

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Help for Haiti

NEWS, PAGE 3

Slim Somerville pours
the mix into rehydra-
tion therapy packets for
distribution in Haiti.



Neighbors Party To Celebrate 50th

NEWS, PAGE 3

Obama Speaks At GMU

NEWS, PAGE 4

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CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12



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Five Decades of Family and Friendship

Ravenworth Farm marks its 50th anniversary.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Mike McGrady



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The original residents of Ravenworth Farm pose for a picture.

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 4

Packing Effort Aims To Save Lives

Seniors pack rehydration packets for Haitian earthquake victims.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Margaret Huntington, 88, counts packets in bundles of 50 and bags them.



Ron Levin, 81, stands in front of 9,733 packets his volunteers put together on Thursday, March 18. Levin spearheaded this packing event. Volunteers filled 9,733 oral rehydration therapy packets for distribution in Haiti. Oral rehydration therapy saves people who may otherwise die from dehydration.

County Buys Blighted Circuit City Site for Slug Parking

Fairfax County acquired the former Circuit City site on Old Keene Mill Road Friday, March 19 in an effort to clear a blighted structure.

According to Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), the county intends to keep the site available for the informal slugging operation that has taken place there for many years. The site will also support an additional commuter surface parking lot of about 270 spaces later this year after the building has been inspected, cleared of any hazardous materials, and razed.

"I am pleased that we have taken this proactive step," McKay said. "The long vacant store and lot have been an impediment to revitalizing central Springfield and the community is eager to see something positive happen there. This accomplishes two key objectives for Springfield: facilitating and encouraging mass transit and ridding the community of a blighted eyesore."

McKay said that funding for the property's acquisition came from Fairfax County Commercial and Industrial revenue funds. Longer term, should funding become available, the property may be redeveloped as a 1,000-space commuter parking garage.

Demolition of the building and construction of the commuter parking spaces are on an expedited schedule, however commuters are advised that for safety reasons parking will not be available until the building has been removed and the site repaved and restriped.

Robbery in Franconia Area

A 37-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man working as clerks at a 7-Eleven store were robbed Tuesday, March 16.

According to Fairfax County Police, a man entered the store shortly before 9 p.m., produced a handgun and demanded money. The man took an undisclosed amount of cash and left on foot.

The suspect was described as black, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall and approximately 150 pounds. He was wearing a black jacket, black jeans and a dark, knit cap. The jacket covered most of his face.

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

Clerk Robbed at Gunpoint

A clerk working at the 7-Eleven located at 6221 Rolling Road was robbed at gunpoint Friday, March 19.

According to Fairfax County Police, the clerk, a 70-year-old man, was behind the counter when another man walked in around 9:05 p.m. The man ran around the counter and displayed a handgun. He took an undisclosed amount of cash from the register and fled. The suspect was described as black, between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet 1 inch tall and 190 to 220 pounds.

"The suspect took the cash out of the register himself and then fled the scene," said Officer Tawny Wright.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

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



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

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

Obama Makes Final Push

Appearance at GMU to rally support for 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 in-

dustry and lobbyists had nearly all of the 9,000 attendees in a fervor, the scene outside the building conveyed the true divisive nature of the sweeping health care reform.

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

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

SEE PUSH, PAGE 14

Neighbors Celebrate 50th Birthday

FROM PAGE 3

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

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

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

THE NIGHT concluded with a raffle of items do-

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

— Mary Ann Rish

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

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

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



Castmembers starring as pieces of silverware head backstage.



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



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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

It's Showtime

Kings Glen theater troupe presents Disney musical.

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

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



Sixth grader Laura Miner, 12, portrays Mrs. Potts.

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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 Brittany 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 7

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Children up to grade 6. Prizes for children who find specially marked eggs and baked goods available for purchase to support church's Youth Group.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 9

Rose Hill Elementary School presents "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves: the Musical." 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School,

Colored Wax Pencil Drawings



Local, award-winning artist Sherry Smith mixes local color with an iridescent twist in her contemporary still life studies. "My drawings are not as much about the subject matter as they are about the fusion of colors, pattern, contrast, and detail, detail, detail," said Smith.

The exhibit runs Tuesday, April 6 through Sunday, May 2 at the Loft Gallery, 313 Mill St., Occoquan. Meet-the-Artist Reception: Sunday, April 11, 1-4 p.m. www.lof

'Iridescent Fusion'

7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. The fairy tale is brought to life with an eclectic score and is performed by kindergarten-sixth graders. Adults \$5, children \$3. Concessions available. jacquie.clark@gmail.com.
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, 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. 703-569-0285 or www.fergusonfoundation.org/

Indoor Yard Sale & Vendor Fair. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. More than 20 yard sale participants offering a variety of items and 20 vendors/crafters with jewelry, sweets and more. Free. Sponsored by the Lee Sports Boosters. 703-836-5566 ext. 101.

Rose Hill Elementary School presents "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves: the Musical." 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Adults \$5, children \$3. Concessions available. jacquie.clark@gmail.com.

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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 REFORM, PAGE 9

OPINION

Reform

FROM PAGE 8

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 under-insured families in our communities — who on average file 1,400 bankruptcies each year because they can't pay their health care bills — will no longer fear losing their homes when a child or spouse gets sick.

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

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



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

IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

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SATURDAY	6:30PM
SUNDAY	8, 9:30, 11AM
VENTURE (YOUNG ADULTS)	11AM
HISPANIC	12:30PM

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<p><i>Assembly of God</i></p> <p>Harvest Church... 703-971-7070</p> <p>Word of Life Assembly of God... 703-941-2312</p> <p><i>Baha'i Faith</i></p> <p>Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest... 703-912-1719</p> <p><i>Baptist</i></p> <p>Community of Faith Tabernacle... 703-455-4594</p> <p>Fellowship Baptist Church... 703-569-5151</p> <p>First Baptist Church-Hayfield... 703-971-7077</p> <p>First Baptist Church-Springfield... 703-451-1500</p> <p>Franconia Baptist Church... 703-971-4475</p> <p>South Run Baptist Church... 703-455-4521</p> <p>Westwood Baptist Church... 703-451-5120</p> <p><i>Bible</i></p> <p>Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124</p> <p><i>Catholic</i></p> <p>St. Bernadette's Catholic Church... 703-451-8576</p> <p><i>Christian Science</i></p> <p>First Church of Christ, Scientist... 703-866-4325</p> <p><i>Church of Christ</i></p> <p>Central Christian Church... 703-971-0277</p> <p>Springfield Church of Christ... 703-451-4011</p> <p><i>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</i></p> <p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints... 703-451-0631</p> <p><i>Disciples of Christ</i></p> <p>Springfield Christian Church... 703-354-4994</p>	<p><i>Episcopal</i></p> <p>St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088</p> <p><i>Evangelical Covenant</i></p> <p>Community Covenant Church... 703-455-4150</p> <p><i>Jewish</i></p> <p>Congregation Adat Reyim... 703-569-7577</p> <p>Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation... 703-550-0888</p> <p><i>Jehovah's Witness</i></p> <p>Springfield North Congregation... 703-971-2936</p> <p><i>Lutheran</i></p> <p>Prince of Peace Lutheran... 703-451-5855</p> <p>St. John's Lutheran Church... 703-971-2210</p> <p>St. Marks Lutheran Church... 703-451-4331</p> <p>Immanuel Lutheran Church... 703-549-0155</p> <p><i>Methodist</i></p> <p>Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862</p> <p>Springfield United Methodist... 703-451-2375</p> <p>St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655</p> <p>Sydenstricker United Methodist... 703-451-8223</p> <p><i>Non-Denominational</i></p> <p>Love International Church... 703-354-3608</p> <p>New Life Open Bible Church... 703-922-7577</p> <p>New World Unity Church... 703-690-7925</p> <p>International Calvary Church... 703-912-1378</p> <p><i>Presbyterian</i></p> <p>Grace Presbyterian Church... 703-451-2900</p> <p>Harvester Presbyterian Church... 703-455-7800</p> <p>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church... 703-451-5320</p>
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Generation Gap for Spartan Soccer

West Springfield girls' soccer team sports a young lineup for 2010 season.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield head soccer coach J.T. Alukonis is facing the challenge every high school coach stares down: Take a new set of players, some of whom may not be acclimated to varsity-level competition, and field a competitive team.

"It's just a part of high school soccer," he said.

For some coaches, graduation turnover might mean losing a handful of players. In Alukonis' case, he lost 12 players, nearly half his 2009 Patriot District title winning team.

"We lost a very talented group," he said. "They started at the high school level together and grew together."

The large graduating class left Alukonis with only four seniors on the 2010 roster and gaps in his 11 starting positions.

"Whenever you lose players, you have to figure out what you have," he said. "Then you have to replace [the exiting] players."

But losing nearly half a roster has opened the door for a younger generation of West Springfield soccer players. The team now features three freshman, five sophomores and 10 juniors.

Alukonis said transitioning the younger girls to the varsity team will dictate how successful the team can be this season.

The success of the transition doesn't just rest on Alukonis' shoulders, but on his small group of veterans who have been called upon to serve as team leaders.

Senior Julia Stejskal said familiarizing the younger girls with varsity-level play is the first hurdle to clear.

"The youth of the girls makes it harder for them to understand the intensity level [of varsity play]," she said.

While going from junior varsity play to varsity is a major step in itself, senior Tina Rader said introducing the team to the competitiveness of other Patriot District teams is another matter.

"By the time we get to the Patriot District games, I think they'll know what's expected of them," Rader said. "We can't expect them to know right now, they've never done this before."

The Spartans started their season with a 1-0 loss to Stone Bridge on March 15, spotlighting another issue the girls are working on: building team chemistry.

Junior Danielle O'Brien, a varsity player as a sophomore, said she's still getting to

"We have the skills."

— Paige Babel



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Julia Stejskal, Danielle O'Brien, Tina Rader and Paige Babel make up the small contingent of veteran players on the West Springfield girls' soccer team. The Spartans lost 12 players to graduation from the 2009 team.

know her new teammates' abilities.

"Going from having an older team to a young team and having [younger players] start was frustrating at times," she said.

O'Brien said she's still getting a feel for how long her passes should be, where she can expect players to be on the field, and understanding the team's new identity.

A 3-0 victory over Stuart on March 17 has

helped build some cohesion.

"It's gotten a lot better now," O'Brien said.

Although the Lady Spartans are young, the team is eager to defend the Patriot District title. Junior Paige Babel noted the team's success will be determined by its skills and ability to come together, regardless of age. "We have the skills," Babel said. "We're just working on the maturity."

5 Qs With West Springfield Soccer Player Callahan Brown

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

A: Normally rap and [rapper] Ludacris.

Q: What's your favorite thing about soccer?

A: I just love how in the soccer community, once you know one person, you'll see them at other places and you'll recognize each other.

Q: Do you have a favorite sports moment?

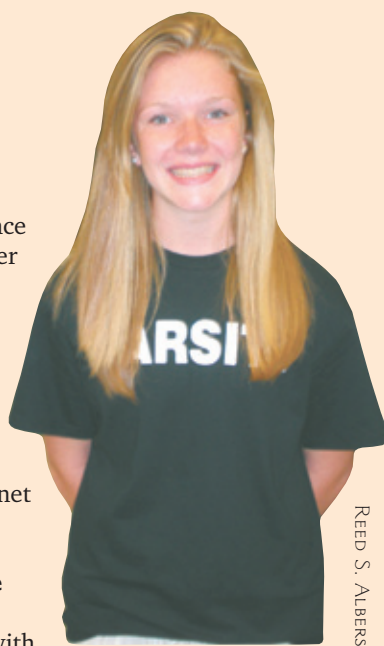
A: I don't know. But my favorite feeling in soccer is when I step onto the field and I can feel a defender tugging at the back of my jersey. Then I get the ball and there's an open net and I can feel the wind in my air.

Q: What do you like to do when you're not playing soccer or at school?

A: Just hang out and go see a good movie with my friends. I just love hanging out with my friends.

Q: If you could trade places with one athlete, who would it be?

A: [West Springfield basketball player] Mel Todd. I'm not even joking.



REED S. ALBERS

Callahan Brown

— REED S. ALBERS

Spartans Topple Chantilly

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

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

When the 2010 schedule was announced, Settar said his team put a circle around Chantilly's name and their March 18 meeting. "We marked [the Chantilly game] as one where we wanted to set the tone early for us in the season," he said.

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

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

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

In their season opener on March 16, West Springfield disposed of Hayfield in a 15-2 rout.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Schauder scored two goals and earned four assists in the Hayfield victory and Hunter Bragg added another four goals and one assist to the count.

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

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 fields 26 teams, average age 65, organized into three skill-level Conferences.

Players are assigned to a team at their skill level by skill assessment, not a try-out. Eleven play defense. Everyone present bats.

NVSS runs an Indoor Conditioning Program until April 8.

Those interested in player should contact Dave Scheele at 703-524-5576.

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Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal	City	..	Sold Price	..	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
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7706 STONE WHEAT CT	4	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.12	KINGSTOWNE	
8229 WOODSTOWN CT	4	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	\$497,500	Detached	0.35	TERRA GRANDE	
6416 WYNGATE DR	5	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$495,000	....	Detached	.....	0.28	.....	KEENE MILL STATION
6177 WINDHAM HILL RUN	3	2	2	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$490,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	KINGSTOWNE
7807 O DELL ST	4	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$487,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	ROLLING GREEN
6210 JULIAN ST	7	5	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$480,000	....	Detached	.....	0.31	.....	SPRINGFIELD
6833 BLUECURL CIR	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$480,000	....	Detached	.....	0.26	.....	DAVENTRY
5989 NORHAM DR	4	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$480,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	KINGSTOWNE
5138 BALLYCASTLE CIR	3	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$452,500	....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	KINGSTOWNE
9115 DONNA DEAN DR	4	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$450,000	....	Detached	.....	0.31	.....	ORANGE HUNT ESTATES
7939 HARWOOD PL	4	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$440,000	....	Detached	.....	0.42	.....	KEENE MILL MANOR
5733 BUCKHAVEN CT	5	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$432,000	....	Detached	.....	0.26	.....	HAYFIELD FARM
8606 CLYDESDALE RD	5	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$420,000	....	Detached	.....	0.28	.....	KINGS PARK
5516 FLAG RUN DR	4	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$420,000	....	Detached	.....	0.29	.....	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7593 RUXTON DR	4	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$420,000	....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	TERRA GRANDE
8450 RIPPLED CREEK CT	4	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$415,000	....	Detached	.....	0.29	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
8513 IVYBRIDGE CT	5	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$412,000	....	Detached	.....	0.20	.....	ROLLING VALLEY
6282 TALIAFERRO WAY	3	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$410,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.05	.....	KINGSTOWNE
7448 LONG PINE DR	3	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$405,000	....	Detached	.....	0.29	.....	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7914 GAMBRILL CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$399,900	....	Townhouse	.....	0.19	.....	GAMBRILL COURT
5613 QUEENSBERRY AVE	3	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$395,000	....	Detached	.....	0.28	.....	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
5325 BUXTON CT	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$395,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	KINGSTOWNE
7039 CHESLEY SEARCH WAY	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$390,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	KINGSTOWNE
6922 ESSEX AVE	5	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$380,000	....	Detached	.....	0.34	.....	LYNBROOK
5820 CRAIG ST	5	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$380,000	....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	SPRINGFIELD
5303 MOULTRIE RD	4	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$380,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	RAVENSWORTH
8474 SUMMER BREEZE LN	4	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$380,000	....	Detached	.....	0.15	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
8329 RIDGE CROSSING LN	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$378,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	OLDE OAK RIDGE
6804 FRONT ROYAL RD	3	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$377,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	EDSALL PARK
8843 WOODLAWN WAY	4	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$375,000	....	Detached	.....	0.34	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
7357 SPRINGLEIGH WAY	3	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$372,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	AMBERLEIGH
5302 KINGS PARK DR	3	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$369,000	....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	KINGS PARK
6002 BINGLEY RD	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$362,500	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	MANCHESTER LAKES
6435 ENGLISH IVY CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$351,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	KENWOOD HILLS
8852 WINDING HOLLOW WAY	3	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$350,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	TIMBERS THE
9027 SWEET BIRCH CT	3	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$349,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	GREENTREE VILLAGE
7682 GREEN GARLAND DR	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$345,000	....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	AFTON GLEN
6712 ROLLING RD	4	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$341,000	....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	WEST SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE
7440 AXTON ST	5	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$340,000	....	Detached	.....	0.41	.....	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7418 SPRING TREE DR	3	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$340,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	SPRING WOODS
8483 CANYON OAK DR	3	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$335,800	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
7391 STREAM WAY	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$335,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	ROLLING FOREST
7471 RIDGE OAK CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$332,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.09	.....	WESTWATER POINT
6304 DANA AVE	4	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$331,000	....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	MONTICELLO FOREST
5400 BLACKSBURG RD	3	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$330,000	....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	EDSALL PARK
6830 BRIAN MICHAEL CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$330,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	TOWNES OF ORANGE HUNT TH
7447 DUDDINGTON DR	2	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$321,588	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	HAYFIELD VIEW
5507 EASTBOURNE DR	3	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$320,000	....	Detached	.....	0.26	.....	KINGS PARK
7261 LINDEN TREE LN	4	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$320,000	....	Detached	.....	0.18	.....	LINDENWOOD
6350 RACETEC PL	4	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$315,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	JAPONICA
7330 STREAM WAY	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$315,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	ROLLING FOREST
6585 GRANGE LN #403	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$315,000	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	KINGSTOWNE
6587 GRANGE LN #104	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$312,500	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	KINGSTOWNE
5916 ERVING ST	4	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$310,000	....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	SPRINGFIELD
7008 BEVERLY LN	5	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$310,000	....	Detached	.....	0.50	.....	BEVERLY FOREST
7216 BELINGER CT	5	3	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$305,000	....	Detached	.....	0.11	.....	BEVERLY PARK
8472 GREAT LAKE LN	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$305,000	....	Detached	.....	0.15	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
7919 FOOTE LN	2	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$300,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	RAVENSWORTH
7757 DURER CT	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$300,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	NEWINGTON STATION
6881 BRIAN MICHAEL CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$295,000	....	Townhouse	.....	.....	.....	TOWNES OF ORANGE HUNT TH
6805 BRINDLE HEATH WAY#274	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$295,000	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	ETON SQUARE
5810 AMELIA ST	3	3	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$287,000	....	Detached	.....	0.31	.....	SPRINGFIELD
5944 ATTEENTEE RD	3	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$285,000	....	Detached	.....	0.24	.....	SPRINGFIELD
7305 GARY ST	3	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$285,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	MONTICELLO FOREST
9027 ARMENDOWN DR	3	2	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$280,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	SHANNON STATION
6539 GRANGE LN #104	2	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$280,000	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	CHANCERY OF KINGSTOWNE
6202 HIBBLING AVE	3	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$275,000	....	Detached	.....	0.19	.....	MONTICELLO FOREST
7782 EUCLID WAY	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$275,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	NEWINGTON STATION
6602 FARGO ST	3	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$265,000	....	Detached	.....	0.21	.....	SPRINGFIELD ESTATES
7202 LEESVILLE BLVD	3	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$260,600	....	Detached	.....	0.27	.....	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6024 CRAIG ST	4	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$255,000	....	Detached	.....	0.25	.....	SPRINGFIELD
8079 TRIBUTARY CT	3	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$242,900	....	Townhouse	.....	0.06	.....	SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
8504 LAUREL OAK DR	2	3	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$240,750	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
8577 SPRINGFIELD OAKS DR	2	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$240,750	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
8401 CEDAR FALLS CT	2	2	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$234,500	....	Townhouse	.....	0.02	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
7008B IRWELL LN #B	2	1	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$219,900	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	TIERS AT MANCHESTER LAKE
8065 KITTIVAKE CT	3	1	2	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$217,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.04	.....	SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
5900K QUEENSTON ST #502	2	1	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$205,000	....	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	.....	CARDINAL FOREST
7214 ROLLING RD #8A	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$200,000	....	Townhouse	.....	.....	.....	BENTLEY VILLAGE
8067 DULCIANA CT	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$200,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.03	.....	SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
8042 GRANDVIEW CT	2	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$200,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.02	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
8307 WIND FALL RD	2	1	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	....	\$195,000	....	Townhouse	.....	0.02	.....	NEWINGTON FOREST
8434 KITCHENER DR	3	2	1	...	SPRINGFIELD	\$171,000	Townhouse	0.04	NEWINGTON STATION	
5906 ACCOMAC ST	3	1	0	...	SPRINGFIELD	\$160,000	Detached	0.24	SPRINGFIELD	

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VOLUNTEERS

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

Host families are needed for 25 high school French students visiting the Washington, D.C. area. Anyone interested in learning about new cultures and sharing the American way of life, that has an extra bed/space for sleeping, would make a great

host family. Students will be here Aug. 1-21. Students will be participating in three activities as a group per week with the remaining time with the host family. For more information, e-mail rachael@parlezvous.org.

Join Volunteers for Change, a program for dedicated adults who have a desire to serve, which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. For orientation dates, visit Volunteer Fairfax's Commu-

nity Events Web page at <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/community-calendar.php>.

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session on Saturday, April 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., at the Fairfax CASA office, 4103 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 200, Fairfax. To learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children, call 703-273-3526, x22 or e-mail ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

Laugh to forget,
but don't forget to laugh.
—Arnold Glasow

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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



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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Push for Health Care Reform

FROM PAGE 4



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

One protester has a clear message for the president.

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

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

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

Another common complaint shared by protestors outside the building focused on the constitutionality of the legislation. Matthew Connor, 22, made the trip from his hometown of Leonardtown, Md. to speak out against what he feels is a "bending of the rules" by congressional Democrats to

get he 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.

"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

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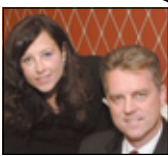


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