

Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill CONNECTION

Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

Children outnumbered adults when it was time to break ground for South County Middle School, which was just the way the school's supporters wanted it.



Supervisors
OK Healthplex

NEWS, PAGE 3

Remembering
Avid Teammate

NEWS, PAGE 4

Middle School Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Final Piece of the Puzzle

Following a decade of promises, ground is broken on middle school.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Christine Morin approached the temporary podium with a few pages of notes in her hand. She had a lot of people to thank, a lot of family and friends to credit.

"All I really want to do is jump up and down and shout 'Yahoo! We did it!'" Morin said, doing just that.

It was a spontaneous moment that was well deserved after years of hard work, because just a few moments later, ground was broken for the long-promised South County Middle School.

Her jump for joy was followed with applause from a community that has, for the third time in 10 years, come together to secure funding and support for a school they were told was not needed.

For the third time in 10 years, they came together with the numbers, both population and funding, to prove that if a school is built, it will be



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Christine Morin, left, jumps for joy during the groundbreaking ceremony for South County Middle School on Saturday, March 20.

filled with children eager and ready to learn.

"Maybe some day, when you're walking into this school, you'll understand why mom had to go to all those meetings and had to work late," said Morin, standing with Kim Kern, her co-chair on the Middle School Solutions Group, addressing their families. "Maybe then you'll see why we worked so hard."

School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield), who many credit with spearheading the effort to get the School Board's support for building South

County Secondary School a decade ago, shortly after the prison in Lorton was closed and townhouses started growing like so many spring daffodils, remembered that she didn't ask for a groundbreaking ceremony when SCSS was finally approved.

"Back then, I just wanted them to get working," she said. "But now, I think it's appropriate. This is a big day. It's meaningful for us all."

But it was a day that was by no means easily achieved: Countless hours of planning, preparation, research, attending School Board meetings and Board of Supervisors meetings. Floats for the Middle

SEE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAGE 18

"The people who live here, the children who live here, deserve a middle school."

— School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon)

Proclamation Honors Women's History Museum in Lorton

March is Women's History Month, and Irma Clifton, along with other volunteers, helped to found a Women's History Museum at the Workhouse Art Gallery, with a special focus on the suffragists who were once imprisoned in the Occoquan Workhouse, formerly located across Route 123 from where the Workhouse stands today.

On Sunday, March 21, Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Sen. George Barker (D-39) presented a General Assembly proclamation to Clifton, who accepted the award on behalf of the museum. She is the president of the Workhouse Museum's Steering Committee.

Also present on Sunday to accept the proclamation was Tim Reizer, board member of the Lorton Arts Foundation, which is the parent organization of the Workhouse Museum's Steering Committee.



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Sen. George Barker (D-39) present a proclamation to Irma Clifton of the Lorton Arts Foundation recognizing the contributions of women to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Tim Reizer, board member of the Lorton Arts Foundation, joins them.

Lorton Healthplex Approved

Facility to provide financial assistance to Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved plans for Inova Health System's new Lorton Healthplex at its meeting March 23.

The three-building facility will include medical offices, an urgent care center, outpatient services, assisted living facilities and a possible daycare or hotel. It would be located on a 14.5-acre vacant site with dense tree cover found south of Lorton Road between Interstate 95 and Sanger Street.

The Lorton Healthplex will be considered part of the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, located off Richmond Highway at 2501 Parker's Lane. All financial earnings from the new facility — including those earned through the hotel or restaurant — will go toward the hospital's bottom line.

MEDICAL STAFF at the Lorton Healthplex will also refer their patients to the Mount Vernon Hospital, which is "in the black" for the first time in several years, according to Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

"Southeastern Fairfax has an enormous stake in the future growth of the Mount Vernon Hospital. For many years, we were threatened with closure of the Mount Vernon Hospital," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

The healthplex will include a six-story building, five-story building and three-story building for a total of 253,000 square feet of medical facilities and office space on its site. Inova had initially asked for a fourth building but backed off that part of the plan when concerns about traffic and environmental impacts arose.

Under the original proposal, Fairfax County transportation staff found that traffic going to or coming from the Interstate 95 interchange with Lorton Road would be adversely af

SEE HEALTHPLEX, PAGE 14



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.

Gang-Related Murder

A 16-year-old Lorton male was murdered Saturday, March 20 in what Fairfax County Police are calling a gang-related crime.

According to police, the body of Christian Perez of 8521 Silverdale Road was found at the intersection of Manor Drive and Osman Drive in Alexandria that afternoon. The cause of death has been determined to be blunt force trauma to the head. Police have reason to believe this case to be gang related, and the case remains under investigation.

"Police were dispatched at 3:28 p.m. for an assault with a weapon," said Officer Tawny Wright. "There was a fight at the tennis courts [at the location] and the victim was unconscious. The suspects fled in a vehicle."

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.

Correction

The teacher from Silverbrook Elementary on the cover of the March 18-24 Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection was misidentified. His name is Umaer Haq, an SACC teacher.

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. 703-442-4163, e-mail kitk@jlnv.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 5

UMFS Fund Raiser. UMFS, formerly known as United Methodist Family Services, will receive 20 percent of all revenue generated from Austin Grill's First Monday event from 5-9 p.m., at 8430-A Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. For more details, contact the restaurant at 703-644-3111, or visit www.austingrill.com/springfield.html.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Navigating the Medicaid Maze: Waivers, Eligibility and Documentation. 7 p.m. at West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Eligibility criteria, screening process, required documentation, and home-based and nursing home care. 703-451-8873 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.



DONATED PHOTO

Robbie Nolen, 22, crouches in the goal during a roller hockey game.

A Young Life Cut Short

Friends remember avid hockey fan and player, who died in a car crash.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Adam Williams will miss the pick-up games. He'll think of them daily, looking at the "Crosby Sucks" jersey that hangs in his room, the notorious personalized jersey that made something of a celebrity of his best friend, Lorton resident Robbie Nolen, who was killed in a car crash early in the morning of Dec. 24, 2009.

"We started playing hockey together when we were 13 or 14," Williams said. They'd been friends since they were 8, a couple of little boys running through their Island Creek neighborhood, not looking for trouble but a place to play. When the hockey bug hit, Nolen took the lead, gathering up other children in the neighborhood to play pick-up games anywhere — until they were thrown out.

"Right away, Robbie set up teams and a league with playoffs," Williams said. The league stayed in action until some of the older kids graduated high school and went off to college, but Nolen wasn't dissuaded. He just went to other parts of the neighborhood to find new players, Williams said.

Hockey was Nolen's life. He was just 22 when he died.

"He just wanted to play all the time," Williams said. Even after getting kicked out of the tennis courts at the neighborhood pool and countless other flat surfaces, a requirement for roller hockey.

Nolen and Williams eventually joined up with the Alexandria In-Line Hockey Association, which uses the outdoor roller hockey rink behind Hammond Middle School on Seminary Road in Alexandria.

Nolen made a name for himself as the first guy to

arrive and the last to leave, said Andrew "AJ" Williams, another hockey player who would shoot against Nolen.

"He was always up there," AJ Williams said. "He was up there more than I was when I was working there. He'd send out e-mails on Yahoo on Thursdays, when we didn't have any games going, to set up pick-up games for Friday night."

It was easy to know when Nolen was playing, AJ Williams said.

"Robbie talked more trash than anyone else," he laughed.

That sentiment was seconded by Keith Midkiff, who played against Nolen in the Alexandria league.

"He was such a lively guy, just full of piss and vinegar," Midkiff said of the goalie that used to play in sneakers instead of skates. "But when you got right down to it, he did anything for his friends. He really would, just beyond anything you could imagine."

NOLEN'S PERSONALITY was larger-than-life but he was also incredibly generous, Midkiff said. Nolen told him of the night when HE was working as a club promoter in Washington.

"Robbie told me he had the limo pull over so he could give \$20 and a bottle of Hennessy to a homeless man," Midkiff said. "That's just the kind of guy Robbie was."

This personality also made him somewhat notorious, especially at his beloved Washington Capitals' games, where he would wear the "Crosby Sucks" jersey, a poke at the team's most-hated rival, the young Sidney Crosby who led the Pittsburgh Penguins past the Capitals to the Stanley Cup Championship last year.

"We would go on road trips to New Jersey, New York, Philly to watch the Caps play," Midkiff said. "No matter where he went, people knew him from his jersey."

That jersey, Nolen's prized possession, is now in Andy Williams' room, along with a few other items

SEE FRIENDS, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Springtime Tradition

Gunston Hall hosts annual Kite Festival.

Saturday morning brought clear skies and a gentle breeze as hundreds of visitors carrying kites arrived at Gunston Hall Plantation in Mason Neck. The annual event also featured lessons in school house, storytelling, basket making, hearth cooking, learning about archeology, 19th century dancing and more. Gunston Hall is open daily to the public with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. Learn more at www.gunstonhall.org.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Ted Borek plays a tune on his fiddle as dance mistress Margurite Steadman (Lyn Padgett) of Alexandria calls the dance steps.

COLLEGE NOTES

Jennifer A. Warren of Fairfax Station received a master of education in counseling from Boston University in January.

Corbin Ross Stewart of Fairfax Station, a freshman art major, was named to the dean's list at Radford University for the fall 2009 semester. To be named to the dean's list, a student must

have taken 15 or more credit hours and have a grade point average of 3.4 or above with no grade below C.

Nicole Suzette DiAntonio was inducted into the Alpha Beta Rho Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Northern Virginia Community College on Feb. 26. DiAntonio is the child of Steve and Sue DiAntonio of Clifton.

Four Lorton residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the December 2009 graduation: **Saba Ashrafi**, bachelor of science in biological sciences; **Timothy Blaszkow**, bachelor of science in biological sciences; **Ryan Choi**, bachelor of science in business in hospitality and tourism management; and **Jacqueline Lacot**, bachelor of arts in history.



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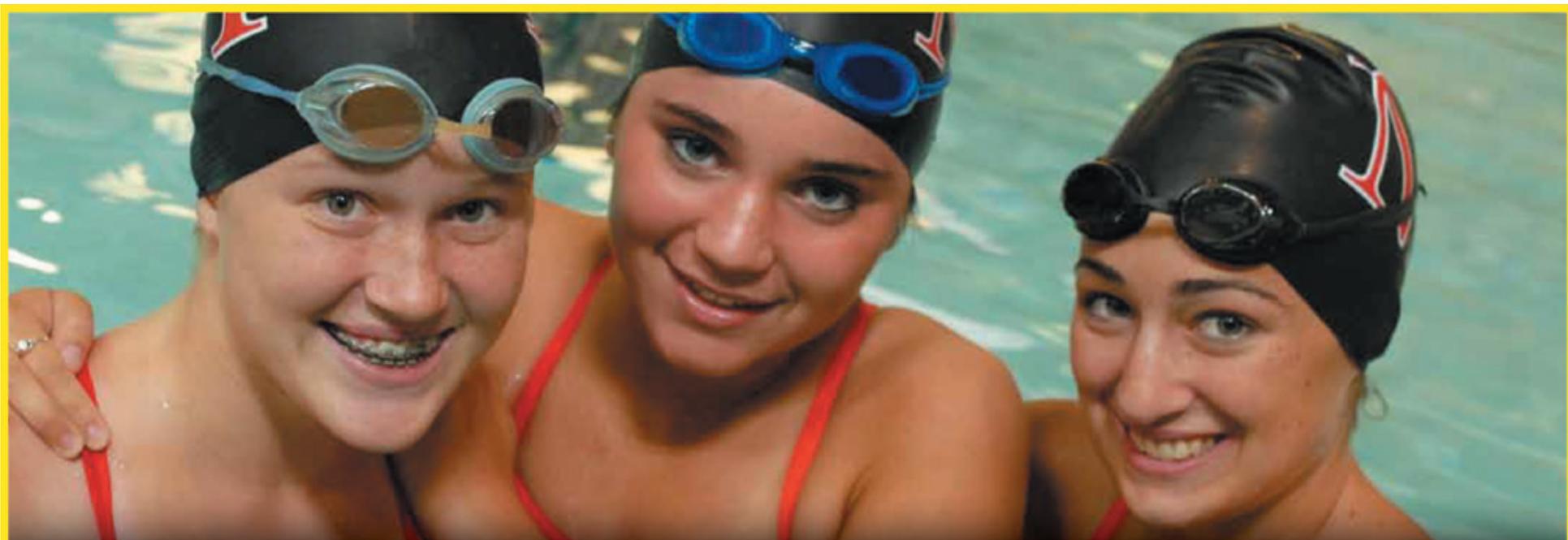
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OPINION

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

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 7

THE CONNECTION

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Area Man Enters Guilty Pleas

Police charge man, 21, 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 ar-

ranged 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 received 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.

House Passes Health Care Bill

FROM PAGE 6

of mind of knowing that the solvency of Medicare 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.

COMMENTARY

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.

Misled Letter Writer

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

LETTERS

have paid a small penalty towards the cost of care that we will pay for her family member.

SB 417 is a smokescreen, political grand standing 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. 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.

Miriam Meyer
Clifton

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Boosting Public Schools With Private Donations

Private fund raising gives some public schools more resources than others.

By Julia O'Donoghue
The Connection

Vienna resident Michelle Kohl has been helping to raise money for the Madison High School cross country and track programs for the past four years. Her son, who is now a senior, runs with a Madison team during all three sports seasons.

Madison's running program needs the extra money, Kohl said. Some of the more selective events take place at locations several hours from Vienna.

"Chartering a bus, the school system doesn't pay for that. Sports teams just take it on themselves to do the extra stuff," said Kohl.

Last fall, the Madison cross country team was able to attend a meet in New York, in addition to a selective event they go to every year in Delaware, largely because its annual fund raiser was successful.

Kohl said the team's local 5-kilometer foot race, which benefits both the running program and Madison's All Night Graduation Party, brought in \$6,000 to \$7,000 this year. The road race generated revenue primarily through local businesses, which pay to be listed as a sponsor, and registration fees.

"Most of the money we raise usually goes to the [Delaware] meet. This year, we did really well with our 5K run and so our kids were able to do more invitational meets," said Kohl.

"The amount of money we raise largely dictates what we can do," she said.

FAMILIES with children in local public school systems may not be getting an annual tuition bill but many will tell you their financial contributions to the school go above and beyond what they pay in taxes each year.

In addition to paying for things like sports uniforms, prom dresses and musical instruments, parents contribute and help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to fund everything from professional development for teachers to artificial turf fields.

According to an audit of local school activity funds, 14 Fairfax County high schools brought in at least \$1 million in

private donations and outside money during the 2008-09 school year to help pay for everything from sports team trips and equipment to guest speakers and teacher training.

"If you didn't have a child in school, you would probably be surprised [by the amount of money raised] but so many fewer things are being funded by the school system now. I am not faulting the school system because these are tough economic times but there are a lot of needs," said Lisa Walsh, a Great Falls resident whose children attend Forestville Elementary School and Langley High School.

DETERMINING HOW MUCH private money goes to schools can be difficult, since not all of it has to be reported.

In Fairfax, the amount of private money raised for schools is likely to be much higher than what is reflected in an audit, since many school fund-raising organizations, including booster clubs, are independent and have their own bank

"People should not think that the PTA is going to be able to fill a \$100,000 difference in the school's budget."

— Susan Wisseman,
a Madison High School parent

accounts. As such, boosters and other independent non-profits can make some purchases for the school or sports teams themselves, without reporting it to the school system.

For example, Thomas Jefferson High School already has one of most prolific fund-raising efforts of any school in

● Fairfax County High Schools Money Raised:

An audit shows how much money flowed in and out of Fairfax County's local high school activity funds at the high school level in 2009. This figure reflects some, but not all, of privately-raised money that comes to the school from activities like selling tickets to sporting events, bake sales, charity auctions and business contributions and individual donations. It is used to pay for everything from photography equipment and new theatre lights to sports team travel and sending teachers to education conferences.

School	Population	Private Money Raised	Private Money Spent	Private Money Spent Per Student	Percentage of Student Population Considered Poor
Centreville High School	2,210	\$1.12 million	\$1.14 million	\$514	17.38
Chantilly High School	2,758	\$1.39 million	\$1.36 million	\$492	12.15
Edison High School	1,767	\$612,427	\$548,607	\$310	33.84
Fairfax High School	2,196	\$1.02 million	\$971,992	\$442	21.27
Hayfield Secondary School	2,289	\$1.01 million	\$998,542	\$436*	26
Herndon High School	2,120	\$1.01 million	\$1.03 million	\$487	23
Centreville High School	2,210	\$1.12 million	\$1.14 million	\$514	17.38
Chantilly High School	2,758	\$1.39 million	\$1.36 million	\$492	12.15
Edison High School	1,767	\$612,427	\$548,607	\$310	33.84
Fairfax High School	2,196	\$1.02 million	\$971,992	\$442	21.27
Hayfield Secondary School	2,289	\$1.01 million	\$998,542	\$436*	26
Herndon High School	2,120	\$1.01 million	\$1.03 million	\$487	23
Lake Braddock Secondary School	3,811	\$1.38 million	\$1.41 million	\$369*	14
Langley High School	2,014	\$1.59 million	\$1.47 million	\$730	1.46
Lee High School	1,753	\$584,854	\$557,378	\$317	39.46
Madison High School	1,921	\$1.21 million	\$1.24 million	\$646	6.72
Marshall High School	1,386	\$775,905	\$764,969	\$551	17.6
McLean High School	1,746	\$826,678	\$788,725	\$451	7.79
Mount Vernon High School	1,756	\$730,045	\$740,900	\$421	42.31
Oakton High School	2,352	\$1.37 million	\$1.35 million	\$572	8.97
Robinson Secondary School	3,959	\$1.83 million	\$1.73 million	\$437*	11.28
South County Secondary School	3,010	\$1.46 million	\$1.33 million	\$433*	16
South Lakes High School	1,626	\$765,184	\$798,991	\$491	33
Thomas Jefferson High School	1,797	\$1.67 million	\$1.69 million	\$937	1.73
West Springfield High School	2,259	\$1.09 million	\$1.06 million	\$469	11.07
Westfield High School	3,173	\$1.66 million	\$1.72 million	\$542	14.4
Woodson High School	2,064	\$699,558	\$759,925	\$368	7.22

* Spending per student might appear lower at secondary schools, since both middle and high school students are included

Fairfax.

According to the audit, the science and technology magnet program deposited \$1.67 million into its local school activity fund for the 2008-09 school year, thanks almost entirely to private fund-raising efforts.

Because of its deep pockets, Jefferson was able to spend far more money per pupil, approximately \$937 for each student, from its local school activity fund than any other Fairfax high school.

The next biggest spender, Langley High School in McLean, topped out at \$730 per student and most high schools range between \$350 to \$550 per student.

But what shows up in the student activity fund does not even come close to reflecting the amount of corporate and individual donations Jefferson receives.

The Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund, a non-profit that seeks financial support for the school, raised more than \$500,000 for the science magnet school last year, money that was not accounted for in the \$1.67 million student activity fund.

The considerable funding brought in by the partnership was used, in part, to

buy a \$25,000 circuit board plotter for the school's robotics, optics, energy systems, prototyping and electronics labs.

"The county basically funds us at the same level as every other school and we require much more equipment in our labs," said Gary Bottorff, the partnership fund's executive director.

Allowing too much private fund raising for individual public schools raises questions about equity in school budgets.

While Jefferson may be the most successful high school at soliciting private money in Fairfax, the school also has one of the county's wealthiest student bodies.

Only 1.73 percent of Jefferson students is considered poor enough to qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch. In Fairfax County overall, 22.47 percent of the student body receives free or reduced-price lunches.

Approximately \$250,000 of the \$500,000 raised by the Jefferson fund last year came from parents directly. Just one family with a child at the school agreed to give the magnet \$50,000 over the next

See Donors, Page 15

Donors Keep Activities Going

From Page 10

four years, according to an organization newsletter.

Fairfax's other schools with the largest local school activity funds, those that were able to spend the most per pupil from that fund last year, are also among its most affluent.

Langley, where 1.5 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$730 per student. Madison, where 6.72 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$646 per student. Oakton, where 8.97 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$572 per student.

"A very large portion of the money we raise comes from people who have some sort of connection to the school," said Walsh, who is in charge of soliciting funds for Langley's "all night" graduation party this year.

The Fairfax County School Board does try to make sure a school's ability to raise money privately does not mean it has an advantage when it comes to instructional

programs.

"You can't pay for certain things. People should not think that the PTA is going to be able to fill a \$100,000 difference in the school's budget," said Susan Wisseman, a Madison High School parent.

A booster club or local parent teacher association [PTA] is not allowed to raise money to keep their class size smaller or to implement a full-day kindergarten program for example. In general, private funds cannot be used to hire full-time teachers or coaches, said several officials.

"We are not going to have a situation where rich communities can buy more teachers," said Meir Zupovitz, assistant comptroller with Fairfax County Public Schools.

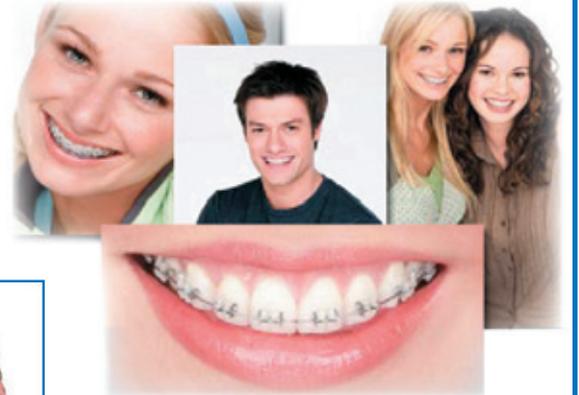
"We are not going to allow boosters to pay for coaches. Full-day kindergarten is not the type of thing a PTA can come in and say they want to keep. Then we really would have an equity issue," said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/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.
Spring Babies. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.
Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Fairfax County Park Authority Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Pick up everything from plastic bottles and bags to discarded mattresses, rusting auto parts, old appliances, rubber tires and other debris illegally dumped in local waterways. Participants are encouraged to wear boots and old clothes. Bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Contact www.fergusonfoundation.org/ or call the parks directly. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. 703-451-9588. Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. 703-768-2525.
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.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49K. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Death Row Reunion, One Slack Mind, Acid Queen and more. 6:15 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$17 advance; \$20 door. 703-569-5940.

Night Hike. 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. A night hike for adults only. Hike some of the park's 1,428 acres. Reservations required. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

MONDAY/MARCH 29

Read to the Dog. 4:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a Therapy Dog. Call to register. 703-339-4610.

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

The Friends of Fairfax Station Annual Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Local historian John Murphy will discuss the "History of Fairfax Station from the Early Days to 1900". Free and open to the public. 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/MARCH 30

Lullaby Stories. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Evening stories and activities. Pajamas and stuffed

animals welcome. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

Open Mic w/Bob Gaynor of The Roadducks. 8 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 31

Open Irish Song Session. 8:30 p.m. at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. 703-913-5600.

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

VH1's Brittanya O'Campos, Pretty Boi Mo & Romeo, DJ Legacy, DJ Pootie, DJ Skeem and DJ Skoobie. 8 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$15 advance; \$20 door. 703-569-5940.

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.
Easter Egg Hunt. 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

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MONDAY/APRIL 5

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

TUESDAY/APRIL 6

Finntroll, Moonsorrow, Swallow the Sun, Survivors Zero and more. 6:15 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$27.50 advance; \$30 door. 703-569-5940.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Nashville Pussy, Green Jelly, Psychostick, Cab Ride Home and more. 7 p.m., at Jaxx 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$17 advance; \$20 door. 703-569-5940.

Open Irish Song Session. 8:30 p.m. at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. Open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. 703-913-5600.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

Latin Dance Nights. 10 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Ladies free, men \$10. 703-569-5940.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Fairfax County Park Authority Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Pick up everything from plastic bottles and bags to discarded mattresses, rusting auto parts, and other debris illegally dumped in local waterways. Trash bags will be provided. www.fergusonfoundation.org/.



'Great Egret in Full Plumage' by Donna DeMoranville Turgeon, Fairfax Station

Spring Renewal Exhibit

The Artists' Undertaking Gallery in Historic Occoquan presents "Spring Renewal", an exhibit that will feature watercolors, acrylics and pastels by Donna DeMoranville Turgeon of Fairfax Station. An artists' reception takes place Saturday, April 17, from 1-6 p.m. The exhibit runs April 6-May 3. The gallery is open daily, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and is located at 309 Mill St. in Occoquan. For more, visit www.theartistsundertaking.com.

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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.



Barbara Platenburg

REED S. ALBERS

— 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.

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.

Bruins Barrage Hayfield in Opener

Recent weather woes for the Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team postponed its would-be season-opening match with Robinson and forced the team to continue practicing on a black-top, rather than a grass field.

Despite the postponement and not-so perfect practice conditions, the Bruins turned in a strong defensive performance in their season opener against Hayfield on March 18.

Lake Braddock won 5-4 in a game where the offense generated 38 shots and the defense allowed only 16 shots on net.

Senior attacker Kurt Tobias led the Bruins in scoring with three goals and one assist. Senior midfielder Peter Bixby-Eberhardt and junior midfielder Austin Meyers rounded out the goal scoring with one goal each.

"We were able to control the ball offensively," head lacrosse coach Steve Price said.

Although Price said that a scoring ratio of five goals to 38 shots isn't what he had in mind when his team took to the field.

"We weren't shooting well," he said. "I wasn't real pleased with the offense."

Price said injuries suffered by key offensive players before the game might have played a role in the team's lack of scoring. The Bruins were without the services of senior attacker Brandon Johnson and senior midfielder Derek Evans.

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 13

Experience To Fuel Cavaliers

Woodson's baseball team looks to improve upon 2009's record by learning from past games.

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.

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

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

— Colin Finnerty



Senior infielder Matt Patrick practices catching at first base during a practice on March 18.

"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.

FROM PAGE 13

"It's hard to have two of your starters out," he said.

But Price heaped praise upon his defenders and junior goaltender Jeff Burger, who had 12 saves in the game.

"Our defense was dominant. They played very well," he said. "We were fortunate to get the win, but our defense stepped up."

Cavs Open Big Against Titans, Spartans

The W.T. Woodson boys' and girls' tennis teams opened their seasons with victories over T.C. Williams on March 16, and West Springfield on March 19.

The boys' team won its meeting with the Titans by a score of 9-0, with Michael Phaulp, John Loveland, Jihoon Kim, Jack Moynaha, Christian Hughes and Brian Mead winning their singles matches.

The Lady Cavs defeated T.C. Williams by a score of 8-1, with Victoria Tran, Marina Randall, Michelle Hoeg, Sasha Post, Diana Mihalache and Lauren Dam winning their singles matches.

The girls repeated their success against West Springfield with a 9-0 sweep in the singles and doubles competitions while the boys stayed the course with a 8-1 victory over West Springfield.

Cavalier Charge Golf Tourney

The W.T. Woodson Athletic Boosters will be hosting the seventh annual Cavalier Charge Golf Tournament on April 12 at the Country Club of Fairfax.

Registration is \$150 per player and includes range, green fees, a golf cart, a box lunch, a buffet dinner and a chance to win door prizes.

Additional seating at the buffet dinner and auction for those who do not want to golf is available for \$40.

The tournament will feature a shotgun start and be played in a captain's choice format.

For reservations, contact Andy Sosa at 703-346-3323 or at andy.sosa@tasc.com. An application for the tournament is available at the W.T. Woodson activities office and online at www.wtwoodsonsports.org.

Senior League Softball Registration

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (www.nvss.org) seeks players, men 50 and older and women 40 and older for fun, fitness, and fellowship.

Participants will play two slow-pitch seven-inning softball games Tuesday and Thursday mornings, April 13-Aug. 12, on Fairfax County fields.

NVSS runs an Indoor Conditioning Program until April 8. Those interested in player should contact Dave Scheele at 703-524-5576.



Connor Reilly

5Qs: Five Questions With W.T 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.

— REED S. ALBERS

COMMUNITY

Friends Recall Robbie Nolen

FROM PAGE 4

from his best friend's room.
 "This way he's with me still," Andy Williams said. It's no match for having his best friend, of course, but it'll do.

The news came early on the morning of Christmas Eve, and to those who got the phone call, it was a surreal day.

"I got the call as I was driving to work, passing the site of the crash," Midkiff said.

He received a phone call from another friend and fellow hockey player, who started the conversation with "something like 'Did you hear about Robbie,' and I just figured he'd gotten into trouble or something," Midkiff said. Again, that larger-than-life personality that made Nolen a character got him in trouble a time or two with people who didn't know him well enough to know when he was joking, he said.

Midkiff said Nolen and another friend were in a car driving on the Franconia-Springfield Parkway. The driver, Midkiff said, lost control of the vehicle, hitting a Jersey wall, flipping the vehicle over and ejecting Nolen, who was killed instantly. The vehicle also hit another truck.

"That was the last thing I expected to hear," Midkiff said.

The following week, e-mails started circulating about the memorial service and funeral, with the request from Nolen's mother to wear jerseys to the funeral. It just made sense, AJ Williams said.

It also made sense to organize a pick-up game afterward at the rink in Alexandria. It's what Robbie would've done, what he would've wanted, his friend said.

"Everyone says they want their funeral to be a party, but Robbie's really was," AJ Williams said.

Thirty to 40 people were standing in the overflow area of the funeral home, he said, telling stories and sharing good times. Once the funeral was over, the guys changed out of their khakis and dress slacks, put on their gear, and played a marathon game.

"We typically play four-on-four with a goalie on each side, so there are six people on the rink at any one time," AJ Williams said. "It was pretty packed that night. Everyone wanted to play and no one was getting tired."

They didn't keep score. It didn't matter who won.

"That night was really cold, we were all freezing," AJ Williams said. "It was miserable. I think it was raining. We took turns waiting in the locker room area where it was a little warmer, but we all wanted to play."

A fitting tribute, he said. "I've been playing at the rink in Alexandria since 2001, and very few people I've seen have the kind of passion for hockey that Robbie did."

A life-long passion for someone who was really "just a big kid at heart," said Andy Williams, Robbie's best friend since second grade. He remembers the games, how Nolen was "always flopping around in goal" in a very unorthodox manner, defending his net.

Healthplex

FROM PAGE 3

ected. The staff also recommended, after seeing Inova's initial request for a larger facility, that the intersection of Sangster Street and Lorton Road expand from four to six lanes. It is not clear whether changes to the intersection would be needed now that Inova has agreed to scale back the project.

In its initial report, the county planning staff also raised concerns about the impact of making topographical changes and removing trees from the healthplex site. The trees and steep slopes currently shield neighborhoods from noise produced by Interstate 95.

The staff did add that some design features and placements of buildings on the site could mitigate the loss of a noise barrier.

In the end, the healthplex received lots of political and community support. In addition to the supervisors, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), the Fairfax County Planning Commission and the South County Federation approved the current project.

"This project has been, at times, a challenge but we found a way to do it," said Hyland.

FAITH NOTES

The Institute of Catholic Culture presents a program that focuses on the disintegration of both the Christian secular cultures in the modern world. The featured speaker is Father Paul Scalia, pastor of St. John the Beloved Catholic

Church in McLean. The program takes place on Saturday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Free. For more information, visit www.InstituteofCatholicCulture.org.

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8093 PAPER BIRCH DR	4	3	1	LORTON	...	\$622,000	Detached	0.19	...	LAUREL HILL
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8309 ALLERDALE CT	4	4	1	LORTON	...	\$525,000	Detached	0.10	...	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
13424 CAVALIER WOODS DR	5	4	0	CLIFTON	...	\$520,100	Detached	0.21	...	CAVALIER WOODS
6200 LAUREL RUN CT	4	2	1	CLIFTON	...	\$515,000	Detached	0.20	...	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
9098 PURVIS DR	4	3	1	LORTON	...	\$515,000	Detached	0.09	...	LAUREL HIGHLANDS
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8911 ROBERT LUNDY PL	5	4	1	LORTON	...	\$500,000	Detached	0.10	...	LORTON STATION
6207 MAPLE RUN CT	4	3	1	CLIFTON	...	\$480,000	Detached	0.23	...	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
8346 MIDDLE RUDDINGS DR	4	3	1	LORTON	...	\$469,000	Detached	0.11	...	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
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8427 CHAUCEUR HOUSE CT	3	2	2	LORTON	...	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	LORTON VALLEY NORTH
8829 OX RD	3	1	1	LORTON	...	\$410,000	Detached	1.82	...	OX ROAD
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8627 ROCKY GAP CT	3	2	2	LORTON	...	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	GREEN RIDGE COZZOS
8976 YELLOW DAISY PL	3	3	0	LORTON	...	\$345,000	Townhouse	0.07	...	SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP
8396 GINGERSPICE PL	3	3	0	LORTON	...	\$330,000	Detached	0.09	...	SPRING HILL
9651 EATON WOODS PL	4	3	1	LORTON	...	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.03	...	GUNSTON SQUARE
10520 MADISON DR	3	3	0	LORTON	...	\$275,900	Detached	0.51	...	GUNSTON HEIGHTS
7914 GUNSTON WOODS PL	4	3	1	LORTON	...	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.05	...	GUNSTON SQUARE
11113 FAIRFAX STATION RD	3	2	0	FAIRFAX STATION	...	\$265,000	Detached	0.50	...	POPE HEAD
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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101 Computers

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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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, Ferguson 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) Eng 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-junkertfuneralhome.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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Middle School on the Way

FROM PAGE 3

School Solutions Group led the Fourth of July parade, with children and parents wearing some of the dozens of green T-shirts with white "The Only Solution" printed on the back that were handed out time and again. At one point, remembered South County Middle School Solutions Group member Chris Bachman, the county offered \$10 million to build a wing onto SCSS to help alleviate the overcrowding that has plagued the school since shortly after it opened in September 2005.

"We all thought, hey, if you've got \$10 million, we'll take it, but for a school," she laughed.

That \$10 million, along with funding that had been given to the county for projects related to the Base Realignment and Closure orders given to Fort Belvoir bringing thousands of new employees to the area and a public-private partnership between the Fairfax County Park Authority and EnviroSolutions, which owns a landfill in Lorton, helped secure the \$21.95 million needed to build the school now, instead of waiting until 2017. That's when the school was scheduled for consideration in the capital improvement program. By building now, the county will save an estimated \$50 million, which could be used to fast-track other projects, suggested Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon).

Hyland also gave the crowd a big laugh, peeling off his button-down shirt and tie to reveal a green "South County Middle School" shirt, as he did many years ago during "a particularly contentious meeting" regarding whether the middle school was needed.

But on Saturday, with a cloudless blue sky overhead and a pair of Canada geese flying to a nearby pond, School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) called the day what so many felt it was: Amazing. Quoting Margaret Meade, Storck reminded the 50 or so people in the audience of the power of a small group of dedicated people when it came to making a difference in the world.

"I can't help but stand here and look out at all the opportunity this gives us to add another element to the education of these children gathered here, to let kids go out and stomp around in trees and get their feet wet in the pond," Storck said, referring to the pond and evergreen trees that line the property on Silverbrook Road and Laurel Crest Drive.

Standing on the ground that will some day house a middle school, Storck said he remembered how he heard, over and over, that "it couldn't be done," that the Lorton area didn't have the population to support both a middle school and a high school. Not only couldn't it be done, but "it shouldn't be done, there wasn't the money to do it. But there were far more reasons why it should be built. The people who live here,



PHOTO BY AMBER HEAVY/THE CONNECTION

With a flip of ceremonial dirt on gold shovels from the hands of future students, the ground was broken on the site of the future South County Middle School.

the children who live here, deserve a middle school."

If Fairfax County really does pride itself on providing community schools, it only made sense to help the Lorton and South County area have the middle school it has asked for so diligently for the past 10 years, Storck said.

In short, it was a love-fest, both for the South County community, launched when the secondary school opened, which has continued through the construction of an elementary school and will be completed with the middle school, which will share some athletic fields with the soon-to-be-converted secondary school, and the families who have believed and worked for the past decade to give their children a place to learn together.

The real construction work will begin soon, as Sigal, the firm hired to build the school, works to take the architectural design, created by Ballou Justice Upton, and make it come alive.

But even when the school opens, it will be just another chapter in the reformation of Lorton, said Tim Sargeant, an at-large planning commissioner.

"The story continues to evolve to a new chapter, it's all part of the original concept set in place in the early 90s when we worked to get the prison closed," Sargeant said. The county government, along with now-retired U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), saw the opportunity in a 1,200-acre prison site for homes, schools, recreational and arts facilities, and continued to work together until it became a reality.

"So often, when you're involved in the land-use side of something, you're dealing with a very small parcel," Sargeant said. "Planning for an entirely new community, seeing your vision realized in relatively quick timeframe, is gratifying."

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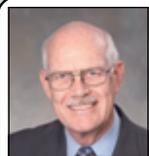
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Burke \$630,000
New Listing
Delightful 4 bedroom colonial in Signal Hill with a gorgeous park like view. Lake Braddock School, walk to the VRE, and shopping is just minutes away.

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