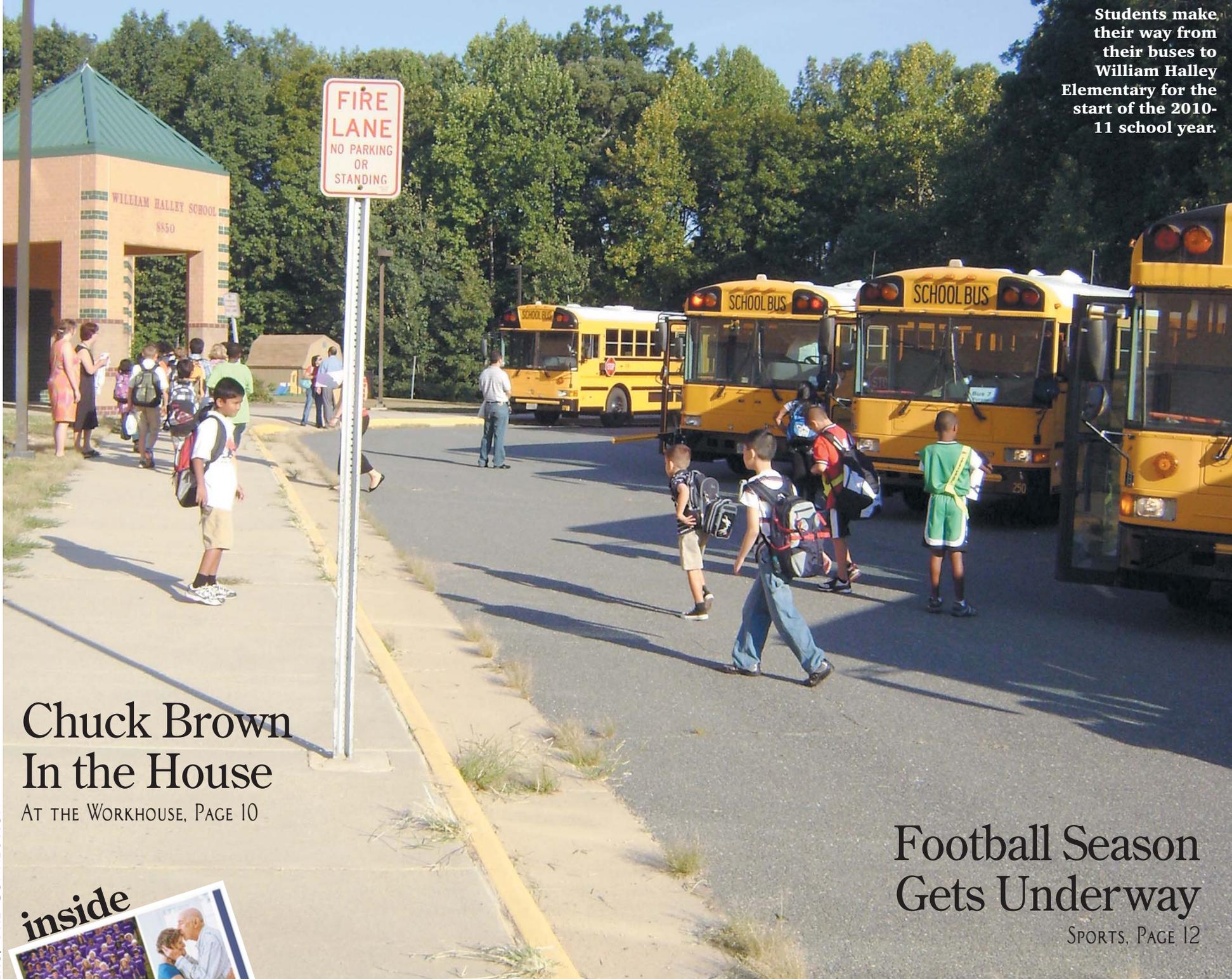


School Bell Rings

NEWS, PAGE 3

Students make their way from their buses to William Halley Elementary for the start of the 2010-11 school year.



Chuck Brown In the House

AT THE WORKHOUSE, PAGE 10

Football Season Gets Underway

SPORTS, PAGE 12

SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

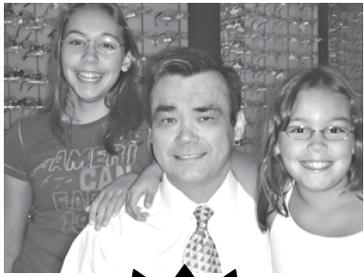
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PHOTOS BY NICK BOTERO/THE CONNECTION

Students Nick Kerl, front, and Jhavon Fuller, right, step off the bus for their first day of school at William Halley Elementary on Tuesday, Sept. 7.



From left, patrols Cody Taylor, Jessica Mullany and Jennifer Sklar do their part in making sure their fellow students arrive safely in the building.



Friends, from left, Derek Lee, Ray Martin and Tucker Milton pose in front of the buses excited about the start of the school year.

A Fresh Start

Fairfax County students head back to school Tuesday.

Message Blows In

Toy balloon travels 250 miles before landing at Fairfax Station horse stables.

BY NICK BOTERO
THE CONNECTION

The weather was brisk on July 31, at 6 a.m., when Pam Watkins, the barn manager at Barranda Ridge Equestrian Center in Fairfax Station, went with her husband to feed the horses.

"I noticed they were acting strangely," she said. Hours later she returned to the pasture to find the horses in the same positions, huddled in a corner seemingly timid. As she got closer, she noticed they were gathered around a small,

bright pink object. It was a balloon. Watkins picked up the balloon and took it to Jolanda Janczewski, the founder and owner of Barranda Ridge.

The two soon discovered a small, handwritten note attached to the base of it that read "Hi- if you get this write us a letter" followed by an address. Intrigued, they looked at a map and were astounded to find the balloon had traveled more

than 250 miles before finally resting in the stable.

"We couldn't believe how far it had traveled."

— Jolanda Janczewski

SEE BALLOON, PAGE 16



PHOTO BY NICK BOTERO/THE CONNECTION

Jolanda Janczewski poses with one of the ponies stabled at the Barranda Ridge Equestrian Center.

Eight Years for Springfield Man

He pleaded guilty to two crimes in Lorton.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A Springfield man has been sentenced to eight years in prison for assaulting and injuring a 52-year-old woman in Lorton. He is Milan Boda, 40, of the 8200 block of Burning Forest Court.

In an Oct. 29, 2009 affidavit for a warrant to search Boda's car, Fairfax County Police Det. Jeremy Hinson, with the Sex Crimes Squad of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, explained the case against him. Hinson wrote that, on Oct. 26, 2009, he interviewed the victim in the hospital after police received a report of an assault, earlier that day, on a path near Lorton and Furnace roads in Lorton.

Hinson referred to the woman as Jane Doe, stating she told him that, while walking the path, she heard someone running toward her from behind. "She was then grabbed from behind [and] turned to challenge the person," he wrote. She described him as a white man in a brown coat.

When she turned to walk away, wrote the detective, she "was hit from behind and driven to the ground in a grassy area next to the path. The man began assaulting her by hitting her in the head and face. Doe tried to get up several times, but was pushed to the ground repeatedly and told to stay down, as the man continued to hit her."

Hinson wrote that she tried to fight back and scratched her assailant's face. However, the assault continued until she eventually escaped and ran away. She told police she looked back and saw the man walking toward the Barrett House.

The woman then ran to Furnace Road and flagged down a citizen who took her to the hospital. She'd sustained a broken nose, broken finger, sprained wrist, split lip, cut to the cheek, black eye and severe swelling of the face. The detective observed these injuries, himself.

Hinson later learned from sex crimes Det. Steve Wallace that two concerned citizens saw someone walking to a vehicle parked at Barrett House from the path area where the alleged assault occurred. The two also told a detective Edwards that, while walking near that building, they'd seen a white man wearing a brown coat come out of the woods near Barrett House.

They watched him get into a car and noted his license-tag number. Then, continuing on their walk, they discovered a pair of women's prescription sunglasses on the ground. They later encountered Edwards, told him what they'd seen and gave him the sunglasses. A check with the Virginia DMV led them to Boda's home. "[I] was informed by Wallace that Boda had scratches to his neck and face that appeared to have occurred recently and to be from finger nails," wrote Hinson.

The victim later identified Boda from a photo lineup as the man who'd attacked her, and police arrested him at his home, charging him with abduction and malicious wounding.

On May 25 in Circuit Court, Boda pleaded guilty to both offenses. He returned Aug. 20 to learn his punishment. At that time, Judge Jane Roush sentenced him to 20 years in prison for malicious wounding, suspending 12 years. He also sentenced Boda to eight years behind bars for the abduction charge and ran both sentences concurrently, leaving Boda with eight years total to serve.



PHOTOS BY KATHRYN HELMKE/LBSS

Junior class officers Majd Hosein and Megan Ryan help the class of 2012 raise more than \$400 by selling Smoothie King, class T-shirts, lanyards, candy and soda. The class plans to raise \$2,500 more this year.

Bruins Ready To Start

At Sept. 2 Bruin Blast, Lake Braddock students take first step back to school.

More than 1,500 Lake Braddock Secondary students and parent got their start back to school a few days early last Thursday. Although school didn't officially open until Tuesday morning, Sept. 7, students showed up on the afternoon and evening of Sept. 2 for the Bruin Blast to meet with teachers and have a little fun before the school year begins. Food offerings included Baja Fresh, Chick-fil-A and Smoothie King.



Eighth grade student Eve Matthews helps the new freshman class sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts. The 60 \$5 boxes sold out in 20 minutes.



Patrick Christiansen

New COO for Hospital

On Aug. 18, Patrick Christiansen Ph.D. began his duties as the chief operating officer of the Inova Fairfax Hospital Campus. As COO, he will oversee operational procedures and will be part of the team in charge of making strategic decisions for the hospital and Inova Health System.

Christiansen began as Inova Heart and Vascular Institute administrator in 2007, establishing a successful cardiovascular program. In 2009, he was named senior vice president, Inova Health System, taking on responsibility for additional service lines within Inova.

Before he joined Inova, Christiansen was vice president of operations at St. John's Mercy Health Care in Creve Coeur, Mo., and was vice president at St. Edwards Mercy Health Network in Fort Smith, Ark.

Christiansen has a doctorate in philosophy and a master's degree in psychology from the University of Arkansas. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Arkansas Tech University.

HEALTH & FITNESS



COURTESY OF INOVA FAIRFAX HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Hyundai Presents \$100K Check to Inova Fairfax

As part of the Hyundai Gives Hope on Wheels campaign, Hyundai Motor America on Sept. 1 presented Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children with a \$100,000 grant for its hematology/oncology program. The funds will go toward the development of the Hyundai Hope Center, an on-site resource and activity center for patients and their families. At the education center, families will be able to access information and gain support, and patients will be able to access the center at the bedside through an online support tool. Inova staff came up with the plans for the center based on input from patients and families.

HEALTH NOTES

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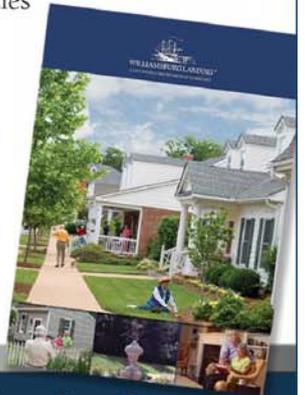


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COMMUNITY



This 1963 Impala, owned by Jesse Cuevas of Fairfax, caught a lot of attention for gravity defying pose during the annual Labor Day car show in Clifton on Monday, Sept. 6.



Classic Mustangs lined up next to their newer cousins filled the parking lot of the Presbyterian Church in Clifton during the annual Labor Day car show Monday, Sept. 6, as cars took over every available parking space in the tiny town.

PHOTOS BY AMBER HEAVY/THE CONNECTION



A pristine orange 1957 Corvette, owned by Dino Andreatos, features a 283/283 fuel injected engine.

Every One a Classic

Classic cars line streets at annual Labor Day car show.



A model 1966 Mustang 350 GT sits atop the real thing. Both are owned by Keith Ardinger of Fairfax.



Above, this 1958 Porsche Speedster, owned by Littlejohn Schebish of Clifton, may anger some purists for its purple detailing. He gets the keep the car because he did the accent colors in purple, his wife's favorite color.

At left, this 1929 Ford, owned by Leroy Wennerberg of Martinsburg, W.Va., shows off the restored engine through a Plexiglas covering.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 10

Ninth Annual Springfield BridgeWalk. 7:30 p.m. Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay invites residents, businesses and other community members to the Ninth Annual Springfield Community BridgeWalk. Participants will march over Veterans Bridge in the heart of the Springfield revitalization district. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2010/9th-annual-springfield-bridgewalk-sept10.htm

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center, 5955 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Workhouse Art Guild Exhibition and Reception. 6-9 p.m. in Gallery W-16, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet the artists and learn more about their work. Free. Exhibition open Sept. 8-Oct. 3. 703-584-2900.

Burke Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke.

Lake Braddock Secondary School Bands Tag Day Fund raiser. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Members of the Lake Braddock Secondary School Band will be canvassing homes in their district in full uniform for their annual Tag Day fund-raiser. Band members will be accepting tax-deductible contributions to help support band activities for the coming year. TagDay@lbband.org.

West Springfield High School Personality Show Choir Car Wash. 12-4 p.m. at Rolling Hills Swim Club, 8301 Carrleigh Parkway, West Springfield. Get your car sparkling clean. 703-569-1495.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

West Springfield High School Bands Tag Day. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Members of the WSHS Bands and Color Guard will visit homes within the WSHS pyramid to raise funds to support the WSHS band program. The band programs now provide music and performance training to more than 240 students. Individual

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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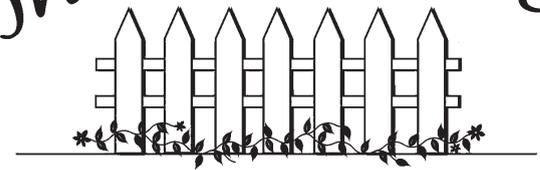
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OPINION

Readiness, Preparation for Emergencies

Back to school a good time to check on backups, supplies, record-keeping.

There are some basic rules of self-protection that sometimes escape us. I got a reminder a few weeks ago of a few simple things: Always lock the car. Don't leave valuables in the car.

I always lock my car, but the one night I forgot (distracted at a key moment) was the night every open car in my neighborhood was rifled and stripped of anything potentially valuable. While overall, the losses were in the thousands of dollars, my losses were small, an antique iPod and a battered camera made up most of the loss.

The next lesson was from the detective who dutifully followed up on the police report filed online. Stolen items are recovered all the time, and returned to their owners if their owners knew and reported the serial number of the stolen item. His recommendation was to record every new item purchased, especially electronics, including serial number, price, make, model, date and place of purchase, and to store that list by either uploading it as a "Google Document" or attaching it to an email. That way even if the computer you used to make the list is stolen or your house burned down, you would have a record for police and insurance.

September might be hurricane preparedness month, but it was August that left so many of us in the Washington area without power for days, on two different occasions. Last winter's blizzards reminded us that you can be with-

out power and without an easy route to leave your home at the same time. Both experiences argue for some home safety checks.

Can you find the flashlights in the dark? Do you have what you need to hunker down at home for a few days? Do you have a plan to gather all the members of your family, or how to contact each other, in case of an emergency? If you put together an emergency kit, has it been updated lately? See the attached list, plus www.ready.gov, for good, basic information.

Don't forget your pets in your emergency planning. Whether you were to decide to stay put in an emergency or change locations, you need to make plans in advance for your pets. Do you have enough food, pet carriers, etc.? Some emergency shelters will now accept pets, and the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) recently took delivery of eight regional animal shelter trailers for pets in times of disaster, each with the capacity to set up a shelter for up to 200 pets. (These appear destined for Maryland and D.C.) This comes from the experiences after Katrina and other disasters when it became apparent that many people would not evacuate without their pets.

The recent meltdown of Virginia's networks can also serve as a reminder to the rest of us: Have you backed up your computers this week? Are your critical documents backed up in multiple places, including offsite? The governor is correct to call for an investigation. With an

lion with diabetes, and 600,000 people who would otherwise die from heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S. Fimian's position, which denies potential life-saving research and advancements, cannot possibly be in support of a "culture of life."

Additionally, Fimian's opposition stands in the way of an individual and couples freedom of choice to donate their own unused embryos — the byproduct of IVF and the means by which many labs obtain cells — and, consequently, prohibits them from contributing to this life-saving research. In 2007, Duke University conducted a study and found that 60 per-

cent of infertility patients with frozen embryos stated that they would be willing to donate their unused embryos to stem-cell research. Why not allow them the right to do so? These couples, as well as countless others across the country should not have this choice taken away from them. They should be allowed their right to choose not to waste these embryos, but instead, contribute

them a noble purpose that contributes to saving millions of lives a year.

Fimian's opposition to stem-cell research goes against the wishes of the majority of Americans who believe there can be unlimited benefits by investing in this research. We cannot continue to have those that oppose this research into office. This is why Fimian does not have my support this November.

Chris Economou
Falls Church

Help Troops Overseas

To the Editor:

My name is Aaron Boudreau, and I am in Boy Scout Troop 1849, St Andrews Church in Burke. While my brother, a Marine, was in Afghanistan, I decided to do something for the troops for my Eagle Service Project. Working with VFW Post 7327 in Springfield, I am collecting certain items like small containers of shampoo, conditioner, foot powder, sun-

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- ❖ Dust masks, to help filter contaminated air
- ❖ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
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- ❖ Local maps
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- ❖ Prescription medications and glasses
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- ❖ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ❖ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ❖ See www.ready.gov for more.

investment of billions of dollars, the commonwealth's systems should be better protected from a crash. But after a crash, there should be a much faster response time. But don't let this happen to you, mind your backups.

— MARY KIMM

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Stem-Cell Research

To the Editor:

Like many Americans, I cheered when President Obama removed Bush-era roadblocks to help advance stem-cell research. Unfortunately, the promise of medical advancement that stem-cell research will bring has been halted by a recent U.S. District Court decision. This decision has been hailed by those who oppose stem-cell research, including Keith Fimian, the Republican candidate for Congress in Virginia's 11th District. People such as this have only succeeded in holding back America's progress in medical advancements and crushed the hopes of millions of Americans who suffer from terrible diseases.

Fimian's position is in direct contradiction to his claim that he "supports a culture of life for the aging and sick." Stem-cell research can produce treatments that would benefit nearly 100 million Americans who are afflicted with countless diseases; including 46 million Americans with arthritis, 23 mil-

LETTERS

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

duction and was confused because he voted for legislation that greatly increased the deficit rather than reduced it. For example, Connolly voted for the failed \$862 billion stimulus, the \$1.4 trillion government healthcare takeover that abrogates individual rights, and for economy-destroying cap-and-trade legislation, which thankfully has not passed the Senate.

In this same brochure, Connolly brags about voting against \$269 billion in spending bills that he believed contained wasteful pork-barrel projects. Yet, it is my understanding that he also requested more than \$3 billion in earmarks.

America is in a very precarious state and needs to change direction quickly before it is too late. Members of Congress take an oath to uphold the Constitution, and most, like Connolly, have not done so. We need new people in Congress who will truly protect our individual rights rather than trample on them. [Republican congressional candidate] Keith Fimian understands that as our representative in Congress, he will be serving "we the people," rather than big government.

Susan Lider Hutson
Clifton

Pig in a Poke

To the Editor:

In U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) discussion of Obamacare he wrote: "Reform will, in fact, lower costs, improve coverage." Someone needs to tell Gerry that health premiums have already gone up some as much as 20 percent. And as for coverage,

we're already beginning to see the government cut back on approved procedures and drugs. Not surprisingly they began with women by retracting approval of Avastin, a drug particularly helpful in late stage breast cancer, because it is "too expensive."

He touts the tax credits for small businesses and the \$250 checks some seniors are receiving this year. Wonderful, but they are only temporary and one has to assume they are nothing more than cynical ploys to cover the fact that this health care bill is already a fiscal disaster.

And, as for AARP and the AMA being on board with Obama — sure. The AARP will make millions off the deal so for them it is good business. As for the AMA, it is primarily an association of academics and bureaucrats with only a small fraction of practicing doctors — that is doctors that actually care for patients-as members. Obamacare is the proverbial pig in a poke — it is full of special interest money, but bereft of actual solutions to our current health care problems.

Linda Bartlett
Annandale

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AT THE WORKHOUSE

Chuck Brown: Back Where It All Started

One of former prison's best known inmates rocks crowd at Workhouse Centennial party.

By AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

other jazz greats.

It was a paradox as fitting as the transformation from prison to arts center. Chuck Brown, the world-renowned "Godfather of Go-Go," taking the stage just a few hundred yards from the former stage where he, as an inmate, played a homemade guitar and got his start.

Brown's performance Saturday afternoon, Sept. 4, at the Workhouse Art Center's Centennial Celebration came 50 years after he left the prison, returning a handful of times to play for the friends he left behind once he got his life straightened out. He often credits the three years he was locked up in the now-defunct prison for changing his life.

"Lorton was a good place," he said. "If you wanted to learn, if you wanted to better yourself, you could build yourself a new life." Brown said he learned several trades during his time there, but the most lucrative one was teaching himself how to play guitar.

In a story that is almost as legendary as the man himself, Brown said he traded five cartons of cigarettes to one of his friends, who made him a guitar in the prison's woodshop. Brown taught himself how to play, learning a thing or two from some of the other inmates, and after about a month began to sign himself up for the weekly shows put on by the prison on Saturday afternoons.

Soon, Brown became the event's main draw.

"Chow time was 5 o'clock, and the show was at 5 o'clock, and after a while they had to move the show to 7 o'clock, because if I was playing, nobody was in the mess hall eating," he said. "That felt pretty good."

Even after his release, Brown wanted to go back and give his appreciation for the inmates he knew and the place that helped him turn his life around. He'd take his band and play on the baseball diamond for the inmates, who were glad to see their old friend.

"Lorton was a school to me," Brown said. "I finished my high school there. I learned to stay out of trouble. Most other jails I was in, they only taught me how to not go back to that particular jail."

Brown, who was raised by his mother and stepfather, ran away from home at 13 because he felt like a burden to his parents, who were raising his younger siblings. He lived "as a hobo" for a few years, jumping into train cars and going from town to town, working odd jobs and as a shoe-shiner. One of those early jobs, shining shoes in front of a music club in Washington, gave him the chance to stand close to the door and hear some of the legendary musicians of the time, including Cab Callaway, Duke Ellington and

After leaving Lorton, using the guitar his friend had made by hand, Brown wasn't allowed to play in bars or any establishment that sold alcohol. Instead, he and his first band, made up of some friends, played backyard parties and church socials. Soon they were invited to a different house party every weekend, finally taking up residence at the Ebony Inn in Washington. They were paid \$10 a night for their shows.

"Soon the Ebony Inn decided to expand, because there were people lined up down the block when we'd play," Brown said. "I knew they were coming to see us and that felt pretty good."

He asked the club's owner if they could be paid a little more per night. The owner was hesitant, but finally agreed to pay Brown and his band \$15 a night, but with one condition — the band had to pay for their own barbecue and beer.

Later, Brown and his second band, the Soul Searchers, started making records. One of their early recordings, 1979's "Bustin' Loose," became a world-wide hit, easily recognizable today as it was 31 years ago. The song is played after home-runs during the Washington Nationals' home games and is currently used in a commercial for Chips Ahoy! cookies.

Brown still performs several concerts per month and celebrated his 74th birthday with a show at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. a few weeks ago. He's even got a new album coming out on Sept. 21 called "We Got This," a three disc set featuring a live album, a concert DVD and a CD with five new songs that was recorded at the 9:30 Club. When he took the stage at the Workhouse on Saturday, it was easy to see he was still loved by the hometown crowd.

"Wind me up, Chuck," called out more than a few fans, mostly women, who were eager for Brown to play some of his signature go-go tunes.

Go-go, a combination of the jazz, blues and gospel Brown sang growing up, came about because "there were go-go clubs and go-go dancers, but no go-go music," he said.

With a beat that can't be ignored and rhythms that make the staunchest wallflowers tap their feet, the crowd in the white tent at the east end of the quad at the Workhouse Art Center welcomed Brown back with open arms and loud applause.

Irma Clifton, a fixture at the Workhouse since before the Lorton Arts Foundation assumed ownership in 2006, said she was thrilled to have Brown perform for the cel-



Fans new and old alike filled the performance tent at the Workhouse Arts Center while Chuck Brown played a long series of favorite tunes from his 40 year music career.

bration.

"I've been working on getting him here for a long time," said Clifton, who interviewed Brown as part of an on-going oral history project at the former prison. "I thought it would be great for someone who left here and made positive contributions to society. He's done so much cultural outreach, going to schools and talking to kids about his life and where he came from."

When Brown visited the Workhouse a few weeks ago for his oral history interview, a man who had been a friend and fellow inmate at Lorton during Brown's imprisonment quietly came into the

room and sat down to listen to the stories. Brown looked up and saw his old friend, stopped the interview and the two old friends hugged, Clifton said.

"It just moved your heart," she said. "He told me this place made him."

SATURDAY'S CELEBRATION may have been closed with Brown's performance, but throughout the day there were artists giving demonstrations or talking with some of the curious passers by who stopped into the open studios.

Shelly Vanover, a Lorton resident who "studio sits" when friends are out of town, was making some of her beaded jewelry Saturday afternoon.

"I live here, it's my home," she said of the Workhouse. "I love it here."

Knowing the history of the place, which began as a Reform-era prison under President Theodore Roosevelt, later to house the women who were fighting for the right to

vote, made it easy to see how the Lorton Arts Foundation could make the leap from prison to place of creativity, she said.

"There's a great sense of community here. Everyone talks to each other and helps each other out, they share ideas," she said. "The area really needed something like this because there wasn't anything here."

Diane Frykman, who was sitting inside Building Four while Brown took the stage, said she was happy to see so many new faces visiting the Workhouse on a lovely late summer afternoon.

"We've had a lot of visitors," she said, holding a small, round, silver clicker she used to count people as they walked in the building. "I think a lot of people are discovering the Workhouse for the first time."

To those who were unfamiliar with the Workhouse before Saturday, Rick Hausler, vice chair of the Lorton Arts Foundation Board of Directors, had a simple message. "You haven't seen anything yet," he said. "We had 250,000 visitors during the first year alone, and within five years we're going to double that. This is a voyage of discovery."

And while some, like Montclair resident Linda Ball, were pleasantly surprised by all the art happening and being created at the Workhouse, it was the music that brought them.

"I've wanted to see Chuck Brown for a long time," she said, happily showing off a photo she had taken with Brown that she was going to send to her niece, who was unable to attend the concert. "I love his music. It makes you dance."

"It's good to be back in Lorton where it all started," Brown bellowed, gold glasses and teeth in place as he and his band started into their first number.

The crowd went wild.



Performing with his band, Chuck Brown told the crowd that he was happy to perform in Lorton, 'where it all started.'



Children learn to make origami finger puppets in the Kids Zone tent during the Centennial Celebration of the Workhouse on Saturday, Sept. 4.



Jewelry maker Shelly Vanover talks with a visitor to one of the studios in Building 4 during the Workhouse Arts Center's Centennial Celebration.

LoPresti's Flip Propels Rams

Robinson cruises past T.C. Williams High in season opener.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Robinson quarterback Mike LoPresti dropped back to pass early in the Rams' season opener and found himself under immediate pressure from the T.C. Williams defense. Facing third-and-15 from the TC 31-yard line, LoPresti scrambled to his left and flipped the ball in the air.

What appeared to be an act of desperation proved a momentum-capturing decision when the ball landed in the hands of running back Jared Velasquez, who scampered 27 yards for a first down. Running back Kambulu Musokotwane scored the game's first touchdown on the next play.

"We had a screen [pass] called and we got pressure immediately," said Robinson head coach Mark Bendorf. "Mike LoPresti wasn't able to set his feet and he did the ol' Brett Favre flip. We had it set up so as soon as Jared got the ball he was in space and, in space, you can see he's pretty tough. That [play] was critical."

Robinson scored touchdowns on its next two possessions and cruised to a 35-2 victory in its season opener on Sept. 2 at T.C. Williams High School. In his second season leading the Rams' wing-T offense, LoPresti completed five of 11 passes for 82 yards.

"I feel a lot better," said LoPresti, of hav-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior running back Jared Velasquez rushed for 86 yards and two touchdowns in the Rams' season-opening win over T.C. Williams on Sept. 2.

ing a year of varsity experience under his belt. "I'm used to how quick the game is. Last year, it was a little surprise at first, but I got the hang of it."

Velasquez said he thought LoPresti wouldn't have time to get him the ball. LoPresti showed that he's caught up to the speed of the game, if not pulled ahead.

"We had the kid back there, ready to sack him, and he flicked the ball out there like good quarterbacks do," said Dennis Randolph, T.C. Williams head coach. "The job of the quarterback is to make plays. It wasn't pretty, you don't teach it" but it got the job done.

LoPresti's pass sparked Robinson's offense, which spent the rest of the evening finding success on the ground. The Rams amassed 148 yards and four touchdowns with the run game, led by Velasquez's 86 yards and two scores.

Velasquez, who rushed for 1,309 yards as a junior, is the Rams' top offensive threat.

"He kind of just picked up where he left off," Bendorf said.

Musokotwane rushed for 42 yards and two touchdowns for the Rams. Patrick Baker was Robinson's leading receiver with three

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 13

Slow Start Hurts South County

South County falls to Chantilly, 28-13.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Pete Bendorf, the South County Secondary School football coach, was pleased with what he had seen of his team's defensive play during scrimmage games versus both Robinson and Quince Orchard (Md.) during the recent preseason.

So, going into his team's season opener game versus host Chantilly on Thursday, Sept. 2, he was optimistic about the Stallions' chances of holding down the Chargers' attack.

But, as is often the case in first week games when teams are attempting to carry what they learned during training camp on into the regular season, things don't always go as planned.

Fueled by two first-quarter touchdowns, the Chargers went on to defeat South

County, 28-13.

"I was a little disappointed in our performance," said Bendorf. "Against Robinson and Quince Orchard, we played well defensively. We allowed just seven points to Robinson. We turned around and didn't play real well versus Chantilly. But Chantilly played well."

"We'll focus on getting better."

— South County Coach Pete Bendorf

The Chargers, under head coach Mike Lalli, rolled up 328 yards of offense in the win. They gained early control of the game with a pair of first quarter TDs — a 46-yard run by William Hill-Pensamiento (12 carries, 89 yards), followed by a 5-yard scoring run from Jimmy Hicks (12 for 49).

So just like that, South County trailed 14-0 after one quarter. Thereafter, the Stallions played better across the board, according

SEE STALLIONS, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County football coach Pete Bendorf saw his Stallions lose a tough season opener last week.

Kuter Receives Academic Award

Brandon Kuter, a 2009 Robinson Secondary School graduate and current relief pitcher for the George Mason University baseball team, received the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner's Academic Award for the 2010 baseball season. Kuter, a former standout baseball and basketball player at Robinson, spent this summer in Long Island as a pitcher for the Westhampton Aviators of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League.

Bruins Win Golf Preview Event

More than 40 high school golfers competed in the annual 2010 Patriot District Preview Golf Tournament, which was played under steamy, 92-degree skies on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Clifton. Team results were as follows: champion Lake

Braddock (299); second place

South County (303), third place West Springfield (321); and fourth place T.C. Williams (330). Rounding out the district pack were: Annandale (337), W.T. Woodson (341), Lee (346), and West Potomac (348).

Individual leaders were: first place Jake Saba (South County, 71); second place finishers Kenny Towns (Lake Braddock) and Michael Quinteros (Lake Braddock), who tied at 72; fourth place Bobby Bradshaw (West Springfield, 74); and fifth place Justin Burns (Lake Braddock, 75).

Bruins Girls Finish First

The Lake Braddock Secondary girls' volleyball team put on an outstanding showing at the early season Volleyball Showcase 2010, which took place Sept. 3-4 in Richmond. The Bruins, under head coach Mike Clark, finished first overall in their 16-team White Division to earn Gold Champion status. They finished ahead of second place Bath County (Hot Springs) as well as local Northern Region opponents Chantilly (third place) and Westfield (fourth). The only other team competing within the White Division field from the Northern Region was the

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 13

SPORTS

Robinson Rolls Over T.C. Williams

FROM PAGE 12

catches for 40 yards.

The Robinson defense forced two turnovers and limited the TC offense to 180 total yards and no points.

"Other than a couple of breakdowns in the run game, where some off-tackle stuff bounced [outside], where we maybe got sucked in a little bit, I thought we played well defensively," Bendorf said. "We didn't let much get behind us."

THE TITANS lost two fumbles in their first five offensive plays.

"You can't keep giving the ball to the other team, and a good football team at that," Randolph said. "They're well coached, they're tough, they're big and they're strong. [Velasquez], that kid can run. He's a tough runner and he wears you down."

The Rams' special teams also made an impact, blocking a field goal on the final play of the first half. Ethan Steen scooped up the loose football and returned it 78 yards for a touchdown and a 29-0 halftime lead. The team's only blemish came late in the fourth quarter when a punt snap went through the end zone for a safety, giving the Titans their only two points.

Robinson finished 10-2 last season and lost to eventual sate runner-up Lake Braddock in the second round of the playoffs. The lopsided victory over T.C. Williams gets the Rams off to a good start in 2010, but Benford cautioned his players not to overlook their Sept. 10 contest at Fairfax.

"It makes us very confident," Velasquez said of the 33-point win over the Titans. "As long as we just keep working and don't get too big headed over one [win]. We've got to keep playing every day, get better and get better."

FAITH NOTES

9-11 Prayer Walk. Saturday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., on Armstrong Street, across from the Fairfax City Hall. Sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax, open to the public. Come and pray for the country and its leaders on Patriot's Day Remembrance. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, is hosting a sermon series from Sept.

11-Oct. 3 entitled, "Life in the Fast Lane: Slow Down for Relationships". This week's topic is "It's My Turn!", seeking God's direction in sibling relationships. Worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

Silverbrook United Methodist Church, 8616 Silverbrook Road in Lorton, will host its 103rd Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 19,

with a Coffee Hour at 9:30 a.m. and a Welcome Home Luncheon with activities at 12:30 p.m.

The Silverbrook UMC Quiet Day Retreat will be on Friday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This month's topic is Forgiveness. The retreat is limited to five registrants and payment of \$25 is due one week in advance. Register at www.Silverbrook-umc.org or at Pastor@Silverbrook-umc.org. 703-690-4159.

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 12

Annandale Atoms, a fifth place finisher.

In the early tournament pool play, Lake Braddock won matches over Mountain View (Stafford), Hanover (Mechanicsville) and Douglas Freeman (Richmond). In each of the three match wins, the Bruins won by scores of three sets to none.

That strong showing in pool play advanced the Bruins to the championship round. There, they defeated Westfield, 25-18, 27-25, in a semifinals match before capturing the finals match over Bath County, 18-25, 26-24, 15-13.

Lake Braddock, upon its return to Northern Virginia, was set to play a home match versus South Lakes earlier this week on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The Bruins' next competition will be at Robinson on Monday, Sept. 20 at 7:15 p.m.

Rams Volleyball Beats Cavs

The Robinson volleyball team defeated Woodson 3-2 (13-25, 25-22, 25-21, 21-25, 15-7) on Sept. 1. Robinson improved to 2-0 and Woodson dropped to 1-1. Senior outside hitter Mady Jennison, junior middle hitter Jordan Jackson, junior setter Rachel Conway and senior libero Jacquie Palaschak, lead Woodson.

Jennison tallied 33 kills in the Cavaliers' first two matches. Jackson has 17 kills and 11 blocks, Conway has 65 assists and Palaschak has 57 digs and eight aces.

Woodson will play in the Herndon Invitational on Sept. 11. Robinson hosts Stone Bridge on Sept. 13.

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which
give hap-
piness.

—Thomas
Jefferson

FROM PAGE 7

band members make up most of the shortfall themselves by buying or renting instruments and by buying uniforms and paying uniform fees.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 12

South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce 10K Race. 8 a.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Register for the 10K Race on a USATF-certified course with electronic chip timing, or a 1 Mile Fun Run for all age groups. Free and open to the public, with exhibits, music, games, a moon bounce, health screenings and nutrition counseling. The South County Secondary School Athletic Boosters Club and Parent, Teacher, Student Organization will receive all profits. southfairfaxchamber.org.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton.

Congenital Heart Walk at George Mason University. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Registration at 9 a.m., walk at 10 a.m. A joint effort between the Adult Congenital Heart Association and the Children's Heart Foundation. www.congenitalheartwalk.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 13

Book Bunch. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join us for a book discussion and book-related activities. Call for title. Ages 7-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

My Colorful World. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and fun. Age 24 months-5 years with adult. Registration not required. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 14

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book discussion group for girls and moms. Emma-Jean Lazarus fell out of a tree by Lauren Tarshis. Age 9-11. 703-249-1520.

Second Tuesday Evening Book Group. 6:45 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy" by Jostein Gaarder. 703-339-4610.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 15

Wakefield Farmers Market. 2-6 p.m. at 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale.

P.A.L. Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Register for a 15 minute session. 703-249-1520.

Fun for Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Ages 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

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

Silly Animals. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-339-7385.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. "Persuasion" by Jane Austen. Adults. 703-971-0010.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults. 703-451-8055.

Lorton Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson. Adults. 703-339-7385.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 17

Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center, 5955 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

Canoe the Marsh with a Naturalist. 8 a.m. at Pohick Bay Regional Park, Gunston Road, Lorton. Age 16 and up. \$25 per person. Reserve at 703-528-5406.

Gallery After Hours: Art Out Loud. 7 p.m. In the Performance Tent, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The drawings of Workhouse Studio Artist, Mary Gallagher Stout and the eclectic alternative rock of Big Green Cherry. 703-584-2900.

Miss Greater Springfield Princess, PreTeen and Teen Competitions. 1:30 p.m. at Greenspring Village Square Auditorium, 7440 Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Competition open to girls age 5-17. Tickets \$12. 703-690-1203 or www.missgreaterpringfield.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

Poetic Art Exhibition and Reception. 2-4 p.m. in Gallery W-16, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The work of art will inspire the poet's words, or the poem will inspire the artist's creation. Free. Exhibition remains open through Oct. 10. 703-584-2900.

Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program 30th Anniversary Jubilee and Clifton's Peachy Keen Day. 4-6:30 p.m. at Trummers on Main, Clifton. Tickets \$60. Register at www.nvtrp.org/jubilee.

Lorton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton.

MONDAY/SEPT. 20

Bee-Bim Bop! 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and songs for ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Age 0-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Woof, Woof: Doggie Tales. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Age 13-23 months with adult. Registration not required. 703-339-4610.

Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a reading therapy dog. Register for one 15-minute slot. Age 6-12 with adult. For more information, call 703-339-4610.

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SPORTS

Stallions Fall to Chargers, 28-13

FROM PAGE 12

to Bendorf. South County got back into the game on a 2-yard scoring run by Andrew Rector, who went on to gain 123 yards on 28 carries.

Ahead 14-7 at halftime, Chantilly scored its third touchdown of the night when quarterback Carson Romine connected with Trey Huelskamp on an 8-yard scoring play in the third quarter. Romine, the Chargers' second year starting QB, completed eight-of-16 passes for 106 yards and two touchdowns, and also rushed for 73 yards on 10 carries.

"Carson started all 11 games last year," said Lalli, the Chargers' coach. "[In the opener last week] he played his most complete game of his 12 game career. We hope that this will be a good stepping stone to a successful senior season for him."

LATER IN THE THIRD QUARTER, South County quarterback Jacob Josephs (eight-of-20, 77 yards), with his team trailing 20-6, tossed a 17-yard scoring strike to Ryan Taylor to get South County within 21-13 and keep the Stallions' comeback hopes alive.

That was still the score with less than 7 minutes remaining before Romine tossed his second touchdown pass of the game — a 36-yard strike to Caleb

Reinhardt — to pretty much put the game away.

Earlier on that final Chantilly scoring drive, the Chargers had pulled off a successful fake punt on a fourth down play to put the ball on the South County 40. That play set up the clinching score for the Chargers.

"We played well for the first game," said Lalli, whose team will be home against Langley this Friday night. "We hope we can capitalize on this good start and continue to improve each week."

Bendorf was impressed with Chantilly's all around play in the win.

"They didn't turn the ball over and had very few penalties," he said. "Chantilly has very good leadership."

SOUTH COUNTY, a relatively young squad this season with 15 juniors in the starting line-up, will be home this Friday night against Washington-Lee (Arlington). The Generals, members of the National District, lost their season opener at McLean last Thursday night, 14-6.

"We'll focus on getting better," said Bendorf. "We had a good practice [on Labor Day Monday]. The kids want to get better. We feel we have a pretty good defense."

COLLEGE NOTES

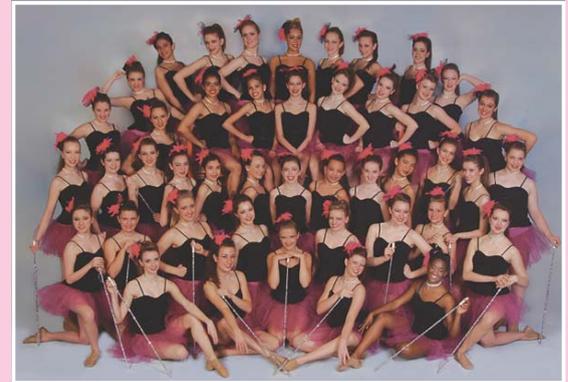
Samhita Kumar of Lorton, daughter of Dr. Sharat K. Narayanan and Sandhya S. Kumar, received an associate in arts from Oxford College of Emory University.

Thomas Smith of Clifton, son of Thomas Smith and Anne Smith, was named to the dean's list of Emory College, the undergraduate, liberal arts college of Emory University in Atlanta

for the 2010 spring semester. Students must be in the top 20 percent of Emory College or have approximately a 3.853 grade point average or higher to be named to the dean's list.



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COMMUNITY

Balloon Drifts 250 Miles

FROM PAGE 3

Janczewski was quick to write the children back, "Your balloon was discovered in the early morning of July 31, 2010. We hereby return it to its rightful owner! It was exciting to find your attached note. We couldn't believe how far it had traveled!"

Forrest, Violet and Mason Shaw, ages 6, 4 and 2, respectively, of Bethel Park, Pa. had signed the letter.

"My kids got the balloon at bible camp," said William Shaw, their father. "My wife thought it would be fun to send it off with a note attached to it. We watched it travel directly southeast until it was out of sight."

"I did it in grade school when I was a child," said Laurie Shaw, the children's mother. "Our kids are really curious and like to do neat things. The note they sent back, it was very nice. It's great that it landed in the hands of such nice people. We're preparing letters to send them."

Janczewski purchased the property at Barranda Ridge six years ago in hopes of opening a riding school for children. "I started riding at 10," she said. "I realized there were no riding schools in the area, so I opened up Barranda Ridge."

At its height, Barranda Ridge was home to 25



The balloon and its note.

horses and ponies with as many as 100 children taking riding lessons throughout the week. It offered summer camps and conducted horse shows as well.

Because of the inability to meet current standards for equestrian centers by not having the proper certifications, Janczewski voluntarily shut down the riding school and holding stables in March and has since stabled six horses and two ponies.

"The Fairfax County representatives were very friendly, but the rules on the books are outdated, it wasn't their fault, it just takes forever to change what's on the books," she said.

DESPITE THE closure, the equestrian center still has some exciting things going on. Stewart, a Connemara trick horse at Barranda Ridge, and his rider Caroline Pearson have been invited to the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky this October. Janczewski described the event as "the Olympics for horses." It will be the first time the event has taken place in the United States and will have an international audience that includes Queen Elizabeth.

As for the balloon, Janczewski is currently waiting to hear back from the children. "It's a cute idea," she said. "I hope to hear from them soon."

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