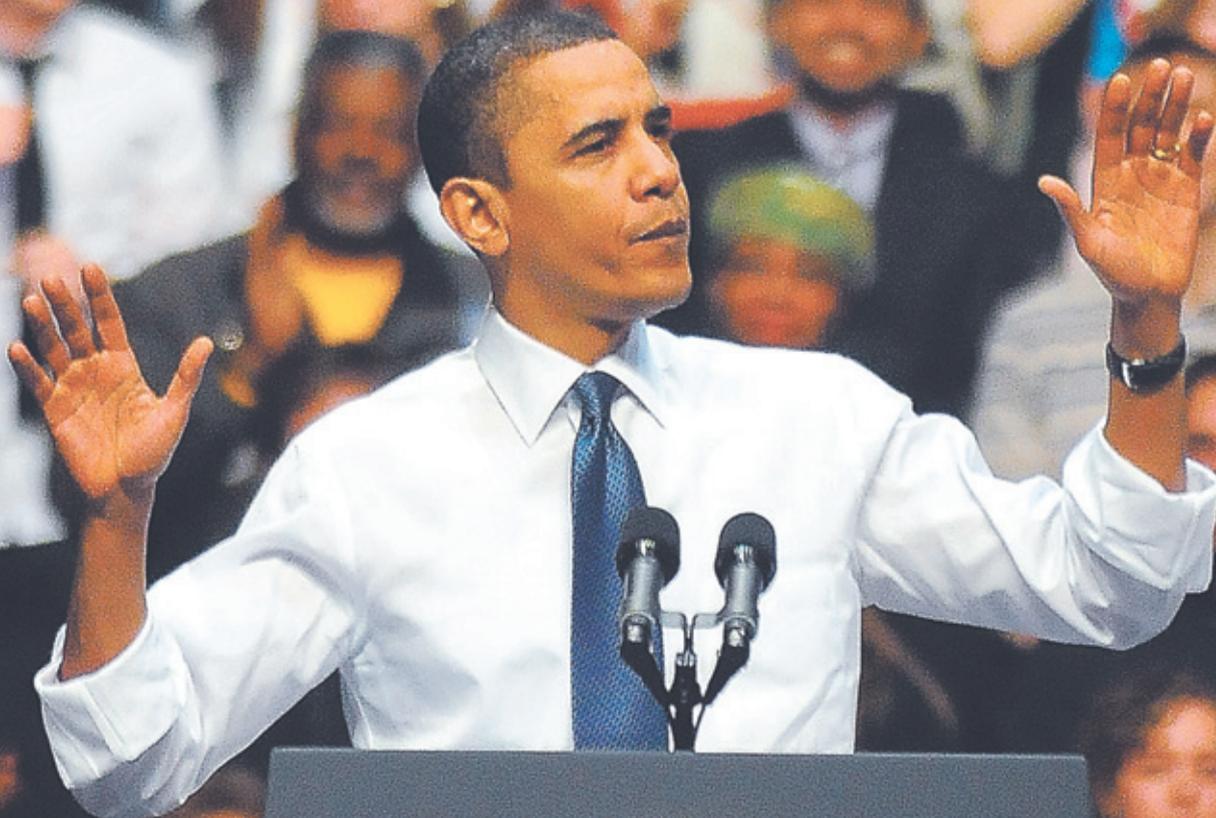


The Big Push

NEWS, PAGE 3



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

Iraq Vet
At Fairfax
High
NEWS, PAGE 3

Fire and Rescue's
New Recruit

PEOPLE, PAGE 13

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Obama Makes Final Push at GMU

Appearance at Mason to rally support for his health care bill sparks protest, excitement.

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



President Barack Obama gestures to the crowd of nearly 9,000.

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 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

"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

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

SEE OBAMA, PAGE 9

From Fairfax to Iraq and Back

Injured Marine vet shares story with students.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Justin Constantine grew up in the City of Fairfax, graduated from Fairfax High in 1988 and JMU in 1992. He served six years active duty with the Marines before joining the Reserves.

"They were looking for officers, and I thought, 'If not me, then who?'" he said. "I wanted to be a part of it."

Then in early 2006, Constantine volunteered to go to Iraq. Helping build the country's infrastructure, he was a civil affairs team leader attached to an infantry unit. But just six weeks into his deployment, he was shot in the head by an enemy sniper.

"A bullet went behind my left ear and out my mouth," he said. "I was knocked unconscious and they thought I was dead, but a Navy corpsman saved my life with rescue breathing and a tracheotomy. He showed amazing courage under fire because the sniper was still firing."

Luckily, there was no brain damage, but Constantine, then 36, was severely injured. He still has a ways to go, but he's recovered sufficiently to get married, hold down a job, start a foundation to help other wounded veterans and share his experi-



Maj. Justin Constantine

ences with others.

Now a major, he recently spoke to teacher Pete Garvey's government class at Mountain View School. He and Garvey played rugby together at JMU, and Garvey invited him to talk with his seniors studying civic duty and foreign policy. And Constantine definitely made an impression.

"I thought of veterans as older folks from WWII, not younger people," said student Ryan D'Arville. "Now I understand more what it's like to be in his situation and serve in another country."

Gloria Alarcon said Constantine showed them pictures of Iraq littered with trash and with rundown schools. "It made me thankful I'm in a better envi-

SEE MARINE, PAGE 8



The top three finishers at the March 13 Feuer Memorial String Competition were, from left, Sung Hong, Jungwook Choo and Eric Adamshick.

Hong Third at String Competition

Violinist Sung Hong, a junior at Fairfax High School, was the third place winner at the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's annual Dorothy Farnham Feuer Memorial String Competition, which took place on March 13. Sung Hong is the concertmaster of Fairfax High's Advanced Orchestra. This is Hong's first major competition and a real accomplishment to have garnered third prize from such a substantial field of instrumentalists. He studies violin with Yakov Shapiro, concertmaster of the Symphony of the Potomac. Hong will be using his \$700 award for summer music studies.

Tying for first place at the competition were cellists Eric Adamshick of Centreville High and Jungwook Choo of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. They each received \$1,250 in scholarship money.

SCAN Honors Social Worker

At the Eighth Annual Allies in Prevention Awards Luncheon on March 25, Verizon and SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) honored five individuals from across Northern Virginia who go above and beyond in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and support the children and families of our community. Among this year's honorees is Fairfax resident Brittny Li.



Brittny Li

A social worker with Fairfax County since 2004, Li provides individual counseling and crisis intervention to her clients on a daily basis. From conducting Child Specific Team meetings to working intimately with inter-disciplinary groups, she focuses on helping families operate in safe, productive ways. She is also a member of the Village Improvement Project in central Fairfax County, through which she has partnered with other volunteers to lead ACT: Adults Against Violence parenting classes. She's also a member of the Kinship Care Respite Program and the Early Intervention Strategy Team, a group that works to highlight the overrepresentation of African American children in foster care. Li volunteers as a dedicated supervisor for social work interns, and her commitment to children and families is an inspiration to other young service providers, even as she pursues her own LCSW. She is the proud parent of a little girl.

Sentence Vandalism Sentence

In July 2009, a Fairfax man was charged with vandalizing a slew of vehicles in the City of Fairfax. Now Vincent Thakozan Stoutjesdijk, 19, of 9400 block of Fairfax Blvd., has been given a suspended sentence.

On July 15 at 6:19 a.m., a citizen reported that several vehicles had been vandalized in the 4300 block of Ramona Drive. Responding officers identified at least 42 parked vehicles that had been damaged by scratching the paint with a sharp object, tearing off gas-tank covers or ripping off emblems. City of Fairfax Police estimated the total damage at \$40,000.

Also that same day, around 8:45 a.m., a citizen reported a suspicious person trying to break into a vehicle in the 10500 block of West Drive. Officers responded and found Stoutjesdijk nearby and, following an investigation, they charged him with five counts of felony destruction of property.

Four of those charges were later dismissed and, on Dec. 1 in Fairfax County Circuit Court, he pleaded guilty to the remaining one. He returned March 12 for sentencing and, at that time, Judge Charles Maxfield sentenced him to six months in jail, suspending all that time.

County Hosts Electric Sunday Recycle Event on March 28

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes, including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, March 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

Correction

A name was misspelled in the caption of a photo accompanying the story "A Gala Evening" [Fairfax Connection, March 18-24, 2010]. The person shown with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and his wife Cathy Smith is Pam Charin.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Paul VI students take part in a dance marathon to raise money for two causes.

Shake a Leg for Others

Paul VI marathon raises \$30,000 for two causes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Dancing, games, moonbounces and music added up to more than \$30,000 when Paul VI High School conducted its all-night Marathon Madness. Proceeds went toward a scholarship in memory of a graduate who recently died, plus medical expenses of the campus minister who's recovering from a serious car accident.

Students each paid \$50 at the door for the March 5-6 fund raiser, and many donated more. Some students obtained pledges and some contributed money earned from jobs or donated by parents.

"Marathon Madness happens every year but, each time, the money goes toward a different cause," said school president Willard Humphries III. "It started about 20 years ago as a dance marathon but, since then, we've added more activities to make it better."

School vice president Stefanie Mueller said it was open to the whole school and some 700 students attended. The event included student bands, deejays, a dance, inflatable obstacle course, movies, refreshments and theater students doing their version of the TV show, "Who's Line is it, Anyway?"

Activities took place throughout the school, and one of the most popular was "Power Hour," during which two student deejays played music. "It was my favorite thing," said Mueller. "You were with all your friends, dancing in the hallways and having fun."

Humphries also liked "Taboo," the game show SGA hosted. "It went into triple overtime with two teams," he said. "It was a fun night where you could hang out with friends and raise money for a good cause."

The memorial scholarship is in honor of 2008 grad Elizabeth Healy, who died in October at age 19 after a long battle with a pulmonary illness. Although she was older than them, both sophomore Brendan Muha and senior Ashley McGrath knew who she was.

"She was one of my sister's friends," said McGrath. "She had trouble walking and breathing and would tire really easily. But friends helped her get around." McGrath said having the fund raiser partially in

Healy's honor "brought it home to us. The fact that Lizzie went to PVI got a lot of people to come support the cause."

"In fifth and sixth grade, my brother helped push her around school in her wheelchair, with her oxygen tank, during class changes," said Muha. "When Elizabeth was in ninth grade here, she was probably 65 pounds and 4 foot 7 inches, but she came to all the school events."

"She loved PVI," added McGrath. "Despite her condition, she tried her best to stay involved in school and make friends. At the marathon, you're having a fun time and don't realize how much money it's raising. But it's so worth it because it's helping others."

The whole Healy family came to see the first Marathon Madness dedicated to Elizabeth. "I took them on a tour of the school, and Mrs. Healy got tears, seeing all the marathon signs and knowing that, although Elizabeth is no longer here, her memory carries on," said Muha.

"She fought, her whole life, yet continued to be happy and involved at school, so she continues to inspire the students," said McGrath.

"The scholarship money will go to an incoming PVI student, and Mr. Healy matched the amount we raised for the scholarship," said Muha.

The other fund raiser recipient, Campus Minister Denny Kline, was in charge of the school's spiritual events. "She's really nice and her personality suited her position," said junior Leah Utley. "She also kept track of students' service hours, which affects your grades, because we put a lot of emphasis on community service."

LAST NOVEMBER, said Utley, Kline was in an auto crash and sustained both internal and external injuries to her entire body. "Insurance only covered so much, so we wanted to help and not have her medical expenses be such a burden to her family," said Utley. "She's now living with a sister in Florida while she recovers."

Before leaving, Kline came by the school to say goodbye and the students and staff wished her well. "She has a lot of physical rehabilitation ahead of her," said Utley. "But she's a trooper and we feel that, if anyone can come back from this, she will. Everyone here believes in our hearts that she'll someday return to Paul VI and be the Miss Kline we know and love."

COLLEGE

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.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Robert V. Robertson, Matthew J. Schretner, Christine E. Snopek, Diana P. Tong, Jared R. Wehrheim, Yvonne C. Yee, Yizhe Zhan, Colleen T. Ackermann, Luis A. Apaestegui, Bryan Aviles, Kara N. Batt, Matthew J. Beckett, Sandra F. Bloom.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at

least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Stephen E. Blyskal, Katherine E. Burgomaster, William C. Cang, Daniel S. Choi, Samuel S. Choi, Caleb J. Davison, Frank M. DiLorenzo, Melissa C. Dozier, John V. Dunn, Samantha J. Fede, David M. Fox, Adam J. Golman, Alexander D. Goodwin, Rachel E. Harris.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn

a 3.4 grade point average.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Lucas D. Heck, Leah M. Heist, Jason M. Hertz, Claire C. Holman, Lisa H. Janovsky, David H. Jiang, Vincent Keung, Bo Ram Kim, Youngjoon Kim, Arielle H. Kohr, Jing Li, Daniel Y. Louie, Cody P. Miller, Phillip S. Murillas.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax

were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Alice J. Park, Neel V. Patel, Shyam V. Patel, Drew B. Phillips, Michael A. Poppe, Philip A. Randall, Kathryn A. Reinsel, Andrew G. Shin, Bridget C. Shinal, David E. Smith, Nixia Tenzin, Amy T. Turner, Angela L. Willett, Elizabeth L. Yang, Benjamin A. Yu, Ava A. Ziari.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall

2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Brenda E. Arnold, Martin W. Selgas, Jessica L. Abraham, Maya K. Ahronovich, Ashley E. Best, Safal K. Bhattarai, Han Chen, Kelly E. Cox, Matthew R. Decenzo, Annelise H. Gast, Richard L. Gonzalez, Lynn A. Hansirisawat, Robert D. Hill, William B. Hutcheson, Kathryn A. Johnson.** To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average.

The following students from Fairfax

SEE COLLEGE NOTES, PAGE 18



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7:30 p.m. Eucharist*

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COMMUNITY



Sabina Sheppard, 3, and Jacob Sheppard of Fairfax inspect the pastries.



Laura'l Silverberg and Mark Seaman judge cakes at last weekend's National Capital Area Cake Show at Woodson High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



A hamburger cake

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BULLETIN

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 at 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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Candidates Night. 7 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. This is an opportunity to hear and meet candidates for City of Fairfax Mayor and Council. Complementary refreshments following the meeting. Further information at 703-273-9152.

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The Greater Pentecostal Temple...
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United Church of Christ

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NEWS

Marine Speaks at Fairfax High

FROM PAGE 3

ronment, in a nicer school and have better opportunities to get a good education. I work and pay taxes, and I think more of this money should go to taking care of the wounded warriors."

When Constantine was injured in fall 2006, he and his girlfriend Dahlia had been dating about six months. When he deployed to Iraq, she went to Cambridge University in England to work on her Ph.D. in education.

"When I was shot, she dropped everything to be with me at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda," Constantine said. He had severe facial injuries and had a long road ahead of him, but their love was strong and they faced the future together. They married in October 2008 at the new Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, and Dahlia's been by his side throughout his whole ordeal.

"She helped me through some incredibly tough times," said Constantine. "We now know we can make it through whatever challenge life throws our way." It also helped that his parents, Judy and Rudy Constantine, live in the City of Fairfax and could visit him in the hospital often.

"Doctors replaced my upper and lower jaw with bones from my legs and did skin grafts from different parts of my body," he said. "The end of my tongue got shot off, and I only have four original teeth left, so I'm getting dentures."

Constantine was initially hospitalized for six weeks and then received outpatient treatment for eight months. He's still in the Reserves and, eventually, the Marines will assess him to see if he's fit for duty. First, though, he'll have three more surgeries.

"I have vision issues in my left eye and have challenges running, so I doubt if I'll deploy again," he said. "But there are many other jobs I can do in the Reserves."

Meanwhile, Constantine has applied for a masters from Georgetown University in National Security Studies so, for example, he could work for the FBI or the Department of Defense on national-security issues. He's also served as a military lawyer and, currently, he works on Capitol Hill as a counsel for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "We handle legislation for the VA [Veterans Administration] and provide oversight regarding how well the VA is meeting its mission," said Constantine.

Mountain View student Ciara Adams said she's living her normal life and "the war over there doesn't really affect me." But Constantine's visit to her classroom "really opened my eyes. [Our troops] are fight-

ing over there for us."

Still, as he recovered, people on the street stared at him because of his facial injuries. People wondered what had happened to him, so he created a line of T-shirts to reply. Because of the words, "Iraq and Back," across the front, people would come up to Constantine and ask him about his time in Iraq.

He also realized the shirts could serve a larger purpose. So at his Web site, <http://iraqandback.com/about-us.php>, people may read his story and buy his merchandise, and part of each sale goes to four charities supporting America's military personnel, especially those who've been injured.

Constantine also established a similar Web site, www.AfghanistanandBack.com, for troops who've been to Afghanistan. Both sites feature the same store, information and resources because these personnel face many of the same issues upon returning to the U.S. that Iraq veterans do.

"I've seen relatives go to war and come back, and they're not the same people," said student Ibrahim Fetterolf. "They're broken and I can't connect with them, anymore. I couldn't do it, but for Maj. Constantine to cope with that, recover from injuries, get married and go on with his life, walk around in public looking like that, and still want to go back [on active duty] is impressive and inspiring."

Constantine also bears no ill will toward the man who shot him. "He was there doing his job and so was I," said Constantine. "Had the roles been reversed, I might have done the same thing."

Dahlia now teaches ESOL at a Woodbridge elementary school and the couple lives in Arlington. Constantine, 40, said the whole experience brought them closer and "there are no obstacles we can't overcome. We're even closer to my family now." He also learned that "you have to tell people how you feel about them while you can, and not put things off 'til later."

Furthermore, he said his ordeal made him a better and more compassionate person. "I sometimes struggle with PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder], and Dahlia encouraged me to seek treatment and talk to people about my issues," he said. "You never know what someone's struggling with, when they're irritable to you. I [realize] that now and tell myself to just let it go."

Constantine said he and his wife believe that those who are able to should give back. "I'm more attuned now to what our wounded warriors and their families are going through, so we work with organizations taking care of them and, frankly, I might not have done that before."

SCHOOL NOTES

The following students from Fairfax were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at University of Mary Washington: **Marie Randolph, Hannah Harms, Jennifer Clary, Yun-Sun Lee, Rebecca Shogren, Deidre Ryan, Jackson Clement, Nadine Zaat, Ellen Bikowski, Scott Drenkard, Tatiana Faramarzi, Lee Fauteux, Ryan Kleman, Spencer Lahiff, Kristen Lewis, Margaret McMillan, Caitlin Oshida.** The dean's list honors outstanding academic achievement by full-time students who attain a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 out of a possible 4.0.

Lauren Blitz of Fairfax has graduated magna cum laude, receiving a bachelor's degree in music from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg.

Kimberly Lane, a sophomore outdoor ministry and adventure leadership major at Eastern Mennonite University, was named to the fall semester 2009 dean's list. She is the daughter of Sandra Eckroth of Fairfax and Henry Lane of Frederick, Md. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must achieve a semester grade point average of at least 3.750 or above and complete at least 12 semester hours of credit.

Christina Marie Azimi of Fairfax was named to the dean's list with distinction at Duke University for the fall 2009 semester. She was among 2,109 students who achieved that honor. A 2006 graduate of Robinson Secondary, Azimi is majoring in international comparative studies and Spanish and minoring in chemistry.

Sarah Freeborne Brinton of Fairfax was named to the fall 2009 dean's list with distinction at Duke University. To make the arts and sciences dean's list, students must rank in the top third of their college; for dean's list with distinction, the top 10th of their college. Brinton, who is majoring in Spanish, is a 2006 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

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

Obama at Mason

FROM PAGE 3

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 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. Obama’s message may not have been well received by all, they said, but he is the president and showing respect was important.

“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.

“I’m against the entire process [Democrats] have taken.”

— Matthew Connor

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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 www.jamminjava.com.

George Mason University Dance



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.pghtangoconnection.com

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 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 (Jackopierce). 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

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.

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-Illimani 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. All eggs will have candy, some will have tickets redeemable for prizes at the event. Meet and play with the Chick-fil-A cow. www.chick-fil-a.com/fairoaksmall, www.chick-fil-a.com/fairfaxcircle or www.fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Christine Lavin. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk artist. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Pianist Lang Lang with the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Under Maestro Christoph Eschenbach, the orchestra performs Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1. Lang Lang solos with the orchestra on Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$30-\$60. visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Willie Nile. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

Eggstravanza. 1-4 p.m., at Mott Community Center, at 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Arts and crafts, egg hunt, games. Free. For ages 3-12. 703-278-8605

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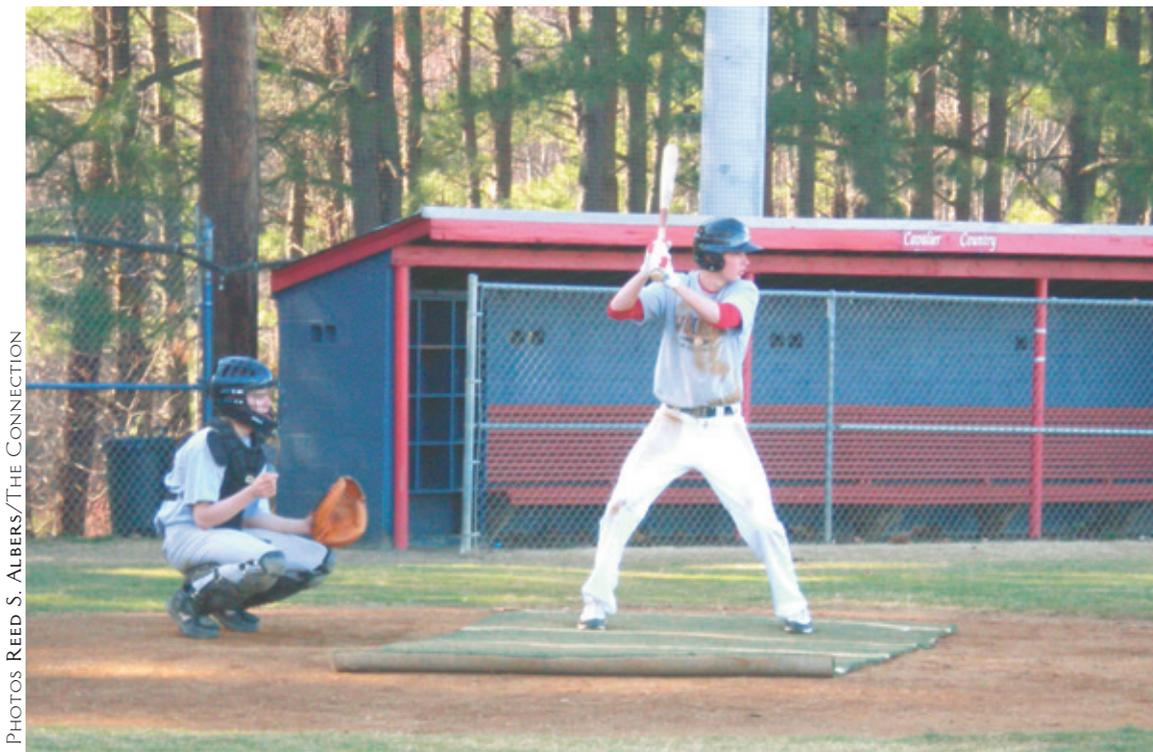
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PHOTOS REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Junior infielder Matt Powell holds his batting stance while facing off against the pitcher.

Experience To Fuel Cavs

Woodson's baseball team looks to improve upon 2009's record.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson head baseball coach Chris Warren isn't worried about making the transition from the Liberty District to Patriot District

this season.

He's not changing the way Woodson prepares for its opponents or worried what the school's new rivals think about the baseball team.

Instead, he's focused on molding his players into a better team by capitalizing on the experience they gained in the 2009 season.

"Even though we were a .500 team last year and we lost a few key players, we return a lot of pitching and good position players," he said.

Woodson finished the 2009 season with a 11-13 record and memories of a season riddled with close

losses due to team breakdowns.

Now, with the infusion of experience in the bullpen and on the field, Warren said 2010 is looking up.

"It's a good combination," he said. "A lot of guys got a lot of experience last year. Now, we just have to make plays and we have a chance to do OK."

Senior pitcher and outfielder Connor Finnerty acknowledged the importance experience will play in the upcoming season and, as captain, he is looking to guide the team.

"Last year, we only had three seniors," Finnerty said. "We had a lot of juniors and sophomores that got playing time. [The experience] is going to be a big boost to us this season."

While the boost isn't limited to a single position on the team, Warren singled out his bullpen as one group that will reap the benefits.

"Our top four returning pictures are all juniors this year," Warren said.

The Cavaliers' junior class of pitchers includes Joe McGillicuddy, John McGillicuddy, John Brendler and Bryson Hough.

SEE WOODSON. PAGE 13

"We know we're a great team and we can do great things."

— Colin Finnerty

Rams' 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, contact

Chris Veale at cv622@aol.com, Louise Lewis at lewisfamily6@verizon.net.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Injuries Plague Rams' Soccer

Girls 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."

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

SEE MULTIPLE. PAGE 13



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.

Finding His Calling

Henry Requejo, 28, joins City of Fairfax Fire Department.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Henry Requejo, like many others, spent years trying to find his true calling in life. Unlike most, however, he actually found his, and could not be happier.

Requejo, 28, was recently hired by the City of Fairfax Fire Department after nearly three years as a volunteer firefighter for the same department. Though the time spent becoming a professional firefighter was not long, the journey to it spanned almost three decades and two continents.

"It takes someone to be in that profession to understand that this is the best job in the world," Requejo said. "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to work with the City of Fairfax Fire Department and to serve the city itself."

Requejo's journey to the profession began at his birthplace of Lima, Peru, where he spent the first eight years of his life. Requejo said that life was difficult for his family and that his father feared that his children were not going to have enough opportunities to be successful in the future. So, seeking to give his children a better life, he decided to move the family to the United States. His father moved to Alexandria initially by himself in 1987, so that he could find a place for the family to live and a job to establish a financial foundation. In 1989, Requejo, his mother, two brothers and sister followed.

"Our situation in Lima wasn't very favorable to our future," Requejo said. "We moved here for a better life and more opportunities."

After his arrival, Requejo was enrolled at George Washington Middle School in Alexandria, and in 1995, the family moved to McLean and he attended McLean High School. Immediately after graduating, Requejo entered the job market in lieu of college, seeking to earn money first with the intent of going to school in the future. He first got a graphic design internship then navigated through several different professions in an effort to find something that he not only enjoyed, but found rewarding and fulfilling as well.

"After high school, I did a lot of job searching to find something that I liked to do," Requejo said. "I did graphic design first, then went from that to being a loan officer, to a salesman for Cutco Cutlery and then worked as a security officer for Best Buy. I worked with my father in construction the whole time, too. Basically, I just did a lot of things I really wasn't into."

This fruitless job search, while difficult for Requejo, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Disappointed by what he found in the professional world, he decided to take classes at Northern Virginia Community College's Springfield campus in 2005 to obtain his A+ certification to become a computer technician. In addition to his core classes for his certification, Requejo, for reasons he still cannot explain, signed up for an emergency medical technician



Henry Requejo

(EMT) class. It was there that he got his first taste of the firefighting world, and he was immediately hooked.

"I have told this story several times, but I still cannot think of a reason why I took the EMT course," Requejo said. "During that course, I met a lot of people who volunteered at fire departments around the area, and they recommended that I give it a try."

Requejo decided to listen to his classmates, and in 2007, joined the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department with the intent of eventually becoming a career firefighter. Requejo said that he began his service in the department by helping with fund-raising efforts at special events and the department's weekly Bingo game. At the same time, he took two introductory firefighting classes and six months later, obtained his full firefighting certification and graduated from the city's fire school.

Equipped with his certification, he began his volunteer duties riding on a truck with the department's "B Shift," working 10 days a month for 80 hours total. Though he thoroughly enjoyed volunteering at the department, he

said that it became clear that he was ready to become a professional and started applying to fire departments around the region. His first choice was to stay with the city, but since they were not hiring at the time, he applied to the Prince William County, Loudoun County and Alexandria Fire Departments. As luck would have it, however, two positions opened up with the City of Fairfax's fire department at the last minute. Requejo applied and was chosen from a pool of 18 applicants.

"He had everything we were looking for," Fairfax City Fire Chief Tim Butters said. "He's always trying to learn more about the job and hone his skills as a firefighter and EMT," Butters said. "He is very enthusiastic and competent, and he's going to be a great addition to the organization."

Requejo officially began work as a professional firefighter on March 8. He works out of Station 403, is still with B Shift, and typically is scheduled to work three days a week, 24 hours at a time.

"So far, it's been great," Requejo said. "The employees in the department are incredible. They are true professionals in every respect. They set you up to succeed, learn and grow. It's such a privilege to be a part of this team." Requejo plans on staying for as long as he can. He said that he fully intends to serve for the full 25 years required by the department to earn full retirement, and not because of the benefits, but because of his love for the job.

5Qs: Five Questions with Woodson Catcher Connor Reilly

Q: You're a football player and a baseball player. So which sport do you prefer?

A: The in-season sport (laughs). But I'm going to college to play football, so that's my No. 1 sport.

Q: What sort of music are you listening to before a game?

A: I'm one of the only country fans on the team, so I like to blare it to make my teammates mad for fun. Other than that, I listen to pretty much everyone on the radio.

Q: If you could live a dream game situation, what would it be?

A: If they allowed it in high school, I'd like to be behind the plate catching and have a collision at the plate to end the game and win the state title.

Q: What do you love about baseball?

A: It's been my life. My dad played in college and semi-professional and he's helped me for the 16 years I've been playing. It's just come natural to me.

Q: If you could be any athlete in the world for a day, who would it be?

A: [NFL quarterback] Brett Favre when he was younger. He's still got a cannon now, but I'd like to be him when he was younger.

Connor Reilly

REED S. ALBERS

— REED S. ALBERS

Woodson Baseball

FROM PAGE 12

Warren also said the move from the Liberty District is motivating the team.

"The team is hungry to improve upon last year's record, and being in a new district is exciting," he said. "[The team] wants to try and come out and make a statement."

The Cavs aren't focused solely on winning their new district, however. Senior infielder Brendan Breslin said his team wants to continue their development.

"We're not thinking about [the district] right now," Breslin said. "We were in a good district before, and we know we're moving into a good one."

With a new district, new season and past experience to lean on, Finnerty said the team is anxious for the season to begin.

"We have momentum coming in," Finnerty said. "We know we're a great team and we can do great things."

The Cavaliers start their 2010 season on March 25, at 6:30 p.m., at T.C. Williams, followed by a spring break tournament at home from March 26-30.

Multiple Injuries

FROM PAGE 12

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 returns from spring break with a home match against Centreville on April 6.

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

HOME SALES

FEBRUARY 2010
\$850,000 ~ \$114,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
12387 FALKIRK DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$850,000	Detached	0.58		DARTMOOR WOODS
10090 MCCARTY CREST CT	4	3	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$824,900	Detached	0.11		FARRCROFT
3827 HIGHLAND OAKS DR	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$738,000	Detached	0.14		HIGHLAND OAKS
3714 MASON ST	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$612,000	Detached	0.36		LAYTON HALL
12186 HICKORY KNOLL PL	5	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$610,000	Detached	0.64		HICKORY HILLS THREE
12924 WHEATLAND RD	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$605,000	Detached	0.12		CENTURY OAK
4533 HUMMINGBIRD LN	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$587,100	Detached	0.12		WILLOW OAKS AT FAIR LAKE
3803 CHARLES STEWART DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$574,900	Detached	0.24		FAIR OAKS ESTATES
10458 BRECKINRIDGE LN	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$528,000	Townhouse	0.05		COURTHOUSE SQUARE
9919 COLONY RD	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$500,000	Detached	0.32		OLD LEE HILLS
10825 WARWICK AVE	3	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$500,000	Detached	0.31		FAIRFAX WOODS
4156 CALAIS POINT CT	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$496,000	Townhouse	0.07		FAIR LAKES COURT
4202 TRUMBO CT	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$486,000	Townhouse	0.05		FAIR LAKES COURT
12309 FIELDBROOK PL	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.05		FAIR RIDGE
11617 PINE TREE DR	3	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$425,000	Detached	1.72		FAIRFAX FARMS
12661 MARCUM CT	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$421,900	Townhouse	0.06		FAIR WOODS
12782 DOGWOOD HILLS LN	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$417,000	Townhouse	0.08		BIRCH POND
3929 TALLOW TREE PL	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$412,000	Townhouse	0.06		FAIR WOODS
13113 CROSS KEYS CT	5	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$412,000	Detached	0.21		FOXFIELD
3988 ALCOA DR	5	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$400,000	Detached	0.23		CHANTILLY FARM
4286 SLEEPY LAKE DR	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04		FAIR RIDGE
4480 MARKET COMMONS DR#203	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$365,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			ELAN AT EAST MARKET
10452 ARMSTRONG ST	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.04		COURTHOUSE SQUARE - OLD
13008 MAPLE VIEW LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$330,000	Detached	0.23		GREENBRIAR
3960 WILCOXSON DR	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.06		COMSTOCK
4314 SUTLER HILL SQ	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$324,900	Townhouse	0.02		CEDAR LAKES
12138 WEDGEWAY CT	2	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.03		PENDERBROOK
12943 RIDGEMIST LN	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$299,900	Townhouse	0.04		TOWNES OF GREENBRIAR
3742 BROOMSEDGE CT	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.03		FRANKLIN GLEN
12233 FAIRFIELD HOUSE DR#213B	2	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$290,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAIRFIELD HOUSE
12783 FAIR BRIAR LN #12783	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$282,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF FAIR LAKES
3633 BUCKEYE CT	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$278,500	Townhouse	0.05		FRANKLIN GLEN
12471 HAYES CT #202	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$274,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			CEDAR LAKES A
12501 HAYES CT #301	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$270,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			CEDAR LAKES A
4558 SUPERIOR SQ #4558	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$270,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF FAIR LAKES
12937 LEE JACKSON MEMORIAL HWY	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.04		TOWNES OF GREENBRIAR
12114 GREEN LEAF CT #201	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$246,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
4408 HELMSFORD LN #302	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			STONECROFT
10615 MAPLE ST	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$240,000	Duplex	0.14		ARDMORE
12779 FAIR CREST CT #302	2	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAIR LAKES
10917 PARK RD	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.11		WESTMORE
3718 FARR AVE	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$230,000	Duplex	0.29		BFA MYERS FARM
4412 HELMSFORD LN #101	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			STONECROFT
4012 ROYAL LYTHAM DR	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$162,017	Townhouse	0.05		HIGHLAND OAKS
3846 LYNDHURST DR #102	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			LYNDHURST CONDOS
12163 PENDERVIEW ST #1022	1	1	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$120,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PENDERBROOK SQUARE
10721 WEST DR #204	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$114,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FAIRFAX WEST CONDOS

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15600 LAWNES CREEK CT	\$735,000	Sun. 1-4	Weichert	Helaine Newman	703-402-3134
6736 BUNKERS CT	\$910,000	Sun. 1-4	Long & Foster	Marsha Wolber	703-503-1834
12851 POPES HEAD RD	\$995,900	Sun. 12-3	Long & Foster	Lisa Clayborne	703-631-3200
6513 TRILLIUM HOUSE LN	\$549,272	Sat./Sun. 12-4	Long & Foster	Reggie Copeland	703-502-3256
7000 CLIFTON FOREST DR	\$749,000	Sun. 1-4	RE/MAX Allegiance	Pat Fales	703-503-4365

Chantilly/Oak Hill

13109 BRIARGROVE COURT	\$639,900	Sun. 1-4	Samson Properties	Bernie Kagan	703-216-0985
13217 STONE HEATHER DR	\$489,900	Sun. 1-4	Samson Properties	Bernie Kagan	703-216-0985

Fairfax

13215 CORALBERRY DR	\$539,999	Sun. 1-3	Flexible Real Estate	Thomas Kirchner	571-223-0311
4418 WESTFIELD DR	low \$500s	Sun. 1-4	Long & Foster	Debbie Dogrul Assoc	703-425-3582
12439 ERICA HILL LN	\$414,888	Sun. 1-4	Long & Foster	Debbie Dogrul Assoc	703-425-3582
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4103 MINSTRELL LN	\$469,000	Sun. 1-4	Cottage Street Realty	Debbie Kent	703-740-7654
4303 MARKWOOD LN	\$375,000	Sun. 1-5	Weichert	Monique Craft	703-451-7253
3969 ROSEBAY CT	\$399,995	Sun. 12-4	Saab Realtors	Andrew Capuano	703-850-6163
12530 SWEET LEAF TER	\$425,000	Sun. 1-4	ERA Elite	Lana Hartmann	703-359-7800

Herndon/Reston

12711 TAUSTIN LN	\$389,000	Sun. 2-4	Samson Properties	Scott Koval	703-625-3446
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Fairfax Station

6909 HEATHSTONE CT	\$679,000	Sat./Sun. 1-5	RE/MAX Allegiance	Zen Carague	571-213-7331
7101 PARK POINT CT	\$674,950	Sun. 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

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502 SPRING STREET SE	\$1,240,000	Sun. 1-4	Samson Properties	Casey Samson	703-508-2535
2605 LAKEVALE DR	\$799,000	Sun. 1-4	Samson Properties	Casey Samson	703-508-2535
602 GLYNDON STREET	\$725,000	Sun. 1-4	Samson Properties	Casey Samson	703-508-2535

Woodbridge

12509 CLIPPER DR	\$249,000	Sun. 2-4	Samson Properties	Cheryl Malkin	703-895-6265
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Arlington

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 101 Computers 101 Computers

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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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements



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 Thimmesh, 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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OPINION

Fairfax Station Man, 21, Enters 3 Guilty Pleas

Police charge man with Fairfax burglary.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A 21-year-old Fairfax Station man pleaded guilty in court last week to three crimes in connection with a burglary last fall in Fairfax. He is Ahmad S. Abbasi, 21, of the 9400 block of Larkdale Terrace.

Fairfax County police Det. S.M. Augustine, of the Fair Oaks District Station, detailed the case against him in a Nov. 12, 2009 affidavit for a warrant to search his home for possible evidence. He wrote that, on Oct. 19, a burglary occurred in the 10800 block of Verde Vista Drive, and items stolen included a laptop computer, a Mossberg shotgun and a Remington 700 rifle.

Then on Oct. 28, the victim found an ad on Craigslist advertising a laptop he believed was his stolen computer. He contacted the seller and obtained the seller's phone number. When he entered that number into his cell phone, the name, Mex, came up. He'd stored the number, a few weeks earlier, when Mex was at his home during a party.

The next day, Oct. 29, undercover detectives arranged to meet Mex to buy the computer. Mex received \$625, and the computer — confirmed via serial numbers to be the one stolen during the burglary — was re-

ceived in exchange.

On Nov. 2, another ad posted on Craigslist advertised an X-Box 360 gaming system, and the phone number listed with it was the same number belonging to Mex. Again, undercover detectives arranged to purchase it and met with Mex on Nov. 4. They watched him walk inside his Fairfax Station home to retrieve the gaming system, and he confirmed that he lived there with his parents.

However, wrote Augustine, "The name, Ahmad Abbasi, was originally provided by the victim as the likely suspect [in the burglary]. A photograph of Abbasi was viewed by both detectives who'd made contact with Mex [during] the two transactions, and both confirmed that Mex was [actually] Abbasi."

Police executed the search warrant Nov. 13 and items seized included a Mossberg shotgun and a Remington 700 rifle — both with serial numbers matching the ones that had been stolen in Fairfax. Abbasi was arrested, the same day, and charged with breaking and entering, firearm larceny and possession of stolen property with intent to sell.

He was indicted by the grand jury, Jan. 19, on all three charges. Then last Tuesday, March 16, he pleaded guilty to all three offenses in Circuit Court. Judge Brett Kassabian set his sentencing for June 4.

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.

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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.

COLLEGE NOTES

FROM PAGE 5

were named to the dean's list for the fall 2009 semester at Virginia Tech: **Deul D. Kim, HyunJung Kim, Po Han Lee, Seung W. Lee, Andrea N. Lopiano, Ross J. McCarthy, Harrison S. Moon, Kasyap S. Munukutla, Carl W. Nalls, Taylor L. Nurmi, Sameer D. Patel, Mia C. Perry, John Y. Saad, Matthew S. Siegel, Alexandra L. Thompson, Christina M. Tisdale, Sze Man Yeung.**

Peter Laclede of Fairfax, a senior majoring in political science/history in the college of liberal arts and human sciences was chosen to be the 2nd Battalion Commander in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets for the fall semester 2009.

The following Virginia Tech students from Fairfax have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech: **Scott Luxenberg, Amanda Duncan, Rebecca Johnson, Steffi Offutt, Kathryn Reinsel, and Steven Bell.** To qualify for the marching band students must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall.

Laura Hinton of Fairfax, a junior majoring in French in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has gained membership to the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Regimental Band, the Mighty-Tighties. Founded in 1893, the regimental marching band is the oldest continuously performing musical organization at Virginia Tech.

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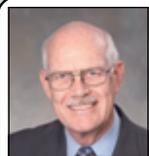


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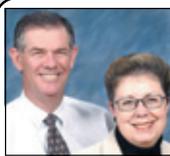


FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING DAY!

Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.
Burke Presbyterian Church (Oak Leather at Burke Centre Pkwy)
All material will be shredded on-site by a professional company while you watch!



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Fairfax Station \$685,000
4 bdms, 3 1/2 baths. Totally remodeled kitchen with granite, new cabinets & stainless steel appliances! Bay windows, skylights & MBR cathedral ceiling. Spacious rec rm with bar area & large storage rm. Raised hearth FP in family rm with French doors to deck. Wonderful pond & patio in private flat rear yard.



Lorton/Laurel Hill \$689,900
Main Level Bedroom!
Exceptional 5BR, 3.5BA, luxury home with many upgrades. Two master suites including one on the main level.
For 24-hour recorded information call 1-888-495-6207 x207.



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Lake Frederick \$524,900
Immaculate Beauty in Adult Community - 3 Years Young - Shows Like a Model - 3 Large BR - 4 Large BA - 3 Finished Levels

w/walk-out LL - 9 Ft Ceilings - Gas FP - Main Floor MBR - Fabulous Community Amenities.
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Fairfax Station \$850,000
SIX+ ACRES
This beauty was APPRAISED IN OCTOBER 2009 FOR \$924,000 - Fantastic buy!!!
Custom Built

Solid Brick Colonial featuring 6+ acres, 5 Car Garage, 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, Custom quality Wood Cabinets/Granite/Ceramic Tile/Center Island, 4 FP's, Huge Finished LL w/Recreation Rm/Game Rm/Exercise Rm, Pool/Hot Tub
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Lakewood Hills \$429,000
Just listed - Lovely 4 bedroom 3 full bath home with vaulted ceilings, fireplace and two car garage! Situated on treed lot. Convenient to Orange Hunt Elementary School, shopping and transportation! Call to see this beauty before it's gone!

www.5838WaterdaleCt.com

Great 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath town-home located in sought-after community of Little Rocky Run. Visit property website for more info!



Christine Zinser, REALTOR®
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Can you still get tax credit to buy a house?

When is the deadline?
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SOLD!
Chantilly \$299,900
A well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, located in Chantilly.
Bob Berrent 703-503-4194



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Next Door



Fairfax Kings Park West
Won't last long! Light-filled REMODELED home in sought-after neighborhood. The addition of a spacious family room and screened in porch coupled with a large trex deck creates such an inviting atmosphere. All baths and kitchens fully renovated plus lovely hardwoods. Give us a call for an early showing.

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Clifton \$739,000
Brick front beauty with 3 car garage, in ground pool, 3 finished levels! All features you want: upstairs laundry, great room/kitchen, main level library! Private 1.2 acres in a neighborhood setting!



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Fairfax Station \$775,000
Gorgeous Waterfront Colonial on 5+ wooded acres. Charming interior with all modern conveniences. Updated Kitchen, Baths, Pella windows, Hardiplank exterior, Landscaping & new HVAC. Picturesque view of lake, tiered deck, foot bridges, creek and in-ground pool. Private location.



Lorton \$789,000
Rare Georgian style Colonial with 5 BR, 5.5 BA and over 5700 sq ft! Large front porch, balcony & patio on 1/3 acre lot. Open gourmet kitchen, large family room & Luxury Bath. Finished basement with bar, den/bedroom with full bath and plenty of storage.



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- 3 Bedrooms & 2.5 Baths
- 3 Finished Levels
- Eat-in Kitchen & Formal DR
- Walkout Lower Level
- Fenced Yard w/Landscaping

Simply a PERFECT "10"
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Burke \$630,000
New Listing
Delightful 4 bedroom colonial in Signal Hill with a gorgeous park like view. Lake Braddock School, walk to the VRE, and shopping is just minutes away.

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