

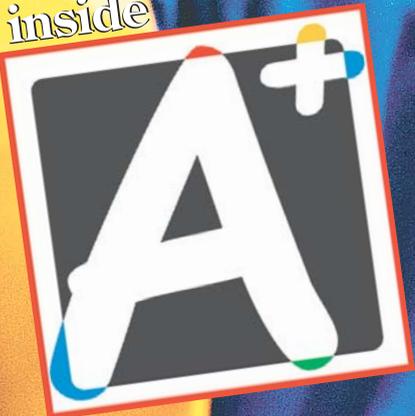
Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton
CONNECTION

Ready To Go

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inside



South County Commencement

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Clifton School Closes Doors

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**Amber Seager of
Burke gives a thumbs
up as the Robinson
Secondary school
commencement
ceremony begins
at the Patriot Center
on June 16.**

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From Colts to Stallions

South County students recall six-year journey to June 16 commencement.

BY MEGAN MCGOVERN
THE CONNECTION

Friends and family filled the Patriot Center on Thursday, June 16, to watch the commencement of South County Secondary School's class of 2011.

After a six year journey through South County, the graduates were ready to close one chapter of their life and open the next.

"We did it," said class president Victoria Rowley, while addressing her classmates. Recounting their journey from scared 12-year olds to seniors on top of the school, Rowley congratulated her classmates for their achievement. Rowley went on to thank the families and teachers who made this moment possible, a segue into the presentation of the honor graduates.

The honor graduates were recognized for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average or above during their four years of high school. More than 50 honor

graduates were recognized, including students who will go on to attend prestigious colleges such as William and Mary, Stanford, The University of Pennsylvania, St. Andrews, The University of Virginia and The United States Military Academy.

Honor graduate Michael Lichstrahl addressed his classmates in his story, "From Colts to Stallions." The story began with the 459 12-year olds entering the brand new school for the first time. The first class to go through every grade level at South County, Lichstrahl highlighted the major events his classmates experienced as they grew from colts into "mature stallions." Lichstrahl remembered everything from the Virginia Tech shooting, to the 2008 election and finally senioritis, a terrible disease characterized by "apathy and lethargy."

South County was founded in 2005, to relieve the overcrowding at Hayfield Secondary School. The school may be in its first decade, but it is quickly making a name for itself. During the Principal's Message and Award Presentation, South County's principal Jane Lipp touched on the many achievements of the class of 2011. Their

high test scores, outstanding athletic achievement and community outreach have quickly put the school on the map.

"Good luck, God bless. Given the past, the future could be quite grand."

— Dale Rumberger



PHOTO BY MEGAN MCGOVERN/THE CONNECTION

Newly minted as graduates, the Class of 2011 files out of the Patriot Center.

SEE STALLIONS, PAGE 5

As School Closes, What's Next for Clifton?

Community leaders are optimistic school will open eventually.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

High school sophomores D'Arcy Sampson, Carys Meyer and Hannah Bunting have been best friends since first grade. The girls, who attend Robinson Secondary School now, met as students at Clifton Elementary School.

All three are upset with Fairfax County School Board's decision to shutter their alma mater. They attended Clifton's farewell party on Friday, June 17, to see the school one more time before it is closed permanently.

"It is just terrible that the school is closing. We were just standing over there crying thinking about all the memories we have of being here," said D'Arcy, who ran into her first grade teacher at the party.

"I wonder if it wouldn't have been easier to deal with if we hadn't come back to here one last time," said Hannah.

MEMBERS OF the greater Clifton and Fairfax Station area fought the closing of their local elementary school over the past



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Second grade teacher Christa O'Brien and parent JoAnna Natale look at old class pictures from Clifton Elementary at the school's farewell party on Friday, June 17.

two years.

Among other tactics, community members attempted to get Clifton's closing halted, or at least stalled, by declaring the school a historical site. Local residents also raised thousands of dollars and filed at least

two lawsuits against the School Board, challenging its decision to close Clifton in court.

Several prominent members of the Clifton community are still optimistic that this isn't the end of the road for the elementary school, even if the building is closed next

"We were just standing over there crying thinking about all the memories we have of being here."

— D'Arcy Sampson

year. A few said it is likely Clifton would be open again by 2013.

"If one School Board can close a school, there is nothing to say another School Board can't open one," said Elizabeth Schultz, a Clifton resident who is running for the Springfield District seat on the School Board.

A Fairfax County judge has yet to rule on the second lawsuit concerning Clifton's closing. Schultz said there is some chance the School Board vote to close Clifton would be thrown out this summer and the school could stay open next year.

"This is a profound case that hasn't been decided. They should be planning for both outcomes. What if the judge decides in our favor? I think it is arrogant for the school system to have zero contingency plan," said Schultz.

SEE CLIFTON, PAGE 7



Faitma Mubarak and Firas Nasr, seniors at James W. Robinson Jr. Secondary School from Fairfax, wait in the halls of the Patriot Center on June 16 for their graduation ceremony to begin. Mubarak will study at Harvard this fall and Nasr will pursue a double major in international studies and psychology at Middlebury College.



Having just been declared graduates, the seniors from Robinson Secondary School toss their mortarboards into the air in celebration at the June 16 graduation ceremony at the Patriot Center.

Class of 2011 Goes Forth

Robinson Secondary School students take part in June 16 commencement.

It was a day of beginnings and endings for the Robinson Secondary School's Class of 2011 on Thursday, June 16. The students took part in commencement ceremonies at the Patriot Center on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax.



Right, student speaker Alex Emmons gives a rousing graduation address.



Joyce Ko and Cynthia Kong of Fairfax, are thrilled to have just received their diplomas from Robinson Secondary School at the school's June 16 graduation ceremony, which took place at the Patriot Center.



Kevin Haas and Vinay Gupta shake hands before they walk across the stage at the Patriot Center to receive their diplomas from Robinson Secondary School Dan Meier on June 16.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Zion Drive Closes June 22

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is starting construction to realign Zion Drive from Windsor Hills Drive to Grovewood Way this summer.

Beginning Wednesday, June 22, a section of Zion Drive between Windsor Hills Drive to Jib Lane will be closed to through traffic for approximately three months.

The project, funded through the Fairfax County 2007 Transportation Bond, includes the installation of a dedicated pedestrian walkway, curb, gutter and storm drainage improvements. According to FCDOT officials, the work will eliminate the dangerous curve in the road that has been the cause of many accidents.

"This is a long-awaited road improvement centered on vehicle safety. Zion Road has been a sore spot in the community because of that curve," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). "I hope that a speedy repair can be made that will enhance travel and make it safer. I will be staying on top of it."

Estimated completion date is about 12 months from the start of construction; however, traffic lanes are expected to be re-opened to through traffic by Sept. 2.

The project cost of approximately \$1.4 million is funded from a 2007 Transportation Bond. The FCDOT and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services are jointly managing the project.

During construction, through traffic will be detoured; however, access will be provided to the residents and the residential communities along Zion Drive, The Greater Little Zion Baptist Church and the David R. Pinn Community Center. Westbound through-traffic from Guinea Road will be detoured to Roberts Road, and eastbound through traffic, coming from Ox Road, will be detoured to Roberts Road and Guinea Road.

For more information, contact Ellen Kamilakis with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at 703-877-5606, TTY 711 or Rosemary Ryan in the office of Supervisor John C. Cook at 703-425-9300, TTY 711.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Recycle During Electric Sunday on June 26

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes, including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, June 26, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

It's Adopt-A-Cat Month

FeFe is an 11-year-old explorer looking for a new home; Rumble is shy but loving and searching for a quiet, peaceful place; and Enzo is an energetic clown who's just 1. Meet these cats and many others as the Fairfax County Animal Shelter recognizes June as national Adopt-A-Cat Month.

Spring is known as "kitten season," when thousands of newborn kittens are born, joining cats of all shapes and sizes in shelters. So shelter staff members are prepared to help residents adopt their new, furry family addition, this month. Those who already have a cat are encouraged to consider adopting a companion.

Learn more about pet adoption at the shelter, 4500 West Ox Road. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-7 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police each week to "meet" a new cat or other animal by reading the "Adopt-A-Pet" feature on the home page under "What's New?"

NEWS

Median, Average Sold Price Of Homes Increased in May

Real estate brokers, mortgage brokers see a strong year ahead.

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Home sales in May across Northern Virginia may be down over 2010, but sales prices are rebounding. Local real estate brokers and mortgage experts say they believe 2011 will be a strong year.

In Northern Virginia, 2,722 homes were sold, down some 20.69 per cent from 2010, according to figures supplied by Real Estate Business Intelligence (RBI), the local multiple listing services. The 2010 sales had been boosted by a federal tax credit for home buyers that ended in 2010. RBI compiled its figures from Alexandria City, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William counties and the cities of Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park and Falls Church.

Both the median sold price and the average sold price increased last month over May 2010. The median sold price was \$375,000, up 7.14 percent and the average sold price was \$432,829 up 5.4 per cent over May 2010. (The median sales price means that half the homes sold for more and half the homes sold for less.)

Susan Taylor, a broker who sells high end houses in the Old Town section of Alexandria, said her sales this year were not a factor of the federal program to guarantee "jumbo mortgages," but were to "conservative people who saved their money." She said buyers of high end Old Town houses characteristically have more money to put down than the required 20 percent of sales price for a conventional or a Federal Housing Administration loan. "Nobody puts down less than 30 to 40 percent of the sales price," she said.

She sold a \$774,500 town house at 403 Oronoco St. in Old Town's elegant Ford's Landing development to a single man who had lived in Old Town for some time and wanted to move to a home nearer the Potomac River. He obtained a conventional mortgage, she said.

Earlier this spring, she sold a home in Ford's Landing that has a full river view and a view of the new Wilson Bridge across the Potomac. The asking price was \$1,395,000 for this home. The buyer was a woman executive of a computer company who made a substantial down payment and also got conventional financing.

She said the processing of sales has become stricter and that in one of her sales, the bank sought two appraisals before signing off on the loan.

Taylor has been an agent for 25 years after a career as a management consultant and service abroad as a Peace Corps volunteer. "You are constantly taking in service training and keeping up with rules and trends."

Taylor said a goodly proportion of homes she has sold in Old Town have been to lobbyists and lawyers involved in representing private interests with the government.

Brian Block, a real estate broker and a lawyer, who heads the RE/MAX offices in McLean and Arlington, said the 70 brokers he supervises are experiencing a "growing number of cash deals" for high end houses. "There is a lot of money in the D.C. area," including two family incomes, executives of many of the private companies that are here to service government agencies, he said. Block said between his two offices he has some 60 to 70 houses in the million dollars plus range.

Some are older homes like at 2320 Tuckahoe St. in Arlington, which was built in 1928 and is on the market for \$1,195,000, others like a town home at 1402 Ingleside Ave., McLean priced at \$959,000 were built in the 2000s.

Block said the 2011 season started slowly. He speculated that it was because of the weather and buyer uncertainty, but in April and May it has picked up speed. "I think it is going to be a good year."

Taylor said the nature of financing has also changed. She said for the first time there are

"They have studied the market and the property before they even contact an agent."

— Susan Taylor

significant military sales in Old Town. The G.I. Bill provides a Veteran's Administration loan with no down payment and easier terms and serving military families assigned to the Pentagon is other area military bases are entitled to get them.

Both Block and Taylor said the buyers are far more focused than in earlier years. "Buyers are very savvy now," Taylor said, "there is no impulse buying. They have studied the market and the property before they even contact an agent."

Graham Setliff, vice president of the First Savings Mortgage Corporation of McLean, said the reduction of the government's program to secure jumbo mortgages that is \$729,000 to \$750,000 has been reduced until Sept. 30 to a maximum of \$625,000, but may go below that after September. "We don't know where it is going after that."

He said the jumbo guarantee can still be valuable to a family trying to finance a home in the \$700,000 to \$800,000 range with a narrow down payment.

Taylor said if the government steps out of the home loan business, the industry will have to "step up. They want to loan money."

Setliff said the VA loan has become a major factor. Not only does it permit a loan without a down payment, but it has more lenient standards and terms. "They do control the appraisal. They have their own list of appraisers and they do their own work."

Along with loan business changing, the industry has changed. There were 14,000 agents in the Northern Virginia Real Estate Association in the mid-2000s, now there are 9,000, said Block. He said there were 40,000 agents in Virginia and now there are 28,000 registered.

"They are more professional as well," he said. He has been a real estate broker for 10 years and before that practiced real estate law. "I learned where the problems occurred and now I try to avoid them."

NEWS

Stallions

FROM PAGE 2

The “kind, caring and industrious” graduates are truly “living out the pursuit of happiness, doing what you have to, to do what you want to,” said Lipp.

The graduates’ journey through South County came full circle when founding principal, Dale S. Rumberger, accepted the invitation as guest speaker. After successfully opening Westfield High School, the Fairfax County School Board offered Rumberger the opportunity to open South County Secondary School. After 33 years of service in Fairfax County Public Schools and three years at South County, Rumberger retired from his position as principal.

Using a quote from Henry Ford, Rumberger told the graduates, “If you believe you can do something, you are right.”

He stressed his confidence in the graduates’ ability to thrive in today’s changing world. Borrowing a quote from Charles Darwin, Rumberger offered this advice: “It is not the strongest or swiftest that succeed, but those who can adapt or change.”

“Good luck, God bless. Given the past, the future could be quite grand,” were Rumberger’s parting words to the class of 2011.

Although the graduates are no longer students of South County, “they will always be a stallion,” said Rumberger.

Now mature stallions, the class of 2011 is finally ready start the next chapter of their life.

Special guests included Sen. George Barker (D-37); Del. Dave Albo (R-42); Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield); School Board member Elizabeth Bradsher (Springfield); School Board member Daniel Storck (Mount Vernon); Betsy Fenske, assistant Superintendent, Cluster V of Fairfax County Public Schools; and Dr. Peter Noonan, assistant superintendent of instructional services.

BULLETIN BOARD

TUESDAY/JUNE 28

Community Public Meeting: BLM Meadowood Equestrian Barn. 7 p.m. Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Road, Lorton. Reviewing the history of the 46-stall barn and arena, investigating better public access, considering whether to rehabilitate or replace the current facility, improving opportunities to participate in equestrian activities and addressing environmental and watershed issues. www.blm.gov/es/st/en/prog/recreation.html

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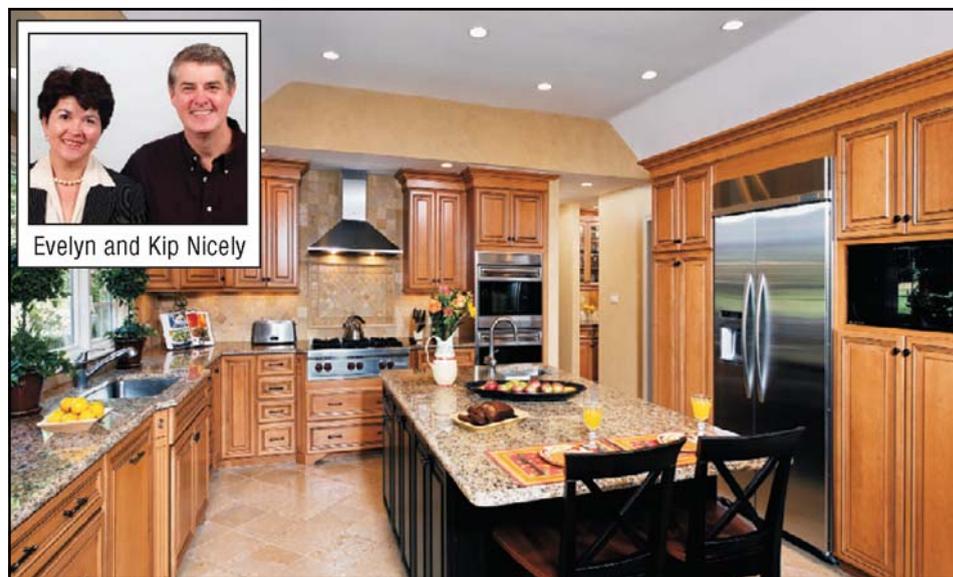
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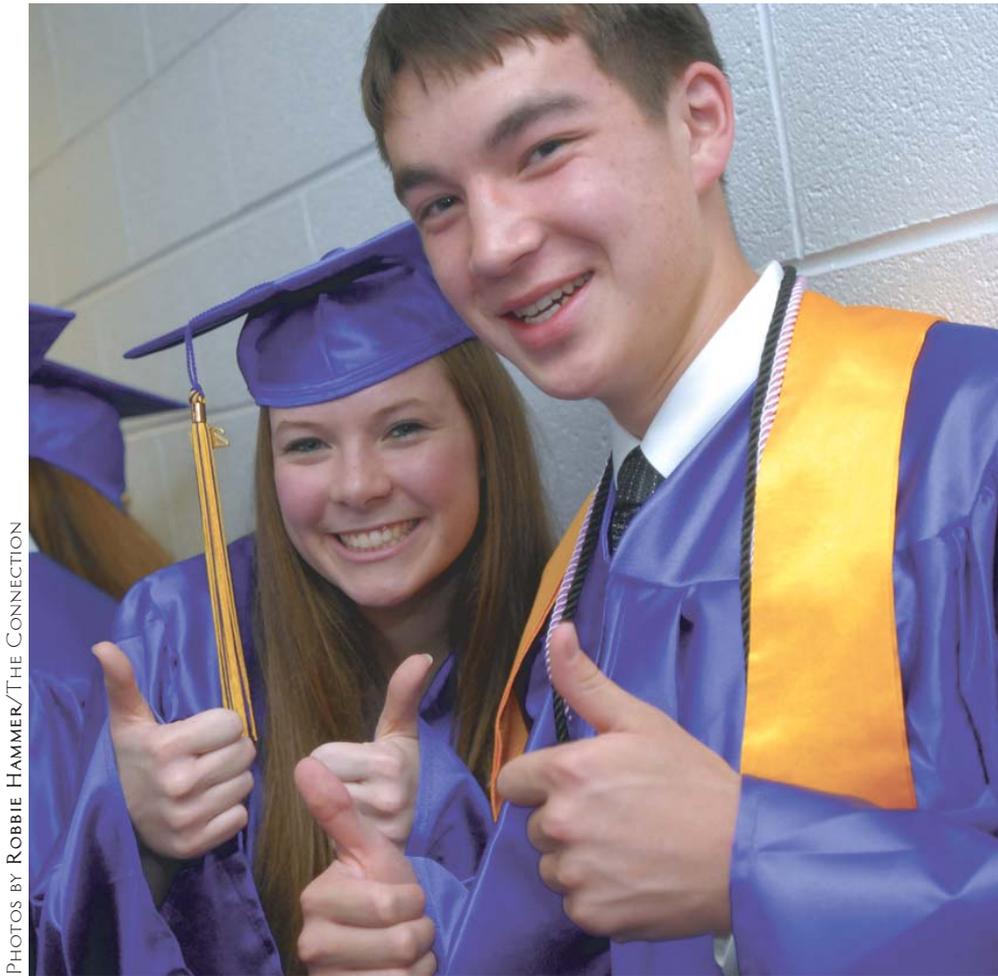
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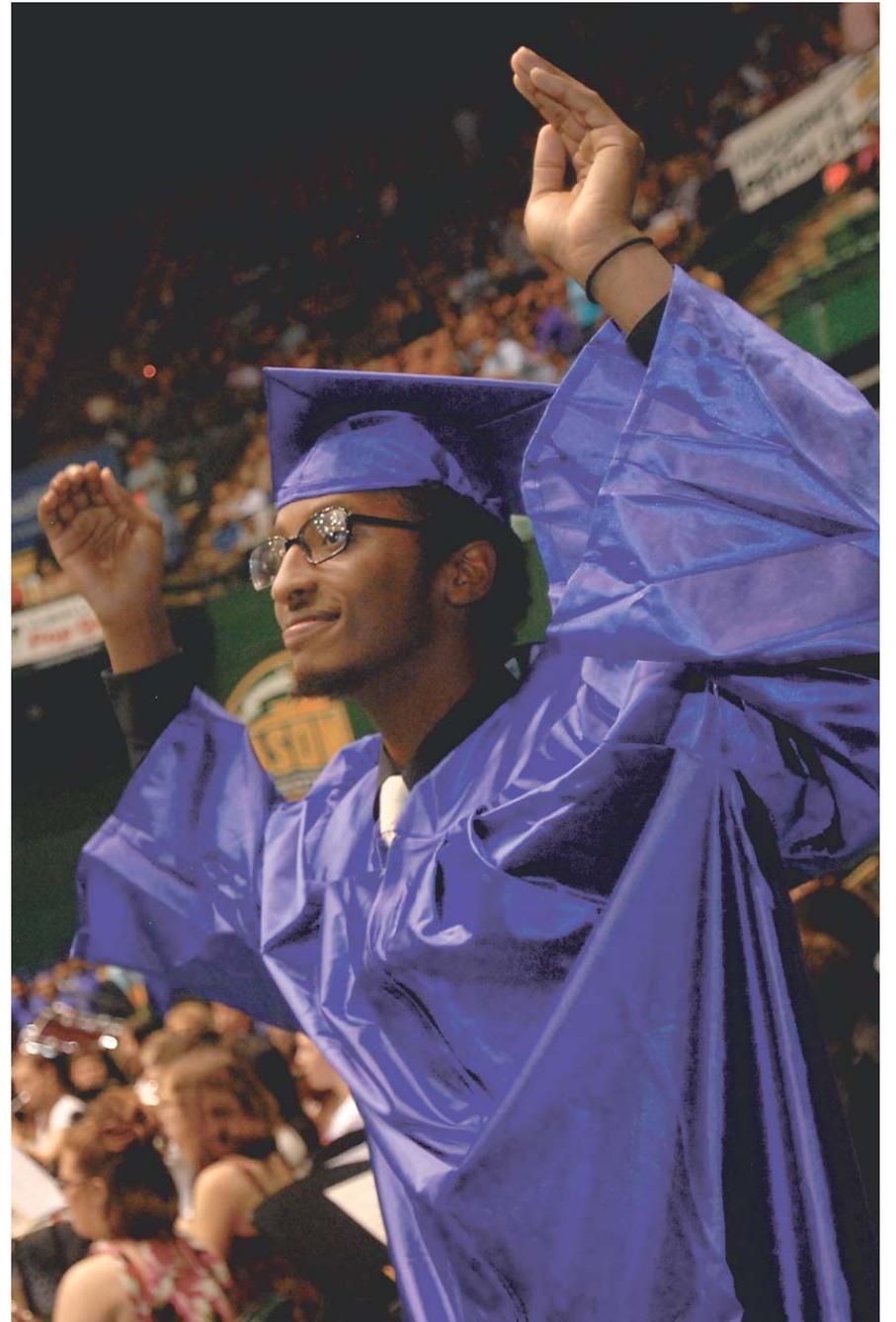
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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Kristina Roller and Stephen Romans wait along with their 600-plus classmates for their graduation ceremony to begin Tuesday night, June 21, at the Patriot Center. Roller plans on attending George Mason University next fall while Romans will be attending Virginia Tech University.



Ibrahim Wehelie begins to celebrate his high school graduation while marching into the Patriot Center for the Braddock Secondary School annual Commencement Exercise on Tuesday night, June 21.

Entering the Wide World

Bruins enter Patriot Center as high school seniors, leave as high school graduates.



Lake Braddock Principal David Thomas congratulates each senior as they take the stage to receive their diploma.



Sam Rubenking helps Casey Lardner with her graduation garb while waiting for the ceremony to begin on Tuesday night, June 21, in Fairfax at the GMU Patriot Center. Rubenking plans on attending Virginia Tech University next fall while Romans will be attending the College of William & Mary. See more photos at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Clifton School Closes

FROM PAGE 2

Among other things, the lawsuit asserts that the School Board violated government transparency laws that require the School Board vote on all decisions in public.

The plaintiff has claimed that School Board members had essentially had a de facto "closed door" meeting over e-mail. They had made the decision to close Clifton prior to the vote members took out in the open.

There is also a good chance that Clifton would reopen in the next couple years, even if the judge favors the school system in remaining lawsuit, said Bill Hollaway, mayor of the Town of Clifton.

"My feeling is the school system clearly needs the space. The population of school age children in this area is going to continue to expand and they will need somewhere to go," said Hollaway.

"Instead of putting more trailers or building more additions onto other facilities, they will be able to reopen Clifton. In the next couple of years, they will need the space and I think the school board will see that it makes sense to have a school here," he said.

The mayor added that the Clifton community is also still working on its application to open an elementary charter school on the Clifton site. If that application is approved, a new charter would likely open in

either 2012 or 2013.

Fairfax County does not have any charter schools, and Clifton would have to overcome several challenges to have its application approved.

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) has tried to encourage the expansion of charter schools across Virginia, but the power to approve new charters ultimately lies with the local School Board.

Clifton residents would have to convince the Fairfax County School Board it is a good idea to open a charter school that would directly "compete" with the existing school system for students, teachers and — perhaps most importantly — funding. Every child that attended the new charter would take with them public funding that could be used to fund other traditional Fairfax County Public Schools.

Still, several community members expect that the School Board would be more sympathetic toward Clifton following this November's election.

Many of the School Board members who voted to close Clifton have decided not to stand for re-election.

"Next year, there will be a new school no matter what. I don't want them to try and second guess the decision to close Clifton made by this School Board. But they could look at what makes the most sense moving forward," said Hollaway.



DONATED PHOTO

Kristina Marie Gibb and Timothy D'Amico

Gibb, D'Amico To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. John Gibb of Fairfax Station are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristina Marie, to Timothy D'Amico, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony D'Amico of Fairfield, Conn.

Kristina Gibb is a 2000 graduate of Robinson Secondary School and received a BFA from Syracuse University and an MFA from The School of Visual Arts in New York City. She is a freelance photographer and owns the portrait photography company PhotoPetit.

Timothy D'Amico is a 2000 graduate of Trumbull High School (Conn.) and also received a BFA from Syracuse University. He is employed as a motion graphics artist/ animator and a video editor.

A late summer wedding is planned in Rhode Island. The couple currently resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

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OPINION

Hungry in Summertime

Miles to go in providing summer nutrition to Northern Virginia's poor students.

Fairfax County has more than 44,000 students enrolled who are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals.

During the school year, 141 elementary schools, 26 middle schools, 30 high schools and secondary schools and a few special centers serve breakfast and lunch to needy students either for free or at very low cost. That's nearly 200 places where students go every day that can help provide for their nutritional needs.

In the summer, Fairfax County operates just 14 centers to provide meals to poor students. There is no plan to get students from where they live to the available meals, and a recent report estimates that in Virginia overall, less than 20 percent of students who qualify receive meals in the summer. Obviously 14 locations in all of Fairfax County cannot possibly provide geographically accessible meals to 44,000 students.

Fairfax County Public Schools eliminated summer school several years ago as a budget cutting measure, and this complicates providing summer nutrition to needy students. Fairfax County also eliminated year-round schools that specifically served needier student populations.

It's also eye opening to note that more than 20 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals.

In Arlington, more than 6,500 students, or 32 percent of the student body qualify for subsidized meals.

In Alexandria, the more than 6,200 students who are poor enough to receive subsidized meals make up more than 50 percent of the student population.

Arlington operates 19 centers to serve meals to students over the summer, dramatically more per eligible student than Fairfax.

Earlier this month, Jeff Bridges, Academy Award Winner and No Kid Hungry National Campaign Spokesperson, Gov. Bob McDonnell (R-VA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack along with organizers of Share Our Strength, the Federation of Virginia Food Banks and others launched the Virginia No Kid Hungry Campaign at Barcroft Elementary School in Arlington. Their modest goals for this year include increasing the number of eligible students who receive the meals they are entitled to. See <http://nokidhungry.org/virginia.html>.

— MARY KIMM

Fairfax County USDA Summer Food Service Program

The program was established to ensure that students who qualify for free and reduced price meals during the school year continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines will be provided to children at approved sites throughout Fairfax County.

To become a registered meal site, call 703-324-5330, TTY 711. To volunteer to serve meals, call 703-324-5504, TTY 711.

Bailey's Elementary, July 12 to Aug. 5, 8 to 8:30 a.m., 10:30 to 11 a.m.
Bucknell Elementary Mount Vernon, Aug. 8 to 26, 8:40 to 9:15 a.m.
Burke Center, July 11 to Aug. 5, 11:30 a.m. to noon
Cameron Elementary Mount Vernon, Aug. 1 to 19, 8:15 to 8:45 a.m., 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
Crestwood Elementary Springfield, July 11 to Aug. 19, 8 to 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Glen Forest Elementary Falls Church, Aug. 8 to 26, 8:45 to 9:15 a.m.
Groveton Elementary Mount Vernon, Aug. 3 to 19, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Holmes Middle, July 25 to Aug. 19, 9 to 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hutchison Elementary Herndon, July 18 to Aug. 12, 11:45 a.m. to noon
Hybla Valley Elementary Mount Vernon area, Aug. 1 to 19, 9 to 9:15 a.m.
Parklawn Elementary, Aug. 1 to 19, 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.
Poe Middle, Aug. 1 to 26, 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Riverside Elementary, Aug. 1 to 19, 9 to 9:30 a.m.
Weyanoke Elementary, Aug. 1 to 19, 11:40 a.m. to noon
Woodlawn Elementary, Aug. 1 to 19, 8:45 to 9 a.m.
Woodley Hills Elementary, July 25 to Aug. 12, 11:30 a.m. to noon

EDITORIAL

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
burke@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

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@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
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

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

Outer Beltway: An Improper Emphasis

Outer Beltway would lead to loss of green lands.

BY GARRETT HERNDON

It seems that a new monument to Northern Virginia's ballooning population and sprawl is on the horizon. Despite the incessant congestion plaguing the east to west roadways of the region for decades, Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) is directing the attention of the Virginia public and the state government elsewhere, choosing instead to focus on a proposal for a new north to south route spanning Prince William and Loudoun counties. The proposed thoroughfare caters primarily to traffic moving to and from Dulles Airport, and would connect Interstates 66, 95 and 495 and other local roads, with a direct route to more rural areas south and west of Fairfax County.

On May 18, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) of Virginia passed a resolution declaring a slew of roads throughout western Northern Virginia "Corridors of Statewide Significance" (CoSS), a designation that eases funding

for the project while removing the involved local governments from the process. The state, with the new CoSS classification of these routes, can now act at its own discretion, bypassing public participation. The approval of this resolution by the CTB is a major blow to Loudoun officials and residents who have consistently vocalized their opposition to such a project.

On April 19, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted 6-1-2 to oppose such a designation by the CTB. Although the vote was merely symbolic, the elected officials of Loudoun have made it clear that they and their constituents are against any major north to south roadway projects within their borders. The "Outer Beltway" concept is nothing new to the region, as similar plans were defeated by Loudoun supervisors in 2001 and 2004.

With the creation of this new roadway, previously untapped areas of western Northern Virginia would become easily accessible to Dulles International Airport and Washington, D.C., inevitably jumpstarting a new development boom far away from sustainable public transit, and the worksites of most county residents. Additionally, the roadway will come dangerously near the Manassas National Battlefield, the plan even going as far as to cut right

across a major part of the historic park.

As a resident of Fairfax for the past 10 years, I have seen this area change drastically. The woods next to my elementary school used to be home to a creek we would play in summer months. Now it is the home of 12 single family homes, arranged in identical plots, squished together so tightly that you can touch both houses with your arms spread. It is impossible to discount the necessity of these open spaces many legislators and politicians have seemed to take for granted, spaces that will inevitably evaporate as developers and businesses encroach.

Gov. McDonnell has made it altogether clear throughout his campaign and present term in office that he is a friend of realtors and developers in Virginia. During his 2009 campaign, McDonnell was backed by the Virginia Association of Realtors, the state's largest trade organization and a major proponent of development in Northern Virginia. Campaign contributions to McDonnell from the real estate and development sector totaled well over \$2 million. It seems now readily apparent that by placing the "Outer Beltway" at the forefront of his agenda, McDonnell is looking out for his own best interests.

Garrett Herndon is an intern with the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

COMMENTARY

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 23

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m.

Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with Gloria Monick. Adults.

Play Ball. 2:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Discover the science in sports. Presented by Maryland Science Center. Age 6-12. Tickets distributed beginning 30 minutes before the event; first come, first served.

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

Bubble Bath Bunny With Kamp Kreatures Puppets. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Eager Beaver tries to get his pet Magic Bunny to take a bath. All ages. Registration required.

Mutts Gone Nuts. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Jessie and James bring dogs that catch Frisbees, jump rope, juggle and more. Ages 6-12. Tickets distributed beginning 30 minutes before the event; first come, first served.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24

Civil War Document Scanning: A Virginia 150th Anniversary Legacy Project. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360

North St., Fairfax. The Library of Virginia and their Civil War 150 Legacy Project would like to scan your letters or photographs from the Civil War Era for archival purposes. Free. Adults. Schedule an appointment with Linda Gifford at 703-324-8324 or Linda.Gifford@fairfaxcounty.gov. Appointments required.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25

Civil War Document Scanning: A Virginia 150th Anniversary Legacy Project.

10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Library of Virginia and their Civil War 150 Legacy Project would like to scan your letters or photographs from the Civil War Era for archival purposes. Free. Adults. Schedule an appointment with Linda Gifford at 703-324-8324 or Linda.Gifford@fairfaxcounty.gov. Appointments required.

Cinema Under the Stars: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.

7:30 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Pizza, snacks, drinks available for purchase at 7:30 p.m., film begins at 8:30 p.m. \$5. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

King Kan, Soncier, PHZ-Sicks, High Off Life (H.O.L.), Jay Dollar, Shake, Mistaforty, Audra The Rapper and more.

7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

Occoquan River Conservation Day.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Family-friendly recreational activities including paddling, fishing, geocaching, hiking, prison tours and

more in Occoquan Regional Park, Lake Ridge Park, Belmont Bay, Lorton Workhouse Arts Center and others. The "Miss Rivershore" boat will offer a free water taxi service between the town of Occoquan and Occoquan Regional Park. www.owlva.org or 703-690-2121.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26

Cinema Under the Stars: Grease, the Sing A Long.

7:30 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Music, lawn and board games. Pizza, snacks, drinks available for purchase at 7:30 p.m., film begins at 8:30 p.m. \$5. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Canine Cruises.

6 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruise on the Park's dog-friendly pontoon boat while your dog scans for ducks, geese, and other lake dwellers. \$6 per person, no charge for the dog. One dog per person limit. Reservations and pre-payment required. 703-222-4664 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/.

Afton Shows Presents: Borderline and more.

7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

The Brethren.

6:30 p.m. Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. A men's vocal ensemble, presenting music ranging from gospel to doo wop. Free. 703-503-2259.

Women in Jazz Scholarship

Concert. 4 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Shannon Gunn and the Bullettes Jazz Orchestra and vocalist Lena Seikaly. \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors, \$7 with

student ID. jazztothebone@gmail.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 27

Mutts Gone Nuts. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Jessie and James bring dogs that catch Frisbees, jump rope, juggle and more. Ages 6-12.

Read to the Dog. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a reading therapy dog. Call to register for one 15-minute slot. Age 6-12 with adult. Registration Required.

TUESDAY/JUNE 28

Mutts Gone Nuts. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Jessie and James bring dogs that catch Frisbees, jump rope, juggle and more. Age 6-12.

What in the World. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Magic and mystery from around the globe with magician Mike Rose. Age 6-12. Registration required.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 29

English Conversation Group. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English.

THURSDAY/JUNE 30

African Connection Relief Event (A.C.R.E.) Concert featuring Banky W., Wizkid and Naeto C. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$39-\$109,

available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT, 202-397-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035. www.acreconcert.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

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

Circus in a Suitcase. 2:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Ringmaster Harold Woods becomes a magician, juggler, clown and more. All ages. Register all children and adults.

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

Mutts Gone Nuts. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Jessie and James bring dogs that catch Frisbees, jump rope, juggle and more. Age 6-12.

Operation Spycraft. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Linda McCarthy, CIA veteran, gives a close-up look at the world of spies and the gadgets they use. Age 12-18. Registration required.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your English speaking skills. Adults.

FRIDAY/JULY 1

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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PHOTO BY DEANNA PERRY/THE CONNECTION

W.T. Woodson High School's Class of 2011 takes part in its June 16 commencement ceremony in Robinson Secondary School's gym.

Looking Ahead, Moving On

W.T. Woodson High School seniors take part in 2011 commencement.

BY DEANNA PERRY
THE CONNECTION

Growth, innovation and new beginnings were the themes of W.T. Woodson High School's graduation on Thursday, June 16, in the Robinson Secondary gym. The class took time to look back at the start of their high school career, when the school had no ceiling, and the progress they've made since then.

"I knew the second the bell rang freshman year that there was something different about the class of 2011," said valedictorian speaker Mac Tunick. "We just had this ... this... swagger, and through these four years, we have embodied swag."

The class of 2011 felt how special they were with 77 honor graduates, who are graduating with a 4.0 or higher GPA. Other honors bestowed upon some graduates included scholarship money. The Christopher Marshall Award went to Amy Dreissen; the Tyler Bently Award went to Deborah Lim; and the Julia Campbell Memorial Award went to Melanie Barlow and Dante Verme.

Also, the Service award was presented to Marlee Stynchula and Jacob Luftglass; the Leadership award went to Melanie Barlow and Kaitlin Brooks; the Faculty award went to Paul Fridley and Connor Halloran; and the Woodson School award went to Christine Schindler. Also, the PTO Teacher of the Year award was presented to Steven Lundy.

Despite how great Tunick thought the class of 2011 was, he insisted that they never stop changing.

"Woodson change, change like your life depends on it," Tunick said. "We have decades ahead of us, try new things, explore. Do what you want to do. Aim high Woodson. Trying and failing isn't nearly as bad as failing to try."

The guest speaker, Aneesh Chopra, the United States Chief Officer of Technology in the White House, had similar things to say. His focus wasn't just on change, but the need for the graduates to create things to make a better future.

"Astronaut Catherine Coleman, a Woodson graduate, helped contribute to her generation's mission on the space frontier," Chopra said. "And so will be the story of your class, your generation. Only the mission that inspires you may not be as clear. Will you be the generation that makes solar power as cheap as fossil fuels? And build the first buildings that are able to produce all the energy that they consume?"

Chopra went on to discuss things members of their generation had already accomplished. This included the creation of Sleepbot and students convincing their schools to be more energy efficient.

"I am confident that walking this stage today will be the story of another great innovator," Chopra said.

Those that spoke at W.T. Woodson's graduation weren't the only ones looking to the future.

"It's exciting and nerve racking," said Lindsey Marshtyn.

"I'm pretty excited, looking forward to the future," said graduate Zachary Morin. "I'm going to go to Marymount University for four years, get a bachelor of arts. I'm not sure what I want to do for a career yet, but I'll figure it out."

"Woodson change, change like your life depends on it."

— Mac Tunick, Woodson valedictorian speaker

COMMUNITY

Lacrosse Team Goes 11-0

Braddock Road LAX ends season unbeaten.

The Braddock Road Under-15 A lacrosse team completed an undefeated season June 12 with a 7-5 victory over Loudoun West at Wakefield High School.

Braddock Road rebounded from a 5-3 halftime deficit with a stifling defense and timely goal scoring to secure the crown on a hot and humid Sunday afternoon.

Drew Wallace was outstanding in goal, recording 16 saves, several of them from point-blank range, and holding the high-scoring Loudoun team to only one goal over the last three quarters. The Lake Braddock defense really came together when Jack Rowlett switched to cover Loudoun's high-scoring attackman and Rowlett shut him down while helping to effectively clear the ball. Defenders Jude Buchholz and William Barlow were rock steady as they have been all year and Bryce Ahn contributed several key ground balls in the second half while the game was on the line.

As they did throughout the season, Ryan O'Conner and Ryan Lamb dominated the midfield, controlling play, winning faceoffs and each contributing a goal and several

assists. O'Conner iced the game by controlling the ball himself for the last three minutes of the game. Energetic long stick midfielder Will Cogan made his presence felt all over the field, helping with clears while providing defense at the point of attack against Loudoun's midfielders.

On attack, diminutive Chris White made the most of his opportunities, tallying a season-high four goals including a triple-pump shot from in close in the fourth quarter to seal the victory. Chapman Jasien assisted on two of White's goals with perfect passes and scored on a fast break while absorbing a nasty late hit in the back to lead the team's second half rally.

Head coach Ben Utecht and assistant coaches Dale Wallace and Bill Barlow did an outstanding job all year keeping the team focused and making the necessary adjustments. This was especially evident in the way the team responded in the second half as they rallied from two goals down.

All in all the team had an incredible year, going 11-0 and outscoring their opposition by the score of 85-40.

— BRIAN WHITE



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Spring To Remember for Several Local Teams

Stallions reached baseball state finals, Woodson girls earned region soccer crown.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The high school spring sports season is now completed with the emotionally-charged postseason tournaments having been completed over the past couple of weeks. But what a time the past month-plus has been as some of the local teams, competing in their respective district, region and perhaps even state playoffs, gave their fans thrills in their quest to win championships as the school year was about to end.

South County baseball enjoyed a spring season that will be difficult to ever top. Under head coach Mark Luther, the Stallions went undefeated during the regular season, then continued their winning ways during the postseason by capturing both the Patriot District and Northern Region crowns, both title game victories coming over talented Lake Braddock. They then went on to win their first two games at the state AAA playoffs, including a dramatic 12-11 quarterfinals home win over Nansemond River (Suffolk), to reach the state championship game. There, in a game played at Westfield High, South County lost to perennial state power Great Bridge High of Chesapeake, 5-3. The Stallions finished with a wondrous 28-1 overall record.

Senior catcher Mike Perez, who blasted three home runs and a game-winning, walk-off double in the win over Nansemond River, was the heart and soul of the Stallions, while pitchers Evan Beal and Tyler Frazier were spectacular on the mound.

The Hayfield girls' softball team, under veteran head coach Ron Giovannucci, dominated play within the National District during the regular season. Their first district setback came in the district tournament semifinals to longtime rival Mount Vernon, who edged the Hawks 2-1.

The loss to the Majors was just the second of the season for Hayfield, who's only regular season setback had come to eventual Northern Region champion Westfield, 6-0, in their fourth game of the season. Following the disappointing district playoff loss to Mount Vernon, Hayfield defeated Robinson, annually one of the top teams in the region, by a 5-1 score in a first round game of the 16-team regionals. That put Hayfield into the quarterfinals over Memorial Day weekend where the Hawks lost to defending state champion McLean.

Overall, Hayfield finished with an outstanding 20-3-1 season (The tie came against Oakton during a spring break game). Not surprisingly, Hayfield received a strong share of postseason honors, high-



South County's bid for its first-ever state baseball title fell just short when the Stallions lost to Great Bridge in the state finals.

lighted by senior team MVP Sam Perry-Shifflett (catcher) being named National District Player of the Year as well as earning First Team All-Region honors. Also for the Hawks, junior pitcher Amber Fowler was honored as the District Pitcher of the Year. Other players to earn postseason honors included: sophomore first baseman/pitcher Taylor Neuhart (Coach's Award, All-District and All-Region Tournament teams); sophomore outfielder Katelyn Thorne (First Team All-District); sophomore second baseman Taryn McElhenny (Hayfield Most Improved Award, Second Team All-District); senior outfielder Angela Sudik (Don Stah Award, Second Team All-District); and senior outfielder Jessie Reynolds and freshman third baseman Brittany Creamer, both Second Team All-District.

IN BOYS' SOCCER, Lake Braddock began the season back in mid-March and on into early April winning just two of their first five games, including a 1-1 tie with South County. But the Bruins settled and got on a roll, winning nine of their next 10 games, the final two victories of that stretch coming in the first two games of the Patriot District tournament, and making it quite known they were a region force to be reckoned with along with such other teams as West Springfield, Langley, McLean, Washington-Lee, and Oakton.

Lake Braddock came back to earth in the district tournament finals where it lost to West Springfield, 2-1. But coach Jo Soos' squad put the setback behind quickly and,

at regionals, won four straight games to capture the region crown. Region playoff wins came over Madison, 2-0, Oakton, 2-0, Washington-Lee, 3-2 in overtime, and, in the finals at Westfield, a 2-1 triumph over the Langley Saxons.

The Bruins had numerous playoff heroes, but the biggest had to be senior forward Matt Fraedrich, who caught the scoring bug after having scored just a couple of regular season goals. During the postseason, including two games at states, Fraedrich went on to score eight goals over 11 games. His goal with just under 12 minutes remaining in the region finals at Madison High School broke a 1-1 tie with Langley and proved to be the game-winner. Bruins' senior midfielder Elhadji Diouf had scored his team's first goal earlier in the second half to tie the score at 1-1.

Lake Braddock went on to win a game at the state playoffs, a 2-0 quarterfinals home win over Indian River (Chesapeake) before seeing its season end with a 2-1 loss to Deep Run in a state semifinals game at Westfield, a loss that was intensified by some controversial calls and a postgame skirmish.

Nonetheless, while the Bruins' run towards a state finals appearance fell short, it was an overall fantastic year for the squad.

The W.T. Woodson girls' soccer team proved to be a region force and put together the program's best season since 2004 when that year's Cavaliers won both region and state championships.

Woodson, which lost just one game during the regular season (to Robinson, 1-0),

was playing at or near its best by postseason time, especially on defense. The Cavaliers, under head coach Warren Williams, reached the district tournament finals but lost there to South County, 2-0, in the contest played at Lee High.

But the team came back to win four games at the region tournament, including the finals win over McLean, 1-0, at Madison High School. The Cavaliers' defense was simply relentless at regionals, allowing no goals throughout the four wins (victories over Madison, 3-0; Oakton, 1-0; Chantilly, 3-0; and the Liberty District champion Highlanders of McLean).

In the semifinals win over Chantilly, the Cavaliers scored all three of their goals after halftime, the scores coming from senior Erin Havard, junior Elizabeth Gaski, and freshmen Teresa Fruchterman. Goalie Marlee Stynchula, throughout the region playoffs, was spectacular in the net.

In the finals win over McLean, Woodson got an early goal from Havard and its defense held the Highlanders scoreless the rest of the way in the 1-0 win. McLean put several strong offensive rushes on the Cavaliers' defense late in the contest but could not break through. Woodson defeated a McLean team that would ultimately go on to win the state title.

Woodson (16-3-3) saw its season end with a first round state tournament playoff loss to Cox High of Virginia Beach in overtime. Woodson senior midfielder Danielle King, at season's end, was named the Northern Region Player of the Year.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUITZEL/THE CONNECTION

No. Va. Needs To Attract More Private Investment

This region only place average home sale price increased from last year to this year.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Even in the depths of the recent recession, the economic picture in the Fairfax was always rosier than in many other parts of the country.

Unemployment peaked last year at a little over 5 percent, which may have been a record high for Fairfax, but still half of the national average at the time.

But in the last year, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles and Chicago, all among the 15 largest American job markets, have outpaced the Washington region in job growth.

While the Washington, D.C., region added approximately 25,700 jobs over the last year, Dallas added more than 80,000 jobs in the same time period.

"We are not doing as well as our competitors. This may be a picture of the future we are looking at. The federal government is not going to be spending as much moving forward," said Stephen Fuller, an economist with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University.

"There is not going to be much growth in the federal workforce. Many people are going to be retiring and the people coming

in to replace them will be making less money," he said.

Fuller presented on the state of the economy for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors in the group's Herndon office this month.

FEDERAL SPENDING has fueled Northern Virginia's economy for the last decade, according to Fuller.

"Northern Virginia benefited from the War on Terror more than other part of the D.C. region," he said.

Nevertheless, Northern Virginia will not be able to depend on increased federal spending for economic growth in the years to come. It will have to try and spur job creation in other ways, according to Fuller.

"Federal hiring is slowing and federal contractors are not growing very much. ... We need to figure out what is going to drive the economy for the next decade," said Fuller.

Federal spending, including money allocated to private government contractors, accounted for 34.9 percent of the Washington area economy this past year.

Fuller said the region needs to focus on attracting more non-local, private businesses, which currently only make up about

12 percent of the economy. These types of companies would ideally account for 16 percent of Washington's economy.

A "non-local" business is not dependent on their location to make money like a restaurant or landscaping company for example. They include companies like Hilton Worldwide, whose international headquarters is in Tysons Corner.

"These companies are not market-restricted to the D.C.

area. They don't have to be here. Over a longer time frame, attracting these businesses is what is going to make the D.C. area grow or not," said Fuller.

Currently, Fuller said other markets, like New York City and Atlanta, are doing a much better job of appealing to "non-local" businesses.

OVER THE LAST YEAR, the Washington region saw the vast majority of its job growth, 17,000 of 25,000 jobs, in professional and business services.

The local economy saw its most job losses over the last year, approximately 7,000, in the construction industry.

Northern Virginia's economy mirrored the rest of region.

In Northern Virginia, 8,000 of the 14,200 new jobs created came in business and professional services. The other major growth sector in Northern Virginia was the retail industry, where 6,000 new jobs appeared.

"Retail is actually doing quite well here. Tysons Corner is going particularly strong. You may want to ask Maryland residents why they are going to Tysons Corner to shop," said Fuller.

Northern Virginia's economy appears to be in a better position than of suburban Maryland in general, according to Fuller.

Northern Virginia's unemployment rate has fallen to 4.3 percent while suburban

Maryland's hovers around 5.6 percent, according to Fuller. Both are considerably lower than the national average of 8.7 percent.

In fact, the Washington metropolitan region had the lowest unemployment rate, 5.4 percent, of the 15 largest job markets in the United States this past year. The D.C. area is also the only major metropolitan region in the country where the average sale price of a home increased from this year to last year, said Fuller.

"We need to figure out what is going to drive the economy for the next decade."

— Stephen Fuller

Region Needs More 'Small' Housing

Fairfax and other localities must look to higher density, lower cost housing.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

A demand for more housing exists in Northern Virginia, it is just a different type of housing than people have traditionally sought for here, said two experts earlier in June.

"There really is enough big housing. What we need is more small housing. ... We need different housing," said Stephen Fuller, an economist with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. He spoke to members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors about the state of the local economy and housing market this month.

In General, Fuller delivered positive news about the region's housing market.

The Washington region was the only major metropolitan market where the average sales price of a home had increased over the last year. In most other places, home sales prices were still dropping.

"The supply of housing relative to demand is pretty well balanced," said Fuller.

According to data provided by Fuller, a little under five houses are on market for

every one home sold in Fairfax County this year.

The county's recent "high water" mark in terms of a housing "glut" came in 2008 when about nine houses were on the market for every one home sold in the locality. Over the last 10 years, Fairfax's real estate market was most competitive from 2003 to 2005, when approximately two houses were on the market for every one house sold, according to Fuller's data.

THE MEDIAN SALES price for a house in the Washington market has been steadily climbing since the middle of 2009, but average home sale prices are not nearly as high as they were five years ago.

Currently, the average home price in the region is \$312,500. From 2006 to 2008, the average sales price had consistently stayed over \$400,000.

Overall, Northern Virginia's housing market appears to be in better shape than suburban Maryland, Fuller said.

Northern Virginia has seen an increase in housing prices during 19 of the last 20 consecutive months. Suburban Maryland has only seen home prices rise three of the last

20 months.

In Maryland, there was an overall net decrease in housing prices during the first four months of 2011, according to Fuller's data.

But Fuller stressed that Fairfax County does not necessarily have a lot of housing that has become attractive to younger professionals and retiring baby boomers looking to purchase a home.

"Younger workers may not be as willing to spend as much of their income on purchasing a house," said Fuller, who said a real need exists for high-end apartment buildings and condominiums.

Local real estate developer Bob Buchanan, who also spoke to the Realtors, agreed with Fuller on this point.

"The quarter acre lot and the white picket fence? Those days are over. Generation Y is willing to live in a far less pretentious situation than their parents did. They aren't going to be soccer moms," said Buchanan.

The developer said he has been particularly impressed with the transit-friendly development planned for the new Metro stations in Reston, which he referred to as being "high quality" and "remarkable."

"This is the perfect time for this region to start looking at higher density developments and a different type of housing than anything we looked at before," said Buchanan.



Air Force Airman 1st Class Laura M. Benoit graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Paul Benoit and Patricia Balbalian of Oak Grove Street, Lorton. Benoit graduated in 2005 from Hayfield Secondary School and received a bachelor's degree in 2009 from James Madison University.

HOME SALES

In May 2011, 67 homes sold between \$2,225,000-\$132,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,225,000-\$289,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
13761 BALMORAL GREENS AVE	5	4	1		CLIFTON	\$2,225,000	Detached	7.98	BALMORAL GREENS
8203 ROSELAND DR	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,220,000	Detached	7.78	ESTATES AT ROSELAND
12208 FAIRFAX STATION RD	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$965,750	Detached	5.01	CHADWICKE
10945 RICE FIELD PL	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$905,000	Detached	1.16	HUNT AT FAIRFAX STATION
5830 HANNORA LN	7	4	2		FAIRFAX STATION	\$885,000	Detached	1.07	FAIRVIEW WOODS
9057 JOHN SUTHERLAND LN	4	4	1		LORTON	\$882,499	Detached	0.83	DENALI WAY
7082 BALMORAL FOREST RD	4	4	1		CLIFTON	\$875,000	Detached	2.07	BALMORAL GREENS
8921 ATATURK WAY	5	4	1		LORTON	\$780,000	Detached	0.36	TOWNES OF POHICK
10606 WINSLOW DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$750,000	Detached	1.65	FAIRFAX STATION EAST
9220 WRIGHTS HOLLOW LN	4	3	1		LORTON	\$750,000	Detached	0.83	WRIGHTS OVERLOOK
11905 HENDERSON CT	4	4	1		CLIFTON	\$737,500	Detached	1.10	ASHLEIGH OF CLIFTON
9333 ELKHORNE RUN CT	4	3	1		LORTON	\$735,000	Detached	0.75	OCCOQUAN OVERLOOK
9903 SOUTH PARK CIR	4	2	2		FAIRFAX STATION	\$725,000	Detached	0.59	SOUTH RUN
7817 THORNFIELD CT	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$720,000	Detached	0.34	BARRINGTON
9522 CROSSPOINTE DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$715,000	Detached	0.37	CROSSPOINTE
6718 ROCK FALL CT	5	4	1		CLIFTON	\$692,500	Detached	0.23	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
8490 SULLENBERGER CT	4	4	1		LORTON	\$690,000	Detached	0.28	SULLENBERGER
13632 ROCK FLINT CT	4	4	1		CLIFTON	\$670,000	Detached	0.24	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
7919 BRACKSFORD CT	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$664,900	Detached	0.25	BARRINGTON
13814 LAUREL ROCK CT	5	4	1		CLIFTON	\$647,000	Detached	0.24	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
5529 CLIFTON RD	7	5	0		CLIFTON	\$645,000	Detached	0.69	WILLOW SPRINGS
8159 DOUGLAS FIR DR	4	3	1		LORTON	\$617,500	Detached	0.15	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
6009 POCOL DR	6	4	1		CLIFTON	\$585,000	Detached	0.50	VANNOY PARK
9087 ARCH HALL RD	4	2	1		LORTON	\$585,000	Detached	0.10	LORTON TOWN CIR LANDBAY
13934 STONEFIELD DR	4	3	1		CLIFTON	\$570,000	Detached	0.20	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
9062 GALVIN LN	4	4	1		LORTON	\$570,000	Detached	0.13	LAUREL HIGHLANDS
9162 FINNEGAN ST	4	3	1		LORTON	\$565,000	Detached	0.08	LAUREL HIGHLANDS
8237 WALNUT RIDGE RD	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$559,500	Detached	0.30	TIMBER RIDGE
8031 OAK HOLLOW LN	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$550,000	Detached	0.20	SOUTH RUN OAKS
6408 STONEHAVEN CT	4	2	0		CLIFTON	\$536,250	Detached	0.28	LITTLE ROCKY RUN
9921 EAST HILL DR	4	3	1		LORTON	\$527,000	Detached	0.08	EAST HILL
9571 5TH PL	5	4	1		LORTON	\$525,000	Detached	0.11	VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
9115 STONEGARDEN DR	4	2	1		LORTON	\$492,000	Detached	0.06	LORTON TOWN CIR LANDBAY
8915 IGOE ST	4	3	0		LORTON	\$482,500	Detached	1.00	LORFAX HEIGHTS
6807 MARLEIGH CT	4	2	1		CLIFTON	\$480,000	Detached	0.24	COMPTON HEIGHTS
9082 ARCH HALL RD	4	3	1		LORTON	\$477,000	Detached	0.08	LORTON TOWN CIR LANDBAY
7681 GRAYSONS MILL LN	3	3	1		LORTON	\$457,000	Detached	0.08	LORTON STATION
8401 MOUNTAIN LARKSPUR DR	4	3	0		LORTON	\$451,125	Detached	0.10	SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP
8412 STARGAZER LILY CT	3	3	0		LORTON	\$445,900	Detached	0.09	SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP
13058 QUARTZ LN	3	3	1		CLIFTON	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.07	ROCKPOINTE
9792 LORRAINE CAROL WAY	3	3	1		LORTON	\$439,900	Detached	0.09	MASONS PASSAGE
7990 THOMAS NEVITT ST	3	2	2		LORTON	\$415,000	Townhouse	0.05	LORTON STATION SOUTH
8974 YELLOW DAISY PL	3	3	0		LORTON	\$385,000	Townhouse	0.09	SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP
8317 LINDEN OAKS CT	3	2	2		LORTON	\$372,000	Townhouse	0.07	SOUTHERN OAKS
8065 HORSESHOE COTTAGE CIR	3	2	2		LORTON	\$354,900	Townhouse	0.06	LORTON STATION SOUTH
6716 RED BIRD WOODS CT	4	3	1		LORTON	\$346,000	Townhouse	0.03	VILLAGE OF MOUNT AIR
6008 LITTLE BROOK CT	4	2	2		CLIFTON	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.03	SEQUOIA LEA
6617 NEWINGTON RD	4	3	0		LORTON	\$295,000	Detached	0.47	HUNTERWOOD
9506 GREENCASTLE LN	3	3	1		LORTON	\$289,000	Townhouse	0.04	WILLIAMSBURG SQ

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'A Reggio Exhibit: Showcasing Children's Creativity' will be on display at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, through July 12. The exhibit features long term topic studies from JCCNV Early Childhood Learning Center classes ranging in age from infants to four years old. Gallery hours are Sunday-Thursday 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Fridays 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays 12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. 703-323-0880 or www.jccnv.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

SATURDAY/JULY 9

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Petsmart, 6535 Frontier Drive, Springfield. Meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Volunteers will help potential adopters find a good match and answer questions. Sponsored by Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue. 703-533-2373 or www.cockerspanielrescue.com.

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.

SATURDAY/JULY 2

Arts & Stripes: The Workhouse Salutes the Military and the Arts. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Interactive art demonstrations, youth and family activities, picnic food and drinks available for purchase and more. Free and open to the public, \$5 suggested donation to benefit the Lorton Arts Foundation. 703-584-2900 or www.WorkhouseArts.org.

❖ **Opening Reception.** 2-4 p.m. in Gallery W-16 on the second floor. The show will include art work from the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Air Force Art Program, Combat Paper Project and more. From on-site sketches done while imbedded with our troops, to studio finished paintings, combat artists show the work of war in action and during "down" time.

❖ **The New Dominion Choraliers** perform at 4 p.m. in the Festival Tent on the Quad.

❖ **U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)** will give the keynote address at 4:30 p.m.

❖ **The Navy's jazz ensemble, the Commodores,** perform at 7 p.m. in the Festival Tent on the Quad.

TUESDAY/JULY 12

Soundgarden. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Frontman Chris Cornell, guitarist Kim Thayil, bassist Ben Shepherd and drummer Matt Cameron are reuniting for a summer tour. Tickets \$59.50, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. www.soundgardenworld.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 14

Children of Bodom, Devin Townsend Project, Obscura, Septic Flesh and more. 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$27 advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940

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Fairfax Baptist Temple...703-323-8100
Harvest Assembly Baptist Church...703-799-7868
Hope Baptist Church...703-799-5155
Jerusalem Baptist Church...703-278-8166
Shiloh Baptist Church...703-550-8557
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Buddhist
Ekoji Buddhist Temple...703-239-1200
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Living Savior Lutheran Church...703-352-1421
Methodist
Christ Church of Fairfax Station...703-690-3401

Cranford United Methodist Church...703-339-5382
Non-Denominational
Grace Bible Church...703-339-7292
Gunston Bible Church...703-339-5395
Iglesia La Gran Comision Asambleas De Dios...703-541-0816
New Hope Church...703-971-4673
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FAITH

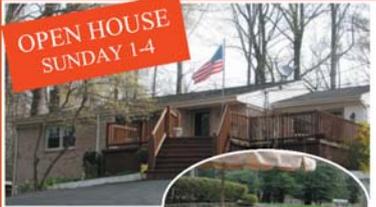
Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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.

A new Women's Bible study, "Discovering Who We Are in Christ - Part III," will be at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays through May 31. \$15. Child care available. Register at 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.



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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Fairfax Station			
10609 Timberidge Rd.	\$898,000	Sun 1-4	Deb Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-581-9005
7512 Rambling Ridge Dr.	\$859,000	Sun 1-4	Cyndee Julian.....Long & Foster..703-201-5834
8914 Magnolia Ridge Rd.	\$612,450	Sun 2-5	Kathy Peters.....Long & Foster..703-915-2165
9011 Banyon Ridge Rd.	\$524,900	Sun 1-4	Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-328-4129
Lorton			
6700 Bulkeley Rd.	\$569,900	Sat 1-4	Kim Hannemann.....Samson..703-861-9234
6752 Cardinal Woods Ct.	\$385,000	Sun 1-4	Minthtu Lynagh.....Long & Foster..571-423-9391
Clifton			
7467 Clifton Rd.	\$549,000	Sun 1-4	Robin Garbe.....Long & Foster..703-307-5092
Burke			
6205 Fushsimi Ct.	\$559,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
8903 Marianna Ct.	\$469,900	Sun 1-4	Bill Halloran/Tracy Jones.....Acquire..703-932-9683
9111 Andromeda Dr.	\$434,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
9508 Retriever Rd.	\$629,950	Sun 1-4	Anita Mason.....Weichert..703-627-6624
9763 Turnbuckle Dr.	\$530,000	Sun 1-4	Amy Goodman.....RE/MAX..703-477-9306
9910 Yachthaven Dr.	\$1,095,000	Sun 1-4	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....RE/MAX..703-239-2525

Annandale			
3386 Monarch Ln.	\$599,900	Sun 1-4	Viveca Kazarian.....Keller Williams..703-618-7677
3413 Wheatwheel Ln.	\$319,500	Sun 1-3	Thomas Hennerty..NetRealtyNow.com..703-652-6040
4000 Oxford St.	\$680,000	Sun 1-4	Jim Robertson.....Long & Foster..703-217-0283
4112 Duncan Dr.	\$499,999	Sun 1-4	Valerie Gaskins.....Weichert..703-881-2787
4853 Randolph Dr.	\$500,000	Sun 1-4	Becky Gehl.....Weichert..202-439-7122
6719 Aspen Trace Ct.	\$599,999	Sun 1-4	Heidi Clary.....Weichert..703-618-8737
8506 Sugarbush Ct.	\$539,000	Sun 1-4	Judith McGuire.....Long & Foster..703-581-7679

Springfield			
5901 Erving St.	\$359,900	Sun 1-4	Shanna Miller.....Weichert..703-615-3178
5609 Rolling Rd.	\$435,000	Sun 1-4	Janice Buckley.....Long & Foster..571-239-2792
7211 Joshua Tree Ln.	\$550,000	Sun 1-4	Becky Berning.....Long & Foster..703-930-3400
8123 Ridge Creek Way	\$594,950	Sun 1-4	Anita Mason.....Weichert..703-627-6624

Fairfax			
10141 Spring Lake Ter.	\$465,000	Sun 1-4	Yanji Lama.....ERA..703-395-3693
10649 Yorktowne Dr.	\$799,990	Sat 11-6	Taylor Cowles ..T.S. Cowles & Co..703-447-9551
11501 Cardones Ln, #403	\$399,900	Sun 1-4	Arada Suwadee Grantz.....Weichert..703-863-8842
12571 Cerromar Pl.	\$825,000	Sun 1-4	Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654
13070 Autumn Willow Dr.	\$669,000	Sun 1-4	Barb Maniatakis.....Jobin..703-217-2978
13124 Westbrook Dr.	\$887,500	Sun 1-4	George Lodge.....Keller Williams..571-217-5981
4085 Fountain Ln.	\$439,500	Sun 1-4	Ryan Zook.....Long & Foster..703-627-8430
4108 Sherwood St.	\$309,900	Sun 1-4	Alireza Daneshzadeh.....DLP..703-801-5443
3108 Wynford Dr.	\$629,000	Sun 1-4	David Newell.....RE/MAX..703-407-0732
3326 Prince William Dr.	\$615,000	Sun 1-4	Alison Tompkins.....WC & AN Miller..202-360-2136
4601 Lawn Ct.	\$495,000	Sun 1-4	Joe Frangipane.....Long & Foster..703-628-4430
5402 Leeway Ct.	\$324,900	Sat 12-4	Richer Cadima.....Classic..703-597-3418
12796 Fox Keep Run.	\$725,000	Sat 12-3	Deborah Kilbride.....Keller Williams..571-213-7892
13116 Poplar Tree Rd.	\$485,500	Sat 11-3	Veena Runyan.....Coldwell Banker..703-447-3500
13142 Maltese Ln.	\$415,000	Sun 1-4	Athena Keifer.....Weichert..703-868-4091
3879 Waythorn Pl.	\$385,000	Sun 12:30-3:30	William Lohr.....Long & Foster..571-274-5044
4163 Legato Rd.	\$499,990	Sun 1-4	Kieno Simeon.....Keller Williams..703-447-4518

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5223 Fernbrook Dr.	\$674,500	Sun 1-4	Terri Miller..Prudential Carruthers..703-585-6336
6613 Peaceful Meadow Ln.	\$899,000	Sun 1-4	John Nguyen.....Long & Foster..571-277-1694
14392 Uniform Dr.	\$365,000	Sat 12-4	Kyung Kim..Infinity Realty & Inv..703-819-6059

Chantilly			
13435 Melville Ln.	\$574,900	Sun 1-4	Photini Riner.....Weichert..703-606-1878
13640 Birch Dr.	\$899,500	Sun 1-3	Amir Khan.....Fairfax..703-629-3541
13892 Walney Park Dr.	\$799,000	Sun 1-4	Alice Chambers.....Coldwell Banker..703-628-2600
13901 Castle Ct.	\$500,000	Sun 1-4	Vivianne Coutts.....Coldwell Banker..703-963-6735
13905 Castle Ct.	\$525,000	Sun 1-4	Barb Chandler.....Keller Williams..703-405-3873

Kingstowne/Alexandria			
6205 Elati Ct.	\$729,900	Sun 1-4	Dan Mieziva.....Jobin..703-380-9915
5609 Tower Hill Circle	\$789,950	Sun 1-4	Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Bristow			
12336 Indigo Springs Ct.	\$525,000	Sun 1-4	The Applegate Team.....Long & Foster..703-451-5818

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Students Receive HLA Scholarships

Hispanic Leadership Alliance aids Woodson, Fairfax grads.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Out of 41 applications, the Hispanic Leadership Alliance (HLA) only awarded five scholarships this year to Fairfax County students, and Denisse Aquino at Fairfax High and Noe Méndez Tojil Woodson Adult High School received them.

"No matter how many obstacles they faced, they moved on," said Assistant Superintendent of Cluster VIII, Fabio Zuluaga. "This is what success is all about — perseverance, determination and hard work."

Just 16, Aquino received the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Scholarship since she plans a career in medicine. Originally from Cochabamba, Bolivia, she and her mother came to the U.S. nine years ago. There was a stepfather for a while, but he and her mother separated during Aquino's sophomore year at Fairfax High.

"So we had to start from nothing," she said. "We left with only the clothes on our backs. But what was important is that we were together. My mom's always been there for me, but she has to work a lot to help me and my brothers — Matthew, 6, and Jean-Luke, 4 — have a better life than she had."

Still, things weren't easy. Her mom holds down two jobs, so Aquino has to help take care of her brothers. She also works at Chick-Fil-A after school and on Saturdays. But her mom encouraged her to do well in school and, said Aquino, "She always told me I was going to go to college."

So Aquino followed her advice and, despite everything, said HLA President Idi Duncan, "She's taken 12 advanced courses, and has a 3.95 GPA. She's respected and admired by her peers, [and] before school, during lunch and after school, Denisse tutors other students in math and English."

Now, she's headed to Christopher Newport College to take biology and pre-med courses. "I want to become a pediatrician and set up a free clinic in Bolivia," said Aquino. "Bolivia is so destitute and there's so much need, I want to do my best to help. I love kids, and a lot of people there don't have money to go to a doctor or hospital."

During the year, she was able to shadow a pediatrician at Inova Fairfax Hospital and she really enjoyed it. "You could see how the doctors combined their knowledge to help their patients get better," said Aquino.

She even found time to do community service, working with the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation in Falls Church. "I

walked the rescue dogs outside PetSmart each Saturday so people could see and adopt them," she said. "I loved it, even though, before, I'd been afraid of dogs, because I'd been bitten when I was little. Seeing them with their new families made me feel happy because I knew I made a difference."

Aquino was thrilled to win the HLA Schol-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Noe Méndez Tojil



DONATED PHOTO

Denisse Aquino

arship, plus two others through her school. "I'm so grateful to everyone for this help because it's hard to come up with the money for college," she said. "I plan to work hard in college and get really good grades. Christopher Newport also gave me some financial aid and they have a good pre-med program, so I'm happy to go there."

"It means a lot to me knowing that people here support me and trust that I have a long future ahead of me," she said. "Being able to be the first generation in my family to go to college here is a great honor and a great task, but I am determined to exceed my potential."

Méndez Tojil, 23, received the Sonia Rosa Vélez Memorial Scholarship. She was a dedicated, FCPS Spanish teacher and HLA member, and this award goes to someone pursuing a career in education.

"Noe is a leader and a star student here," said Woodson Adult High School Principal Jane Cruz. "It's been such a joy to have him here. He competed [for the scholarship] against people who'd taken AP and honors courses elsewhere, but he stood out from them because he has a passion for learning and sharing his knowledge."

Originally from Guatemala, Méndez Tojil came to the U.S. in October 2003 and has worked in restaurants to support his par-

ents back home. "I came here for a better life," he said. "I have five sisters and two brothers and I'm the youngest. I didn't speak English when I came here, but I had to learn it to communicate."

After six years, he started high school at Pimmit Hills Alternative School. "I always liked history, and my World History I and II teacher there influenced me to think about a career as a history teacher," he said. "I also learned from him what makes a good teacher, when he really loves what he does and loves to help students."

When that school closed in September 2010, Méndez Tojil came to Woodson, determined to succeed. "When you want to achieve something, you have to work hard," he said. "I've never been absent because I wanted to learn and get good grades."

Initially, he was in a large classroom containing four different classes and he didn't like it. "But eventually, we became like a family," he said. "It doesn't matter what your situ-

ation is, you just have to look at the positive, not the negative, side and make the best of it. Even if you make mistakes, you learn from them and it makes you tougher."

At Woodson, Méndez Tojil's English teacher, Donna Gerdin, inspired him. "She's always helping me," he said. "English is my second language, so I need help with spelling and grammar. I can go to her if I have questions, and I want to help other people that way, too."

Applying for an HLA Scholarship, he had to write an essay, but he didn't expect to win against so many people. "I was surprised," he said. "But they liked my essay because it came from the heart. I wrote about my life and what I like about my classes and teachers at Woodson."

When Méndez Tojil found out he'd won a scholarship, he was overjoyed. "It's a huge help because college tuition is expensive and it'll help me get started," he said. He plans to attend NOVA and then transfer to GMU to become a high-school history teacher.

"History doesn't have to be boring," he said. "It's up to the teacher to make it interesting. Even though I wasn't born here, I feel proud to be in this country, with all the great things it's achieved. I want to stay here and contribute to it."

"No matter how many obstacles they faced, they moved on."

— Fabio Zuluaga

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Hacienda El Paso, Inc trading as Hacienda El Paso Mexican Grill, 9715 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer, Wine and Mixed beverages on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jose C. Lopez, President

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

The deadline to register to vote in the Republican Primary is Monday, August 1, 2011 at the Sisson House, 10455 Armstrong Street during normal business hours of 8:30am - 5pm.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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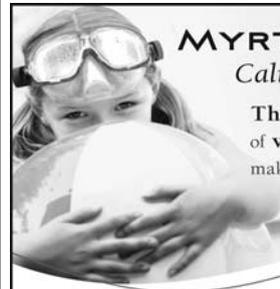
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