

Haunted Parable

FALL FUN, PAGE 3

Kelly Anderson gets all spooky on the audience at the 2008 Halloween Parable in Fairfax Station.



Ghost Train
Spotted

FALL FUN, PAGE 3

Autumn Is
For Artists

FALL FUN, PAGE 15

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PHOTO BY DAVID BOSTEDO



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Scary Tradition Ending

After 10 years, final curtain will fall on Fairfax Station's Haunted Parables.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

It's a day she long feared, but promised, would come. On Sunday, Oct. 24, Heather Cooper will host the final Haunted Parables in the backyard on Rutledge Drive in Fairfax Station, ending a decade-long tradition in which dozens of neighborhood children put on costumes, act out an intricate plays with a real message, then turn the woods into a haunted trail.

"It's been very hard," said Cooper, who calls herself "Miss Halloween" without a bit of irony or ego.

The children in her neighborhood would be quick to agree. Starting Labor Day weekend, they've been gathering in her backyard, learning the lines she has pre-recorded for them to act out, eagerly trying on their costumes and practicing any number of choreographed dance routines that will make up the 85-minute show, which is nearly twice as long as the plays Cooper has written and staged in the past.

Cooper, who has two children, said she's glad to know the plays are ending when children and their parents still enjoy the process, but the time has come to try something else.

"A lot of these kids are getting their licenses," she said, adding that some of her cast members have been with her for the whole 10 year run. "My daughter started when she was 3-years old and now she's 13. We've got kids in the cast from 4 to 19-years old."

Still, her young actors and actresses knew the end was coming.

In each year's play, the main characters have to learn a lesson, usually a moral lesson about being a good person and doing the right thing, Cooper said.

But at the end of last year's parable, the main character didn't learn his lesson. The character, Captain Snickers, was left in the belly of a whale.

"I knew last year that this would be it, so the play was written without a final ending," she said. With this last

play, Captain Snickers will have to go back through the lessons learned in the past 10 parables in order to free himself and come out a good person.

The show will open and close with the aptly selected Michael Jackson song "Man in the Mirror," because, Cooper said, that's where all our decisions

"We're ending it at a time when everyone is still absolutely in love with it."

— Heather Cooper



PHOTO BY DAVID BOSTEDO

Kristine Trewick and Heather Cooper pose in costumes during the 2009 Halloween Parable.

SEE PARABLES, PAGE 10

All Aboard Burke Lake Haunted Express

Burke Lake Park hosts 30th annual 'Ghost Train' during last two weeks in October.

In the spirit of Halloween, Burke Lake Park will be hosting the 30th annual Ghost Train to celebrate the coming of autumn to the area. The Ghost Train will be running on Oct. 23, 24, 30, and 31. Rides start at 10 a.m. and the last train departs at 5:15 p.m. Ticket sales will be available during the day until 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.50 per person and children under 2 ride for free. All those who come are encouraged to wear costumes.

In past years, the event has had 1,500 to 2,000 riders per day, mostly children accompanied by their parents. Throughout the train's route will be Halloween themed decorations provided by Northern Virginia Community College, the event's sponsor. The decorations include bales of hay, cobwebs lining the trees and volunteers dressed in costume that engage the riders along the way.

"It's not a scary ride, it's fun," said Matthew Kaiser, deputy public information officer for Fairfax County Park Authority. "During the ride, the train stops and the operators give the children candy. I took my son last summer. He really liked it. Everyone



Two volunteers dressed as dancing penguins at the 2008 Ghost Train.

was dressed up, and we had a lot of fun." Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station. For more information contact the park at 703-323-6600.

— NICK BOTERO



FILE PHOTOS

The Ghost Train Ride embarks upon its frighteningly fun excursion.



PHOTO BY DAVID BROOKS/TURF WOODSON

The Woodson High School booster club kicked off its effort to raise money to pay for the installation of turf fields at the school.

Woodson Boosters Launch Campaign for Turf Fields

The Woodson High School boosters club officially kicked off capital campaign to raise \$1.2 million for two artificial turf fields on Oct. 1.

According to Woodson parent John Jennison, each field would cost approximately \$600,000. Once the money has been raised, the fields take a relatively short time – three to four months – to install, and the community hopes to have artificial turf by the start of next year's fall season, he said.

Those who wish to make a donation can do so by visiting www.TURFwoodson.com.

Candles Caused Lorton Fire

Fire investigators determined that unattended candles caused the fatal house fire at Hagel Circle in Lorton on Sept. 22.

Eileen Langham-Anderson, 24, Solomon Anderson, 5, and Alfonso Anderson, 3, died when their townhouse at 9635 Hagel Court went up in flames between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the morning. Smoke inhalation and thermal burns were the cause of the deaths, according to the Fairfax County Fire Department.

Neighbors said Langham-Anderson had been without power for about two days and was using candles for illumination inside the house.

The young mother managed to get three of her five children out of the house safely before she succumbed to the fire.

Her surviving children include an eight year-old boy, six year-old boy and two-month old girl. They sustained relatively minor physical injuries.

Mannie Weeks, a man who was living with Langham-Anderson, also escaped the fire.

In order to save her infant, Langham-Anderson had to drop the baby out of a second-story window to Weeks. She got the older children to jump out of this window, said neighbors who watched the events unfold.

At a South County Federation meeting Oct. 5, Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) said the surviving children were still in need of assistance, since they had lost all their clothes, toys and other material possessions in the fire.

The Halley Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is collecting donations for the Anderson children, who are currently living with their father.

Those who wish to donate should make checks out to the "Anderson Family Fund" and leave them in a envelope labeled "Sunshine for the Anderson Family" at Halley's main office, 8850 Cross Chase Circle, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

Cash and gift card donations for Target, Bloom and Wal-Mart are also appreciated.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Attendees check out the craft booths on Main Street at the 2009 Clifton Day Festival.

Come On Down to Clifton Day

Clifton's 44th annual festival is Sunday, Oct. 10.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Clifton Day is always a fun-filled, fall event, and this year's festival — the 44th annual — is no exception. In addition to the usual crafts, food, music and displays, it will feature an Oktoberfest and the return of local musician, Randy Thompson.

The festival is Sunday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with a rain date of Oct. 17. Admission is free; parking, \$5/car, with proceeds going to charity.

"It's a great, family outing, an old-time, down-home, country-style festival," said event Chairman Fred Ansick. "We should have great weather, the leaves are turning and there's fun for all ages."

The Oktoberfest will be at the stage in front of the Clifton Town Meeting Hall on Chapel Road. Catered by Rachele Slotnick, who catered a booth at the recent wine festival, it will offer a-la-carte, German-style food such as bratwurst, kielbasa and sauerkraut. A variety of beers will also be available.

Altogether, 10 food vendors will sell their wares throughout the town, including funnel-cake and kettle-corn vendors. The Heart in Hand restaurant, Trummer's on Main, The Clifton Store and Peterson's Ice Cream and Dog Pound will be open for business, as will the town shops.

The Clifton Lions Club will serve hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue; Clifton Presbyterian Church, Italian sausage; Clifton Gentleman's Club, red beans and rice, chili and chili dogs; Cub Scout Packs 1861 and 1104, cotton candy, popcorn, lemonade, cookies, candy and apple cider; Acacia Lodge, pulled pork, bratwurst and hot sausage; and Baja Fresh, burritos, quesadillas and chicken, fish and shrimp tacos.

The Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) puts on

Clifton Day and proceeds go to the town's nonprofit groups, including the Clifton Lions Club, Girl and Boy Scouts, Clifton Presbyterian Church, Clifton Gentleman's Club, Clifton Woman's Club, the CBA and Acacia Lodge. "It's the largest fund raiser for the local nonprofits," said Ansick.

MORE THAN 200 arts-and-crafts vendors will sell items including jewelry, candles, plant hangars, glasswork, children's clothing, baskets, ceramics, woodworking products, furniture, mixed media, needlework, quilts, sculpture, metalwork, seasonal decorations and holiday items, sports memorabilia, toys, stained glass, and watercolor and oil paintings.

Artisans at Ayre Square on Main Street will demonstrate crafts such as wood-carving,

"It's a great, family outing, an old-time, down-home, country-style festival."

— Fred Ansick, event chairman

wool spinning, weaving and pottery- and basket-making. Antiques vendors will be behind the Heart in Hand and in front of the fire station on Chapel Road. And the Appalachian Bowhunters Association is putting on a taxidermy display in the Acacia Lodge, and donations will be accepted to help rebuild the lodge.

Entertaining the crowd will be the Unicycle Lady, and strolling through the town will be the Banjo Man, back by popular demand for the third year. And the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Academy will give pony rides by the barn behind Acacia Lodge.

The town park off Chapel Street will also host fun activities for children. Five Blessings

SEE CLIFTON DAY, PAGE 5

Clifton Day Is Oct. 10

FROM PAGE 4

Farm will bring a petting zoo with baby animals, and Jumpworks will have inflatables and moonbounces. Face-painters will be in the park and at Ayre Square, and Girl and Boy Scout troops will have eight booths in the park with games such as beanbag toss.

"We encourage the young kids to be part of the festival," said Ansick.

Singers, dancers and musicians will perform on stage. At 10:30 a.m. is the Barbara Sheppard Dance Academy; 11:15 a.m., Boyle School of Irish Dance; 12:15 p.m., The Wayward Street Players – old-time, string-band music; 1:15 p.m., Hair of the Dog – blues and rock featuring Clifton's Raymond Liender; 2:15 p.m., The City-Dwelling Nature Seekers – rock Americana music; and 3:30 p.m., Clifton's Randy Thompson, just returning from a European tour and playing Americana/roots music.

Civil War re-enactors Tony Meadows and the 49th Virginia Infantry will be encamped in the yard across from the stage on Chapel

Road. "They've come here at least a dozen years," said Ansick. Also, the Blue Star Mothers of America, a nonprofit group that raises money for injured military veterans, will have an information table.

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will also be there, and those donating a point of blood will be entered in a drawing for a gift certificate from Trummer's or a bottle of wine from the Clifton Wine Shop.

The VRE train will run to and from Clifton, or festival attendees may park at Clifton Elementary, the floodplain, Kincheloe Road, Newman Road, and Chapel Road at Frosty Meadows. Shuttles, sponsored by Acacia Lodge, will ferry people to and from the latter two lots. For more information, see www.cliftonday.com.

This year's sponsors are The Peterson Cos., Ourisman Toyota, Wetland Studios and Solutions, VRE, AAA and the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

"We really make Clifton Day family-oriented," said Ansick. "And we try to get the whole community involved. So come spend a day with us. It's the only day the train stops in Clifton."

COLLEGE NOTES

Lauren Arnold of Fairfax Station received a master of public health from the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University.

Nathan Brewer of Fairfax Station received a master of business administration from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYANIHAN



Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Group, the official dance company of the Philippines, will be coming to the GMU Center for the Arts Nov. 13 and 14.

20 Years of Performances

Center for the Arts brings back best ensembles, artists for 20th fall season.

BY NICK BOTERO
THE CONNECTION

George Mason's Center for the Arts is celebrating its 20th fall season by bringing back the best performances of the last few years as well as new and emerging artists.

"To celebrate our 20th anniversary, we have invited back some of our favorite and most popular artists from previous seasons, as well as an exciting host of gifted performers who appear on our stage for the first time, as we continue to bring to Fairfax the best of the performing arts," said Thomas Reynolds, the director of artistic programming, marketing and audience services for the Center of the Arts.

Jill Laiacona, the public and media relations manager at the Center for the Arts for the past three years, is upbeat about the upcoming season. "It's a successful season for us, especially in terms of audience. I feel the people in the NOVA area will embrace a lot

of the acts we have. Our performances are comparable to anything in D.C., they're affordable and accessible too," she said.

Several renowned artists and ensembles are scheduled to perform this season.

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will be performing the Washington, D.C. area premiere of "Coltrane's Favorite Things" as well as classic pieces "North Star" and "Nature Boy: Kurt Elling." Also performing this season is the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company, the official dance company of The Philippines. The BBC Concert Orchestra will also be performing with Keith Lockhart, the newly named principal conductor of the orchestra, and guest pianist Ilya Yakushev.

The Virginia Opera will be performing twice this fall, presenting Verdi's tragic masterpiece "Rigoletto" and Mozart's beloved opera "Così fan tutte". Dailey & Vincent, an up and coming bluegrass duo formed in 2007 who has already won 10 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards for their first album and has been nominated for another 10 awards this year, is also scheduled.

All these performances and much more are scheduled this fall season to commemorate 20 years of the George Mason Center for the Arts. Ticket pricing varies per venue. For more information and tickets about the upcoming acts this fall season go to cfa.gmu.edu.



PHOTO BY CHRIS CALLAS

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will be performing the D.C. area premiere of 'Coltrane's Favorite Things' Nov. 5 at GMU's Center for the Arts.



PHOTO BY JIM MCGUIRE

Ten-time International Bluegrass Music Award winners Dailey & Vincent will be performing at GMU Center for the Arts Nov. 12.

FALL FUN 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/OCT. 7
Murder Mystery Dinner
Theater: "Funeral For A

Gangster". Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Doors open 6 p.m., dinner served 6:30 p.m., show starts 7 p.m. Tickets \$10. akberting@fcsp.edu or apnotes@msn.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 8
Kingstowne Farmers Market. 4-7 p.m. at Kingstowne Town Center,

5955 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/OCT. 10
44th Annual Clifton Day Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the town of Clifton. Crafts vendors with jewelry, furniture, fine arts, antiques and more. Live music and dance, pony rides, facepainting, Civil War reenactors, carnival games and rides and more. Oktoberfest area with beer

and bratwurst. Free admission. www.cliftonday.com or 703-968-0740.

SUNDAY/OCT. 17
Vipay Dashami (Dushehra) Mela: Triumph of Good Over Evil. 4-7 p.m. at Durga Temple, 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station. Cultural program, food, boutique, jewelry and more, followed by Ravan Dahan and

Garba. 703-690-9355 or www.durgatemple.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 23
Third Annual Arts and Craft Show. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive Springfield. Jewelry, woodworking, photography, painting, glasswork, clothing, pottery and more. Door

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 9

'The Goddess Diaries' at GMU

Performance highlights the personal stories of eight women.

THE CONNECTION

If you are looking for a charitable event this month, Oct. 9 begins the performance of Carol Campbell's "The Goddess Diaries" at GMU's Harris Theater. The performance will highlight the personal stories of eight different women of all ages and different stages of life, and features music performance by The Ruins.

The format attempts to weave together a series of monologues into a single narrative of life. "It takes us through the calendar of the year and [is symbolic of] the different stages of a woman's life," said director and playwright Carol Campbell. She explains how each set of monologues is represented by the change of seasons, spring for youth, summer for motherhood, and so forth.

"Every woman's story can have a place in the monologue," said Campbell. But it is not only on stage that Campbell wants to benefit the community, she also wants to raise awareness for local women's causes in substantial ways.

"We are bringing the 'Diaries' for the first time to the beautiful Harris Theater at George Mason University," said Campbell. "It's going to benefit [GMU's]

sexual assault office [and their] victims of violence fund."

"The Diaries" has come out strongly for local women's causes, last winter's performance raised money for the Duffy House, a shelter for abused women and children, and a later performance on Oct. 22 will go to benefit Courtney's House, a safe house for teen victims of sex trafficking.

"I think it's important to have opportunities to present information to the community at large about women [and] about our journey," said Misti McCloud, an actress performing at the "Goddess Diaries." "It's been difficult and rewarding all at the same time, it's been very healing, not only from preparing my own monologue but from others as well."

Campbell said she hopes the work pioneers a whole new format for performance. "It is my hope that the diaries will grow beyond our community into a movement that inspires others to produce the show in its current form and as a template for developing more stories later on," she said. "One of the ways I see this developing if this becomes a regular college show [would be to allow any woman to be able to submit their own stories via the Internet]."

The first performance is on Oct. 9 at George Mason University's Harris Theater, beginning at 7:30 p.m. An encore performance will be performed Oct. 22 at the River Road Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, Md. at 7:30 pm. Visit <http://goddessdiariesmonologues.com/> for more information.

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OPINION

Get Out and Have Some Fall Fun

Things to do, places to go, people to meet.

This week's edition of the Connection includes a serendipitous look at ideas for Fall Fun, including upcoming events,

some favorites of longtime residents and ideas for activities ranging from outdoor hikes to artistic endeavors to local theater and high school sports.

We know we've missed many reader favorites; please drop us a line and let us know about your favorite fall and holiday activities.

On Nov. 17, we'll publish our annual Holiday Gift and Entertainment Guide. We invite suggestions from readers, organizations, churches, synagogues, nonprofits and more.

More Fun, Vote

One fun activity we don't want you to miss is greeting your neighbors at your polling place on Nov. 2. Or make an outing of it and go with friends or family to vote early (absentee) on a more convenient day.

Voters are allowed to vote absentee if they

might be unavailable to vote on Election Day, including people who might be at work or commuting to work for 11 hours on that day.

That's eight hours at work, a possible one-hour commute each way plus a lunch hour.

This year, every voter in Virginia will vote for a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives plus vote yes or no on three statewide constitutional questions.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. This combined with a bevy of special elections in some areas can result in voter fatigue.

Voters in Fairfax will also vote yes or no on a transportation bond referendum.

Voters in Arlington will also choose one member of Arlington County Board, one member of the Arlington School Board and vote yes or no on four bond questions, one for Metro funding, one for "county infrastructure," one for schools and one for parks.

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 2 election is Monday, Oct. 11. To register to vote, download a



Through Loss Comes Kindness

Local family finds caring neighborhood to live in.

BY CINDY BACHINSKY

Sept. 11, 2010: My family and I began our Saturday morning with a time of remembrance on our back patio, a time to remember and a time to pray, for the families of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and for peace across all people in our world. We took some time to re-read an article from the Washington Post, written roughly nine years ago, that provided insight and knowledge to us in a very difficult time of decision making.

Roughly 1-1/2 years ago, my husband was on a one-year deployment to Iraq. With five months remaining, we received word that his follow-on assignment would be to the Pentagon. Like any other military family, the first thing I thought of was "I need to begin researching the Northern Virginia housing market".

As I began to research the various areas where we could potentially buy a home, I became overwhelmed at the options available. There were apartments, condos, townhomes, single-family homes, some with carports and others with one or two car garages. There were homes to rent, lease or to purchase. So to help me define my search a little bit, I expanded my research project to include an in-depth look at the schools. I found a couple of articles about a particular school, Sangster Elementary. One in particular caught my attention, entitled "After a Death, a New Way of Life", written in the Washington Post on Oct. 28,

2001. It was written about a woman who had died in the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. The story described a community, school, and neighborhood where the depth of support was exceptional. The people in this community had provided meals, clothing, keepsake items and supportive gestures to the family of this woman. As I read this story, tears

COMMENTARY

began to well up inside me, such sadness for this family, and yet such warmth at the incredible outpouring of love demonstrated by the people surrounding them.

I e-mailed the article to my husband in Iraq and we both had the immediate feeling that indeed this would be a community that would be an honor to be a part of. It was at this point that I began to narrow my focus on this area to look for our home.

It has been one year since we moved into this community, and we have found that it is absolutely a community filled with patriotism and a sense of what it means to truly care for one another. The article described the trauma and heartache brought on by 9/11, and the expression of camaraderie, where people took the time to truly get to know each other.

This has truly been on display for my family. When my husband returned home from his deployment to Iraq, the neighborhood children had made welcome home signs and drawings embracing his service to our country.

Neighbors brought over breads, baked good-

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To find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check with your local elections office for information on absentee and early voting. Absentee ballots and in-person early voting are available now.

Through Loss Comes Kindness

ies, and meals. He was greeted by neighbors welcoming him home and thanking him for his service.

This past winter, we experienced "Snowmageddon," when two different 36-inch snowstorms hit the Washington, D.C. area within a week of each other. This paralyzed the area and provided almost a week off of work to play in the snow. During this time, people helped each other by shoveling driveways together, checking on each other to be sure all were doing well, and helping with childcare, when the schools were closed. Those with four-wheel drive vehicles provided rides for those who could not get out. One family even had a potluck meal, inviting all the neighbors to bring leftovers since no one could get to the grocery stores. This spring, as neighbors made various repairs from the difficult months of winter damage, there was a joint sharing of ladders, saws, and manual labor, cleaning up trees that had fallen and working together to reduce the labor load.

After 9/11, our nation mourned and grieved a terrible loss, the loss of people, and the loss of our freedoms as we knew them. Through the heartache and pain, the seeds of goodness, kindness and love for one another were planted. Here, nine years later those seeds have grown into beautiful flowering plants, spreading love and hope all around.

Cindy Bachinsky is a licensed mental health professional. She has been married to an Air Force officer for 17 years, and is the mother of two children, ages 12 and 6.

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FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 6

prizes awarded throughout the day. \$2, free ages 12 and under. 703-866-0566.

SUNDAY/OCT. 24

Third Annual Arts and Craft Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive Springfield. Jewelry, woodworking, photography, painting, glasswork, clothing, pottery and more. Door prizes awarded throughout the day. \$2, free ages 12 and under. 703-866-0566.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Craft Bazaar. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Raymonds Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road Springfield. Tea room, silent auction, quilt and dollhouse raffle, gifts, holiday decorations, bake sale and more. Free admission. cspengler@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Craft Bazaar. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. Raymonds Catholic Church, 8750 Pohick Road Springfield. Tea room, silent auction, quilt and dollhouse raffle, gifts, holiday decorations, bake sale and more. Free admission. cspengler@verizon.net.

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/OCT. 7

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater: "Funeral For A Gangster." Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Doors open 6 p.m., dinner served 6:30 p.m., show starts 7 p.m. Tickets \$10. akberting@fscsp.edu or apnotes@msn.com.

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

FRIDAY/OCT. 8

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Flu Shot Clinic. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at The Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Rd, Alexandria. \$30, Medicare Part B is accepted. This year, a single vaccine will protect against both seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses. To request a specific time, contact admin@franconiaumc.org or 703-971-5151.

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

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Breakfast With The Birds. 8-11 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield. Search with a guide for eagles, waterfowl, hawks and other birds at Lake Accotink Park. Warm up with hot coffee and muffins at the visitor center after the walk. Free. Adults. Register at 703-569-0285 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Parables' Final Curtain

FROM PAGE 3

begin and end.
 "We used that song in the first play too," she said. "I really believe that song is all about what we're trying to do here."

Once the play is completed, the children run off to the looping trail Cooper has constructed in the woods behind her house, complete with yards and yards of white cobwebs, foods made to feel like brains and intestines, strobe lights and even more costumes. The difference between the play and the trail is that the children are ad-libbing their lines, and as a result, they're just as enthusiastic as they were on stage, Cooper said.

"The trail is just as good as the show," she said. "There's a graveyard and ghosts on pulleys and I can't tell you how much electrical wire running through my backyard. I just love it. I'm sad to see it go, but we're ending it at a time when everyone is still absolutely in love with it."

Plus, Cooper added with a laugh, having 400 or 500 people in her backyard for one day every fall has done a number on her lawn.

Cooper is convinced she'll find another way to provide a creative outlet for the children in her neighborhood, like maybe converting the basement in her house to a black-box theater. She sees many of the children and their parents in church, where she also works with theatrical productions.

One of those children is Eli Downs, a ninth grader

at Robinson Secondary School who has been in the Haunted Parables for the past six years.

"Miss Cooper and my mom were talking at church about the play and, since I love theater, my mom thought I should join," he said. "I instantly loved it."

This year, Eli will be playing the role of the mad scientist both in the play and on the trail.

"One of my good friends is my assistant Igor and we have a lot of fun," he said.

Instead of being sad to see the plays come to an end, Eli prefers to focus on what they have given him.

"I've made so many friends through this and I'm so glad to be a part of it all," he said.

His mom, Mary Driver-Downs, said she appreciates all the work Cooper has put in through the years, but is also impressed by Cooper actually gets all the children to work hard as well.

"Those kids are working," she said. "I mean, they're out there every Sunday afternoon, learning their lines and helping to build things. That's the kind of commitment you don't see anymore."

Cooper has established a kind of community that feels genuine where other activities may feel a little more forced, Driver-Downs said. While the parents appreciate what she's done, Driver-Downs thinks the children will take a little longer to understand what they were given.

"I think if you talk to these kids in 10, 15 years, they're going to really be thankful for what she did," she said of Cooper. "I really think the kids take these lessons to heart."

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FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 9

Friends of the Library Book Sale.

10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. All ages. 703-339-4610.

SUNDAY/OCT. 10

44th Annual Clifton Day Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the town of Clifton. Crafts vendors with jewelry, furniture, fine arts, antiques and more. Live music and dance, pony rides, facepainting, Civil War reenactors, carnival games and rides and more. Oktoberfest area with beer and bratwurst. Free admission. www.cliftonday.com or 703-968-0740.

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

Meet the Artist Reception. 1-4 p.m. at Loft Gallery, 313 Mill St., Occoquan. "Seasons Change", original paintings by Jewell Pratt Burns. Gallery open Monday- Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 12-5 p.m. 703-573-0669.

CALENDAR

Marcolivia. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The violin and violin/viola duo of Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff. Tickets \$10-\$25. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 12

Mother-Daughter Book Club. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book discussion group for girls and their moms. Diary of Ma Yan. Age 9-11. 703-249-1520.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 6:45 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Post-American World by Fareed Zakaria. The Help by Kathryn Stockett. secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com. 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.

Finding Your Fit on the Roller Coaster of College Admissions. 7:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Author and educational consultant Julia Ross will teach students and parents how to identify the colleges best able to meet individual academic, social, athletic and financial needs. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 13

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

Early Literacy Storytime for Parent and Preschooler. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Storytime focusing on one of the six pre-reading skills and how to help preschoolers prepare for kindergarten. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

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

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Swan Peak by James Lee Burke. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA.) Cosponsored by KNCAA. 703-339-4610.

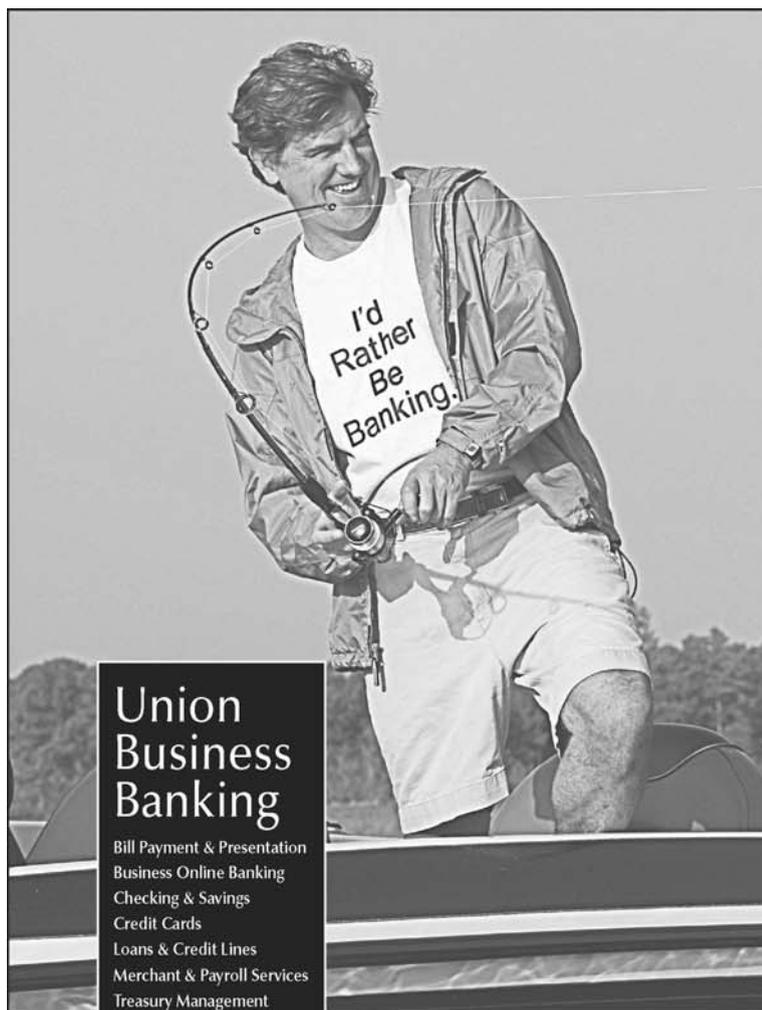
Hola! 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-339-7385.

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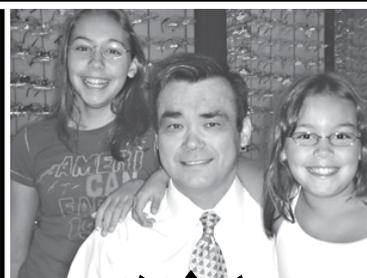
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Velasquez, Petrocci Lift Rams over Bruins

Duo's toughness, savvy play too much for Lake Braddock.

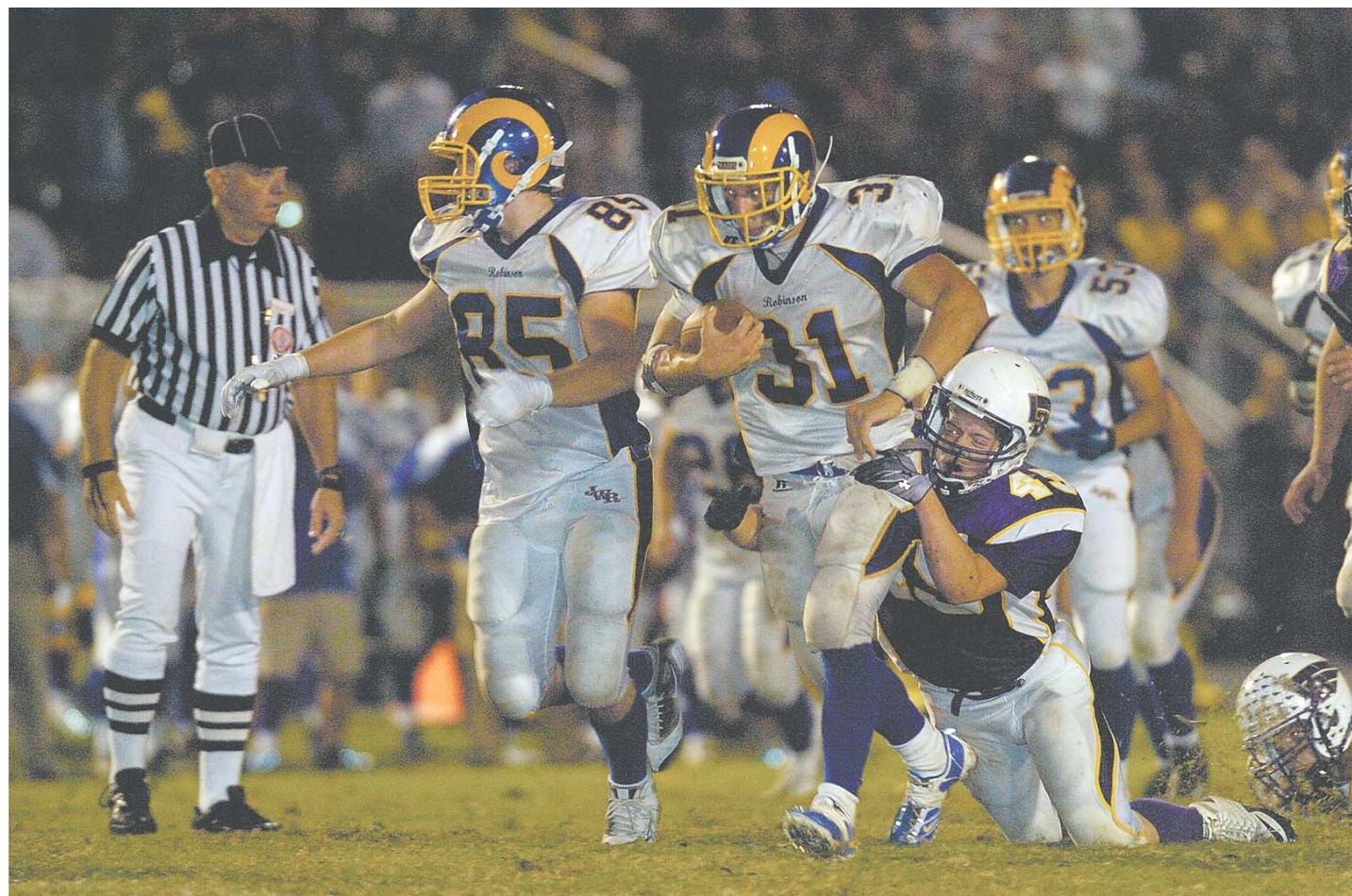
By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior Jared Velasquez took a pounding during the first half of the Rams' Oct. 1 contest at Lake Braddock, grinding out yards against a Bruins defense that likely knew the standout running back was getting the ball. Lake Braddock held Robinson scoreless in the early going, but the Rams' wing-T offense established it would not be deterred from its hard-nosed approach.

During the opening drive of the second half, Velasquez continued plowing ahead. Ten times the Rams' workhorse carried the ball as Robinson methodically moved the ball down the field, only one of which went for more than six yards. On the 16th play of Robinson's 80-yard drive, which chewed nearly nine minutes off the clock, Velasquez fought through a Lake Braddock tackler and into the end zone for the game-tying touchdown.

Despite carrying the Rams' offense on his

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 13



Robinson running back Jared Velasquez drags Lake Braddock's Will Baskin during the Rams' 10-7 win on Oct. 1. Velasquez rushed for 137 yards and a touchdown in 34 carries.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Bruins-Rams Rivalry Extends Beyond Playing Field

Fans get pumped up for rivalry football games.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The crack of helmets and shoulder pads colliding wasn't the only sound produced by the rivalry football game between traditional Northern Region powers Robinson and Lake Braddock on Oct. 1. Outside of the playing field at Lake Braddock Secondary School, past the visitors' sideline and the Rams cheerleaders was a group of Robinson students referred to as the "Drumline."

Using drumsticks to pound on plastic buckets and metal bowls, the students, some sporting body paint and creative clothing, helped pump up a Robinson crowd clad in blue and gold.

Senior Lucas Coplon took an hour to get ready for the game. Dressed in a "Destroy the Bruins" T-shirt, blue shorts, gold tights and his upper body covered in blue paint, Coplon helped set up pregame tailgating festivities before pounding away on his bucket.

"Getting dressed was the hardest part," Coplon said. "Leggings for guys just don't



The Robinson 'Drumline,' from left, back row, Andy DeBoard, Lucas Coplon and Charlotte Owens; front row, Megan Bush, Brian Phillips and Tori Baker.

work."

Joining Coplon in the Drumline were Brian Phillips, Megan Bush, Tori Baker, Andy DeBoard and Charlotte Owens. Meanwhile, the Robinson crowd heckled two of Lake Braddock's prominent players. Rams fans held up an enlarged photo of all-state quarterback Michael Nebrich with a red "X" through it, and playfully taunted Bruins

receiver Matt Zanellato, who transferred to Lake Braddock from Robinson prior to the 2010 season.

"It's a great atmosphere," Coplon said. "I love it out here. The rivalry is really good. The tension is really great. It brings a lot of people out here. Everyone is just looking for a good result."

Robinson fans got their wish.

"You could feel the atmosphere coming from both stands."

— Robinson running back Jared Velasquez about playing Lake Braddock

Last season, Lake Braddock defeated Robinson by 31 points in the region semifinals on its way to the Virginia AAA Division 6 state title game. On this night, the Rams got revenge, defeating the Bruins 10-7. Robinson senior cornerback Thomas Petrocci, who intercepted two Nebrich passes, said he enjoyed the rivalry experience.

"It's crazy, but it's definitely a lot of fun to play in an environment like this," Petrocci said. "We knew this was how it was going to be. We prepared for it and we came out and played."

Robinson senior running back Jared Velasquez scored the game-tying touchdown in the third quarter and was the team's workhorse, carrying 34 times for 137 yards during a physical contest.

"You could feel the atmosphere coming from both stands," Velasquez said. "It's something as a little boy you dream of playing in."

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

SPORTS

South County Enjoys Winning Streak

Senior threesome leads team.

Not getting too far ahead of itself and concentrating on the task at hand have been key factors to the success of the South County Secondary School girls' field hockey team's success this season.

The Stallions, following a 2-1 Patriot District home win over West Springfield this past Monday night, Aug. 4, held an impressive 8-3 overall record and a 2-1 mark in district play.

"Yes, we are doing well," said Leah Conte, South County's head coach. "I attribute the success of our team to the work ethic of my girls and their ability to take one game at a time."

The Stallions have received solid leadership from seniors Maddy Tettelbach (forward), Erica Binzer (defense) and Patty Rafferty (forward/midfield).

"They have all been significant contributors to our success," said Conte, of the trio.

South County, currently on a four-game win streak, began the fall season in strong fashion by taking three out of four games at the Aug. 27-29 Westfield High Bulldog Tournament. There, the Stallions won games over Hayfield, 2-0, Washington-Lee, 6-1, and Langley, 1-0, before losing its fourth and final tournament game to the host Westfield team, 3-2.

South County then lost two of its next three games by 2-0 scores, home game defeats at the hands of both Chantilly and Lake Braddock. In between those two contests,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County was scheduled to play a talented Woodson team (white jerseys) earlier this week. Both the Stallions (8-3) and Cavaliers (8-4-1) had winning records going into the game.

South County was victorious in a second meeting against Langley, 2-0, in a road game in Great Falls on Sept. 2.

Since the setback to Lake Braddock on Sept. 13, the Stallions have beaten Oakton, 2-1, McLean, 4-1, Lee, 1-0, and, earlier this

week, the Spartans of West Springfield. The wins over Oakton and Lee came on the road.

South County was scheduled to play at W.T. Woodson on Wednesday, Oct. 6 of this week, and then will play another road contest Friday night, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. versus

Annandale. Following this week's action, the South County team will have three more home games remaining on its schedule before beginning play in the district tournament on Oct. 18.

— RICH SANDERS

Robinson Duo Too Much for L. Braddock

FROM PAGE 12

back for nearly three quarters, Velasquez still had plenty of gas left in his tank. His helmet, however, could take no more punishment.

A collision with a Bruin defender bent Velasquez's face mask upward during the touchdown run, forcing the senior to find a new helmet. He finished the game wearing teammate Tristian Crenshaw's helmet and eventually Robinson finished off Lake Braddock, 10-7.

"As I hit the guy, my straps snapped, my face mask bent and then I just spun off and scored a touchdown," Velasquez said. "Coming off to the sideline, I noticed my face mask was bent and I had to get a new helmet real quick."

Robinson took the lead for good on its ensuing possession when Garrick LaBriola connected on a 32-yard field goal. From there, Velasquez continued to get the ball as the Rams offense bled the clock and allowed their defense to make plays. He fin-

ished the game with 137 yards and a touchdown in 34 carries.

For the season, he's rushed for 574 yards and 12 scores in 96 attempts. Velasquez is the team's leading receiver with 117 yards and a touchdown. The third-year starter also returns kicks and plays defense.

"He's such a competitor; he's kind of a quiet leader," Robinson head coach Mark Bendorf said. "The [offensive linemen] were doing their job, too, because I suspect on the other side of the ball, they knew [No.] 31 was going to get the ball. That put even more of an onus on us up front to execute. I trust [Velasquez], I trust all of my guys, but you're talking about a guy with 1,309 yards last year, so he comes in with a pretty good pedigree."

The victory helped Robinson avenge last season's 31-point loss to Lake Braddock in the regional semifinals. Fans of both teams packed the stands for what proved to be an emotional and physical contest.

"You could feel the atmosphere coming from both stands," Velasquez said. "It's

something as a little boy you dream of playing in."

SENIOR CORNERBACK Thomas Petrocci grew accustomed to covering Matt Zanellato in practice when the two were teammates at Robinson. But prior to the 2010 season, the 6-foot-4, 200-pound Zanellato transferred to Lake Braddock, moving from the Rams' ground-oriented offense to the Bruins' spread attack, led by Division I quarterback Michael Nebrich.

When the two schools met on Friday, it was the 5-foot-9, 170-pound Petrocci who drew the assignment of covering the former Rams wideout.

"I've been playing against him for two years when he was at Robinson," Petrocci said. "I was nervous and all because I knew he was a good receiver."

If Petrocci doubted himself before the game, his performance against Lake Braddock should give him a confidence boost for the remainder of the season.

Petrocci intercepted two Nebrich passes,

the first of which set up the game-winning field goal, and helped limit Zanellato to two receptions for 51 yards during the Rams' victory.

Petrocci's first interception came in the third quarter when he stepped in front of Zanellato and returned the pick 16 yards to the Lake Braddock 34-yard line. The second interception came late in the fourth quarter, when No. 22 made a diving catch in front of the Robinson sideline.

"I liked being the one chosen to cover Matt Zanellato," Petrocci said. "I took that like an honor and I just followed through with it."

Bendorf spoke highly of the three-year starter.

"He's taken the time to learn his trade and he's very savvy," the coach said. "He's hard to fool on double moves and things like that. What he lacks in height or speed, he makes up for in intelligence and know how."

Robinson (4-1 overall, 1-0 Concorde District) will host Chantilly at on Friday, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

Improved Bruins Feel Like a Contender

Lake Braddock volleyball team is ranked No. 10 in the region.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Catherine Jamshidi gave the Lake Braddock volleyball team an early lead with back-to-back kills in the first game of an Oct. 4 home match against West Potomac. Moments later, the junior showed off her serving talents with an ace.

It doesn't take long for onlookers to realize Lake Braddock is loaded with size — six players listed at 5-feet-10 or taller — and athleticism. The Bruins have several imposing players who can consistently put away kills. On this night, it was Jamshidi who led Lake Braddock with eight kills during a 3-0 (25-15, 25-11, 25-18) victory. While the middle blocker shined against the Wolverines, it's been the maturation of multiple Bruins that's elevated expectations around the program.

Erin Clark took over as head coach in 2007 with her husband, Mike Clark, as an assistant. For three seasons, the Bruins were mediocre at best, and in 2008 the team won only three matches. But after taking their

lumps, the 2010 team has the look of a contender. The win over West Potomac improved Lake Braddock's record to 9-3, including 1-1 in the Patriot District. Each of the Bruins' losses was a five-set match against a team ranked in the top 10 or receiving votes in the Northern Region Volleyball Coaches Association top-10 poll (Hayfield, Woodson, Robinson). Lake Braddock won the Richmond Invitational, the Oakton Invitational and is ranked No. 10 in the region.

"We kind of feel like our program has arrived," said Mike Clark, who took over head coaching duties while Erin Clark took a year off from her teaching job to focus on the couple's newborn son. "We've always been a team that's just been trying to be near the top of the bottom feeders. Now we're fighting with the top of the big dogs. We're trying to fight with South County and Robinson and those teams. It's a challenge for us, but we've just stepped it up so much that it's been a good experience."

The 6-foot Jamshidi set the tone early against West Potomac with five kills in game one.

"She's just a fiery athlete," Mike Clark said. "She gets in there and makes big plays. She's a little bit younger, so she's not quite as consistent, but she's such a good athlete that she really makes some outstanding plays and really gives us that "wow" factor every now and then."

Jamshidi said the Bruins communicate well.

"After every set we try to tell each other what to do better," she said. "It's a lot better [this season]. We're working better as a team."

Senior middle blocker Logan Russell (6-0) finished with seven kills against West Potomac. Russell was named MVP of the Oakton Invitational.

"Logan is one of the most under-appreciated players in this area," Clark said. "She plays middle blocker, which is a really important position. The team can really play defense around her, but you don't [notice her impact]. She sets a really nice block for us and it allows our defense to make plays more easily."

"She also is really, really smart. She has a really good volleyball IQ, so she makes really smart volleyball plays when we need

them. She tips really well, she hits well, she's just a very solid all-around player that's very unassuming."

Senior outside hitter Tara Fialkow (5-9) is also a key contributor.

"She's just an all-around-scrappy, gets-after-the-ball, gets-on-the-floor, does-everything-for-you kind of girl," Clark said.

Lake Braddock's youngest player, sophomore Kyra Rodi, might have the brightest future.

Rodi is in her first season playing setter in Lake Braddock's 6-2 offense. Formerly a middle blocker, the 6-foot Rodi sets from the back row but is able to use her hitting skills at the net. She recorded seven kills against West Potomac.

"We're really having her do something that's out of her general nature," Clark said. "She's that good that she can still look like she's really a good player even though we're asking her to do something that she's just kind of coming in to." Lake Braddock will travel to face Washington-Lee on Oct. 12, at 7:15 p.m. The Bruins return to district competition on Oct. 14 against South County, ranked No. 2 in the region.

"We kind of feel like our program has arrived."

— Lake Braddock head volleyball coach Mike Clark

FAITH NOTES

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com or 703-273-5369.

Interfaith Discussion Group at New World Unity Church, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite A-209, Springfield. 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays through Nov. 17. People of all faiths for are invited for an interfaith discussion of "Spiritual Liberation: Fulfilling Your Souls Potential" by Michael Bernard Beckwith. 703-913-8560 or newworldunity@verizon.net.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, presents a sermon series entitled "Life in the Fast Lane: Slow Down for Relationships." Explore everyday relationships through the Biblical story of Joseph and his family (Genesis: 37-50). 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.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Springfield, will present a free talk entitled "Beyond the Sixth Sense" on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 2 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Hear how developing a spiritual sense is the basis of all of healing. 703-866-4325.

The Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive in Fairfax, will celebrate its 119th Anniversary with a nightly Revival, Oct. 13-15, at 7:30 p.m., and a Zion Day Celebration service on Oct. 17, 9:45 a.m. The public is invited to join us for these services of

praise and thanksgiving. 793-764-9111.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road in Annandale, Bible Study Fellowship will study of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The Day Women's Class meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and offers a children's program for ages 6 weeks-6 years. rdmarotto@cox.net.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road in Springfield, will host a Parenting Workshop 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. Dr. Rene Hackney of Parenting Playgroups will discuss children and stress. The free workshop meets in the church fellowship hall and is open to the public. Register at 703-644-6384.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road in Alexandria, has several upcoming events. Contact 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

❖ **Volunteer for Phoenix Rising Meal Program.** Help prepare meals for the homeless Thursday, Oct. 21, at 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags Friday, Oct. 22, at 5:30 p.m.

❖ **Pie & Ice Cream Extravaganza.** Saturday, Oct. 9, 12-2 p.m. Enjoy free pie and ice cream for kids of all ages.

❖ **Fall Festival.** Saturday, Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m. Children (with adults) can come in their costumes for games, prizes, crafts, and food. Free.

❖ **Volunteer for Phoenix Rising Meal Program.** Help prepare meals for the homeless Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags Friday, Nov. 26, 5:30 p.m.

❖ **Volunteer for Phoenix Rising Meal Program.** Help prepare meals for the homeless on Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags on Dec 24.

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Season's Worth of Art

Workhouse Arts Centers offers cultural exhibits throughout the fall season.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Fall at the Workhouse Arts Center means the open houses and art walks that are part of the center's normal schedule, but this year it also means a time to explore the cultures of Central and Southern America and Eastern Asia.

From Oct. 13 through Nov. 21, the Workhouse Gallery will showcase a style of brush painting developed in China and popular through Japan and Korea known as Sumi-e. Members of the Sumi-E Society of America, Inc., from across the country will be exhibiting their paintings and calligraphy, said Marti Kirkpatrick, an exhibition coordinator at the Workhouse.

"Sumi-e is considered Japanese although it is very similar to Chinese brush painting," she explained. "Sumi-e Society member artists use a variety of styles, from representational to abstract and from purely oriental to a combination of Western and East Asian."

Nearly all Asian brush painters use the same kind of tools, she said, including brush, ink, ink stone and paper, and their techniques are also very similar.

"The ink is not ink at all, but consists of a formula of soot and glue made into a stick by a special process," Kirkpatrick said. "This in turn is rubbed in water on an ink stone and forms what is called black ink, or 'sumi' in Japanese."

"It is almost possible to feel the wind, hear the crickets and taste the salt air."

— Marti Kirkpatrick, exhibit coordinator for the Sumi-e

Color may be added later, and colors come from various ground materials like jade, white pearl, malachite and other pigments like rattan yellow and indigo.

"Sumi-e artists must learn to use ink freely with a controlled brush stroke, creating what appear at first as lovely paintings inspired by, without imitating or realistically copying, nature," Kirkpatrick said. "On closer observation, the complexity and power of these 'simple line' paintings touches on all of one's senses. It is almost possible to feel the wind, hear the crickets and taste the salt air."

The exhibit will be sizeable, featuring 77 juried artists and six invited artists from the U.S. and one from Hong Kong.

Bringing the exhibit to the Workhouse made sense, Kirkpatrick said, because the arts center is "committed to offering the public a wide range of visual art exhibitions covering all the varied media and styles being explored by artists today."

The opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16 from 5-7 p.m. on the second floor of the gallery in building 16. That weekend, local Ikebana artists will display 10 Ikebana arrange-

ments inspired by certain works in the exhibit, Kirkpatrick said.

The following weekend, Oct. 22-24, the Workhouse will shift focus and look to the countries of Central and South America with the Latin Expressions festival.

There will be four short films, two from Bolivia and one from Chile scheduled so far, shown Friday night, said Joey Wallen, coordinator for the event.



SEE AUTUMN, PAGE 16



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Melissa Villarivera and her daughter Sophia came from Baltimore to enjoy the KidsFest with sister Christel Villarivera, who lives in Centreville. Here they are stuffing jeans to make a scarecrow.



Children of all ages enjoy riding the 'trackless' train around the grounds of the Government Center.

Thousands Kick Off Autumn at Fall for Fairfax

The fall season was kicked-off in style last weekend at the Celebrate Fairfax's Fall for Fairfax KidsFest at the Fairfax Government Center. Pumpkin painting, scarecrow stuffing, rides, music and entertainment, informational booths and

fun activities for children was the rule for the day. Thousands came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and the fun activities.

— DEB COBB

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FALL FUN

Autumn Is for Artists

FROM PAGE 15

“We’ll have a reception with food and drink from countries the films represent,” he said.

On Saturday, vendors will sell food and beverage from Mexico, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Columbia, Argentina and others. Bands and dancers from those countries will provide entertainment, Wallen said.

When the planning for this year’s event started, it was going to be a festival of Bolivian culture, Wallen said. However, the Workhouse soon decided to extend the invitation for performers to more countries, and “once we branched out and reach out to some cultural attaches, more and more countries were interested.”

Most of the events Saturday are free to the public for families to “come and enjoy,” he said. There will also be a fashion show, mostly featuring Bolivian costumes, which will also be on stage Saturday afternoon.

Sunday will feature more bands, this time from Guatemala, Bolivia, Columbia and El Salvador, more dancing and more food, Wallen said.

“We’ve done a couple events like this in the past, like a Bollywood-themed movie night last November and a Hawaiian themed night in June,” he said.

But that’s not the only thing Wallen has up his sleeve for the next few months.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, the Virginia Storytelling Alliance will once again have a full day of workshops for professional and amateur storytellers.

From 10 a.m.-4: 15 p.m., professional storytellers

will lead a series of three workshops, leading novices through the art of telling tales both fiction and nonfiction, Wallen said. The workshops are \$25 each and will walk participants through different aspects of storytelling, including stories in and from Spanish-language cultures; adding suspense into stories and the basics of telling stories in a crowd.

This is the second year VASA has chosen the Workhouse for their event, which will conclude with a storytelling concert in which professional storytellers will take the stage, followed by anyone brave enough to try out their own skills.

“Last year, a few people wanted to come up and try telling a story, so we put their names in a hat and pulled them out in order,” Wallen said. “Even though they had never told a story in front of people before, the professionals were telling them how great they did while offering a few pointers.”

Tickets for the concert Saturday night are \$10 each, but if someone wanted to participate in the workshops and then stay for the concert, the Workhouse is offering an \$80 ticket for the whole day, Wallen said, but that must be purchased by mail, over the phone, or in person at the Workhouse.

Check Their Calendar

For a full list of events at the Workhouse Arts Center, go to www.workhousearts.org.

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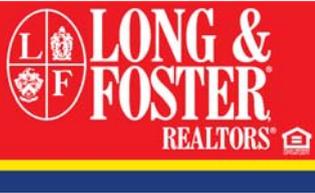


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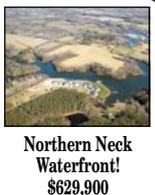
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