

How 'Odd'

NEWS, PAGE 4

As Felix in Lake Braddock Secondary's production of 'The Odd Couple,' junior Luke Esper, left, stands amid the mess created by his roommate Oscar (senior Alex Kaplan).



Welcome Day Of Pampering

NEWS, PAGE 3

County Raises Tax Rate

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 20

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Rejuvenating the Body, Mind and Soul

Survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault receive Day of Pampering.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Duffy House founder Christine Eads could not be more thrilled after witnessing the scene playing out before her. One year ago, the Duffy House was still trying to find its footing and was throwing its first major event, the Day of Pampering at Burke United Methodist Church. The response was very positive, with about 35 to 40 women who were victims of domestic abuse coming to receive massages, manicures, pedicures and facials.

Fast-forward to Saturday, April 24, and Eads, with the help of dozens of friends and family members is running a fully certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives support from Fortune 500 companies. In turn, this rapid growth has Eads and her colleagues offering a level of service at the second annual Day of Pampering that was unparalleled, providing a wide array of services to not only the women, but their children as well.

"A big thing we want to do is focus on the kids, because the way to break the cycle is to start with

them," Eads said. "They need the same attention that their mothers do, and we realized that we can incorporate them into this event."

This year, when the 50 registered women checked in at the front desk, they were brought to a waiting room to prepare while their estimated 70 children were brought to rooms separated by age groups and played games and did arts and crafts among other activities with volunteers. In addition, Eads brought in several counselors to work with the children, with each counselor specializing in children of certain ages.

In one room, two counselors did play therapy for children ages 3-9. Dr. Suzanne Doherty of the Virginia Center for Pastoral Counseling was brought in to discuss emotions and the healthy management of feelings for the younger children, and Church Pastor Carl Perez worked with children age 10 and older. Perez led the program "Scarcity and Abundance," a seminar aimed at children from low-income families and helps them see that good things that are in abundance in their lives when they feel

that they are lacking many of the things their peers have.

"We talked about real-life issues," Perez said. "They like the interaction and they like seeing that there are other people their age that are in the same boat, and that it's just not spoken about publicly. I want them to have the motivation to see the world from a

"The way to break the cycle is to start with [the children]."

— Christine Eads, Duffy House founder



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Carole Smith helps women find clothing and accessories inside the Dressing Room at the Duffy House's Day of Pampering for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

SEE DAY, PAGE 7

Higher Property Tax Rate, Car Fee To Fund Services

Even with more money, schools, libraries and parks will still make program cuts.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a higher real estate property tax rate, new vehicle registration fee and increase in the quarterly sewer service charges in order to avoid deep cuts to services next year.

The supervisors voted 7-3 on a final version of the budget at an April 27 board meeting.

The county spending plan will restore several programs that were initially cut by Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin. The supervisors have added money back in to keep bathrooms open at several county parks and athletic fields for example.

The Board of Supervisors was able to avoid some of the more drastic budget reductions proposed by Griffin because Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) and the Virginia General Assembly restored \$61 million in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools, ac-

ording to county Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

"The process was helped tremendously by that additional state funding," she said.

But the supervisors were not able to restore all funding to county programs. Fairfax residents will still have to cope with some reductions to services, such as public libraries operating on a limited schedule.

ALL THREE SUPERVISORS who voted against the county budget were members of the Republican Party. They primarily object to the vehicle registration fee, which they said would increase the overall county tax burden on the average Fairfax resident.

And though all seven Democratic supervisors ended up supporting the budget, at least two considered voting against it because of disagreement with the school system over spending priorities.

Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) were upset with FCPS Superintendent Jack

Dale and the Fairfax County School Board's plan to eliminate Project Excel, Focus and the year-round school calendar from several elementary schools. The three programs provide extra funding, instructional time and staff to schools with large minority and low-income student populations that traditionally struggle with academic achievement.

Dale has said he intends to replace the current programs with another initiative aimed at improving academic achievement among at-risk students but he could not provide Hudgins or Hyland with many details about what the program might look like. Several supervisors were also unable to confirm whether the challenged schools that currently received extra funding would get assistance through the new program designed by Dale.

"In all my years on the board, this was the first time I was prepared not to vote for the budget," said Hyland, who wanted more details about how challenged schools were to be assisted after the programs were elimi-

nated.

At the request of Hyland and Hudgins, the supervisors passed a resolution April 27 indicating that the county might be willing to give the school system more money to help cushion the impact of losing Excel, focus and the year-round calendar. The supervisors and School Board members will discuss why the School Board chose to

eliminate the programs at a joint meeting in May.

"These programs or an alternative should have been the

school board's first priority, not its last priority. These are core programs," said Hudgins.

AS PART OF the overall budget package, the Fairfax supervisors voted in favor of an increase of the local real estate property tax rate from \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.09.5 per \$100 of assessed property value.

The rate increase will be offset in a de

SEE BOARD, PAGE 22

Local Author Places Second In Short Story Competition

Tara Ann Laskowski, 32, of Burke received Second Place Award of \$2,000 in a short story competition sponsored by the National Society of Arts and Letters. She was among the seven Washington-area fiction writers, ages 20-32, to receive awards in the Frank and Hilda W. Reinhart Short Story Competition sponsored by NSAL.

Laskowski graduated from Susquehanna University in 2000 and received an M.F.A. in creative writing from George Mason University in 2005. Her fiction and non-fiction have appeared in numerous publications, and her story "Ode to the Double-Crossed Lackey in 'Thunderball'" was nominated for Dzac's "Best of the Web 2010." She was the 2009 Kathy Fish Fellow and writer-in-residence at SmokeLong Quarterly. She currently works in George Mason University's Office of Media and Public Relations.

Burke Painter Katie Cassidy Exhibits at National Harbor

National Harbor in Prince Georges County, Md. will host the Washington International Fine Arts Festival on Saturday May 1, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, May 2, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Painter Katie Cassidy of Burke will be among the 135 artisans present. Admission is free. Contact 301-203-4170 or www.paragonartevents.com.

Cook Asks To Restrict Parking On Roberts Road

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) requested that Fairfax County install no parking signs along Roberts Road between Gainsborough Drive and Braddock Road. His fellow supervisors backed the request at a Board of Supervisors meeting April 27.

Recently, Fairfax restricted parking on Tapestry Road in Kings Park West after residents complained of issues related to George Mason University students parking in the area. According to Cook, some of those students have now started to park their cars on Roberts Road, which has created a safety hazard.

Guardrails prevent cars from parking a safe distance from traffic flow along some sections of Roberts, according to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation.

Mother's Day Spa Trip

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the Holistic Moms Network will host "Mother's Day Spa Appreciation" on Tuesday May 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Fairfax Church of Christ, located at 3901 Rugby Road, Fairfax.

Local businesses in the fitness and spa industries will provide services such as facials, yoga, massage and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) sessions. Attendees will also receive gifts and samples of local and natural products.

The event is open to all Fairfax County mothers. Members of the Holistic Moms Network receive free admittance, and non-members are encouraged to donate \$5. Contact chapter president Laurie Cunningham by phone at 703-988-0285 or e-mail at HMNofNOVA@gmail.com.

Lyme Disease Town Meeting

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) will host a town meeting on Lyme disease, along with special guest, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center. A panel of experts will present information and answer questions.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary Theatre presents two versions of Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple' this weekend, one with a male cast and the other with a female cast. Here, members of the male cast rehearse a scene, from left, standing, juniors C.J. Tragaks and Brent Gibbons, sophomore Scott Koven and junior Jacob Gruber; sitting, junior Luke Esper and kneeling, senior Alex Kaplan.

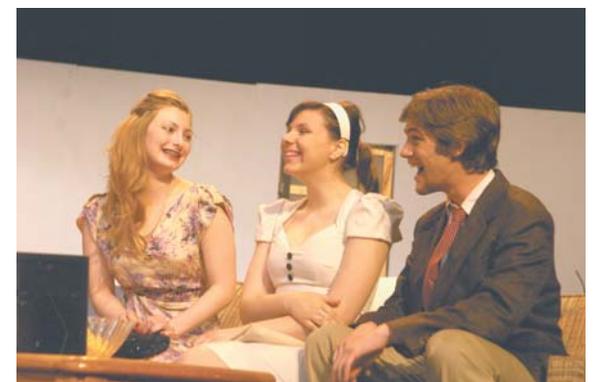
Classic Comedy with a Twist

Bruins thespians present two versions of Neil Simon's 'The Odd Couple.'

One of theater's strengths, compared to television and film, is that each performance is different. The Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre has taken that to heart, presenting two versions of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," one with an all-male cast and the other with an all-female cast.

Performances are Thursday, April 29-Saturday May 1, at Lake Braddock Secondary School Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased via 703-426-1070 or www.lbtheatre.com.

The male cast performs Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, at 8 p.m. The female cast



Gwendolyn Pigeon played by junior Ilana Naidamast and Cecily Pigeon played by junior Kate Bongiorno share a moment with Felix, played by junior Luke Esper.

performs Friday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, at 2:30 p.m.



Penny War

Oakwood School of Annandale has fundraising effort going on called a Penny War that is being led by student Riley Moran, 8. The entire school is busy bringing in pennies for the month of April. So far we have collected more than 6,000 pennies. The money will be donated to The Olevolos Project, a not-for-profit organization formed to benefit orphans and disadvantaged children in the Olevolos Village of Tanzania, Africa. To learn more about the project, go to <http://theolevolosproject.org>.

FAITH

Community Prayer Walk and Benefit Concert presented by the GRACE Youth Group of Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax, on Saturday, May 1. Join them during the final two hours of their 20 hour, 10 minute prayer walk around the City of Fairfax, beginning in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 1, at 2 p.m., and concluding on the church lawn with a benefit concert at 4 p.m. The walk is \$25, including a T-shirt and concert admission. Concert tickets \$10, age 10 and under free. All proceeds benefit Hearts with Haiti, a non-profit organization bringing boys off the streets of Port-au-Prince, whose facility was completely destroyed in the recent earthquake. Register at www.fairfaxpresbyterian.org or 571-244-0753. Visit www.heartswithhaiti.org.

The St. George United Methodist Church's Pig Pull will be Saturday, May 1, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the church at 4550 Ox Road, Fairfax. The traditional pork or chicken barbeque plate will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, eat in or take out. The church youth groups will also be washing cars to raise money for their summer mission project: come hungry with a dirty car and leave happy on both counts. 703-385-4550 or www.stgumc.org.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road Springfield, announces several events for May. Contact the church at www.sumcdisciples.org or 703 451-8223.

❖ **The Children's Musical Arkeology**. Sunday, May 2, 4 p.m. Performed by the children's choirs. Light refreshments will be served. Open to the public.

❖ **Hand Bell Performance**. Sunday, May 23, 7 p.m. The Jubilate Ringers (adults) and Alleluia Ringers (children) will be joined by Worzship (youth ensemble), Kids Choir, and the Chancel Choir. Free and open to the public. www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

❖ **Tea & Fashions**. Sunday, May 16, 2-4 p.m. The annual tea sponsored by the UMW has added a Fashion Show.

❖ **A Homebuilders Couples Bible Study is now being formed**. This study is designed to help couples discover biblical principles to apply in their marriages and build friendships with other couples.

Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road in Springfield, will host a Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 6, at 7 a.m. U.S. Navy Chaplain LCDR Charles Rowley will be guest speaker on this year's theme, "For Such a Time as This." Chaplain Rowley recently returned from a deployment to Iraq. \$15. Reserve at 703-569-9862.

A National Day of Prayer Service will be Thursday, May 6, at 12 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center Building, 12000 Government Center Parkway. All are welcome to attend. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Church of Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth and better manage their finances. Contact Arlene K. Darke at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. 703-323-9500 or adarke@lordoflifelutheran.com.

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PEOPLE



Anwyll Receives Pamplin Award

Tessa Anwyll received the 2010 Pamplin Leader Award at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1,000 tuition scholarship to Virginia Tech. It is presented annually to a top student from each public high school in Virginia. It was established by Robert B. Pamplin Sr. (VT, Class of '33) and Robert B. Pamplin Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.

SCHOOL NOTES

Sentry, the Robinson Secondary School yearbook, won a 2010 National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award for junior high and middle school yearbooks at the recent Journalism Education Association (JEA)/NSPA Spring National High School Journalism Convention in Portland, Ore. Tom Bozetarnik and Annie Goetz are editors and Pat Hinman is the advisor. This is Sentry's sixth Pacemaker Award.

Thirty-seven health and medical sciences students represented Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) at the 30th Annual Health Occupations Stu-

dents of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference March 12-14 in Williamsburg. FCPS student winners at the state HOSA conference include: Molly Sabolsky, second place in Health Education Team (Woodson High School and West Potomac Academy); Erika Dommies, second place in Physical Therapy (Hayfield Secondary School and West Potomac Academy) and Cassandra Dahlke, third place in Medical Photography (Woodson High School and West Potomac Academy). Student winners of fourth and fifth place awards included Stephanie Aguilar, (West Springfield High School and West Potomac Academy).

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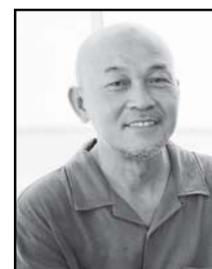
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Day of Pampering

FROM PAGE 3

different view other than a poverty-stricken view.”

While the children's program brought an entirely new facet to the event, the women who came for a respite from life's stresses also saw a new slate of offerings. Indulge Mobile Spa gave manicures, pedicures and facials again, but its service was augmented by massages and touch and Myofascial therapies from Ann Udofia of Body Connect Physical Therapy. In another room, instructors led meditation groups.

The Dressing Room also debuted in a room in the basement of the church in what was perhaps the most exciting addition for the women. Eads and other volunteers spent the last year collecting all of the high-quality secondhand clothing they could find

The Duffy House

More information on The Duffy House can be found on its website at www.TheDuffyHouse.org.

and were able to gather more than 500 pieces of clothing for women and children and coats, shoes, belts and more as well. Each woman was allowed to look through all of the clothes, ranging from jeans and sweaters to business suits, and select as many items as they wanted, free of charge. “If we can make them feel good about what they look like, they'll be more confident out there in the [job] marketplace,” said volunteer Carole Smith.

At the end of their stay, the mothers and children were given gift bags to take home with them. The women's bags contained beauty products, while the children were given an empty bag and led to a room where they could choose from a variety of toys, games, DVDs and more. Walking out feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, the mothers and their children could step a little lighter knowing that they now have access to the tools for success.

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DINING

Sage of Burgundy Comes to Fairfax

Wine expert Clive Coates discusses wines of Burgundy at Fairfax Wegmans

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Clive Coates has spent most of his life sipping, swishing, drinking, talking and writing about wine. The expert in French wines, particularly those from the Burgundy region, gave a tasting at the Wegmans grocery store in Fairfax Thursday night, April 22, walking over 30 people through a group of seven wines.

Coates, a full-time wine writer for the past 20 years, recently published a book, "The Wines of Burgundy," and has been traveling the country doing wine tastings for the past few weeks.

"I try to communicate" the differences among the wines, Coates said. "French wines in particular are very food friendly and this store has a great selection of wines with some really amazing values."

During his two-hour tasting, Coates said he's always aware that he's not only speaking on behalf of the winemakers, but also the consumer.

"I don't pull any punches," he said. "If I don't like a wine, I say so."

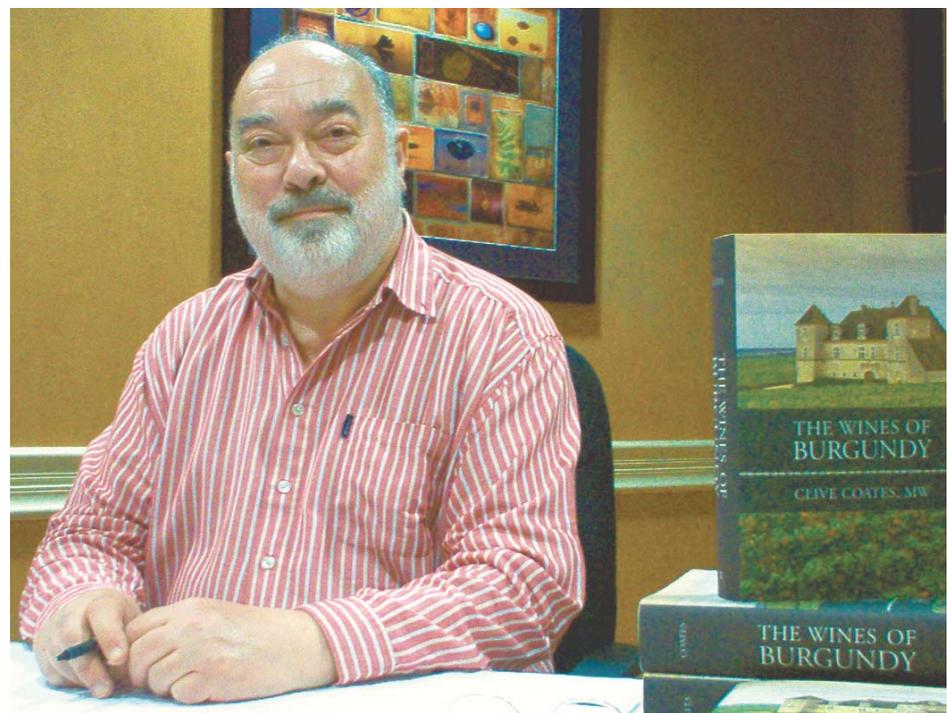
For the past 16 years, he has considered himself "semi-retired," writing only about Burgundy wines and the Burgundy region. The area didn't produce many great wines until about 20-30 years ago, he said, when more people began going off to college to learn about winemaking and started their own vineyards.

Before then, wines from Bordeaux were all the rage, Coates said. No one went to Burgundy because, as previously mentioned, the wines weren't that great. But eventually, he found himself in a pattern.

"I had gone to all the top chateaux," he said, and needed a change.

Burgundy is a friendlier town than Bordeaux, and there's a greater sense in personal involvement in the wines created there.

"You'll find that the farmer is the winemaker, and also the bottler and the seller," he said. "The vineyards are really small, only selling to one or two customers. I've been riding this wave for the past



PHOTOS BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Clive Coates, a wine expert and author, gave a two-hour wine tasting lesson on offerings from France's Burgundy region Thursday evening, April 22, at the Wegmans in Fairfax.

25 years and it's been wonderful."

Those past 25 years have made Coates something of a celebrity in the eyes of wine lovers, who buy his books and swear by his

reviews.

Sylvia and Jim Hooper of Reston wanted

SEE AUTHOR, PAGE 13

Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts City of Fairfax
April 30-May 2 Events

Celebrating 25 Years

Friday, April 30 th 7:30pm 'Swings the Thing' Big Band Sounds at Old Town Hall	Saturday, May 1 st 7:00pm Sior Og—'An Evening on the Civil War Homefront' at Historic Blenheim
8:00pm Theatre of the First Amendment 'Celebrating 20 years—Only the Beginning' 'theSPACE at Old Town Plaza'	7:00-11:00pm Spotlight Rocks 'theSPACE'— 'theSPACE at Old Town Plaza'
April 30 th —May 1 st Truro Church Spring Arts Festival	8:00 pm US Air Force String Orchestra at Old Town Hall
Saturday, May 1 st 10:00am Acting for Young People—"Peter Pan" 'theSPACE at Old Town Plaza'	Sunday, May 2 nd 2:00-4:00pm Congressional Arts Show at 'theSPACE' at Old Town Plaza' followed by The Main Street Community Band
10:00am-12:00pm Fairfax Symphony Masterclass at Old Town Hall	

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Burke Connection,
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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 29

Fairfax Saxophone Quartet with Amy LaCivita: Beethoven and Beyond. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring two Beethoven arrangements by James Francis. Free admission. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.
David Knopfler. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. jamminjava.com.

John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music singer and multi-instrumentalist. \$20. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 30

George Mason University Theater of the First Amendment: 20 Years, Only the Beginning. 8 p.m. at theSPACE, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Featuring a selection of scenes chosen from the many productions staged by TFA since 1990. Free and non-ticketed, but reservations are recommended. 703-993-2195 or tfa@gmu.edu.

Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band and Funk Ark. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. jamminjava.com.

"Into the Woods" presented by the Good Shepherd Players. 8 p.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Tickets: Adults, \$15; children 12 and Under, \$10. Evening shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Online tickets www.goodshepherdplayers.com or Sundays after services or through the church office 703-323-5400.

Bonnie Rideout with John Purser. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Scottish Music, Words, and

Images. \$22. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

Spring Back To Health. 2-4 p.m. at the UPS Store, Pan-Am Shopping Center, 3057 Nutley St., Fairfax. Free stress screenings, free shredding, food and more. All proceeds benefit the National Kidney Foundation. www.theupsstorelocal/4985.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Fairfax Civil War Day. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Re-enactors and period-era activities, blacksmithing and talks on Civil War medicine, women's fashions, African-American participation and flag

design. \$5 adults, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Blenheim Estate. Free parking and shuttle service are provided at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. This event is produced by the City of Fairfax, Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the 17th Virginia Infantry, Company D "Fairfax Rifles." 703-591-0560 or www.fairfaxva.gov.

Girl Scout Troop 297 Haitian Relief Yard/Bake Sale. 9-12 at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. All proceeds and donations will be given to Catholic Relief Services to help the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



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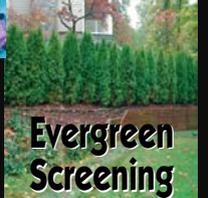
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COMMUNITY



Rami Benhamida, 7, and Rasha Benhamida, 10, of Fairhill Elementary, play a ring-toss game using recycled cans.



The 'Eco-Frog' and 'Recycling Bin' mascots were on scene to help educate people about conservation methods.

Locals Celebrate Earth Day

Northern Virginia Community College hosts Earth Day celebration on April 24.



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Ramon Torres, 6, of Braddock Elementary school spends some time with a group of sheep in the petting zoo.



Juliana Chloe Roggeband, 7, of Buzz Aldrin Elementary pets a lamb.



One of the most popular events was the wall climb. Although it had no real message about conservation, most children just wanted a chance to conquer a man-made mountain.

Quinn Robinson holds out a possum during a show about critters. Plays about conservation and animal displays were another attraction at the event.



The event featured various information booths for spectators to learn from. Jenny Day's booth included a spinning wheel that asked various questions about recycling.

Make College Selections

After months of searching, students find the dream schools they were looking for.

By **Reed S. Albers**
The Connection

Robinson Secondary School senior soccer player J.H. Musick took time to analyze his options when choosing the university he wanted to attend, just as many of his peers did this spring.

It's not just about picking a school to go, but picking the absolute best school to attend and spend the next four (or five) years of their life.

For many, the decision can come down to what academic programs are offered, tuition prices, student body size or the distance from home.

But the school Musick's chose, Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Fla., had an ace up its sleeve.

"I chose that school because I have a lot of family that live near it," he said. "And there's also a beach right behind the dorm. You can't get much better than that."

The sandy study halls of Florida Gulf

Coast University may have won his heart, but there was more to his decision than a prime dorm location.

The prospective physical education major said he wanted to play soccer in college, but when he learned his four years of athletic eligibility might be spent on the bench, he decided to focus on academics.

"All the schools I looked at for soccer were Division I schools," he said. "But I knew I wasn't going to play much on those teams. So I had to make a decision whether I wanted to sit on the bench or enjoy my time at college."

Musick's teammate, Kevin Murphy also recently made his decision on the school he will attend.

"I chose to go to the [University of] Mary Washington [in Fredericksburg, Va.]," he said. "I was looking at Lynchburg University, Christopher Newport University and Roanoke College."



Photos by Reed S. Albers

Robinson's J.H. Musick and Kevin Murphy have both finalized plans to attend four-year universities next year. Musick will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers, Fla., and Murphy will attend the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.

While location served as a motivator in Musick's decision, the size of Mary Washington's student body helped Murphy lean to the school.

"I liked the size of the school," he said. "It's only about 4,000 or 5,000 students. That was a big factor for me."

As for what the Murphy plans to major in, he's taking the most popular academic path students follow as freshmen — the undecided route. "I have no idea what I'll major in," he said. "I'll figure it out when I'm there."



South County's John Harasin will be attending Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa.

Q: What made you choose Moravian College and what other schools did you look at?

A: I love the education program there. I am going there to play baseball, but even if I didn't play baseball I would have gone there for an education. It was the only school I applied to as well.



South County's Emma O'Reilly will be attending Christopher Newport University next year.

Q: What made you choose CNU and what other schools did you look at?

A: When I visited CNU, I really liked the campus and it was by the beach. I looked at [the University of Mary Washington], but I didn't really like the campus.

Megan Wears of South County Secondary School signed

her letter of intent to James Madison University on April 14. Wears will attend JMU to play for the school's field hockey team. "[JMU] is the school I've always wanted to go to," she said. "It's not just about playing field hockey there. I just wanted to go there."



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COMMUNITY

Students Race for Academic Success

West Springfield Elementary students take part in school's first Race for Education.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield Elementary School found a way to kill two birds with one stone, and the scene on the school's soccer field Tuesday, April 20 was a testament to that ingenuity.

The school hosted its first-ever Race for Education, a fund raiser that mixes community service with wellness training, in an effort to raise money to purchase a new interactive technology system. All of the school's students participated in the event and raised more than \$26,000.

"Since this was our first time doing this, we didn't know how well it would go, but it's gone great and has been very well-received by the students," said Assistant Principal Erin Jones. "The children are so engaged and invested, and it's just a beautiful way to give."

According to Cathy Gallahan, president of the school's PTA, the idea for the Race for Education came from nearby St. Bernadette Catholic School, where a parent of a West Springfield Elementary stu-

dent works. Gallahan said that parent saw how effective the program was in raising money, so she pitched the idea at a PTA meeting in late 2008. Gallahan said that the PTA members quickly realized how valuable the program could be and over the course of the next year, organized the event.

The event had all of the students running, jogging or walking around a quarter-mile track for an hour. The students were divided

by grade levels and ran at different times during the day and were allowed to listen to iPods and socialize with friends while participating. Though the event itself was not a true race, as times nor lap totals were

recorded, prizes such as homework and "wear a hat for a day" passes were given out to the most effective fund raisers.

"We used to have an auction fund raiser, but we wanted to do something more family-oriented and something that allows as many people to participate as possible," Gallahan said. "This took us a while to figure out what to do and when to do it, but we did it and it's been a great experience."

The experience was made possible by Race for Education, a company based in Pennsylvania. According to Gallahan, any school can be involved with the company

"The children are so engaged and invested, and it's just a beautiful way to give."

— Erin Jones, assistant principal



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Every student in the school participated in the hour-long run, walk or jog around the quarter-mile track.

and sign up to host a race for a one-time payment of 20 percent of all money raised by the school at the event. The participating school signs a contract with the company, and the company then provides all advertising material and sponsorship request forms and provide guidance on all aspects of the event.

For its part, the school hands out the sponsorship request forms to all of its students, and the students then send them out to any prospective donors asking for a nominal donation. Gallahan said that West Springfield gave the option to donate \$5, \$10, \$15

or an amount of the donor's choosing, and that the vast majority of the \$26,000 raised came from \$5 donations, with the largest donation totaling \$200. The donors were primarily family and friends, but some students even approached their pediatricians and dentists among others for help.

"We got donations from \$5 to a couple hundred dollars," said PTA Member Kerri Chase. "We had donations come in from across the U.S. and even the world from Australia, Europe and Canada. It was so

SEE OUT, PAGE 17

Interfaith Group Unites on Katrina Rebuild Trip

Group travels to Mississippi to help Katrina victims.

Sixteen members of the Burke community traveled to Long Beach, Miss. for the week of March 20-27. The interfaith group consisted of members from Burke Presbyterian Church and Adat Reyim whose united goal was to help rebuild homes that were near or in the path of Hurricane Katrina. The idea of an interfaith work team grew out of the dialogue group, Peace by Piece, which meets monthly in Burke to learn about each other's faith and to work for peace in the Middle East. Team members painted, tiled and framed windows and porches of two houses during the weeklong trip.

The homeowners have been living with the devastating consequences of Hurricane Katrina for five years and are excited to have a fresh start. One owner, Sue Davis, has been living in a shed and broken down



Members of an interfaith group pose for a photo outside a home they helped to rebuild that was in the path of Hurricane Katrina.

trailer. She refers to the almost completed 900 square foot house as her "mansion on the hill." The team even wrote a song about this "mansion on the hill" which was sung to her on the last day of work.

This experience was much more than

painting, tiling and framing; it was a time of deepening relationships between Christians and Jews. Through many theological discussions, conversations on a myriad of topics, singing and praying together, common bonds and understanding to "care for

the least of these" grew. Though there was a lot of hard work, many laughs were shared and the group affirmed that though "doctrine divides; mission unites." It was a beautiful experience that united the group in the spirit of compassion.

This trip to Long Beach was the third Katrina Rebuild work camp for Burke Presbyterian Church but the first interfaith-mission venture for them. Though disappointed that none of their younger Muslim friends were able to participate due to jobs and studies, the group hopes that members of all three faiths can join together on future trips. The group appreciated the help of Mars Hill Presbyterian Church in Athens, Tenn. for providing bunkhouse accommodations at the halfway point of the long drive.

Team members from Burke Presbyterian were Charles Bailey, Mary Berlin, Beth Braxton, Bob Braxton, Jean Buffardi, Bob Eustace, Lisa Eustace, Janice Feather, Linda Greenlees, Mark Reimers, Diane Reimers and David Smith. Team members from Adat Reyim were David Cohen, Larry Kugler, Alex Kugler and Steve Schwartz.

DINING

Author Leads Wine Tasting

FROM PAGE 8

to take the opportunity to learn from the master directly and pick up a signed copy of his latest book.

"I like wine but Jim's the expert," Sylvia Hooper said, playfully nudging her husband.

"I've heard a lot about Clive Coates, but we've never done this before," Jim Hooper said. "I'm looking forward to reading his book and using this as a reference. I just want to get a better understanding on this kind of wine."

Adam Berti, a wine distributor from Arlington, said he's always looking for new wineries to deal with and new products to offer his customers.

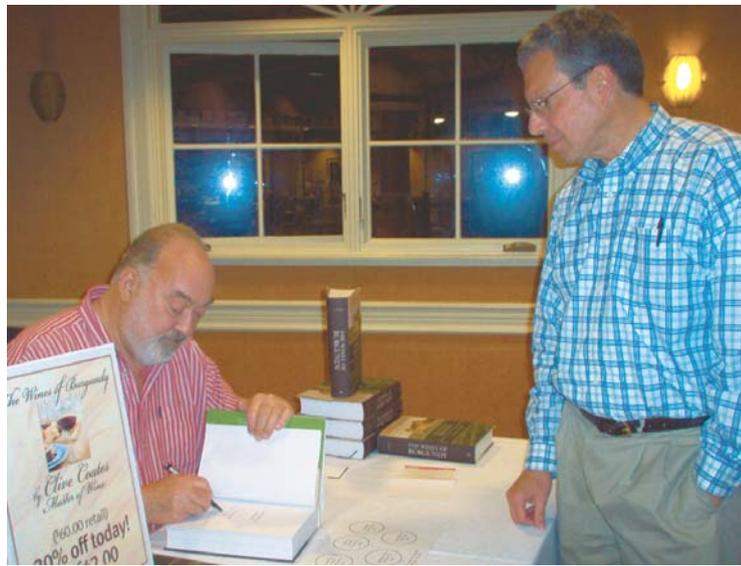
"He's got a great knowledge, and I had to come and test out this stuff," Berti said.

Mark and Leslie Morrissey and their friends Steve and Nancy Winings have been going to tastings together for several years, during which time both men say their wine cellars have grown exponentially.

"He used to have only a few hundred bottles, but now he has to store his stuff at my place," Mark Morrissey said of Steve Winings.

"Wine is one of our favorite hobbies," Winings said, adding that he and his wife know the least about Burgundy wines and were hoping to learn more from Coates during his talk.

Leslie Morrissey said she and her husband are con-



Clive Coates signs a book for Jim Hooper or Reston.

PHOTO BY AMBER HEAVY/THE CONNECTION

sidering going to Burgundy later this year and were hoping to take some of Coates' advice with them on their trip.

"We just got back from Napa but we're ready to go," she added.

Speaking of travel, when asked what kind of wine he'd take with him on a desert island, Coates chuckled, and in his gravelly voice, replied that he'd have to take champagne.

Why champagne?

"That's the only great wine you can drink on your own," he said. "All other great wines you need to drink with company."

FROM PAGE 9

victims of Haiti's earthquake. ernst924@cox.net.

Cello Master Class. 10 a.m. at Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia String Teachers Association, the Fairfax Symphony, Fairfax County Public Schools and The City of Fairfax jointly present a masterclass with cellist and master teacher Julie Albers. \$10, VASTA members \$5. www.vastaweb.org or 703-772-5212.

Cellist Julie Albers in Concert with the Fairfax Symphony. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org. A pre-performance discussion, to ticket holders, begins at 7 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III.

Robinson Secondary School Crew Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center, 9401 Burke Road, Burke. All Crew Club boats, coaches and fees are paid solely through fundraising. Burke Nursery donates a percentage of total sales when purchased at the Crew Club Booth with at least one Certificate. Pre-purchase \$10 certificates at cv622@aol.com or lewisfamily6@verizon.net. www.robinsoncrew.com or

and www.burkenursery.com.

Graham Parker and The Figgs. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Irresponsible CD Release, Kid Architect and Sounds of Gray. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 at the door. jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons begin at 7:30 p.m., West Coast Swing lessons at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m.

NVCWDA members \$10, non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5, PSDC members \$10. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

"Into the Woods" presented by the Good Shepherd Players. 8 p.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Tickets: Adults, \$15; children 12 and Under, \$10 Evening shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Online tickets www.goodshepherdplayers.com or Sundays after services or through the church office 703-323-5400.

Science You Can Sing To. 10:30 a.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Swamp Stomp Boogie, music for children. \$10, age one or under free. jamminjava.com. www.EverWonderRecords.com.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-978-5600.

Read to the Dog. 1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333..

SUNDAY/MAY 2

Israel Street Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Recording artist Rami Kleinstein, Israeli dance performance group Hora DC, children's singer and performer Sally Heckelman, JCCNV Dance Company, Geshher Children's Choir and more. Free Admission and parking. www.jccnv.org.

"Into the Woods" presented by the Good Shepherd Players. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Tickets: Adults, \$15; children 12 and Under, \$10 Evening shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Online tickets www.goodshepherdplayers.com.

The only way some of us exercise our minds is by jumping to conclusions.
—Cullen Hightower

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Stickford Picks Up Lacrosse

Lake Braddock football player takes up lacrosse as way to train for football.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock defensive back Thomas Stickford isn't afraid to show off a bit of style and swagger on the field or with reporters.

His play with the varsity football team helped drive the Bruins to their first-ever state finals appearance in 2009.

Now, he's brought his athleticism to the Lake Braddock boys' lacrosse team.

During a pre-season practice with the lacrosse team, he displayed his confident attitude when asked about his future as a lacrosse player.

"I'm Thomas Stickford. All-region defensive back," he joked. "And future all-region midfielder."

His voice is calm and cool, which might make some believe his claim. Except for one little problem: It's his first year on the lacrosse team and first time ever holding a lacrosse stick.

So, about that all-region team?

"Yeah, it's not going so well," Stickford said with a laugh. "It's a difficult sport really. My stick skills are improved, but not at the point where I'm confident in them."

Stickford is a football player looking for a home in the spring sport of lacrosse. It will be months before he heads to James Madison University where he will play football. To keep in shape and stay active, he joined the lacrosse team.

"With football, I had four years to learn the concepts in my freshman year," he said. "In lacrosse, I guess I'm as good as I am at freshman football."

Head lacrosse coach Steve Price, an as-

sistant coach with the football team, recruited Stickford to play for the lacrosse team while he was on the junior varsity baseball team.

"He didn't look happy on the [baseball] team," he said. "He wasn't playing very much."

With an opportunity to mold his defensive back into a defensive midfielder, Price helped Stickford get started in the sport. Now he's a go-to-guy for defensive play on the field.

"He's a great defensive midfielder," Price said. "He can get the ball up the field, and

he's just got great speed. He's great at covering players."

Stickford's marriage of lacrosse with football training is starting pay off. At a recent

JMU football workout session, Stickford said he noticed that lacrosse had improved his football skills.

"My footwork is so much quicker than everyone," he said. "I just feel great. All the running helps me out."

He's also found that while the sports are completely different in concept, there are similarities between a defensive back and a defensive midfielder.

"When we have a shutoff play, it's almost exactly like playing defensive back," he said. "It feels exactly the same. It's just like man-to-man defense in football."

Senior attacker Brandon Johnson, who also is a wide receiver on the football team, said the learning curve for lacrosse is the most difficult step for a football player to overcome.

"It's just learning how to play with the stick," he said. "Yeah, there's hitting and you need quickness, but learning how to throw

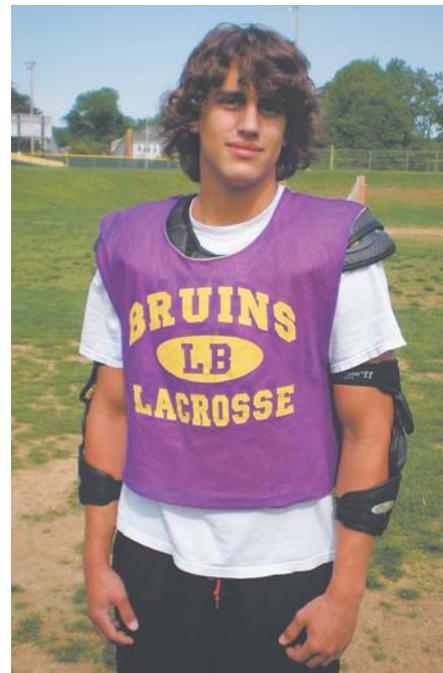


PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock defensive back Thomas Stickford is most known for his stellar play on the football team, but he's also helped add a defensive presence on the lacrosse field this spring.

and catch is the most difficult part of the transition."

Johnson has had a first-hand look at Stickford's development and has served as a mentor to his football teammate.

"He has gotten a lot better," Johnson said. "The first scrimmage we had he came out and just laid some kid out. He's learning the game."

Johnson is hoping that he might get the chance to assist on Stickford's first career goal.

"No goals yet this season [for Stickford], but he's had some pretty sick plays," he said. "He's had a bit of a dry spell, but I think he's going to break out of shell."

So maybe Stickford isn't all-region, but he's definitely earning his playing time with the Bruins.

"He's a great defensive midfielder."

— Steve Price

5 Qs With Nathan Taylor, Lake Braddock lacrosse player

Q: So tell me a bit about your green stick head. Did you dye it?

A: No I bought it green. My freshman year everyone had white heads and now they sell them in colors. When I got it, no one had it.

Q: It really sticks out on the field. Do you ever get any comments about it?

A: A coach kept telling me 'Oh you must be good because you have that money colored head.'

Q: So if you could be any athlete for a day, who would you be?

A: Probably Alexander Ovechkin. He's just so good at hockey.

Q: So are you a big Caps fan?

A: Yeah. We used to go when the team [wasn't very good], but now we can't get a ticket.

Q: The Lake Braddock lacrosse team's record is at 5-5, what do you guys need to do to improve?

A: We just need to play better. We're all great players, but we need to focus on meshing as a team.

— REED S. ALBERS

The Tao Of Al

Junior Danielle King uses Al Pacino speech to inspire Cavs.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson girls' soccer captain Danielle King needed something to motivate her team after a string of draws and a stunning 2-1 upset loss to South County on April 16.

At that point in the season, the Cavaliers had a 2-2-3 record, but King thought her team could be better than what the record showed.

"I decided we needed some team unity, something to pump us up," she said.

As a captain, it's her job to rally the girls, but instead of composing a rousing speech of her own, she turned to Al Pacino for help.

In the film "Any Given Sunday", Pacino plays Tony D'Amato, the fictional head coach of a struggling Miami-based football franchise. During halftime of a game, Pacino explained to his ego-dominated team that "life is a game of inches," and those inches are "the difference between winning and losing, and living and dying."

While egos aren't a problem in the Cavs' locker room, the fight-or-die message resonated with the junior. King took the initiative and decided to show her teammates the video during a team meeting called by the captains.

"I knew it was going to hit them hard — especially our seniors," King said. "This is our last couple games of soccer together. It was worth showing to them to try and push for those inches."

King, who has used the speech before to motivate her club teams, thought it was just what the Cavs needed to rile up some emotions on the team.

Pacino's speech did more than energize the Cavs' locker room, it's now the girls' rallying cry.

"It's our slogan," senior midfielder Courtney Owen said. "We listen to it before every game. It's all about fighting for each other and fighting

SEE KING, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Nathan Taylor

King's Season of Inches

FROM PAGE 14

for the inches in games.”

On top of lifting the team's spirits, it also re-focused the girls — allowing them to set new team goals together.

“It was great to get everyone together and set our eyes on one big goal,” junior midfielder Marlee Stynchula said. “We lost some key personalities last year, so to get the spirit back in everyone was important.”

Since the screening of the speech, the Cavs have been on a furious winning tear, holding their opponents off the score sheet in a 1-0 victory over Annandale and a 3-0 victory over Yorktown.

The battle for inches hasn't gone unnoticed by head coach Warren Williams.

Williams said he's aware of the team's renewed spirit and desire to fight on the field, but noted a bit of irony in their speech selection.

“It's sort of funny they picked the inches speech because it's been inches all year that have hurt us,” he said. “We have been hitting posts all season long, or just missing our shots. Just little things that held us back.”

Those inches now are working for the Cavs, not

against them. One example is in the team plays that the group had trouble executing earlier in the season. Now they convert on corners and set pieces with ease.

During the 3-0 victory over Yorktown on April 22, all three goals scored came from corner kick set pieces finished with headers, an aberration for a team that hasn't always relied on corners for offense this year.

“It was clicking,” Warren said. “I wish we could have bottled them up for later. We've been focusing on [headers], but it's not something we do the best.”

Owen, who is smaller than most girls on the pitch, embodied the inches speech when she scored two goals with her head in the Yorktown match.

“I'm only 5-foot 3-inches,” Owen said. “But it's my third [header goal] this year. It's not expected that I [score with my head], but I've just been feeling it and fighting for it.”

Only three games remain in the girls' soccer team's schedule, but with his team playing their best soccer of the season, Williams said the team meeting and Pacino speech could be the engine fueling a long play-off run.

“They wanted what's best for each other,” he said. “They didn't want any regrets for this season.”

View the Video

Watch Woodson's three goals and other game highlights on the Connection website, www.connectionnewspapers.com.

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Spartans Get Back On Track

Boys' lacrosse bounces back from season's first loss with 18-2 trouncing of Lee.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Heading into the West Springfield boys' lacrosse team's game with W.T. Woodson on April 23, the Spartans were indulging in the hype surrounding their undefeated team.

After dominating West Potomac 19-1 on April 19, who could blame the Spartans for puffing their chests?

"After the West Potomac victory, some guys got a little high on themselves," head coach Scott Settar said.

But even with his team sitting atop the Northern Region coaches' poll, Settar didn't buy the hype.

"We knew at some point in the season we'd face some adversity — a speed bump that would define our team," he said.

A 13-8 loss to Woodson proved to be that speed bump. Despite entering the game ready to play, the Spartans didn't play to their potential and let the game slip away.

Suddenly, the Spartans didn't care about coaches' polls anymore.

"The loss brought us back to reality," Settar said. "There's been a lot of talk around the school and around the region about our lacrosse team, so that might have

"The loss brought us back to reality."

— Scott Settar

made us overconfident."

The upside of Woodson ending the undefeated streak is that the loss came at an opportune time.

With the Patriot District tournament just over a week away and the Northern Region tournament immediately following, the Spartans knew they would have a chance to get back on track.

"One of the things we talked about after the [Woodson game] was that Woodson was the last team to beat us last year in the region tournament," Settar said. "The difference between that game and this year's [loss] is that on Monday we got to have a

game. Our season was over last year after that loss."

That's where the Robert E. Lee team comes in — an 8-1 squad lead by scoring dynamo Andrew Senft.

On April 27, West Springfield dominated the Lancers and held Senft to just two goals. During the game, senior attacker Eric Schauder had two goals and nine assists and four players had multi-goal games to lead West Springfield to an 18-2 victory.

The win over Lee didn't just help to reset the Spartan's mindset, it also allowed the offense to recapture their explosive step.

Most of Schauder's nine assists came from set plays starting behind the net.

"I love working from behind the goal" he said. "I've been playing attack behind the net since fifth grade."

Goalie Kevin Young faced limited shots thanks to a recommitted defense that cleared every attacking attempt back toward the Lee defenders.

"We're just connecting better," senior defender T.J. O'Connell said. "We've got a better idea of where everyone is going to be."

With his team back on track, Settar said he hopes the Spartans won't let hype get in the way of other games.

"We're just focusing on our next game," he said. "That's our mission now. We're not thinking about anything else."



Lee Gleason picks up a ground ball with one hand during the Spartans' 18-2 victory over Lee on April 27.



Reese Mullins (No. 9) beats Damian Pulos (goalie) for a goal in the second quarter.

PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

WEEK IN SPORTS

Northern Region Lacrosse Poll

Boys' Top 10

1. Langley
 2. West Springfield
 3. Chantilly
 4. Annandale
 5. Robinson
 6. Westfield
 7. Woodson
 8. Madison
 9. Herndon
 10. Stone Bridge
- Others receiving votes: Lee.

Girls' Top 10

1. Madison
 2. Oakton
 3. Langley
 4. Chantilly
 5. Stone Bridge
 6. Woodson
 7. Annandale
 8. Yorktown
 9. Westfield
 10. West Springfield
- Others receiving votes: Robinson, South County, Hayfield.

Northern Region Baseball Poll

1. McLean
2. West Springfield
3. Lake Braddock
4. Westfield
5. Centerville
6. South County
7. Stone Bridge
8. Woodson
9. Madison
10. Washington & Lee

Gymnasts in National Meet

Four local gymnasts from Capitals Gymnastics in Burke recently qualified to compete at the United States Gymnastics Associations National Level meets in Dallas on May 6.

Erin Buchanan (Haymarket), Leah Slobodin (West Potomac), Katie O'Rourke (Springfield) and Lia Salzano (Centerville) will be representing Capital Gymnastics at the event.

Slobodin, O'Rourke and Buchanan also qualified for the Junior Olympic Nationals where 56 top qualifiers nationwide will compete.

Clifton Cup Golf Tournament

The Clifton Cup Golf Tournament takes place Wednesday, May 19 at Westfields Golf Course. All proceeds from the tournament will be dedicated to the renovation of the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church. Registration will be limited to 100 golfers and is quickly filling up. The cost to register is \$175 per golfer.

For more information, visit <http://cba.cliftonva.us/cliftoncup5>.

GAME VIDEO

Watch highlights from the Spartans' victory online at www.connectionnewspapers.com

COMMUNITY

Burke Presbyterian Shredding Event

Burke Presbyterian Church conduct its second annual Free Community Shred Event on Saturday, April 17. Jim Whitfield and Cyndee Julian of Long & Foster Realtors sponsored the event, which was organized by Carol Bryan.

Drivers began to line up an hour before the 10 a.m. start time and a steady flow of vehicles moved smoothly through to the event's end at 1 p.m. Participants were greeted by a team of volunteers who quickly unloaded boxes and bags of documents that were then transported into a large mobile shredding truck. This "mobile document destruction vehicle" made quick work, securely transforming the collection into 6 tons of shred to be recycled. Participants were presented with a reusable red tote bag containing various items including information on BPC, a pencil and even a Tootsie Pop.

The organizers wished to thank Jim Knight of Secured Shred for providing services; Whitfield and



Recyclers drop of documents to be shredded on Saturday, April 17.

Julian for sponsoring; BJ Postlewaite for providing signage, and the volunteer team of Rick and Carol Bryan, Cyndee and Mark Julian, Jill Kurtz, Jim Laurent, Brian Sugden, and Whitfield. Next year's event will be April 16, 2011.

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Out for a Run

FROM PAGE 12

neat to see the generosity."

That generosity will purchase two new Personal Response Systems that Jones said would enrich the student's academic experience and allow teachers to provide more direct, individualized assistance. In classrooms equipped with the system, students are given clickers with four buttons, and a question or statement will appear on an overhead screen. The students then answer the question or respond to the statement by selecting one of four options from the screen and entering it using the clicker. The teacher can then get real time data from the students and can keep track of the responses over time to measure each student's progress. Jones said that the school chose to use some of the money raised through the race on the \$1,700 response systems because the school had beta tested them for the county last year and were very well-received by students and teachers alike.

"[Principal Kathryn] Woodley and Mrs. Jones suggested that we purchase them at a PTA meeting, and everyone embraced it," Chase said. "The school had one of them on loan from FCPS to test it and all the teachers were really excited about what they could do with it."

Now that the school has hosted the event and paid the 20 percent commission, it is now free to have the event every year without making any additional payments. If the early results of the fund raiser are any indication, the school will be involved with Race for Education for a long time to come.

"We had preschoolers who are just learning how to walk through sixth graders participating," Woodley said. "They all showed great respect for one another and had a lot of fun. It's been a big hit."

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Outstanding Sales Professional of Year

Virginia Press Association honors Kenneth B. Lourie, Connection sales representative, columnist.

Kenneth B. Lourie, award-winning columnist and sales representative with the Connection Newspapers and Potomac Almanac, was named Virginia Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year, receiving his award on Saturday, April 24, at the annual advertising conference of the Virginia Press Association in Portsmouth.

EDITORIAL

It's a bit unusual to use editorial space to tout sales awards, but this is an unusual case. Many of our readers are familiar with Lourie's longstanding weekly humor column, *The Daze of my Life*, which runs in many of our papers and on our web site.

In the past year, Lourie has tackled the more serious topic of his diagnosis and treatment for stage IV lung cancer in his columns, but with the same pointed humor of his previous columns. Meanwhile, despite these challenges, he remains one of our top sales performers.

Lourie's award was presented by Carol Taylor, chairman of VPA's Advertising Committee and a sales executive with Richmond Times Dispatch. "This year's Outstanding Sales Professional of the Year award honors the kind of

sales professional who is a role model, someone whose qualities have led to great success in the newspaper advertising profession," Taylor said in giving the award.

Taylor continued: "Among other important attributes, this award recognizes leadership and tenacity. ... It celebrates extraordinary customer service and an attitude that embraces the unprecedented change we're seeing inside and outside of our industry. ... Our recipient is well known for his cold calling prowess and his reliance on old-school technology, like note cards. His customers rave about his flexibility, his patience, his attention to detail and his ability to find a Boston Red Sox fan anywhere he goes. And he's an award-winning columnist who isn't afraid to write about his need for new underwear."

For more than 12 years, Lourie has been our most organized and creative sales professional. Disciplined, committed and tenacious, he has



Kenneth B. Lourie

always been among the top performers in our sales staff. His medical condition is relevant only as to the timing of this award and the recognition it provides and as proof of his unbelievable tenacity, commitment and good humor.

Lourie's column, *The Daze of my Life*, has developed a loyal following and addresses some of the quirks and milestones of every day life, but also tackling more serious topics. An excerpt from a recent letter he received from a reader exemplifies the effect his writing has had:

"While we have not met, I want to let you know how much your newspaper columns related to your cancer mean to me; I have saved them all. I can relate to many of the feelings you write about from experience. ... It is impressive to see how you approach your situation with grace and honesty; that is the best one can ask of oneself. You are doing a lot by your writing to help other people learn and go through this experience with you. None of us really knows what is ahead of one in life, and you provide a good example of the value of approaching each day with love and hope.

You can read Lourie's columns by going to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and typing "Lourie" into the search field.

Choose Herrity

To the Editor:

Recently, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) announced his candidacy for the 11th District Congressional seat in Virginia currently being held by U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). Even though the primary race is not until June 8, like so many other citizens in Northern Virginia, I am hoping that we once again have someone represent us in Congress who has a strong record of conservative, fiscally responsible and common sense style of leadership that is obviously missing now. It is not too early to raise awareness that we need someone in Congress who will actually listen to the majority of citizens in the Northern Virginia who are alarmed and opposed to the rapid shift to the far left and the gathering storm of government control almost every aspect of our lives from health care choices to federal control over our schools.

Herrity brings a lifetime of successful business experience and responsible public service to this race and, more importantly, a pledge to return control of government to the people who pay for it. He is the best candidate from either party who will be able to en-

gage people on both sides of the aisle in order to reverse the radical and fiscally dangerous agenda supported so enthusiastically by Connolly. Herrity was elected as the Springfield District supervisor in November 2007 after more than 25 years of active business, sports and civic leadership.

LETTERS

When he joined the Board of Supervisors in 2008, spending and taxes in Fairfax County, under the leadership then of Gerry Connolly, were clearly out of control. Worse yet, property taxes had doubled in the previous seven years and spending had increased \$1 billion over inflation and population growth. Herrity began fighting to reverse Connolly's fiscally irresponsible policies and led the charge to reign in the out of control spending — something I trust him to do in Washington at a time when we need it the most.

We need a leader who will oppose the higher taxes supported by Connolly and those in the White House that will disproportionately affect individuals and small businesses in the 11th District. We need a congressman in the 11th District who will not just be a compliant rubber stamp for an administration that is out of touch and

pushing an increasingly radical liberal agenda. We need a congressman who understands that the federal government was never designed by our Founding Fathers to be the nanny state they are making it into with every vote. We need a congressman who understands that we must reign in the federal government's out of control spending so that we do not saddle our children and grandchildren with a mountain of debt that will limit their opportunities and prosperity. Looking at his proven track record of service to the citizens of Northern Virginia, Pat Herrity is the only candidate in the primary race in June, and then later in the general election in November, with a demonstrated record of fiscal responsibility, vision, and common sense solutions.

Thomas G. Bognanno
Springfield

Herrity Should Know Better

To the Editor:

As a veteran, I am upset that Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), in his recent letter to the editor [Connection, March 25-31, 2010], would assert that health

care reform will "destroy the military's TRICARE system." His statement is simply not true. Military leaders, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and every major veterans' organization have put out statements to quash this false rumor, and Mr. Herrity should know better.

The families of the men and women serving our country in Afghanistan and Iraq have enough stresses and pressures on them, as they worry about their loved ones. They don't need Herrity or anyone else fomenting unnecessary fear about their health care coverage when that fear is not warranted.

Mr. Herrity should not try to use the families of our active military, and our veterans, as political pawns.

Joseph Harmon
Fairfax

A Reminder

To the Editor:

As we approach the election season I want to remind Virginians of what U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) has done for us. Since he entered Congress, we have seen the federal government grow signifi-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 18

cantly in power and cost. But at the same time, about 3 million people have lost their jobs and the number of long term unemployed has grown to an extraordinary percentage of the overall unemployment rate.

Since Gerry Connolly went to Congress, our federal government is now the owner of two auto companies and has taken care of its favored Wall Street firms. But I don't see any progress toward putting people back to work or helping small and medium businesses grow and add jobs.

Gerry Connolly has voted for the federal takeover of healthcare and exempted himself from it. He has done nothing to ease our tax burden but seems to align himself with those who would raise our taxes. Now there is talk of a Value Added Tax to further increase our tax burden.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has consistently voted for lower taxes as well as apportioning county resources that better our public safety and schools. Pat Herrity has consistently voted for regulations that allow businesses to grow instead of taxing them out of existence.

As our next congressman, Pat Herrity will bring a common sense approach and reasonable solutions that will grow jobs not the federal government.

Deborah Harms
Clifton

Herrity's False Assertion

To the Editor:

In last week's Connection [March 25-31, 2010], Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), speaking as a candidate for Congressional office, asserted that the recently passed health care reform legislation would "destroy" TRICARE.

As an active member of the veteran community in Northern Virginia, I take strong objection to his comment because it is false. Secretary of Defense Gates and John Rowan, the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, among others, have gone on record to state that health care reform will not adversely impact TRICARE or medical services provided to veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bruce I. Waxman
Vice President
Vietnam Veterans of America,
Chapter 227



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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF VALUABLE FAIRFAX COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Pursuant to Decree of the Circuit Court of King George County, Virginia, dated July 16, 2009, entered in the Chancery matter now pending before the Court under the style of Adam M. Steil V. Alexander P. Steil, the undersigned Special Commissioners were authorized to sell the hereinafter described real estate at auction; and pursuant thereto, notice is hereby given that the following described real estate:

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shall be sold to the highest bidder; however, subject to confirmation by the Court, on Friday, May 7, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. on site at the property. The property shall be sold AS IS and shall be conveyed by Special Warranty Deed. The successful bidder shall be required to deposit 10% of the bid price by Certified Check payable to the General Receiver of King George Circuit Court. Closing on the sale shall take place within 30 days of confirmation of sale by the Court.

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Board OKs Tax Rate Hike

FROM PAGE 3

cline in home values for many Fairfax residents. The average property tax bill in the county is expected to be \$26.93 less than it was last year.

A half cent of the proposed increase on property taxes will be dedicated to county stormwater services. Currently, 1 cent of the property tax rate is used for the stormwater program.

As part of the budget likely to pass, Fairfax would also charge a new vehicle registration fee, \$33 for most cars annually. County residents would also pay an increase on sewer service fees from \$4.50 to \$5.27 per 1,000 gallons used, raising the average sewer bill by \$60.

According to Bulova, the increase in the sewer service charge is largely to help the county come into compliance with federal government mandates regarding clean water.

In general, people and organizations have not objected to the increase in the property tax rate, especially since the average Fairfax taxpayer would owe less than they did last year. Even Republican supervisors supported a hike in the rate, though Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) has objected to the amount of money dedicated to stormwater management in the past.

Where critics of the budget have focused their energy is the vehicle registration fee. "At the bottom of a recession, you hold the line on taxes and you reduce what you need to reduce," said Cook.

Most Fairfax residents have at least one vehicle, the new \$33 fee will offset the \$26.93 savings the average homeowner will see on their property tax bill, according to Cook.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce also objected to the vehicle registration fee, saying it would hurt local businesses.

"It will have a huge impact on businesses that have a large fleet," said chamber chairman Stuart Mendelsohn, a Republican who used to represent the Dranesville District on the Board of Supervisors.

Democrats who supported the new fee said the county needs to diversify its tax base. Real estate taxes generate 62.1 percent of the funding for Fairfax's budget and several supervisors said renters and other residents should have to share the local tax burden with property owners.

"I don't think all of our revenue should be derived from property taxes. Cars are also an expense to the county. For example, police have to take time to deal with car accidents and car-related thefts," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence).

But at least one Democrat, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), also criticized his former colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for bringing back the vehicle registration fee. As county chairman, the congressman led the effort to abolish the fee a few years ago.

Fairfax County does not intend to bring back the decal that was attached to the vehicle registration fee, so there is no justification for the payment, said Connolly.

"There is no rational for this fee. Without the decal, it is a fee on nothing. Why not tax us for the air that we breathe?" said Connolly, who is running for re-election this fall.

In public meetings and through e-mails, Bulova said Fairfax residents were overwhelmingly interested in expanding the county's sources of tax revenue.

"We heard from the public and they expressed support for bringing back the vehicle registration fee," said Bulova.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS may need to brace themselves for more out of pocket expenses.

The supervisors allocated approximately 53 percent of its \$3.3 billion general fund to Fairfax County Public Schools leaving the school system with about \$16 million less from the county that it received last year.

"It would have been my preference to at least get level funding, especially when we have seen an increase of 1,000 students this year," said Fairfax School Board President Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is likely to vote to keep the elementary band and strings programs and not to increase the average class size at a time when some elementary school teachers are coping with groups of 30 or more children.

But the School Board, which will finalize the schools' budget in May, is also likely to implement a \$100 athletic fee per student per sport in high schools and a \$75 fee for each Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes. An exception will be made for low-income families who cannot afford the extra charges, said Smith.

Parents who choose to enroll children in elementary school gifted and talented centers, when they have classes for gifted students — called "local level IV services" — offered at their base school may also lose transportation services, said Smith.

THOUGH FAIRFAX received an unexpected \$61 million in extra funding from Virginia, the money can largely not be used to cover school programs that are facing reductions this year.

Smith said \$45 million of the extra funding from the Commonwealth will have to be put aside to address future payments into the Virginia Retirement System for teachers and staff. McDonnell and the Virginia General Assembly managed to balance the state budget — and allocated Fairfax schools the extra \$61 million — largely by foregoing payments to the public employees' retirement fund over the next two years.

The governor has said the Commonwealth, as well as Fairfax County Public Schools, should expect to "make up" for the two years of missed payments by paying the owed money back into the system over the next decade.

"We have to put that money in a reserve because we get the great opportunity to pay that money back over the next 10 years at 7.5 percent interest. We are going to need the revenue to pay for that," said Smith.

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21 Announcements

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26 Antiques

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21 Announcements

Request for Application

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is soliciting applications from qualified firms to establish a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) site for Northern Virginia areas. Applications will be due by 2:00 pm, local time, June 15, 2010. Copies of the Request for Application (RFA) – RFA 2010-01 can be obtained from the DMAS website located at: <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/ltc-PACE.htm>.

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but I never walk back.
-Abraham Lincoln

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Finally... A new program makes computers affordable. Act now to claim your new portable computer loaded with programs used for email, internet, web surfing etc. Great for students, grandparents, small business or anyone. These Windows powered PCs sell for up to \$600 in stores, but call now and claim up to two for just one payment \$179 each through this special, program. Phone lines open today at 9am. When they're gone, they're gone!

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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United Country Auction in conjunction with: **United Country**
Atlantic Coast Auction & Realty Group VAAF#795 Piedmont Real Estate

See website for directions, maps, plats, full history of the farms, online bidding and many photos. TERMS: 8% buyer premium, 10% deposit due on auction day. Balance due at closing within 30 days. View full terms online.

www.FauquierCountyFarms.com 540-491-9292

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

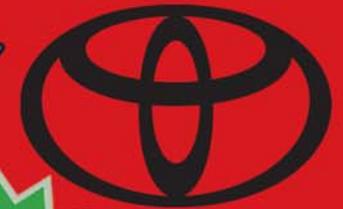
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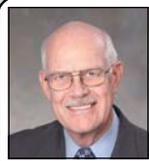
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