

Kings Glen
Elementary sixth
grader Kirsten
Chase stars as
Belle in 'Disney's
Beauty and the
Beast Jr.'

Disney's Belle

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Neighbors Party To Mark 50th

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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Five Decades of Family and Friendship

Ravenworth Farm marks its 50th anniversary.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

A lot has changed in Fairfax County over the last 50 years, but one thing is certain to remain the same: the Ravenworth Farm community.

Residents of the neighborhood, located across Braddock Road from Wakefield Park, gathered at Ravenworth Elementary School Saturday, March 22 to celebrate the community's 50th anniversary. More than 300 original homeowners, recent arrivals and even second-generation residents marked the occasion with a pot-luck dinner and a night of socializing.

"It's been remarkable how well this community has held together," said Mike McGrady, a resident of 44 years. "There are a number of original owners that still live here, and that's very unusual for a neighborhood. It's been a great community for years."

The festivities began with the dinner, which was also catered by the Annandale High School Culinary Arts Program. The dinner was followed by a series of speeches from local dignitaries who attended to honor and congratulate this community. Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large)

"It's been remarkable how well this community has held together."

— Mike McGrady

presented the neighborhood with a certificate from the board, while Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) gave a plaque of his own on behalf of the Braddock District. Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and Lake Accotink Park Manager Tawny Hammond also attended.

After the speeches, groups of residents, divided by the number of years they have lived in the community, made their way into another room to take pictures. While in the room, original residents exchanged memories from the neighborhood's early days, discussing how the neighborhood they helped turn into a community has changed over the years. Event co-organizer Ruth Hartman recalled how rural the area was when she arrived in August 1964.

"When we bought the house, it was all mud [around here]," Hartman said. "I thought I was in the country when I first moved here, but now I feel like I'm in the middle of New York City."

Gloria Brissman, a resident for nearly 49 years, has a similar recollection, saying that when she moved in, the noisy traffic and bustling nature of the surrounding area was still yet to be found.

"When I moved in, it was just a dirt street and there were only a few houses built up on Capital Lane," Brissman said. "The street we lived on at the time was near Accotink Creek. In Februaries, you would hear the frogs begin to make noises and you would



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The original residents of Ravenworth Farm pose for a picture.

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 4

Organizers Look To Restart Burke Club

Owners of the Silas Burke House attempt to resurrect the Burke Historical Society.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The Burke Historical Society spent years promoting the rich and lengthy history of its namesake, but eventually became part of history itself. However, one original member and her husband are determined to resurrect the group, and in turn, keep the story of Burke alive.

Suzi Fowler Neal and her husband, Terry, recently announced that they are attempting to relaunch the society after nearly 15 years of inactivity. While the Neals envision the group carrying on many of its old traditions, they will be making a push to attract a younger crowd to ensure that the society lives on.

"Our hopes and goals are to get the Burke Historical Society going again and get

young people, high school age, involved," said Terry Neal. "The elderly truly hold the secret to the past here, and those people are disappearing quite rapidly. We'd like to have them interact with the younger people to pass on that knowledge."

According to the Neals, the plans to bring the society back came to them after attempts to sell the Silas Burke House, which they own, were fruitless. Suzi Neal's family bought the historic home in 1925 and eventually passed it down to her. Last year, however, the Neals de-

cidated that they wanted to retire and move from their home in Chantilly, but realized that retirement would not be possible if they still had to pay for upkeep of the home. So, they decided to put it on the market last June.

After being on the market for several months with little activity, the Neals decided that they would put retirement off and stay in the area. So, still owning the home, Suzi Neal had the idea to bring back a long-standing tradition at the house, the annual Christmas Party. The Neals said that they talked about the society with the partygoers and found that there was still great interest in the group, which had been dormant since 1996.

"We thought we'd be moving from the area soon, but we decided to stay a while longer and figured we would start the historical society again," Suzi Neal said. "We put out verbal feelers at the party and found that there was great interest."

According to former member and past president Tom Bland, the Burke Historical Society was originally founded in 1978 by Suzi Neal's parents, Herman and Virginia Fowler, Fred Kielsgard, Bea Prescott and Roy

and Olive Carson, with Roy Carson as the first president. At the time, Bland said, the original purpose of the society was to preserve the old Burke Station at the base of the hill that the Silas Burke House sits on. The Orange and Alexandria Railroad ran through the station, and within a few years, a community, now Burke, sprung up around the station.

Bland, who joined the society in 1980, said that the society was very active in the community back then, hosting events and parties for area residents who had an interest in history. Bland said that in addition to the annual Christmas Party, where the society would also collect canned food for charity, Suzi Neal would also host Easter egg hunts for local children, and a large annual membership party each summer. Also, in 1982, member Anna Millner had the idea to start

"[The community] has changed so much and most people don't even know where we came from."

— Suzi Neal

SEE BURKE, PAGE 5



COURTESY OF RICHARD FORD

Odyssey of Success

Representing Lake Braddock Secondary, from left, Ethan Lee,

Rusty Ford, CheyAnne Rivera, Noah Woodruff and Ryan Ford flew into first place in Division II at the Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition on March 6. They will be competing in the state tournament on March 27. The team used a carnival theme to complete six different flight scenarios using different forms of launch and propulsion in the Return to the Gift of Flight category.

Man Charged with Carnal Knowledge of Minor

Detectives from the Child Abuse Unit arrested a man on Tuesday, March 16 for allegedly having sexual relations with a boy between September 2007 and June 2008 at Capital Gymnastics, located at 10400 Premier Court.

According to Fairfax County Police, at the time, the victim was 13-years-old and the suspect, Christopher Alexander Ford of the 15000 block of Rolling Ridge Road in Haymarket, was 22-years-old. An investigation began in January 2010 when the victim's mother reported it to police. Ford, now 24, turned himself in to police and he was charged with carnal knowledge of a minor.

"The suspect was a coach at the gym and the victim was a student," said Officer Tawny Wright. "The initial incident happened there, and other incidents occurred around there, but the crimes primarily occurred at the gym."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County Police Department through March 19.

LARCENIES

8300 block of Argent Circle. Cell phone stolen from residence.

7700 block of Bertito Lane. License plate stolen from vehicle.

6400 block of Birch Leaf Court. Temporary license plates stolen from vehicle.

8100 block of Braddock Road. Copper wire stolen from construction site.

6000 block of Burke Commons Road. Batteries stolen from business.

8200 block of Burning Forest Court. License plate stolen from vehicle.

10500 block of Canterbury Road. Chain saw and cordless drill stolen from vehicle.

8300 block of Carrleigh Parkway. Toolbox stolen from residence.

8800 block of Ridge Hollow Court. Parking decal stolen from vehicle.

7900 block of Woodruff Court. Weldings stolen from vehicle.

VEHICLE THEFTS

7300 block of Boston Blvd. 1997 Chrysler Town and Country.

9200 block of Cardinal Forest Lane. Dodge van.

4700 block of Commons Drive. Plymouth van.

4300 block of Ivymount Court. 2007 Honda Blade 1000.



Our Daily Bread's sponsors, staff and volunteer announce the Our Daily Bread Charity Golf Tournament at South Riding Country Club. Pictured are, from left, Willy Lutz, South Riding Country Club Golf Pro; Our Daily Bread Development Manager Mike Kledzik; Ernie Castro, Title Sponsor; and James Tarry, member of Our Daily Bread's volunteer Board of Directors.

Our Daily Bread To Host Golf Event

Fairfax-based non-profit Our Daily Bread, Inc. invites golf enthusiasts to enjoy a great afternoon of golf to help struggling families in the Fairfax County. Our Daily Bread's Charity Golf Tournament takes place Monday, May 10, at 1 p.m., at the South Riding Golf Club, 43237 Golf View Drive, South Riding. Individual players and teams are invited to register. The event is sponsored by Ernie Castro of Wells Fargo Reverse Mortgage Division, Potomac Mortgage Group and A & R Foods. A \$125 registration fee includes a full round of golf, driving range, golf cart, drink cart, hors

d'oeuvres and dinner. A "silent auction" will take place throughout the event. All proceeds from the event will benefit Our Daily Bread's food, financial assistance and financial education programs for working families in the Fairfax County area of Virginia. Our Daily Bread continues to seek sponsors for the event as well as donations of goods and items to be raffled off at the tournament dinner.

For information on registration, sponsorship and donating goods, visit www.our-daily-bread.org, call 703-273-8829 or e-mail Mike Kledzik at develop@ODBfairfax.org.

Neighbors Celebrate 50th Birthday

FROM PAGE 3

breathe a sigh of relief because you knew spring was around the corner."

While the original owners and those who moved out of the neighborhood but came back for the party spent their time talking about the first 50 years of the community, its newest residents were looking forward to carrying the torch. Dan and Jennifer Auble, a young couple expecting their first child, moved to Ravensworth Farm six months ago after an exhaustive home search. They said that they looked high and low for a neighborhood with good schools, friendly people and a community feel, and when they saw Ravensworth Farm, they knew they found that place.

"We were [living] just over off of Van Dorn Street in a condo and were looking for more of a neighborhood feel," Dan Auble said. "We looked for six months and saw a lot, but we knew this was the place when we saw it. We plan to live here a long time."

THE NIGHT concluded with a raffle of items do-

"We appreciate the younger people coming in and taking over to keep it going."

— Mary Ann Rish

nated by several local businesses and a history presentation from the event's organizer, Mary Lipsey. The presentation covered the community's history from the purchase of the land the community sits on in 1685, through the purchase of the neighborhood's first home by John Hawthorne in 1959 to the present activities of the Ravensworth Farm Garden Club and Civic Association. After the slide show finished, attendees were given one last half hour to tell as many stories and recall as many memories as possible and the members of this close-knit community did not waste the time.

"They did a super job putting this together," said 49-year resident Mary Ann Rish. "We're very fortunate to have people like that in our community. We appreciate the younger people coming in and taking over to keep it going. It's very encouraging."

NEWS

Burke Historical Society Redux

FROM PAGE 3

"Burke Historical Days," in the shopping center on Old Burke Lake Road. The festival, which promoted local history with storytelling, artifacts and more, ran for 10 years, Bland said. Other deeds included the installation of several historical markers throughout the area, and even penning a book, "Memories of Beautiful Burke."

"The society was very active back then," Bland said. "It was very meaningful in terms of the importance to the founding members to keep the history of Burke and the surrounding areas alive. We supported historic events and events that were important to the Burke community."

According to Suzi Neal, the society began to wind down in 1996 because of dwindling numbers. She said that most of the group's members were older, and by the mid 1990s, many of them were either unable to make it to meetings and events anymore or had passed away. The group had not brought any younger members into the fold, she said, so with no one to pass the torch to, the society folded.

"A lot of older members had died or got older and we weren't into recruiting members at the time," Suzi Neal said. "So eventually, we just stopped meeting."

THE NEALS HAD PLANNED to officially restart the society at a Feb. 21 meeting, but it was canceled due to the snowstorms. Terry Neal said that goal of the meeting was to elect officers and draft plans for future activities and community involvement. Though they have not had the chance to create their

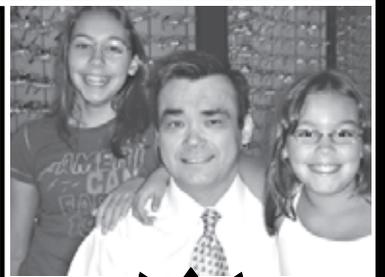
agenda since then, Terry Neal said that they already have a good idea of where they want to take the society.

Terry Neal said that the group has learned from the dissolution of the original society and will now have a heavy focus on reaching out to children and young adults. He said that they want to partner with local high schools and have historical essay contests and scavenger hunts and even give presentations on a series of different historical topics. In addition, he said that they would eventually like to create a full museum to take the place of the one located in the building occupied by Rudy Shields Insurance on Old Burke Lake Road.

"We want the past to meet the present," Terry Neal said. "I think we've got the ability to introduce the two and have fun doing it."

In addition to events geared toward children, Terry Neal said that they would like to have regular meetings like the society used to, but until they have fleshed out the membership, they will not have a set meeting schedule. The Neals also plan to throw birthday parties for Silas Burke and anniversary parties celebrating Burke's marriage to his wife Hannah. Other activities mentioned were community clean-ups and fund raisers.

"It'd be nice to tell people a little bit more about the community they live in because it has changed so much and most people don't even know where we came from," Suzi Neal said. "I think they'd like to step back in time and see what it was like back then. We just want to slow down the clock in this fast-paced world."



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BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Children's Health Fair hosted by the Junior League of Northern Virginia. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Giant Food parking lot at the Kings Park Shopping Center located at 8970 Burke Lake Road, Springfield. Free. All ages. For more information call 703-442-4163 or e-mail kitk@jlnv.org.

Teen Workshop: Get Cash Quick - How to Get and Keep a Summer Job. 12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Rooms 2 & 3 Fairfax. Reserve at 703-531-6290 or email michelle.bonnin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority Roundtable Discussion on Economic and Development Alternatives. 7 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. An economic presentation by Professor Stephen S. Fuller Ph.D. and John McClain, senior fellow, on a variety of development scenarios and their fiscal impacts for the city. 703-282-5818 or rutkowski@fairfaxcityeda.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 11

Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia LLC Monthly Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Physicians Conference Center, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church. www.ostomysupportofnova.org.

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703-569-9862 www.messiahumc.org

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Good Friday service "Seven Last Words from the Cross" 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday Celebration "Christ the Victor" 8:00, 9:30, 11 am
Community Easter Sunrise Service at the Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am

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OPINION

Connection Wins Awards

Writers, editors, staff recognized at annual Virginia Press Awards.

The Connection Newspapers won more than 30 Virginia Press Association news awards — announced at the annual news conference held in Roanoke on Saturday, March 20.

Honors included multiple awards for business and financial writing, education writing, investigative reporting, election coverage, breaking news, public safety writing, editorial writing, photography, design, sports, special sections.

Political and education reporter Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her education writing, in particular three stories which appeared in the Connection's new special section, A-plus. O'Donoghue also won multiple awards for business and financial writing and investigative reporting.

Reporter Michael Lee Pope won 11 awards in all, including first place for his breaking news coverage of the arrest of Alexandria's police chief for DUI. Pope also won awards for investigative reporting, election coverage, business and financial writing, education writing, government writing, feature writing and in-depth obituaries.

Photographer Louise Krafft won nine awards, including pictorial photo, picture story/essay, news photo and for her contributions to two special sections, HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus Education, Learning, Fun.

Reporter Mike DiCicco won four awards, including first place for his coverage of a burglary spree that targeted local South Asians'

Here is a partial listing of stories, photos, special sections and more that won awards in the Virginia Press Association news contests.

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue, first place, Education writing. Springfield Connection
Michael Lee Pope, first place, Breaking news writing Police Chief Busted for DUI. Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Feature series or continuing story, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Personal service writing. Three obituaries, an officer, a gentleman and a savior. Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Business and financial writing. Arlington Connection

Louise Krafft, first place, Pictorial photo, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft first place Pictorial photo, Arlington Connection

Robbie Hammer, first place, General news photo, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Mike DiCicco, first place, General news writing, Burglary Spree Targets South Asians' Gold Jewelry Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores,

Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Jean Card, Michael Lee Pope, second place, General makeup. Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, second place, Education writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope second place General news writing, Election 2009. Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope second place Feature series or continuing story, Quackgate, Mount Vernon Gazette

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue second place In-depth or investigative reporting, Mount Vernon Gazette

Mary Kimm second place Editorial writing, Five editorials about education.

Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, second place, Specialty pages or sections, A-Plus, Education, Learning, Fun. McLean Connection

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue, second place, Business and financial writing. McLean Connection

Mike DiCicco, second place, Feature writing portfolio, Great Falls Connection.

Ken Moore, Bonnie Hobbs second place Public safety writing. Stories of embezzlement, murder, rampage, and more. Fairfax Connection.

Jason Mackey, second place, Sports writing portfolio, Centre View.

Louise Krafft, second place, Pictorial photo, Arlington Connection

Michael Lee Pope, second place, Government writing, Arlington Connection

Michael Lee Pope, third place, Government writing, Perks Pitfalls and Plastic, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, third place, In-depth or investigative reporting, City Misses Potential Threat, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft, third place, Picture story or essay, Halloween, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft, third place, General news photo, Mount Vernon Estate celebrates 4th of July

Gerald Fill, third place, Public safety writing. Mount Vernon Gazette

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue third place, Business and financial writing. Laurel Hill/Fairfax Station Connection

Louise Krafft, third place, Picture story or essay, HomeLifeStyle, Garden tour of Domaine St Charles, Great Falls Connection.

Louise Krafft, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, Donna Manz, Mike DiCicco, third place, Specialty pages or sections, HomeLifeStyle. Great Falls Connection

Mike DiCicco, third place, Education writing. Great Falls Connection

gold jewelry. DiCicco also won for feature writing and education writing.

Mary Kimm won second place for editorial writing for a group of five editorials about education in Northern Virginia.

The Connection's design team including also

won awards, two for special sections HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus Education, Learning, Fun.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet also won second place in general makeup, a measure of overall excellence.

Connolly: 'Historic Achievement'

Health Insurance Reform Law will help Northern Virginia residents immediately.

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Earlier this week, the President signed historic health insurance reform legislation that will rival the passages of the Social Security Act, the Civil Rights Act and the Medicare Act in how it will better the lives of tens of millions of American families and hundreds of thousands of families in Northern Virginia.

This new law will stop insurance company abuses, rein in health care costs for families and small businesses, strengthen and guarantee the solvency of Medicare for our seniors, reduce the deficit by \$1.2 trillion, preserve access to doctors and health plans, protect TriCare for our military retirees and families,

and expand quality health care to more than 30 million Americans.

Over the last year, as I met with constituents throughout the 11th Congressional District, they told me they wanted health insurance reform, but only if it met certain tests:

❖ Will it bring down premium costs for families and small businesses?
 ❖ Will it reduce the deficit?

❖ Will it protect their choice of plan and doctor?

❖ Will it improve access to care?

❖ Will it protect and improve Medicare?

After a careful and thorough review of the legislation, I was satisfied that the final reform package met each of those tests. I cast my vote

for this landmark law and also for the companion legislation that strips away the odious special deals for certain states that were put in the legislation by the Senate.

Within weeks, this new law will provide tax credits and other assistance to some 87,000 families and 16,800 small businesses in the 11th District to help them afford health insurance coverage. Only 40 percent of small businesses, the economic engine of our economy, currently provide health insurance to their employees and more and more of them are dropping coverage each year.

More than 10,700 residents of Fairfax and Prince William in the 11th District with pre-existing conditions will now be able to purchase health insurance and more than 73,000 seniors receiving Medicare will benefit from lower prescription drug prices and the peace of mind of knowing that the solvency of Medi

SEE HEALTH CARE. PAGE 18

THE CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

Think Spring! 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time celebrating spring. Ages 2-5 with an adult. 703-249-1520.

Book Club Kids: Planting a Rainbow. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Book club for 3-5 year olds. Activities and fun centered around "Planting a Rainbow" by Lois Ehlert. Children should be familiar with this story before coming. 703-644-7333.

An Evening with Joseph Arthur. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

Choral concert by the James Madison University Chorale and Madison Singers. 7 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Free. www.providencechurch.org/music or 703-978-3934.

The Hint, Struan Shields and Ever Since Beginnings. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles with Memphis 59. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

www.jamminjava.com.
George Mason University Dance Company's 2010 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27
George Mason University Dance Company's 2010 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

The City of Fairfax Band Association Presents Old Friends, New Friends. 8 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Authentic Bavarian blasmusik and expansive symphonic panoramas of scenic America unite with a blend of traditional folk music, patriotic songs, and majestic melodies. \$13 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and free for under age 18. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxband.org. Group discounts are available with advanced sales. 703-757-0220 or email info@fairfaxband.org.

Eggstravaganza and Easter Egg Roll. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Moonbounces, games, face painting, prizes and refreshments. For children age 11 and under and their families. Free. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center. 703-383-1170, or www.jccag.org.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935



Night of Tango

Cuidado, a contemporary tango ensemble of young musicians, offers an evening of music and dance Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m., at George Mason University's Harris Theater on Friday, April 2, 2010 at 8 p.m. One of the musicians on the stage is Clifton native Matt Booth on bass. Admission is \$10, and \$5 for students with George Mason University ID. Tickets available night of performance only at theater box office. For more information call 703-993-1380. To hear Cuidado's music, go to www.pggtangoconnection.com

Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer and navigate the Internet. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Resume Building. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Creating better resumes. Adults. 703-293-6227.
Cary Pierce (Jackpierce). 7 p.m.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The D.R.A.M.A Kings and ReVel. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Bunny Paws. 8-10 a.m. at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks, Fairfax. Dogs and cats can take their picture with the Easter Bunny. 703-359-8302.

Health and Wellness Fair. 12-3 p.m., at Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Fair includes blood pressure screening, line dancing, jazzercise, face painting and family games. 703-278-8605.

SUNDAY/MARCH 28

Bill Emerson and Sweet Dixie Band. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Army of Me (acoustic) and Colleen McCarron. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 29

Inova Blood Drive. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults.

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2 cover. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 30

Pink Jams Breast Cancer Benefit with The Dreamscapes Project. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Inti-Ilumani with Francesca Gagnon. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Chilean folk

music masters on wind, string, and percussion instruments. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 31

An Evening with Pierre Bensusan. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Benjy Davis Project CD Release, Matt Duke and Seth Glier. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Holmes Brothers. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots, R&B, gospel and country influenced music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Tango Band Cuidado. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Music and dance from a contemporary tango ensemble. Pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. \$10, tickets available night of performance only at theater box office. 703-993-1380 or www.pghtangoconnection.com.

City of Fairfax/Chick-fil-A Egg Hunt at Fairfax High School Football Field, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Hunt time for age 2-3 at 10 a.m., age 4-5 at 10:20 a.m., age 6-7 at 10:40 a.m. and age 8-9 at 11 a.m. Meet and play with the Chick-fil-A cow. www.chick-fil-a.com/fairoaksmall, www.chick-fil-a.com/fairfaxcircle.

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Obama Makes Final Push at GMU

President's appearance at George Mason University to rally support for his health care bill sparks protest, excitement.



President Barack Obama addresses a near capacity crowd at George Mason University's Patriot Center on Friday, March 19.

By JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

George Mason University sits 20 miles away from the site of one of the most contentious legislative battles in recent history, but for a couple of hours last week, it was the epicenter of American politics.

President Barack Obama (D) staged his final rallying cry to Congress for support for his health care legislation at the Patriot Center Friday, March 19. While his speech inside targeting the insurance industry and lobbyists had nearly all of the 9,000 attendees in a fervor, the scene outside the building conveyed the true divisive nature of the sweeping health care reform.

Several groups demonstrating gathered near the entrance to the Patriot Center before and after the president's speech to voice both support and opposition to the bill. The doors to the Patriot Center opened at 9 a.m., but protestors began to organize as early as 8 a.m. Armed with a variety of signs and an unwavering chant of "kill the bill," they came as individuals, families, representing various political organizations and more.

"I came out because politics are very important to me," said Amy Kaper, a 22-year-old student at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. "I like to fight for what I believe in, and I have problems across the board with this bill. Helping other people is

"It's the president of the United States. You don't get the opportunity to see him in person every day."

— Brandon Johnson, GMU student

great, but you should be able to volunteer. I don't want to be forced to help [through tax payments]."

Tony DeBenedittis, father of Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, came to the Patriot Center to speak out against the bill as well. DeBenedittis, a self-described conservative, said that he agrees that health care is in need of drastic reforms, but feels that Obama's bill is flawed. He called the bill a "power grab" by Obama and said that the bill would not only increase the size of the government, but also drain valuable economic resources.

"It's basically a power grab," DeBenedittis said. "In countries that have [government controlled health care], production is low, unemployment is higher and the population doesn't experience great innovations that we experience here in America. Those people come to expect their government to be a caretaker. A true conservative has compassion for people who cannot help themselves, but for people who want entitlements, get a job."

Another common complaint shared by protestors outside the building focused on the constitutionality of the legislation. Matthew Connor, 22, made the trip from his hometown of Leonardtown, Md. to speak out against what he feels is a "bending of the rules" by congressional Democrats to get the bill passed. He took issue primarily with the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010, which House Democrats passed to avoid a filibuster by Republicans on the bill. Connor said that this move allowed Democrats to "use the back door" to get the bill passed amid strong opposition.

"I'm against the entire process [Democrats] have taken," Connor said. "I'm against people in Congress bypassing the legislative process. This administration is not even taking advantage of the rules. They're writing their own at this point, and it goes against everything this country was founded upon."

While hundreds came to wage one last battle against the bill, thousands more came to support Obama and the passage of the bill. The majority of the audience was made up of Mason students, while many came from outside the area as well. Marco Tomicic, a Washington, D.C. resident, said that he has been following Obama before he was a senator and did not want to miss the chance to see him in person. The wait, he said, was worth it.

"I've been following Obama for many years, before he was even a senator," Tomicic said. "I always wanted to see him live and it



Obama supporter Jay Frost takes a place in the front row of the crowd as the protestors grow louder in their opposition to the proposed bill.

finally came true. He gave an amazing speech, proving that his agenda is more than daily politics. I'm very happy today."

Tamika Felder, an Upper Marlboro, Md. resident, was another vocal supporter of the bill at the event. Felder leads the group "Tamika and Friends," a multi-state organization that educates women about cervical cancer. She has been rallying for several weeks in support of the bill. Felder was able to round up more than a dozen members of Tamika and Friends from Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida and get them on buses to attend the speech with less than 24 hours notice. The chaotic preparations and long drive were difficult, she said, but had no regrets after hearing the president speak.

"I thought it was great for a last push," Felder said. "He empowered and invigorated. This bill may not be perfect, but let's give it a shot. We have many problems in health care here in America."

Though the event brought out some of the less attractive aspects of politics, dividing the populace stirring up frustration and anger, many attendees were simply thankful to have had the opportunity to see the president in person.

"It's the president of the United States," said Brandon Johnson, a Mason student from Stafford. "You don't get the opportunity to see him in person every day."

The House of Representatives narrowly approved the bill Sunday, March 21 by a vote of 219-212. Obama signed the bill into law Tuesday, March 23.



Health Care Bill opponents gather behind the police tape as supporters arrive to listen to President Obama's address on Friday, March 19.



Health Care Bill supporters and detractors line the road leading up to the Patriot Center.



President Barack Obama walks the perimeter of the crowd shaking hands and posing for photos before departing from the Patriot Center last Friday.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



Castmembers starring as pieces of silverware head backstage.



Sixth grader Kirsten Chase, center, stars as Belle in King Glen Elementary's production of 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.'

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



The cast of 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.' sings.

The Big Show

Theater troupe stages musical.

Kings Glen Elementary's theatrical group The Kings Jesters presented performances of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr." on March 16-18. One hundred students were involved in the production, including crew members. They have been rehearsing the show since December. This is the fifth year that the Kings Jesters have performed children's musical theater at Kings Glen.

Music teacher Mary Woods directed the production, which was choreographed by Rebecca Navarro. Staff members Yvonne Hurst, Natalie Wiles, Thya Cocolin and Marianne Tagge assisted with choreography and music.



Laura Miner (Mrs. Potts), Teah Lorenzi (Chip) and Dylan Gottlieb (Maurice) are held captive.



Sixth grader Laura Miner, 12, portrays Mrs. Potts in The Kings Jesters performance of 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.'



Fourth grader Lauren Mitchell, 9, part of the Enchanted Castle chorus, checks on her next scene.

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VOLUNTEERS

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.

Host families are needed for 25 high school French students visiting the Washington, D.C. area. Anyone interested in learning about

new cultures and sharing the American way of life, that has an extra bed/space for sleeping, would make a great host family. Students will be here Aug. 1-21. Students will be participating in three activities as a group per week with the remaining time with the host family. For more information, e-mail rachael@parlezvous.org.

Join Volunteers for Change, a program for dedicated adults who have a desire to serve, which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. For orientation dates, visit Volunteer Fairfax's Community Events Web page at <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/community-calendar.php>.

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Blake. He's working out and getting fit so he'll be ready when you are. Attributes: Perfect walking pal!



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BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

When news broke that Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C., had hired a woman to coach its football team, the announcement didn't faze Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown, a 47-year-old mother of two who has been a head coach for Springfield Youth Club for four years.

"I love the game, and being a coach gave me an opportunity to be with my boys," the West Springfield resident said.

While most women might be intimidated by trying to break into a "man's game," Coach Brown, as she prefers to be called, never wavered from achieving her goal to be a football coach.

With encouragement from her husband, Rick Brown, she put her name on the list for a head coaching position in 2006 after working as an assistant coach for two years.

"I had been preparing myself to be a head coach," she said. "I went to clinics, was up to date on all the rules in Fairfax County and got myself psyched up. I even had male coaches who wanted to coach with me."

Despite previous experience as an assistant coach, Bridgwaters-Brown said her application was overlooked.

"I was one of the first to turn in my coaching forms," she said. "But I was listed as seventh out of eighth in line to get a team. I couldn't understand it."

In 2006, Bridgwaters-Brown attended the SYC's combine day, where future coaches can evaluate players for the upcoming SYC draft, but wasn't awarded a team.

"It really upset me that I was that low on the list, below people who had never coached football before" she said. "But I had to stick with it."

Her perseverance paid off. One of the coaches backed out on his team before the SYC draft, thrusting Bridgwaters-Brown to the helm of her first head coaching job.

"I got a team in another weight class," she said. "It wasn't the weight I watched at the combine."

With little knowledge of the players in her new weight class, Bridgwaters-Brown drafted a team with the help of other male coaches. By searching last names, she found the siblings of players she previously coached.

While Bridgwaters-Brown might have received her team by chance, their 5-2 record was no fluke.

Since then, she has been on the sidelines calling the plays and even had the opportunity to coach her own son Trent.



Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown has been a head coach for Springfield Youth Club boys' football for four years and is the only female head football coach in the Fairfax County Youth Football League.

"People don't believe me when I say my mom is a coach," Trent Brown said. "I have to tell it to them a couple of times."

Trent Brown said his mom's coaching style is fair and similar to his everyday life.

"It's a lot like home," he joked. "She's yelling at me and getting on me."

Bridgwaters-Brown said she hasn't encountered sexism from her players or other coaches, but the occasional referee does look past her.

"Sometimes the referee will come up to me and ask, 'Where's the head coach?'" she said. "I'll have to explain, 'It's me.'"

Only one family has ever requested that their son not be on her team, she said. SYC Deputy Commissioner of Football Pat Eckert said Bridgwaters-Brown is one of the youth program's most popular coaches.

"We never have a problem with her parents," he said. "Sometimes parents complain about the coach. With her, it's never a problem. A lot of her parents want to be on her team again, but they just can't."

Bridgwaters-Brown's also the only female head football coach in the Fairfax County Youth Football League.

Eckert said her popularity doesn't just come from her ability to win games, but also her level-headed coaching style.

"She understands that they're just kids," he said. "She doesn't try to turn it into the NFL."

Bridgwaters-Brown's journey to become a SYC football coach is only half of her football story.

Her pigskin beginnings started in a place where American Football doesn't

have much of a following to this day: England.

Her father, Oliver Bridgwaters, served in the U.S. Air Force and played on the Air Force base's football team.

"We lived in England and it was the late '60s," she said. "The armed forces used to have full contact competition then, and my dad played and coached on the team."

The game enthralled Bridgwaters-Brown and sparked a curiosity in her to learn it from her dad.

"I was my dad's shadow," she said. "Anything he did, I tried to do. I'd even look at his playbook."

Bridgwaters-Brown's father encouraged her interest in the sport, and while other children played "Cowboys and Indians," Bridgwaters-Brown received a gridiron education.

"He explained the X's and O's to me," she said. "As complex as the game is, it made sense to me. If you keep it simple, it's easy to understand."

"I've never had a problem with the kids showing me respect."

— Stevie Bridgwaters-Brown

When her family moved from England to California, Bridgwaters-Brown decided to try out for her junior high school's team.

"I wanted to try out for the team," she said. "I went to the practices every day and the head coach was kind to me, but my mom didn't want me to try out."

Instead of football, Bridgwaters-Brown played fast pitch softball, field hockey and joined the cheerleading squad, but her passion for football never died.

"It was funny, I'd be on the sideline cheering, but I would stop to watch the game and would explain what was happening to the gals," she said.

Now a four-year coaching veteran, Bridgwaters-Brown is looking forward to a new challenge in the fall — coaching 12-year-olds and 13-year-olds.

The new age group consists of players who will one day be playing for local high schools such as South County, West Springfield, Lake Braddock and Robinson.

Brown admits the new age group might present some challenges, but it's nothing she hasn't conquered before.

"I've never had a problem with the kids showing me respect," she said.

While the new weight class, featuring larger and more intense competition, is a change from the ankle-biter teams she's coached in the past, her goal for the players remains the same.

"My goal is to get them to come back for next year," she said. "So far, they've all been coming back."

Injuries a Headache at Robinson

Rams battle to stay 'match fit' in face of multiple injuries to key players.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson midfielder Brigitte Kuter's doesn't want her injury to hold her back. However, when she's required to head the ball past the goalkeeper, she can't help but worry about lingering effects of a mild concussion she received last winter during a club indoor soccer game.

"I'm a little more hesitant now to protect my head," she said. "I don't want to risk getting another concussion."

"I got hit in the back of the head with the ball," she said.

Kuter said most of the pain has passed, but on occasion, she experiences side effects.

"I occasionally still have headaches after heading the ball a lot," she said. "But I'm not trying to hold back."

Kuter is just one girl on the team recovering from a concussion. Senior Allie Beck and sophomore Jeannine Molleda are two others suffering from post-concussion symptoms.

"I can count on one hand how many kids I've had with concussions in 25 years," head coach Jim Rike said. "Then all of a sudden, I get a bunch in one season. It's just weird."

The team's injuries aren't limited to concussions. As the girls ran laps during practice, Rike pointed at each one describing their ailments ranging from bruised legs to bronchitis. Only a few earned a bill of good health from the coach.

"We just need to try and stay healthy," he said.

Rike said that high school soccer isn't to blame for his team's poor health, but rather the amount of out-of-school work the girls do on their own.

"It seems like every time [the girls] go off to a club tournament, somebody comes back hurt," Rike said. "[The injuries] are partly because the kids are playing so much. They don't take much time off."

The injury-laden team is trying to avoid limping into the 2010 season, but Kuter said that a recent scrimmage highlighted the drastic situation.

"We had a scrimmage and a third of our team was on the bench," she said. "I've never see a team with this many injuries before."



Robinson head coach Jim Rike talks to his players about taking on extra responsibilities during the team's injury situation. 'We just need to try and stay healthy,' he said.

PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

5 Qs With Robinson Soccer Player Barbara Platenburg

Q: What sort of music do you listen to before each game?

A: I just listen to the warm-up cd that my teammates put together. Or whatever is on the radio or on 99.5.

Q: If you could trade places with any athlete, who would you want to be?

A: Probably [U.S. Women's soccer national team member] Heather O'Reilly.

Q: Speaking of national teams, any predictions for the World Cup in South Africa?

A: I'm hoping the USA does the best they can. It's going to be tough [against England], but they can do it.

Q: Why do you love soccer?

A: I love the game in general and all the competition. I love the thrill of being a player and being out there with my friends.

Q: Why do they call soccer 'the beautiful game'?

A: I you just watch the moves and plays people do, it's amazing. Just watching how the defenders tackle players, or goalies stopping shots and the amazing shots. It's just everything about the game.



REED S. ALBERS

Barbara Platenburg

— REED S. ALBERS

Senior defensive forward and team co-captain Ali Heck said the injury spell has created a cautious atmosphere at practice as news of more injuries comes in each day.

"Practice is definitely lighter," she said. "The worry for injury is there now. Every game is a risk, but we have faith we'll be OK."

With so many injuries, some teams might worry that their season is ending before it even begins, but the injury spell hasn't completely depleted the Rams' starting 11.

"The hub of my defense is in good shape,"

Rike said. "The attacking players are the ones I'm worried about."

Trying to look at the situation in a positive light, Heck said the time spent healing will provide younger players with an opportunity they may not have received this early in the season. "We're good as long as the younger kids step up," Heck said. "We just need the experienced players to keep working hard."

Robinson plays at home against West Springfield on March 25, at 7 p.m., and Centerville on April 6.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Robinson Crew Plant Sale

The Robinson Crew team will be conducting its annual plant sale on May 1 at the Burke Nursery and Garden Center.

The Burke Nursery and Garden Center will be donating a percentage of its total sales to the club when shoppers purchase items at the school's booth on May 1 and with at least one \$10 certificate sold by members of the crew team.

The certificates can be pre-purchased from a member of the crew team at anytime leading up to the fund raiser.

The crew team is not funded by Robinson Secondary School and all fund-raising efforts help pay for the team's coaches, boats and regatta fees.

For more information, please contact Chris Veale at cv622@aol.com, Louise Lewis at lewisfamily6@verizon.net.

Spartans Topple Chantilly

Last season, the West Springfield boys' lacrosse team opened the 2009 season with a 3-8 loss to Chantilly.

"We opened up against [Chantilly] last season and it was disappointing," West Springfield head lacrosse coach Scott Settar said. "We had an early lead and let them back in it."

When the 2010 schedule was announced, Settar said his team put a circle around Chantilly's name and their March 18 meeting.

"We marked [the Chantilly game] as one where we wanted to set the tone early for us in the season," he said.

The extra motivation worked as West Springfield cruised past Chantilly with a 13-6 victory.

Eric Schauder led the Spartans in scoring with two goals and tallied five assists in the victory. Zach Hart followed Schauder in scoring with four goals and one assist.

The victory over Chantilly doesn't just give the Spartans a confidence boosting victory, but also helps establish the team as one of the area's top offensive powerhouses.

In their season opener on March 16, West Springfield disposed of Hayfield in a 15-2 rout. Schauder scored two goals and earned four assists in the Hayfield victory and Hunter Bragg added another four goals and one assist to the count.

Setter credits his team's experience and chemistry for the Spartan's 2-0 start to the season. "The nice thing is a lot of our offensive players are back from last season," Settar said.

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Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Clearwire Wireless Broadband is proposing a telecommunications facility at the following address: 3342 Gallows Road, Annandale, Fairfax County, MD 22003. The proposed developments will include attaching microwave dishes to an existing utility tower and connecting to existing on-site utilities. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects that this proposed project may have on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Alex Bos, RESCOM Environmental Corp., P.O. Box 6225, Traverse City, MI 49696 or call 1.231.947.4454. Project Reference #: 1002092

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October 10, 1931 - March 21, 2010
City of current residence: Winona, Minnesota

Esther Louise Thronson, 78, of Winona, MN, died Sunday, March 21, 2010, at her Saint Anne's home with family by her side. She was born at home on October 10, 1931, in Todd County, MN, daughter of Elvin and Lillie (Dahl) Klukken. She attended District 101 grade school and graduated from Osakis High School in 1948. She started teaching at the age of 16 in a one room schoolhouse - District 23, Todd County, MN. She taught 25 students, grades one through eight, until 1951. Her teaching responsibilities also included building a fire and pumping water to fill the ceramic water crock, all for 40 dollars a month. Board member Gray pushed for an increased salary which doubled her monthly earnings. A former student, Carolyn Thimmes, shared that Miss Klukken "inspired us!" She attended Teacher Training School, Fergus Falls, MN and graduated from Luther College in 1952. While at Luther, she was a member of the Nordic Choir. On June 6, 1954, she was united in marriage to Carmen Thronson at Osakis Lutheran Church. They were married for 53 years until his death in 2008.

Esther made a home for her family in every community they lived including Mt. Sterling, WI (1955-56) and Roundup, MT (1957-1960). She taught elementary school in Adams, Hastings and Circle Pines, MN; DeSoto, WI (1960-1965); Adams-Friendship, WI (1965-1968); Orfordville, WI (1968-1979). She was a life-long learner and continued her own education, receiving her B.A. from Univ. of Wisconsin Stevens Point and her Masters from Univ. of Wisconsin Whitewater. She was Executive Director of Southern Lakes United Educators (SLUE) Teachers Union serving school districts in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, WI from 1979 until her retirement in 1997. She served as the United Staff Union (USU) Employees Union President, 1984-86. Beyond her work, she was always passionate about social justice and helping people who couldn't find their own voice. She volunteered her time to mediate for fair wages and equal treatment for all workers. She was recognized for Farmers Mediation Training.

Esther will be sadly missed by her 5 children: Kristin (Robert) Steingreaber of Keosauqua, IA; Kate (Jeff) Seitz of Racine, WI; Mark (Anna) Thronson of McLean, VA; Carl (Krupa Srinivasan) Thronson of Los Altos Hills, CA, and Karen (Jason) Mott of Winona, MN; and 9 grandchildren: William and Anne Steingreaber; Audrey Seitz; Margo, Lauren, and Eric Thronson; Neel and Jason Thronson; and Jonathan Carmen Mott.

Esther is also survived by her sisters: Marilyn Klukken, Dorothy Olson, and Joyce (Ted) Herbert; brother, Dan (Sue) Klukken; brother-in-laws, David (Betty) Thronson; sister-in-law, Solveigh (Ken) Engh and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her parents-in-law (Carmen and Borghild); her stepmother, Mabel (Ormsen); and her brother-in-law, Bruce Olson.

A funeral service for Esther will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 25, 2010 at CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINONA, MN, with Rev. Michelle Rem officiating. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the CHURCH on Thursday.

Memorials are preferred to Saint Anne; 1347 W. Broadway; Winona, MN 55987. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Services; 1476 W. Broadway; Winona, MN 55987.

The family thanks the staff at Saint Anne's for their compassionate care. Esther was an advocate for students and teachers and will be remembered as making a difference.

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Health Care Bill Passes

FROM PAGE 14

care is guaranteed for another decade. No longer will residents of the 11th District have to worry that their insurance can be canceled as they are being wheeled into the operating room. Uninsured and underinsured families in our communities — who on average file 1,400 bankruptcies each year because they can't pay their health care bills — will no longer fear losing their homes when a child or spouse gets sick.

These are only a few of the provisions in

the new health insurance reform law that will take effect immediately and improve the lives of all Americans, including our families, friends and neighbors right here in Northern Virginia.

And when historians look back at the landmark achievement we accomplished last week, they will list this new law alongside laws like the Social Security Act of 1935, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Medicare Act of 1965 that have made the United State the greatest nation in the world.

Connection Letter Writer Is 'Sadly Misled'

To the Editor:

In her letter ["Supporting Martin," Connection, March 18-24, 2010], I'm sorry to see that Victoria Thompson has been sadly misled by inaccurate rhetoric in her quest to support the candidacy of Scott Martin. Contrary to her claim, health care reform will not force her to obtain a specific health insurance policy for her family. She can continue with the insurance of her choice.

There will be no mandated federal health care and no federal plan other than Medicare, but there will be private health care for those who can't afford or can't qualify due to pre-existing conditions under our current system. If Ms. Thompson prefers not to purchase private health insurance for her family, then she may pay a fee. Why would she pay this fee? Because your insurance, my insurance and tax dollars now pay much of the cost of medical care for those who choose not to have insurance. If Ms. Thompson prefers not to purchase health care for her family and one of them incurs huge expenses for catastrophic care, she will at least have paid a small penalty towards the cost of care that we will pay for her family member.

SB 417 is a smokescreen, political grandstanding that pretends to exempt Virginia

from federal law when it cannot do so. Federal law takes precedence over state law. Anyone who thinks that because Virginia passed SB 417 we are now exempt from federal health care reform has been misled.

Sen. George Barker (D-39) has worked in health care for many years, controlling costs and increasing access to care. Last year, he got a bill passed to allow the courts and child support enforcement to require absent parents to pay for private health insurance for their own children, reducing the number of uninsured children and saving tax dollars by shifting many children from Medicaid to private insurance. SB 417 would have contradicted that common sense legislation. SB 417 cannot override federal law, but it does jeopardize our own good Virginia laws.

Rather than arguing about a federal law that cannot be overridden in Richmond, we should be working together to control health care costs and to help all Virginians have access to good medical care. We should not shirk our duty to get our fellow Virginians affordable health care. Are we that selfish?

Miriam Meyer
Clifton

County Should Revisit Joint Resolution

To the Editor:

Recently at a District Band Competition with my seventh grade son, I was handed a flyer asking Fairfax citizens to ask our Board of Supervisors to advertise a 10-12 cent increase in real-estate tax rates to cover proposed cuts in our K-12 music programs, freshmen sports and other vital offerings in FCPS.

I asked the gentlemen who handed my the flyer if he asked for a tiered salary reduction of 15 percent for everyone making \$250,000 and above in the county, 10 percent from those making \$150,000-\$249,000 and 5 percent cut for those making \$90,000-\$149,000, you could more easily fill the budget gap to preserve these essential programs, and most of our classroom teachers would be unaffected.

I then ask the gentlemen if he knew that in Fairfax County there are two Departments of Transportation, two General Services Departments, two IT Departments, two Human Resource Departments, multiple warehouses and multiple fulltime

HVAC, carpenters and plumbers. And if you could consolidate and merge these departments, we could not only preserve all our FCPS programs, but lower the real-estate tax rate too!

In 1996, Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Katherine Hanley and School Board Chairman Kristen Amundson agreed on a Joint Resolution on Consolidation and the Sharing of Services to "identify and implement programs to control expenditures, consolidate services and avoid pressures to increase taxes for our citizens."

Too bad this joint resolution was never fully explored and enacted, or we might not be having a discussion about cutting any FCPS program today. It's time for the Board of Supervisors and the School Board to revisit this Joint Resolution.

Scott Martin
Fairfax Station

The writer is a 2011 Republican candidate for State Senate in the 39th District.

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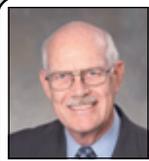


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