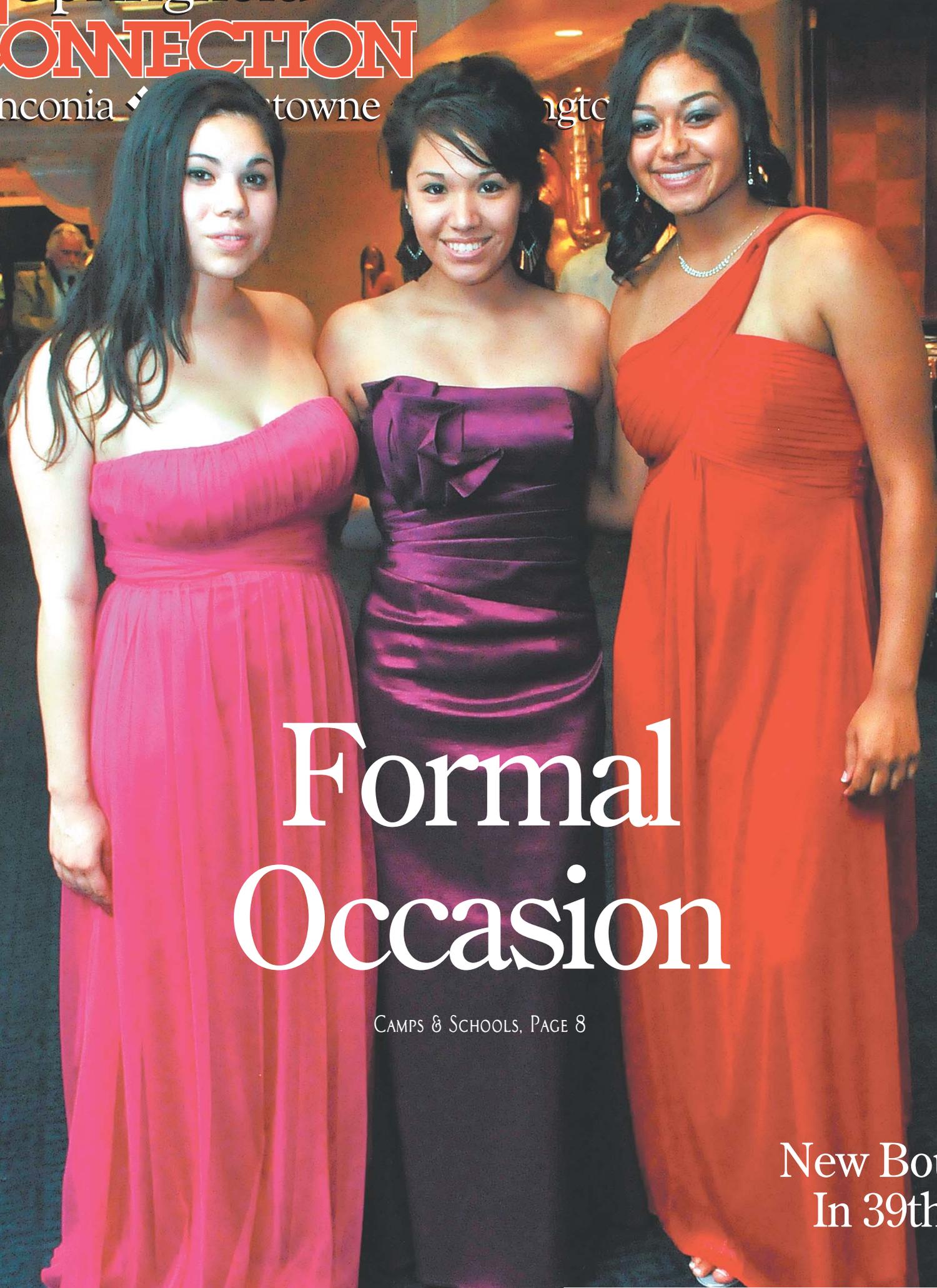


Springfield CONNECTION

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Lucy Pineda, Oralia Mejia and Deryn Young dressed up for the Edison High School Prom, which took place Saturday, June 4, at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington.

Formal Occasion

CAMPS & SCHOOLS, PAGE 8

New Boundaries
In 39th District

NEWS, PAGE 3

Skatefest Returns
To Wakefield Park

NEWS, PAGE 4

PRSR.T STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
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MARTINSBURG, WV
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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ◆ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ◆ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

JUNE 9-15, 2011

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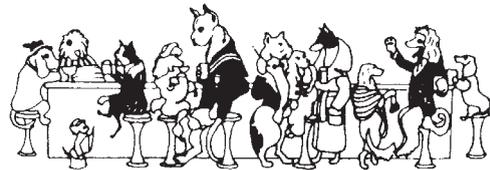
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Redistricting Alters Senate Battleground

Precincts switch from Lee to Mount Vernon.

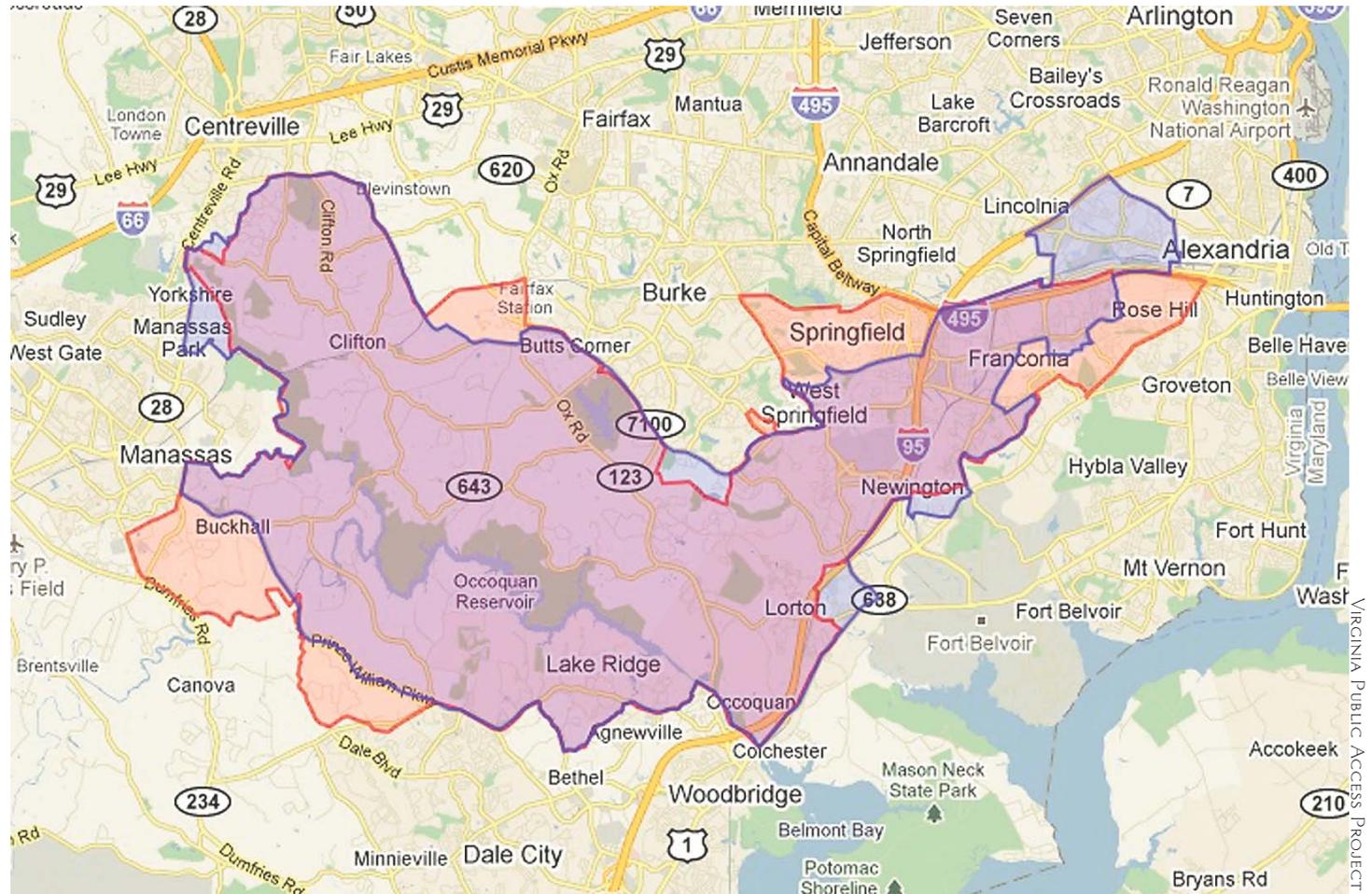
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

One of the chief architects of the Democratic Party's Senate redistricting plan has redrawn his own district to lose parts of the Lee District and gain parts of the Mount Vernon District. That's by design of State Sen. George Barker (D-39). When the smoke cleared in this year's redistricting drama, Barker's district got rid of one Prince William County precinct and eight Fairfax County precincts. In exchange, he drew the new district to pick up three Prince William precincts, six Fairfax precincts and six City of Alexandria precincts.

Because Barker was narrowly elected in 2007, when the Democratic Party was at its apex, many have viewed the new map as an attempt to hold a difficult seat by increasing the Democratic voters.

"This is definitely a battleground seat," said Isaac Wood, communications director for the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "The political calculus the Democrats are using here is that they needed to make this seat more safe while not jeopardizing the Democratic vote elsewhere."

SEE 39TH STATE, PAGE 5



The red areas show parts of the district that was lost in redistricting, and the blue areas show new parts of the district. The purple section of the district did not change.

Army Officer Finds New Vision of Life

The Journey church hosts U.S. Army's first blind active-duty officer.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

"As best I can remember, I'm a pretty good-looking guy," said Capt. Scott Smiley. His statement draws polite laughter from his audience Saturday night, June 4, at Robert E. Lee High School. They know the tall, athletic soldier has to rely on his memory to "see" anything, because his bright blue eyes are prosthetic, lost to a suicide bomber in Iraq.

Smiley and his wife, Tiffany, have been touring the country telling their story of a young marriage tested and promoting his bestselling book, "Hope Unseen," which chronicles the journey of faith that helped Smiley become the U.S. Army's first blind, active-duty officer. He currently commands the Warrior Transition Unit for ailing and wounded soldiers at West Point.

The Journey church in Springfield, a 400-member congregation comprising many military families, hosted Smiley's discussion and book-signing event on Saturday, June 4.

Sitting on studio chairs in the high school's auditorium, the Smileys start their story with light anecdotes about meeting each other in elementary school in their hometown of Pasco, Wash. "I starred his photo in my sixth-grade yearbook," Tiffany Smiley said to the audience.

Both Scott and Tiffany Smiley are from devoutly Christian families. At West Point, Scott Smiley was nicknamed "The Oak" for his steadfast Christian beliefs and his commanding style. When he got his class ring as a junior at West Point, he requested the inscription "Phil." He explained to the surprised woman taking his order that "Phil" was not a person, but a book of the Bible, a reference to the verse from Philippians that reads: "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Gary and Carol Ulrich of Springfield greet Capt. Scott Smiley and his wife, Tiffany at his book-signing on Saturday, June 4, at Robert E. Lee High School. The event was hosted by The Journey church in Springfield.

"The devastation I felt is beyond words. I cried tears from eyes that no longer served any other purpose."

— Capt. Scott Smiley

every day and live like this?" Scott

Smiley said he asked repeatedly when he was recovering from his near-fatal injuries in a hospital room at Walter Reed in Washington, D.C.

On April 5, 2005, he was patrolling a particularly dangerous stretch of highway near Mosul for car bombs. Vehicle-based improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) had become al-Qaeda's increas-

That verse would haunt Scott Smiley after his experiences in Iraq.

"God, what do you want from me? Why am I here? How am I supposed to wake up

based improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) had become al-Qaeda's increas-

SEE SOLDIER, PAGE 16

Celebrate Fairfax! Offers Food, Fireworks and Music

Celebrate Fairfax!, the largest music and entertainment festival in Virginia, kicks off its 30th annual event with headliners Third Eye Blind, The Bangles and The Legwarmers.

Running Friday, June 11, through Sunday, June 13, the festival features exhibits, singing, dancing, food and fireworks.

New programming this year includes History Hill, Greenology: The Science of Green Living, the Craft Beer Garden and Silent Disco, Comedy Ventriloquist Tom Crowl in the Board Auditorium and the all new Extreme Zone with go-cart racing.

A recipient of one of the International Festivals and Events Association's top honors, Celebrate Fairfax! was named a Bronze Pinnacle Award winner in 2005 for its long-time quality and success.

2011 Headline Entertainment Schedule for the Bud Light Main Stage:

- ❖ Friday, June 10, at 8 p.m. – Third Eye Blind
- ❖ Saturday, June 11, at 8 p.m. The Bangles
- ❖ Sunday, June 12, at 4:30 p.m., The Legwarmers

General admission seating is available for all performances; shows are free with daily tickets to the event. Advance tickets go on sale May 9 at the Wegmans in Fairfax and are currently on sale now at www.celebratefairfax.com.

For more information on any of the festival's programs, tickets and parking, go to www.celebratefairfax.com.

Keep Pets Cool in the Heat

Fairfax County Animal Control Officers have recently responded to dozens of reports of animals locked in hot cars in parking lots and urge pet owners to keep pets at home on hot days. Animals left in vehicles or other unsuitable environments, even for a short time, may face life-threatening conditions. So officers urge pet owners to remember these tips:

- ❖ Never leave pets in a parked car. On a warm day, temperatures can rapidly rise to dangerous levels. Anyone who sees an animal in distress in a parked car should contact police.
- ❖ Shade and water are vital to pets. Pet owners must provide adequate shelter protecting animals from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, direct sunlight and adverse effects of heat or cold. A doghouse in the backyard with no access to shade doesn't protect animals from sun.
- ❖ Limit animals' exercise on hot days – adjust the intensity and duration of exercise. Watch for shortness of breath and remember that asphalt gets very hot and can burn paws; walk dogs on grass, if possible.
- ❖ Recognize heatstroke symptoms. If a pet shows signs such as heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, vomiting, fever, dizziness, restlessness, excessive thirst and profuse salivation, contact a veterinarian immediately. Take steps to reduce the animal's body temperature – apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck and chest; provide water and ice cubes for hydration; and move the animal into the shade or air conditioning.

Royals Draft Local Pitcher

The Kansas City Royals selected South County senior pitcher Evan Beal in the eighth round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft on June 7.

Beal was the 246th player chosen and the second Virginia high school player to come off the board. The New York Yankees selected Kecoughtan outfielder Jake Cave in the sixth round with the 209th overall pick.

The 6-foot-5 Beal is signed with the University of South Carolina. His older brother, pitcher Jesse Beal, was a 14th-round selection of the Baltimore Orioles in 2008.

— JON ROETMAN

Time To Hit the Ramp

Wakefield Skate Park hosts fund-raiser for Children's National Medical Center.

BY BENJAMIN PACZAK
THE CONNECTION

On June 17 and 18, the fifth annual Skatefest is coming to the Wakefield Skate Park, giving skaters of all ages the chance to show off their skills while helping raise money for Children's National Medical Center of Washington, D.C.

"I'm really excited because it's an event that legitimizes skateboarding," said Jimmy Callahan, event manager. "Often times skateboarders get viewed negatively as people who destroy public property or are a nuisance to the community, but this allows them to come out, show what they can do, show the skills they have, and a lot of the people that come out are really good at skateboarding."

"And it gives back to the community as it raises money for Children's National and people just have a lot of fun in a good event," he said.

"So far we've raised \$16,000 [during the four years], so this year we would like to make up to \$30,000 total," Jackie Kidwell said, public relations director.

"It's a high goal but we're reaching for it," Kidwell said. "We are designating the monetary funds to three different sections of the hospital."

This year, Vitaminwater is the headlining sponsor, allowing the festival to have extra events and incen-

"We're hoping this will be our biggest year yet, hoping we get a lot of great skaters coming out, and raise a lot of money for Children's National."

— Jimmy Callahan, event manager



Dominic Vincente, 20, warms up before last year's competition.

tives as they hope for 400 participants to show up, almost twice as many as previous years.

Events include a halfpipe, the Vitaminwater Street Course and the best trick event, with the preliminary rounds taking place on Friday and continuing on Saturday. The two top competitors will be receiving

two slots in the Maloof Money Cup in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 3 and 4.

"Attached to that, the judges are scoping out to see not only the best competitors in the competition, but kids that are representing the cause well and being good role models, who they invite to participate in the opportunity for a spot in the Fairfax Surf Shop's skate team," Kidwell said.

The event is expected to be bigger than its predecessors, bringing in carnival games, music DJs, a professional graffiti artist, skate vendors, and hopefully professional skaters that attend every year from Maryland.

"When we started out, we weren't really sure what to expect, who would come out, who would be interested in participating, and every year we have gotten a bigger and bigger response, different people wanted to participate and tons of kids coming out to have a good time," Callahan said. "So we're just glad it's been able to continue and grow every year."

Skaters of all ages are anticipated to show, as age categories include 11-and-under, 19-and-older, and, during the Sk8 for a Cause all age ranges, anywhere from 5 to 50 are expected to be skating at 2 p.m.

"We're hoping this will be our biggest year yet, hoping we get a lot of great skaters coming out, and raise a lot of money for Children's National," Callahan said.

More information can be found on the Skatefest's website: SkatefestFairfax.com.



FILE PHOTOS

C.J. Titus, 10, rides the half pipe during last year's Skatefest.

39th State Senate District Boundary Redrawn

FROM PAGE 3

dizing other seats.”

Whether or not the risk will work is up to voters, who will make the final call in November. The old 39th Senate District had 55 percent support for Republican Bob McDonnell during the last election. The new district had about 53 percent. That makes the new version of the district about 2 percent more Democratic, although still a tough race — especially for a freshman member such as Barker who narrowly won the seat during the last Senate election cycle.

“This is a politically motivated district,” said Brenda Hankins, chairwoman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. “It’s so politically motivated that it could end up harming voters because they won’t be represented adequately in Richmond.”

Three Republicans are vying for the chance to take on Barker. The list includes

former Justice Department official Miller Baker, special-education assistant Andre Muange and education administrator Scott Martin. Considering the Republicans have a shot at beating the narrowly elected freshman senator, the three potential candidates are focused at taking the fight to Barker.

“He’s been asleep at the switch on BRAC,” said Baker, referring to the thousands of new commuters that are expected to clog regional traffic at the Mark Center. “This is clearly a case of misplaced priorities.”

“That’s patently absurd,” Barker responded. “I was working on this issue before I was even elected to the Senate.”

Barker pointed out that he opposed the Mark Center location for the Washington Headquarters Service as a member of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission. During his time on the commission and as a senator, Barker said, he supported the General Services Administration warehouse location, which was located at the Franconia-Springfield Metro station.

“Obviously, this has been frustrating,” said Barker. “It’s a huge problem, and I’m on the record opposing the Mark Center site.”

In the Senate, Barker has been one of the most successful members in terms of getting legislation through the General Assembly. In the most recent session, for example, he was one of two members who were able to get 20 bills or more to the governor’s desk. If he is elected to another term this year, Barker said he wants to look at ways to attract jobs to Virginia. Two potential legislative fixes he is exploring could include offering tax incentives to new corporations and deferring tax payments during the startup phase.

“We’re still looking which incentives will work best,” said Barker. “Right now, we’re taking a close look at other states that are successful with economic development.”

On the Republican side, candidates are focused on lowering taxes and decreasing spending. Baker, for example, said he would cut money that goes to public television and

public radio. Social issues may also become points of distinction in the general election depending on which candidate emerges as the G.O.P. standard-bearer.

“I respect life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death,” said Muange in a written statement outlining his campaign platform. “I respect natural marriage between one man and one woman and recognize that it is the foundation of the family.”

Whichever Republican wins the August primary, Barker is likely to be challenged on the economy. Martin’s campaign platform, for example, includes eradicating the state’s business and professional occupancy license taxes. On the campaign trail, Martin has been critical of the taxes because businesses must project future gross receipts and pay on the projections. That means that some businesses end up paying too much while others pay a penalty for not accurately predicting future business in a difficult economic climate.



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OPINION

Still Time To Be a Candidate

And also time to register to vote, primary election day is Aug. 23.

Have you considered running for office? There are quite a few slots open for both major parties in the coming election, and even if you want to seek your party's nomination you have until June 15 to get yourself on the ballot. The primary election is Aug. 23; the general election is Nov. 8, this year.

In Virginia, all 100 seats in the House of Delegates and 40 seats in the State Senate are up for election on Nov. 8, 2011, along with the Sheriff and Commonwealth's Attorney in each jurisdiction, and many local offices as well.

This all comes before any presidential contest. That election is in November 2012. But the news has been about President Obama seeking to raise \$1 billion (seriously?) for his reelection campaign and a colorfully expanding and contracting Republican field (seriously).

Long before then, voters in Virginia will make some very serious state and local choices that likely will have more impact on the quality of schools, property values, traffic and transit choices, public safety and all around quality of life than will the presidential race that looms in 2012.

Candidate Concerns

To the Editor:

In your article "Wade Announces Candidacy for Supervisor" [Connection, April 14-20, 2011], about nominal Republican Christopher Wade running as a Democrat in a primary against Democrat lawyer Marc Greidinger for the privilege of facing incumbent John Cook (R) in November, Wade made a couple of ridiculous statements. First, he said he is the only commuter in the race. If you Google Greidinger you see he is, or at least has at one time, practiced law in Ellicott City, Md. If Wade doesn't believe Greidinger commutes, how does he think the lawyer gets to work? For that matter, how does Wade think Cook gets to work?

The signature issue for John Cook in this election is transportation and the ridiculous fact that Fairfax County does not control its own roads, something most county residents were not even aware of. It seems Wade isn't either.

Second, Wade declares he's all for transparency for the county

This is the first election since redistricting, and many Northern Virginia voters will find that they are in a new House of Delegates or state Senate district, and that it takes time to get to know a new set of candidates.

In Fairfax County, where the public schools consume more than half the budget of the entire county, a majority of current school board members have chosen not to seek reelection. Intense issues, including disciplinary policy, school start times, broad and qualitative approaches to course offerings, administrative costs and much more are at stake.

Candidates for school board, a non-partisan office, have until Aug. 23 to file their candidacy. This is one reason that it seemed unfortunate for Fairfax County Democrats to scramble to endorse school board candidates last month, throwing some established procedures out the window literally in the

EDITORIAL

11th hour in the process. In other races, the primary is really the general election. For example, state senate districts 30 and 31 that represent parts of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax, have long-time incumbents Patsy Ticer (30) and Mary Margaret Whipple (31) retiring. A multi-candidate battle for the Democratic primary in each could predict the November results in these heavily Democratic districts.

Even though redistricting has made District 31 nearly 10 percent more Republican according to the Virginia Public Access Project, www.vpap.org, the new district still voted just 44 percent for Gov. McDonnell in the last elec-

tion. The previously compact district centered in Arlington now stretches all the way to Sterling. Huge swaths of McLean and Great Falls, long in District 32, will now find themselves in District 31.

Similarly, District 30 is nearly 5 percent more Republican, but voted just 41 percent for Gov. McDonnell. The district now stretches down into Mount Vernon, encompassing areas previously in District 36.

These are just a few examples of why it's time to tune in to the local elections. We invite your suggestions, questions and contributions. The Connection will print letters to the editor, some columns from candidates, announcements of debates, stories and profiles and more in the coming months.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

and activities are offered during eighth Period. "This embedded time allows students the opportunity for academic assistance, explore a new interest through a club or socialize with friends in a supervised activity." A 2010-11 sample includes such activities as athletic injury clinic, weight lifting, basketball, swim/dive, crew, ballroom dancing, chorus, band drum line, student council, hip hop roots, math team, Model United Nations, school newspaper, Latin club, Spanish club, Russian Honor Society, Namaste Victory celebration for World Cricket cup and more. Within school hours, TJ clubs and activities create a sense of community, build school spirit, and with an opportunity to attend approximately two to four clubs a week, it is seamless to beef up a college application.

The philosophy is for all TJ students to have access to clubs and activities during the school day before the buses leave. This helps students without "rides" to participate and likely keeps many cars off our roads. The eighth period coordinator position (U.S.-20 salary scale with contract length of 11 Months/(219 days) makes cer

Follow TJ Activities Model

To the Editor:

The Teacher Appreciation Week ad [Connection May 4-10, 2011] mentions: "Many teachers in Fairfax have had to take second jobs to pay their bills and provide for their children, which takes time away from their ability to do extra-curricular work (like sponsoring clubs or mentoring) for FCPS." A possible solution may be for Fairfax residents to explore the plan Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJ) has used for many years. TJ provides students academic assistance, clubs, activities, "sports" and "curricular" during the TJ school day before the buses leave. TJ teachers are paid for their extra-curricular work through extended day contracts. As a parent who has had the pleasure of knowing TJ students and families for many years, I would say TJ's extra-curricular plan is worth exploring on the TJHSST website or the TJ Colonial Athletics link: http://www.colonialathletics.org/library/files/ColonialAthletics_org/files/Clubs-Activities%20List.pdf Briefly, most of TJ's 165 clubs

Details

TO RUN

FOR PARTY CANDIDATES, the payment/filing deadline is 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 15. **NON-PARTY CANDIDATES** have until primary election day, Tuesday, Aug. 23, to declare their candidacy.

TO VOTE

Primary Election Day, Tuesday, Aug. 23
General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8
The deadline to register for the Aug. 23 primary is Monday, Aug. 1.
Monday, Oct. 17 is the deadline to register to vote or update one's address for the Nov. 8 General Election.

tion. The previously compact district centered in Arlington now stretches all the way to Sterling. Huge swaths of McLean and Great Falls, long in District 32, will now find themselves in District 31.

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— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
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e-mail:
springfield@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-778-9416

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Nick Horrock
County & Projects
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
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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, John Smith

Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Peter Labovitz
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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

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

OPINION

Great Opportunity in Virginia

Plan to relocate juvenile offenders would save state money.

BY SEN. DAVID MARSDEN
D. 37TH DISTRICT

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) has prioritized his goals for his term of office: find efficiencies that reduce the size of state government, cut costs, move services closer to people. And engage in evidence-based best practices wherever possible. He has also started a major effort to expand and strengthen reentry services for returning adult inmates and wards of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety.

I have been working with the administration this year to improve the chances that youths returning from the juvenile corrections system will succeed in life. The first weeks after a return from incarceration can be overwhelming. Finding employment or reintegrating into school as well as coping with family issues that may not have improved during the period of the child's commitment are significant challenges. These challenges are not easily overcome and are made very difficult if the reentry effort is taking place 200 miles from the youth's home in a correctional center.

In the budget recently approved by the Virginia General Assembly, I inserted an amendment requiring DJJ to examine its commitment (sentencing) practices. This was done with an eye toward closing an aging juvenile correctional facility in Hanover County and placing an equivalent number of committed youths in locally operated, but state supported, juvenile detention centers where youths are held as they await action by the juvenile court. Children would be housed in newer facilities with state-of-the-art reentry programs closer to family, school, employment and treatment services during the final weeks of their sentence. This could reduce recidivism and vastly improve outcomes for offenders. As envisioned, it would dramatically reform juvenile justice practice and put Virginia in position to accomplish many of the governor's goals.

The Hanover facility currently houses roughly 125 juveniles who are wards of DJJ. These children are

engaged in various treatment programs, with varying lengths of commitment. We have nearly 500 empty juvenile detention beds in 24 local facilities statewide. These facilities are underused — because of overbuilding during the 1990s, significant decreases in crime since then, more efficient case processing, and Virginia juvenile court judges' application of evidenced-based alternatives to detention for young offenders. Ten to 12 of these facilities could be used to establish regional reentry programs paid for by the state with money saved from the closure of the Hanover facility.

Savings could amount to several million dollars, and jobs would be created in communities all over the commonwealth. Current state employees could fill some of these new jobs. Other state employees would be eligible to transfer to other correctional facilities in the juvenile or adult correctional systems as vacancies become available. This will create a hardship for affected state workers, but they would be eligible for Workforce Transition Act funds as they seek new employment. The Hanover facility currently sits on 330 acres of well-located land (ideal for development) that can be sold. The sale will provide the commonwealth with an infusion of needed revenue and return the property to the tax rolls of Hanover County.

Progress can be difficult, but reducing recidivism and improving kids' chances of succeeding in life is worth the effort. Treatment and services closer to an offender's home is an accepted "best practice" in the juvenile justice field that improves the odds of youth not to engage in further criminal activity. Communities will be able to wrap services around these returning offenders to maximize the potential for a productive life. Public and private agency resources near the home can be coordinated with parole officials to come up with a plan that meets the individual's needs, and leaves them with reduced opportunity and impulse to fall into old habits and patterns of behavior. These efforts will lead to improved public safety.

We have a rare opportunity to improve the lives of our young offenders, save money, reduce the size of government, and move services closer to those who need it. Virginia must put its' resources to work in new ways. Juvenile justice advocates from around the country are eager to see whether this "first of its kind" program to improve the reintegration of juvenile offenders into the community will bear fruit.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

tain the system works. We certainly could consider such opportunities for more FCPS high school students and teachers instead of just one school. Many students who must care for younger siblings, are employed after school, play sports or various other conflicts cannot attend clubs, but have a solution with TJ plan. We applaud TJ's eighth period program and believe access to such academic assistance, instruction and clubs should be equitable.

Could such eighth period academic assistance increase TJ students' grade point averages through improved comprehension as students engage with teachers on a more individual and frequent basis?

Many of our schools compete with TJ for recognition in clubs and activities. Does TJ's eighth period provide an advantage over other schools

in our district and state?

Are other high school students in FCPS at a disadvantage in college applications when only TJ students are provided clubs and activities during the school day?

Would the smaller student class size at TJ make a positive difference for other students and show appreciation for our teachers at other high schools?

I imagine our TJ Colonials will speak up and provide well-organized insight, yet, it is worth the time for parents of "base" schools throughout Fairfax to explore our governor's school TJHSST websites and the TJ Partnership Fund to learn more, ask questions and appreciate a teacher who volunteered to stay after school to help a student or sponsor a club.

Janet Jameson
Fairfax County



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CAMPS & SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

The Junior Class committee counts ballots for the 2011 Prom King and Queen.

All Dressed Up

Edison High School students strut their stuff Saturday, June 4, at the 2010 Senior Prom.

On Saturday, June 4, the Edison High School eagles had a chance to go show off their finery at the 2010 Senior Prom. The year-end formal took place at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington.



Leah Hart and Cynthia Hughell pose for a photo at the June 4 Edison High School Prom.



Mizna Jabeen, Halder Javid and Laura Lauderdale looked their best for the 2011 Edison High School Prom at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington.



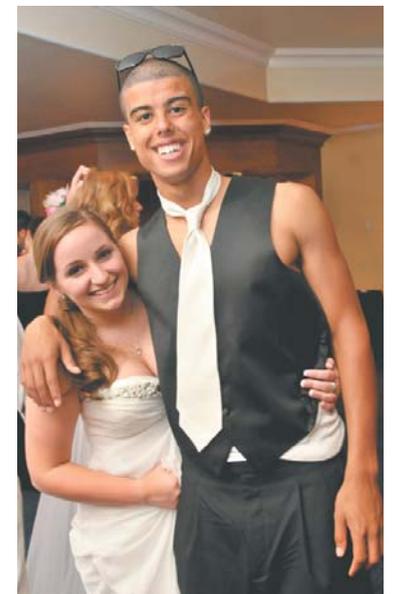
Moises Navarrette, Christiana Le Masters and Collin Beck meet up with friends at the buffet.



Cindy Lopez and Aisha Anthony pose for a photo Saturday night, June 4, at the Edison High School Prom.



Senior class sponsor Michele Tisdale samples a little of the flowing chocolate.



Kaitlynn Miller and Jamison Hart took part in the 2011 Edison High School Prom at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington.

ENTERTAINMENT

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/JUNE 9

Msanii, JoRob, EmCee the MC, MC Brooks, Dumir RIGHT, MR. FORGE, Laelo Hood, POETIC, D.Criminals, Cisco Kid, Bundles Maserati Young, Diggy Live!, C.M.A Honest Abe, Donnie Brasco and more. 6:30 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, Meeting Room 117W. Practice and improve your English with instructor Gloria Monick. Adults. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, Kingstowne Meeting Room. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

Facebook: What You Need to Know. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, Meeting Room 1/2. Lesley Lykins, a Navy lieutenant, will walk you through creating a profile on Facebook, setting your profile to properly protect your privacy and maximizing your use of Facebook. Bring your own laptop to maximize the training. Adults. Registration required. 7250 Commerce St., Springfield.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

City of Fairfax Band. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. A pops-style symphonic concert of light classical, Broadway, jazz, film, and marches presented as part of Fairfax County Park Authority's "Braddock Nights." Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

Dixie Melody Boys. 7:30 p.m. Mount Calvary Community Church, 6731 Beulah St., Alexandria. Southern gospel. 703-971-0165 or www.mtcalvarycc.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

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

Urban Art Film Series: Guerilla ART. 5 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The film portrays a new generation of street artists led by UK stencil

artist Banksy. Adult content, mild nudity in art and strong language. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Apex Booking Presents: Lakeview and more. 2:30 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

SummerJam with Nipsey Hussle, RDC ENT, Juicy Slutty Boyz, Young Moe, E-Galotto, DJ Schemes, DJ Reece and more. 10 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

Burke Centre Friends Mini Book Sale. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, Burke Centre Hall. Browse our mini book sale dedicated to children. All ages. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Tracing Burke's History: A Dedication. 11:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library. Join Clara Barton, Silas Burke, Nutbrown Hare, and others as Burke Centre Library dedicates its historic Oak tree ring display. All ages. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Clara Barton-Red Cross Angel. 12:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library. Actress Mary Ann Jung presents her award-winning show about Clara Barton and the Civil War. All ages. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Wonderful Wild Creatures of Nature. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, Burke Centre Book Burrow (Outdoor Space). Hidden Pond Nature Center program explores creatures native to Burke and Fairfax County. Ages 6-12. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Balloon Sculptures. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, Burke Centre Book Burrow (Outdoor Space). Watch Mike Becvar twist balloons into animals and insects. Ages 2-12. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Silas Burke: Director of The Orange and Alexandria Railroad. 3 p.m. Burke Centre Library. Silas Burke discusses establishment of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. Jon Vrana, describes Antebellum Fairfax County. Adults. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, Kingstowne Conference Room. Gems and finds for all readers. All ages. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Quantico Marine Band Jazz Combo. 2 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Music including latin, swing, bossa nova, samba, blues, and jazz ballads. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Punch Drunk Poets, Ethan Douglas Band, Upper 90, Rogue Mind, Shrine, Allison's Degradation, Dhamma Etomi and more. 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-

5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 14

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, Richard Byrd Conference Room. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 7250 Commerce St., Springfield.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, Kingstowne Meeting Room. The Class of 1846: From West Point to Appomattox-Stonewall Jackson, George McClellan and Their Brothers, by John C. Waugh. July's book: Girls Like Us: Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon and the Journey of a Generation, by Sheila Weller. Visit the group's blog at secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com. Adults. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Paws For Reading. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, Meeting Room 116K. Practice your reading skills with Courtney Shaffer and a therapy dog. Sign up starts 4 p.m. Ages 6-12. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, Kingstowne Meeting Room. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

Fun For Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, John Marshall Meeting Room. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria.

Paws For Reading. 4:30 p.m. Burke Center Library, Meeting Room 116K. Practice your reading skills with a trained therapy dog! Age 6-12. First come, first serve. Sign ups start at 4 p.m. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

Fourth Annual Erin Peterson Golf Tournament. Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Registration and breakfast 7 a.m., shotgun start 8 a.m.; cocktails 1 p.m., lunch and awards 1:30 p.m. \$700/foursome, \$200 individual. Register at 703-830-3795 or erinpeterfonfund@yahoo.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, Meeting Room 116k. Practice English with Gloria Monick. Adults. 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

Lorton Library Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, Lorton Meeting Room. The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Adults. 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, Kingstowne Meeting Room. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. 6500 Landsdowne Centre.

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A Step Forward in Ending Homelessness

Faith Engagement event explores ways to develop affordable housing.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After a year of “sweat equity,” Luella Brown and her son, Orlando, finally moved into the Habitat for Humanity home they helped build last summer in Fairfax. Brown said the reality of owning her own home made her feel something she had not experienced much in her 43 years. A sense of accomplishment and success.

Raised in Alexandria by a grandmother who pounded into her the message that she was nothing, and she would have nothing, Brown’s sense of self was shredded by the time she was a teen.

Beginning when she was 7, she was repeatedly raped by a cousin, until she physically fought back at 11. At 17, she ran away from “home.” At 20, she became pregnant and had a son. By the time she was 23, she was moving from place to place, crashing on friend’s couches with her young son.

Without a high school degree, she eventually ended up homeless and living in the Embury Rucker Shelter. Brown often doubted her ability to heal.

“My grandma messed me up. She was abusive to me and my sisters, called us out with names, saying we were stupid, dumb. ... It was hard for me to learn and focus in school because I was all the time hiding in the back, scared and ashamed. My grandma’s been dead for 20 years, and I still don’t understand the hatred she had,” Brown said.

After she had her son, Brown said she found a core of resilience and vowed not to let her son experience the same nightmare inflicted on her. “It made me stronger. I wasn’t going to let that hatred get into my heart. I had to fight it. I was scared, but I had to do it,” she said.

The first night Brown and her son spent in their new home, she lay on her bed and looked up. “I told her that first night. I said ‘I’m here, grandma. I’m here. I made it. He’s happy and I’m happy. ... You were wrong.’”

Brown’s personal testimony at last week’s Faith Engagement Initiative, hosted by Fairfax County’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), Enterprise Community Partners, Faith Communities in Action, Communities of Faith United for Housing and others, underscored the message that a permanent home is a critical piece of ending homelessness.

“The availability of housing options, shelter, transitional housing, and the Partnership for Permanent Housing in Fairfax County, coupled with Luella’s determina-



Panelists discuss affordable housing issues at the Faith Engagement Initiative at the Fairfax County Government Center on Wednesday, June 1.

tion, provided a path for her to succeed,” said Joan Wise, a case manager for PPH and Reston Interfaith. “Luella truly ‘blossomed’ as she participated in programs teaching her how to eliminate debt, develop a spending plan, save, and plan for the future.”

Brown took the opportunity to attend PPH classes, which is how she learned about qualifying for a Habitat home. Now, she and Orlando, 23, both have steady, full-time jobs as certified cooks at Sunrise Living Center in Reston.

“My son graduated from Herndon High School in 2008. That’s already something I never did,” Brown said. “He works dinner, and I work breakfast. That’s the best. Me and my son are close, our bond is close. We have a home, and it’s a safe home for both of us.”

The event, which took place June 1 at the Fairfax County Government Center, offered three panel discussions moderated by local homeless and housing advocates. High-profile community, government, faith, business and elected leaders moderated the panels, including Conrad Egan, senior advisor of the Affordable Housing Institute and David Bowers, vice president of the national Enterprise Community Partners.

Imam Mohammed Hag Madig, chairman of Faith Communities in Action, led the call to action to faith communities in the audience. Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors (D-At-large) and Supervisor

Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) also spoke at the event.

According to Dean Klein, the director of OPEH, a fundamental shift has taken place from the predominant philosophy of “managing” the homeless in the community to

“The county has not only provided a 10-year-plan, but put the resources behind it, both financial and intellectual resources.”

— David Bowers, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners

ending homelessness.

“Instead of longer homeless shelter stays, we want to rapidly house the homeless into affordable housing and help others to remain in their homes to prevent homelessness,” Klein said. In fact, the goal of the day-long Faith Engagement Initiative, which drew nearly 250 participants, was to encourage faith communities, primarily churches, mosques and synagogues, to consider leveraging their resources including: land to develop affordable housing in Fairfax County and or their financial resources to prevent other singles and families from entering into homelessness.

“Housing is the critical piece we need to move forward with the core element of Fairfax County’s 10-year-plan to prevent and end homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community by 2018. Our strategy now is rapid re-housing, developing ways to quickly move people who are homeless, or in threat of becoming homeless, to permanent, safe and affordable housing,” Klein said.

“In the past, we’ve been able to provide shelter, but the without ability to move people into affordable and appropriate housing, it’s difficult to really start lowering the number of homeless,” Klein said.

During the past year, Klein said OPEH has piloted some new initiatives to more quickly get people housing, including the establishment of the Housing Locator network that works with landlords and provides training and coordination to housing locators. The network also gives social workers the tools to become housing locators. In 2010, housing locators worked with an average of 20 households per month.

“Housing locators provide services such as application assistance, landlord negotiation and training to prepare people either rent or own a home,” Klein said.

According to Michael O’Reilly, chairman of the governing board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End

SEE HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 13

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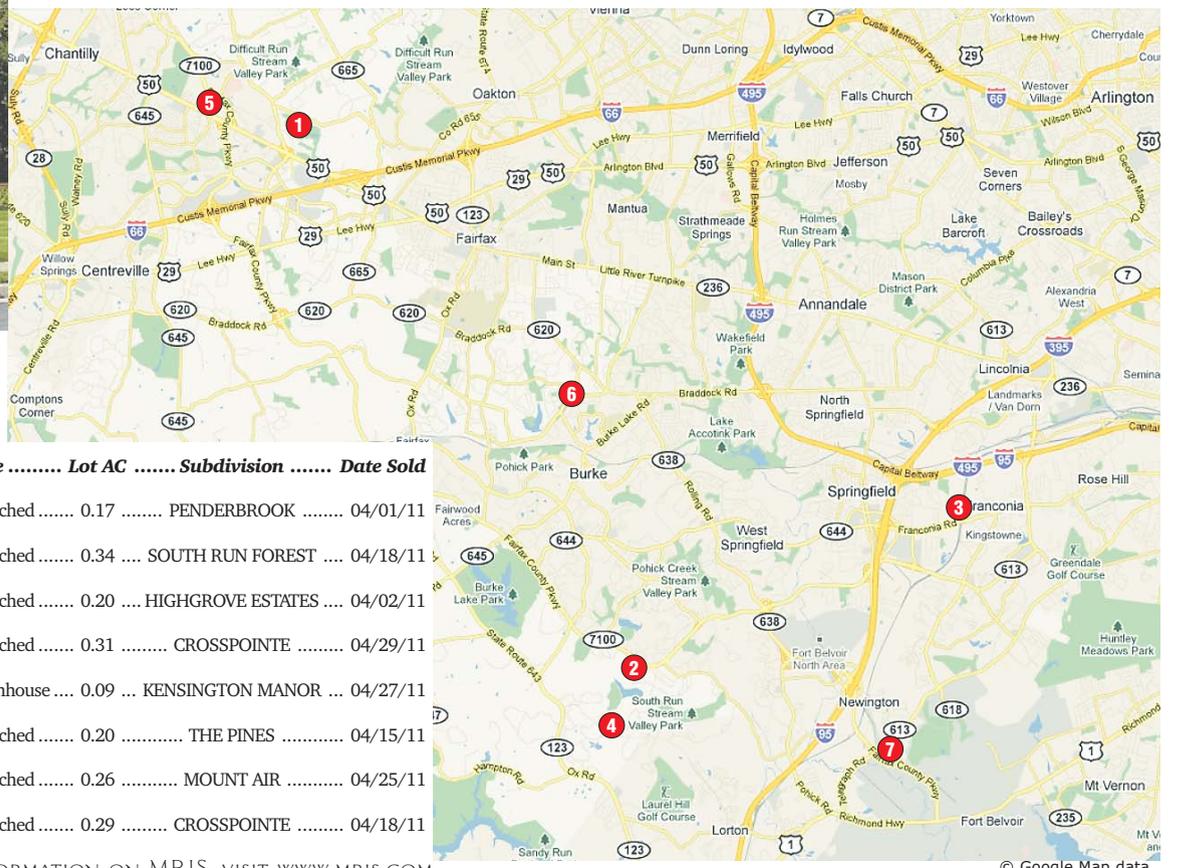
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Homelessness Summit

FROM PAGE 10

Homeless, who served as the event's master of ceremonies, 482 people have moved into permanent housing from emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in FY 2010.

"Working together with a broad coalition of non-profits, faith-based communities, businesses and government has allowed us to make real strides in our efforts to end homelessness," O'Reilly said.

David Bowers, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners (ECP), applauded Fairfax County's business-like approach.

ECP is a nationally-recognized organization with a mission to give people living in poverty an opportunity to move up and out. According to the website, ECP has raised and invested more than \$11 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than 280,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities.

"There are a couple of elements in Fairfax County that are very encouraging. Number one is that the county has not only provided a 10-year-plan, but put the resources behind it, both financial and intellectual resources," Bowers said. "When you look at who is on the governing board, it's a very impressive array of folks with diverse backgrounds, and that speaks volumes. Fairfax County goes a step further by being very transparent with measurable results."

Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison said the community has benefited from federal government stimulus dollars, but that is coming to an end.

"Government can't do it alone," Harrison said.

"Ending homelessness has to be a community effort, and that's why we're building these strong partnerships with the faith community and the business community."



Luella Brown gives a personal testimony before the affordable housing panel at the Faith Engagement Initiative at the Fairfax Government Center on Wednesday, June 1.



Conrad Egan, a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness, moderated the panel during the Faith Engagement Initiative at the Fairfax County Government Center on Wednesday, June 1.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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Strong Start Not Enough for Lake Braddock

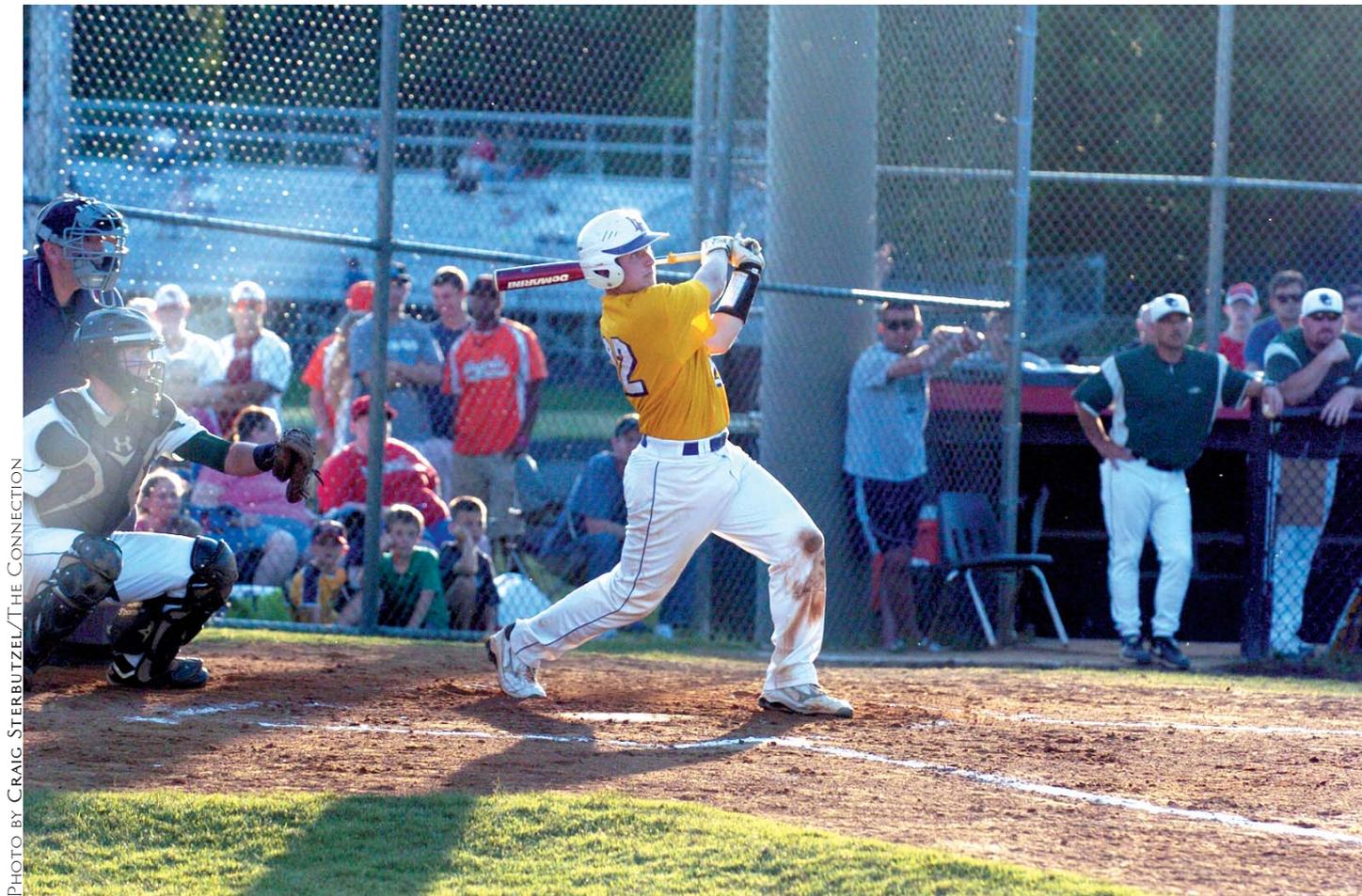


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock sophomore Garrett Driscoll hit a two-run home run against South County in the Northern Region final on June 3 at Madison High School.

Bruins fall to South County in region baseball final.

Despite failing to beat South County in three meetings during the regular season and Patriot District Tournament, the Lake Braddock baseball team came out strong against the Stallions in the Northern Region final on June 3.

A two-run opposite-field home run by sophomore Garrett Driscoll gave Lake Braddock a 2-0 lead in the second inning and a two-run double by senior Ryan Owens extended the advantage to 4-1 in the third. Lake Braddock, winner of 21 games, showed the ability necessary to knock off undefeated South County. However, a six-run fourth inning for the Stallions eliminated much of the Bruins' belief they were capable.

Sparked by a Luke Bondurant grand slam, South County turned a 4-2 deficit into an 8-4 lead in the fourth and defeated Lake Braddock 9-5 to capture the region title at Madison High School. Down by five runs in the seventh, the Bruins scored a run and put two more runners on base, but it was

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 15

Bruin Boys Upend Saxons in Region Soccer Finals

Following Langley second half score, Bruins answer with two goals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Talk about stepping up in the postseason. That has been the case for Lake Braddock Secondary boys' soccer player Matt Fraedrich, a senior midfielder who scored two regular season goals but has broken through for seven playoff scores over the past several weeks.

"He's found his range," said Bruins' head coach Joe Soos.

Fraedrich, along with Lake Braddock fans, will never forget his most recent score, which proved to be the game-winner for the Bruins last Friday night in their 2-1 Northern Region title game win over Langley at Madison High School.

It marked the first time Lake Braddock has won the region crown since 2003 when the Bruins defeated West Springfield in the title game. Lake Braddock also made it to the region finals in 2006 but loss to Woodson.



Tyler Dunn (18) had the picture-perfect assist on teammate Matt Fraedrich's game-winning goal in the region title game win over Langley last Friday at Madison High School. Langley's lone goal was scored by Dylan Price, center.

Lake Braddock and Langley are both competing at this week's state AAA boys' playoffs.

FRAEDRICH scored perhaps the biggest goal of the season for Lake Braddock in its

region title game win over the Saxons on Friday. The goal came off a short breakaway left, the result of a picture perfect up-field pass from teammate Tyler Dunn. Fraedrich received the pass behind the Langley defense, moved the ball forward on the

dribble, then lifted a soft, touch shot over Jay Lupas, the charging Langley goalie. The ball went into the goal from about 18 yards out and put Lake Braddock ahead to stay, 2-1, with 11 minutes, 9 seconds remaining in the second half.

"Obviously, it was a great strike," said Soos, of the goal. "But the ball played into him [by Dunn] was just as important. Tyler dropped the ball over the defense, where Matt could get to it. The ball was outstanding and Matt caught it in stride."

Upon scoring, Fraedrich, in celebration, dashed up the field's far sideline and took off his shirt, pointing triumphantly to the Bruins' fans in the visitors' side stadium bleachers. His teammates and the Bruin fandom were ecstatic at the clutch goal. However, Fraedrich was issued a yellow card for taking his jersey off. He also got a stern talking to by Soos, the Bruins' head coach.

"He just got caught up in the moment," said Soos. "He wasn't trying to show up Langley."

Fraedrich agreed afterwards that he should not have taken off his uniform top. Of the goal itself, he credited Dunn, a senior defender, for setting him up.

"Tyler is a great player and capable of

SEE LAKE BRADDOCK, PAGE 15

SPORTS

Lake Braddock Over Langley

FROM PAGE 14

playing the long ball at top and he did," said Fraedrich, a Second Team All-Patriot District player this spring who will be playing the sport next school year at the University of Illinois. "He hit the ball over the top of the defense, and under my breath I said to myself, 'Yes.' I knew the keeper was coming out. At first I thought [my shot] was going over the goal and that I hit it too hard."

But it wasn't too hard and went into the net. Seven minutes earlier, Fraedrich had missed a golden opportunity to score when his shot from 15 yards out off the right side on a short breakaway chance went wide right. But he didn't miss a little while later on his chance off the left side, set up by Dunn's pinpoint pass.

It was the seventh goal of the postseason for Fraedrich, who said coach Soos, following the conclusion of the regular season a few weeks back, had motivated him to pick up his game during a coach-player conversation.

Following Friday's win, Fraedrich expressed pride in what his team had accomplished.

"I knew this team had the potential to go this far," he said.

Langley, following a scoreless first half, got onto the scoreboard less than seven minutes into the second half when senior midfielder/striker Dylan Price, off a gorgeous, long throw-in pass from the left side of the field by teammate Jeff Cochran, got himself free on the right side of the goal area and headed the ball into the right side of the net for a 1-0 Sax-

ons' lead with 33:25 remaining in the second half. "I got some space and headed it into the corner," said Price.

Moments earlier, Price had barely missed scoring on a kick off the right side from 10 yards out.

"We were pressuring them, I poked it past the keeper and the ball went off the right post," said Price, of the missed chance, which ultimately did not matter when he punched in his header goal.

Less than a minute after Langley scored, Lake Braddock came right back and answered with the equalizer when Bruin senior midfielder Elhadji Diouf, off his own rebound following a head shot attempt, scored on a scorching, close range shot off the left side to make the score 1-1. The goal was set up by a Lake Braddock throw-in ball.

Just like that, the game's momentum had gone from the Saxons' favor to the Bruins'. Then, seven minutes later, Fraedrich came up with what proved to be the game-winner.

AT GAME'S end when the final whistle blew, the Lake Braddock student body rushed the field and celebrated in unabashed enthusiasm with the Bruins' players at midfield. "I think our kids have shown a belief in themselves where they don't quit and have grown closer and closer as the year has gone on," said Soos, of his squad.

Price, the Langley striker, said his team will now look forward to making a strong run at states.

"This loss is tough," he said. "But we have a lot of seniors and good leadership. I think we have just as good a chance as anyone at states."

Bruins Baseball

FROM PAGE 14

too little, too late.

"The most disappointing thing for me tonight is as soon as that [six-run inning] happened, everybody just dropped," Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford said. "The faces of everybody dropped. The way they handled themselves on the field dropped and that's unacceptable. ... The guys compete. The game wasn't too big for them. South County is a good team. We have to be able to keep our heads up. We talked about it a little bit in practice that they're a good team. They're going to get their swings in and hopefully that we react a little bit differently, with a little bit more mental toughness, but it just didn't happen."

Thomas Rogers had three hits and an RBI for Lake Braddock. Kenny Towns, Nathan Parker and Alex Gransback each had one hit for the Bruins.

"Definitely, everyone got down on themselves," Towns said. "No one had the confidence after that [six-run inning]. I've seen plenty of times where we scored more than four runs in three innings. We've done it tons of times and no one had confidence in doing that. They almost forgot how good we were right when that happened."

Lake Braddock's season ended on June 7 with a 5-4 loss to Great Bridge in the state quarterfinals.

— JON ROETMAN

FAITH NOTES

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax. The Children's Ministry Department will hold Vacation Bible School, with a theme of "Pandamania," at the church on Friday, June 24 at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 25 at 12 p.m. (includes lunch), and Sunday, June 26 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. VBS is for ages 3 years-6th grade, and costs \$5. Register by June 19. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton, offers three levels of ESL Classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Cost for semester is \$35, including student book. To register, come to the next class. www.lordoflifelutheran.com or 703-323-9500.

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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Soldier Finds New Role

FROM PAGE 3

ingly common and deadly weapon of choice.

As Scott Smiley's platoon headed out, they began to get fresh intelligence from Iraqi civilians that suicide bombers were organizing a massive ambush. Smiley planned to dismount his Stryker and walk through the shops, shaking hands and gathering information about a possible attack.

"Every bomb we found meant a life or more saved," he said.

BUT BEFORE he could pull to the side of the road, Scott Smiley said he noticed something unusual. "We spotted a small silver Opel that was loaded down in the back." Smiley yelled at the driver, a young, well-groomed man, to stop the car and raise his hands. The man raised his hands, but continued to inch the car forward. When the man ignored Smiley's commands a second time, Scott Smiley said he fired warning shots into the ground. "And then my world went black."

At that moment, the driver detonated a VBEID. The explosion vaporized the driver and the car and shot shards of shrapnel that sliced through Scott Smiley's left eyeball and lodged in the front portion of his brain.

Two weeks later, Scott Smiley woke up at Walter Reed. "I remember my father kissing me goodbye," he said. When doctors told him he was blind and partially paralyzed, Scott Smiley said he believed his life was over. "My world, spiritually, it was black."

"My life was totally changed. I was just devastated, and I denied God. It was the darkest time in my life. There was anger, but mostly fear about what was ahead," Scott Smiley said.

Tiffany Smiley, who was working as a nurse, said she will always remember the phone call that came on April 7, at 4 a.m.

"I was used to getting calls from Scotty at all hours, so I didn't think anything terrible when I heard the phone ringing. But when I heard his company commander's voice on the phone, I knew it was bad. This was Jeff Van Antwerp, a strong leader and one of Scotty's best friends, and he just broke down and started sobbing. That's when I knew it was real, and I knew it was bad," she said.

Tiffany Smiley said the most crushing news was learning that her husband lost both of his eyes. "I remember pleading with God. 'If he needs to die, just let him die,' because I didn't know how he was going to go on. Then, a peace came over me. ... When I saw him for the first time at Walter Reed, I remember thinking that Scotty's still in there."

"Imagine waking up in a hospital bed, thousands of miles from you believed you were supposed to be ... and in an instant realizing the world is permanently dark. ... The devastation I felt is beyond words. I cried tears from eyes that no longer served any other purpose," Scott Smiley wrote in

his book.

With the help of his friends and family, who visited him every day at Walter Reed, the young soldier found the determination to step forward.

Scott Smiley could have accepted the honors and accolades, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, and taken medical leave. Instead, he fought hard to stay in uniform. As commander of West Point's Warrior Transition unit, Scott Smiley now inspires other wounded soldiers to step forward and embrace life.

He didn't stop there. Since losing his eyes, he has surfed in Hawaii; skydived; skied the slopes of Vail, Colo.; reached the summit of Mount Rainier, Wash.; won an ESPY as Best Outdoor athlete; and graduated with an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

He and his wife have two sons, Grady, 4, and Graham, 2. "Grady knows that he can't just say 'look at this daddy.' He will make a sound, and then put a toy in Scotty's hand," Tiffany Smiley said.

What continually surprises Scott Smiley is that he is happy with his life. "Yes, I'd love to see my wife, her beautiful smile, her freckles, and the faces of my children. That hurts the most. In the end, I feel like God is using me for a greater good. I've been tested and my relationship with God has only grown stronger," he said.

AFTER HIS speech, the Scott and Tiffany Smiley shook hands with guests and autographed copies of his book.

Karen Miller, who used to work for the military, drove up from South Carolina to hear the couple's story. "It was very inspiring. It shows that God can help you overcome so many things."

Jerry Jones, senior pastor of The Journey church, said the progressive Christian church focuses on outreach to military families. "Military families endure a lot of stress and strain. There's a high divorce rate, and Capt. Smiley's story shows that, in times of crisis, faith and a marriage can survive."

Carol Ulrich of Springfield, who was married for just a month when her husband was deployed, said she really wanted to hear how Tiffany Smiley coped with the separation and the crisis.

"I thought she was amazing, how she learned to deal with everything," Ulrich said. "I was newly married when my husband was deployed, and had to raise two teenage stepchildren. It's very inspirational to hear their story, to know they survived," she said.

After his speech, Scott Smiley tells a guest about a humid day in August 2009, a turning point of sorts. "I stood in front of a classroom full of 17 West Point juniors, not able to see them. I was nervous and excited. I said 'Hi, I'm Capt. Smiley. I'm blind. I can't see a thing.' And I have a story to share."

For more information on The Journey church, visit www.thejourneysite.org. To read more about Scot Smiley's experiences, visit www.hopeunseen.com.

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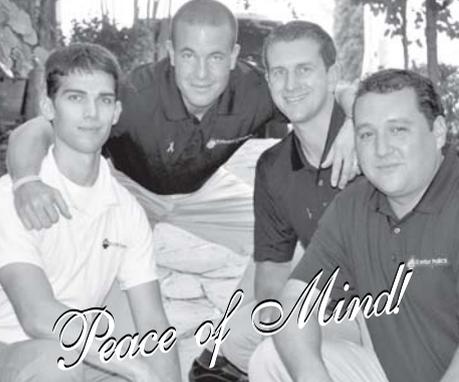
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28 Yard Sales Community Yard Sale, Barrister's Keep Off Picket Rd. betwn Rt 50 & 236. Barrister's Keep Circle. Sat 6/11, 8:30-1. Antiques, clothing, shoes, knick knacks, small furniture, golf clubs, jewelry, purses, etc. Huge Indoor Yard Sale Fairfax Baptist Temple on Missionary Lane June 11 from 7am-1:00pm	MYRTLE BEACH FORECAST: <i>Calm, with a 100% Chance of Happiness</i> The Myrtle Beach area's largest selection of vacation rentals and incredible values make for a great extended outlook for your next vacation.  Dunes Realty 888.860.9259 www.dunes.com						
VFW Post 8469, the Blue and Grey Post, ANNUAL YARD SALE – SAT, JUN 11, 8:30-1:30, 5703 VOGUE ROAD, OFF ROUTE 123 OX ROAD, NEAR ST. MARY'S HISTORIC CHURCH, FAIRFAX STATION. MEN, WOMENS, CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, FURNITURE, KITCHEN ITEMS, BOOKS, HOME FURNISHINGS, TOYS, ELECTRONICS, OUTDOOR AND SPORTS ITEMS. REFRESHMENTS. SUPPORT YOUR VFW!	STATE OF CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHARLESTON KADEE LYNN AUSTIN, Plaintiff IN RE: NAME CHANGE OF ZOIE AVA TALBIRD, (minor under 18 yrs old) TO ZOIE AVA AUSTIN SUMMONS IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CASE NO. 2011-DR-10-1326 v. JOHN DOE DONOR ID NUMBER 1432 Defendant. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action of which a copy is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscriber at her office, 1327 Ashley River Road, Building C, Suite 100, Charleston, South Carolina 29407, within thirty (30) days after the service thereof, exclusive of the day of such service. YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that if you fail to appear and defend and fail to answer the Complaint as required by this Summons within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. LAW OFFICES OF CINDY M. FLOYD Cindy M. Floyd Attorney for the Plaintiff 1327 Ashley River Road, Bldg C, ste 100 Charleston, South Carolina 29407 843-820-5356						

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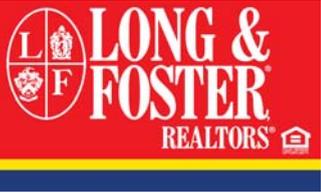
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