

Burke CONNECTION

Positive Action

NEWS, PAGE 3

Students at Lake Braddock Secondary School work on folding 1,000 paper cranes for peace.

Little Recourse In Recount

NEWS, PAGE 3

DECA: Down To Business

NEWS, PAGE 4



SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 20

PHOTO BY GINA URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

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THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

Continuing the Tradition...

Friday, Dec. 3 – Saturday, Dec. 4

A Christmas Marketplace

Friday, Dec. 3 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Taste of Scotland

Friday, Dec. 3 from 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Scottish Walk Parade

Saturday, Dec. 4th at 11:00 a.m.

Designer Tour of Homes

Saturday, Dec. 4th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

More Activities

Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea



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The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services.

For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center's efforts, please visit www.campagnacenter.org or call (703) 549-0111.

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 549-0111.

Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

BULLETIN

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/NOV. 11

Life and Job Readiness Skills for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome. 6 p.m. at JSSA, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. For ages 19-30. Brief assessment required. Thursdays through Dec. 16. Register at 703-204-9100.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Stop Hunger Now Event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Terra Centre Elementary School, 6000 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. The goal is to package 60,000 meals at a cost of 25 cents each. Approximately 250 volunteers will be needed. Sponsored by Knollwood Community Church in Burke. www.stophungernow.org.

Our Daily Bread Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to the Safeway at 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax. The food drives will be held Saturdays through Dec. 11, and will benefit several Fairfax-based organizations and congregations. Donors who bring five non-perishable items or a grocery gift card will receive a coupon for a free McCafé beverage. www.our-daily-bread.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 15

Fairfax County Adult Education: Fixing Up and Staging Your House to Sell. 7 p.m. at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Find out which projects appeal to homebuyers, which you can do yourself, and when to leave it to professionals. Taught by a home improvement contractor and real estate agent. aceclasses.fcps.edu.

TUESDAY/NOV. 16

Fairfax County Korean Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7:30-8:30 p.m. For Korean-speaking caregivers of older adults. Contact Kristine Choe at 703-324-5847, TTY 711 or

Kristine.Choefairfaxcounty.gov to register. Registration is required to access the telephone support line. Find more Fairfax County caregiver events at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/events.htm.

Rotary Club of Burke. 7:30 a.m. at Brion's Restaurant, University Mall at the corner of Braddock Road and Route 123. With Jeff Brown, energy economist and project developer with over 30 years experience in the energy industry, on Today's Energy Issues. 703 786-5528 or rdicalogero@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 17

Future of Fairfax Forum. 5 p.m. Capital One Auditorium, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean. Forum with Chairman Sharon Bulova and national experts discussing county plans, the changing market, urban design, and transportation solutions for Fairfax County. www.smartergrowth.net.

George Mason Republican Women Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Army Navy Country Club-Fairfax, 3315 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. With Fairfax County Republican Committee Chairman Anthony Bedell. 703-281-4655.

Reclaiming Your Financial Future. 7 p.m. Investment & Resource Planning Associates, Inc., 4400 Fair Lakes Court, Suite 70, Fairfax. Register at 703-281-2657 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

No Room For Florida-Style Recounts

Virginia candidates challenging election results have fewer recourses.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

A steady line of voters waited to vote from the time the polling station opened at Orange Hunt Elementary School in Springfield on Election Day.

More people showed up to vote in the off-year election than Fairfax County had expected, but Orange Hunt voters may also have been delayed because one of the electronic voting machines with a touch screen froze at least once during its 12-hours of operation.

Poll workers eventually had to turn the machine off and restart it again, according to Manuel Pablo, an election official overseeing the Orange Hunt polling station.

"It retained its memory," said Pablo, who was confident no votes were lost when the machine malfunctioned.

Still, Orange Hunt was not the only precinct to experience problems with voting machines last week.

After the polls closed, election workers at two different Lorton precincts were unable to get electronic voter machines to report vote tallies. Results from those precincts — Lorton and Laurel Hill — were not reported until the day after the election,



Citizens wait to use an electronic voting machine at Orange Hunt Elementary School Nov. 2.

when staff members at the Fairfax County Government Center restarted the machines and were able to retrieve the results.

"We are not sure what happened at the precinct that they couldn't get them print. They printed just fine here. But you have to remember that our poll workers are doing this at the end of a 20-hour day," said Edgardo Cortes, the Fairfax County's General Registrar.

Cortes said there are back up systems in place to ensure that all votes get recorded.

If staff was unable to get the vote count to print, they could physically open up the machine and count the images of individual votes that are stored inside, he said.

"I think the equipment has proven the processes that are there to get results, to catch the problems and to get the results have worked," said Cortes.

Still, machine irregularities have some experts worried.

"There has never been any proof that they don't lose votes when they crash. We don't

"You are basically asking the machine to report on itself."

— Jeremy Epstein,
Virginia Verified Voting

really know if they are losing votes or not," said Jeremy Epstein, a computer scientist who works on building more secure voting systems professionally.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) beat Republican challenger Keith Fimian by 981 votes, less than half a percentage point, in the district that includes parts of Fairfax and Prince William counties. If Fimian had picked up just six more votes per precinct, the Republican would have won the election.

But Fimian was confident enough in the results to concede on Tuesday, congratulating Connolly on his win.

Virginia law entitles Fimian to an automatic recount paid for by the commonwealth, since the margin of error between him and Connolly is under one half of a percent. But Fimian, an Oakton businessman, announced on Tuesday, Nov. 9 that he did not intend to pursue that option.

"While we believe there are a small number of ballots containing votes that have not been counted, we are confident ... that it is not enough to change the outcome of the contest," wrote Fimian in conceding.

The Connolly-Fimian race was only the

SEE NO RECOUNT, PAGE 18

Lake Braddock Students Learn How To Give Back

Teens brainstorm on how to address worldwide problems from home.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Elisabeth Clymer first started researching malaria prevention for an eighth-grade civics class, she wasn't too excited about the topic.

"I actually hated the project at first. I just wanted to get it done, get an A and forget about it," said Clymer, now a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

But while gathering material, she stumbled upon a statistic that dramatically changed her life. Every 30 seconds, one child in the world dies from malaria.

"The definition of a child they use is 5 and under," said Clymer, who lives in Burke. "When I read that, well, just nothing has ever affected me like that before."

With that malaria statistic in mind, the high school student threw herself into the

class assignment and started to look for opportunities outside of school to raise awareness about malaria prevention.

Clymer approached her youth group at Messiah United Methodist Church in Springfield about raising money to send mosquito nets to sub-Saharan Africa. The group, called the SWAT team, now does Salvation collections to purchase nets on a monthly basis.

Members of Messiah United Methodist Church also regularly donate their spare change to a "Nickels for Nets" effort, said Clymer.

The student also put together a swim-a-thon with her local swim team, which raised \$5,000 for malaria prevention last summer. This coming year, she is hoping to get multiple clubs in the Northern Virginia Swim League to participate in the event.

SEE EARTH, PAGE 6



Emilee Bondo and Camille Lynch participate in Avatar face painting at the First Annual Lake Braddock Earth Citizen Festival on Friday, Nov. 5. The Earth Citizen Movement seeks 100 million members to each donate one dollar a month to help with global issues and works with the Millennium Development Goals set forth by the United Nations.

Young Professionals Flaunt Job Skills

Lake Braddock hosts 800-plus DECA students at District Competition.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

At first glance, they looked like any group of young professionals reaching for that high-profile corporate job.

Poised and polished, the job candidates in the room adjusted ties, studied interview notes and compared marketing strategies before their names were called for interviews with corporate and marketing VPs.

"Here I go," said one young man when his name was called, giving the thumbs-up to his colleagues. He was interviewing to be a marketing executive for a sports entertainment company.

On closer examination, though, these young professionals were, well, very young.

They were high school students, and their "job interviews" were role-playing exercises for Fairfax County Public Schools District DECA Competition, which took place Nov. 1 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The four-hour event was one of the largest district competitions in the state, drawing more than 800 DECA students from all parts of Fairfax County who competed in the hopes of moving on to the state competition. Students will know who moves on to the state level on Nov. 15.

"DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe," said Amy Granahan, FCPS' marketing coordinator, who oversees the district event.

She said that the goal of DECA is to help marketing students prepare for careers in



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Emily Burns, Alissa Diaz, teacher Mel Morgan, Ryan Charchian, Katie Coulter, Karen Wu and Jenny Wallace hold fellow DECA student Ashleigh Beben after working all morning to help with Lake Braddock's district DECA competition. All of these Lake Braddock juniors and seniors have competed at the state level in previous DECA competitions.

marketing, management and entrepreneurship, as well as increase awareness of civic obligations and help students develop poise and leadership skills.

In 2009-10, DECA provided more than 20 different marketing courses to 33,000 students in 200 Virginia high schools, according to the Virginia DECA Foundation. The Fairfax County district is the largest in the state.

"DECA classes help high school marketing students be successful in whatever they choose to do, whether it's college or going right in to the workforce," Granahan said.

"It was amazing to see them at the dis-

trict competition. They were dressed professionally, and moving with confidence through a variety of real-world situations."

Granahan said DECA gives students the opportunity to display what business leaders want in employees: confidence, marketing savvy and the ability to communicate, present ideas and think creatively.

"I had a student who came back to judge this year's competition, and he's now a very successful businessman. He told me that his experience in DECA was what got him started in his career. That is very satisfying as a teacher to know the impact a program like this can have," she said.

"It was amazing to see them at the district competition."

— Amy Granahan, FCPS' marketing coordinator

Granahan, who taught marketing at Oakton High School before becoming the FCPS' marketing coordinator in 2005, said she is responsible for working with the district's marketing teachers on developing the various marketing curriculums.

In addition to the students who were role-playing, the event included about 100 judges, many former DECA students and teachers, who conducted one-on-one interviews with individual students in a role-playing situation. The role-playing interviews were just one-third of the students' scores. They also had to pass a marketing exam, complete a second role-playing interview, and, in some cases, write lengthy marketing analyses.

Sandra Moss, whose daughter teaches marketing at Annandale High School, said this was her fourth year as a judge. "I'm always impressed by how knowledgeable, articulate and upbeat they are. I had one student a few years ago who kept coming back to tell me more of his business plan ideas. These kids are serious about making it," she said.

Mel Morgan, Lake Braddock's sports entertainment marketing teacher, said that more college-bound students are taking DECA classes because of the explosion of marketing jobs in the past 20 years.

"This is a challenging program," Morgan said. "These kids develop analytical skills, persuasive writing skills and it is beneficial to them for whatever career they are looking at." Morgan himself competed as a finalist at the 1989 DECA National Competi-

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Junior Jeff Strausser of Hayfield Secondary School presents his case to the 'CEO' on how to market the Venus Motors Emerald a Green Hybrid.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Students sit in cubicles to give their presentations to a host of volunteers

NEWS

Business

FROM PAGE 4

tion in food marketing.

PART OF DECA'S appeal to students is the internship component that allows juniors and seniors to work in a marketing-based job as an extension of their classroom instruction. Students receive additional credit for their work outside the classroom.

Julie Pickering, Herndon High School's fashion marketing teacher, launched a new class called Entrepreneurship this fall which allows her students to get hands-on experience by working one day at week at Plato's Closet, a fashion resale store in Chantilly and Sterling targeting tweens, teens and 20-somethings.

Pickering said Herndon had eight students participating in the district completion, while some schools had up to 65 students competing.

Pickering's students competed in a variety of areas, including Apparel and Accessories, Marketing Management, Automotive and Petroleum, Retail Merchandising and Sports and Entertainment Marketing.

"I think the competition went very well. It always amazes me how many students compete. ... I have been involved with this event since I was in high school, Pickering said.

"For the most part, students learn more from doing, and that's why DECA is so great, because it gives them that hands-on opportunity," Pickering said.

Cook To Host Town Hall Meeting

Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock) is hosting a Town Hall meeting on Monday, Nov. 15 on the topic "Engaging People with Disabilities." Taking part in the Town Hall meeting at the Kings Park Library are Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle of the Arc of Northern Virginia, Donna Goldbranson of Specially Adapted Resource Centers (SPARC) and an expert on disability technologies. Cook will be joined by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who will begin the evening with opening remarks. A pre-meeting reception will take place at 7 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. The Kings Park Library is located at 9000 Burke Lake Road in Burke.

The Picket Fence



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NEWS



PHOTO BY GINA URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

Cheick Kamala Diabante, a 2008 Grammy award winning musician, is also a Griot, a West African historian, responsible for carrying the traditions of the Malian Empire through music.

Earth Citizen Summit at L.B.

FROM PAGE 3

“One net only costs about \$10,” she said, who now works with Nothing But Nets, a program sponsored by the United Nations. “I have been involved in raising about \$20,000.”

Clymer’s former civics teacher Jane Gordon hopes to inspire other students to become pro-active about solving the world problems.

“I want the children to see it as something that is

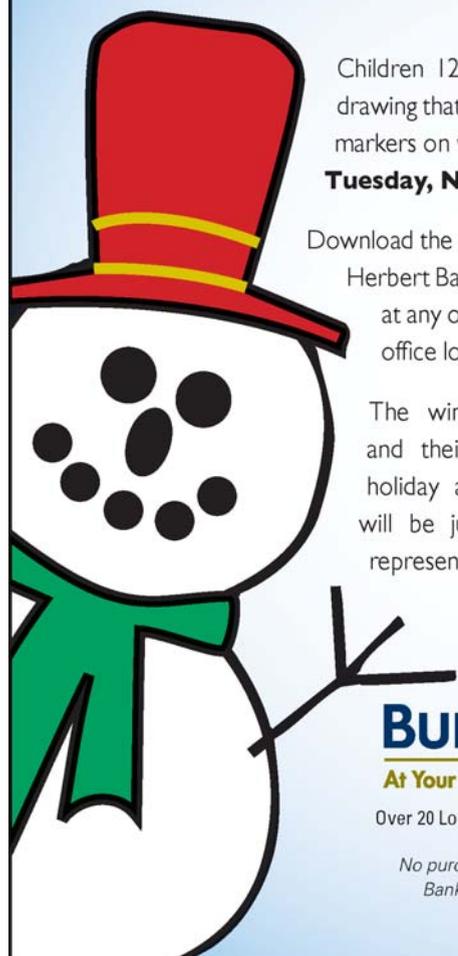
much bigger than a requirement for class. I want them to be empowered by the fact that they can do something,” said Gordon.

The teacher sponsored an Earth Citizen Summit on Friday, Nov. 6, at which her students were encouraged to come up with a community service project related to one of the United Nations eight areas of focus.

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 7

Announcing Burke & Herbert Bank’s Fourth Annual

Kids’ Holiday Art Contest!



Children 12 years old and younger should submit an original illustrated drawing that shows “Holiday Fun” using crayons, colored pencils or colored markers on white 8½” x 11” paper. **Artwork submission deadline is Tuesday, November 30, 2010.**

Download the entry form from our web site, or pick one up at any of Burke & Herbert Bank’s 20+ banking offices. Artwork must be submitted in person at any of these locations. To download the entry form and rules, or for office locations, visit burkeandherbertbank.com.

The winner will receive a \$100 U.S. Series EE Savings Bond and their artwork will be featured in Burke & Herbert Bank’s holiday advertisement in community papers in December. Works will be judged by Burke & Herbert Bank team members and a representative of The Art League.

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PHOTO BY CINA URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

Guy Djoken, executive director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Center for Peace visits students at the First Annual Lake Braddock Earth Citizen Festival. He is shown here with Lake Braddock Civics teacher Jane Gordon, and students Morgan Cobban, Samantha Lek, Zelgai Saleh, Azamat Murphy and Abdullah Samad.

Students Take Action

FROM PAGE 6

According to Gordon, the United Nations' areas of focus include universal education, gender equality, child health, maternal health, environmental sustainability, HIV/AIDS and global partnership.

"They are going to come up with what they want to do and then we will work on a timeline," said Gordon.

During the session, students proposed collecting supplies for children who live in local homeless shelters. They also suggested growing new trees to plant in the community.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR Hayden Smith said events like the Earth Citizen Summit are inspiring for students, who may feel passionate about a cause but are unsure of how to get involved.

"This is a place where kids can get plugged in for the first time. It is worth repeating that kids aren't as apathetic as they are made out to be," said Smith, who started a chapter of Students for a Democrat Society at Lake Braddock this year.

"If you treat kids and teenagers with respect, it will blow you away what they can do," said Smith, a Springfield resident who helped moderated a discussion for younger students on "universal education."

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The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

■ Great for Teenagers

The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But **KNOWING** you're getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can't feel the needle--especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become **afraid of the dentist**, so they don't grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Robinson Stages 'Summer Brave'

Play is final version
of 'Picnic.'

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With a cast and crew of 40, Robinson Secondary School presents "Summer Brave." It's the final, rewritten and definitive version of William Inge's play "Picnic."

"Some new characters have been added, and the story's had some tweaking," said Director Chip Rome. "But essentially, it's the same as the Pulitzer Prize-winning play." It's also Robinson's Cappies entry.

"You just fall in love with the characters."

— Jason Rath, portraying Alan Seymour

"We've done musicals, the past couple years, and we figure every show we do should be Cappies-worthy," said Rome.

Show times are Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18, 19 and 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, and all seats will be reserved. Purchase tickets at www.robinsondrama.org.

The story takes place in a small town in Kansas, mainly on Labor Day 1953. "A young, rebel-without-a-cause show up and wreaks havoc on the home of a widow and her teenage daughters, one beautiful and one brainy," said Rome. "Mom spots him as a ne'er-do-well, right away, but everyone else is taken in by his charm."

In a subplot, a boarder who lives with the

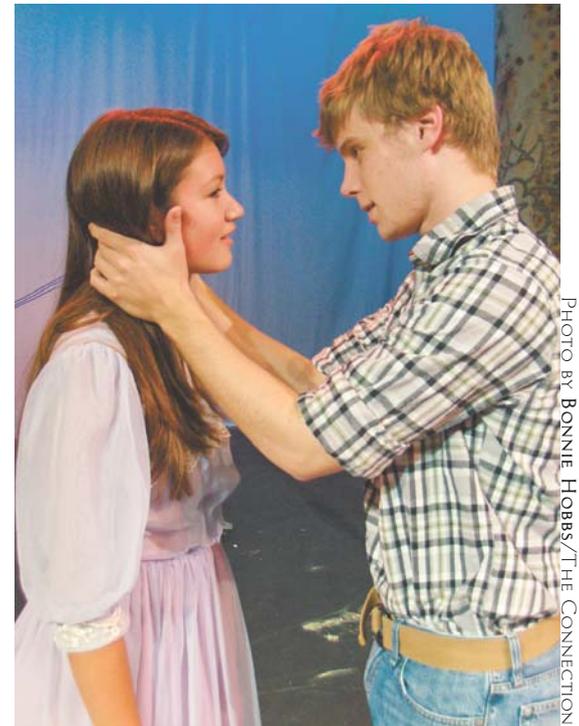


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Christy Fischer and Kyle Lynch, as Madge and Hal, share a tender moment before a kiss.

mother and daughters is a spinster schoolteacher. "School's starting, the next day, and there's going to be a big picnic in the town," said Rome. "So it's the teacher's last chance to snag a new life for herself."

Fabi Brennecke plays the teacher, who actually has a beau, Howard, portrayed by T.J. Albertson, but she wants a commitment from him.

Calling this show a drama with light moments and some "broadly drawn characters that are quite fun," Rome said the script is well written and his cast members are really sinking their teeth into their roles.

SEE 'SUMMER BRAVE,' PAGE 10

Woodson Presents 'Little Women'

By BRIANNA LAU
WEST SPRINGFIELD HIGH

The March family is familiar with change. Over the years, it has grown larger to accept new members, grown apart as members grow up, and now grown on the hearts of its audience members. W.T. Woodson High School's endearing production of Little Women left the audience laughing, cheering and crying for their favorite characters.

Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott and featuring a book by Allan Knee and music and lyrics by Jason Howland and Mindi Dickstein, the musical follows aspiring novelist Jo March through her years in her childhood home in Concord, Mass., where she and her three sisters vow to remain close forever. This promise is tested as the sisters fulfill their dreams, get married, travel the world and, sometimes, suffer great misfortune, but the bond between the sisters strengthens despite these obstacles.

Robin Chinn carried the role of Jo March with poise, smoothly handling songs ranging from the defiant "Astonishing" to the insecure "Bet-

ter."

As Laurie, the boy-next-door who loves Jo, Andreas Moffett was endearing with his goofy grin and joyful singing. His transition from awkward teenager to confident adult was believable and complemented the transition of Laurie's eventual love, Amy (Lucy Mink), from impertinent child to self-assured woman.

Emily Adler as Aunt March left the audience in stitches with her deadpan wit, endowing such simple lines as "Hmmm" and audience favorite

"Bring in Fritz" with rich vocal comedy. Her duet with Jo ("Could You?") where she discusses whether Jo deserves to go to Europe showcased her strong character choice as well as her astounding singing range. Meg, played with wide-eyed romanticism by Amy Bronick and Mr. Brook, played with eager affection by Josh Taylor, proved a sweet couple. From their first meeting to their dulcet duet and beyond, the two remained separate characters that clearly loved each other. John Stovall and Kayla Slagter brought sensibility to the roles of Professor Bhaer and Marmee, respect.

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 9



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Woodson

FROM PAGE 8

tively, offering advice to Jo throughout her journey into adulthood.

In one of the most poignant moments of the show, Jo and her dying sister Beth (Ana Mendelson) sang the heartbreaking "Some Things Are Meant to Be" to an audience that was spellbound into perfect silence by the power of the two voices, the pure lighting scheme, and the simple multi-level set. At other times, this same utilitarian set became the imaginary forest from Jo's "Operatic Tragedy," featuring the rough-and-tumble trolls, the raggedy hags, and the heroic Clarissa (Claire Whitehead).

The set (Jennifer Grape, Jeremy King, Sam Bergman and David Willmore) also included a revolving two-level house that was the March house on one side and Mrs. Kirk's boarding school on the other. Effects by Maria Joranko brought magic to the show with flying kites, smoky forests, and a frozen pond actors could actually skate on.

Although there were some issues with time period, most aspects of the show remained grounded in the Civil War era. Even Professor Bhaer and Jo would have to agree that W.T. Woodson Theatre's "Little Women" was "astonishing."

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 11

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Grave Marking Ceremony. 10 a.m. at the gravesite of Ensign Thomas Millan, the only American Revolutionary War Soldier interred in the Fairfax City Cemetery, 10567 Main St., Fairfax. A bronze Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) marker will be dedicated by the local Fairfax Resolves SAR Chapter. The SAR Color Guard dressed in Virginia Continental Line uniforms and armed with muskets will fire a memorial salute, with descendants of the Revolutionary War veteran, representatives of the City of Fairfax, the Daughters of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution. Public invited. 703-470-2264 or CarolnJack8@aol.com.

Chatham County Line. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Fifth Annual Jewish Book Festival. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org. Noralee Frankel, author of "Stripping Gypsy: the Life of Gypsy Rose Lee". 12:30 p.m. Myla

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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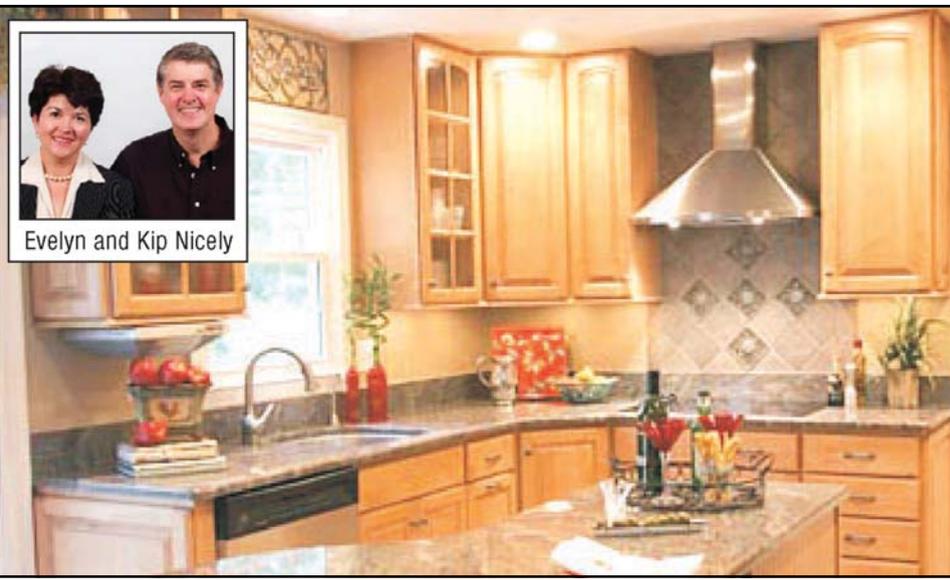
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'Summer Brave' Offers 1950s Smalltown Romance

FROM PAGE 8

The sets will be the front of a two-story house with a porch and steps, and the back patio of the neighbor's house.

"The audience will find people they recognize in the characters and will want the almost-love to work out between the various couples," said Rome. "They'll get caught up in the tension between the characters. They'll also learn the risks of seizing the moment and that you follow your heart at your own peril – and they'll be glad they don't live back then in a small town."

Junior Christy Fischer plays Madge, who's known in the town for her beauty and attracts all the boys. "Deep down, she wants to also be known as smart and have a career," said Fischer. "But her mom wants her to marry Alan, who's a catch and has money and we need money."

It's a difficult role, she said, because Madge doesn't show her emotions until later on. "You have to read between the lines to see how she really feels," said Fischer. She said the audience will relate to many of the characters and, "Even though the show's set in the '50s, the issues are still the same as today."

PORTRAYING HER younger sister, Millie, is sophomore Hannah Bunting. "Millie's a tomboy," said Bunting. "She's introverted

and moody. She wants to be a writer, so she reads a lot. She's also emotional and easily upset and has problems in her relationship with her sister. She's also naïve in a way because she's never left this small town in Kansas, so she only knows what she's seen in movies or read in books."

Bunting said she's fun to play because "she's so dramatic and all the characters are fully developed and really deep. Millie has such a wide spectrum of emotions, it's really challenging to get up there and be her."

Bunting said the audience "will find bits and pieces of themselves in the characters" and will like the play because it's "refreshingly real. This is what life is like, and it's definitely a wake-up call. It'll give people stuff to think about."

Junior Kyle Lynch plays Hal Carter, who's 22 and has had a rough past. "He comes to the town to see an old college buddy he knows is successful and hopes to get a job from him," said Lynch. "He never has any bad intentions but, in trying to please everyone, he makes some bad decisions. He's misled by different desires and caters to his reckless ways when it comes to drinking and women because he was never taught any better."

Still, said Lynch, "He really believes he hasn't done anything wrong, and he's kind of caught off guard when other parties say he has. It's probably the meatiest role I've

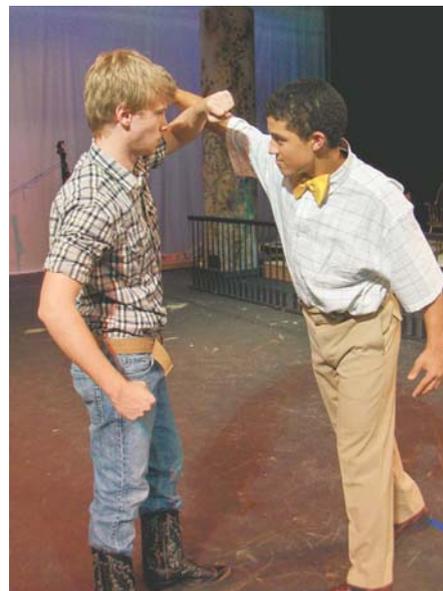


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, as Hal and Alan, Kyle Lynch and Jason Rath fight over Madge.

ever had. There's so much internal conflict within Hal, he's always contradicting himself. The playwright gave him lots of history for me to incorporate into my performance."

Lynch said the play has something to appeal to everyone. "There's raw human conflict, romance and betrayal," he said. "It's not fancy effects or big musical numbers.

Each character has a thick subplot that conflicts with the other characters."

Portraying Alan Seymour is junior Jason Rath, whose father is wealthy and owns a bank that Alan will eventually run. "He's a nice, caring guy who feels like he should help people because he can," said Rath. "He's in love with Madge and wants to actually know who she is, beyond her physical beauty."

"It's my first lead on the Robinson stage, so I explore different ways of approaching my lines and interacting with the other characters," said Rath. Overall, he said the audience would enjoy seeing something written in a 1950s style that's "similar to a lot of today's romantic movies. You just fall in love with the characters."

Senior Caitlin Viccora plays the girls' mother, Flo, whose daughters are her top priority. "She's not happy with the way her life's turned out, so far, and she's living vicariously through her daughters," said Viccora. "She's a complex character and I love her because she has so much depth. Every time I play her, I discover a new layer to her and feel her emotions, and that makes her believable to the audience."

Although "Summer Brave" is a period piece, from costumes to dialogue, said Viccora, it "transcends that time so the audience can appreciate the whirlwind of emotions the characters feel."

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Goldberg, author of "The False Friend," "Bee Season" and "Wickett's Remedy." 7:30 p.m.

"Little Women: The Musical." 7:30 p.m. at W. T. Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Presented by the WT Woodson Drama Department. www.wtwdrama.org.

Sip, Sample, Shop Benefiting Inova's Life with Cancer. 5:30 p.m. The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. All vendors will donate 15% of proceeds to Life with Cancer. \$40 advance, \$50 door. www.lifewithcancer.org/shopevent.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Bluegrass Duo Dailey & Vincent. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20-\$48, half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by an adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Deep River. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. in the Ernst Community and Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Director, Christopher Johnston. Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain and opera arias with lyrical soprano Kathleen Kelly. Tickets \$15, seniors and teens \$10, under age 12 free. 703-569-0973.

Fifth Annual Jewish Book Festival.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Share-a-Shabbat Story time for children, parents and grandparents at 9:30 a.m.. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org.

"Little Women: The Musical." 7:30 p.m. at W. T. Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Presented by the WT Woodson Drama Department. www.wtwdrama.org.

"Eurydice." 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Free admission. Sarah Ruhl's modern retelling of the ancient Greek myth about love and death. fxtheaterboosters@yahoo.com.

Trio Cavatina. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Winner of the 2009 Naumburg Chamber Music competition. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 13

Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Folk dances that embody the country's diverse indigenous Chinese, Spanish and Middle Eastern cultures. Pre-performance discussions, free to ticket holders, begin 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$26-\$42. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. cfa.gmu.edu.

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

"Little Women: The Musical." 7:30 p.m. at W. T. Woodson High School Auditorium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. This performance with ASL.

Presented by the WT Woodson Drama Department. www.wtwdrama.org.

"Eurydice." 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Free admission. Sarah Ruhl's modern retelling of the ancient Greek myth about love and death. fxtheaterboosters@yahoo.com.

Fall Harvest Festival. 5:30-9 p.m. at St. George's UMC, 4010 Ox Road, Fairfax. Spaghetti dinner 5:30-7 p.m. for \$7.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children or a whole family for \$22. Silent auction from 5:30-7 p.m., live auction 7-9 p.m. www.stgumc.org or 703-385-4550.

18th Annual Holiday Happenings

Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fused glass, ceramics, jewelry, scarves, embroidery, handbags, paintings, pet accessories, peanut brittle and more. Bake sale. Free admission. woodsoncraftshow@gmail.com.

Mutt Love Rescue Dog Adoption Event. 12-3 p.m. at Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax. View available dogs at www.muttloverescue.org or e-mail adopt@muttloverescue.org.

German POW Exhibit. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. "Held on the Homefront: German POWs in the U.S., 1943-46," the story of German POW camps, including several in Virginia, during World War II. Co-sponsored by VFW Post 8469, Historic Fairfax City, Inc., and Fr. Walter Malloy Assembly, Knights of Columbus. Free. 703-385-8414.

Friends of Burke Centre Holiday Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. Burke

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 15

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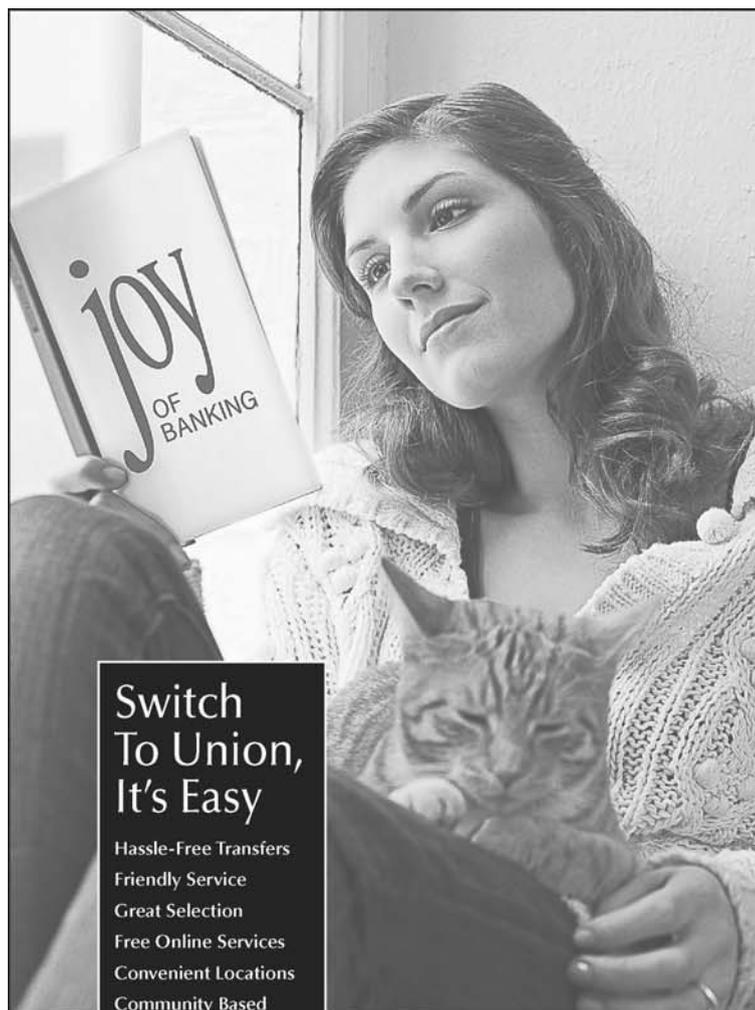
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Bruins' Field Hockey Season Ends at State Q-finals

Despite setback,
Lake Braddock coach
Diane Miller steps
down a winner.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

For one half of play on Tuesday evening it looked as if the Lake Braddock Bruins and their popular head coach, Diane Miller, were well on their way to a round one state play-off field hockey victory and an ensuing trip to Virginia Beach for one final run together at glory.

But Western Branch, Lake Braddock's opening round opponent, had other ideas.

The visitors from Chesapeake, following a sluggish opening 30 minutes in which they fell behind by a goal, roared back to life with two second half goals and defeated Miller's Bruins, 2-1, in the postseason contest played at West Springfield High School.

The loss concluded Lake Braddock's outstanding season and put an official end to the storied high school head-coaching career of Miller, who had already made known her intentions of stepping down at the conclusion of this season.

The popular Miller went out in style this fall, leading Lake Braddock to an early season title at the annual Herndon High Tournament followed by a brilliant regular season of play and then two postseason tournament titles — at the Patriot District playoffs two weeks ago and the Northern Region tourney last week.

"We played so well this year," said Bruin senior forward Brittany Hopkins. "I'm real happy for coach that she could go out with a 21-2 record. We really wanted to win for her this season."

Following the end of Tuesday's game,



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Ali Froede gets her stick on the ball during Lake Braddock's Virginia State quarterfinals game against Western Branch on Tuesday night at West Springfield High School.

emotions ran high on the Lake Braddock sideline. Players shed tears knowing that, just like that, the season was over and, for the team's eight seniors, their high school playing careers were done. On top of all that, it was coach Miller's last game with the program.

"It was very meaningful," said Lake Braddock senior forward Ali Froede, of the final season under Miller. "That's why it was so emotional for her tonight. It feels good to have won her some championships in her

final season.

"She's the type of coach you wanted to work hardest for on and off the field," said Froede. "She really cares about you, the team, the entire Lake Braddock field hockey program and the school. I'm really going to miss her."

As the players were packing up around the team bench following the game, a group of Lake Braddock football players, who had been cheering and encouraging the Bruins through-

out the game from the bleachers, began chanting coach Miller's name, "Diane Miller, Diane Miller," numerous times. Moments prior to that, one of them had encouragingly bellowed to the team, for all to hear, "It's OK Bruins, we love you."

Miller said she had cried a bit during the game's final minute or so when it was clear that Lake Braddock was not going to be able to score an equalizer goal and that Western Branch, also nicknamed the Bruins, was going to win and advance to the state semifinals later this week in Virginia Beach. But she tried her best to compose herself.

"There was no way I was going to let the kids see me cry as the clock was clicking away," said Miller, who during post game interviews had to collect herself a few times because of all the emotion surrounding the night.

Lake Braddock, which a week ago defeated McLean in the Northern Region title

game, played an outstanding first half versus Western Branch, the runner-up of the Eastern Region. The Bruins were alive, aggressive and initiating the action against their opponents. Time and time again, Lake

Braddock made strong rushes at the Western Branch goal area and, on a few occasions, got off solid scoring attempts.

Miller's squad earned several first half corners, and one of those corner chances resulted in a goal with 10 minutes,

40 seconds remaining in the half when sophomore forward Maria Jose Pastor, after collecting the ball near the top of the scoring circle off a corner hit from teammate Maggie Metress, drilled a sizzling ground ball past the Western Branch goal tender and into the box for the game's first goal.

THE FIRED-UP Bruins continued to play well the remainder of the half and carried the 1-0 lead into halftime.

But a different Western Branch team took the field in the second half. The visitors began making some hard rushes of their own on offense early in the half and increased the pressure as the half wore on. Lake Braddock, it appeared, was playing in a defensive mindset as Western Branch gained more and more control of the game.

"We had a good first half but just couldn't

"They did everything they could do to win this season."

— Lake Braddock head coach
Diane Miller



Diane Miller, with flowers she received following her team's season-ending loss, expressed pride in what her Bruins accomplished during her final season at the helm.

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 20

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Robinson Set for Success

Senior setter Tiffany Connatser runs Rams' high-powered offense.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

When Robinson setter Tiffany Connatser receives a pass, the senior faces several options. She can look to two-time Northern Region MVP Susie Murach, a safe bet to pound a thunderous kill into the gym floor. Connatser can set Chance Rye, a powerful hitter in her own right, for a wrap-around attack. Or maybe Connatser feels like jump setting up-and-coming sophomore Anna Kulbaski.

Of course, variables do play a role in Connatser's decision. Does one of her hitters have a favorable matchup against an opposing blocker? Is one of her hitters riding a hot streak? Is a teammate calling for the ball? Many factors surround a choice that needs to be made quickly and executed precisely, a process Connatser makes look fairly simple.

"She's one of the most athletic girls," Robinson head coach Jill Pearson said, "that we've ever had on the team."

The Rams on Tuesday, Nov. 9, advanced to the regional semifinals with a 3-0 (25-14, 25-18, 25-17)

victory over Yorktown during a quarterfinal match at Robinson. Connatser dished out 41 assists and kept the Rams running like a well-oiled machine. The second-team all-region selection has been with the varsity since the end of her freshman season and took over as the team's starting setter her junior year. Connatser, who will play volleyball at Temple University next season, said she feels more comfortable on the floor as a senior and relies on her athletic ability to make plays.

"I have more experience (and) I'm more confident," she said. "I know I can put the ball wherever I want on the court from whatever spot on the court."

Pearson, twice named region Coach of the Year, said Connatser spreads the ball around well, but if the Rams need a point, the ball is going to Murach.

Connatser "does a really nice job of distributing, but she also puts the same ball up no matter what pass we give her," Pearson said. "No matter

what the situation is, it's the same ball. To Susie, to the middle, to the right side; she does a really nice job of mixing up her attacks."

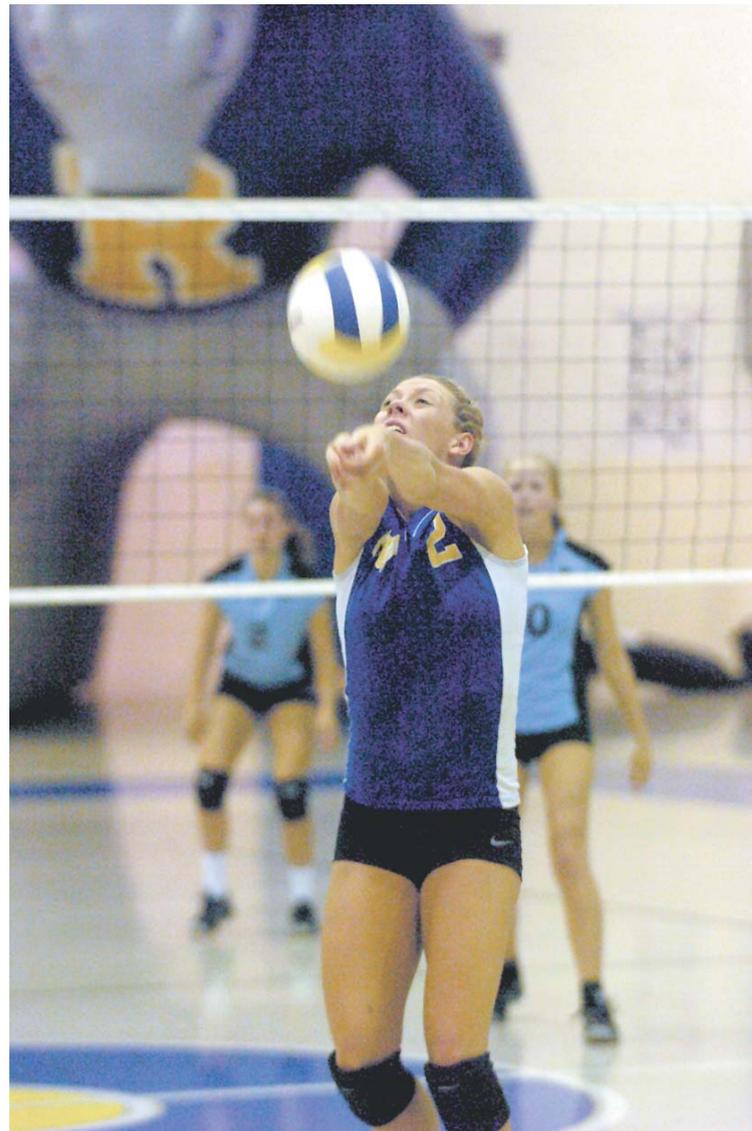
Against Yorktown, Murach led Robinson with 15 kills. Rye finished with nine kills and Brenna Dolan and Kulbaski each had six.

Both Connatser and Murach say they are friends and work well together on the floor. Connatser says

"I know I can put the ball wherever I want on the court from whatever spot on the court."

— Robinson all-region setter
Tiffany Connatser

SEE RAM, PAGE 20



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson senior setter Tiffany Connatser, seen earlier this season, dished out 41 assists during a regional quarterfinal victory over Yorktown on Tuesday.

Air Langley Set To Pay Lake Braddock Playoff Visit

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Friends Poythress, Howerton will lead their teams against one another in Div. 6 matchup.

Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich might very well be the best player at his position in the Northern Region. But when Nebrich and his Bruins' teammates take the field this Friday to play visiting Langley High in a first round Northern Region Division 6 high school football playoff game at 7:30 p.m., they will be meeting an opponent that also has a top tier quarterback.

The Saxons have one of the most high-powered offenses in the region, thanks to gifted senior quarterback Braden Anderson and a couple other talented skill position standouts. In past years under longtime and current head coach John Howerton, Langley stressed a more conservative run-first offense with little emphasis on the passing game. Howerton said recently the Saxons never really had the gifted QB or receivers to put more emphasis on the aerial game.

But that has changed the last two seasons with Anderson behind the center. The 6-foot-3 inch signal caller has passed for a school record 2,300 yards this season in helping Langley to a 6-4 record over the regular season. His primary target has been 6-foot-2 inch wide receiver Troy Scharfen, who has

over 1,500 pass receiving yards. Nebrich and wideout Matt Zanellato have been the region's top passing combination this season, but Anderson and Scharfen are undoubtedly second best and the Bruins' defense will have a tall order in slowing the Saxons' passing attack down. On top of its prolific air game, Langley boasts a 1,000-yard rusher in sophomore running back Philip Mun.

Howerton has always developed strong, fundamentally sound offensive lines and this year is no exception. The Saxons' front five have been the foundation for Langley's success in moving the football.

"Our line is very talented," said Howerton.

LAKE BRADDOCK (9-1), the defending Division 6 region champion and this year's Patriot District champion, soundly defeated Langley, 49-10, back on Sept. 3 in both teams' season opener game played at Lake Braddock. That night, Nebrich completed 18-of-28 passes for 240 yards and four touchdown passes. He also ran the ball for 71 yards and two scores. Zanellato had a

huge game, catching 11 balls, including three scoring catches, for 180 yards. Also, Tanner Quigley, a junior wideout, caught six balls for 41 yards and a score.

On the Langley side that game, Anderson completed 20-of-39 passes for 243 yards. One of his completions was a 58-yard scoring pass to Scharfen, who caught 13 balls for 201 yards in that regular season meeting. But the Bruins' defense shut down the Langley running game, holding Mun to 32 yards.

"We were competitive with them in the first half," said Howerton, whose Saxons scored all 10 of their points in the second quarter and trailed at the intermission, 21-10. "We obviously had our hands full in trying to defend them."

Howerton said it's mandatory that the Langley defense not allow Nebrich to run the football for big yardage if the Saxons hope to upset Lake Braddock on Friday.

"A big asset for him is that he can really run," said Howerton, of Nebrich. "You've got to have [a defender] hovering over the top [shadowing him] to account for that."

Howerton and Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress are lifelong friends. They grew up together on the Route 1 South corridor of Alexandria and both attended and played football at the old Fort Hunt High School in the late 1970s.

"Jim was one year behind me," said Howerton. "We had a paint business together in the summer."

During their early coaching days, both worked together as assistants at West Potomac High School under former head coach Dale Eaton. Ultimately, Howerton took over for Eaton at the helm of the program and directed the Wolverines to a region title in 2000. Poythress was West Potomac's defensive coordinator that season.

Howerton said the two have remained close and talk about once a week over the phone, discussing their respective teams and exchanging thoughts on opponents. Now, the two buddies will see their respective teams clash in a postseason game that will end the season for the losing team.

THE BRUINS, in Friday's playoff encounter, will be going up against a Langley team coming off perhaps its most impressive win of the season — a week 10, 56-12 victory

SEE LAKE BRADDOCK, PAGE 20

SPORTS

Region Cross Country Season Wraps Up

Next, it's on to states for area's top high school runners.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region cross-country championships took place Thursday afternoon, Nov. 4 at Burke Lake Park. Several area runners on both the girls' and boys' sides put together exceptional outings on the 2.98-mile course.

The top 15 individual finishers in each of the two championship races (girls' and boys') automatically qualified for the upcoming Virginia State AAA Championships, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Great Meadows course in The Plains. They also earned individual medals during post race ceremonies. The top four-team finishers in the region races advanced to states. A trophy was presented to the team champions, and a runner-up trophy was given to the second place team finisher.

In the girls' race, Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase was the individual champion with a time of 17 minutes, 38.90 seconds. She finished ahead of Edison High second place

finisher Myah Hicks (17:50.70) and Herndon High third place finisher Carolyn Hennessey (18:12), a senior who a week earlier had captured the Concorde District title. Finishing behind Hennessey were Hannah Christen of Lake Braddock, Isabel Amend of Washington-Lee, Bailey Kolonich of Lee, Jessica Miles of Langley and Sarah Underwood of West Potomac, who were fourth through eighth, respectively. Kelly Rogers of Jefferson was ninth and Casey Lardner of Lake Braddock was 10th.

The 11th through 15th finishers on the girls' side were West Potomac's Dale Lescher, Jefferson's Stephanie Marzen, Oakton's Hailey Dougherty, Madison's Anna Stone and West Springfield's Maddie Wittich.

The girls' team champion was Lake Braddock, which finished in first place with 71 points, ahead of second place finisher Jefferson (102). The other two girls' team state qualifiers were third place West Potomac (108) and fourth place West Springfield (130).

Other strong team showings came from fifth place Oakton (164), sixth place Lan-

gley (167), seventh place Herndon (192), eighth place Centreville (237), ninth place Washington-Lee (248) and 10th place Madison High (287).

Wrapping up the 16-team region field were, 11th through 16th finishers McLean, T.C. Williams, Westfield, Yorktown, Edison and Hayfield.

Along with the top 15 individual finishers, other strong region showings included: Herndon's Belle Burgess (16th place), West Springfield's Lauren Blackburn (18th), Langley's Elisa Purdy (19th), Madison's Christina Galiano (20th), Hayfield's Abigail Power (21st), Lake Braddock's Katie Roche (22nd), Jefferson's Sarah Stites (23rd), West Springfield's Jessica Simmons (24th), Oakton's Briana Stewart (27th), and Centreville's Isabella Medina (30th).

ON THE BOYS' SIDE, West Potomac captured the region title with 78 points, finishing ahead of second place Lake Braddock (84). South Lakes, the Liberty District champion, was the third place finisher with 130 points while the Herndon Hornets (147), under head coach Pete Sherry, took fourth place. Each of the top four teams will compete in states this Sat

SEE CROSS COUNTRY, PAGE 20



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase was the individual champion at the Northern Region Championship with a time of 17 minutes, 38.90 seconds

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Books for children and adults. All ages. 703-249-1520.

Deep River CD Release & After-Party with Steve Moakler. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 14

Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company. 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Folk dances that embody the country's diverse indigenous Chinese, Spanish and Middle Eastern cultures. Pre-performance discussions, free to ticket holders, begin 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$26-\$42. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. cfa.gmu.edu.

Fifth Annual Jewish Book Festival. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. With Debbie Levy, author of "Maybe I'll Sleep in the Bath Tub Tonight: and Other Funny Bedtime Poems" at 2 p.m. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org.

Volunteer 5K & Fun Run. 8 a.m. at George Mason University, Fairfax. Proceeds will be used to support programs and services offered by Volunteer Fairfax. \$25. www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/5K.php.

"Eurydice." 2 p.m. at Fairfax High School 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Free admission. Sarah Ruhl's modern retelling of the ancient Greek myth about love and death. fxtheaterboosters@yahoo.com.

Bazaar for the Icelandic Association of Washington, D.C. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Handmade Icelandic woolens, imported crafts, Icelandic holiday decorations, traditional Icelandic foods. jt6543a@student.american.edu.

Family Art Workshop. 2 p.m. at the Space, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. With local artist Adam Lister. A community outreach program of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center's exhibition, "City of Fairfax: Celebrating the Arts," which will remain up through Dec. 31. Free, reservations recommended. 703-385-8414.

Animal Lover's Event. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax City Library, Meeting Rooms A & B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Brochures, books, magazines and more about pets and wildlife. 703-293-6227 or 571-236-9056.

Prayerbreaks with Michael John Poirier. 7 p.m. at St. Leo the Great



The Waverly Consort performs "A Christmas Story" on Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments and recount the events of the Biblical Christmas story. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening of music and stories. Free, donations accepted. stleos@gmail.com or 703-273-7277.

An Evening with Charlie Hunter. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

1:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Dept. Family Services Meeting. 703-293-6227.

A Very Bad Hair Day. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Funny stories and songs about hair. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

MONDAY/NOV. 15

You Can Live Well Workshops.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Burke Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: burke@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 1, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

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**Grief Share: Surviving
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The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with grief experts and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death. Classes are free, child care provided upon request. To register, call Chum Robert at 703-455-2344.

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OPINION

Honoring on Veterans Day

Saluting military service, remembering those who died in Iraq, Afghanistan.

On Veterans Day, we remember all of those who have served in the military; there are 24 million veterans in the United States. More than 1 million members of the U.S. military have now served in the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While Memorial Day is set aside to remember those who died in military service, and Veterans Day is honoring all of those who have served in the military, we use both occasions each year to remember some of the names of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. George Mason University has been on the forefront of implementing the GI Bill for veterans locally. Steps to provide better, faster and more responsive health care, including mental health care are underway.

MORE THAN 4,400 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and more than 1,300 have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 40,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 170 U.S. military service personnel from Virginia have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including more than a dozen in 2009 and 2010.

Here are the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness. If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

A local loss, Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25 of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries caused by an attack on his unit with an improvised explosive device. Park had joined the army less than a year earlier in August 2009. He is survived by his mother, In Sook Park, father, Do Hyun Park, and sister Irene Park, all of Fairfax Station.

In Afghanistan, Pfc. Tramaine J. Billingsley, 20, of Portsmouth died Oct. 14, 2010; Staff Sgt. Jaime C. Newman, 27, of Richmond died Sept. 17, 2010; 1st Lt. Todd W. Weaver, 26, of Hampton, died Sept. 9, 2010; Lance Cpl. Cody S. Childers, 19, of Chesapeake died Aug. 20, 2010; Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5; 1st Sgt. Eddie Turner, 41, of Fort Belvoir, died June 22, 2010. Pfc. Alvaro R. Regalado Sessarego, 37, of Virginia Beach, died May 30 at Brooke Army Medical Center in Houston, after being injured in Iraq on April 18. On May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18,

2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan. Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption. Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat in Iraq in October 2005. Dillon Jutras's younger brother, Hunter Drake Jutras, has helped us remember by submitting artwork of his brother to the Burke Children's Connection. Last December, Hunter wrote: "My drawing of my brother Dillon who was a Ranger in the U.S. Army. He deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was killed in action on Oct. 29, 2005. I miss him very much."

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington. Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R) as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds. Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org). Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities. Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle. Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds received

during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. Airman 1st Class Lee Bernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb. Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006. United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School. Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria. U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11. Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006. Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, on Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq a few days earlier. Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq. 1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan. Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM,

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
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Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-778-9416

Julia O'Donoghue
Community Reporter
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Jon Roetman
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Louise Kraftt,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
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Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

COMMENTARY

What Is a School?

BY PRECIOUS CRABTREE

A colleague and good friend recently challenged me by asking “What is a school? What is it for?” I stopped to consider this and my head began to spit. What is the primary function of a school? Do we teach content or do we teach children? Are schools supposed to serve the community as a whole or the students within the community? How are schools different today from when I was in school?

When you think about our current education system, there is a lot to consider. It has always been my philosophy that our primary function is to teach children how to think on their own and be lifelong learners, so that they can succeed as citizens in the future. Therefore, I don't teach art, I educate children. Everything I do in my classroom should be for the benefit of the students that I teach.

However, the focus on students is being overshadowed by the growing obsession with teacher accountability. What does accountability really mean and who is it for? Surely, accountability should ultimately serve students, ensuring they are being taught the skills they need to succeed in the future. Is the current trend of creating more tests and paperwork in the name of teacher

accountability conducive to a positive learning environment for children? It seems to me that the tendency to pile on new teacher accountability measures serves the needs of politicians and administrators looking for easy and relatively inexpensive ways to appear they are working toward progress in the school. But in doing so, they are undermining the ability of teachers to actually make that progress.

Former Michelle Rhee, the former chancellor of the District of Columbia public schools, with the support of 14 other superintendents, recently created a manifesto that addressed the nation's education problem with a simple solution. If we simply get rid of all the bad teachers and replace them with good teachers, achievement will rise. This illusion that America is full of bad teachers diverts the attention from the real needs of children. It has become a national trend to point fingers at teachers and blame schools for the challenges our education system is currently facing.

So what do children need? Research shows and educators would agree that children need quality educators, relevant curriculum, supportive parents and engaged communities. Effective teachers should facilitate a curriculum that prepares students for a global economy. Curricula should have depth and provide opportunities for criti-

All schools need engaged communities.

cal thinking and problem solving. Parents should provide support beyond homework through exposure to different cultures, discussion of world events, and setting an example for a love of learning. Communities should be engaged in the teaching and learning of children by making sure schools and parents have the tools needed to meet students' diverse needs.

By focusing exclusively on the easiest target, failing teachers, the national discussion excludes any helpful consideration of the multitude of other problems that affect students' performance. For example, our current curriculum tends to be broad but not deep. There is no time for in depth discussions in our classrooms or opportunities for students to pursue topic of particular interest to them, because students and teachers are under constant pressure to prepare for the next test that shows a mere snapshot of a child's ability.

Parents often work long hours or more than one job to provide for their families in this difficult economy. Poverty, homelessness and the stability of a child's home also play key roles in whether a child succeeds at school. The percentage of children who are homeless or experience poverty is the highest it has been in decades. Many parents don't speak English, but research shows that parental involvement is a critical predictor of a child's progress in

school. If we are expecting students to be able to read and write in English they need to practice it at home. In such cases, parental resources are often limited or unavailable.

Engaged communities often reflect of the social status of the community. Schools in affluent areas have much more support both in the way of volunteers and finances while schools in poor areas see few volunteers and struggle to provide the basics for children and their families. All schools need active communities that are involved directly with meeting the needs of children.

Yes, blaming teachers is easier than looking at the big picture. Reflection can be tough when it leads individuals to realize everyone can play a part in setting their community's children up for success in schools. No one likes blame, so perhaps we should try not to be so preoccupied with pointing fingers. Too often decisions that affect children are made by people who haven't spent much time in a classroom in decades, not the educators who are in the trenches. Instead of automatically assuming teachers are the problem, those who really wish to improve educational outcomes should examine the issues for themselves by actually listening to educators, and getting involved in schools.

Precious Crabtree is an elementary art educator from Fairfax.

FAITH NOTES

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.

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.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

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.

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POLITICS



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Some voters opted for more traditional paper ballots at the Greenspring precinct in Springfield.

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THE CONNECTION

No Recount in 11th District

FROM PAGE 3

most recent in a series of close Fairfax County elections. In this year alone, it was already the third race to be won by less than 1 percentage point.

Eight months ago, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) won her seat in by a margin of 37 votes, less than half a percentage point. Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) beat former School Board member Steve Hunt by 327 votes, approximately eight-tenths of 1 percentage point, in January.

Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) won her seat by less than 1 percent in 2009. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) also won his seat by just 89 votes, less than half a percentage point, two months later that year.

In 2007, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli (R-37), then a state senator, won his election by 98 votes and less than half a percentage point. In the same year, Sen. George Barker (D-39) unseated incumbent Jay O'Brien (R) by 761 votes, a margin of less than 1 percentage point.

At the local government level, Fairfax County Clerk of Court John Frye (R) won by just over 1,000 votes, less than 1 percentage point, and School Board member Tessie Wilson won by 153 votes, less than half of 1 percentage point, in 2007.

Among statewide races, Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) won his Attorney General seat over Creigh Deeds in 2005 by one-tenth of 1 percent, the closest election in Virginia's history.

THE NEXT year, U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) beat Republican incumbent George Allen by fewer than 10,000 votes, or less than one than percentage point, in race where 2.3 million votes were counted.

"Fairfax County and Virginia are battleground places. We are going to keep seeing these close elections and it is absolutely necessary that we use technology that is going to get us accurate results," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), former chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

During Cook's election in 2009, an electronic voting machine tallied several hundred more votes than could have actually been cast. Eventually, election officials were able to retrieve ballot results by looking the machine's back up system, though no one figured out what caused the malfunction in the first place.

The manufacturer of the Fairfax voting machines has gone out of business. Additionally, only three other localities in the country still use the same make and model, making it more complicated and expensive to determine what might have gone wrong, said Epstein.

But Epstein said the fact that no one can conclude what went wrong in the Cook election worries him.

"It is probably the exact same software running on all the machines. [The glitch] is lying there in wait," said Epstein.

OVER THE LAST three years, at least five candidates on the losing side of an election in Fairfax County have been eligible for a state-funded recount. Most, like Fimian and Cook's Democratic opponent Ilyong Moon, chose not to pursue a recount.

Since the electronic voting machines in Fairfax leave no paper trail, it is difficult for candidates to prove that the number of votes recorded on the many of machines used could be incorrect, said Epstein.

"There is nothing really to audit if the machine malfunctions. You are basically asking the machine to report on itself," said Epstein, who advocates for using an electronic machine that produces a receipt or an optical scan machine with a paper ballot.

But even if there is an existing paper trail, Virginia law prohibits officials from checking paper ballots by hand to see if they match up with the results produced by the machine.

"In most states where you do a recount for an optical scan, you look at the ballots and decide whether the machine has counted them correctly. In Virginia, you just run the machine again," said Epstein.

This is particularly problematic, since an audit of 2009 ballots earlier this year revealed that about 1 percent of Virginia voters fill out their paper ballot incorrectly, said the expert, even though their intent is often clear.

For example, some people will write a check, instead of filling in the circle on the optical scan ballot, for the candidate they want to support. Others write things like "yes" and "no" next to certain politicians, said Epstein, who worked on the audit.

Though it can be easy to determine whom the voters wanted to support, these types of ballots are not brought back into the overall tally during a recount in Virginia. According to Epstein, they would be counted in many other states.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield junior middle blocker Emily Nagel attacks against the block of Yorktown's Ashley Rock during the first round of the Northern Region tournament on Nov. 8 at Yorktown.

Spartans Exceed Expectations

West Springfield volleyball team's season ends with loss to Yorktown.

The majority of the West Springfield volleyball team sported smiles after their season came to an end with a 3-2 (25-23, 19-25, 25-20, 24-26, 15-8) loss at Yorktown during the opening round of the Northern Region tournament on Nov. 8. Sure, the Spartans would have liked their season to continue, but head coach Stephanie Noriega said the team had already out-performed its ability level.

"West Springfield has great girls," the coach said. "Realistically, it was a bummer to lose tonight. I think we're more than capable of beating [Yorktown]. But I think the girls knew that they surpassed their expectations they had at the beginning of the season. People looked at this group of girls and thought, 'Oh, it's going to be a building year,' and it wasn't. They were competitive with every single team that they played."

If 2010 was a building year for West Springfield, the Spartans laid a strong foundation for the future. West Springfield, a team with three seniors on the roster, earned the No. 1 seed heading into the Patriot District tournament before losing to even-

tual champion Lake Braddock in the semifinals. The Spartans finished 14-7 and were ranked No. 4 in the Nov. 1 edition of the Northern Region Volleyball Coaches Association top-10 poll.

How did the Spartans go from rebuilding to regional accolades?

"We work really hard," Noriega said. "We have girls with great attitudes. One of the things that sets our team apart is that we, as opposed to having a team with one all-star player, we have depth on our team. Everybody on our team contributes. There's not that

one go-to player, that one girl who's phenomenal. Instead, we have a bunch of average girls who play above their skill level every night."

Against Yorktown, senior outside hitter Lauren Scolese led West Springfield with 18

kills. Junior middle blocker Emily Nagel tallied 13 kills for the Spartans, senior outside hitter Shannen Scott finished with 12 kills and five aces and sophomore middle blocker Savannah Schutzmeister had seven kills.

Scolese was an honorable mention all-region and first-team all-district selection. Nagel also received first-team all-district honors. Senior defensive specialist Niesha Berger was also named to the second team, while Scott and junior defensive specialist Jessica Trieu garnered honorable mention.

— JON ROETMAN

"We work really hard."
— West Springfield head coach Stephanie Noriega

SCHOOL NOTES

Maria Ali, Kyle Belfort, David Harris and Adrianna McQuillen, seniors at Lake Braddock Secondary School, were named semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) runs the program to acknowledge outstanding high school seniors for academic excellence. They are three of 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who will compete at a chance to

become one of 8,400 finalists to receive a National Merit Scholarship in the spring.

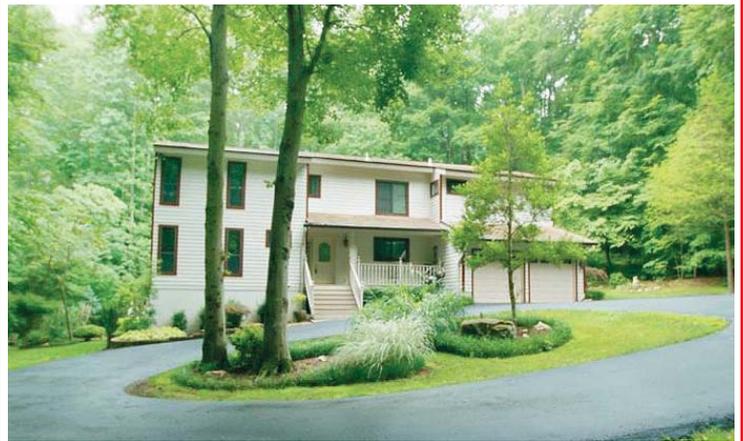
Fatima Mubarak, a senior at James W. Robinson Secondary School, was named a semifinalist in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) runs the program to acknowledge outstanding high school seniors for

academic excellence. Mubarak is one of 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who will compete at a chance to become one of 8,400 finalists to receive a National Merit Scholarship in the spring.

Ashley Elena Napear of Burke was awarded a bachelor's in criminal justice during the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh's commencement services last spring.

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Bruins' Miller To Retire

FROM PAGE 12

find the momentum and adjust to their [improved] play in the second half," said Froede. "We were back on our heels a lot and not rushing the ball."

Western Branch tied the game with just over 15 minutes remaining on a close-range tip-in score by Alexandra Nicole Darrow off the left side following a hard knock into the goal area by a teammate from the right. The momentum had clearly turned.

Less than 5 minutes later, Western Branch scored again, shocking the partisan home crowd, to take a lead with 10:25 left to play.

Ram Girls in Play Offs

FROM PAGE 13

she feels no pressure to focus on getting the ball to her decorated teammate. When it comes to calling for the ball, Murach said likes to be set again shortly after making a mistake.

"She's a phenomenal setter," Murach said. "She always knows where to put the ball. ... There are times when I'll miss ball and I'll be like, 'Give it to me again, give it to me again,' and she'll give it to me."

Robinson will face Stone Bridge in the semifinals on Nov. 11 at Centreville High School. The match will start 20 minutes af-

The score held and Lake Braddock had lost.

"I thought we played a great first half," said Miller. "They came alive in the second half. We kind of slowed down a little. Once they scored those two goals we were kind of [in trouble]. We hadn't been in that situation [often] before. I told the kids after the game, 'I'm proud of you, it was a great season. Someone had to lose.'"

Miller spoke of how proud she was of this year's team. "They were very dedicated, devoted and wanted to win," she said. "They did everything they could do to win this season. They didn't hang their heads, they worked hard in practice."

ter the other semifinal match between Hayfield and Langley. Stone Bridge is considered by many to be the best team in the region and the Bulldogs swept the Rams during a Sept. 13 meeting. Connatser will look to keep the Robinson attack running smoothly as the Rams try for an upset.

"In Tiffany's case, it's a lot of natural ability," Pearson said when asked if becoming a strong setter is based on natural ability or being coached. "She plays very high-level club in the off season, but a lot of that is just feel and athleticism. I'm definitely not taking very much credit for what she's able to do."

Lake Braddock Football

FROM PAGE 13

over Liberty District and cross-town rival McLean, a team that won its first eight games this season. Howerton said at least 3,500 fans packed the Langley stadium for the game, the largest turnout he has seen during his tenure as the Saxons' head coach.

"There wasn't an empty seat in either bleacher," he said. "Capital One sponsored the game and it was a [fun] carnival atmosphere. Fans were lined up along the fence [surrounding the field]. It's the biggest home crowd I've ever seen here."

THE WIN for the Saxons helped avenge an overtime loss to the Highlanders a year ago when McLean had beaten Langley for

the first time in 12 seasons.

"Our guys were chomping at the bit to play them," said Howerton, of his team's mindset going into last week's meeting against McLean.

"Certainly winning against a big rival like that and winning big might brighten the eyes of our kids," said Howerton, when asked if the triumph over the Highlanders will give the Saxons added confidence against the Bruins this week.

The coach said Langley is a much-improved team than the squad Lake Braddock faced in the season's opening week.

"We're much better now than we were then and we've come a long way," said Howerton. "We're throwing the ball very well and we have a good running game."

Cross Country Season Ends

FROM PAGE 14

urday.

The fifth through eighth place team finishers were Robinson (152), Jefferson (157), Hayfield (187) and Oakton (199). West Springfield (221) and Chantilly (228) finished ninth and 10th place, respectively.

Annandale's Ahmed Bile was the individual boys' champion with a time of 15:22.30. Finishing second was Chantilly High's Sean McGorty (15:26.30), who

edged third place Paul Gates (15:26.80) of Woodson.

The fourth through seventh place finishers were Lee High's Abraham Yacob (15:34.30), Lake Braddock's Rubenking Sa (15:35.21), West Springfield's Colin Taylor (15:36.30), and Herndon's Jimmy Luehrs (15:41.30).

Jefferson's Jonathan Phillips, West Potomac's Brady Corum and South County's Dylan Morgan, were eighth through 10th, respectively.

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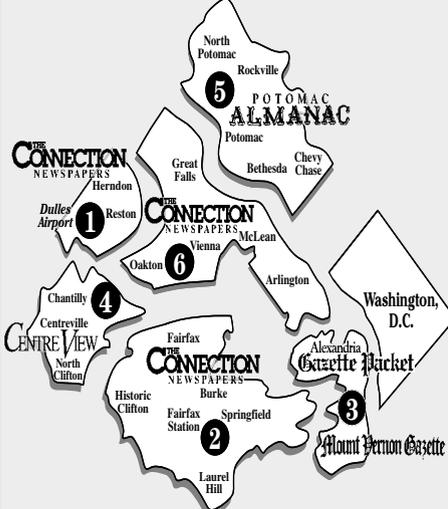
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Notice of Public Scoping Meeting
To gather input for a Project Plan and Environmental Assessment on Equestrian Facility Replacement, Equestrian Activities and Site Improvements at the Meadowood Recreation Area on Mason Neck in Fairfax County

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States Lower Potomac Field Station and the Office of Fairfax County Supervisor Jerry Hyland are holding a public meeting to gather input on:

- Plans to replace the 34 year old 46 stall barn/arena building in the administrative compound at the Meadowood Recreation Area;
- Public use and equestrian activities at the site.

The purpose of the project is to replace this structure with a facility that will provide for better public access to the Meadowood Recreation Area, provide for improved opportunities for the general public to participate in equestrian activities, and have less watershed impact. The project is scheduled for completion by September 30, 2011.

At this meeting, the Bureau of Land Management will provide information on it's proposed action, discuss alternatives, and seek comments from the public on how to best manage and use these federal recreation facilities.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be held on Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in the cafeteria of South County High School 8501 Silverbrook Rd. Lorton, VA 22079

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