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Phil Smith

Good Shepherd Christian Academy Headmaster Father Anthony Messeh holds the prize check above his head at the school's celebration ceremony on Friday, Nov. 5.

Little Recourse In Recount

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Earnest' Play At Paul VI

NEWS, PAGE 3

\$500,000 Prize

NEWS, PAGE 4

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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

Paul VI's 'Earnest' Production Ribs Upper Class

Oscar Wilde comedy debuts Nov. 19.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," is going to Broadway in the spring. First, though, it'll be performed on the Paul VI stage, and everyone involved says it's hilarious.

"It's just a very fun show with a terrific script, truly a classic," said Director Katherine Miller. "It's very well-written. When you read it, you laugh your head off, and we hope the audience will do the same when they see it on stage."

The curtain rises Friday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5, students and senior citizens; and \$10, adults, at the door.

"The kids are doing a great job," said Miller. "They're very hard-working and are putting in tremendously long hours. The story takes places in England and makes fun

of the British upper classes during Victorian times. The costumes will be beautiful — gowns, beads and hats for the girls, and jackets and tuxes for the boys — and the set, gorgeous."

A different scene is on each side of a triangular set, offering a house with two doors, French doors leading to the foyer of a country home, plus a garden. "The servants of each house will come in and change the sets, and they'll wear different outfits in the city and the country," said Miller. "I hired a choreographer so the set changes will be like a dance and part of the show."

The production boasts a cast and crew of at least 50, and the show is double cast. Tommy Hodge and Sean May play Jack, Dan Gilbert and Jake Miller portray Algernon, Kristen Washington and Alexa Bechara play Gwendolen, Stephanie Davis and Sean Pugerude play Gwendolen's mother, and Casey Enochs and Frances Palaszczuk portray Cecily.

Jack lives in the country and invents a brother, Ernest, that he has to take care of in town. But in town, Jack pretends to be Ernest. Similarly, Jack's friend Algernon, who lives in town, goes to the country to help his fictional friend, Bunbury. Jack falls in love with Algernon's cousin Gwendolen, who thinks Jack is Ernest. Jack also has a ward named Cecily, who catches Algernon's eye.

Further complicating things, said senior Dan Gilbert, who plays Algernon, is that "Small things the characters take seriously are blown out of proportion." He said Algernon enjoys ribbing his buddy Jack and is witty and relaxed.

"He also loves eating. It's a huge deal to him," said Gilbert. "When he finds out about Cecily, he pretends to be Ernest so he can meet her, and he falls in love with her."

Gilbert said Algernon is "really fun to play, has quick comebacks and is always eating something. He lives a life of leisure and does whatever he likes." Regarding the show, he



Alexa Bechara and Dan Gilbert rehearse a scene.

SEE PAUL VI, PAGE 11



Surveillance photo of suspect.

Police Seek Bank Robber

City of Fairfax Police are looking for the person who robbed the M&T Bank branch at 9720 Fairfax Blvd. The incident occurred Wednesday, Nov. 3, around 9:20 a.m. Police say a lone male suspect entered the bank and handed the teller a note demanding money. No weapon was displayed. After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, the robber left the bank on foot; no one was injured.

The suspect is described as white, 25-35, approximately 6 feet and 160 pounds, with a noticeable mole on the right side of his face. He wore an orange baseball cap with a blue, hooded sweatshirt worn underneath a yellow construction vest with fluorescent stripes on it.

Anyone with information about him or his whereabouts is asked to call police at 703-385-7924, Det. Mike Boone at 703-385-7959, FBI Special Agent Dennis Serna at 202-278-2000 or Crime Solvers at 703-591-TIPS (8477).

Bank Robbery in Merrifield

Authorities are searching for the two men who robbed a Merrifield business, last Tuesday, Nov. 2, around 7:30 a.m. Fairfax County police say the pair entered the Unique Thrift store at 2956 Gallows Road, displayed handguns and ordered everyone to the floor. Store employees turned over an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspects fled on foot. No one was injured.

The first suspect is described as black, about 5 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and 190-200 pounds. He wore a black jacket. The second suspect is described as black, about 6 feet 1 inch to 6 feet 4 inches tall and 240-260 pounds. He wore a gray sweatshirt.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

Cook Hosts Town Hall Meeting on Disabilities

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.



PHOTOS BY GINA URICOLI/THE CONNECTION

Led by Shafik Bastawrous, the Good Shepherd Christian Academy's Praise Team sings to welcome family and guests as the school celebrates its success in the Kohl's Cares for Kids Contest.



Headmaster Father Anthony Messeh shares the school's plans with the \$500,000 of prize money.

Good Shepherd Academy Receives \$500K Check

Phil Smith, vice president and district manager of Kohl's, along with other Kohl's representatives, presented a \$500,000 check to Good Shepherd Christian Academy on Friday, Nov. 8.

The private school, which is located at 11911 Braddock Road in Fairfax, came in sixth place in the 10th anniversary of the Kohl's Cares for Kids contest. Each year Kohl's distributes \$10 million to the top 20 schools in the contest. Good Shepherd garnered 146,000 votes to place sixth out of the 100,000 participating schools.



Representatives from Kohl's, along with the faculty and students of Good Shepherd Christian Academy, celebrate the school's win of \$500,000 from the 10th anniversary of the Kohl's Cares for Kids Contest.

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.Cho@fairfaxcounty.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.

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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 Buhruz, 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. Blankenbecker, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 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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THE CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-778-9416

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-778-9436
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-224-3015
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

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Employment Advertising
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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 Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,

John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith
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

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LETTERS

Differing Opinion

To the Editor:

In response to the article "Connolly Ends Night Leading 11th District Race" [Connection, Nov. 4-10, 2010], I just wanted to express a different opinion than that of the one voter you chose to interview for an opinion on the controversial gun issue.

I also was a student at Virginia Tech during the shootings but had a starkly different reaction to the attack ad aired against Congressional Candidate Keith Fimian (R) in the final days of the campaign. While there are certainly different (and emotionally charged) opinions about whether guns should be allowed in classrooms, the fact that an attack ad used the massacre at Virginia Tech as political leverage at the last moment to turn voters away from a candidate was sickening and wrong.

Aside from the initial horror of listening to the "whose sister is next?" statement, the ad misleadingly made voters make the false connection that the Virginia Tech gunman got his weapon using the same "loophole" at issue. The fact of the matter is, the tragedy at Virginia Tech did not happen because of the "gun show loophole," and like it or not, no one knows what would have happened had a law-abiding, trained student been sitting in one of those classrooms. Fimian might have gone too far when he stated it definitely "would not have happened," but his opposition stooped to a new low with their response.

Allison Aldrich
Arlington

One-Sided Piece

To the Editor:

I believe your article on the Connolly and Fimian race ["Connolly Ends Night Leading 11th District Race," Connection, Nov. 4-10, 2010] was incredibly one-sided. It should have been left to the editorial page, not page 3. Other than mentioning the gaffe by Fimian, you did not write anything else about him. Connolly apparently had no negatives or gaffes in your eyes as there were none mentioned, only positive achievements.

If you would like to save your paper the money from providing my household with a free paper, please do as I will not be reading it anymore.

Kathi Crow
Burke

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THEATER

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.

"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 mother and daughters is a spinster schoolteacher. "School's



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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

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."

SEE 'SUMMER BRAVE,' PAGE 14



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SEE WOODSON, PAGE 9

THEATER

Woodson's '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

CAPPIES REVIEW

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 "Better."

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

SEE LITTLE WOMEN, PAGE 14

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Alison Jean Banks of Fairfax was named to the dean's list for the 2010 spring semester at Juniata College. Banks is a graduate in social work with a secondary emphasis in Spanish.

Ozana Kalman of Fairfax graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in linguistics from the University at Albany.

Michael J. Desroches of Fairfax was named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. Desroches is majoring in business. Penn State Behrend's dean's list recipients must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester.

Gregory Whitaker of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list at Drake University. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester.

Emily Cook of Fairfax received a bachelors degree in Business Administration from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind.

Elizabeth Danica Reams of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2010 semester at Drew University. In order to qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of 3.4 or above, which is

equivalent to a B+ or better.

Collin Kourtz, a member of the class of 2013 from Fairfax, has been named to the spring dean's list at Loyola University, Md. In order to qualify for the dean's list at Loyola, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.5 with a minimum of 15 credits.

Catherine McCafferty of Fairfax is one of 20 Xavier University students are part of Xavier University's Summer Service Internship Program serving at area non-profits and community agencies 35 hours a week. They develop a critical

SEE COLLEGE NOTES, PAGE 11

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THEATER

Paul VI

FROM PAGE 3

says the audience will like “the clever dialogue, the exchanges between Algernon and Jack and seeing the plot all come together in the end.”

Senior Tommy Hodge described Jack as the “typical, prim-and-proper, rich aristocrat. He says stupid things, but thinks whatever he says is brilliant and amazing. He made up Ernest so he could go see Gwendolen and woo her. In the country, he has to act the role of the aristocrat. But in town, he enjoys a life of luxury and pleasure and has the freedom to live as he wants.”

The role is different from the sad, angry or depressed characters Hodge usually plays, so he’s happy about the change. And, he added, “I like talking in an English accent.” Besides his scenes with Algernon, Hodge said the audience will also enjoy “following what happens to all the characters.”

Portraying Gwendolen, sophomore Kristen Washington says Gwendolen’s “very flirtatious and always in charge. Ernest is her fiancé, but she doesn’t know he’s really Jack. She’s fun to play because of her mood swings from romantic to forceful and back again, and because I’m not like her.” Washington says the audience will definitely like the play’s outcome and the arguments between Gwendolen and Cecily “because they’re both in love with Ernest.”

Senior Alexa Bechara also plays Gwendolen. “She’s prim and proper and was raised to be a smart young lady, but she sometimes has no idea what she’s talking about,” said Bechara. “She takes after her mom, who’s stern and unlikable, and she’s very bossy, which is always fun to play. She only loves Ernest because she thinks that word describes how the perfect man should be.”

COLLEGE NOTES

FROM PAGE 3

framework that will allow them to analyze systems and structures that cause oppression. McCafferty is a junior political science major at Xavier with minors in Catholicism and culture and peace studies working at the Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center.

Sara Elizabeth Duffy of Fairfax was named to the dean’s list at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton. Students qualify for Honors List with grade point averages of 3.75-4.0. Dean’s list honorees earn 3.50-3.74 grade point averages.



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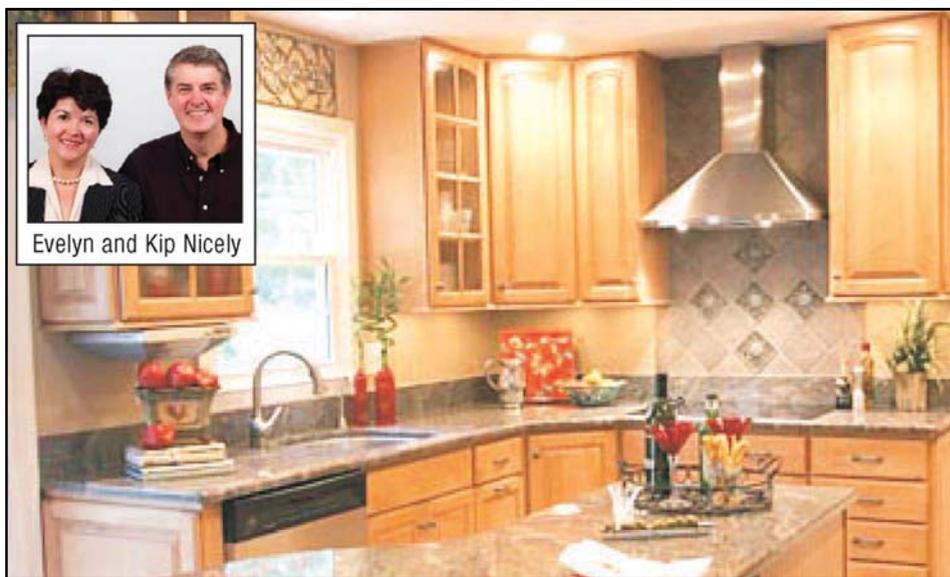
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FAITH

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 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.

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 Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags Friday, Nov. 26, 5:30 p.m.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 13

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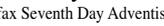
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FAITH

FROM PAGE 12

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Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane in Fairfax Station, will host The Alpha Course, Wednesdays, through Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. This is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting. Dinner and childcare provided. Free. 703-690-3401 or christchurchva.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

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

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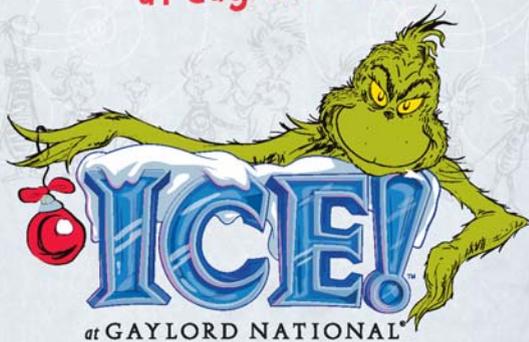
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'Summer Brave' Presents 1950s Smalltown Romance

FROM PAGE 8

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. 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."

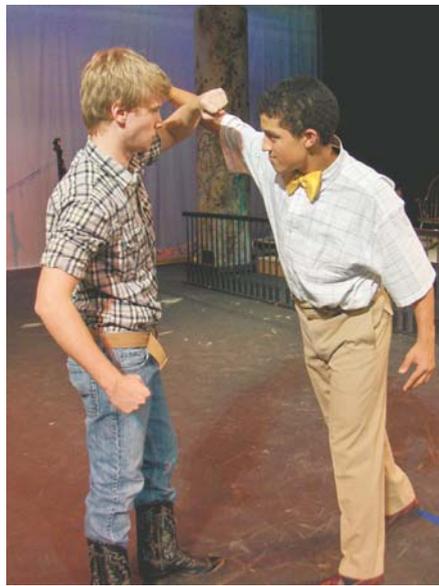


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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

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 re-

ally 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 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."

"You just fall in love with the characters."

— Jason Rath, portraying Alan Seymour

"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. And since it's a realistic drama, these characters, although exaggerated here, can be found in everyday life."

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 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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

'Little Women'

FROM PAGE 9

two remained separate characters that clearly loved each other. John Stovall and Kayla Slagter brought sensibility to the roles of Professor Bhaer and Marmee, respectively, 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 heart-breaking "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."

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."

CAPPIES REVIEW

POLITICS

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



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

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 Ilryong 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.

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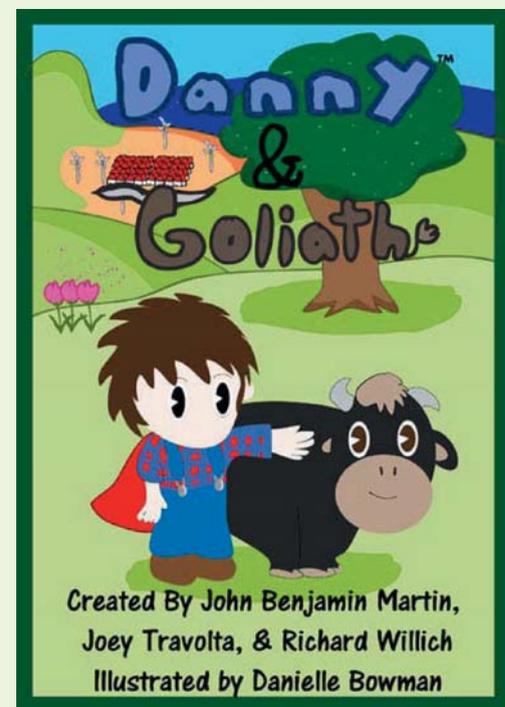
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3577 University Dr.....	\$ 585,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	Carolina Hurtado.....	Weichert.....	703-309-6051
5359 Black Oak Dr.....	\$598,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Marsha Wolber.....	Long & Foster.....	703-618-4397
3775 Center Way.....	\$749,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Olga Aste.....	Century 21.....	703-624-4199
5503 Ridge View Dr W.....	\$1,050,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Ashley O'Brien.....	RE/MAX.....	571-332-1816

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5313 Poplar Valley Ct.....	\$699,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	James Braeu.....	Coldwell Banker.....	202-387-6180
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13514 Little Brook Dr.....	\$325,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Rosario Carballo.....	Fairfax.....	571-215-0735
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Springfield

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

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.wtdrama.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 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 Bathtub 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 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.

MONDAY/NOV. 15

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

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

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Fairfax 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: fairfax@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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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)

"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

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 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

SEE CONNATSER, PAGE 19

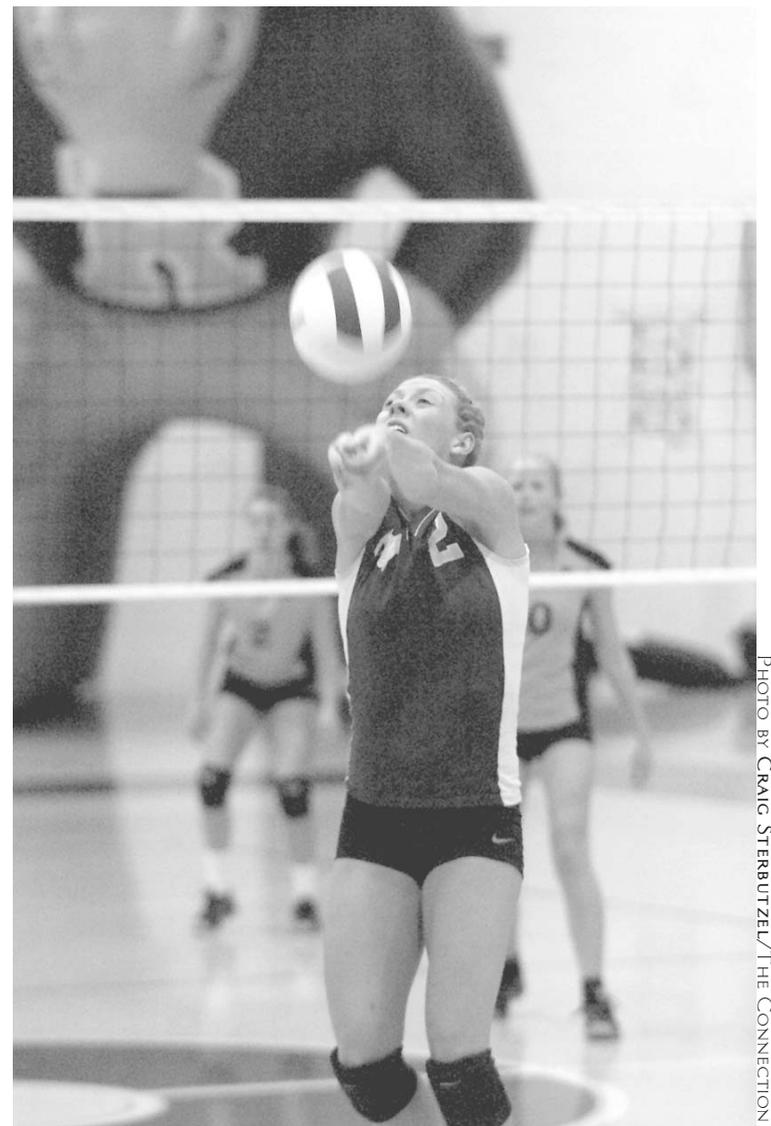


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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

Rebels Prepare To Take On Centreville in Play Offs

Fairfax faces former coach's new team in playoff game.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax High football team will be going up against an old friend this Friday night when the Rebels meet host team Centreville in a Division 6 first round Northern Region playoff game. Game time for the quarterfinals round contest is 7:30 p.m.

Fairfax (6-4) will be playing a Wildcats' team coached by Chris Haddock, who just one year ago was leading the Rebels into the postseason as the Fairfax head coach.

But Haddock, who helped re-build the Fairfax program during his three seasons at the helm, accepted the head coaching position at Centreville this past off-season. His new team has benefited under his direction as the Wildcats, members of the powerful Concorde District, were 8-0 at one point before losing the past two weeks to finish the regular season at 8-2.

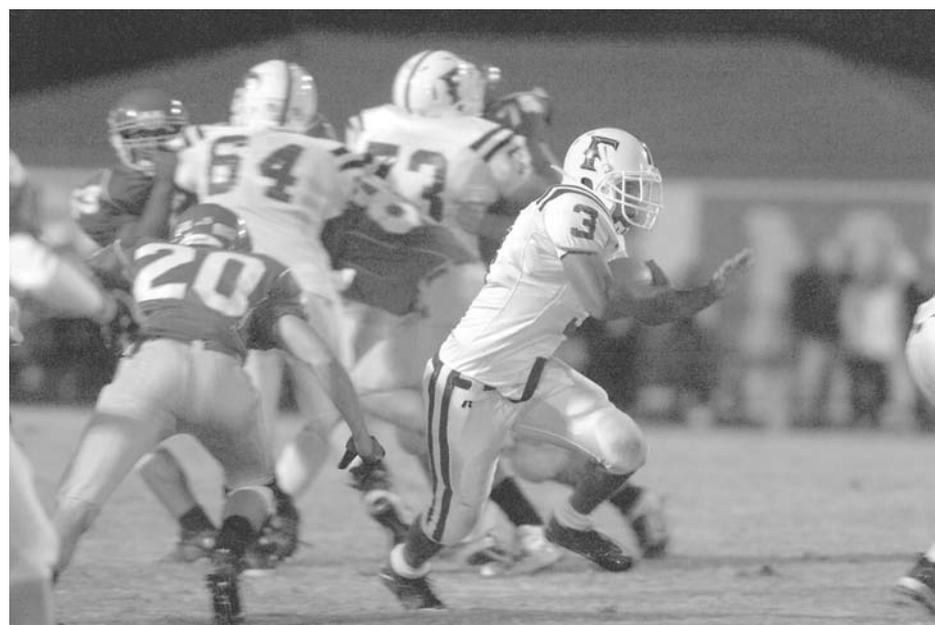


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax running back Marcus Bailey (3) and his teammates will be looking to maintain possession of the football against a talented Centreville defense this Friday night in a Division 6 Northern Region playoff game.

Kevin Simonds, a former Fairfax assistant coach under Haddock and the Rebels' current head coach, understands the coaching storyline leading up to Friday's postseason

game. But he said the playoff affair is not about the coaches.

"One of the biggest things I've been telling the kids this week is that this is not coach

Simonds versus coach Haddock, but Fairfax versus Centreville," said Simonds. "We are very excited about being in the playoffs."

Fairfax, in the eight-team Division 6 playoff format, is the No. 7 seed while Centreville is the No. 2 seed. The winner of Friday's game will advance to the semifinals next week.

A year ago, under Haddock, Fairfax lost its first round Division 6 playoff game, 19-14, to eventual region champion and state runner-up Lake Braddock. This year's Fairfax squad, under Simonds, will be looking to take that next step with a playoff victory, which would come at the expense of the Rebels' former coach.

Simonds and Haddock both understand the others' coaching style.

"I have all the respect for Chris Haddock," said Simonds. "This will be a matchup I'm looking forward to because we're familiar with [his style]. I coached three years under Chris."

Simonds said he believes his underdog Rebels can match up well on offense, defense and on special teams with the much-heralded Centreville team. The coach said his players are anxious to play the Wild

SEE REBELS, PAGE 19

SPORTS



Brandon Quarles plants a left jab on opponent Lawrence Jones. Quarles won the four-round bout by unanimous decision at last Saturday's Jimmy Lange Boxing event at Patriot Center, Fairfax.



Jonathan Reid of Nashville, Tenn., lands a solid left on Baltimore boxer Mike McFail. Reid won his bout by unanimous decision.



Local boxer Jimmy Lange knocks out opponent Joe Wyatt to win the North American Boxing Association's U.S. 154-pound title. The two faced off in a 10-round war with Lange pulling off the KO in the last few seconds of the 10th round.



Todd 'White Lightning' Wilson, of Fairfax releases a flurry of punishment against South Carolina boxer Corey 'Bad Boy' Goodwin that results in a third round stoppage. Wilson remained undefeated.



Johnny Lange, 8, congratulates his father, Jimmy Lange, after winning a brutal 10-round title fight with a last minute knockout.

Title Bout

Jimmy Lange wins super welterweight title at Nov. 6 Patriot Center event.

PHOTOS BY MELANIE LEGOULLON



Great Falls resident Jimmy Lange, left, and Richmond boxer Joe Wyatt exchange punches during their Super Welterweight title fight.



Perry Ballard, from Martinsburg, W.Va., postures for the crowd after knocking out South Carolina opponent Booker Mullins in the first round at the Jimmy Lange Boxing event at the Patriot Center.

SPORTS

Rebels Face Centreville

FROM PAGE 17

cats. "We had a great practice yesterday," said Simonds, on Tuesday. "There was lots of enthusiasm. You realize how nice it is to practice now [for the playoffs]. You get to turn on the lights [for a night workout], breathe in the crisp air and experience the emotions of the playoffs."

Fairfax, the coach realizes, will have to play a great game in order to defeat Centreville and advance.

"Definitely, they are stout and a good team," said Simonds. "But we have confidence. It's going to come down

to turnovers, special teams play and who can run the clock and move the football and keep the other teams' offense off the field."

FAIRFAX, which went 3-3 in the Liberty District this season, has proved it can play well against some of the region's top teams. The Rebels defeated Concorde District champion Robinson, 20-12, way back in week two of the season. They nearly defeated district opponent McLean in a week eight game, but lost 24-20. The Highlanders, celebrating homecoming that night, improved to 8-0 with that victory over the Rebels.

Since that setback, Fairfax has come back strong with district wins over Marshall, 34-

16, and Jefferson, 21-0, to clinch a playoff berth.

Centreville, meanwhile, heads into the playoffs on a two-game losing streak following its 8-0 start. The Wildcats lost a week nine affair at Westfield, 35-14, than fell at Robinson, 27-0, last week.

Centreville has true game-breakers in star running back Manny Smith, who is averaging 138 yards per game, and quarterback

Chance Roman, who has tossed 16 touchdowns.

Fairfax has an outstanding playmaker in running back Marcus Bailey.

"Stopping Marcus Bailey will be tough," said Had-

dock. "Marcus is a great kid with an elusive and powerful style of running. He will certainly be on our radar."

Haddock has tons of respect for his former team and coach Simonds.

"Kevin Simonds is a good man and an opponent that does things the right way," said Haddock. "It is always great to play people and programs like that.

"We are very excited to be back in the playoffs," said Haddock. "Playing Fairfax will be a challenge but one our team is up for. We have played two of the toughest teams in the Northern Region the last two weeks as well as many other tough teams and hopefully that will have us battle tested for the playoffs."

"We are very excited about being in the playoffs."

— Coach Kevin Simonds

Connatser Sets Up Rams

FROM PAGE 17

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 after the other semifinal match between Hayfield and Langley. Stone Bridge is con-

sidered 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."

Robinson Football To Host Oakton

The Robinson football team, seeded No. 4, will host No. 5 Oakton on Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m., during the opening round of the

Northern Region Division 6 AAA playoffs. The Rams closed the regular season with a 27-0 win over Centreville.

MILITARY NOTES

Army Spec. Rajbir S. Virk graduated from the M1 Abrams Tank System Maintainer Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Knox, Ky. Virk is the son of Sukha S. and Kuljeet K. Virk of Washington St., Fairfax.

Navy Reserve Seaman Apprentice Stephanie A. Thomaston, daughter of Olga T. McKie of Fairfax, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

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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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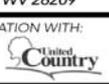
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What Is a School?

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.

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