

Springfield CONNECTION

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Year of Sports

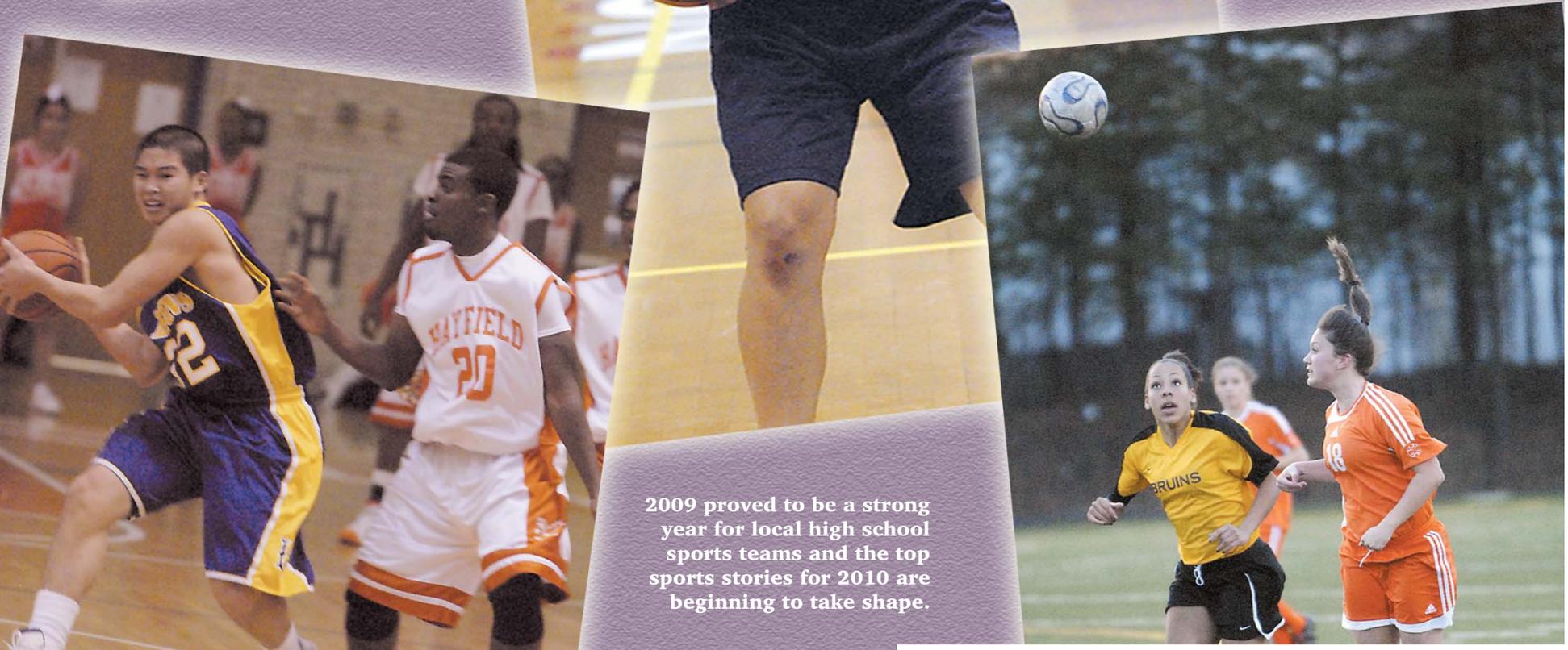
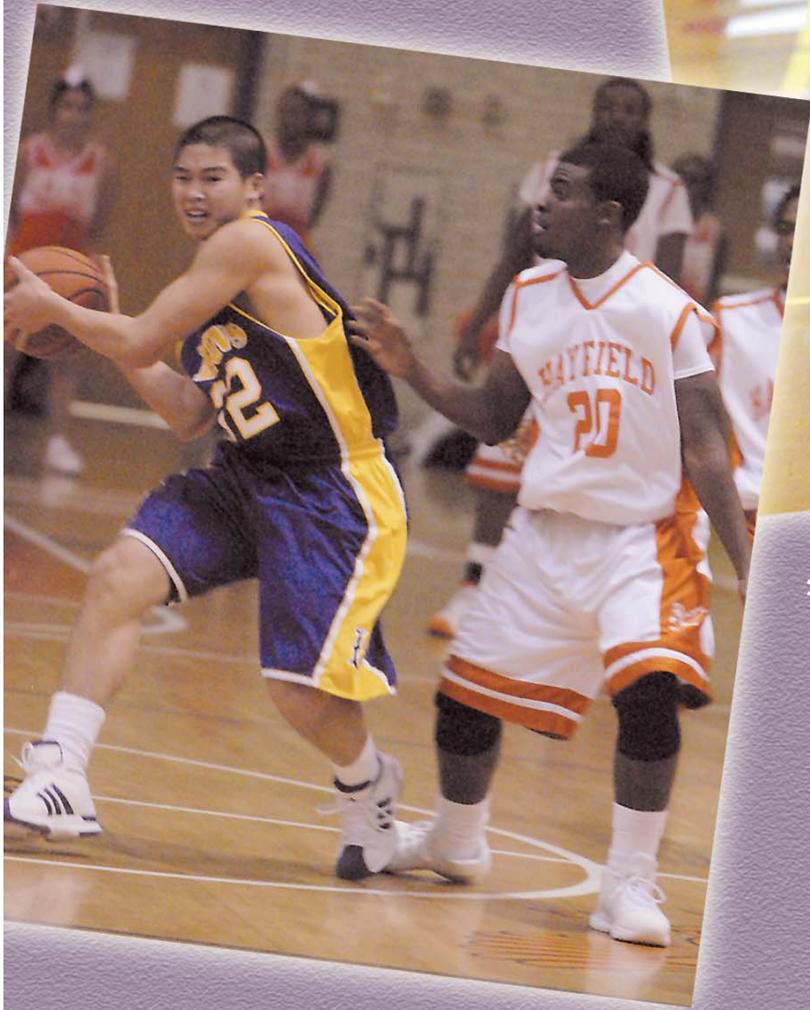
SPORTS, PAGE 10

2009 proved to be a strong year for local high school sports teams and the top sports stories for 2010 are beginning to take shape.

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FILE PHOTOS SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ❖ HOME SALES, PAGE 11 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12



Parents, Friends Answer Call To Serve

St. Stephen's Military Package Program sends care packages to soldiers across the Middle East.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church's social outreach mission has its members continually working to make their communities better places to live and helping the citizens within them. Beverly and Jim Waldenfels, however, saw that a greater need existed beyond their backyards and answered the call to serve.

The Waldenfels created the St. Stephen's Military Package Program, which sends packages to troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Yemen. Responsible for sending 2,951 boxes at a weight of 35,000 pounds overseas, the program has grown from a small, two-person effort to a church-wide calling.

"It's very important for us to support our troops as a church and as citizens," said program supporter Jeanette Parham. "Our troops can't get some of the niceties that they would like to have, and we pro-

vide those things to them."

The Waldenfels started the program in December 2005, when their son was deployed to Iraq. The couple wanted to send him a package for Christmas of things that he not only needed, but things from home that he missed. Their son enjoyed the package so much that they started mailing packages regularly, including things for other members of his unit.

The Waldenfels also began sending packages to six members of the church who were also deployed in addition to their son, who eventually spread the word to other units. Soon, they were mailing several packages at a time on a continuous basis, and what started as an informal favor to a few friends and relatives quickly became an official year-round program.

"When we started, we supported six deployed folks from our church," Beverly Waldenfels said. "They recom-

ended other people and commands that needed attention. Those recommendations from people who are deployed are the most popular way of getting requests."

Recommendations, Beverly Waldenfels said, may be the most popular

way to get requests, but they are not the only way. Waldenfels said that several people have been added to the mailing list after chance encounters in the post office near their home. Beverly Waldenfels said that

"It's very important for us to support our troops as a church and as citizens."

—Jeanette Parham, program supporter



Soldiers out in the field display the Christmas tree that the Waldenfels sent them.

SEE PACKAGES, PAGE 5

Race To Replace Cuccinelli: Hunt vs. Marsden

Voters will choose new state senator in a special election Jan. 12.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The last time voters elected a new representative to Virginia's 37th State Senate district in Western Fairfax County was during an August 2002 special election.

Republican Ken Cuccinelli, winning just over 10,000 votes, was the victor in that contest. A little over 18,000 residents participated overall, though the district included well over 100,000 eligible voters at the time.

Despite the low voter turnout, Cuccinelli was able to capitalize on the success of that first political victory seven years ago. He went on to win two more State Senate elections and, last month, Cuccinelli was elected to be Virginia's next Attorney General.

Before he can take on the duties of his new statewide office in January, Cuccinelli must step down from his State Senate seat.

Former Fairfax County School Board member Steve Hunt, a Republican, and Del. Dave Marsden (D-41) are vying to replace

Cuccinelli in the 37th State Senate District.

They will face off in a special election Jan. 12, a contest that history shows us is likely to determine who is the state senator for the next several years.

THE 37TH SEN-

ATE District includes Chantilly, Centreville as well as parts of Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Burke and Springfield. Local political observers consider

it to lean Republican, though its electorate has also favored Democrats in some recent elections.

Cuccinelli beat his Democratic opponent by a slim margin of 92 votes during the most recent 37th District State Senate contest in 2007. In 2008, President Barack Obama also won the 37th Senate District with 55 percent of the vote.

However, this past November, 37th District voters appeared solidly in the Republi-

can camp. Virginia's Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell (R) won 57 percent of the vote in the State Senate District during the 2009 general election.

Approximately 1,900 people also showed up to participate in the seat's Republican primary on Dec. 1, a much higher turnout than local Republican activists expected.

In a three-way race, Hunt won the Republican primary with 955 votes, just over

50 percent of all ballots cast. Opponent Marianne Horinko garnered 479 votes, approximately 25 percent of all ballots cast, and another candidate, William Nance, collected 469 votes, also about 25 percent of all ballots cast.

Fairfax County Republican Committee Chairman Anthony Bedell said Hunt's large primary victory over two other people should give the candidate momentum headed into the special election. The Republican, who was an at-large member of the School Board from 2004-07, also has more name recognition than many other candidates would.

But many people said the Republicans can take nothing for granted in a special election, where very few people are expected to show up at the polls.

"Special elections are always unpredictable. It is always about who comes out," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield), who is backing Hunt in the election.

MARSDEN, who has been a member of the House of Delegates since 2005, is also an unusual Democrat. The candidate was, in fact, an active Republican for most of his life.

Marsden worked for his Republican predecessor in the General Assembly, Del. Jim Dillard (R-41). He also served as a political appointee, the head of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, in former Republican Gov. Jim Gilmore's administration.

Marsden decided to switch political parties as a result of his experience working for both Gilmore and Gov. Mark Warner (D). The candidate was still running the commonwealth's juvenile justice agency when Warner replaced Gilmore in 2002.

"I was in the Gilmore administration and they were very narrowly focused on some very ill-advised public policy matters. The

SEE HUNT, PAGE 4

Candidates Get Down to Business

State Senate candidates meet with business owners at a networking breakfast.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The candidates for Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli's vacant 37th District State Senate seat kicked off their last week of campaigning before the special election with a meeting with local business leaders Wednesday, Jan. 6 at a networking breakfast.

Hosted by the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, the breakfast was the only joint appearance for Del. David Marsden

(D-41) and Republican challenger and former School Board member Steve Hunt leading up to the Jan. 12 election. The candidates each spoke on the significant issues facing the district and took questions from the attendees. As expected, jobs and the

"I'm looking [to vote] for the person who is going to stand up for the small business owner."

— John Faith

economy dominated the discussion.

"I think we need to have our House of Delegates and State Senate be more pro-business," said Chamber of Commerce member Kathleen McDermott. "We need to have less regulation and more of an effort to support developing small businesses."

McDermott's feelings echoed the sentiment of many of the event's attendees, many of whom are small business owners, and the candidates seized the opportunity to reach out to their audience. Marsden and Hunt were given 10 minutes to speak before taking questions, and both focused their speeches on economic recovery, including job growth, taxes and government regulation.

Marsden repeatedly stressed Virginia's rating as the "best state to do business in," as selected by Forbes Magazine, and out-



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

State Senate candidates Steve Hunt (R) and Del. David Marsden (D-41) prepare to speak at the networking breakfast.

lined his plans on how to maintain that rating. He said that the state needed to keep the rating intact so that new small businesses would have incentive to open their doors in this area and to do that, he said, Richmond must take a pro-business, pro-growth stance. A pro-business stance,

Marsden said, would include less regulation as well as ensuring that the governor's Opportunity Fund has money in it and that the Small Business Financing Authority remains able to guarantee small business

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 4

Prestigious Award for Spartan Teacher

West Springfield High science teacher Ann Wong wins Milken Educator Award.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The word "overwhelmed" is not usually a part of West Springfield High School biology teacher Ann Wong's lexicon. However, at a surprise assembly on Wednesday, Dec. 9, she found herself feeling exactly that.

The Milken Family Foundation last month selected Wong, a 16-year teaching veteran of the Fairfax County Public School system, as a recipient of the Milken Educator Award. Wong was one of 53 educators nationwide to receive the award that recognizes teachers who "exhibit exceptional educational talent, outstanding accomplishments and long-range potential for professional leadership and the ability to engage and inspire students and colleagues."

"This is quite an honor," Wong said. "It really does validate what I do and it puts a focus on how important teachers are. It is exciting."

"It really does validate what I do and it puts a focus on how important teachers are."

— Ann Wong

Wong's road to receiving the award, which Teacher Magazine called "the Oscars of teaching," has never strayed far from Fairfax County. Wong is a lifetime resident of the county, having attended Bailey's Elementary School in Falls Church, Glasgow Middle School in Alexandria and J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church. She then attended Virginia Tech, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry and obtained her teaching license. As graduation neared, though, she vacillated on potential career paths. The call to teach proved too strong to ignore.

"It always came back to teaching," Wong said. "I had amazing teachers [growing up] who showed support and encouraged me to do my best, and it was really important to me to get that feedback. In turn, I wanted to give it to others."

After graduation, she went back to an alma mater, Glasgow, and taught seventh- and eighth-grade science for three years. However, Wong said that she wanted an



CONTRIBUTED

Ann Wong, middle, in black, stands with the \$25,000 check that she was given at the assembly.

opportunity to utilize her degree in biology, as the seventh- and eighth-grade curriculum is essentially physical and earth science. So, when the Glasgow principal asked Wong if she wanted to follow him to West Springfield High School in 1997, she quickly accepted the invitation to become a biology teacher.

"Part of the reason [I left] was that my former principal at my middle school had

transferred [to West Springfield High School], but I also knew that West Springfield had a wonderful reputation," Wong said.

Wong currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP) to upperclassmen and Honors Biology to freshman, but her service to the school and its students extends far beyond the classroom. Wong serves as the school's AP academics coordinator, responsible for coordinating summer AP academies and disseminating information from the state and county to her fellow AP teachers. In addition, she is the sponsor of the Asian American Student Association.

This year, Wong also agreed to coordinate the school's newly formed "Freshman Transition Program," a program focused on helping students successfully navigate the challenges of moving from middle to high school. Wong said that the program began last summer with the identification of eighth graders who failed one or more SOLs. Then, Wong brought the students in for a three-day session in which she taught them basic learning skills and acquainted them with high school life. Throughout the year, Wong will meet with them once a week and will serve as a mentor.

"She sees beyond the confines of her own classroom and conceptualizes the big picture of how a high school operates, her role as an educator and school leader, the role

SEE TEACHER, PAGE 7

Hunt vs. Marsden in 37th District Race

FROM PAGE 2

Warner administration was so good when it came in...They were interested in helping those of us who were running agencies. They wanted to make us better at what we did and that was very inspiring," said Marsden.

MARSDEN considers himself a political centrist who said he could appeal to moderate Republicans and independent voters.

As a Democrat in the House of Delegates, he voted to eliminate the estate tax, which he saw as barrier for people who want to pass on small family businesses and farms to their children to run.

In the midst of this economic downturn, Marsden has also said he would be very reluctant to raise taxes. Instead, he thinks the General Assembly should focus on providing incentives to the business community, which would create new jobs and ultimately improve Virginia's economy.

Even when Virginia is short on state funds, Marsden is in favor of preserving the "Governor's opportunity fund," which provides financial help to businesses willing to bring new jobs to Virginia. Unlike many other Democrats in the State Senate, Marsden is opposed to raising the gasoline tax to help fund transportation, he said.

"We are going to using less and less gasoline. It is not the world's greatest source for transportation funding," said Marsden.

The Democrat's re-election this past November also proved that he is appealing to some Republican voters in the 37th State



Del. David Marsden (D-41)

Senate seat. As a state delegate, Marsden currently represents just about 28 percent of Cuccinelli's district already.

During the 2009 election, Marsden won re-election by a slim margin of just 1 percent. But McDonnell won Marsden's seat by 10 percentage points on the same day, indicating the several hundred voters who favored McDonnell also decided to vote for Marsden.

BUT SEVERAL REPUBLICANS said Hunt is a far better choice than Marsden for



Republican candidate Steve Hunt

people who are interested in keeping taxes low.

Hunt has signed a "no new taxes" pledge, a commitment that Marsden has not made. Other Republicans point out that Marsden has voted to raise taxes and fees several times over the last four years as a member of the House of Delegates.

For example, Marsden voted in favor of the 2007 transportation-funding package, which allowed local governments to implement an array of new taxes, including those on commercial real estate and vehicle re-

pairs.

"I am hearing that people want government to stop intruding in their lives," said Hunt. "They want government to stop trying to do things for them and to let them do things for themselves."

If elected, the Republican said his priorities for the state budget would lean toward "core services" like public safety and transportation, which only the government can provide.

Hunt also considers education to be a core service of the government, though he said a lot more could be done to spend public education dollars more effectively.

"We have to make sure more education money is getting into the classroom. You don't get a more effective education system by just continually throwing money at it," said Hunt, who added that he has first-hand knowledge of Fairfax County Public Schools' wasteful spending as a former School Board member.

Hunt is also in favor of promoting charter school alternatives, an initiative McDonnell and Obama have also publicly supported.

"I think there needs to be an alternative in the way we present public education, and I think charter schools are good options, especially in areas where the regular school system is struggling," said Hunt.

Hunt's other proposals for education reform include more "pay-for-performance" measures for public school teachers and

SEE SENATE RACE, PAGE 12

Business Breakfast

FROM PAGE 3

loans.

"Job growth has not been strong," Marsden said. "We need to make sure our new governor have money in the Opportunity Fund and we need a small business loan guarantee to get [the number of] jobs back up. Small business is the engine that drives Virginia and I'm your partner in Richmond that will make sure you are not hindered."

Hunt, on the other hand, said that a market-based solution is needed for job growth and economic recovery instead of government involvement. Hunt said that government stimulus packages only result in tax increases and budget deficits and that the government should try to curb spending by examining programs and services to see which ones are effective and cutting the ones that are not. Keeping the budget in check, Hunt said, would do the job of maintaining a positive environment for small business growth, which he believes is the key element of the economy.

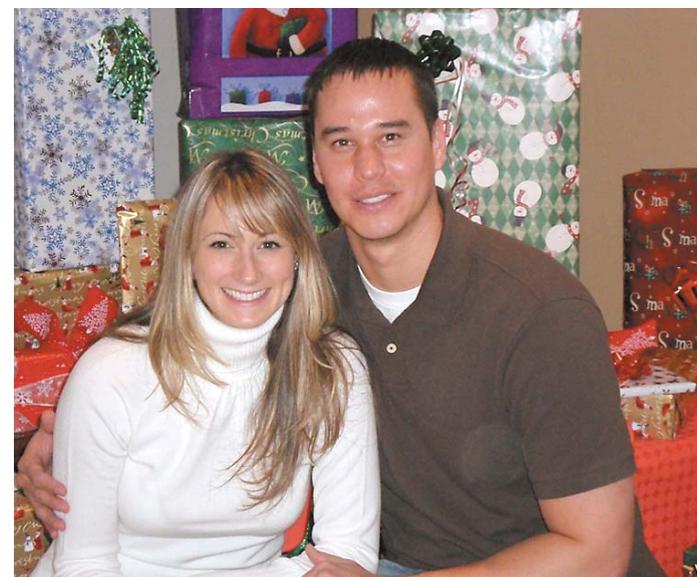
"I'm not going to Richmond to create jobs, because that is creating governmental jobs," Hunt said. "I'm going to Richmond to create an environment where you, the people, create jobs. My role is to represent the community to the government, not to justify the government's actions to the community."

While the economy was the focal point of the break-

fast, the candidates also addressed tort reform, and by proxy, healthcare, as well. Marsden praised the state's actions in regards to tort reform, noting that Virginia has a \$2 million cap on malpractice lawsuits. The cap, he said, along with the Birth Injury Program, which pays out money that doctors contribute in the event of an injury during the birthing process, help to keep health care costs relatively low. Hunt, in turn, said that while the cap places a limit on lawsuit payouts, it still does not alleviate doctor's and insurance companies' fears of lawsuits and therefore, does not help to keep healthcare premiums in check.

Time restrictions limited the candidates to a 10-minute speech and two questions to answer, but for those in attendance, it was more than enough time to cover the issues that mattered most to them. Though most would not divulge their favored candidate, they acknowledged that the issues discussed were the ones that would sway their vote and that they got a good idea of which would be their best ally in office.

"Regulation, taxes and health care. Those are the important issues," said John Faith. "Those are the areas that will allow us to either do business or tie our hands. It's hard to separate those issues when small business is your livelihood, and I'm looking [to vote] for the person who is going to stand up for the small business owner."



Brandy Green and Capt. Russell Fox

Green To Marry Fox

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Green of Springfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Brandy Green, to Capt. Russell Fox, son of Col. Robert and Mary Fox, also of Springfield. Brandy Green, a graduate of George Mason University, is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Novartis Consumer Health. Russell Fox graduated from James Madison University and is an Apache helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army.

Packages for Military

FROM PAGE 2

once, when she was in the post office mailing packages, she noticed that the man next to her was sending a package to the same location that she was mailing her boxes. The man, it turned out, was mailing a care package to his son who was in a different section of the same unit. Another time in the post office, Waldenfels noticed another man sending a package overseas as well. Waldenfels asked him why he was mailing the packages, and he said that he was in the military and was leaving in six hours to be deployed and was mailing the packages to himself. Both men were added to the list, and are still supported by the program today.

"You take care of each other when you're in a military family," said church member Bunny Monroe, who provides support to the program. "The units, squadrons and brigades are your family."

The best way to take care of their family, Beverly Waldenfels said, is to provide the troops with items that make their day-to-day life easier. She said that the program generally ships two kinds of packages, office supplies and field supplies. The office packages include snacks, coffee and even a small basketball hoop to play with. The field packages, she said, contain granola bars, easily prepared food, Powerbars, batteries and many other items. In all packages, a toiletry kit is also included that has travel-sized shampoo, body wash, shaving cream and more.

In addition to the standard packages, the Waldenfels and the other supporters accommodate special requests for items that the troops miss from home. The most common items requested are coffee and Utz Potato Chips, but can range anywhere from beef jerky to socks. A soldier once requested barbecue sauce from his favorite rib joint in Texas, while an Italian soldier who was at one time stationed in the U.S. had become addicted to atomic fireball candies while here and asked for them. As long as the request is not for a perishable food item,

COLLEGE NOTES

Springfield residents **Donald Joseph Bellisario, Ronald L. Farmer, Andrew L. Wiedman** and **Joel K. Wilson** recently earned bachelor of science degrees from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y.

Lauren Gertscher has been named to the dean's list for the Spring 2009 semester at Radford University in Radford. Lauren is a criminal justice major in the college of humanities and behavioral sciences.

Ashley Mamzellis-Heim of Springfield, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering, was chosen to be the regimental retention officer in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets for the fall semester 2009.

John Steger of Springfield, a senior majoring in history/political science in the college of liberal arts and human sciences was chosen to be the regimental commander, the highest leadership position in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets for the fall semester 2009.

The following Virginia Tech students

How To Help

E-mail Beverly and Jim Waldenfels at luckyodie2@aol.com for more information on how to support the Military Package Program.

the Waldenfels will send it.

"Our only other rule is that if we wouldn't send an item to our son, we won't send it to anybody," Waldenfels said.

While the program began simply with donations from members of the congregation, it quickly expanded once word of their efforts spread throughout the community. Caribou Coffee in Kings Park Shopping Center, Waldenfels said, has become a major contributor to the project. The store initially donated all of the grounds that they did not use during store hours, but now, hold special events just for the program. The store recently conducted a promotion for the program and asked its customers to purchase bags of coffee beans and donate them. By the end of the day, the store had collected more than 100 pounds of coffee beans from its patrons.

In addition, the Waldenfels received a phone call a couple of years ago from the Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. saying that the hotel was changing its toiletry supplier. So, the hotel manager told them that he would like to donate all of the shampoo, soap and face wash from the former supplier. Since then, the hotel has donated towels and washcloths, as well.

"The Hilton in Beverly Hills said that they were switching their brand of shampoo and soap, and sent the old bottles," Waldenfels said. "We ended up getting 1,100 bottles, and the brand was Crabtree and Evelyn."

While sending the items gives the Waldenfels and other supporters more than enough satisfaction knowing that they are making the troops' intense 20-hour days a bit easier, the troops nonetheless regularly reach out to let the church know how much the packages mean to them. The troops send letters and e-mails expressing their gratitude, but they also make prayer rugs that they design personally and even plaques, both of which adorn the walls of the church.

"We love these troops and we really believe in what they do," Monroe said. "They truly keep the country free and these are the kids that say 'This is America, the land of the free because of the brave.'"

from Springfield have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech:

❖ **Rochelle Jenkinson** is a senior majoring in interdisciplinary studies in the college of liberal arts and human sciences.

❖ **Taina Jausurawong** is a senior majoring in biological sciences in the college of science.

❖ **Kenneth Lee** is a sophomore majoring in computer science in the college of engineering.

* **Marianne Lindsay** is a junior majoring in materials science and engineering in the college of engineering.

❖ **Ariel Miller** is a junior majoring in biochemistry in the college of science and music in the college of liberal arts and human sciences.

❖ **Kaytlyn Schmitt** is a sophomore majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech.

To qualify for the marching band students must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,603 students in September 2009. Among the graduates was **Nina**

K. Jackson of Springfield, who received a master of science in project management.

Megan Talley of Springfield was chosen by Canon U.S.A., Inc., Canon Virginia, Inc. and Christopher Newport University as one of the 24 members of the 2009-10 Class of Canon Leadership Scholars at a ceremony at CNU on Tuesday, Oct. 27. This year's class of Canon Scholars has a high-school grade-point average of 4.1 and an average SAT score (combined verbal and math) of 1369. In addition, these students have also demonstrated excellence and exceptional potential in the areas of leadership, service and citizenship.

Allen Koh of Springfield, a freshman majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, received the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 year.

Zargham Ghani of Springfield, a freshman majoring in university studies in the Virginia Tech has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship Initiative for the 2009-10 academic year.

MASON NATION
2006 NCAA Final 4

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OPINION

Happy New Year

Keep in touch.

At the Connection, we invite our readers to fill us in, literally. As we begin the New Year, we are reminded that we need to hear from our readers.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or

to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

they teach — in Fairfax County, it is assumed that they will not live within.

Unlike Fairfax County, schools in Pennsylvania are sustained by the local community; any budget shortfall must be made up by the residents who live within the school district (whether they have children in the schools or not). Education is seen as something of

LETTERS

extreme importance — it's a way out of the factories that our parents and grandparents have labored in all of their lives. It is the reason that I did not follow the path of my father — I do not have to stand at the same machine like he has for the past 37 years. My father worked Saturdays and holidays so that I could receive a college education and an out from the mindless daily toil that he has faced. I can never thank him enough. While residents may complain about the costs, they step up and fund their schools. My 85-year-old grandmother, whose only income comes from Social Security somehow comes up with nearly \$5,000 every year to pay her school taxes. How can a county where 59 percent of its residents have achieved academic excellence not put every penny they have back into education? The parents of Fairfax

County want their children to receive a Cadillac education but are only willing to pay for a Pinto.

Homeowners in Fairfax County have serious decisions to make about where their priorities are. When times were good and their house values were overinflated, no one was complaining. Instead they were flipping houses in a mad dash to make a few extra dollars, while at the same time laying the foundation for the market collapse. Now that reality has set back in, residents simply want to use the drop in the value of their home as an excuse for not having to pay higher taxes. Candidates running for office all seem to think they can offer a tax reduction — how is that possible? Do people actually believe that this shortfall can be closed with a tax cut? We cannot have it both ways. The county cannot continue to educate children at a high level without the funds needed to do so. Further, as teachers get priced out of living in the area, they will move to communities where they are respected and taken care of. Parents want excellent teachers — raise their salaries and you will get them. I have four college degrees. I could be making much more in the private sector; however, the future of this nation and its youth is much more important to me than the greed

It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Get Involved

The first day of the 2010 General Assembly session is Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees will conduct a Regional Public Hearing on Friday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. The hearing will focus on the Governor's proposed 2010-12 Biennial State Budget and is open to the public.

Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly will hold a pre-session public hearing on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Sign up to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

that comes with an inflated income. I simply want to be able to live in the community that I teach in. The nation elected a president who talked about change and commitment to community. Fairfax County voted for this "change." It is time to step up and act. As Ernest Gains wrote "Words mean nothing. Action is the only thing. Doing. That's the only thing."

Thomas Demharter
Fairfax

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
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'Words Mean Nothing'

To the Editor

Fairfax County Public Schools face yet again another budget shortfall. With the 2009-10 school year nearing the halfway point, county leaders are already preaching gloom and doom for next year. As an educator in Fairfax County, this concerns me. Most teachers can barely afford to live in the communities that we teach in; another year without a step increase or COLA adjustment will drive more and more of us out of the district. Having been born and raised in Western Pennsylvania, how this county cannot come up with sufficient funds to meet the needs of its students is beyond my understanding. Unemployment stands at 4.8 percent in the county; the average family income is \$122,000/year; 59 percent of county residents hold at least a bachelor's degree. Let us compare this with Allegheny County, whose population is about the same as Fairfax County. Unemployment stands at 7.3 percent; average family income is \$46,402; only 28 percent of county residents hold a bachelor's degree. It is considered a disgrace to the district if a teacher cannot afford to live where

SCHOOLS Teacher

FROM PAGE 3

of her students and her specific program in that operation," Principal Paul Wardinski said.

Wong learned of her selection at the Dec. 9 assembly, where she was surrounded by her fellow faculty members and students. Wong said that she was told that a special science assembly hosted by an unnamed guest was taking place, so even after arriving at the gymnasium, she had no idea about the award. Patricia Wright, state superintendent of public instruction, and Milken Family Foundation Representative Jane Foley were at the ceremony and, when they took the microphone, announced the real reason why they were there.

"It was a shock," Wong said. "It was kind of surreal. After she said my name, I didn't hear anything even though other teachers were patting me on the back and students were cheering. I broke down into tears because it was so overwhelming."

Though Wong once made the jump from middle to high school teaching, students and parents should have no fear of another move. Wong said that if she moved onto higher education, she would lose all of the relationships and bonds that she worked so hard, for so long, to form.

FAITH NOTES

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.

Movie Screening: Food, Inc. 7:30 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Free movie with Doug McCusker, author of Ethical Eating. Vegetarian potluck at 6:45 p.m., film starts at 7:30 pm. Reservations recommended. 703-503-4579 or administrator@accotinkuuc.org.

New Beginnings Divorce Care: a 13-week program with a Christian approach to divorce and separation. Beginning Saturday, Jan. 9 at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. The course runs continually and can be joined at any time. Free. Contact Don Emery at 703-815-6762 or donemery@aol.com.

Seniors are invited to the Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 12- 2 p.m., at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The program will be presented by Phyllis Verhalen performing as Abigail Adams in period costume. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry 703-620-0161 by Jan. 14. \$8; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.fairfax-burkesc.org.



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Deeper Cuts Ahead for County Schools?

Freezing state funding would add \$50 million to schools' projected budget shortfall.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax County School Board were already discussing the elimination of elementary school foreign language instruction, most full-day kindergarten classes and the majority of the county's summer school program as a way to cope with a projected budget shortfall of \$100 million to \$200 million during the 2010-2011 school year.

Now, they may have to come up with a longer list of program cuts thanks to Gov. Tim Kaine's (D) latest state budget proposal, announced in December.

Kaine recommended freezing the state education funding formula, a move that would result in Fairfax schools losing an additional \$50 million to \$60 million in financial help from Richmond during the next school year.

Fairfax County already provides the majority of its school system's budget. In 2010, for example, the locality covered approximately 73 percent of FCPS' \$2.2 billion operating budget.

If Fairfax County wants to make up for a state funding cut of that magnitude, the Board of Supervisors would have to raise the property tax rate approximately 2.5 cents to 3 cents this spring.

Fairfax's foreign language in elementary schools program costs about \$2.5 million and the foreign language immersion program costs about \$2.1 million annually. The school system spent just under \$5 million on traditional summer school and about \$30 million on full-day kindergarten this year.

"If we had \$50 million, we might be able to avoid an increase in class size," said School Board member Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill District).

VIRGINIA'S education funding formula takes into account several factors but largely relies on a locality's property values and median household income to determine how much money each school district receives from the commonwealth.

Described by legislators as a "complicated algorithm," the formula is designed to cover a larger portion of public education costs in Virginia's school districts with the fewest financial resources. The formula assumes that jurisdictions like Fairfax, considered one of the wealthiest localities in the country, can more easily afford to fund its own education systems through local taxes.

As a result, the state covers relatively little of FCPS' budget when compared to what they provide for other localities.

Virginia provides approximately \$23.47 for every \$100 spent on public education in Fairfax County. In other Virginia school districts that reap the most from the current funding formula, the state provides \$84.47 for every \$100 spent on public education, according to Fairfax County documents.

"Any time you have a state funding formula that is based on relative wealth, we don't do very well," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Lorton, Springfield, Fairfax Station and Burke.

BUT Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties were expected to benefit financially from a scheduled recalculation of the state education funding formula this year.

Though property values and average household incomes remain high in Northern Virginia overall, Fairfax and these other local jurisdictions saw a more substantial drop in home prices when compared with other Virginia localities.

The result should have been that Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William received a larger slice of the state's overall education funding next year.

But if incoming Gov. Bob McDonnell (R)

and the Virginia General Assembly take up Kaine's suggestion and decide to "freeze" the state's education funding formula, Fairfax and others would not see an increase in education funding.

Ninety-seven of the commonwealth's 136 school districts — and constituents represented by the majority of the Virginia General Assembly's members — would be negatively impacted by the scheduled change in the formula, so it is likely that the freeze will be seriously considered and approved in the upcoming session.

The situation may be particularly tense because the General Assembly will likely have to cut state education funds across the board anyway, as the result of an overall budget shortfall.

"Any time you cut education, people are trying to get as much money as they possibly can," said Albo.

ALBO and other local members of the General Assembly said they are ready to fight any proposal to freeze the formula, even if they are outnumbered by their colleagues in the state legislature.

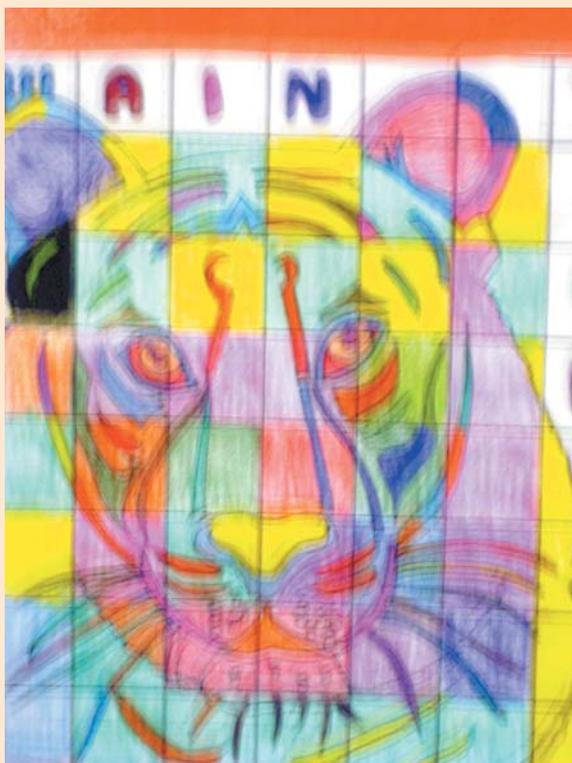
"The [funding formula] is used to measure the wealth of a locality and, for years, it has been used to jerk us around. Now, for the first time, the numbers are actually moving in our direction. Now that the system is actually starting to benefit Fairfax, they are asking us to freeze it out," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

"No other region of Virginia would tolerate this type of discriminatory treatment. ... We must fight against it," he said.

"If we had \$50 million, we might be able to avoid an increase in class size."

— School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill)

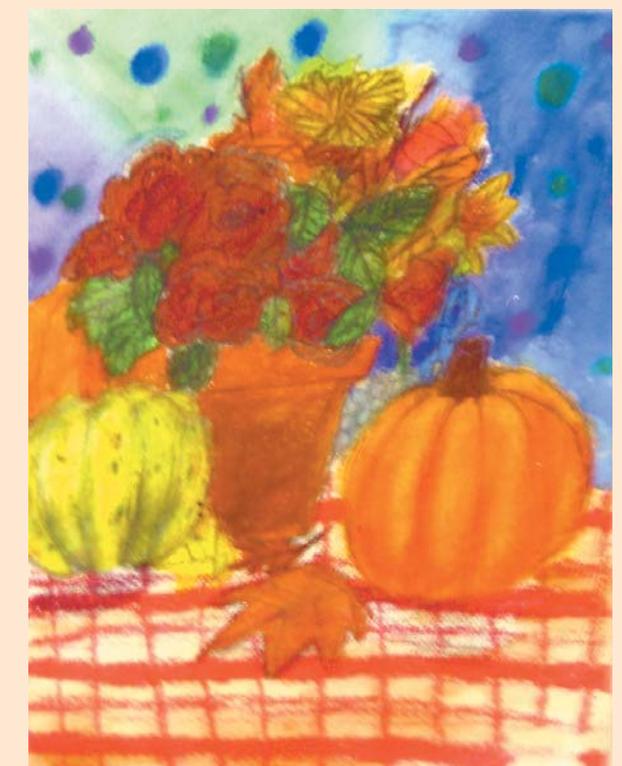
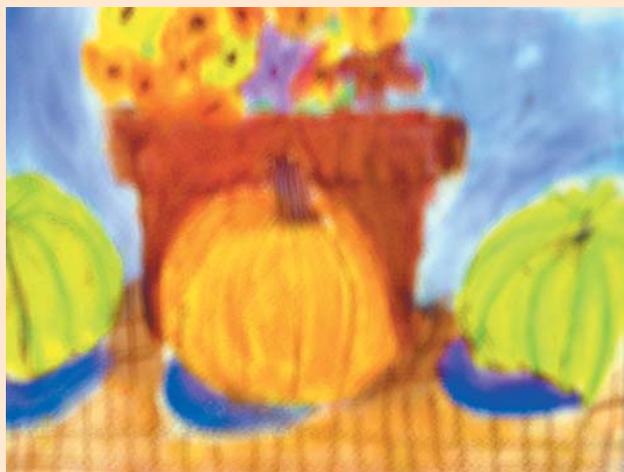
Middle School Artwork



Anna Baig, Grade 7, Twain Middle



Jasmine Palma, Grade 7, Twain Middle



Luana Stanfield, Grade 7, Twain Middle

Jasmine Purcell, Grade 7, Twain Middle

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Bear Tales Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time. Ages 13-23 months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World" by Vicki Myron. Adults. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

Fairfax High School Choral Department Cabaret Night. 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Classic jazz and Broadway songs. Tickets cover admission, dessert and a beverage. \$10 adults, \$5 seniors, students or children over two. \$25 for a family of four. Gift basket raffle available. www.fhschorus.net.

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

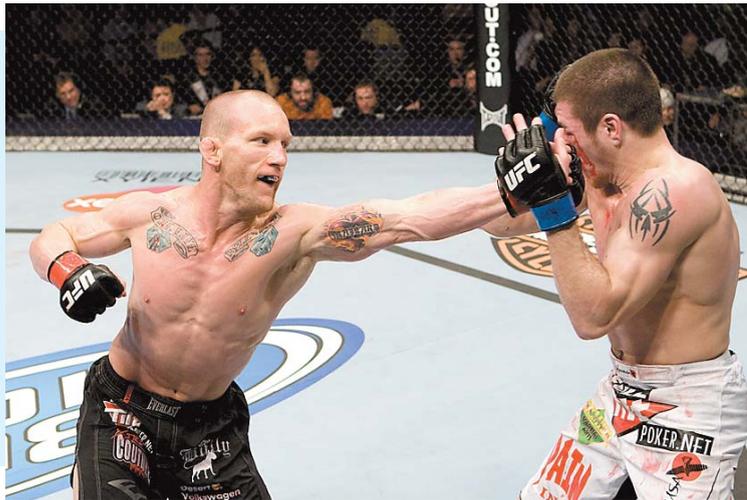
SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Animals in Winter. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join a naturalist from Hidden Pond Nature Center to learn about the animals in your neighborhood. Presentation includes live animals. 703-971-0010.

Friends of the Library Book Sale.

UFC Bout at GMU

Gray Maynard, left, fights Nate Diaz on Monday, Jan. 11, in a Ultimate Fighting Championship bout at the George Mason University Patriot Center.



COURTESY OF UFC

10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. All ages. 703-339-4610.

Birding for Beginners class. 8-10:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Start with a discussion about field guides and optics. A walk will follow to look for and identify resident birds. Adults. \$6. Reservations required at 703-768-2525.

Second Saturday Art Walk. The Workhouse Studio Artists will keep their doors open after hours, from 6-9 p.m., 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 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. For more information, call 703-495-0001 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Le Hotclub de Biglick. 5:30 p.m., at the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. In the 1930s, a style of music known as gypsy jazz was made famous by the legendary Django Reinhardt. Now today, this music is kept alive by a group known as Le Hotclub de Biglick. For more information visit www.lehotclub.com. Tickets \$15-\$25 and can be purchased at www.workhousearts.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 11

Ultimate Fighting Championship, with Gray Maynard and Nate

Diaz. 6:15 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$43-\$203, at www.ticketmaster.com or at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

PAL Reading Visits. 4-5:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call to reserve a 15-minute slot. 703-249-1520.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Early reader book activities. Call for titles. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Happy Birthday Princess Priscilla. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Celebrate the birthday of our branch teddy bear, Princess Priscilla, with stories and songs. Age 24 months to 5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

How Do The Critters Survive in The Cold? From 10-11 a.m., bring naturalists 3-6-years old to Hidden Pond Nature Center to learn how wildlife copes in harsh weather. Through an inside talk and outdoor exploration, the youngsters will see how nature finds a way to survive adverse conditions. They will find out what the creatures did during the snowstorm and understand how they make it through a long, cold winter. \$4 per child. Call 703-451-9588 to make a reservation.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Nonfiction Book Discussion Group. 6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get started on genealogical research with the assistance of our experienced volunteers. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA.) 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection Christmas Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. \$17, includes luncheon and free childcare. Reserve at 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562.

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
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George Mason University's Johnson Center

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects with Fairfax 4-H, FACETS, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America – in the convenience of one, central location.

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Walk-in registrations will be accepted as supplies are available; pre-registration is encouraged. Projects best suited for elementary-aged children.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Volunteer Fairfax



Stories To Watch For in 2010

With 2009 over-and-done, here's a preview of a few of 2010's top high school sports stories.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

District Basketball Play Heats Up

With the holiday tournaments over and just about every local high school basketball team about to enter the bulk of their district play, the basketball scene is primed to heat up the frigid month of January.

The West Springfield girls' basketball team's first month of the season could be described as dominating.

After winning six consecutive games the Lady Spartans enter January with a 6-1 record and a 1-0 Patriot District record.

The boys' team is currently sitting at 2-6 and recently snapped a four-game losing skid on Dec. 30 with a 60-56 victory over Falls Church.

Another dominating girls' team in the area is the Edison Eagles. The Lady Eagles have earned a 6-1 record in the first month of play and start the new year with games against Stuart on Jan. 5 and Falls Church on Jan. 8.

The Edison boys' team has cooled off since its four-game winning streak in early December to earn a 5-4 record. The boys will also face Stuart and Falls Church to open the month of January.

Robert E. Lee's basketball teams will be looking to January to help gain momentum. The boys' team currently has a 3-2 record and the girls' are struggling with a 1-6 record at the end of December.

Both of Lee's varsity basketball teams will face Annandale to open the month of January.

A rocky four-game losing streak that started the season for the Lake Braddock boys' basketball team, but they were able to put together a string of four wins in December to earn a 4-4 record.

With a 0-1 record in district play, the boys' will look to January to make up lost ground on South County and T.C. Williams. The girls' team is currently 1-6 and starts its January play against West Springfield.

Baseball and Softball

With the winter sports season nearing the midway point, it's not too soon to be thinking about spring training and the upcoming baseball season.

Local teams will be looking to build upon the success they shared in 2009, starting with Lake Braddock and their 17-7 season. The Bruins advanced to the state playoffs but were defeated by Hanover 0-4.

Baseball powerhouse West Springfield will be returning to the diamond in 2010 to defend its 2009 Patriot District and Northern Region baseball championships.

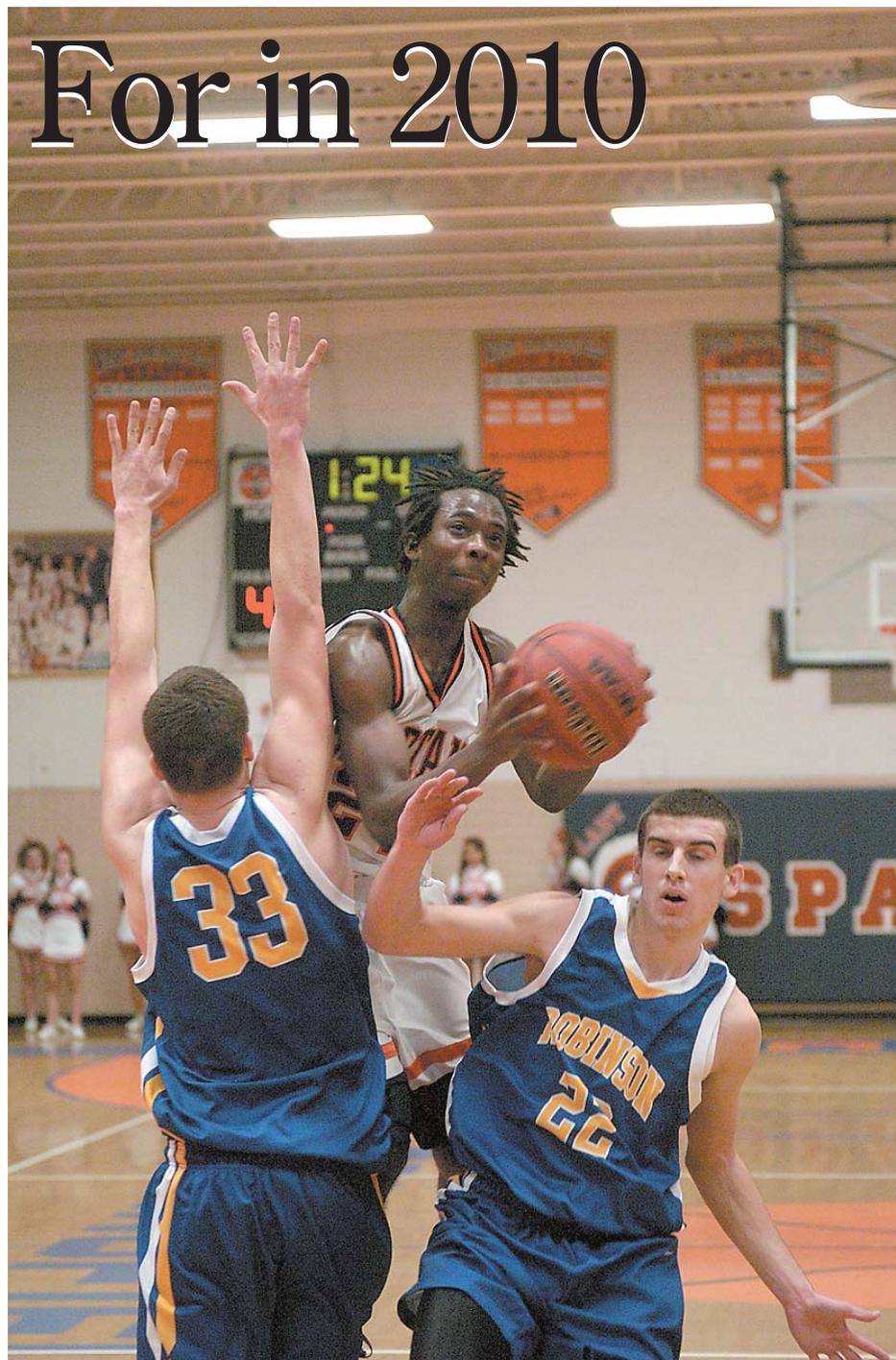
The boys' team finished the season with an impressive 23-5 record, but were beaten in the state tournament 5-6 by Menchville High School from Newport News on June 6.

The Lady Spartans' softball team finished 2009 with a 3-14 record.

Robert E. Lee and Hayfield's boys' baseball teams will be two teams seeking improvement in the 2010 season.

Lee's boys' baseball team finished the 2009 season with a 7-14 record and Hayfield earned a 7-13 record to cap off their season.

The Hayfield girls' softball team won't be



FILE PHOTOS

West Springfield's boys' basketball season enters the bulk of its Patriot District play in January.

using 2010 as a rebuilding year, but will be seeking to contend for the Patriot District title.

The Lady Hawks finished 2009 with a 18-5 record and were eliminated in the Northern Region playoffs by Robinson.

Area baseball and softball teams will also be looking to battle for home-field advantage in the state playoffs.

Westfield will be hosting the VHSL State Baseball Finals in 2010 and if local teams can garner top seeds, they'll enjoy playing in the comfy confines of Fairfax County instead of journeying around the state in June.

Spring Soccer Fever

Anyone hankering for some soccer before the FIFA World Cup in South Africa arrives in mid-June should check out the local high school soccer scene.

The West Springfield girls' soccer team will be defending its 2009 Patriot District title.

The Lady Spartans capped an impressive 15-2-2 record with their third Patriot District title in a row.

The 2010 season presents the opportunity to extend the streak to a dominating four-in-a-row.

West Springfield's boys' soccer team will use 2010 as a year to improve upon the 6-6-1 record the team earned in 2009.

Another team using 2010 as a year to improve will be the Robert E. Lee girls' soccer team. The Lady Lancers finished 2009 with a 2-7-2 record. The boys' soccer team will also seek improvement upon their 4-9-1 record in 2009.

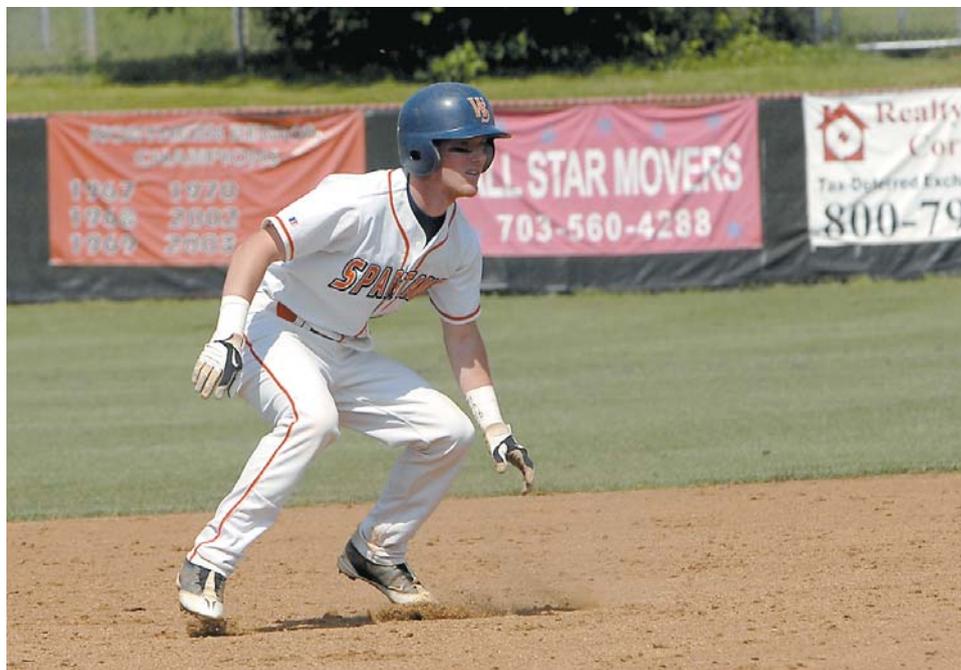
Last season proved to be another strong year for Edison's soccer teams.

The boys' finished 2009 with a 8-3-1 record and the girls' season ended with a 8-2 record.

Patriot District Football

When it comes to ultra-competitive divisions, the NCAA has the Southeastern Conference, the NFL has the NFC East and the Northern Region has the Patriot District.

In the 2009 season, the historically strong



The West Springfield boys' baseball team will be defending its 2009 Northern Region championship this spring.

SEE 2010, PAGE 14

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5321 LAROCHELLE CT	3	1	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03	D EVEREUX WEST
7745 DURER CT	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$299,900	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON STATION
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8117 ADAIR LN	3	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$285,000	Detached	0.25	RAVENSWORTH
7403 DICKENSON ST	3	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$282,000	Detached	0.25	SPRINGFIELD
7103 EVANSTON RD	5	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$280,000	Detached	0.15	SPRINGFIELD PARK
9111 GALBRETH CT	3	2	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.03	GLENWOOD MANOR
8090 WHITLERS CREEK CT	3	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.04	WOODS OF POHICK THE
7704 BRISTOL SQUARE CT	4	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.04	BRISTOL SQUARE
6499 O HARA COURT DR	3	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$273,600	Townhouse	0.06	SHANNON STATION
7820 MARCONI CT	3	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$273,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON STATION
7713 BRANDEIS WAY	3	1	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON STATION
6291 HILLARY CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.04	WINDSOR PARK
9179 FOREST BREEZE CT	2	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$269,000	Townhouse	0.08	KEENE MILL VILLAGE
7405 FALMOUTH ST	3	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$267,000	Detached	0.24	SPRINGFIELD
7637 TIVERTON DR	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$263,500	Townhouse		CARDINAL SQUARE
6817 HEATHERWAY CT	2	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$259,900	Townhouse	0.03	D EVEREUX WEST
6813 RUSKIN ST	3	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$256,000	Detached	0.29	LOISDALE ESTATES
5200 SAINT GENEVIEVE PL	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.05	D EVEREUX WEST
8483 CANYON OAK DR	3	2	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$251,100	Townhouse	0.04	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
7420 BLACKFORD ST	3	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$250,000	Detached	0.26	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
9059 TIFFANY PARK CT	2	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$245,000	Townhouse	0.05	KEENE MILL VILLAGE
7951 PEBBLE BROOK CT	2	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$245,000	Townhouse	0.04	WOODSTREAM
6480 SILVER RIDGE CIR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.04	WINDSOR PARK
8456 KITCHENER DR	3	2	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON STATION
7318 ROLLING OAK LN	3	2	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.04	BETHELEN WOODS
8291 BARK TREE CT	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.03	NEWINGTON FOREST
8216 TORY RD	2	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Townhouse		CARDINAL FOREST
8010 REVENNA LN	3	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.04	SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
7900 BENTLEY VILLAGE DR #11B	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$225,000	Townhouse		BENTLEY VILLAGE
8060 DONEGAL LN	4	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.03	SUMMIT WALK
8402 PENSHURST DR #584	2	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$218,000	Townhouse		CARDINAL FOREST
8492 LAUREL OAK DR	2	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$215,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
6451 SILVER RIDGE CIR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$215,000	Townhouse	0.04	WINDSOR PARK
7823 HARROWGATE CIR #7823 B	2	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		RAMBLEWOOD AT DAVENTRY
6850 BRINDLE HEATH WAY #211	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		ETON SQUARE
7391 STREAM WAY	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$200,000	Townhouse	0.03	ROLLING FOREST
7201 BEVERLY PARK DR	3	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$195,000	Detached	0.12	BEVERLY PARK
5790 REXFORD CT #A	2	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$195,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		CARDINAL FOREST
8557 BARRINGTON CT #925	2	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$191,175	Townhouse	0.00	CARDINAL FOREST
8076 GRANDVIEW CT	2	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$190,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON FOREST
5917 KINGSFORD RD #366	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$189,900	Townhouse		CARDINAL FOREST
7744 MATISSE WAY	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$180,900	Townhouse	0.04	NEWINGTON STATION
7912 BENTLEY VILLAGE DR #13A	3	2	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$176,000	Townhouse		BENTLEY VILLAGE
5816L ROYAL RIDGE DR #L	2	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$105,300	Garden 1-4 Floors		TIVOLI
7093 SPRING GARDEN DR #204	2	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$105,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		SPRINGFIELD GREEN
7093 SPRING GARDEN DR #201	1	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$79,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		SPRINGFIELD GREEN

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6605 WREN DR	\$685,000	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Ginny Johnson	703-244-1024
6304 DANA AVE	\$340,000	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Janice Buckley	571-239-2792
7909 TREESIDE CT	\$399,900	Sun 12-4	Weichert	Monique Craft	703-628-9571
7602 PALOMA CT	\$599,990	Sun 1-4	Century 21	Helen Grozbean	571-233-4287

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7805 KINCARDINE CT	\$474,900	Sun 1-4	PenFed	Olga Gribanova	703-409-8187
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1 NEELY ANN CT	\$825,000	Sat 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Phyllis Patterson	703-408-4232
6112 REDWOOD LA	\$509,905	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Phil Cefaratti	703-371-7601
5644 GLENWOOD DR	\$799,000	Sat 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Phyllis Patterson	703-408-4232
6707 ROYAL THOMAS WAY	\$449,900	Sun 1-4	Avery-Hess	Michael Malferrari	703-399-5774
7352 SPRINGLEIGH WAY	\$399,900	Sun 1-4	PenFed	Olga Gribanova	703-409-8187

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POLITICS

Senate Race

FROM PAGE 4

principals. Specifically, Hunt would like to create a bonus or incentive pay system for elementary school principals whose former students excel academically in middle school.

"If students from an elementary school are performing particularly well in middle school, a principal should be awarded for that," said Hunt.

Hunt is considered a conservative when it comes to social issues.

The Republican has worked as an abstinence counselor for high school students, asking them to wait until after marriage to have sex. As a School Board member, he advocated to have some references to contraception and birth control removed from a sexuality pamphlet distributed to Fairfax County students.

While on the Fairfax County School Board, Hunt also pushed for speakers who described themselves as former homosexuals to come speak to local high school students.

The Republican is pro-life and would likely favor most legislation that restricted access to abortion in Virginia.

Hunt also said he would support bills that allowed people to carry concealed guns into Virginia bars and restaurants, as long as they refrained from drinking alcohol. Currently, restaurant and bar patrons are required to wear a weapon "exposed" when they enter a bar or restaurant so that other patrons and the establishment's staff can see that they are armed.

"We need to stop treating law-abiding citizens as if they were guilty first. We should treat people who have not broken the law as people who have not broken the law," said Hunt about the concealed weapon issue.

Marsden and other Democrats said Hunt's views on social issues are out of the mainstream, particularly for residents living in the 37th Senate District. But Hunt points out that Cuccinelli shares many of Hunt's conservative views on social issues and has represented the district for seven years. He also added that the 37th State Senate District voted in favor of Virginia's constitutional ban on gay marriage.

Moreover, Republicans insist that social issues are not a priority for voters in turbulent economic times like these.

"The issues that matter right now in Northern Virginia are the budget and taxes and how we are going to deal with funding transportation and education...I don't know any survey of top issues that includes the divisive social stuff Dave Marsden seems to want to focus on," said Herryty.

Special Election

The 37th State Senate District is comprised of parts of the Sully, Springfield and Braddock Districts. All registered residents of this district can vote in the special election on Tuesday, Jan. 12 from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. at their normal polling places.

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FILE PHOTO

The Lady Spartans' claimed their third consecutive Patriot District soccer title in 2009 and will look to extend that streak in 2010.

2010: Year Ahead

FROM PAGE 10

Concorde District gave way to a new set of stars in the Patriot District.

Patriot District rivals Lake Braddock and Woodson squared off in the Northern Region finals and just a week before that, it was three Patriot District teams in the semi-finals — South County, Woodson and Lake Braddock.

The Patriot District also featured one of the best quarterback rivalries in the area between Lake Braddock's Michael Nebrich and Woodson's Connor Reilly.

Further cementing the power-swap, two of the Concorde District's playoff teams, Oakton and Westfield, exited the playoffs in the first round courtesy of Patriot District opponents.

While the Patriot District reigned supreme in 2009, the district is seeing some of its brightest stars leave at the end of the 2010 school year.

Regardless of what lies in store for the district in 2010, there's no doubt that 2009 brought out some of the best storylines in

local area football and will be a must-watch district in 2010.

One Down, Four To Go for Bruins

Lake Braddock's cross-country team almost had its name erased from the Virginia High School League record book in 2009. That was until the Bruins stopped Midlothian from capturing their fifth straight state title at the 2009 state cross-country finals.

With the VHSL record for consecutive state championships currently being shared by Lake Braddock and Midlothian, 2010 might be the start of Lake Braddock's attempt to re-claim the mark for its own.

Although standout distance runner Liana Epstein will be graduating, the Bruins have found a new spark in a talented youngster. Freshman runner Sophie Chase finished second at the state finals and had another strong performance in the Northern Region finals.

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HEALTH NOTES

Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will be offering a free Widow/Widower's support group. Haven also offers one-on-one support. A volunteer will meet with a person grieving the death of a loved one, as needed, to provide individual support. Volunteers will be selected to match individual need. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org.

Life with Cancer has a variety of support programs for cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Family Center, 2700 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax. 703-776-2841 or www.lifewithcancer.org.

The Clifton Presbyterian Church has a Caregiver Support Group that meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-re-

lated problems. 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

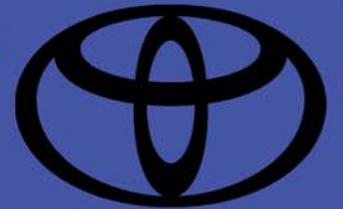
Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at www.lamaze-dc.com or by calling 703-549-2226.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664 or www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm.

TLC: Teens Living with Cancer. Monthly social activities for 13 to 18-year-olds who have cancer give them a chance to meet others with cancer, share a little, and have fun. Call 703-208-5623 for details. At the Life with Cancer Family Center, 2832 Juniper St., Fairfax. 703-698-2841 or www.lifewithcancer.org.

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