to choose an abortion. Women do not make this choice lightly. The choice is made with the greatest of care. It is made knowing the gravity of the choice. It is the most personal one. It is the most painful. It is hers to make. Bob McDonnell has tried to take this choice away, make it difficult to get, or make it impossible to get good reproductive services. If he succeeds, we all lose.

Bob McDonnell opposes freedom of reproductive choices. The Virginia Family Foundation, an ultra conservative organization, has named him twice as Legislator of the Year; the Virginia Society for Human Life has endorsed him, when he was attorney gen-

eral. Look at their Web sites and see what they profess. His thesis explains it all, his years as a legislator shows us his intent — to keep women barefoot and pregnant.

As American women, choice is one of our greatest freedoms. I value my personal freedom to choose my contraceptives, my health care needs and my freedom to practice my beliefs in decisions that are most personal to me. I will work to see that the McDonnells, the Cuccinellis and the Bollings of the world will not take away my right to choose.

Jane Blechman
Fairfax Station

Phase In Reform

To the Editor:

I am convinced that we must have healthcare reform now and with all the pros and cons I have heard, I feel the best way to implement it is to phase it in over a brief period based on savings. The Obama Administration says that two-thirds of the cost to insure everyone can be achieved by savings from waste and competition. My recommendation is to enact the plan to have a very strong "public option" with all the protection being offered in the proposed bills. Give those presently

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

insured a guarantee that they will not be denied coverage based on a pre-existing condition and not be subject to a waiting period; guarantee them that they will not be dropped when a major illness is diagnosed; put a cap on out of pocket expenses they will be required to pay for major illness and make available the public option plan to them as well to insure competition. This is something that can be offered immediately after the bill is approved and not have them wait for years to get the benefit from these protections.

To make the public option fair to the private insurers, we should establish what it cost to provide good quality health care; add on top of that fair profit and cost of doing business as determined by an independent group of experts. Set the public option premium based on those elements. Since the public option will be non profit, the mark up for fair profit and some of the cost of doing business items would be used as a credit to start up cost of the public option. When that is paid, this credit could go toward insuring the uninsured.

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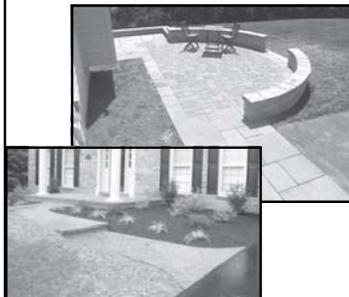
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Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/OCT. 1

Kitty Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a favorite stuffed kitty and listen to stories and songs about kittens. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. That Old Ace in the Hole by Annie Proulx. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Redemption Thursdays, Johnny 3 Legs, Feed God Cabbage, Fairgrounds and Mojo. 8:30 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$7, \$10 if under 21. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

Comedy Sportz. Fast-paced, improvisational comedy 7:30 p.m., at Little Theatre at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$10 per ticket.

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

UFO with The Travis Larson Band, Gate 1, rival tribe and more. 8 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Art, Wine & All That Jazz. 12-8 p.m.

,at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Local wineries from Virginia and North Carolina, art and all day jazz performances. \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate. www.workhousearts.org or 703-584-2927.

Author Signing/Lecture. George J. Haas, author of "The Martian Codex: More Reflections from Mars," will conduct a lecture and PowerPoint presentation featuring NASA photographs of aesthetically designed structures found on the surface of Mars. 1 p.m., at the Boarders Express, 6725 Springfield Mall, Springfield, 703-971-9443.

Kittie and Soil with Arkaea, Straight Line Stitch, G19 and Infliction. 7 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 4

Art, Wine & All That Jazz. 12-8 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate. www.workhousearts.org or 703-584-2927.

Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Christopher Johnston, performs Jazz With Strings at 7:30 p.m. The music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and Charlie Parker/Clifford Brown accompanied by a string orchestra. The concert is in the Forum at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Adults \$15, seniors/teens \$10, age 12 and under free. 703-569-0973.

I Am The Kaleidoscope, Satellite Papa, Apex, Rashad Darnell, The Cliched, John T., Little Justice,

TiJean, Paperhaus, Anarcoustic and Better Red Than Dead. 4:15 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 5

Inova HealthSource Fight the Flu. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Shots \$25 or Medicare Part B; must be 18 or older. Call Inova for details; 703-698-2424. Adults.

TUESDAY/OCT. 6

Computer Tutoring. 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. One-on-one help with basic computer skills, navigating the Internet and using Microsoft Word and Excel. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Teen Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Fun, food and great book discussions. Age 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Monster Mash. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-339-7385.

Acoustic Open Mic with Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks. 7 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Age 21 and up. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 7

Fall Fashion Show sponsored by the Women's Association of Northern Virginia. 11 a.m. at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Bring non-perishable items for food bank. \$30 for luncheon. 703-250-6636.

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AT THE WORKHOUSE

The following events and exhibits are open at the Workhouse Arts Center, which is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. For more information, call 703-495-0001 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

Art, Wine & All That Jazz. Saturday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 4, 12-8 p.m. Come for wonderful local wineries from Virginia and North Carolina, spectacular art and all day jazz performances. Jazz performers include Betty Buckley, the former star on the TV series "Eight is Enough" and Tony Award winner, who will be performing Saturday night with the Kenny Werner. The Maryland-based blues and boogie pianist/saxophonist Deanna Bogart will perform Sunday night. Singer, songwriter and pianist artist Laurence Elder also joins the line-up. Hailey Niswanger from Berklee College of Music in Boston will be featured on the alto saxophone. Pianist Steve Rudolph from Harrisburg, Pa. will be performing with French jazz vocalist Ilona Knopfler. Northern Virginia locals The Dan Leonard Trio are slated to perform and soulful singer Ericka Ovette will perform with guitarist Ken Hall. In addition, jazz pianists Hod O'Brien and Jim Wray are teaming up for an exciting, high-energy jazz performance called Dueling Jazz Pianos. Tickets on sale now. \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate. Visit www.workhousearts.org for more information or call 703-584-2927.

Watercolor Classes with artist Catherine Hillis. Saturday mornings, beginning Oct. 3. Registration will be limited and it is suitable for beginners through intermediates. The first session of classes will review traditional methods of painting and will emphasize how

to achieve a glowing painting utilizing several techniques. www.catherinehillis.com or www.workhousearts.org or 703-584-2900.

Workhouse Artists Associates Exhibit runs Oct. 7-Nov. 22. Members of the Workhouse Artist Associates are exhibiting a variety of works in the Associates Gallery, Gallery W-16, First Floor. A free reception for this exhibition and for the Workhouse Art Guild exhibition takes place on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 2-4 p.m.

Paper with ATTITUDE! Through Oct. 11, the Artisans Center of Virginia, a statewide center for fine craft, and the Workhouse Arts Center presents paper with ATTITUDE. Three artists from the Artisans Center of Virginia have been selected by curator Trudi Van Dyke including Renate Chernoff, Rebecca Humphrey and Angie Wiggins.

First Anniversary Celebration Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition. The Workhouse Arts Center presents an outdoor, juried sculpture exhibit through Nov. 28. Jurors Robin Croft, independent curator and artist, along with Marti Deppa Kirkpatrick, the studio manager and exhibition coordinator for the Lorton Arts Foundation, selected a total of five works by area sculptors for display around the Workhouse grounds. Featured artists include Pattie Porter Firestone, Craig R. Schaffer and Mike Schaffer. All works will be on display on the Workhouse Quad.

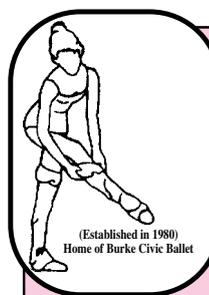
Workhouse Art Guild Exhibit. The second Wednesday of each month the members of the Workhouse Art

Guild (WAG) present a new show of juried works in Gallery W16, 1st Floor. The public is invited to a free reception to meet the artists and enjoy the diverse media exhibition on the third Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m.

Workhouse Short Film Marathon. The Workhouse's first shorts event takes place Saturday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m. Local and student filmmakers are encouraged submit their short films for exhibition and enjoy the work of fellow enthusiasts. Contact josephwallen@lortonarts.org for details. Submission deadline: Oct. 2.

National Spinning and Weaving Week Celebration. Saturday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Quad. Free. Calling all fiber artists! Join the Workhouse Arts Center for a day of fiber art on the quad. Bring a picnic lunch and join in for an informal gathering of fiber artists, spinners and weavers to relax, spin, weave or knit and to learn about area guilds and fellow artists. The event is free however RSVP to Sue Helmken, Studio Fiber Arts at barefootweaver@earthlink.net or 703-543-6735.

Second Saturday Art Walks. Saturday, Oct. 10. The Workhouse Studio Artists will keep its doors open after hours on the second Saturday of each month from 6-9 p.m. The Association of Interior Design Professionals (AIDP) will host a reception in conjunction with the Art Walks in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. to bring together artists, interior design professionals and the public to highlight the creative incorporation of original art into interior design settings. Talk art and design with creative professionals.



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Stallion Golfers Savor Perfect Season

Senior Nolan White leads team to elusive victory against Lake Braddock.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

South County Secondary School senior golfer Nolan White is happy knowing that he's part of a historic season for the varsity golf team.

Posting a 7-0 record, the golf team finished its first-ever undefeated season, but the moment that stuck out to the senior was finally defeating its long-time nemesis, Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"In our last match against Lake Braddock, we beat them, but in my four years on the team, we never came close to beating them," White said. "I thought about how that was my final match in my high school career, finally beating Lake Braddock."

White more than did his part in the victory against the Bruins. He shot a 39 in the Stallions' 154-162 defeat of the Bruins, ending his winless drought against the rival.

On Sept. 28, the South County golfers took part in a light-hearted putting practice and reflected on their 7-0 accomplishment.

"We played so hard all year," sophomore Josh Carey said. "We went 6-1 last year and our only loss was against Lake Braddock. So we knew it was possible [to go 7-0], we just had to work for it."

Sophomore Mary Barbero, the first female golfer in South County history, echoed

Carey's sentiments.

"It was a thought in my mind that we could go 7-0," she said. "I knew we had a strong team, but Lake Braddock was going to be our biggest challenge. We got to play them [at Laurel Hill golf course] and that helped us complete the undefeated season."

Like White, Barbero cited the victory against Lake Braddock as the defining moment of her season. She said that the vision of completing her round still plays in her head.

"Coming down the ninth hole against Lake Braddock was the best moment [of the season]," she said. "I had a lot of energy coming into that hole and I knew that we didn't have to shoot 'lights out' to beat them. It was great to have all the parents and team members cheering you on to finish strong."

Head Coach John Caulfield also took some time to reflect on what his team accomplished. He's proud of his young team's improvement over previous seasons.

"I came into the job three years ago and I knew the program had a lot of upside," Caulfield said. "The best the school had ever done was tying for third in the district. We made changes to the program and my first year we went 5-2, then 6-1."

Adding to the team's accomplishment is the fact that it is one of the Patriot District's youngest squads.

"The [7-0] team had four sophomores, a



COURTESY PHOTO

The South County Secondary School golf team completed a perfect season and won the Patriot District regular season title. The team is, from left, South County Director of Student Activities Mike Pflugrath, Josh Carey, Taylor Wirth, Preston Sellers, Nolan White, Mary Barbero, Jake Saba and Head Coach John Caulfield.

junior and one senior," Caulfield said. "We have a good inventory of talent that is coming into their own. We've progressed each week and that's what you want to see. The scores are getting lower as the kids are getting better."

While the South County golfers savor their 7-0 season, the team is preparing for

the Northern Region Tournament next week. The Stallions earned an automatic bye into the tournament by finishing first in the Patriot District during the regular season.

Now White and his teammates have their sights set on another goal — competing in the state tournament.

Johnson, Ngampa Break Chantilly with Running

Woodson's passing offense grounded, but duo of tailbacks pick up the slack.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Following W.T. Woodson's 26-14 victory against Chantilly High School on Sept. 25, quarterback Connor Reilly said he prefers the cozy confines of a passing pocket to the free-wheeling style of a scrambling quarterback.

"I don't like to scramble, but if I have to, I will," Reilly said. "If it's going to help the team, then I'll do it."

Fortunately for the senior, Woodson's running backs are happy to pick up the slack, as they did against Chantilly, and transform the pass-heavy team into a formidable running squad.

"We always felt like we could run on them to the outside," senior running back James Johnson said. "We just wanted to get that break. We can make plays so we took advantage of that."

Johnson and senior running back Bertrand Ngampa capitalized on a Chargers defense that committed to the pass instead of the run.

The Cavaliers racked up a season-high 342 rushing yards with Ngampa earning 144 rushing yards and Johnson finishing with 118. Reilly had 80 rushing yards and only 111 passing yards.

"We have two great running backs and we felt like we had to come out and establish the run," said Head Coach Trey Taylor. "I thought they did a great job. It wasn't supposed to be all run, but it worked."

BOTH RUNNING backs also turned in highlight reel touchdowns from the exact same field location, for the exact same yardage.

Late in the fourth quarter, trailing 14-7, Ngampa took a pitch down the right sideline to score, breaking through one tackle on the way to his 55-yard rushing touchdown.

"When the cornerback had me wrapped up and I drove my legs through him, I opened my eyes and all I saw was green," Ngampa said. "I was just like 'go, go, go.' I learned from an old running back that when you run the ball, just think of the impos-

sible."

The touchdown run was made sweeter by the fact that Ngampa has missed two seasons due to injury.

"I wanted to pick up my play and contribute this year," he said. "It was great to finally get in the end-zone for the team."

Johnson's run came with a little more flair as he slashed around the defensive line, dodged one defender and kicked away another who had wrapped his hands around Johnson's legs. He then ran 55 yards for a touchdown.

The talented running back was quick to credit his offensive line for the touchdown.

"[Ngampa] and I get breaks, but the offensive line works for us in the trenches," he said. "That's what it's all about, working hard to make plays."

Although the Cavaliers' running game played a key role in the victory against Chantilly, the passing game still defines the Woodson offense.

On Sept. 11, Reilly set a team passing

record against Lake Braddock. Since then, the Cavaliers have been labeled as a pass-first offense.

Johnson, however, said he isn't worried about being a running back on a pass-centric team.

"I like [being on a passing team]. Reilly is a talented quarterback and they think that we will pass it all day," he said. "If [opposing teams] want to concentrate on Reilly, then we can make runs on them all day."

The Cavaliers improved to 3-1 on the season with the victory against Chantilly, but the team hasn't been

able to find the offensive passing rhythm it possessed when it dropped 499 passing yards on Lake Braddock.

"Our passing game still isn't where it was when we last played Lake Braddock," Taylor said. "It's going to take more than just passing. It's going to take team effort to beat good teams." The Cavaliers continue their season against Westfield High School (1-3) on Oct. 2.

"I learned from an old running back that when you run the ball, just think of the impossible."

— Bertrand Ngampa

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7659 SUMMERHILL CT	3	2	0		LORTON	\$347,500	Detached	0.15	SUMMERHILL
9046 MARIE CT	3	2	2		LORTON	\$338,000	Townhouse	0.04	SOUTH POINTE
8226 GUNSTON COMMONS WAY	3	3	1		LORTON	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.04	GUNSTON COMMONS
8819 BENHAM ST	4	2	0		LORTON	\$329,500	Detached	0.24	POHICK ESTATES
7627 FALLSWOOD WAY	3	3	0		LORTON	\$325,000	Detached	0.16	SUMMERHILL
8141 DOVE COTTAGE CT	3	3	0		LORTON	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.03	LORTON STATION
13521 SEQUOIA LEA DR	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.03	SEQUOIA LEA
9410 OX RD	2	2	0		LORTON	\$305,000	Detached	0.44	OX ROAD
9646 EATON WOODS PL	4	3	1		LORTON	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03	GUNSTON SQUARE
8986 HARROVER PL #86B	3	2	1		LORTON	\$265,000	Townhouse		LORTON STATION NORTH
8912 SYLVANIA ST	3	2	0		LORTON	\$257,000	Detached	0.25	POHICK ESTATES
13691 WILDFLOWER LN	3	2	2		CLIFTON	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.03	SEQUOIA LEA
9529 SHEPHERD HILLS DR	3	2	2		LORTON	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.05	SHEPHERD HILLS
8310 BLUEBIRD WAY #3	3	2	1		LORTON	\$220,000	Townhouse		GABLES AT GUNSTON
9509 UNITY LN	3	2	2		LORTON	\$210,000	Townhouse	0.04	WILLIAMSBURG SQ
8246 CATBIRD CIR #302	2	2	1		LORTON	\$200,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		GUNSTON CORNER
8303 BLUEBIRD WAY #J	2	2	0		LORTON	\$199,990	Garden 1-4 Floors		HIGHLND AT GUNSTN CORNER
9236 CARDINAL FOREST LN#301	2	1	1		LORTON	\$180,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		GUNSTON CORNER
8629 KENOSHA CT	2	1	1		LORTON	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.02	NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
8161 COCKBURN CT #8161	3	2	0		LORTON	\$160,000	Townhouse		CONDO AT GUNSTON CORNER
7922 TIMARAND CT	3	2	0		LORTON	\$148,000	Townhouse	0.04	POHICK SQUARE
13646 ORCHARD DR #3646	1	1	0		CLIFTON	\$140,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		PONDS AT CENTREVILLE
9865 HAGEL CIR	3	2	0		LORTON	\$127,000	Townhouse	0.02	THE HIGHLANDS
5974 FOX GLOVE TRL	2	1	0		LORTON	\$116,500	Detached	0.46	GUNSTON MANOR
10333 BELMONT BLVD	3	2	0		LORTON	\$109,060	Detached	0.82	WILEY
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Virginia Autism Summit

FROM PAGE 3

pared those services with what is available in other states in order to identify best practices that have been adopted elsewhere and could be adopted in Virginia.

Molliet-Ribet will be presenting the results of that study on Monday, Oct. 5 at the Hilton Marks Center in Alexandria, during an autism summit organized by Fairfax Station resident Teresa Champion.

CHAMPION HAS been an advocate for autistic children and their families since her own son, James, was diagnosed.

"Everything we've done for him has been out-of-pocket," Champion said. While trying to find treatment for her son, she also had to be mindful of meeting the needs of her daughter, Sydney.

Both Champion and Shank point to the growing number of children with autism — according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism, a rate that increases to 1 in 83 among boys and is considerably higher among military families — which is quickly approaching epidemic levels.

When her son was diagnosed, the rate was closer to 1 child in 10,000 had a chance of being affected by autism, Champion said.

"If you don't know someone with autism now, you probably will eventually," Shank said.

So why the trouble obtaining coverage, if the disorder is so prevalent and getting more wide-spread?

For starters, there's the difference between autism, considered a habilitative condition, compared with an illness like cancer or an event like a stroke, which are rehabilitative conditions. When a person is prescribed therapy after a stroke or injury, the person is seeking to regain function he or she had previously. In autistic children, the therapy is to create new abilities, like speaking or playing with other children, according to Molliet-Ribet's study.

Insurance companies argue that the diversity of treatments does not guarantee results across all areas of the autism spectrum and therefore cannot work the same for all people, unlike treatments for other illnesses which are covered by insurance.

But, according to Molliet-Ribet's study, the Institute of Medicine's National Research Council and the American Academy of Pediatrics "recognize certain therapies as research-based, including speech, occupational, physical and behavioral therapies such as those based on the principles of the applied behavioral analysis. Medical treatments are generally not effective for everyone who suffers from a given medical condition."

A debate also exists between medical and educational treatments, both of which are encouraged for autistic children, but insurance companies tend to believe the responsibility for that should fall on the child's school.

This notion in particular draws ire from Shank and Champion. They believe schools are doing the best they can, considering

their budgetary and staffing shortfalls, and while more help in their schools would be nice, the responsibility for treatment lies with doctors and therapists — which their insurance, they believe, should cover.

"So many people don't realize insurance doesn't always pay for treatment," Champion said. "Insurance may pay for the diagnosis, but that might be it."

And treatments aren't necessarily cheap. Each one-hour session can cost \$100 or more, Shank said. She was fortunate enough that her husband's insurance agreed to pay for treatment up to a certain level, a cap on services of sorts, but that was quickly exceeded. All of Ryan's treatment, like all of Champion's son James' treatment, have been paid out-of-pocket.

Along with the Virginia Autism Project, a non-profit organization which just formed in April, Champion has gone to Richmond several times, hoping that she could help lobby legislators to take up their cause and put the pressure on insurance companies to get their children the care they need and deserve. But, as Molliet-Ribet notes, the topic has come up before and was stonewalled.

The pressure first came up in 2008, when JLARC conducted an assessment of the costs and benefits of mandatory coverage for all children on the autism spectrum, determining that coverage was needed and should be provided through insurance. Earlier this year, legislation that would've made coverage for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) treatments mandatory was introduced, but failed to live past committee, she said.

"It is important to note that mandated insurance coverage applies only to fully-insured plans, which account for approximately 20 percent of Virginians," she said. However, the legislation has failed to gain traction in Richmond "largely due to concerns that covering ASD services would increase insurance premiums and could force some employers, especially small businesses, to discontinue providing health insurance coverage to their employees in order to avoid higher costs."

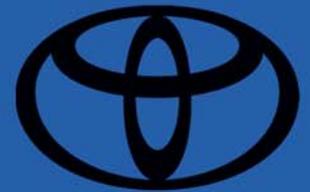
WHAT PARENTS need to understand is that the services they're seeking to have covered aren't the same kind of services traditionally covered by health insurance, said Doug Gray, executive director of the Virginia Association of Health Plans, a group that advocates for access to health care.

The problem is that many of the therapeutic services autistic children need are not provided by doctors or nurses, people licensed to practice medicine, Gray said. The people who provide many of the treatments for autistic children, especially the educational and behavioral therapies, get certified in their field.

That distinction makes a world of difference in the insurance field, Gray said. Treatment from doctors is covered by insurance; therapies provided by certified instructors are outside the insurance umbrella. Furthermore, many of the people actually providing these services may only be assistants, not certified teachers themselves, Gray said.

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