

Extreme Skiing

NEWS, PAGE 4

Back on her skis, the exhilaration of the ride is evident, Madeline Proth of Springfield is all smiles. Skiing with her is Sam Mass of Clifton, a volunteer from Coble ski School, at the Extreme Recess event organized by the Dreams For Kids Foundation at the Pohick Bay Regional Park on July 16.

Connolly Supports Medicare

NEWS, PAGE 3

State Senate Candidates Debate

NEWS, PAGE 3

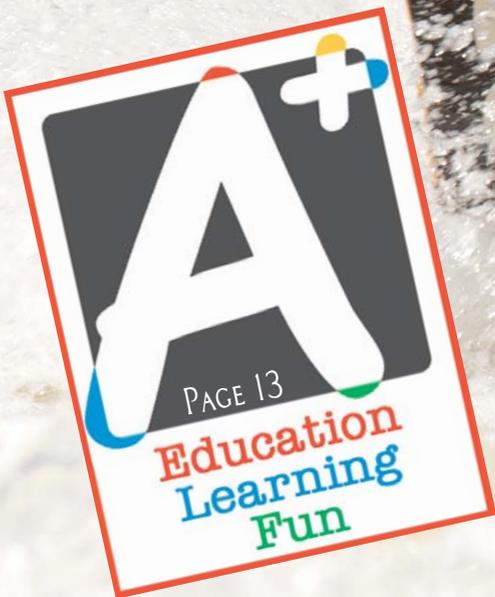


PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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NEWS Connolly Vows To Protect Medicare

Greenspring seniors attend town hall on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) wants seniors to know that he will fight for to protect their Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security benefits for them.

He brought his message to nearly 100 seniors who participated in a town hall panel discussion at Greenspring retirement center in Springfield, on Monday, July 18.

"Don't be fooled by false choices," Connolly told the residents in his opening remarks. "Medicare is not an all or nothing choice. The United States can afford Medicare, but we can't afford to finance tax cuts on the backs of our senior citizens."

He said that the senior safety-net program, created in 1965 to guarantee health care to all Americans over the age of 65, could be put on more solid financial footing. He noted that before Medicare, more than 60 percent of the nation's seniors did not have health insurance, but now nearly 100 percent of seniors, or 47 million people, have access to healthcare with Medicare.

"There's no question that we can make the system more efficient," Connolly said, and one of the ways to do that is to curb



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) conducted a town hall meeting at Greenspring Retirement Center in Springfield on Monday, July 18 to talk about Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Panelists included, from left, Howard Houghton, program coordinator of VICAP; Bill Kallio, state director of AARP; Joanne Grossi, regional director with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Lester Austin, senior public affairs specialist with the Social Security Administration.

fraud and abuse. "Every year, Medicare loses \$60-\$80 billion because of waste, fraud and abuse, and that's what we need to tackle," he said.

Connolly also said that Social Security did not create debts and deficits, and should be off the table in during deficit-reduction

talks.

"At a time when older Americans are less secure in their retirement and less able to afford quality health services, now is not the time to cut their benefits ... although over 90 percent of seniors for retirement, less than half have been able to save more

"The United States can afford Medicare, but we can't afford to finance tax cuts on the backs of our senior citizens."

— U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

than \$50,000 ... many of America's seniors are simply unable to afford further financial strains," Connolly said in a July 15 letter to President Barack Obama, signed by Connolly and other members of Congress.

Joanne Grossi, one of four panelists and the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said that fraud seminars have helped to recover \$4.2 billion in the past six months.

She also told residents that they might not realize how many benefits they have.

"Since January 1 of this year, all Medicare recipients get free preventative services. Pap smears, mammograms and wellness visits are free since we enacted health care reform," Grossi said.

According to panelist Lester Austin, a senior public affairs specialist for the Social Security Administration, many seniors don't access their benefits because of the myths and misconceptions about Medicare and Social Security. "I know there's a lot of confusion out there, but my message to you is 'when in doubt, fill it out.' Fill out that form,

SEE CONNOLLY. PAGE 5

37th District Primary Race Heats Up

Flanary, Hunt vie to score points with voters by emphasizing differences in Senate race.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In their bid for a chance to unseat incumbent Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) in the Nov. 8 general election, Republicans Jason Flanary and Steve Hunt declared independence from each other, delineating their differences before a standing-room only-crowd at Monday night's Braddock District candidates forum.

Both defined themselves as fiscal and social conservatives, defending Second Amendment rights, deriding "tax-and-spend" Democrats, and championing right-to-life values. They both agreed that traffic congestion is one of the key job killers in Fairfax County and that putting more money into mass transit is "throwing money down the drain," Flanary said.

They also agreed that legislation aimed at deregulating business would make the state more competitive; big government is bad government and Virginia's public col-

leges and universities should have incentives to keep Virginia students in the state.

But Flanary, a former vice president of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, cast himself as a no-nonsense business leader, while Hunt emphasized his experience as an engineer and social conservative.

A former U.S. Marine, Flanary talked tough and fast, touting his business and military experience, his willingness to "pound sand" when confronting tax issues, and his readiness to "hit the ground running" when it's time to get things done in Richmond.

"Steve is a great guy and one of the nicest guys I know. But at the end of the day, you win or you lose, and I'm ready to win," Flanary said, noting that Hunt, a former Fairfax County School Board member, has lost more elections than he's won.

"Dave [Marsden] has proven he is going to work to keep his seat. We need someone in Richmond who is going to represent your values. It's time for a Republican senator

again," Flanary said.

Flanary frequently mentioned the 5,347 doors he has knocked on since announcing his candidacy, and the number became a comic line throughout the evening, drawing laughs almost every time he repeated it, about 15 times during the 7:30-9 p.m. event.

Hunt, a retired U.S. Navy flight officer and engineer, turned his campaign losses into a positive, pointing out that he is the only one who has the name recognition and experience to beat Marsden.

"I've got a deep track record and name recognition across the district. This is the first time Jason has done something that's not in the political background," Hunt said. "He is a smooth guy. He's lobbied on Capitol Hill and Richmond. I'm not interested in ribbon-cuttings and press releases," Hunt said after the event.

"We need someone in Richmond who is going to represent your values. It's time for a Republican senator again."

— Jason Flanary

Flanary, who has run campaigns for Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), said his business experience is exactly what's needed to reform government. "We need someone who can fix the

inefficiencies of government, who can apply a business model to our financial issues. We need someone who will analyze how every single dollar is being spent in every area. That's the problem I have with government in general. They waste time and

money, and we can't afford that anymore. In knocking on ... yes, 5,347 doors, I've learned that people are tired of wasteful spending."

Flanary took a page from Herrity's talking points when he asked the audience if they noticed how many times Route 123 has

SEE GOP. PAGE 16



Madeline Porth of Springfield starts off a tour of Pohick Bay on water skis assisted by Sam Massa of Clifton as part of the Dreams for Kids Foundation's 'Extreme Recess' event at Pohick Bay Regional Park on July 16. Massa comes to the event as a member of the Coble Ski School in North Carolina, which provides expert water skiers for the event.



Oscar Chavez of Washington, D.C., smiles at Kimberly Kasper of Gettysburg, Pa., as they and Zachary Lamb water ski in Pohick Bay during 'Extreme Recess,' on July 16. Dreams for Kids Foundation partnered with Hoffmate's Marina and the On the Edge Children's Foundation, of which Lamb and Kasper are members, sponsored the event. Dreams for Kids organizes sports events for youths with disabilities. Chavez sits in an adapted water skiing chair that is attached to a water ski.

Extreme Experience

On Saturday, July 16, about 75 youths with disabilities had the chance to water ski at Pohick Bay Regional Park as part of the Extreme Recess program run by the nonprofit Dreams for Kids (www.dreamsforkids.org). The organization endeavors to provide a once-a-month event with the goal of connecting individuals with disabilities and their families with services providers in their communities so they can sustain an active lifestyle.

Washington, D.C., Director Andrew Horn said one of the

Dreams for Kids takes youths with disabilities waterskiing at Pohick Bay.

ways the organization differentiates itself is in the one-to-one volunteer participant ratio.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Madeline Porth of Springfield starts off a tour of Pohick Bay on water skis assisted by Sam Massa of Clifton as part of the Dreams for Kids Foundation's 'Extreme Recess' event at Pohick Bay Regional Park on July 16.



Sam Melideo of Reston gets situated in an adaptive chair and shown how to hold the rope by Dianne Kasper of the On the Edge Children's Foundation (www.ontheedgechildrensfoundation.com) just before he is set in the waters of Pohick Bay at the Extreme Recess event organized by the Dreams for Kids Foundation on July 16.

NEWS

Connolly

FROM PAGE 3

because chances are you are entitled to more than you think.”

Virginia's State Director of AARP Bill Kallio said that seniors might feel “dazed and confused” because, while they planned well for retirement and paid into Social Security, the recession jeopardized their healthcare benefits. “Seniors want to stay independent, but their health care costs area increasingly outpacing their income,” Kallio said.

Kallio said seven out of 10 people over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term support in their lifetime, and that Medicare and Social Security are key in helping seniors maintain their independence.

He added that a recent poll of AARP's 1 million plus members in Virginia identified their top three concerns as economic security, health security, and staying independent. “

During the question and answer session, Mervyn Reeves, 72, told the panel that his internist saved his life, and he wanted to remain a patient.

“But, I recently got a letter saying that he is privatizing his practice, and I will have to pay extra to become a member,” Reeves said. He also told the panel that his doctor did not like the extra costs associated with a push to make electronic medical records mandatory.

Howard Houghton, Fairfax County's coordinator of the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program, said that “concierge service” is becoming increasingly common as doctors try to offset rising costs of operating a medical practice. “Basically, you pay to be a member of the club, and to get same-day medical appointments and other benefits. But it often costs \$1,000 or more, and Medicare won't pay the entrance fee to clubs.”

“My wife and I told our doctor we couldn't afford it. We're public servants,” Connolly said.

Connolly added that electronic record keeping was critical in providing health services to seniors who often take multiple medications. “When doctors see the benefits, they will understand how important it is,” Connolly said.

Former Fairfax County Board Chair Audrey Moore, 82, stood up and pointed out the ID necklace that Greenspring residents wear. “You may have noticed this. We already have electronic medical records, and it's a wonderful service. All of our doctors see how helpful it is,” she said.

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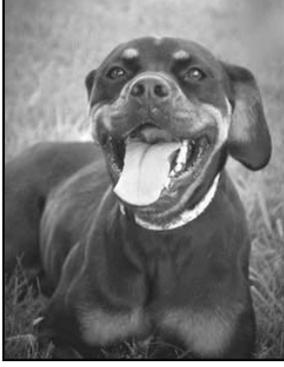
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ENTERTAINMENT

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/JULY 21

African Folktales. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bright Star Theater presents African tales. All ages. 703-339-7385.

Beach Jewelry. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Use elements such as natural stone, beach glass, shell and wood to create island jewelry. Age 12-19. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults. 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

African Folktales. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bright Star Theatre presents African tales that have been passed down for generations. All ages. 703-451-8055.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

8th Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

Meridian. 4 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Contact Info@outerloopresents.com to play. All ages.

\$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. www.jaxxroxx.com.

African Folktales. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Bright Star Theatre presents African tales that have been passed down for generations. All ages. 703-339-4610.

Workhouse Film Institute with Clifton Film Fest. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Creative and thought-provoking independent films by local filmmakers, students and adults. \$5. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 24

Eighth Annual Asian Food and Tennis Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With 35 multi-cultural food and 150 product vendors. Four showcase villages, Heritage India, Wow Philippines, Image of China and Amazing Thailand. Free admission. info@asianfestivaldc.com.

Northern Virginia Archers Field Target Course. 9 a.m. 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax Station. 3D Hunter course. Tournament scoring. \$8 per person. www.northernvirginiaarchers.org or 703-250-6682.

MONDAY/JULY 25

Johnny Reb and Billy Yank. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. Storyteller Gary Lloyd shares true tales from both sides of the Civil War. Cosponsored by the Erie and John Hopkins Educational and Charitable Trust through the Fairfax Library Foundation. Age 6 and up. Free. 703-339-7385.

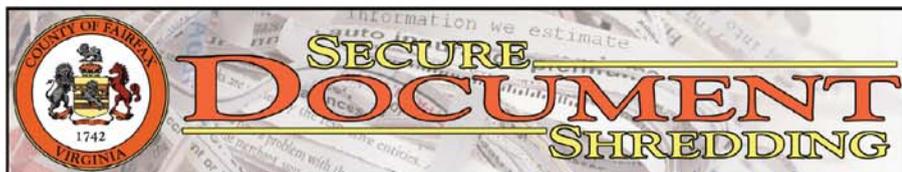
WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

Stuntology. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 9

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OPINION

From the CEO

Statement of Peter C. Labovitz, President and Chief Executive Officer, Connection Newspapers, LLC

For more than 20 years I have been honored to be President and Chief Executive Officer of the Connection Newspapers, which serve the people of Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland. Since The Alexandria Gazette was founded in 1784, our organization's journalism has played an essential role in our communities.

But like all American newspapers, in recent years the Connection Newspapers have faced daunting technological and economic challenges. We have weathered repeated crises that killed or crippled many others in the news media. I am proud that we have kept these vital community voices alive.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when the country came to a virtual standstill, our revenues temporarily plummeted. And when the severe recession began in 2007, our revenues plunged again, often failing to cover our operating costs.

Highest Priorities

To the Editor:

After reading the commentary from Nina Kwartin of Vienna, "A Lead Not to Follow," [Vienna/Oakton Connection, June 8-14, 2011] I see a need to ensure our community properly gives credit where it is due. The Board of Supervisors did nothing to "provide all our local schools with full day kindergarten."

All, 100 percent, of the credit goes to our School Board members who have watched Chairman Bulova (D-At-large) and the Board of Supervisors year after year do nothing for our schools' growing student population.

I challenge my opponents to publicly dispute my statement. We need to honestly review what has taken place so we can move forward together in serving our community.

Teachers and other school employees, as well as firefighters and other county employees, have had an effective pay cut as they have endured denial of a deserved pay raise year after year during Bulova's time as chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

We understand the impact Bulova has had on their quality of life when we consider the pay freeze in the shadow of rising food costs, gas prices and real estate taxes.

This year, our School Board has not overcome the effective pay cut, but has helped lessen the impact of Chairman Bulova's failed leadership on the quality of life for our school employees by awarding a token 1 percent pay raise. Infla-

During these two periods of great financial duress, our organization filed all of our required tax returns but did not pay all of its federal payroll taxes in full. We initially fell behind after 9/11. Most of the payroll taxes in this period were paid, but some balances remained due. For several quarters in 2007-2008, we again fell short.

July 19, 2011

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Connection Newspapers, I take personal responsibility for this significant failure in oversight and in the organization's management systems. I am deeply sorry this happened.

I am personally making arrangements to pay the most recent shortfalls in full. We have changed our organization's processes to ensure that nothing like this happens again. We have been current on our payroll taxes for more than

three years. No employee of Connection Newspapers has suffered any financial loss whatsoever because of this.

On July 19, 2011, I pled guilty to two misdemeanor charges of failure to make timely payments of payroll taxes in the U.S. District Court in Alexandria. To our employees, our readers, our communities and local and federal governments, I apologize. I understand that newspapers are a public trust and I know our entire organization works hard every day to earn that trust. I will do all I can to sustain that trust as we go forward.

It's my privilege and responsibility to serve as steward of these historic and vital newspapers. I hope to continue in this role. I am committed to doing whatever I can to ensure the Connection Newspapers adapt to these very difficult and challenging times and continue serving our communities for years to come.

For example, how many children will be moved to substandard facilities to accommodate full-day kindergarten? The Board of Supervisors did not provide the necessary \$12 million to \$14 million for a preferred transition to full-day kindergarten. Some students will be displaced to accommodate the changes.

Within this framework, a high priority remains restoring and strengthening the relationship between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. Together we will invest in our community's highest priorities.

Will Radle (I)
Franconia

The writer is a candidate for chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

School to Bus Depot

To the Editor:

Once upon a time there was a little school up the hill — Clifton Elementary School, 1953-2011. Another wonderful piece of Americana has been vanished by the extreme shortsighted actions of Fairfax County Public Schools, headed by Superintendent Dr. Dale and the Fairfax County School Board.

With deep, deep sadness I witnessed the event that tried to give closure to such outrageous action. The current principal, Renee Miller and other previous ones, the staff, the teachers, current and past, the students with their families, members of the community, got together Friday, June 17, after school. It was a mourning and cel-

bration in one. When we should be preserving, treasuring such beautiful, rare, perfectly functional school, we are destroying it and breaking apart a caring, involved community, a community that with their own hands built the wonderful playground twice for the students. This community has suffered for two years, witnessing the indifference of these officials ignoring their pleas to keep the school open, to give us a valid reason to justify such action, the water is fine, the enrollment is the same or better than the year before, the school excels academically, we even told them no to renovate, to no avail. This has been a life-changing event, to over 400 people, a negative one.

The schools that are taking the 370+ students from Clifton Elementary are also affected. Fairview Elementary had to change its hours, it had to transfer some of its students to other schools to make room for the 170 students from CES, they had to get two trailers to make more room, and the parking situation is extreme. One will have to cross a parkway with no traffic lights to a mall to park. Now CES may be used to park school buses, making it a bus depot.

Hope Cygelman
Clifton

Write

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COMMUNITY

Celebrating Historic Canary Cottage

Bed and Breakfast on the market for first time in 10 years years.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Lynne Garvey Hodge, a respected chronicler of Clifton history, is also known for throwing great parties. But the gathering Saturday, July 17, was bittersweet for Clifton's society doyenne as she announced that she is selling The Canary Cottage, the town's only Bed & Breakfast for the past 10 years.

"I'm sad to let it go," said Garvey Hodge, "so this really is a bittersweet night for me. I put a lot of love and nurturing into this place."

Located in the heart of town, the historic Cape Cod home was built in 1884 and first used as a general store and local gathering place.

Throughout the years, it became a saloon, a bakery, a pool hall, a barbershop, a cabinet shop and a church. In 1965, it became a private residence for the first time.

Garvey Hodge said the location and the history is what first attracted her to the home. She moved in just before Christmas 1999 and then spent almost a year renovat-

ing and redecorating the cottage, including remodeling the kitchen, adding a picture window, and decorating it to create a "comfortable, friendly ambiance," she said.

"I loved running the Bed & Breakfast. All my guests were special, and I was happy to be able to provide memorable experiences for special moments in their lives, but it's time to move on."

Moving on included the second big announcement of the evening - her engagement to Robert Airaghi, a business consultant.

Many of Clifton's notable names and longtime residents attended the open house, including former Mayor Wayne Nickum and his wife, Donna; Don and Betty Boyd, who have lived in Clifton for 45 years; Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Barbara Muzzi, one of the past presidents of the Clifton Women's Club.

"The Canary Cottage has really been kind of a landmark for Clifton," said Muzzi. "It's a lovely place to celebrate anything special."

"This has been a wonderful place for Clifton," said Betty Boyd, a member of the Clifton Women's Club. "I really hope that whoever buys it will keep it a bed & breakfast."

The cottage has been on the market for 45 days, according to Realtor.com, and the price is listed at \$749,000 for the four-bedroom, four-bath, and 3,000 square-foot cottage.

Whether The Canary Cottage remains a bed and breakfast, or becomes a private residence, is uncertain. But Garvey Hodge is more confident about her future. She is focusing on her and management consulting business, which includes developing customer service and management seminars for Fortune 500 companies.

As self-proclaimed "Renaissance" woman,



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Lynne Garvey Hodge announced her engagement to Robert Airaghi at the party. One of her drawings was recreated for the anniversary cake.



One of the seating areas in the historic B&B.

Garvey Hodge is also an historian, specializing in the Progressive Era of the United States, and has written a history of Clifton. She has been an active member of the Fairfax County History Commission and has chaired the Fairfax County History Conference.

She is also an artist, who works in pen and ink, watercolor and calligraphy designs. Her work has been commissioned and used by George Mason University, the National Capital Presbytery and Burke Presbyterian Church.

She has one daughter, Hilary, who is also an artist.

"Lynn has been a pillar of the town for years. She has been involved in so many events, from Clifton Day to the annual homes tour. Many of these events would not have happened without her dedication and energy," said Hugo. "Like everyone here tonight, I am sad to see her leave the Canary Cottage, but I'm happy for Lynn personally."



The garden behind the cottage was a favorite spot for guests celebrating special events, such as anniversaries and weddings.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

yourself and amaze your friends. 703-971-0010.

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

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve your English speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

FRIDAY/JULY 29

Stuntology. 2:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-339-4610.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Alexandria Hybla Valley Petsmart, 7690 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. 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.

Charity's Law Benefit & Fundraiser For Hope & Faith. 4 p.m.

Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. With Krass Judgement, Hatred, Twisted Tower Dire and more. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

Stuntology. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper. 7 p.m. Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Bluegrass. 703-324-SHOW.

SUNDAY/AUG. 7

Artists' Reception. 2-5 p.m. The Artists' Undertaking Gallery, 309 Mill St., Occoquan. The exhibit "reLeaf: An Exploration of Leaf and Tree Forms" features copper works by Anne Jordan of Fairfax and mixed media by Elisabeth Hudgins of Arlington. 703-494-0584 or www.theartistsundertaking.com.

Nitehawks Swing and Gregg Smith. 2 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Big band dance arrangements, jump and jive tunes, ballads and rock & roll. Free. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 10

Civil War History of the Hunter Mill Road Corridor. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. With forum speaker Jim Lewis, a historian, tour guide and member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. Free. 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/AUG. 13

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.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

Creation's End, Seven Kingdoms, Widow, Artizan and more. 6:30 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Lionheart, I Declare War, Molotov Solution, Armor for the Broken and more. 5 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$12 advance, \$14 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Space Rock Invasion USA Tour with Nektar, Brainticket, Huw Lloyd Langton (Of Hawkwind) and more. 8 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Age 21 and up. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.



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COMMUNITY

Shining a Light on Blackburn's Ford

Historic Preservation Society welcomes historian Ed Bearss.

BY HARRISON FALLON
THE CONNECTION

One-hundred-fifty years ago this week, the Civil War came to the backyards of many in Fairfax County with some of its first casualties. While the Battle of Blackburn's Ford may not be as notorious as Bull Run or Gettysburg, historian Ed Bearss delivered a lecture on Friday, July 15 in Clifton on the event.

The Clifton Historic Preservation Society hosted the first of a four-part series to commemorate the war in the surrounding areas. The meeting room at Clifton Presbyterian Church was packed to hear Bearss talk about the battle.

Bearss, 88, was chief historian for the National Park Service for 13 years and has been seen in such programs as Ken Burns' "The Civil War."

Margo Buckley, chairperson of the Preservation Society, introduced him as the "one

Civil War veteran." John McAnaw thanked him for his "great assistance in the Bull Run Civil War Round Table."

Bearss spoke to the crowd for an hour and a half about what happened in Blackburn's Ford, while also adding anecdotes about everyone from Jefferson Davis to Massachusetts's senators. He began his story with the opening shots of Fort Sumter and how it eventually led to the start of fighting.

The Battle of Blackburn's Ford, which occurred on July 18, 1861, has been officially demoted to a skirmish, but nevertheless was a prelude to the much larger Battle of Bull Run. Blackburn's Ford pitted Brigadier General Irvin McDowell's Union troops against the Confederate troops under the



Ed Bearss, former chief historian for the National Park Service, discusses the Battle of Blackburn's Ford.

command of Generals James Longstreet and P.G.T. Beauregard.

The skirmish, in Bearss' words, was where "the New Yorkers [of the state's 12th infantry] figured out what war really is" as the Confederate troops threw the Union troops into disorder.

Blackburn's Ford was Clifton's first view of the war and one of the very earliest in

the entire Manassas campaign.

Bearss ended his history lesson by summing up the Battle of Blackburn's Ford as a "small engagement, but you can always speculate what might have happened if it didn't."

Bearss tours the country giving lectures on every war from the French & Indian to World War II.

PHOTO BY HARRISON FALLON/THE CONNECTION

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HOME SALES

In June 2011, 80 homes sold between \$1,210,000-\$150,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,210,000-\$450,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

| Address | BR | FB | HB | Postal | City | Sold Price | Type | Lot AC | Subdivision |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|--------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------------------------|
| 6705 CEDAR VIEW CT | 5 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$1,210,000 | Detached | 5.24 | CEDAR KNOLLS OF CLIFTON |
| 6708 CLIFTON RD | 5 | 5 | 0 | | CLIFTON | \$1,200,000 | Detached | 5.17 | CEDAR KNOLLS OF CLIFTON |
| 10621 DONOVANS HILL DR | 5 | 4 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$1,195,000 | Detached | 0.92 | DONOVANS RIDGE |
| 13105 CEDAR RIDGE DR | 5 | 5 | 0 | | CLIFTON | \$1,090,000 | Detached | 5.43 | CEDAR KNOLLS OF CLIFTON |
| 7509 WEYMOUTH HILL RD | 5 | 6 | 2 | | CLIFTON | \$1,025,000 | Detached | 1.05 | BALMORAL GREENS |
| 8138 RONDELAY LN | 5 | 4 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$875,000 | Detached | 5.00 | RONDELAY |
| 6417 DEEPWOOD FARM DR | 5 | 4 | 2 | | CLIFTON | \$870,000 | Detached | 0.24 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 10328 REGENCY STATION DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$860,000 | Detached | 0.60 | REGENCY STATION |
| 7519 DETWILLER DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$849,000 | Detached | 0.87 | BALMORAL GREENS |
| 6541 MEGILLS CROSSING WAY | 4 | 4 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$840,000 | Detached | 5.00 | MEGILLS CROSSING |
| 9807 LOST RAVINE CT | 5 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$815,000 | Detached | 0.62 | SOUTH RUN |
| 10664 CANTERBERRY RD | 4 | 2 | 2 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$800,000 | Detached | 0.57 | WILDWOOD HILLS ESTATES |
| 12040 ROSE HALL DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$790,000 | Detached | 5.00 | ROSE HALL |
| 6302 KNOLLS POND LN | 5 | 4 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$775,000 | Detached | 0.75 | BURKE LAKE ESTATES |
| 6406 DEEPWOOD FARM DR | 5 | 5 | 0 | | CLIFTON | \$770,000 | Detached | 0.31 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 6320 KARMICH ST | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$765,000 | Detached | 0.61 | FAIRFAX STATION EAST |
| 5901 MALLOW TRL | 5 | 4 | 1 | | LORTON | \$761,500 | Detached | 0.49 | GUNSTON MANOR |
| 8223 SILVERLINE DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$739,000 | Detached | 0.26 | SILVERBROOK FOREST |
| 8312 ARMETALE LN | 4 | 2 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$738,000 | Detached | 0.23 | CROSSPOINTE |
| 9593 LARKVIEW CT | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$715,000 | Detached | 0.22 | CROSSPOINTE |
| 7856 BRESSINGHAM DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$710,000 | Detached | 0.26 | BARRINGTON |
| 9215 SILVERLINE DR | 5 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$705,000 | Detached | 0.23 | CROSSPOINTE |
| 13906 WHETSTONE MANOR CT | 5 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$640,000 | Detached | 0.26 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 13504 WILDER CT | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$625,000 | Detached | 0.23 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 9111 WILDWOOD ST | 6 | 3 | 1 | | LORTON | \$625,000 | Detached | 0.86 | POHICK CHURCH |
| 9689 HOLLY OAK CT | 5 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$620,000 | Detached | 0.22 | SOUTH RUN OAKS |
| 13821 FOGGY HILLS CT | 5 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$617,000 | Detached | 0.21 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 8223 BAYBERRY RIDGE RD | 5 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$610,000 | Detached | 0.23 | TIMBER RIDGE |
| 5717 JONATHAN MITCHELL RD | 4 | 2 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$605,000 | Detached | 0.88 | FAIRFAX STATION |
| 9601 LAUREL OAK PL | 5 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$600,000 | Detached | 0.31 | SOUTH RUN OAKS |
| 6151 POHICK STATION DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$598,000 | Detached | 1.14 | POHICK STATION |
| 8183 PAPER BIRCH DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | LORTON | \$590,000 | Detached | 0.16 | LAUREL HILL LANDBAY |
| 8900 TRIPLE RIDGE RD | 4 | 2 | 1 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$589,900 | Detached | 0.42 | TRIPLE RIDGE |
| 9027 HARROVER PL | 4 | 3 | 1 | | LORTON | \$585,000 | Detached | 0.08 | LORTON TOWN CTR LANDBAY |
| 6135 MOUNTAIN SPRINGS LN | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$580,000 | Detached | 0.23 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 6817 COMPTON HEIGHTS CIR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$580,000 | Detached | 0.29 | COMPTON HEIGHTS |
| 11900 HENDERSON RD | 4 | 3 | 0 | | CLIFTON | \$560,000 | Detached | 5.88 | HENDERSON |
| 6319 KARMICH ST | 4 | 2 | 0 | | FAIRFAX STATION | \$548,000 | Detached | 1.00 | NONE |
| 8401 WHITEHAVEN CT | 5 | 2 | 1 | | LORTON | \$545,000 | Detached | 0.11 | VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY |
| 9576 5TH PL | 5 | 4 | 1 | | LORTON | \$542,000 | Detached | 0.11 | VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY |
| 12515 CHAPEL RD | 2 | 2 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$540,000 | Detached | 0.30 | CLIFTON |
| 6019 FOREST RUN DR | 4 | 2 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$532,000 | Detached | 0.24 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 10726 ANITA DR | 4 | 2 | 2 | | LORTON | \$529,900 | Detached | 0.52 | HARBOR VIEW |
| 6110 BLUFFDALE CT | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$515,000 | Detached | 0.26 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 6565 ROCKLAND DR | 4 | 3 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$512,500 | Detached | 0.21 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 13500 BATTLEWOOD CT | 4 | 2 | 1 | | CLIFTON | \$509,200 | Detached | 0.31 | LITTLE ROCKY RUN |
| 8034 SAMUEL WALLIS ST | 3 | 2 | 2 | | LORTON | \$470,000 | Townhouse | 0.08 | LORTON STATION SOUTH |
| 8246 RED CARNATION CT | 3 | 2 | 2 | | LORTON | \$460,000 | Townhouse | 0.05 | LAUREL HILL LANDBAY |
| 9763 LORRAINE CAROL WAY | 4 | 3 | 1 | | LORTON | \$450,600 | Detached | 0.10 | MASONS PASSAGE |

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10413 Midway Ln.....\$699,900...Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567
 8707 Bitterroot Ct.....\$809,990...Sun 1-4.....David Billups.....Long & Foster..703-967-8700
 9068 Arch Hall Rd.....\$589,000...Sun 1-4.....Susie Zinn.....RE/MAX..703-403-2524
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13931 South Springs Dr.....\$639,000...Sun 1-4.....Charlie Snyder.....Century 21..703-346-8113
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 12685 Wiltonshire Ln.....\$1,197,000...Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Burke

9901 Coffey Woods Rd.....\$574,900...Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735
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Annandale

7811 Ridgewood Dr.....\$719,000...Sun 1-5.....Maria Delgado.....RE/MAX..571-241-5067
 7108 Village Dr.....\$419,900...Sun 1-4..Elizabeth Millett-Yesford.....eVenture..703-346-4133

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 5212 Koughton Way.....\$459,000...Sun 1-4:30.....Kay Jung..Mega Realty & Investment..240-381-0326

Chantilly

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Summer Football Thrills Prep Fans

Mel Kiper football passing tournament comes to the area.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

No, it is not yet high school football season in Northern Virginia or around the country. But last week, from Thursday, July 14 through Saturday, July 16, some of the top high school gridiron players both locally and across the nation converged in Chantilly to take part in one of the biggest off season events anywhere at the Mel Kiper, Jr. 7 on 7 University National Championship Tournament, a non-contact passing event meant to upgrade teams' aerial attacks as well as individual fundamentals in a highly competitive setting.

Poplar Tree Park, located off of Stringfellow Road in Chantilly and under the jurisdiction of the Fairfax County Park Authority, was the venue of the 32-team spectacle. Fast-moving games, played in less than 45 minutes, took place over the three days on the park's two 100-yard turf fields. On one field alone, two games could be played at once with each game utilizing 50 yards of real estate.

"Seven on 7 is clearly a different type of football," said Lake Braddock Secondary football coach Jim Poythress, whose Bruins were one of four participating teams from the Northern Region. "It's about competing at a high level, managing a game, and overcoming adversity. You get to play against some great athletes."

Games moved briskly as teams in possession of the ball had less than 30 seconds to snap the ball following each play, with

a game official audibly counting down the final 15 seconds.

High school teams from Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., New York, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arkansas, Delaware, and Mississippi were on hand. Some of the nation's top recruited high school players participated. Local participating teams from the Northern Region, along with two-time defending Division 6 region champion Lake Braddock, were Oakton (Concorde District), Lee (Patriot District), and Yorktown (National District).

THE EVENT'S STAR POWER came from Mel Kiper Jr., the well-known ESPN college football and NFL pro draft analyst and his wife were on hand for the entire three days. Kiper kept tabs on all the games but paid special attention to the school where he once attended and graduated from, Calvert Hall out of Baltimore. The popular, energetic Kiper was immediately recognized by players, coaches, and football fans alike and spent much of his time talking football with folks.

Several months ago, Kiper, who has directed and led his own 7 on 7 University Series for several years, contacted Washington, D.C., area pass league organizers, including Oakton High football coach Joe Thompson, to talk about combining forces and creating a national tournament. Last week's showcase at Poplar Tree was the result of those talks.

"Mel Kiper came on board with his group, so we were able to put his name on it," said Thompson, who teamed with friend Jim



Mel Kiper Jr. was on hand at Poplar Tree Park on Friday, July 15.

PHOTOS BY RICH SANDERS/THE CONNECTION

Boone in recent years to run both Northern Region and metro area passing league tournaments. "He's been instrumental in getting teams here."

Kiper said he was enjoying the three days of action at Poplar Tree Park as a fan first and foremost.

"I'm not evaluating [players] here," he said. "I'm just watching great kids and great coaches. This will be a memorable experience for them. It's thrilling for me to have Calvert Hall here. They were number one in [Maryland] last year."

Kiper said the arrangements to conduct the tournament at Poplar Tree Park were made late but that he was thrilled with the site.

"I can't thank these people enough," he said of the county park officials and Thompson's group. "It's a great atmosphere and everything you want in a football setting. We couldn't be happier with this. We were in the position late in the [organizing] process waiting for a venue."

"You have two turf fields here, concessions in between the fields and trees in the background," said Kiper. "The atmosphere is great and you have everything you could want. Poplar tree is a special site and they have been accommodating."

In the days leading up to it, Brotman-Winter-Fried Communications promoted the event heavily on local radio airwaves and other media forums. The primary event sponsor for the inaugural national tournament is Under Armour.

Local teams Lake Braddock and Oakton both went as far as the tournament quarterfinals before losing. Lake Braddock qualified for final day play on Saturday and defeated Waterloo East (Iowa), 34-6, in a 9 a.m. game before losing to Red Lion (Pa.), 52-36, in a quarterfinals game.

Poythress, the Lake Braddock school sea-

son head coach, said the Bruins, who run a 5-wide offensive attack during the fall, were in their element at the wide-open passing tournament.

"We won our first three games," said Poythress, of the earlier tournament action wins over teams from Iowa, Baltimore, and New York. "The kids call their own plays. Tyler Quigley, who was a defensive back for us last fall, was our quarterback. We run a pretty good offensive system and we were built for this [passing league]. There are some really good teams here. My feeling here is to have fun, enjoy the experience and if you win, you win."

Oakton reached the quarters by defeating Warwick High (N.Y.), 45-21, on Saturday morning. Their run to a championship then ended with a loss to Calvert Hall, which ultimately reached the title game where it fell to Pulaski (Ark.), 30-26.

Oakton linebacker C.J. Reimann said it was neat that Oakton, from its own backyard, was vying in a tournament against some of the top high school teams in the country.

"We talked about that," he said, with a laugh. "We're 15 minutes down the road from Oakton and we're playing these teams like Arkansas, Florida and New York. We've meshed together pretty good as a team and played together."

Shaun May, the media and public relations director for Brotman-Winter-Fried Communications, said one of the best attributes of the Kiper passing league is that high school teams can grow as a unit during the off season.

"It keeps the guys together," said May. "These kids are in class together, play football together, and now have come together for something like this."

And he said the players all want to meet Mel Kiper.



Lake Braddock Secondary football coach Jim Poythress, right, was pleased with his team's showing in reaching the quarterfinals round of last week's 7 on 7 national tournament held in Chantilly. Standing next to Poythress is Greg Quigley, a Bruins' assistant coach and father of Bruin players Tanner and Tyler.

College Can Wait

Some local high school graduates delay college to pursue other opportunities.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

While most of her friends worried about whether they would get along with their freshman year college roommates last summer, Emily Hunt thought about living with a Mexican host family and attending high school classes conducted entirely in Spanish.

After graduating from McLean High School in 2010, Hunt deferred her acceptance to James Madison University for a year so she could live abroad through an exchange program sponsored by Rotary International.

"I didn't really feel ready to jump right into college life. I wanted to take some time to see more of the world and decide what I wanted to study," said Hunt, whose exchange was sponsored by the Rotary Club of McLean.

Over 10 months, she lived with three host families while she attended an extra year of high school in Aguascalientes, Mexico. She returned from Mexico in June and plans to

enroll at James Madison as a freshman this fall.

Hunt said there were many tangible benefits to taking time off between high school and college, typically referred to as a gap year.

For example, she speaks fluent Spanish now and spent time with students from many different cultures. Her classmates not only included other Mexicans but also students on Rotary scholarships from Japan and other parts of the world.

"I became so much more mature over the last year. I was away from my parents for an entire year and I had to handle situations all on my own. Now I feel very confident," said Hunt.

Many students who study abroad through Rotary International go during high school but Hunt worried that credits from a foreign high school wouldn't transfer. She wanted to be able to graduate on time from McLean with the rest of her friends, so she decided to go abroad after high school and start college a year late.

"I figured whatever year I started college, I was going to be able to make friends," she



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

McLean High School graduate Emily Hunt deferred her admission to James Madison University so she could spend a gap year going to school in Mexico.

said.

Many European students take a gap year to travel or do community service before starting university, though American students who take time off before college remain an exception to the rule. Fewer than one percent of incoming freshman at Virginia Tech, one of the commonwealth's largest universities, take time off between college and high school, according to the school's admissions office.

Gap years do have some high-profile ad-

Gap Year Resources

Is your child considering taking a year off between high school and college? Here are some helpful websites and books with information on gap years.

❖ <http://www.usagapyearfairs.org> - Look for upcoming local gap year fairs during the 2011-2012 school year at this website.

❖ <http://www.gapyear.com> - General information on gap years and gap year programs

❖ "The Gap Year Advantage: Helping Your Child Benefit From Time Off Before Or During College," by Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson. This book has general tips on the gap year process.

❖ "The Complete Guide To The Gap Year: The Best Things To Do Between High School and College," by Kristin White. This book is another "tell all" on taking a gap year.

vocates, including admissions officers at some of the country's most elite universities.

William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aide at Harvard College, encourages taking time off between high school and college. Between 50 and 70 students defer admission to Harvard every year and the results have been "uniformly positive" in helping teenagers avoid burn-out in college, wrote Fitzsimmons in article on the university's admissions website.

"Perhaps the best way to get the full benefit of a 'time off' is to postpone entrance

SEE SOME STUDENTS, PAGE 14

FAITH NOTES

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.

Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield, will change its Sunday morning schedule for the month of August. Worship will begin at 9 a.m. followed by a brief fellowship time and then Sunday School for all ages at 10:15 a.m. 703-451-5120.

Barcroft Bible Church, 9401 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, invites rising kindergarden-sixth graders to the "Kickin' it Old School" Summer Bible Camp with games, music and crafts. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch provided. \$15 per child. www.barcroft.org/kh-bible-camp.

St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road in Fairfax, is hosting Vacation Bible School with The Shake-it-Up Café July 25-29 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Age 4 through rising 4th grade will enjoy storytelling, crafts, music and more, while grades 5 and 6 will participate in a Mission Camp. They will travel to work on mission projects during the week. www.stgumc.org/VBS2011.html or 703-385-4550.

St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church, Route 123 and Burke Centre Parkway in Fairfax Station, will conduct Vacation Bible School from Sunday, July 24-Thursday, July 28, 5:30-8 p.m. "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid." Music, games, crafts a petting zoo and more. For ages 4-10 years. Dinner will be served each evening. \$10 per child. Register at www.spiw.org or 703-503-9210.

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rubgy Road in Fairfax, has facilitators available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-631-2100 or www.fxcc.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.lordoflifeva.org or 703-323-9500. Registration is Sept. 8, 7 p.m. ESL classes are also available at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax.

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.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew High is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. For more information, contact us at 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreyim.org.

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Seeing Benefits of a Gap Year

FROM PAGE 13

to college for a year. For nearly 40 years, Harvard has recommended this option, indeed proposing it in the letter for admission," he wrote.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] allows prospective students to check a box indicating they want to defer their enrollment for one or two years on the school's reply form.

"My hope is that you will at least consider, just for a moment, taking a gap year. ... We will grant a deferral for almost any reason," said Matt McCann, an MIT admissions officer and graduate on the school's website.

Princeton University sponsors its own "bridge year" program for a small group of incoming freshmen. A handful of students put off the start of their freshman year at Princeton in order to do community service in Ghana, India, Peru and Serbia. The university covers the cost of the trip and living expenses

for the students who participate.

Yet parents, other students and faculty can be skeptical of the benefits of taking a gap year.

Bruce Pujanauski said he was a little skeptical of his son taking a year off between high school and college. Kevin Pujanauski won a scholarship with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange to study abroad at a high school in Germany after he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in 2007.

"We weren't really familiar with these programs. His older siblings had graduated from high school and gone directly to college. It just wasn't something we were familiar with," said Bruce Pujanauski, who lives in Oak Hill.

But Bruce Pujanauski said he couldn't think of a better experience for his son, who came back speaking and writing German fluently. Now a student at

SEE WHY NOT?. PAGE 15

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Why Not Wait a Year?

FROM PAGE 14

the University of Virginia, Kevin returned to Germany between his freshman and sophomore years of college to intern in Berlin.

"The whole experience was just fantastic for him. He got everything out of it," said Bruce Pujanauski.

SOME OF Kevin Pujanauski's peers were also a little confused about his plans to go to Germany.

"My friends were like 'What? Huh? You're still going to be in high school?'...It was strange for most students. At TJ, life is all about getting ahead," he said.

Yet Kevin Pujanauski grew a lot as a person during his year in Germany, where he was the only American in his high school. It allowed him to experience the freedom and responsibilities that come with living on your own before he entered college. The teenager, who had never been outside the United States before, also got to visit 10 or 11 other countries.

The trip was not only good for Kevin Pujanauski's personal growth but his professional and academic development. Kevin Pujanauski still sees the benefits of that growth when he goes on job interviews.

"I think in terms of my maturity, the ben-

efit was two or three fold. I worked out a lot of issues that most people have to deal with when they are freshman in college," he said.

The cost of gap year can also be a deterrent for some families. Some gap year programs, particularly those that are structured and involve international travel, can cost as much as a year of college itself.

Camille Morrow of Alexandria said her parents told her she will have to attend a public university or college after they help pay for her gap year excursions. She plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall of 2012.

Morrow, who graduated from T.C. Williams High School in June, is enrolling with National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) program this fall and may be traveling to West Africa in the spring. The costs for NOLS program alone is a little under \$12,000.

"I will need to spend a lot of my free time working but I need to pay them back for some of this," said Morrow, whose parents were very supportive of her taking time off before going to college.

"I've been in school for so long. I felt like it would be nice to take a break. I will pretty much be sleeping on the ground for three months and I am not allowed to have a cell phone."



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GOP Senate Candidates Debate

FROM PAGE 3

been paved in the past few years. “Meanwhile, the Fairfax County Parkway needs to get some attention, but it’s not a primary road. It’s considered a secondary road, and transportation money can only be spent to primary roads. What rocket scientist came up with that?”

In his closing statements, Hunt, who is known as a Tea-Party conservative, said business experience is important, but it’s an oversimplification to think that government can be run like a for-profit business.

“People want the government to stop intruding into their lives. We need to stop the federal government from encroaching on Virginia’s sovereign rights,” Hunt said. “Whenever Democrats have been in charge, there’s been fiscal peril. Socialism has failed. I have the track record of public service before there even was a Jason,” Hunt said, which drew laughter from the crowd.

Flanary stood up and shot back: “As Steve so eloquently put it, I’m 33-years old, the same age as [Virginia Attorney General] Ken Cuccinelli (R) when he won this seat back in 2002.”

Although Flanary and Hunt were the official candidates of the night, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who moderated the debate, won the “popular” vote by displaying a dry sense of humor every time he read an audience questions, and joking with audience members.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Republican candidates Jason Flanary and Steve Hunt confer before the Braddock District Candidates Forum on Monday, July 18. Both are vying for the chance to unseat incumbent Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) in the Nov. 9 general election. The 37th District includes Centreville, Chantilly, part of Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Burke and Springfield.



Candidate Steve Hunt, a former Fairfax County School Board member, chats with a supporter after the Braddock District Candidates Forum, held Monday, July 18. Hunts’ supporters said his long history of service and conservative values will appeal to the approximately 4 percent of voters who cast votes during an August primary in an ‘off/off’ election year, meaning a year without a presidential or gubernatorial race.

“Oh, look, another transportation question. I am shocked,” he said, after opening the fifth transportation question in a row. Cook read about 10 questions, and transportation-related questions, mostly concerning congestion, Metro funding and HOT lanes, accounted for about 70 percent of the queries.

The only spontaneous burst of applause came when Cook encouraged the crowd to vote in the primary, and mentioned that “a certain Braddock District supervisor would certainly appreciate your vote, too.”

Cook acknowledged he was having a good time moderating the debate. “I’m not on the hot seat tonight, so I can be a little more relaxed,” he said.

When encouraging people to vote in the Aug. 23 primary, Cook said “It’s a very convenient day for an election, isn’t it? Gee, right in the middle of everyone’s summer vacation.”

Mary Ann McGee, a Burke resident for 17 years, said she thought the debate was a terrific idea. “I think it says something that our supervisor is the only person who has had provided this opportunity,” she said.

McGee said she knew more about Hunt before the debate, but was pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about Flanary. “I was disappointed there were so many questions about transportation,” she said.

T.R. Reid and his wife, Pamela, both retired military from Springfield, said the

debate was their first chance to meet Flanary. “I was undecided, but he swayed me. There was no hesitation when he answered questions. He was very energetic.”

Pamela Reid said she considers herself a moderate who is willing to consider all candidates, regardless of party affiliation. “But this year, I feel like ‘anybody but a Democrat.’ President Obama is so awful. He’s taking this country down a terrible road,” she said.

Flanary may have swayed the Reids, but Roopoli Chandra was visibly annoyed by Flanary’s repeated comments about his business experience. Wearing a Hunt campaign sticker, she cornered Flanary after the meeting, asking him to defend his assertions about his business experience.

“How can you talk about your business experience when you only served for one month as the executive director of CapNet?” Chandra asked. “I don’t understand that. I think it’s very improper. Please explain that to me.”

Flanary bridged the question like an experienced politician, and noted that he left CapNet, a technology association representing more than 30 companies, only because he had a “great opportunity” to serve on the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. “It was a chance to promote pro-business policies and improve economic viability,” he said.

Chandra said she wasn’t convinced.

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21 Announcements

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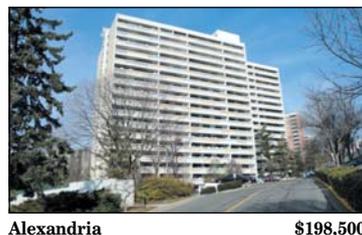
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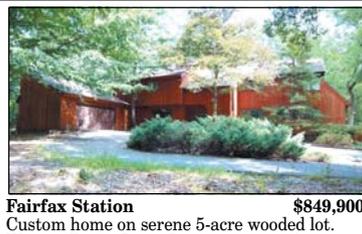
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Springfield **\$399,000**
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Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Burke **\$629,900**
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Town of Clifton \$749,900
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UNDER CONTRACT



Fairfax Station \$859,000
RARE opportunity to own this one-of-a-kind CUSTOM quality home in South Run! MAIN LEVEL Master BR, completely REMODELED GOURMET kitchen, warm hardwoods, and vaulted ceilings!

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Fairfax \$449,900
4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, rec room & den on lower level, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, screened in porch, fully fenced rear yard, oversized 2-car garage!!! Move-in condition! Minutes to park and bus stop.



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Cathy DeLoach
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DATES IN 2011: **TIME:**
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From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER:
Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfooster.com



Clifton \$599,000
Renovated 4 BR, 3 BA rambler in private, picturesque setting sited back off road. Inviting open living spaces enhanced by Brazilian Tigerwood floors, stone fireplace, skylights, and designer paint. Expansive walkout LL features rec room w/ fireplace, bedroom, bath & plenty of storage. Mary Hovland, 703-946-1775 or Cathy DeLoach, 571-276-9421.

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Lorton **Model Home Perfect!** \$799,900
Absolutely Gorgeous w/all the bells & whistles AND backs to common area! Premium granite, Brazilian cherry hardwood, 2 fireplaces, sunroom, finished basement with full-scale granite wet bar. Incredible master suite w/ gas fireplace, custom cabinetry, vaulted ceiling, gorgeous luxury bath and enormous walk-in closet. Call Susan at 703-216-2620.

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Clifton \$2,849,000
Stunning 5 Bedrooms, 6 Full Baths, 1 Half Bath, Gorgeous Master Suite, Gourmet Kitchens, Shimmering Pool with Fountains, Magnificently Landscaped on 5 Tree-lined Acres in Historic Clifton.



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Fairfax **Midleridge RENTAL** \$2,200
4 BR, 3 full BA, two levels, 1-car garage single family home with fenced yard. Call Kay Hart: 703-503-1860 for information or appointment.



Springfield \$399,000
Great home at a great price! Renovated kitchen w/42" cabs, hardwood floors, 3 BR, 2.5 BAs! Spacious family room in lower level, rear deck for summer fun! Quiet neighborhood, on a cul-de-sac! Gas heat! Mins to Fx Pkwy & Metro! Sought-after W. Springfield HS! Call for info.



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Sheila Adams

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Crosspointe \$679,000
Elegant Van Metre Sheffield on small cul-de-sac backing to trees. 3 finished levels w/lower level walk-out to fenced yard. Screened porch & deck, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, library, kitchen w/desk adjacent to large fam rm, 5 BR, 3.5 BA & much more! CALL ANN WITHERSPOON TODAY!



CROSSPOINTE \$724,900
Gorgeous Monroe Colonial on Large Flat Lot Backing to Trees - 3 Finished Levels - Redesigned, Gourmet Kitchen - HW Floors on Main Level - Upgraded, New Carpet Up - 2 Fireplaces - New Windows - Cul-de-sac Location - Deck & Gazebo & MUCH, MUCH more. Call Sheila Adams 703-503-1895.



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Lorton \$718,900
Beautiful Hallowing Point Home on nearly 1-acre lot with private fenced in yard, swimming pool and access to private pier, boat ramp and beach. Ngoc Do & Associates, 703-798-2899.



Lorton \$799,990
Stunning, fully appointed 4 BR, 4.5 BA Monterey featuring over 6,000 sq ft and finished basement. Ngoc Do & Associates, 703-798-2899.



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Service is the difference I provide



Springfield \$360,000
This T/H has over 1,500 sq ft on 3 finished levels. Amazing Walk-in Closet and storage space. Hardwood on main and deck overlooks trees. LL has Fam Rm, Storage Rm, Office w/exterior entrance. Richard Esposito, 703-503-4035.

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Centreville \$399,900
Newly Listed!
Immaculate and convenient home in Xanadu Estates. Many updates include deck, appliances, carpet, etc. 3 levels, 4 bedrooms, built-ins.

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