

Ryan's Fight

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Robinson Secondary graduate Ryan Dillon is fighting bone cancer. Several local schools are participating in a blood drive in his honor.

School Study
Grows by Five

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Marsden Takes Special Election

Democrat defeats Steve Hunt (R) in special election for 37th District Senate seat.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Del. David Marsden (D-41) and his fellow Democrats celebrated an election victory Tuesday night, Jan. 12, that proved significant for not only the candidate, but for the party as well.

Marsden, a two-term member of the House of Delegates, defeated Republican challenger and former School Board member Steve Hunt 11,954 to 11,627 in Tuesday's special election to fill Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli's vacant 37th District State Senate seat. While the margin was a slim 327 votes, the victory perhaps reversed a Republican trend in recent Fairfax County elections and helped strengthen a Democratic Party majority in the Senate.

"We knew it was going to be close, but we felt we had momentum," Marsden said. "Nobody can analyze what happened in November. There were a lot of folks who stayed home and didn't vote [in November] that started thinking 'We need something else' and came out tonight."

Turnout, as both candidates were fully aware, is the key in special elections, and that was the case Tuesday night. In a special election for the same seat in 2002,

slightly more than 18,000 residents participated overall, while 23,602 cast a ballot this year. Though Marsden won the overall vote, Hunt actually won two more precincts, but the race seemed to be decided in the lopsided absentee ballot totals. Marsden garnered 800 absentee votes to Hunt's 395, which proved to be a larger margin than the final overall vote total.

"I hate it when they say I need 11,000 votes [to win] and I get 11,000 and I don't win," Hunt said with a laugh. "We worked really hard and got an incredible turnout, but [Marsden's team] did well. The margin in absentee ballots was larger than the final count. It was a smart move on their part [to target absentee voters]."

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER the unofficial election results came back and a victory speech was given, Marsden had to hop in a car for a late night trip to Richmond for the beginning of the General Assembly Wednesday morning. Marsden will be sworn in as senator later in the day at the General Assembly, but as of Tuesday night, was already ready to get to work in his new position.

Marsden said that he is eager to work on legislation to create more jobs in his district and throughout the state, something he believes would solve many of the region's



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Del. David Marsden (D-41) with wife Julia smile after Marsden defeated Republican Steve Hunt in Tuesday's special election to fill the vacant 37th District State Senate seat.

economic woes. He said that he would work on legislation that will allocate money to the Governor's Opportunity Fund and other bills that would attempt to bring more businesses into the area. In addition, he said that he wants to continue his work to improve the juvenile court system and expand

"We knew it was going to be close, but we felt we had momentum."

— Del. David Marsden (D-41)

a program to keep custodial spouses out of jail.

"As a senator, I want to work on legislation to create an environment to create jobs and get our revenue back," Marsden said. "The budget is going to be an overriding concern, though, and I look forward to being able to have discussions on both sides of the aisle and work together."

As for Hunt and his fellow party members, the loss stung a bit more. The 37th District has been a Republican district since 1992, and Hunt said that he was disappointed that he could not keep the seat within the party. However, Hunt would not rule out another run for public office, saying that he could not ignore his desire to serve his community.

"It's a little too early to tell [if I would run again for public office]," Hunt said. "I have a great need to serve people. We had a lot of people that got behind us, so we'll see what opportunities present themselves in the future."

THE NEXT STEP for both parties is to prepare for the special election for the now

SEE MARSDEN, PAGE 14

Five More Schools Added to FCPS Study

Twenty-eight schools from Centreville to Lorton in play to address overcrowding.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

In a narrow six to five vote, Fairfax County School Board members voted to include five more elementary schools in a sprawling study about how to address student overcrowding in the western county during a work session Jan 11.

Lees Corner and Navy in Fairfax, Waples Mill in Oakton, Silverbrook in Fairfax Station and Terra Centre in Burke now join 23 other elementary schools that could potentially see building additions, boundary changes or academic program shifts as the result of a recent school population boom that officials predict will continue for the next several years.

The School Board also pushed back the time frame to vote on any permanent solutions to western county overcrowding — such as a boundary adjustment or new fa-

cility approval — from June to at least next fall.

The school system's chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said this was a prudent decision, given that some cuts to the school system's operating budget next year would have an impact on several of the overpopulated schools capacities. The School Board finalizes its operating budget in May.

For example, if the School Board cuts full-day kindergarten or the elementary music program, it will free up extra classroom for overflow students at some facilities, he said.

"There will be substantive impacts depending on what happens with the operating budget," said Tistadt.

MOST OF THE elementary school student growth is taking place north of Route 29 in the Centreville and Fairfax areas, with

SEE NEW SCHOOLS, PAGE 7

Impacted Schools:

Officials said that some or all of the following schools could be impacted by changes made to alleviate students overcrowding in western Fairfax County. These changes could include boundary adjustments, building additions or shifts in academic programs — such as the moving of a gifted and talented center or foreign language program to another location. The Fairfax County School board added those **schools in bold** to the list at a work session Jan. 11.

Bonnie Brae Elementary School, Fairfax
Brookfield Elementary School, Chantilly
Bull Run Elementary School, Centreville
Centre Ridge Elementary School, Centreville
Centreville Elementary School, Centreville
Clifton Elementary School*, Clifton
Cub Run Elementary School, Centreville
Deer Park Elementary School, Centreville
Eagle View Elementary School, Fairfax
Fairfax Villa Elementary School, Fairfax
Fairview Elementary School, Fairfax Station

Greenbriar East Elementary School, Fairfax
Greenbriar West Elementary School, Fairfax
Laurel Ridge Elementary School, Fairfax
Lees Corner Elementary School, Fairfax
London Towne Elementary School, Fairfax
Navy Elementary School, Fairfax
Oak View Elementary School, Fairfax
Poplar Tree Elementary School, Chantilly
Powell Elementary School, Centreville
Providence Elementary School, Fairfax
Sangster Elementary School, Springfield
Silverbrook Elementary School, Fairfax Station
Terra Centre Elementary School, Burke
Union Mill Elementary School, Clifton
Virginia Run Elementary School, Centreville
Waples Mill Elementary School, Oakton
Willow Springs Elementary School, Fairfax

* Clifton Elementary is the only school proposed for closure



From left, Claudia Amenabar, Kelli Boyle, Katie Lee, Andrea Harmon, Emily Piraino, Illana Dvoran and Michala Apel pose for a photo during rehearsal.

'Can Do' Musical

'Guys and Dolls' take the stage at Lake Braddock's Little Theatre.

Actors in Lake Braddock Musical Theatre are currently rehearsing the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls." Performances will be Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., in Lake Braddock's Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance during school lunches and before show time. For more information, visit www.freewebs.com/lbmusical/.



Above, Nathan Detroit, played by Reid Bigman, joins fellow gamblers shooting craps in a floating crap game that he's organized.



At left, Lake Braddock senior Andrea Harmon plays Adalaide, one of the two female leads in 'Guys and Dolls.'

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

Community Reaches Out To Help Cancer Patient, 20

Blood drive slated for Ryan Dillon.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The thing about cancer is that it doesn't play fair. But every time it deals a blow to 20-year-old Robinson grad Ryan Dillon, he comes back fighting.

At the moment, Ryan is recuperating from a surgery he received last month, and Clifton Elementary, where his father, Don Dillon, is a PE. teacher, is hosting a blood drive in his honor.

The drive is set for Monday, Jan. 25, from 3-8 p.m., at Clifton Elementary. Appointments may be scheduled online at <https://www.membersforlife.org/rccm/mobilesch/login.php?sponsorcode=16336>.

"We're just happy he's still with us."

— Don Dillon, Ryan's father

[Clifton Elementary's sponsor code is 16336.] Donors may also just show up without appointments.

"We feel like it's important to offer the family our support," said Clifton guidance counselor Melanie Lessard, who is coordinating the blood drive at the school. "One way we can do that, and honor Ryan, is by holding a blood drive for him."

Lessard is also a friend and neighbor of the Dillons, who live in Burke Centre. She says that the goal is to obtain 41 units of

blood. Clifton teachers, staff and parents are already signing up, with Principal Arthur Polton leading the way.

"Ryan's a wonderful kid and is also dearly loved at Robinson," said Lessard. "He's a kind, gentle spirit and he's gone through this with such dignity. He's just a trooper who handles anything that comes his way."

Ryan has two brothers, Mac and Liam, a Robinson senior and sophomore, respectively, plus two sisters, Samantha, a senior at Radford University, and Shea, a Clifton fourth-grader. His mother Hallie is an assistant principal at Bailey's Elementary and his father formerly taught PE. for years at Fairview Elementary, where Ryan also attended school.

Although Ryan Dillon is autistic, his father described him as "highly functional."

"He articulates well and loves people," said Don Dillon.

Ryan Dillon was first diagnosed in 2003 with osteosarcoma (bone cancer) at age 13. He had chemotherapy for a year and several surgeries to repair his left leg. The tibia was removed and replaced with a titanium rod.

But, said Don Dillon, "He dealt with it beautifully. Because of the autism, Ryan treats things as black and white: 'I'm sick;



DONATED PHOTO

Several schools are taking part in a blood drive in Ryan Dillon's honor.

I've got to get treatment.' He doesn't get emotional about it; he just deals with it."

For three years, through 2006, Ryan's life was filled with treatment and surgeries. Then in 2006, the Make-A-Wish Foundation contacted him and, since he'd read all the "Harry Potter" books and was a big fan, his wish was to meet the cast of the "Harry Potter" movies.

"So that May, they flew the whole family to London," said Dillon. "They took us to

the studio where they were filming 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.' He spent all day on the set and got to hang out with Daniel Radcliffe [who portrays Harry]. They were unbelievable to us, so nice. Ryan talked to Daniel and the other cast members for the longest time. It was wonderful."

Afterward, Ryan Dillon started to heal and

SEE RYAN DILLON, PAGE 13



CONTRIBUTED

Standing, back row, from left, **Christin Sangjin Yi, Samantha Lee Hodges and Sara Marie Forster**; front row, **Holly Elizabeth Schulz, Amanda Askari and Marisa Rae Sheffield**; and seated, **April Evangeline McGinness**. Not pictured are **Lauren Elizabeth Catalano and Catherine Faye Mahoney**.

Debutante Tea

More than 100 attend Old Dominion Cotillion Tea.

The Old Dominion Cotillion annual Holiday Tea took place on Dec. 13 at the home of Mrs. R. Richard Soper in Clifton. More than 100 women and young ladies attended this afternoon tea, including Pages, Future Debs, Debutantes, Post Debs, Alumnae and Patrons. Centered around a silver tea service and conducted in an ornamented and festooned holiday setting, this affair also featured finger foods, traditional Christmas cakes and cookies and an array of international holiday desserts, delicate pastries and delectable confections.

According to Cotillion tradition, this event was hosted by the Pages and Future Debs to introduce the Debutantes who will be presented at the annual ball in July. The 2010 Debutantes are Amanda Askari, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hossain Askari of Oak Hill; Lauren Elizabeth Catalano, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Catalano of Clifton; Sara Marie Forster, daughter of Dr. David and Dr. Carol Forster of Oak Hill; Samantha Lee Hodges, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Walter James Hodges Jr. of Oakton; Catherine Faye Mahoney, daughter of Dr. David and Dr. Karen Mahoney of Oakton; April Evangeline McGinness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McGinness of Fairfax; Holly Elizabeth Schulz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schulz of Arlington; Marisa Rae Sheffield, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. Steven Sheffield; and Christin Sangjin Yi, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Yi of Fairfax.

Established in 1991, the Old Dominion Cotillion is an organization created to grow young ladies into women of confidence and poise as they face a challenging, ever-changing world. One of the foremost objectives of the ODC is to educate young women in the classically elegant social graces through enrichment activities, such as seminars and social and philanthropic service, so that they flourish as they engage their families and communities and accept social responsibility.

Old Dominion Cotillion welcomes all young ladies and their families regardless of race, religion or creed. To learn more about The Old Dominion Cotillion, contact Mrs. Charles Gallagher, director, at 703-476-9576 or at flgallagher@cox.net. Also, visit www.olddominioncotillion.org.



PHOTO BY KRISTINA TREVINO/THE CONNECTION

Sangster Elementary fifth grade students make pillows for the troops.

Something To Sleep On

Students make pillows for soldiers stationed in Afghanistan.

BY KRISTINA TREVINO
THE CONNECTION

Whether they are collecting mittens and hats for an orphanage in China, backpacks for students in Afghanistan, school supplies for Iraqi students or even supporting a school in the Amazon, Sangster Elementary students are committed to finding ways to give back to their community. This year was no exception with their Pillows for Our Troops event on Friday, Jan. 8.

Fifth grade students made handmade pillows for soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division deployed in Afghanistan. The event was organized by fifth grade teacher Liane Char, who has a brother serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. She contacted three different chaplains from the division who said it would be a great service to do for soldiers.

"We chose to do the pillows because we had heard that the soldiers don't have pillows, so we needed to make something that was small for them to fit into their sleeping bag," said Char. "Plus it is great and wonderful."

The pillows, which were made out of 12 by 12-inch fleece squares, were hand knotted and stuffed by the students, and the patterns were cut by high school students for service credit hours.

The Sangster students attached signed thank you

notes to their pillows and wrote poems for the soldiers.

"We certainly hope it raises awareness overseas for the students because many of the students' parents that attend Sangster Elementary School have come from military families," said Char, "It acknowledges the parents that are serving now and teaches the kids who may not be aware to do something for those people, and it's fun."

WHILE THE PILLOWS might have been a little difficult to make, fifth-graders Rachel Moody and Emma Ager conceded that it was a fun project; moreover, soldiers will feel elated and appreciated. "It makes me think about the war," said Rachel. "It makes you realize how lucky you are."

"It makes me think about how the soldiers are helping America," said Emma.

Principal Gail Kinsey, an advocate of service projects, proposed the idea to the teachers when she encountered an ad on TV about soldiers not having pillows in their sleeping bags, and how the sol-

diers who received them were so gratified for the small gesture. In addition, Kinsey realized the school is part of a community with a strong number of military families causing them to deal with the sacrifices soldiers and their families must undergo. She considered it a privilege to do anything to support the armed forces.

"This project helped students understand in a small way the daily discomfort and deprivation that our service men and women endure as a part of their commitment to ensuring our safety," said Kinsey. "Having a pillow and a cozy place to sleep is what almost all of us take for granted."

"It makes me think about the war. It makes you realize how lucky you are."

— Rachel Moody, fifth grader

PEOPLE

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

Army Reserve Pvt. James A. Wood has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Cheryl Lisenby of Eaton Woods Place, Lorton, and grandson of Viola Wood of Sweetbriar Drive, Alexandria. Wood is a 2004 graduate of Hayfield Secondary School.

Megan Kane of Fairfax Station was named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Quinnipiac University.

Mark P. Whitaker from Fairfax Station was named to the dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, for the fall 2009 semester. Whitaker is studying liberal arts. Penn State Behrend's dean's list recipients must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester in which they are awarded.

Austin Pierce of Clifton earned the distinction of faculty honors for fall semester 2009 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Undergraduate students earning a 4.00 academic average for the semester gain the distinction of faculty honors at Georgia Tech.

Jenna L. Tryon, daughter of Michael and Heidi Tryon of Fairfax Station and a 2009 graduate of South County Secondary, was named to the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2009-10 academic year at Bucknell University. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

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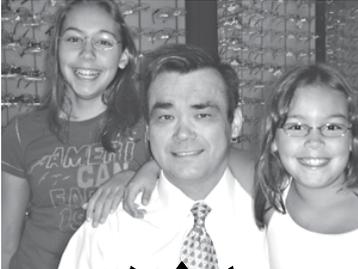
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Large Classes, Tough Choices

With overcrowding in public schools, it's time to open doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

One reason for growth in the student population in public school systems in the area right now is the effect of the recession on family budgets. With more than 70,000 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, and thousands more underemployed, some families who did have children in private schools have switched to public school. Given the stellar reputations of the schools in question, it's a rational financial move.

But now growing enrollment and costs combined with stagnant budgets are forcing some local public school systems to rework their budget calculations as well, resulting in more

than 30 students in many classes, more than 40 students in some classes.

This will no doubt send some parents back to the family budget drawing board, seeking a way to afford private school and smaller class sizes for their children.

Most parents don't care very much about the size of the average class, only the sizes of the classes in which their children are trying to learn.

Very large classes, especially classes with 30 or more students in them, are a detriment to learning. Students with any sort of challenges are particularly poorly served by large classes.

EDITORIAL

Preserve and Protect

To the Editor:

On Monday, Jan. 18, Virginians from all over the state will gather on the Capitol Grounds in Richmond to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday and his message of obtaining peace through non-violence. In addition, we will remember the approximately 800 Virginians who lose their lives every year to gun violence. We will meet with legislators to encourage them to pass bills that protect the public while preserving the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

This year, the following bills have been filed: HB 32, allowing faculty at state colleges and universities to carry concealed handguns on campus; HB 49, repealing Virginia's one gun-a-month law; HB 54, allowing the carrying of handguns into a courthouse when the courthouse is being used for non-judicial purposes; HB 69, declaring that firearms and ammunition made and/or retained in Virginia not be subject to federal or Congressional law; HB 72, changing the penalty for possession of a firearm on school property from a Class 6 felony to a Class 1 misdemeanor; HB 106, allowing a person with a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun in a place of worship with permission of the leader of the religious meeting and eliminating the restriction against carrying a concealed handgun in a restaurant that serves alcohol.

My question has been and continues to be, how can Virginia, the place where the worst mass tragedy in American history occurred, and which loses more than 800 people every year to gun violence, continue to ignore the loss of life and create policies that leave families and communities devastated? Join us on Jan. 18 -please go to the Virginia Center for Public Safety Web site: <http://www.vacps.org/>.

zens may open carry in a restaurant or establishment that serves alcohol but may not conceal carry. The Board of Visitors of each individual college or university determines whether students, faculty or staff may carry firearms on campus. Currently, Virginia citizens may only purchase one gun per month and federal law traditionally overrules state law.

Should the above bills pass, Virginia will allow the following: Virginia citizens to purchase an unlimited number of guns, the right of faculty to conceal carry on our campuses, allow guns in our courthouses and churches during "off" hours, lessen the penalty for those carrying firearms on K-12 school property, allow concealed weapons in establishments that serve alcohol and allow Virginia to ignore laws passed by the United States Congress.

Lu Ann Maciulla McNabb
Centreville

Promises, Promises

To the Editor:

Today, I ran several errands in

Northern Virginia and found that most of the roads I traversed were in a poorly maintained condition. Quite frankly, the roads in Northern Virginia are falling apart with many having budding pot holes, some large enough to jar your car when you run over them.

But, we should have no anxiety about this matter because Governor-elect Robert McDonnell (R), "Fairfax's Own" and my delegate, David Albo (R-42), who is "Working Hard" for the people up here in Northern Virginia, will fix this horrible transportation mess. The question I have is where will Mr. McDonnell and Mr. Albo get the money, and lots of it, to fix the transportation problem up here in Northern Virginia? You cannot build new roads and maintain the existing roads without money. And selling the ABC stores does not sound like a good idea, unless someone can explain to me where the Commonwealth will get a \$100 million a year to replace the annual profit it receives from the ABC store sales?

The citizens in Northern Virginia should make sure that our elected officials in Richmond live up to the promises they made to us during last year's campaign. Quite frankly, I am tired of having promises made to me during the election that are quickly forgotten by elected officials after the election is over.

Lon Caldwell
Springfield

Lifesaving Bill

To the Editor,

As a two-time cancer survivor I was encouraged that the Senate passed its health care reform leg-

islation before the Christmas holiday. It was an early gift for cancer patients, survivors and their families, who are closer than ever to reaping the benefits of historic legislation that will dramatically improve the health care system in this country.

Schools would do well to focus first on limiting very large classes, worrying a bit less about average class size.

It's also an excellent time to begin paving the way for charter schools in Virginia. What, in the middle of a financial crunch? If we start now to develop more encouraging guidelines for charter schools in the region, by the time the first schools are open, the economic climate will be vastly different.

Public schools cannot meet all the needs of all the students that come through the doors. Families deserve some well-constructed alternatives. Governor-elect Bob McDonnell, along with President Obama, is right to push to open the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

This is a critical point in the war against cancer. And I would like to thank Sens. Warner and Webb for putting patients before politics by voting in favor of this lifesaving bill.

Thank you Sen. Warner and Sen. Webb for standing up and looking out for cancer patients.

Jim Radmore
American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
Volunteer

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New Schools Added To Study

FROM PAGE 2

Powell and Eagle View elementary schools seeing the most severe overcrowding problems. But schools in Burke, Fairfax Station, Chantilly and Clifton are also on the list of those that could be impacted.

The School Board added the five new schools to the list at the recommendation of the school system's Southwestern Regional Planning Study Committee, comprised of two representatives from each of the 23 schools originally included on the list. Representatives from the five additional schools will now be allowed to join the committee, which started to meet last fall.

SOME SCHOOL BOARD members were opposed to expanding the number of schools that would both potentially be impacted by the study and who would have representation on the committee. There is always reason to include one more school in a discussion of this sort, they said.

"If we include Lees Corner, Waples Mill and Navy, we have to think about including Crossfield. ... Where does it end?" said School Board member Kathy Smith (Sully).

Other School Board members were worried that by including more schools — and pushing back the timeline for producing a solution — the school system was not addressing the overcrowding problem at some facilities fast enough.

"If we don't do a boundary study this spring, we don't get any relief for two-and-half years from now. We have some schools that are at 140 percent ca-

capacity and need relief," said School Board member Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill).

The facilities staff will be looking into temporary fixes for some of the elementary schools overcrowding problems, including additional trailers, while a permanent solution is developed, said Tistadt.

Most School Board members said they wanted to give the committee, which had requested more time, the benefit of the doubt. School Board members said they feared cutting off the work of the advisory group, especially since the school system had been accused of not involving the public enough in boundary decisions in the past.

AS PART OF the overall regional facility review, officials have asked the citizen group to look at the prospect of closing one school, Clifton Elementary.

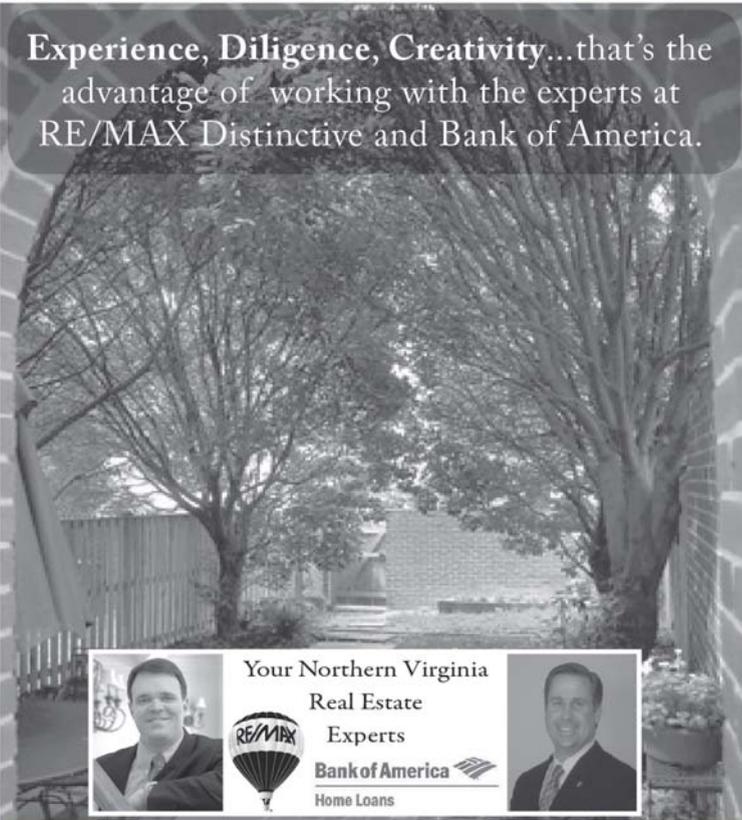
According to staff estimates, Clifton would be much more expensive to renovate on a cost-per-pupil basis than most Fairfax elementary school facilities. The school system said its facility is on a difficult site and the student population is smaller than many of the other schools nearby.

Though the Clifton community has been very vocal about keeping the elementary school open, the citizen advisory group has held back on advocating for the building to stay open regardless of cost.

But the group of parents, which include several people from schools other than Clifton, said that the school system should give more consideration to the history of the Clifton school, which is more than 100 years old, and the impact on community sentiment in the Town of Clifton.

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THINGS TO DO

Seven Little Roommates

Robinson Production Co. presents Disney-free 'Snow White.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Walt Disney didn't have a lock on "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves." A century earlier, the show played on Broadway.

"It was professionally produced, with a really good script," said Robinson Secondary Theater Director Chip Rome. That's the version the Robinson Production Co. is bringing to life on the school's stage.

The show will be presented Friday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 at the door or via www.RobinsonDrama.org, or \$5 by mail to: Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.

The Robinson Production Co. is a theater class comprised mainly of freshmen, but students must audition or interview to get in, and all 35 of them are involved in the show in some way.

"It's something of an experiment, in that the class focuses on learning theater skills by doing," said Rome. "So it's less academic and more hands-on and requires an enhanced level of commitment and discipline toward working individually and as an ensemble."

"So she's vulnerable, but stays alive by living with the seven dwarves."

— Carys Meyer,
as Snow White

brave."

Meyer is enjoying her role because Snow White "goes through lots of different emotions." She said playing the lead is "a lot of responsibility because you have to set a good example for the rest of the cast. I think the audience will love the show because the dwarves are really cute and people will relate to the love story."

Portraying the evil Queen Brangomar is Emily

Rowson. "She's very self-centered," said Rowson. "When she finds out from the witch that Snow White is, indeed, more beautiful than her, she wants to kill her. So she plots with the witch to do that."

She said it's a fun role because "playing the villain gives you a chance to portray something totally opposite of yourself. We have some fantastic actors and suspenseful moments in the show, so children and adults will both enjoy it."

Alyssa Michener plays Hex, the witch. "She's magical and wants to be better and not hurt anybody," said Michener. "She likes doing spells, but has a really good heart, deep down, so she's a really fun character to play. She's unique and has her own humorous personality. She's fun-loving."

Delighted to be in a children's show, Michener said,



DONATED PHOTO

In this rehearsal picture, the littlest dwarf, Quee (played by freshman Dora Maxwell), prepares to remember all of the items to bring back to the others tomorrow. Also seen here are, from left, John Turner, Hannah Selz, Talisa Caldwell, Papsi Kabia, Shelby Weatherbee and Laura Newcome.

"When it's geared toward children, you get to be more creative and playful to make it more real and exciting for them. Kids want to laugh and get excited about a play. They'll also learn the morals that beauty is skin deep – real beauty comes from the inside – and that good triumphs over evil."

The student director is senior Marisa Brown. Besides being in charge of makeup, she's helped the freshmen transition to high-school theater and says their parents will be able to see their progress as actors.

"It's been a great learning experience for me," said Brown. "It was a lot harder than I thought." Toughest was getting organized and figuring out each day's plan. She made sure the actors were running their lines and knew their cues; and at first, she even directed them.

Now, she's glad to have had the opportunity. "Mr. Rome said I could do anything I set my mind to," she said. "And the fact that I accomplished so much and achieved this goal means a lot to me." She also predicts the dwarves will be big hits. "They're so cute," said Brown "The audience will just adore them."

"I think the audience will really like our characterizations," said Rome. "They're great, lively and fun, and the storyline moves along nicely. The kids are working hard and it's paying off, so we're confident the audience will have a wonderful time."

CALENDAR

Snow Dates for 'Nutcracker'

The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax presents "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets for all shows are \$20. These performances have been rescheduled from their original December dates due to the winter storm that plagued the area on Dec. 19. Tickets from the December shows will be honored. To learn more, go to www.thecenterforballetarts.com or phone 703-273-5344.



Lake Braddock student Kailey Leinz as Clara

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.

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 or SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 3-7 p.m. 202-433-2525 or www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium.

Pentagram, The Gates of Slumber, Earthride, Lord, Ol' Scratch, Croatoan. All ages \$20 advance, \$23 door. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 202-433-2525 or www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium.

So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Competition for Teens Audition Rounds. 3-5 p.m. All contestants will need to fill out a Team Registration Entry Form prior to the audition, at any teen center or at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec; go to Teen Services. Audition locations are: James Lee Teen Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church; Mott Teen Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Fairfax; Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston and Hideaway Teen Center, South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heroes.' 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

Gallery After Hours: Los Gatos. 7 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cash bar and light fare will be available, wear your dancing shoes. Tickets \$15-\$25. For more information visit www.losgatos.cc.

Korpiklaani, Tyr, Swashbuckle, White Wizard, Radamanthys, TBA, Silvanus. All ages \$20 advance, \$25 door. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heroes.' 2 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

THINGS TO DO

FROM PAGE 8

admission, \$15 seniors and students.
703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 18

Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dewberry Hall in the Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America. Pre-register at www.volunteerfairfax.org. 703-246-3826 or swatson@volunteerfairfax.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Early Readers Book Group. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A book group for 6 to 8-year-olds and their parents. 703-249-1520.

Snowy Tales. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Winter stories. Age 13 to 23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Needlework Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Mother Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A book club for girls 9-11 and an adult. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria.

"Housekeeping" by Marilynne Robinson. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Windy Weather Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time about winter weather. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Snowy Day. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

"Guys and Dolls." 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

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.

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.' 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

Spot-LYTE Company presents: "Incorruptible." 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-495-0001 or www.workhousearts.org.



PHOTO BY JEFF FRIED/WWW.JEFFREYFRIED.COM

Paradise Springs Winery Hosts Grand Opening Jan. 16

Paradise Springs Winery will have its grand opening on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m. The winery is located at 13219 Yates Ford Road in Clifton. To learn more, go to www.ParadiseSpringsWinery.com.

"Guys and Dolls." 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at www.RobinsonDrama.org. Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson

Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.' 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238

or www.sctonline.org. **Children's illustrator and political cartoonist Chip Bok.** 2 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bok will discuss his new children's book, *The Great White House Breakout*, coauthored with Helen Thomas. Books available for sale and signing. Free, registration required at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-339-4610.



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Stallion Defense Stumps Woodson

Adams' 15 points helps boost South County to victory.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

South County senior guard Lauren Adams' 15 points against W.T. Woodson on Jan. 8 didn't come from highlight reel passes or slick outside shots.

Instead, the 6-foot guard feasted on turnovers created by the Stallions' defense, deliberately driving the hoop to help seal a 42-29 victory over one of Patriot District's hottest teams.

"We showed that we're going to be leaders in the district and be a threat," she said.

South County muffled Woodson's sharpshooters, holding them to 10 points and leaving Woodson supporters at Paul "Red" Jenkins Gymnasium with very little to cheer about.

The Stallions' win over Woodson isn't so much a statement about the team's ability to compete, but how they intend to compete.

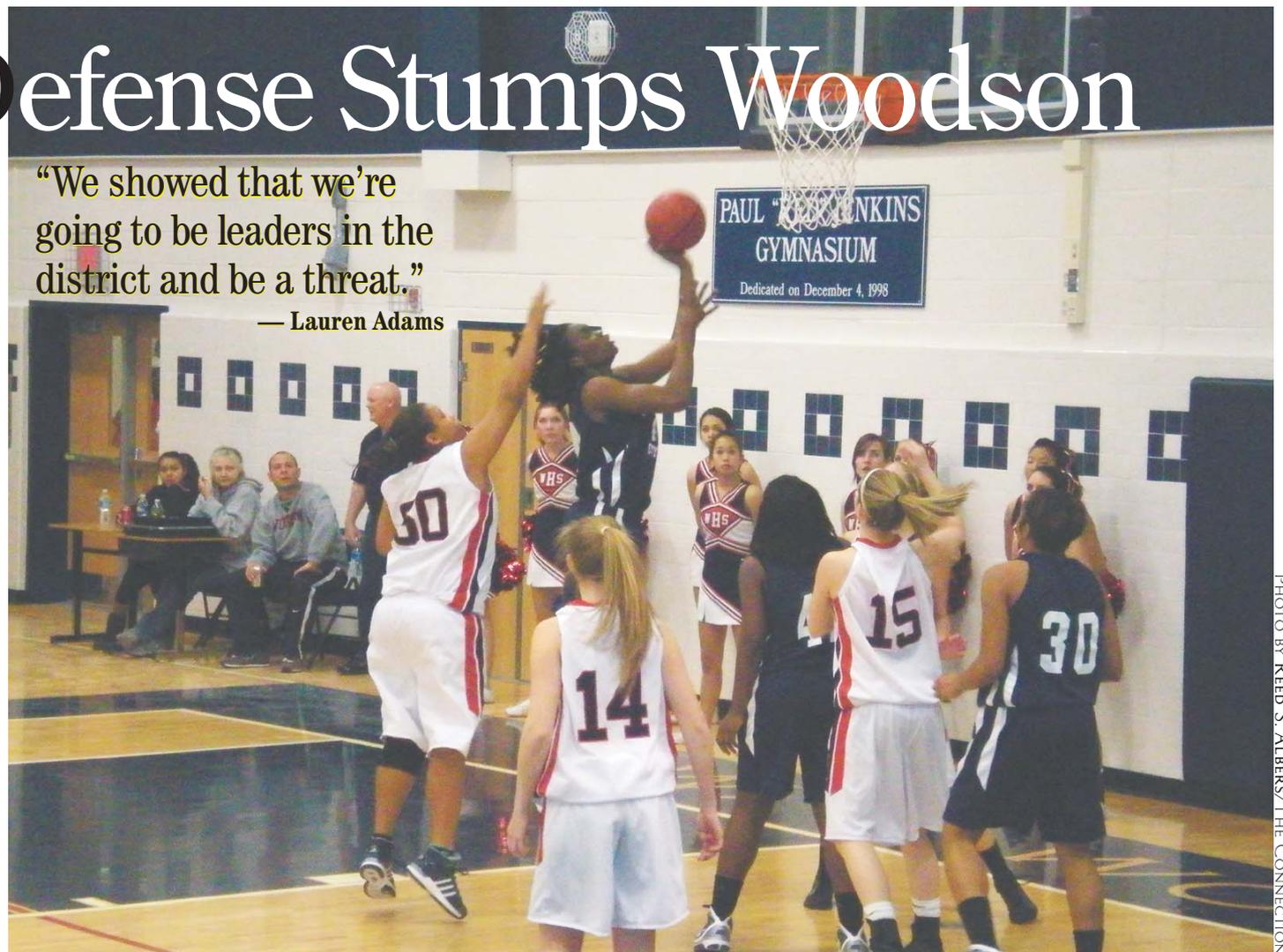
"We're never going to be a 60-or-70 point scoring team," Head Coach Chrissy Kelly said. "We'd like to get there, but we're going to rely on what we're most comfortable in and that's defense."

IT MIGHT NOT be the most jaw-dropping style of play, but it's been effective. In five of the Stallions' seven wins, the team has kept opponents under 40 points.

"We rely so much on our defense," Kelly said. "We trust that we know what we're going up against. If we limit our breakdowns, we'll always have a chance to be in the game."

"We showed that we're going to be leaders in the district and be a threat."

— Lauren Adams



Simone Antwi scores the first point of the game by driving inside the lane for a lay-up.

While the Stallions' 7-5 record might suggest the team is battling with inconsistency, the squad's 3-0 Patriot District record tells a different story, but it isn't making the team overconfident.

"I don't think you can pull away in the Patriot District," Kelly said. "It's just too strong of a district. There are so many good teams."

South County's recent string of success is infusing the bench with confidence as pairings loom with strong opponents such as West Springfield and T.C. Williams.

"We were having trouble at the beginning,

but we're starting to show what we can do," Adams said. "It's coming together."

Kelly said that part of the team's future success will depend on strong play from Adams and the development of junior forward Simone Antwi.

"When [Adams] puts her understanding of the game under control, we are a much better team," Kelly said. "She works so hard, but there's a difference between working hard and working smart."

Adams said she's aware of the improvement her coach wants and already has pinpointed areas to change.

"I want to be more of a leader," she said. "It's not about scoring the most points, but showing that I'm trying to win [for the team]."

Kelly said Antwi, a member of the South County state runner-up volleyball team, will only continue to grow as the season progresses.

"When [Antwi] puts her game all together, she could be really good," she said.

South County continues the 2009-10 season on Jan. 14 at home against Lake Braddock.

5 Qs with South County Forward Lauren Adams

5 Qs:

Q: What's your favorite pre-game pump-up song?

A: It'd have to be "Let's go" by Twista, Trick Daddy and Lil' John.

Q: If you could play with any athlete, who would it be?

A: It would have to be Michael Jordan.

Q: Did you admire Jordan as a child?

A: Yeah, he was my favorite player and he's a great role model.

Q: What's your favorite sports moment?

A: When I went to the VHSL basketball championship game at the Siegel Center in Richmond during eighth grade. Watching that game inspired me.

Q: Imagine you could change places with another athlete. Who's life would you want?

A: I'd want to be [University of Virginia guard] Monica Wright. She's one of my favorite college players and I'd like to be able to play like her.

— REED S. ALBERS



Lauren Adams

REED S. ALBERS

SPORTS

Cavs' Strong Showing At Christopher Newport

The W.T. Woodson indoor track team turned in a strong effort at the Christopher Newport University High School Track Invitational on Jan. 8-9.

The meet was capped by Erica Howes' fourth overall finish and 5:25 time in the 1,600-meter race and Paul Gates' fifth overall finish and 4:36 time in the 1,600-meter race.

Other standouts included Will Phillip's 6.77 time in the 55-meter dash and Tiffany Waters' 44.44 in the 300-meter dash.

WEEK IN SPORTS

NoVA Flash Softball Seeks Players

The NoVA Flash, a 14U fast-pitch girls softball travel/tournament team, is looking to add a few committed players from the Northern Virginia area for the 2010 Spring-Summer season. Formed late last summer, the Flash participated in four tournaments during the Fall 2009 season, compiling a record of 12 wins and 7 losses, with one second place tournament finish. The team is looking for at least one additional pitcher to augment its current staff, as well as defensive players with solid skills and strong bats. The Flash uses practice fields in the McLean area. Players, 13 or 14 years old as of Dec. 31, 2009, who are interested in learning more about the NoVA Flash or arranging a tryout during our Saturday afternoon

winter batting practices, should contact Coach Mike Wheat at wheatsbaseball@aol.com, or by calling 703-966-3805.

Umpires Needed

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association (NVBUA) is in need of officials for baseball and volleyball. Umpires are needed for colleges, men's leagues, high schools and youth recreational leagues. Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Classes will begin in mid-

February. Umpires are needed for all communities in the greater Washington D.C. Metro area. Call Ken Williams at 703-400-3232 for more information or go to umpires.org to fill out a "New Ump" form.

Umpires Needed for Adult Slowpitch Softball

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), the largest softball organization in the area, is seeking umpires for its adult slowpitch softball leagues in Fairfax County. Umpires' net pay starts at \$25 per one-hour game and they are paid monthly. Experience is desired but ASA training is provided beginning early February. Flexible scheduling is based on availability. Contact FAS at 703-815-9007 or e-mail to: office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

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FROM PAGE 3

was doing well. He graduated from Robinson in 2008, but still took job-training classes there. He also learned office procedures at Westfield High and played baseball and basketball on Special Olympics teams.

"The oncologists told us he pretty much had this beat," said Don Dillon. "Ryan was doing great and was only going back once a year for follow-ups."

Then in March 2009, Ryan Dillon said his back was bothering him and X-rays determined the cancer had spread to both lungs. So again, he had chemo and responded well, but it wasn't enough.

In August, surgeons removed a tumor in his right lung, plus four ribs, because the cancer had invaded them, too. Because of it, said Don Dillon, Ryan could no longer do contact sports.

But that's not all. On Dec. 10, he underwent another operation to remove a tumor from his left lung. "They expected to use two units of blood, but used 12," said Don Dillon. "An artery opened up and they had to go back in the next day."

"Ryan's still recuperating from that and trying to get stronger every day," said Don Dillon. "He still has more chemo and radiation to do but, meanwhile, a tutor comes to the house, two or three days a week. He visits with friends now and, over the last week, they've gone out to dinner and movies."

Ryan's latest pathology reports "came back great," said his father. "So right now, he's clear [of cancer]. We'll just wait and see. His goal is to get back to school, follow through and live and do the things he wants to do, including eventually work in the post office."

Sarah Engel, Partner's Club sponsor at Robinson, also heads the school's Work Awareness and Transition program, and she's gotten to know Ryan through his involvement in both things. As a result, she described him as a lover and a fighter.

"When I first met Ryan in the spring of 2008, I had no idea about his previous battle with cancer," she said. "Every time Ryan came into my class, it was evident to everyone he was always happy to be there and anxious to get to work."

Don Dillon said the family prays a lot for Ryan, and "people keep telling us they're praying for him, too. And the prayers are working, so we're just happy he's still with us."

Calling the upcoming blood drive a "great thing," Don Dillon said that, for people going through chemotherapy, their red blood cell and platelet counts drop drastically and need to be replaced through transfusions. So this drive will replace the blood that's been used and will be there in the future for anyone else.

Those interested may also follow Ryan on his Web site: www.caringbridge.org and type ryand in the guestbook. "People can read his story and progress and send him messages," said Don Dillon.

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-William Van Horne

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Families To Feel Crunch in School Budget

Superintendent asks Board of Supervisors for additional \$57.8 million from budget.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Superintendent Jack Dale wants to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an additional \$57.8 million in funding to help meet Fairfax County Public Schools budget needs next year, according to a presentation he made to the School Board Jan. 7.

Fairfax already allocates the school system approximately \$1.7 billion annually, or about 53 percent of the county's overall revenue. But Dale said the schools are facing a projected shortfall of \$166 million in the 2010-11 school year, in part due to rising costs that are out of the system's control.

The additional money equates to an increase of 3 cents per \$100 of assessed land value in the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate. Fairfax schools draw approximately 75 percent of its funding from the local county government, which in turn, almost exclusively relies on real estate taxes for revenue.

IN ADDITION to requesting more money from the county, Dale has suggested \$108.2 million in spending cuts to assist in closing the schools system's projected funding gap for next year.

The superintendent added that the quality of Fairfax County public education system would suffer as a result of the cuts.

"We spend the same amount of money on schools as Montgomery County, Md. but we have 30,000 more students than they do," said Dale, referencing Fairfax's largest public education rival in the region.

Dale does not ultimately make the decision about the Fairfax schools' budget. The School Board — largely relying on the superintendent's budget proposal as a template — will make its formal request for funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next month.

In late April, the supervisors will pass an annual countywide budget and announce

how much they intend to allocate to Fairfax schools overall next year.

Some School Board members have already indicated that they would like to ask the county for funding above and beyond what Dale has suggested.

"Let's just say \$57.8 million is not my favorite number," said School Board member Brad Center (Lee).

New Fees For Families

To make up for the budget shortfall, Dale is proposing \$3.4 million in new fees for families and students, such as:

- ❖ a \$75 charge for any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes
- ❖ a \$100 student fee for participating on a sports team

Proposed programs for elimination

Dale has proposed the elimination of the following services:

- ❖ "behind the wheel" drivers education. Fairfax students would now have to depend on the private sector for such training.
- ❖ bus service to "gifted and talented" centers if a base school has "gifted and talented" equivalent classes available.
- ❖ bus service to academy programs if there are fewer than five students enrolled in the program from a high school.
- ❖ freshman athletics, indoor track and winter cheerleading
- ❖ foreign language in the elementary schools (not including immersion programs)
- ❖ elementary "focus" programs (currently present at Riverside, Fort Hunt, Hollin Meadows, Woodley Hills elementary schools in Mount Vernon; Lake Anne and Forest Edge elementary schools in Reston; Kent Gardens Elementary School in McLean; Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax)
- ❖ Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church
- ❖ Modified School Calendar (currently present at Dogwood Elementary School in

VIEWPOINTS

What do you think of the program cuts proposed by the FCPS superintendent?

"It's upsetting that freshman sports maybe getting cut, my daughter was looking forward to playing sports, like cheerleading. It's also really hard to believe



that a county as wealthy as Fairfax is having such severe budget issues."

Penny Henslee

"I feel like it's ridiculous. They say we have the right to a free education, but yet they're trying to make us pay. Also, if they cut teachers, it's like saying that they don't matter, and it's like a slap in the face. Every teacher in a school is important."



Miranda Duke

"It's not right because freshman wouldn't have their own team to try out on, and it would be harder for them to get on JV and varsity sports and, also, my sister in the third grade is in strings, and she enjoys it, so I hope they keep the band and strings programs up in elementary schools."



Kristiana Moore

"I think that the school system wastes money on things that aren't important, and if they re-prioritized it wouldn't be as bad as it is now."



Bethany Cubbage

— TIFFANY DANIELS

Reston, Franconia Elementary School in the Springfield area, and Timber Lane Elementary School in the McLean area)

❖ Project Excel (currently present at Bucknell, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Woodlawn, Woodley Hills and Fort Belvoir elementary schools in the Mount Vernon area; Dogwood Elementary School in Reston; Hutchinson Elementary School in Herndon; Halley Elementary School in Fairfax Station; and London Towne Elemen-

tary School in Centreville)

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Other Budget Actions

Dale has also proposed the following:

- ❖ To increase class size by one student per teacher for all classes except special education.
- ❖ To freeze employees salaries and not give school system staff a "cost of living" increase in the next year.

Marsden Defeats Hunt in Tuesday's Election

FROM PAGE 2

vacated 41st District House of Delegates seat. According to state election laws, a special election to fill the seat must take place no less than 30 days and no more than 90 days after the seat opens and will be scheduled by the governor. According to Fairfax County Democratic Committee Chair Rex

Simmons, if Marsden resigns his delegate seat before the General Assembly begins on Wednesday, at 12 p.m., Gov. Timothy Kaine (D) can set the date for the election before his term expires on Saturday. If Kaine does not set a date before then, Simmons said, Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell (R) will make the decision. The delegate seat will remain open until the election takes place.

Simmons said that as of Wednesday

morning, no one declared intentions to run for the Democratic Party nomination but that there is interest. He expects to hear something official by Wednesday afternoon.

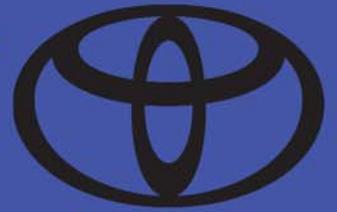
ACCORDING TO Fairfax County Republican Committee Chairman Anthony Bedell, Kerry Bolognese, who lost the delegate race to Marsden last November, has announced that he would vie for the nomination but

that others might still enter their names as well. Regardless of the final candidate, however, the Republicans agreed that to win that election, they would have to alter their strategy.

"It's unfortunate to come up a little short here," Cuccinelli said. "As aggressive as we were, we needed to be more aggressive and that's what the next election is for."

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CLASSIC 3-level Colonial on cul-de-sac sited on almost 1/4 acre wooded lot! Move right in! Remodeled kitchen features GORGEOUS Silestone cntns & maple cabinets! Hdwood floors & new carpet! Extra LARGE bedrooms w/ tons of closet space! CONVENIENT location incl walk to Metrobus. Fairview ES / Robinson Secondary.



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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.

Ron & Susan Associates is proud sponsor the

3rd Annual **MONOPOLY** Tournament



Top Prize



\$500

Saturday, February 20th

More info at www.LortonMonopoly.com



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Fairfax \$499,000

Completely remodeled 4 BR/ 3 BA home in sought-after community. Amazing yard that backs to Crooked Creek. Well designed eat-in kitchen w/brand-new 42" cabinets & granite counters, hardwoods throughout main level. Completely updated baths, new windows, new HVAC. This one you need to see!

Save A Date To Attend Long & Foster's FREE Real Estate Career Seminar

DATES IN 2010: TIME:

February 3 7:00-9:00 PM

March 3

LOCATION: Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center

March 31 3069 Nutley St.

April 28 Fairfax, VA 22031

From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER:
Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com

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OPEN SUNDAY

2 GREAT HOMES IN ROBINSON!



12174 Queens Brigade Dr., Fairfax
MOVE IN READY! NEW HARDWOODS! IN GROUND POOL! MORNING ROOM ADDITION! 0.5 ACRES!
\$629,000



12132 Queens Brigade Dr., Fairfax
SO MANY UPDATES! MAIN LEVEL MASTER SUITE WING! IN GROUND POOL! PRIVATE 2.0 ACRES!
\$649,000

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Annandale \$1795 Beautiful Rental
Gleaming hardwoods on main and upper levels, tile in kitchen and tiled finished lower walk-out level with fireplace. Fenced patio backs to trees. 3 BR, 3.5 BA, 3 lvls. A well-maintained TH in a nice community near Rt 236, inside the beltway.
Call Kay for information: 703-503-1860

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Ann Witherspoon
703-503-1836



Fairfax Station \$698,900 Crosspointe
This attractive brick front colonial features 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, gorgeous hardwood floors through-out. 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.



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895
Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club
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Woodbridge \$449,900 Picture Perfect
Lovely 4 Bedroom, 3 1/2 Bath Colonial, sited on a perfect lot, Large Gourmet Kitchen w/Centre Island, Breakfast Room w/ Glass Slider views Gorgeous Deck w/built-in Hot Tub, Manicured yard completely fenced with Privacy Fence, Lower Level offers theater Room, exercise Room, 5th Bedroom & full Bath. Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



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Laurel Hill \$600,000
Gorgeous 4BR, 3.5 BA Jamestown model in the sought-after Laurel Hill Community. Great main level with gourmet kitchen, formal living & dining rooms & family room. Upper level master suite with luxury bath. Completely finished walk-up basement with den & full bath.



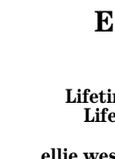
Mason Neck \$475,000
Waterfront lot in Mason Neck! This .61 acre lot is perfect for building the home of your dreams. Utility lines are already in place. Property is ready for a dock. Fantastic view of Massey Creek & Belmont Bay with access to the Potomac River.



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
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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



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Alexandria \$323,000 Parkside at Alexandria
Updated, upgraded, and shows like a dream. Two level, two bedroom townhome in sought after Parkside offering the best of conveniences including shopping, public bus service and minutes to I-395. Brazilian Cherry Hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with center island, decorator touches throughout.

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