

# Sibling Speedsters

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Monica and Ethan Sohn strike a speed skating pose before heading onto the ice for a practice session. Ethan said he hopes to be an Olympian one day.

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Happenings  
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## Hunt Wins GOP Primary for Senate Seat

**Former at-large School Board member faces Del. Dave Marsden (D-41) in special election.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ric Alter is sure to remember the first time he voted for several reasons, including the fact that it took two trips to the polling station and approximately 45 minutes of standing outside Centreville High School without a coat on a chilly, 40-degree night.

The Westfield High School senior turned 18 on Dec. 1, just in time to participate in the Republican primary that took place the same night for the Virginia Senate's 37th District.

"I want to make sure the Republicans come out with the strongest candidate for the special election," said Alter, who studied many of the state races that took place

in November with his government class.

Incumbent Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) is vacating the position when he becomes the commonwealth's next Attorney General in 2010.

Former at-large Fairfax County School Board member Steven Hunt won just over 50 percent of the vote in the three-way primary against a former President George W.

Bush appointee, Marianne Horinko, and Greenspring retirement community's executive director Will Nance. Hunt garnered 955 ballots to Horinko's 479 and Nance's 469, according to

local Republican Party officials organizing the election.

Alter had said he intended to vote for Hunt, in part because the candidate is a veteran and Alter plans to attend the Vir-

**"I plan to focus on the same things that Bob McDonnell (R) focused on in the governor's race."**

— Steve Hunt, State Senate candidate



PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Former Fairfax County School Board member Steve Hunt garnered a little more than 50 percent of the vote in a three-way Republican primary election.**

ginia Military Institute next year for college. "He is a military man and I want to go into the military," said Alter.

Hunt faces Del. Dave Marsden (D-41), who had no primary opponent, in a special election Jan. 12. Cuccinelli's replacement will have to be in Richmond for the start of the 2010 General Assembly session Jan. 13, the day after the election.

"I plan to focus on the same things that Bob McDonnell (R) focused on in the governor's race," said Hunt of the upcoming special election.

The high primary turnout took both the election's participants and the Republican activists running the primary by surprise. A little over 1,900 voters participated from the district, which spans Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax Station, Burke and Springfield.

"I didn't know there were this many Republicans who lived here," said Virginia Run resident Richie Coryell, who had been waiting about 30 minutes in line to vote.

Anthony Bedell, the Fairfax County Republican Committee president, said the local political party thought they were overshooting by preparing for 1,500 voters to show up at the primary's one polling station.

He and others were shocked when they saw a line of more than 100 people start

SEE HUNT, PAGE 14

## Opening Chanukah Celebrations to All

**Several Jewish congregations around area are hosting community-wide Chanukah events.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s they prepare for Chanukah, Jewish congregations across the area are ready to spread the message of unity and community.

While some congregations host private Chanukah events and celebrations, others are reaching out to their entire faith community, putting denominations aside to include all.

Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, based in Fairfax, Adat Reyim of Springfield and Ohev Yisrael Messianic in Lorton are all hosting public events during this Chanukah season.

Instead of closing their doors, however, each event will be open to all members of the community.

According to Rabbi Levi Deitsch, Chabad Lubavitch, located at 3939 Prince William Drive, is hosting two events for the entire family, offering food, games, music and more.

"A big part of the holiday is sharing the lights with the world," Deitsch said. "So, we'd like to do [the events] with people of the Jewish faith as well as people of all faiths."

The first event, "Chanukah and Games Night," is slated for Saturday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the congregation. Deitsch said that the menorah will be lit to start the event, and at 7 p.m., latkes, donuts and other food will be served and children and

teens will take part in an educational holiday program. The following day, a menorah lighting event will take place at Fairfax Corner at 4:35 p.m., but with a new twist. Deitsch said that a menorah will

be built with Legos by the children, and again, traditional Jewish food will be served.

"We're always looking for innovative things for the holidays to bring fun and joy," Deitsch said.

Adat Reyim is launching a brand new holiday celebration this year, leading the

**"A big part of the holiday is sharing the lights with the world."**

— Rabbi Levi Deitsch, Chabad Lubavitch



FILE PHOTO

**Making Chanukah picture frames are, from left, far side of the table, Lennon Claypool, Leigh Claypool, Emily Dewhurst, Denise Dewhurst; and near side of the table, Rabbi Levi Deitsch and Alex Claypool.**

first-ever "Community Wide Chanukah Party." The party, which will be Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Oaks Community Center in Burke, has something for every member of the family. According to Adat Reyim spokesman Melissa Bodner, the event will feature moon bounces, dreidel games and arts and crafts for children ages 2 to 11, and music and traditional Jewish food like latkes and donuts for all ages. In addition,

all attendees are encouraged to bring their own menorah to light.

"We have a nice group with younger children [in the congregation's Junior Youth Group], so those families are very excited," Bodner said. "It's really geared toward the whole family."

Bodner said that for this inaugural year,

SEE CHANUKAH, PAGE 14

## Free Spay, Neuter at Shelter

During the month of December, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats or kittens adopted from the shelter. This offer is part of the shelter's annual Home 4 the Holidays adoption promotion, which seeks to help shelter animals find a loving, permanent home during the holidays.

The shelter is also extending its hours by opening its doors on three consecutive Sundays in December. The shelter will be open for adoptions on Sundays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, from 12-4 p.m., in addition to regular operating hours throughout the week. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, 12-6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The shelter has cats and dogs available for adoption, as well as a number of birds, small mammals and reptiles. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/>. The shelter is located at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. To learn more, call the shelter at 703-830-1100.

## School Boundary Meeting

The Southwestern Regional Planning Study committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., in the Liberty Middle School cafeteria, 6801 Union Mill Road (just uphill from Centreville High). Possible changes in the school boundaries and populations will be discussed. Schools involved include Clifton and Colin Powell elementary schools.

## Clifton RED Meets Dec. 14

A Clifton RED Community Meeting is set for Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Clifton Elementary's representatives on the planning-study committee, Ina Patton and Charlie Rau, will receive ideas and suggestions. They'll also discuss, in concept, which renovation design plans the Clifton community may be willing to agree to compromise on, in order to reduce the projected cost of the school renovation project and potentially save the school from closing.

## Christmas Trees For Sale

Once again, the Clifton Lions Club is working during the holiday season to help families in need in Clifton and Centreville. Working with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, the Lions provided Thanksgiving food baskets to the needy and will provide Christmas holiday food baskets and gifts to approximately 40 families.

The Clifton club is also now selling Christmas trees at University Mall on Braddock Road near GMU. The Douglas firs cost about \$60 each and all proceeds will support local charities.

The Clifton Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. For more information, see [www.clcv.clubexpress.com](http://www.clcv.clubexpress.com) or call club secretary Jay Moughon at 703-266-3784.

## Youth Acting Camp Dec. 12

An acting camp and movie night for students in first through sixth grade takes place Saturday, Dec. 12, from 2-8 p.m., at Woodson High School. Theater director Terri Hobson, the Virginia State Thespian Educator of the Year, will lead the students in acting improvisation, playwriting and craftmaking, then wrap up the evening with pizza and a movie. The cost is \$40 per camper (\$30 for each additional sibling). For a registration form, contact Martha Moses at 703 963 6288 or [marthaangelynn@aol.com](mailto:marthaangelynn@aol.com). Each camper requires an Emergency Care form, found at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu). Specify food allergies or special needs for foods.

# Bruins Learn To Lead

Lake Braddock's newly formed JROTC program is taking shape.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Lt. Col. Dwight Lomax looks at the students filling up his four JROTC classes at Lake Braddock Secondary School, he is overwhelmed with a sense of pride and satisfaction.

Lomax and his assistant, 1st Sgt. Craig Simmons see confident, motivated students that have grown more than they could have ever imagined.

Lomax is the leader of the first-ever JROTC class at Lake Braddock, a program that the school started March 2009 and implemented this school year. Though enrollment was slow at first, the number of students in the program has skyrocketed since it began less than three months ago.

"We've come a really long way, starting from scratch," said junior Amanda Harrison, a JROTC student. "The program isn't about recruiting [for the military] at all. It's about being a leader and setting an example for your school and your classmates. It's been a great experience so far."

While Lake Braddock's JROTC program is not the first of its kind in an area school, the whole program, top to bottom, is comprised of people new to the experience. Lomax retired from the U.S. Army earlier this year after 20 years of service, and had never been a part of any JROTC program prior to this one. Lomax said that after his retirement, he was seeking to continue his military service in some capacity and realized that educating a new generation of young people was the best way to do so. So, upon hearing that Lake Braddock was proposing a JROTC program, he applied and got the position.

"I took the job because I wanted to have an opportunity to work with kids," Lomax said. "I have



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Lake Braddock Secondary School juniors Kevin Johnson, Jeff Berger, Kristina Roller and Tom Nawrozzada, all members of their school's Army JROTC, were color guards in the American Legion's Veterans Day ceremony Saturday in Fairfax.**

kids of my own and so I have a good idea and good feel of what they need and expect."

The school hired officially only a week before school started, so his first few weeks leading the program was a trial-by-fire. The first thing he did after being hired was to become familiar with the program, which he did by speaking to leaders of JROTC programs at South Lakes High School in Reston and Hayfield Secondary School. Following that, Lomax realized that

SEE JROTC, PAGE 7

## Memorial Concert for Seipel

Family, friends remember Clifton youth one year after his death.

**A** year has passed since 14-year-old Sam Seipel of Clifton died in an ATV crash in Clifton. Now, a memorial concert will be given in his honor, on Sunday, Dec. 6, in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall.

It's being organized by Caitlan Schneiderman, the woman who once babysat for Sam and his siblings. She now sings, plays guitar and teaches music, and her music students will perform at the concert.

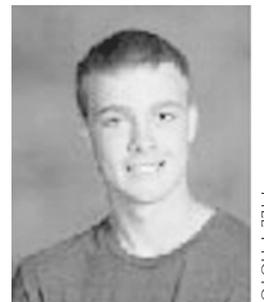
"They're all high-school students who knew Sam," said Sharon Seipel, Sam's mother. "And she's a beautiful angel for doing this; I think it's wonderful. My daughter Angela, 9, will start things off by doing a dance, and the concert will be a celebration of his life."

Sam was a freshman at Robinson Secondary and,

said his mother, "He was the most brilliant kid and the light of our house. He incubated chickens in his room and then built a chicken coop and took care of them. He knew how to work on cars and bikes, was extremely popular and got As and Bs in school. He was hard-working and paid for everything he got. This kid was amazing."

Although she still grieves for her son, Seipel said she has a strong faith and is "celebrating Sam's life - that's all I can do in the days ahead of me. I cry a bit for our loss and every day we think about Sam. But I have three other children and we have to move forward."

— BONNIE HOBBS



FILE PHOTO

Sam Seipel

# NEWS

## Band of Parents Benefit Dec. 13

Band of Parents will present a live, Jazz Holiday Benefit Concert on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 7-9:30 p.m. at the Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. Long-time Clifton resident Jeff Franca and his quartet will perform, and attendees are welcome to dance or just sit back and enjoy the music. All proceeds go directly to the nonprofit Band of Parents, which raises money to fund new treatments for neuroblastoma, a deadly form of childhood cancer.

### NEWS BRIEFS

Seats are \$50 each, and the event includes coffee, dessert and hors d'oeuvres. A silent auction will include getaway homes, rounds of golf, restaurant meals and gift baskets. Band of Parents "Hope" ornaments will be available for purchase. For more information, see [www.bandofparents.org](http://www.bandofparents.org) or call Barb Sanders at 703-830-8131 for tickets.

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PHOTO BY LASHAWN AVERY/THE CONNECTION

Philippe Cousteau speaks to Gunston Elementary students during an discovery education assembly on Monday, Nov. 23.

## Cousteau Visits Gunston Elementary

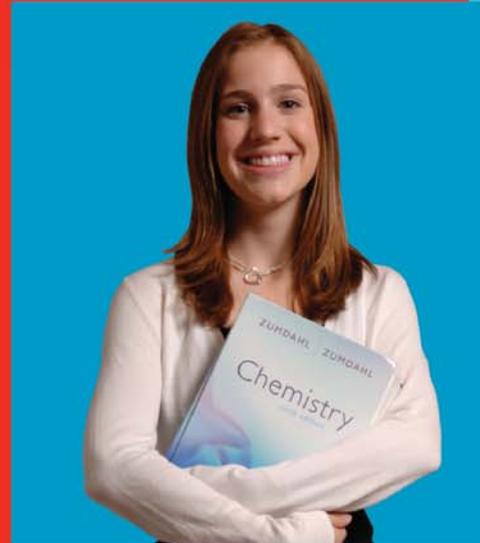
Discovery Education chief environmentalist, conservationist and educator Philippe Cousteau took part in an interactive assembly on Monday, Nov. 23, at 8:30 a.m., at Gunston Elementary School. The event recognized Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) achievement in reaching the milestone of 1 million

digital educational videos viewed.

FCPS is the first school system in Virginia — and one of only a handful in the country — to have reached this milestone.

The grandson of the late Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Philippe Cousteau discussed his career as an environmentalist and conservationist.

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# JROTC First Year at LB

FROM PAGE 4

he needed an assistant to handle some of his responsibilities, so he hired Simmons to take care of administrative items such as uniforms and other supplies.

Once the program's leadership was in place, the next step was to recruit students for the program.

According to Lomax, only 15 students had signed up the previous school year for the program, but 14 of those 15 had never participated in a JROTC program before. So, Lomax and Simmons quickly jumped into teaching the fundamentals like marching, basic formations, ethics, leadership training and physical training. Those 15 students had spread the word about the program to their fellow classmates and within a month, more than 60 students had enrolled in the program.

"I've been tremendously impressed with the students so far," said Simmons, a 24-year retired veteran of the U.S. Army. "This is a startup program and they have caught onto things very well. The students are not only grasping the information that they're learning, but they're using it as well."

Lomax and Simmons have expanded the program to include community service activities and other

activities to create a better-rounded student. According to Lomax, his students volunteered at the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax's Veterans Day festivities on Nov. 7 and at the Lake Braddock Fall Craft Show and plan on taking part in many more activities. In addition, Lomax and Simmons are working on public speaking with their students, saying that it builds confidence.

"This program is a major contributor to their confidence and it rolls over to their other classes," Lomax said. "Some of the students were misguided and you can see the lights coming on. Teachers have told me that some of the students didn't have discipline or confidence and how they do."

Though his students still have much to learn, Lomax is more than pleased with the direction that the program is headed. Next year,

JROTC students from West Springfield High School and Centreville High School will be joining the students at Lake Braddock, further expanding a program that is already proving to be a success. In the meantime, however, Lomax and Simmons can take satisfaction in knowing that they are making a difference in the students' lives.

"We're going in the right direction," Lomax said. "We're a program on the rise. We're only at the base level, but it's a good base."

**"It's about being a leader and setting an example for your school and your classmates."**

— Amanda Harrison, junior



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For more information visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com) or phone (703) 549-0111.  
Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

# Support Your Local Businesses

Shop locally, it has never mattered so much.

Economically, things do seem a bit brighter out there. We hear anecdotal reports from some local retailers and others that traffic is up.

Small retail shops are part of what defines our community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the local retail or service person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events. They know how important local traffic issues can be. They have a lot at stake.

Still, it's a different world than it was one or two holiday seasons ago, and many families, even families who feel financially secure, are approaching this holiday season differently than in the past. We want to do things more simply, we want what we do to be less harmful to the environment, we want our children to learn the pleasure of receiving and being

grateful without being overwhelmed.

Still almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and shopping online make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping online.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

EDITORIAL

## Bow Hunter's Response

To the Editor:

I am really disappointed that [the Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection, article "Deer Hunt Planned for Laurel Hill Park"] would use a picture of a young button buck and a fawn that can't be more than 8-weeks old to stir up the community. That is just poor journalism.

As a bow hunter and devoted sportsman, I can tell you if a doe walks by with her first year young in tow, they continue to walk. Most of the hunters I know are out there to feed their families or provide meat to the Hungry for the Hungry, not just shot fawns. But more importantly, the reporter and her feature subject should get their facts straight or at least understand the situation before spouting off. In Fairfax County, we have a major over population of deer. Why? Because the only major predator they have is the automobile. There are no major wildlife predators for the deer population in Northern Virginia. So the deer population continues to grow. The state of Virginia, like all other 50 states in the U.S., has a legal hunting season. And in Fairfax County with a high-density human population, firearms are out of the question. So bow hunting is the only logical choice to help control

the population. Oh there are other options that have been discussed and tried, like contraception, but logistically and financially this is impossible and it doesn't work.

Currently, bow hunters can only hunt in Fairfax County on private property. And I can tell you from experience we hunt new properties and after a while we end up pushing the deer onto other properties or into the county parks where hunting is not allowed. We

manage to take a few, but the "no hunting" parks allow the population to continue to grow while the hunters only put a dent into the population. Do you know that if a hunter takes two doe a year, they have taken a potential of up to 100 deer out of the herd over the next five years. Do the math, one doe can produce two fawns on average per year. It adds up quickly. Without the bow hunters what would the population be?

I also want to comment on the comment made by [the article's subject] on reports she has seen on deer hunts causing deer to run into the middle of the highways. A barking dog, a child's scream, a jogger running on a trail, a person stepping into their backyard and of course the rut (breeding season when the males chase the females) have all caused deer to go into flight. Some run into the road. Some get hit by cars, caus-

ing damage. Shall we ban all these activities because we don't want the deer to go into flight? Let's be reasonable. That statement is a scare tactic and in poor taste for the Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection.

Fred Ansick  
Clifton

## Tax for War

To the Editor:

I understand there is a proposal being floated in the United States Congress to enact a surtax to pay for the war in Afghanistan. It is my opinion and belief that such a tax is a good idea. Our nation would then stop putting the cost of the war on its credit card, primarily with China and Japan. We should stop the irresponsible practice of putting a huge financial burden on our children and grandchildren.

The only ones now being asked to sacrifice are the men and women of our armed services who are being deployed multiple times into harms way and their loved ones back in the United States. Most of the citizens of our country are not being asked to sacrifice at all — they hardly know a war is going on. If the wars we are fighting are important to the security of our country, then all of us should help carry the burden in some fashion. Since we do not have a draft, then surely all citi-

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Welcome the Holidays in Historic Clifton.** Holiday Horseback Parade and Contest, 2-2:30 p.m.; visit shops in Historic Town of Clifton and take photos with Santa, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Town of Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour, featuring live music and strolling Dickens Carolers, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Caroling, refreshments and Christmas Tree Lighting in Ayre Square, 7:30-8 p.m. Tickets before Dec. 5: \$20 for adults; \$5 for children under 12; after Dec. 5, \$25 for adults; \$10 for children under 12. Purchase tickets at Clifton Café, Cottage Art, T&K Treasures and a Flower Blooms in Clifton; Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's in Centreville. For more, e-mail Jennifer Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or Lynne Garvey Hodge, lghassoc@erols.com.

**The 20th Annual Model Train Display.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauge model trains will be running in the main building, caboose and on the grounds. Enjoy hot chocolate and a gingerbread man. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225. Also open Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

zens should be willing to pay surtax as their share of the burden of fighting these wars. And, why not apply the same concept to the Iraq War?

Many elected officials publicly proclaim they are against any kind of new tax. If these same officials also claim they support our troops, then let them step up to be counted and vote for or against the surtax to pay for the Afghanistan war. To use an old cliché, "Put their money where their mouth is."

Alonza L. Caldwell  
Springfield

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9416.  
By e-mail:  
south@connectionnewspapers.com

# 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.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 4

**Opera Recital: "Amahl and the Night Visitors."** 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater, George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Purchase tickets at tickets.com or at 888-945-2468.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**Welcome the Holidays in Historic Clifton.** Holiday Horseback Parade and Contest, 2-2:30 p.m.; visit shops in Historic Town of Clifton and take photos with Santa, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Town of Clifton Candlelight Homes Tour, featuring live music and strolling Dickens Carolers, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Caroling, refreshments and Christmas Tree Lighting in Ayre Square, 7:30-8 p.m. Tickets before Dec. 5: \$20 for adults; \$5 for children under 12; after Dec. 5, \$25 for adults; \$10 for children under 12. Purchase tickets at Clifton Café, Cottage Art, T&K Treasures and a Flower Blooms in Clifton; Picket Fence in Burke and Banner's in Centreville. For more, e-mail Jennifer Chesley at townofclifton@aol.com or Lynne Garvey Hodge, lghassoc@erols.com.

**The Celebration Singers.** 4 p.m. at Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. A costumed and choreographed Christmas show. 703-451-2375 or www.springfieldvaumc.org.

**Northern Virginia Chorale and Northern Virginia Community**

**College Annandale Chorale Holiday Concert.** 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Gwyneth Walker's Rejoice!, John Rutter's Winchester Te Deum, Z. Randall Stroope's All My Heart This Night Rejoices and more, including a brass quintet, percussion and piano. Adults \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Students 12-24 \$10, under age 12 free. www.northernvirginiachorale.org or 703-239-2180.

## The 20th Annual Model Train Display.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauge model trains will be running in the main building, caboose and on the grounds. Enjoy hot chocolate and a gingerbread man. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225.

## Opera Recital: "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

8 p.m., at the Harris Theater, George Mason University's Fairfax campus. Purchase tickets at tickets.com or at 888-945-2468.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 6

**Nitzer Ebb, Ego Likeness and more.** 8:30 p.m. **Jaxx Night Club**, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 advance, \$23 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

## The Annandale Brass Orchestra Winter Wonderland Concert.

4 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Community and Cultural Center Forum, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Traditional holiday favorites, a sing-along, and the Chris Johnston Jazz Trio. Adults \$10, seniors and teens \$7, children free. 703-569-0973.



## December Exhibit

'The Invitation' by Diane Shiely Frykman

Diane Shiely Frykman, a Burke painter, will exhibit her latest series "re:collection" in Gallery 4 at the Workhouse for the Arts in Lorton. The show runs from Dec. 9-Jan. 10. Open hours are Monday-Saturday, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sundays from 12-5 p.m. A tea reception will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 4-6 p.m. in Building 4. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Frykman is an award-winning artist, noted particularly for her romantic realism oil paintings. She was an art teacher in the Fairfax County school system where she was given the Art Teacher of the Year Recognition. She has a studio in the Lorton Workhouse for the Arts where she teaches adults in the Old Master Method of painting.

## The 20th Annual Model Train Display.

12-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauge model trains will be running in the main building, caboose and on the grounds. \$5 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225.

**PackPower Tour with Cesar Millan, Dog Whisperer.** 5:30 p.m.

at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Event includes Washington Humane Society Blanket & Towel Drive, where individuals are encouraged to bring new and gently used blankets and towels to the venue beginning at 3:30 p.m. Tickets \$39.50-\$150, at www.ticketmaster.com or at 703-

573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

**Vegan Cooking Class: Holiday Gifts & Entertaining.** 10 a.m. at 9302 Hallston Court, Fairfax Station. \$50. Chocolate peanut butter cups, holiday cookies and more. Pre-registration required. For more, call 703-643-2713 or visit www.localdc.com/cooking.

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# Local Brother, Sister Race on Ice

**Sohn siblings aim to skate for U.S. Olympic Team.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen United States speed skating superstar Apollo Anton Ono takes the ice at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver this February, two youths from the Fairfax Station area will be watching and taking notes on Ono's skating to help improve their own.

At the Prince William Ice House on Nov. 23, 9-year-old Ethan and 14-year-old Monica Sohn took to the ice to practice the skills that might help them one day achieve speed skating glory.

"I want to become a National and Olympic champion," said Ethan, a 9-year-old Fairfax Station resident and Sangster Elementary School student.

Although it will be some time before the youngster has his chance to qualify for the Olympics, the Sohn family is enjoying participating in the sport.

"A friend of mine started speed skating and told me about it," said Kristen Sohn, Monica and Ethan's mother. "We looked it up on YouTube and we always enjoyed speed skating during the Olympics. We thought we'd give it a try."

What started as a small interest in the sport soon ballooned into a full-fledged commitment.

"The kids really enjoy [speed skating]," Kristen Sohn said. "They've really embraced it and we love it too."

Each of the sibling speedsters has his or her own reason for enjoying the sport, ranging from competing in races to the feeling of making tight turns on the ice.

"I like how the sport challenges me," said Monica, an eighth grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. "I like the adrenaline rush of being on the ice, racing against other people."

Her brother Ethan, whom Monica said is the fastest of the two, enjoys the sport's speed element.

"I like to have the wind in my face," Ethan said. "It's fun to go really fast."

Although Ethan and Monica enjoy the sport, setting up practices and finding ice time at local ice rinks can be taxing on their mother.

"It's very demanding [to set up practices]," Kristen Sohn said. "Hockey and figure skating are the two major ice sports and take up most of the ice time. It's a challenge to get on the ice at a reasonable time."

The ice times can vary from after-school sessions at 4:30 p.m. to late-night skates at 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. The family must also move from ice rink to ice rink, one day skating at Prince William Ice House and the next traveling to Ashburn Ice House.

"[Ethan and Monica] want to do the practices," Kristen Sohn said. "But it can be hard to get out to them or get everyone ready [because of the time and

**"I want to become a National and Olympic champion."**

— Ethan Sohn



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

**Monica, a student at Lake Braddock Secondary School, and Ethan, a student at Sangster Elementary School, said they both enjoy their time speed skating. 'I like how the sport challenges me,' Monica said.**

SEE SKATING, PAGE 11

# Bruins Best Cavaliers, Win Region Title

**Lake Braddock holds onto lead during a Woodson scoring surge in 27-20 'mud bowl.'**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress walked slowly toward the W.T. Woodson team following Lake Braddock's 27-20 victory in the Northern Region Division 6 AAA football championships on Nov. 28.

His shoes sunk into Woodson's muddy, war-torn field and his facial expression suggested that even with the clock at zero, the shock of winning still hadn't hit the six-year Lake Braddock coach.

"You wait so long for this. You dream about being competitive and then to win it, it's just a special feeling," he said.

After shaking hands with his opponents, the coach stood near the 40-yard line with a smile on his face. Reality came crashing down on his shoulders in the form of a Gatorade shower.

With the yellow sports drink dripping down his Bruins football coat, it finally hit him: the Bruins are the 2009 Northern Region Division 6 AAA Champs.

"[The Gatorade] was cold, but it woke me up," Poythress said. "I was still kind of dazed out, and when it hit me it was like, 'Wow, this is what we've been working for.'"

The fruits of the Bruins' season-long labors were evident just minutes into the contest.

After a quick field goal drive to start the game, the Bruins defense declared its presence by forcing a fumble and setting up another scoring drive capped by running back Osman Mansaray's 14-yard touchdown run.

The defense's domination continued when defensive back Peres Nubong gave the Bruins a formidable 17-0 lead in the second quarter with a 50-yard interception return for a touchdown.

It wasn't the only time the defense

stepped up for the Bruins. At the 3:25 mark of the third quarter, with the Cavaliers driving down the field, senior cornerback Thomas Stickford came up with another momentum-swaying pick.

"We knew we needed turnovers if we wanted to win," Stickford said. "All week, we'd been working on forcing fumbles and getting interceptions."

The week's work was one of the difference makers in the game, as the Cavaliers had four turnovers in the game, one fumble and three interceptions.

"The whole defense stepped up and made those plays happen," Poythress said. "Our safeties did a great job of making the situations happen and we were able to get the turnovers."

Despite the turnovers, the Cavaliers' offense still managed to keep within reach of the Bruins, thanks to another strong performance by quarterback Connor Reilly.

Reilly threw for 301 yards, two passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown. His play helped the Cavaliers lead a comeback attempt, but momentum drastically changed when the Bruins blocked two of

the Cavaliers' point-after attempts.

"I guess we just wanted it more," said senior offensive lineman Khamrone Kolb, who blocked one of the two point-after attempts. "We pushed them around like they were little kids."

Further adding to the spectacle of the game was the horrid field conditions, which some spectators called "the Mud Bowl." Molasses-thick patches of mud plagued the Woodson field, creating problems for both teams.

"We had to be careful because of the field's messy conditions," Mansaray said. "It was very muddy, slippery and easy for the ball to come loose. You had to keep your body over your feet to keep your balance. But it was kind of fun to play in that."

While the game was billed to be a rematch of two passing teams who had previously met on Sept. 11 — with Woodson winning 43-42 — it was Lake Braddock's running back Osman Mansaray who played the role of game-changer.

Mansaray finished the game with 85 yards

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 11

## SPORTS

# Skating

FROM PAGE 10

locations].”

If paying for ice time wasn't enough, the sport's equipment isn't easy on the wallet either.

A pair of speed skates runs about \$1,200 and in order to help a skater cut through the air easily, a \$150 aerodynamic skin suit is a necessity. Tack on another \$100 for a helmet to prevent head injuries in case of a wipe out and \$30 for neck guard and gloves.

“It's more expensive than being on a soccer team or playing baseball,” Kristen Sohn said. “The costs really add up and then when they grow out of the [skates], you have to get new ones.”

Further adding to the expense is the cost of travel to speed skating competitions. The speed skating season runs from September to March, and the Sohns travel out of state once a month to competitions.

“We were just in Ohio,” Kristen said. “We have to get ready to go to Pittsburgh, [Pa.], for our next competition this month.”

The travel has been worth it for the Sohns. Ethan has competed in four competitions and placed in the top three at three of them.

“It's very [nerve-wracking] in competitions,” Ethan said. “But it's exciting at the same time. It's a lot of fun to go out and compete and win.”

With both skaters in the infancy of their speed skating careers, their coach Soo Yeon Yeo, who was a world champion speed skater in 2004 and 2005, said the Sohns have what it takes to go to the next level in skating.

“They have the right attitude and are learning the necessary skills,” Yeo said. “They have good balance and you can see they enjoy the sport. They're going to be very good in the future.”

# Football

FROM PAGE 10

rushing and two rushing touchdowns, including a 47-yard highlight reel rush late in the second quarter.

“It was just a simple counter play,” Mansaray said. “It was perfect for their defense. They didn't have anyone deep to guard against the long run. We executed the play perfectly.”

Lake Braddock will travel to Battlefield High School in Haymarket on Dec. 5 to face the Bobcats in the Virginia AAA State Semi-finals.

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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: PhotoB@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail or deliver contributions, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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**LEGAL NOTICE**

On December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia, the Town Council of the Town of Clifton will hold a public hearing on a lease of Town-owned property located at 7137 Main Street, Clifton Virginia, known as the "Pink House" property. The public hearing will be held pursuant Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (disposal of public property). The public hearing was authorized at a special meeting of the Town Council on November 22, 2009. Copies of the rental criteria are available for public inspection at 7150 Main Street, Clifton Virginia.

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FROM PAGE 3

ing to run out the door and down the Centreville High School library. Traffic also started to back up down Union Mill Road and onto Route 29 shortly after the polls opened at 6 p.m.

"We had to come twice. We spent two hours in the car trying to get here the first time, but the backup was so bad that we decided to go back home to listen to Obama's speech and try again later," said Burke resident Evan Stoyas, who called himself a independent voter.

Many of those who came out to participate in the primary said they were motivated, in part, by concerns about President Barack Obama (D) and the Democratic Party's majority in the U.S. Congress.

"I worry about 'Obamacare.' I wonder if the people who voted for Obama knew what they were getting. I hope they didn't. I hope they are concerned like us," said Susie Bentz, who lives in Virginia Run.

The high primary turn out made some Republicans optimistic about the January election.

"Judging by our incredible turnout tonight, I think Dave Marsden should save his rent money and spend it on something else," said Bedell, referencing the fact that Hunt's Democratic opponent technically lived outside of the district until he decided to run for the Senate seat a few weeks ago.

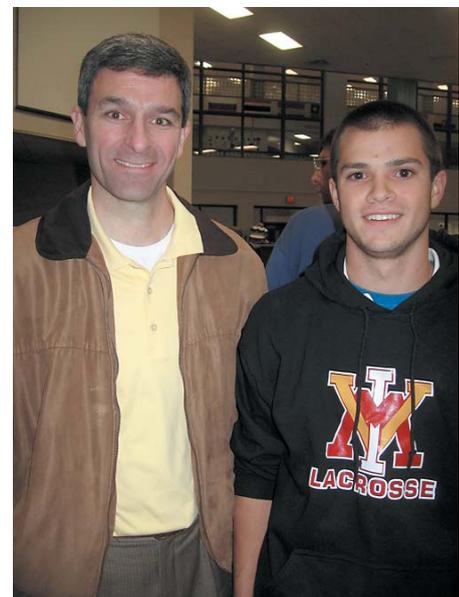


PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli (R) poses with Westfield High School senior Eric Alter. The teenager voted for the first time and turned 18 on the day of the Republican Primary for the State Senate seat in the 37th District.**

Marsden, whose Burke house is just outside the political boundary, has said he is currently renting a house in the 37th District and will permanently move if he wins the race.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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## Chanukah Celebrations

FROM PAGE 3

the celebration would be hosted solely by Adat Reyim for organizational purposes. However, as soon as next year, Bodner said that the congregation hopes to expand and invite other congregations in the area to co-host the event.

"This is the inaugural celebration, so it is just us [hosting the event]," Bodner said. "In the future, we hope to work in tandem with other organizations, but it's our first foray into this kind of thing."

At Ohev Yisrael, located at 8196 Terminal Road, an open-door event is taking place, but this year, a surprise is in store for the attendees. According to Office Manager Marinell Drew, the event, which is slated for Sunday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at the congregation, includes lectures about the

history of menorah lighting and a dance group will perform to traditional Jewish music. Drew could not reveal the other parts of the ceremony, however, saying that it is an Ohev Yisrael custom to keep the children's portion of the event a surprise.

"It's usually a surprise, but it's a small service," Drew said. "The children get very excited. We have all kinds of guests come, and the children love to light the candles. It's very beautiful."

### Chanukah Events

Call Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia at 703-426-1980, Adat Reyim at 703-569-7577 and Ohev Yisrael at 703-550-0855 for more information on private and public Chanukah events.

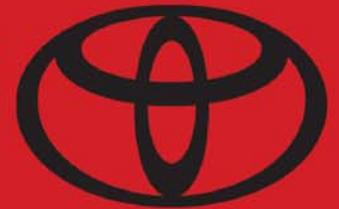
### MILITARY NOTES

**Ashley A. Gum** graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at George Mason University, Fairfax. She is the daughter of John D. and Teresa P. Gum of Tanyard Lane, Lorton. The cadet is a 2004 graduate of Hayfield Secondary School.

**Air Force Airman 1st Class Jarrell M. Jackson** has deployed overseas in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Jackson, a radio combat communicator with one year of military service, is normally assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. He is the son of Thomas and Montrell Jackson of Edgemar Woods Court, Lorton.

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**Springfield \$543,000**  
 A true passive solar home! Beautiful California styled contemporary with remodeled kitchen and baths. Pristine hardwood flooring - vaulted ceiling - large sunfilled windows - open spacious floor plan - 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths - rec room - family room - den - 2 car garage. Fantastic location.



**Lorton/Laurel Hill \$849,900**  
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 Exceptional 5BR, 4.5BA, luxury home with many upgrades. Spacious gourmet kitchen, home theater, tree-lined views of the Nature Preserve and more.  
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**Clifton \$1,995,000**  
**A MASTERPIECE!**  
 Exceptional 5 BR/6BA custom brick home, built in 2009, with the finest in upgrades and 9500+ sf. Dramatic 2-story family rm, chef's kitchen, library, huge MBR suite, 4 flr, elevator, dual staircases, 10' ceilings, media rm, wine grotto, walkout rec room, pool, 4 car gar, 5 acres, spectacular views. 703-772-2066



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RENOVATED & READY

& READY

Move right in to this classic 3BR, 2BA all brick split level!

Beautiful granite island kitchen, gorgeous hardwoods on 2 levels! Renovated baths, master w/private bath! Spacious walk out LL rec room w/home theatre option! Fenced back yard, 1 car garage, close in North Springfield location! 7448 Long Pine Dr, Springfield. Open 12/6 from 1 - 4.



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**Fairfax Station \$698,900**  
**Crosspointe**  
 This attractive brick front colonial features 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, gorgeous hardwood floors throughout. Granite counters grace the large

updated kitchen, adjacent family room opens to wonderful deck perfect for entertaining. The Lower level is unbelievable with Media Room, Recreation Room w/Wet Bar & Study area. Great Location, minutes to Parkway, Metro & I-95.  
 For a private showing call Ann Witherspoon 703.503.1836.



**Fairfax Station \$969,900**

Country Living, Close In  
 This lovely Colonial is sited on a wooded paradise, 6+ acres. 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths,  
 Updated Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Center Island, Updated appliances, Huge Fam. Rm & Sun Rm w/wall to wall windows, Formal LR & DR, Brazilian Cherry Flooring on Main level, Stairs, Hall & MBR, Finished LL Level is fun filled and ready for entertaining. All this plus a Inground Pool & Hot Tub. Call Sheila Adams 703.503.1895



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**Manassas \$499,900**  
 Gorgeous 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial on 1.13 acre lot! Two-story foyer, formal living & dining, large family room w/gas fireplace, sunroom & gourmet kitchen with granite. Huge master suite w/luxury bath & walk-in closets. Large walk-out lower level is ready to be finished the way you'd like!



**Mason Neck \$475,000**  
 Waterfront lot in Mason Neck! This .61 acre lot is perfect for building the home of your dreams. Utility lines are already in place. Property is ready for a dock. Fantastic view of Massey Creek & Belmont Bay with access to the Potomac River.



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**Burke**  
 Beautiful colonial featuring a pool & spa in fenced back yard overlooking one of Burke Centre's ponds. Updated eat-in kitchen and baths. Wood floors. Raised hearth brick fireplace in family room. 3 finished levels. Updated windows, siding & roof.  
**Richard 703-503-4035**



**Alexandria Potomac Yard \$599,000**

Minutes to exciting Potomac Yard featuring restaurants, theaters and shopping. One year old end unit townhome featuring hardwood floors, stainless and granite kitchen as well as a walk out recreation room for your enjoyment. Two car garage parking and convenient to Metro, Crystal City, and Reagan Airport.

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