

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Boy Scouts from Troop 1344 in Burke march in the Tuesday, Aug. 30 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk, celebrating the rededication of the Army Community Covenant in Springfield.

A Short Walk

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

HOT Lanes Overpasses Open

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Up for the Challenge

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SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2011

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Ribbon Cut for HOT Lanes Overpasses

Capital Beltway overpasses open over Braddock Road, Little River Turnpike.

BY MIKE SALMON
VIRGINIA MEGAPROJECTS

Along the Cross County Trail that winds under Little River Turnpike, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the HOT Lanes partners, Transurban-Fluor gathered with elected officials to cut the ribbon on the completion of the Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike overpass on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

These two overpasses are just two of the more than 58 bridges along the Capital Beltway that are being rebuilt to accommodate the wider highway with the new Interstate 495 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes.

Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, noted that the structural integrity of the new overpasses was tested this past week, with an earthquake on Aug. 23 followed by Hur-



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/VIRGINIA MEGAPROJECTS

After the speeches local elected officials and HOT Lanes project leaders cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike.

ricane Irene. They passed with flying colors.

"We already know that these bridges can withstand an earthquake and a hurricane,"

Bulova said.

Bulova was on hand at the ceremony with Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock), Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason), Del.

"We already know that these bridges can withstand an earthquake and a hurricane."

— Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Vivian Watts (D-39) and Virginia Sen. David Marsden (D-37).

Cook looked to the Interstate 495 HOT Lanes as part of the infrastructure needed in the county. "The future of Fairfax County is being able to meet those transportation challenges," Cook said.

This ribbon cutting was for the second span of the overpasses at Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike. In 2010, the first span was completed at each interchange and all the traffic was shifted over to one span while the second span was demolished and rebuilt. This process was used on the Gallows Road overpass as well. Traffic was shifted at Gallows Road a few weeks ago. Earlier this spring and summer, overpasses were completed at the Washington & Old

SEE HOT LANES, PAGE 7



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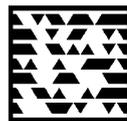
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Local Teen Takes Summer Challenge

Sameer Sharma of Springfield learns to persevere on Outward Bound adventure.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
THE CONNECTION

While many area teens celebrated the start of summer vacation by sleeping late in the comfort of their own beds, Sameer Sharma, rising sophomore at West Springfield High, had other plans. His parents sent him on a two-week backpacking and rock climbing adventure in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina.

Led by three North Carolina Outward Bound (NCOB) instructors, Sameer, 15, tested his physical endurance, learned skills such as using a compass and reading a map and discovered a lot about himself and other people.

Founded by Kurt Hahn in 1941 in Wales, Outward Bound is the oldest and largest outdoor education program. He discovered that young British sailors were less successful at surviving German attacks than their older counterparts. He concluded that they lacked the confidence older sailors had developed through experience.

Outward Bound's original mission was to foster confidence in sailors by providing them with challenging physical experiences. Today's Outward Bound programs maintain

the values of Hahn's Four Pillars: Physical Fitness, Craftmanship, Self-Reliance and Compassion.

Sameer's program ran from June 24 through July 7. He had never been camping before and was "kind of intimidated on the first day," especially when he strapped on the hefty backpack that would carry his clothes, cooking gear, and other supplies.

He soon realized he could tackle the challenges that lay ahead. "I learned that I could pursue my goals with perseverance," he said.

Each morning, an instructor woke the 15-

person crew up with a native bird call and crewmates were assigned different roles: leaders, cooks, clean-up crew or hydrators — those who collected, sanitized, and distributed water for the group. The first seven days consisted of quick and easy meals in between hikes ranging from 4-5 miles to 6-7 miles as their endurance grew.

At the end of each day, Sameer and his crew would set up camp for the night. The second half of his trip focused on rock climbing. He was proud of his ability to climb Table Rock Mountain, the highest peak they climbed in the Blue Ridge Mountains, on day 13.

While Sameer was disappointed that the

More

For more information about NCOB and its wilderness courses, check out <http://www.ncobs.org/>.



PHOTO COURTESY WHITNEY SETSER/OUTWARD BOUND

Several backpackers, carrying up to 55 pounds on their backs, climb a trail in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina.

"most exotic thing I encountered was a crayfish", he would recommend North Carolina Outward Bound's programs to other teens. His instructors were motivational and facilitated group conversations so that every voice was heard. He bonded with several crewmates with whom he continues to communicate via Facebook, and he surprised himself with what he could accomplish.

"At the beginning of the trip, I could barely run a mile," Sameer said. "At the end of the trip, 14 days later, I could run 7 miles." Another accomplishment? He survived 14

days without a shower.

His mother, Tina Sharma, noticed a huge difference in her son when he returned from the trip. "I was very nervous, to be honest," she said, but her husband Rahul had a cousin from India who spoke highly of the outdoor program she'd experienced in the United States. After much research, they chose the course from NCOB because it offered a mix of everything.

Tina Sharma was reassured when Sameer

SEE OUTWARD, PAGE 5

Symphony Presents Award to Founding Member

For lifetime achiever, music is its own award.

BY MONTIE MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

Violinist Emile "Mickey" Zimmerman may be retired, but that hasn't stopped him from dedicating himself to the organization he helped found. After 34 years of accomplished performances with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, this retiree has been recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Receiving the Dorthy Farnham Feur Award was particularly touching for Zimmerman. "It means a lot to me," he said. "Dorthy died in her mid-30s from cancer, we were close friends and it's an honor to be recognized with her name."

In 1957, Zimmerman and a handful of fellow amateur musicians formed the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and started performing at Annandale High School.

"We had a new concert master one time,"

Zimmerman said. "He got mad at something during the opening night, and he walked right out of the performance. An assistant took over and we somehow made it through."

A crescendo of interest from the community helped expand the rag-tag group, and, in 1991, the orchestra moved to the cur-

"Music is my whole world, it has been a guiding light for me throughout my entire life"

— Violinist Emile "Mickey" Zimmerman

rent location at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Today's Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is a professional group that boasts over 100 paid musicians, guest performers and conductors, as well as outreach programs throughout the county school system.

"Our musicians come from all over the community," said Patron Services Manager

Tara Nadel. "They are teachers, military band performers and talented individuals."

Nadel first met Zimmerman five years ago organizing subscriptions from the Greenspring retirement community, where the Lifetime Achiever currently resides. "He played for me one time," said Nadel. "He asked if I wanted to listen to him practice, and he gave me a personal concert."

"He is a very generous individual and he spends an enormous amount of time working on the project so other people will also enjoy what he loves," she said.

Beyond his active role supporting the orchestra by signing up subscriptions and organizing bus trips to concerts, Zimmerman frequently performs at community weddings and funerals. He also practices the violin in his room.

"People stop at his apartment to pause and listen," said Greenspring Public Affairs

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 5



DONATED PHOTO

Emile 'Mickey' Zimmerman received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, an organization he helped found.

Suicide Prevention Walk Set For Sept. 10 at GMU

In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 15 minutes, claiming more than 34,000 lives each year. It is estimated that an attempt is made every minute; with nearly one million people attempting suicide annually. The Fairfax NOVA Out of the Darkness Community Walk will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m., at George Mason University. Register online at www.outofthedarkness.org. Onsite check-in and registration begins at 8:30 a.m. the day of the walk. By walking in the Out of the Darkness Community Walks to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), you will be walking with thousands of people nationwide to raise money for AFSP's vital research and education programs to prevent suicide and save lives, increase national awareness about depression and suicide, advocate for mental health issues, and assist survivors of suicide loss.

New Rabies Notification Plan

In an effort to better inform residents about rabid animals in their communities, Fairfax County Animal Control officers are starting a new, door-to-door notification process each time a rabid animal is discovered nearby.

Beginning Sept. 2, officers will knock on doors to alert residents that they should take precautions to protect their family pets from exposure to wildlife when an animal in their neighborhood tested positive for the rabies virus. If no one is home, officers will leave a flyer at the door.

The goal of this new program is to prevent human exposure to rabies through education. Residents should report unusual or suspicious wildlife behavior at 703-691-2131.

For example, officers recently received a report of a skunk that was making unusually loud noises in the 2700 block of Copper Creek Road in Herndon. The skunk went under the complainant's porch, pulled out another skunk out and attacked it repeatedly. Animal control officers say this is not typical of skunk behavior and rabies was strongly suspected, posing a threat to any animal or resident that may have been walking in that area.

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system and kills almost any mammal or human that gets sick from it. The rabies virus is mainly in the saliva of rabid animals and may be transmitted through a bite or by getting saliva in a wound or in the eye or mouth.

As of mid-August, 30 animals tested positive for rabies in Fairfax County. They included raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and groundhogs. Rabies vaccinations are mandatory for all cats and dogs living in this county. All dogs four months of age and older must also have a dog license; failure to license dogs or inoculate pets against rabies may result in fines of up to \$250. For more information about rabies, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals> or www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/.

NEPP Grants Can Improve, Enhance Communities

If residents have an idea or project to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods, Fairfax County is now offering up to \$5,000 in matching grants to make their communities better places to live.

The grants are available to neighborhood or civic groups, homeowners associations or nonprofits through the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP). Applications are due by Monday, Oct. 31, at 2 p.m., and additional information about groups or projects eligible for funding may be found online.

In the past, communities have received money to repair

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 7



DONATED PHOTO

Pictured at mile marker zero in Georgetown are the riders, between the ages of 11 and 50, and their support crew including: Daniel Susa, Thomas Susa, Clyde Dixon, Kyle Lipton, Robbie D'Amato, Susan Susa, Carl Deckert, Jason Deckert, Drake Dixon, Claire Schindler, Andrew Susa, Bryan Dixon, Mark Susa, Will Ballard, Chris Ballard, Jim Ide, John Ide, Eric Walker, Brian Walker and Will Shackley. Support crew, not pictured, include Kathy D'Amato, Emily D'Amato, Ann Lipton, Max Schindler and Ken Shackley.

Springfield Scouts Bike C&O Trail

Seventeen Scouts and adults from Boy Scout Troop 1140 and Venture Crew 3200 in Springfield biked the entire 184.5 miles of the C&O Canal Trail from Cumberland, Md. to Georgetown, D.C., this summer.

During the week of Aug. 8, the group rode between 40 and 60 miles per day, camping near the towpath. They rode on sunny days and rainy days and survived several wipe outs, the long, dark Paw Paw tunnel, bent wheels, flat tires, a broken chain, a fallen tree and a spider-infested cave. Adventures

were not limited to the trail as the group took a break to tube on the Shenandoah River and take a ghost tour of Harpers Ferry with living historian Rick Garland. During the ride, Scouts taught each other about the history of the canal and its surrounding communities and learned about bike maintenance, working cooperatively and physical endurance. Several riders even learned a little sign language. Jim Ide planned and spear-headed the trip along with several other key people who supported the group in a variety of roles.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLAINE KORCEL

Look Up

Some may not realize when they are out for their morning or evening stroll that Lake Accotink has a pair of nesting bald eagles. They are usually out where other birds are feeding and watching for opportunities to steal their food. This one made a fly over above me about 50 feet away. Keep an eye out and you might see them also. Fairfax County has an ever-increasing population of Bald Eagles. You can likely see them around most of the larger lakes in the county.
— Blaine Korcel

Outward Bound

FROM PAGE 3

came home and even family friends have seen a change in him. He was more independent and more thoughtful of others, even offering to feed his little sister or serve his mother. He spoke about how well his instructors had looked out for him and his crewmates. She also noted that he is more social after his wilderness experience. They want to enroll him in another program, possibly canoeing, and even hope to send him to India some day to explore the Himalayas.

Whitney Setser, spokesman for NCOB, noted that some misconceptions about their courses. One is that they are geared for at-risk teens. In fact, while its sister school has programs for this population, NCOB caters a wide variety of partici-

pants, including teenagers, college students, adults, even parent and child teams.

ACCORDING TO Setser, courses like Sameer's are staffed by instructors that meet rigorous requirements, including a Wilderness First Responder certification that trains them to respond quickly to any illnesses, injuries, or encounters with wildlife.

Instructors are not wilderness guides; rather, they facilitate students' use of navigation tools such as compasses and maps and encourage them to use meet personal physical and mental challenges. Like Sameer, one does not have to know how to camp to participate in an NCOB course. Setser participated in an 8-day sea kayaking trip in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and was surprised by what she could accomplish physically.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

FROM PAGE 3

Manager Jessica McKay. "You can also hear him play Friday mornings at church."

In 1982, Zimmerman fell from a ladder while working at home and suffered severe back injuries. Despite the incident, he continued to perform with the orchestra for the next nine years before retiring in 1991.

"Music is my whole world," Zimmerman said. "It has been a guiding light for me throughout my entire life."

Get Involved

Fairfax residents can help support the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra by attending performances, volunteering for special events or contributing to the Sponsor a Musician program. For more information visit: <http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org/>

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OPINION

Surviving One Crazy Week

Contested primaries about as comfortable as earthquakes, but with far greater benefit.

A 5.8 earthquake gave the region a shaking up last Tuesday, and while it was mostly harmless, two landmarks, the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral, are still closed.

The quake came amidst primary election day for both Republicans and Democrats, with at least two somewhat unexpected results. It's a sign of health for both parties that candidates are prepared to compete in primary elections.

While some have cited the negativity in one of the Democratic primary races, the benefits of contested races outweigh the negatives, especially in districts that lean so heavily to one party, the primary is the election.

(It's true that the vitriolic negativity in the primary for the 31st, carried out via hundreds of thousands of dollars in slick mailers, was an unfortunate introduction for the many voters new to the district.)

But voters in the 30th and 31st Senate districts were offered real choices. Too often these races involve the anointing of incumbent or heir-apparent who are then practically guar-

anteed a seat after the general election.

Not this time.

The message was that good candidates can rise up and seek election. And the Republican challengers in these two races cannot be counted out, especially Caren Merrick in the 31st.

There were also Republican races for the right to challenge Virginia Senators George Barker, Toddy Puller and Dave Marsden, and Sheriff Stan Barry (D) of Fairfax.

EDITORIALS

Two Democrats faced off in a very close race for the right to challenge Supervisor John Cooke in the Braddock District of Fairfax County.

The sad part was the timing and the turnout. The August primary, necessitated by the resolution of redistricting, and other factors lead to a voter turnout of less than 10 percent in most areas.

And then, to complete the week, Hurricane Irene gave the area a power wash.

ment at West Springfield High School. If elected she plans to make the necessary renovations to West Springfield High School to make it a school that students can be proud of.

As a parent of four students and an advocate for improving the learning environment in Fairfax County Public Schools, Elizabeth Schultz has the necessary skills and knowledge to enact the change that we need in our schools in the Springfield District. I will be

voting for Elizabeth Schultz in the fall, and I encourage members of my community to vote for her as well.

Bobby Bradshaw
Springfield

Energy Tax Rebate

To the Editor:

I am a single homeowner in Burke with no kids. I pay thousands annually for property taxes, over 60 percent of which goes towards K-12 grade education, for which I receive no direct benefit. I would like the county to establish an energy efficiency tax rebate to help homeowners without kids invest in their homes and jobs in the local community.

A tax rebate credit of 50 percent

for a \$1,000-\$2,000 investment into home energy efficiency upgrades would return \$500-\$1,000, which is roughly 12 to 24 percent of the average property tax paid, and far short of the 60 percent we pay towards K-12th grade education. The county would still see a return on that investment because of the economic activity it would generate and increased property values in some cases. It would also aid in lowering the county's electricity consumption and need for new generation capacity. Studies show that improving windows and HVAC systems to new efficiency standards can save as much as 30 percent of electricity demand. Returning taxpayer's money with the requirement that it be used for energy efficiency investments that will promote economic activity, jobs and reduced electricity demand in the county is a win-win.

Emile Derek Boyle
Burke

Understands Constituents

To the Editor:

I have lived in the Springfield District for almost 20 years. Two years ago, after the birth of twins, one of my good friends began to plan a small addition to her house. As a young couple, she and her husband had saved up just enough

Nuclear Caution, Food for Thought

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sending a team to the North Anna nuclear power plant, which shut down during last week's earthquake. The plant, located just 10 miles from the epicenter of Tuesday's 5.8 quake, was reported designed to withstand that magnitude quake and no more, but shaking at the location of the quake might have exceeded that.

The plant could be shut down for six weeks to six months according to a report in the Freelance Star newspaper. North Anna is about 70 miles from our area.

In April, the Surry nuclear plant, about 140 miles away, automatically shut down after losing power when a tornado hit the electrical switchyard next to the plant, reported the Virginia Gazette newspaper. Diesel generators kicked in to provide emergency power.

- MARY KIMM

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HOT Lanes Overpasses Open

FROM PAGE 2

Dominion Trail and Wakefield Park pedestrian bridges, Lewinsville Road and Idylwood Road.

The new overpasses are built wider, with bicycle and pedestrian facilities that were not part of the old overpasses. In most cases, the traffic continued to flow on the roads, and this required a complex traffic management plan for road construction at this level.

Gross noted the traffic efforts on Gallows Road. "There's been a lot of creative approaches to the traf-

fic situations," she said.

The Interstate 495 HOT Lanes configuration includes two new lanes on the inside of the current lanes, going in both direction along the Capital Beltway. The new HOT Lanes will allow vehicles with three occupants or more to ride for free or drivers can pay a toll to use the lanes. Electronic gantries will be located at each entrance to the HOT Lanes and cars must have an EZ pass to access the lanes.

The Interstate 495 HOT Lanes are scheduled to be completed in late 2012.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

or expand children's playgrounds, erect community signs, plant community gardens, and build paths, bridges and outdoor pavilions to help connect neighbors and neighborhoods.

Because the NEPP is a matching-grant program, organizations must contribute a matching amount of cash, in-kind donations, discounts on goods or services and/or sweat equity. Eligible projects must also include at least 25-percent volunteer labor as part of their match.

For more information about the program, information sessions or application process, contact Rachel Robinson, Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services, at 703-324-5639, TTY 711.



I-95 HOV/HOT Lanes Design Public Hearing
I-95 Transit and Transportation Demand Management Plan

Fairfax, Prince William, Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties, and the City of Fredericksburg

Monday, September 26, 2011, 5-8 p.m.
 Botts Fire Hall
 1306 F Street, Woodbridge, VA 22191

Wednesday, September 28, 2011, 5-8 p.m.
 Waterford at Springfield
 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150

Thursday, September 29, 2011, 5-8 p.m.
 North Stafford High School
 839 Garrisonville Road, Stafford, VA 22554

Find out about design plans for the proposed high occupancy vehicle (HOV) and high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes between Edsall Road in Fairfax County and Garrisonville Road in Stafford County. Learn about the findings in the I-95 Environmental Analysis and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) Transit and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan for I-95. Representatives from each of these projects will be available to answer your questions. Exhibits and a video will be available. There will be no formal presentation.

Review information at www.vamegaprojects.com and at the meeting. Plans are also available at VDOT offices at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria, or VDOT's Fredericksburg District Office at 87 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg. Please call ahead on the project hot line at 1-855-895-4646 to be sure that appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

The environmental assessment will be available on September 9, 2011, on the project Web site and at the above locations. The transit and TDM plan will be available on September 26, 2011 at www.drpt.virginia.gov and at the meeting.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing. Comments on the project design and environmental analysis may be sent to John Lynch, P.E., Regional Transportation Program Director, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22310 or e-mailed to info@i-95hotlanes.com by **October 14, 2011** with "I-95 Joint Meetings" in the subject line. Comments on the transit and TDM plan can be sent to Public Information Office, DRPT, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or to drptor@drpt.virginia.gov by **October 26, 2011**.

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Bodhmata Stupa, Kathmandu

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FAITH

Faith To Overcome Obstacles

Springfield woman returns from LDS mission to Chile.

Jacqueline Melton, daughter of Brian and Donna Melton, from Springfield, returned from Chile on July 12 after serving a 1-1/2 year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

Jacqueline is no stranger to change as her father was in the military, and, during her youth, her family moved many times. This experience taught her to adapt to change. However, during her mission in Chile she discovered a new form of change, a change of heart. She also witnessed this change in the Chileans who accepted the gospel. They became happier people, enjoyed a notable peace within themselves, and were willing to be there for one another. When the earthquake and the tsunami devastated some towns of Chile, including the collapse of the LDS chapel, the people showed resilience and a great desire to help one another. People overcame obstacles with faith, always looking forward to changing toward the good.



Jacqueline Melton, center, is shown her with her parents, Brian and Donna Melton.

Some of the people Jacqueline met changed toward the good while others toward the not-so-good behavior. Decisions to change towards good and work on overcoming obstacle is what brought blessings and prosperity to the people of Chile. Jacqueline is taking this experience as the most important lesson she learned while on her mission.

Jacqueline has been accepted at Brigham Young University in Honolulu, Hawaii and will be leaving for school in September.

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CALENDAR

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.

"Nonsense." 5 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

Living in the 18th Century. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. This workshop offers the philosophy and techniques key to developing an 18th century personage. Bill Barker, who has portrayed Thomas Jefferson for 25 years, is keynote presenter. \$75 registration includes materials, continental breakfast, and lunch. \$65 for Friends, volunteers, and groups of 5 and over. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

"Nonsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

West Springfield High School Bands Tag Day. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Members of the West Springfield High School Bands and Color Guard will visit homes within the WSHS pyramid to raise funds for the WSHS band program. Fairfax County provides only a fraction of the funding for instruments, music, equipment, and maintenance. Individual band members make up most of the shortfall themselves by buying or renting instruments, buying uniforms and paying uniform fees. ladesio@verizon.net.

Cocker Spaniel Adoption Show. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Springfield Petsmart, 6535 Frontier Drive, Springfield. Sponsored by Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Volunteers will be available to help potential adopters find a good match and answer any questions on the dogs. www.cockerspanielrescue.com or 703-533-2373.

Championship Boxing. George Mason University Patriot Center. 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Jimmy Lange to fight Raul Muñoz for WBU title. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

United States Navy Band's "Cruisers." 2 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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FRIDAY/SEPT. 2

American Conversations: Connecting Frontiers. 5:30-7:30 p.m. West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The program will be inaugurated by Nepal's Ambassador H.E. Dr. Shankar P. Sharma. Traditional Nepali refreshments served. Reserve at 703-889-0792 or americanconversations@gmail.com.

"Nonsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

Fuel, TBA. 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA. \$25 advance, \$25 at the door 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Block Party at the Workhouse: Celebrating Lorton. 2-7 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Studio artists sidewalk sale, food and drinks available for purchase, neighborhood talent show, live music and more. Friends and Family Exhibition Reception 5-7 p.m. Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile onsite 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

"Nonsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

HO and N Gauge Trains on Display and Running. 12-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/SEPT. 5

HO and N Gauge Trains on Display and Running. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

The 12th Annual Labor Day Car Show. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Main St., Clifton. Street rods, street machines, customs, antiques, muscle cars, classics, motorcycles and more. All proceeds benefit Life with Cancer (www.lifewithcancer.org) and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (www.NVTRP.org) Live music, Fireman's Chili challenge and more. Register vehicles at www.customercruisersnova.com and click on events. To sponsor, call Jim Chesley at 703-830-2129, or send a donation made out to the Clifton Lions Club to 7207 Main Street, Clifton, Va. 20124-0225.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

"Nonsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

"Nonsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

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.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Spartan Students Plan Mars Mission

West Springfield High School students Connor Chroman, Victoria McGowen, Susanna Mostaghim and Alex Vanden Berghé spent a week of their summer planning a mission to Mars.

They were among the 145 rising high school seniors from across Virginia to participate in the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) academy.

The academy, which took place at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., was hosted by NASA Langley in partnership with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

At the academy, the students toured NASA facilities, spoke with NASA researchers, scientists and astronaut Dr. Roger Crouch, as well as gained workforce experience and college credit.

Students were broken up into teams and given an area of expertise to concentrate on for the mission. The four teams included Getting There, Living There, Working There, and Mission Integration. Each student was placed on a team and given an area of expertise to research and become knowledgeable about for the creation of the mission. These students' areas included utilizing resources found on Mars, crewed rover and ascent vehicles.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

www.WorkhouseArts.org.
"Nunsense." 5 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 14

"Nunsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

Evergrey, Powerglove, The

Absence and more. 6:30 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. VIP Tickets give one hour early entry and a Meet and Greet with Evergrey. VIP Tickets advance sale only. \$20 advance, \$23 at the door, \$50 VIP. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

"Nunsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Gallery After Hours: Social Ballroom. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Gallery W-16, Second Floor, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A reception featuring ballroom dancing led by a dance instructor. Complimentary refreshments and

cash bar. Dress code is casual. \$10 per person, \$8 members. Ballroom mini-lesson with a focus on the cha cha, additional \$5. All skill levels welcome. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Sally Ride Science Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. For girls in grades 5-8. Discovery workshops by local scientists and engineers, talks by a featured speaker, workshops on ways to support students' interests in science and math and a Street Fair with booths, hands-on activities, food, and music. Admission \$20, registration required. hdelacruz@sallyridesience.com.

"Nunsense." 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com.



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At the 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 30, members of American Legion Post 176 of Springfield and their colleagues from the Sons of the American Legion and an historical re-enactor provide the color guard for the parade in period uniforms. From left, Butch Fogle of Springfield wears a uniform of the Civil War unit Wheat's Louisiana Tigers, Les Albers of Springfield wears a United States Army uniform from the 1942 Battle of Bataan, Mike Wolfe of Alexandria wears a U.S. Army uniform from 1944-45 and Tony Esteve of Springfield wears the uniform he originally wore as a military policeman during the war in Vietnam.



More than 250 troops from Fort Belvoir, from the Headquarters Battalion USA Garrison Fort Belvoir and Echo Company, 169th Engineering, participated in the 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk on Aug. 30. The event features a rededication of the Army Community Covenant.



With more than 300 people in attendance, the 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk begins on Tuesday, Aug. 30, led by a color guard sponsored by the American Legion Post 176 of Springfield and in period military uniforms spanning the Civil War to the Vietnam War. Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 handed out flags before the march.

Out for a Stroll All Together

Annual Springfield BridgeWalk ends with covenant rededication.



Garrison Commander Col. John Strycula, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Crystal McKay, Leann Madison McKay, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Miss Vera walk in the Aug. 30 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk.



A variety of community groups participated in the 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk on Tuesday, Aug. 30, celebrating the rededication of the Army Community Covenant in Springfield. Here are members of the Springfield Civic Association, including its president, far right, Bruce Waggoner.



A variety of community groups participated in the 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk on Aug. 30, celebrating the rededication of the Army Community Covenant in Springfield. Here, members of the Woman's Club of Springfield, a local service organization serving the community since 1954, march.



Students, faculty and families from Garfield Elementary School march in the Aug. 30 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk across Veteran's Bridge to celebrate the rededication of the Army Community Covenant.



Students, faculty and families from Crestwood Elementary School march in the Aug. 30 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk to celebrate the rededication of the Army Community Covenant in Springfield.



State Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) sign the Army Community Covenant as Col. John Strycula, Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir; Cardell K. Richardson, deputy director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, recently moved to Springfield; Army Reserve Ambassador Ron Adolphi; and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) await their turn to sign the document at the Aug. 30 10th anniversary Springfield BridgeWalk ceremony.

At-large School Board Race: One To Watch

Activists, candidates, issues converge to create closely watched race.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Debates over discipline, boundaries, budgets, standardized tests and sleep have generated Fairfax County's most closely watched and contested School Board race in the board's 19-year history.

"Is this an outrageously large slate of candidates? Yes," said Susan Jennings, Fairfax County's coordinator for candidate services since 1994. "I haven't seen this much interest since 1995, when we had our first School Board elections. That was very chaotic."

Of the 12 School Board seats, six are up for grabs, including three at-large seats. The only at-large incumbent running for reelection is Ilryong Moon, who served three terms on the board, including a stint as the board's chair in 2006. Incumbents who will not seek reelection include Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill), Tessie Wilson (Braddock), Brad Center (Lee), Tina Hone (At-large), Jim Raney (At-large) and Liz Bradsher (Springfield).

"When you have that many vacancies, you get more people interested in throwing their hat in the ring," Jennings said.

Currently, 11 candidates are running for the at-large seats, and the top three vote getters on Nov. 8 will serve a four-year term, with an annual salary of \$20,000.

As of Monday, Aug. 8, 11 candidates are running for the at-large seats, and the top three vote-getters on Nov. 8 will serve a 4-year term, with an annual salary of \$20,000. They are Maria C. Allen, Jeannie H. Armstrong, Sheree Brown-Kaplan, Catherine Clark, Christina M. Guthrie, Lin-Dai Y. Kendall, Lolitta Mancheno-Smoak, Ryan L. McElveen, Irylong Moon, Steven Stuban and Ted Velkoff.

Trying to pin down exactly who is running — or not running — is not that easy, Jennings said. Potential candidates have until Aug. 23 to declare his or her candidacy.

"It's tricky this time of year. Anything can happen in the next few weeks, and it probably will," Jennings said. "The first thing I want to do is help keep them out of trouble (in the filing process)," Jennings said.

But the filing process has not been a major issue this election cycle. In addition to the heated rhetoric over the issues, drama over the candidates themselves has sharpened the focus on this race.

In the past month, several candidates have withdrawn, including Bradsher, who ignited a firestorm of debate over her support for the closing Clifton Elementary School. In June, she said she was considering a bid for an at-large seat, instead of running for her seat in the Springfield District. According to Jennings, as of Monday, Aug. 8, she has not filed the necessary paperwork for the at-large seat.

Although the School Board is officially a nonpartisan office, candidates actively seek endorsement by the county's Republican or Democratic committees. No one has been elected without backing from one

of the major political parties, but many say that could change this year.

On July 1, at-large candidate Charisse Espy Glassman, who was endorsed by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee on May 24, withdrew from race, citing personal reasons. It later came to light that Glassman, the niece of former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, was charged with assault and possession of a prohibited weapon after the Jan. 24 incident in the District of Columbia, according to D.C. Superior Court records.

Currently Moon, Velkoff and McElveen have the Democratic Party's endorsement.

When Glassman withdrew, Armstrong, a newcomer for an at-large seat, announced that she would seek the Democratic endorsement. After McElveen was chosen, Armstrong sent out a news release on Aug. 1 saying that she had filed an appeal to the endorsement vote, citing "multiple problems and irregularities with the endorsement election process."

According to the release, her appeal was filed with the three Democratic Congressional District chairs for the congressional districts in Fairfax County and the Virginia Democratic Party. The Congressional District chairs or their appointees will hear the appeal pursuant to the Virginia Democratic Party Plan, the rules of the Democratic Party in Virginia.

On July 20, the Fairfax County Republican Committee handed down three at-large endorsements. The endorsed candidates are Mancheno-Smoak, Kendall

and Brown-Kaplan.

"It is critical that those serious contenders for the School Board have the drive to assure that the impressive gains that Fairfax has achieved not be devalued or diminished," said Janet Olescek, who served one term on the School Board from 2004-08 as an at-large member. "Strong schools are necessary to continue to attract jobs, and maintain our excellent property values."

Fairfax County Public Schools, the 11th largest school district in the nation with an estimated 177,629 students, operates on a \$2.2 billion budget, which is larger than the education budget of nearly 15 states. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate for the school system; the School Board allocated funding. The total county transfer to support school operating and debt service is \$1.77 billion or 52.5 percent of total county disbursements

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), a member of the Board of Supervisors, said that he's hearing a lot of anger from his constituents about the school system and the School Board.

"On the School Board race, I think there is enough anger on these issues that the bottom of the ticket races will drive some of the voter turnout," Herrity said.

Many parents and school advocates blamed FCPS' rigid discipline policies when two students committed suicide. Josh Anderson, of South Lakes High School, took his life in March 2009; and Nick Stuban, called a "model student" at W.T. Woodson High School, committed suicide on Jan. 20.

Since his son's death, Steve Stuban and his wife Sandy, who is battling Lou Gehrig's disease, have become advocates for reforming the school system's disciplinary process. With the support of many parents and friends, Stuban said he was also motivated to seek an at-large seat on the School Board.

Meet the Candidates

The Connection asked every at-large School Board candidate the following question:

What are the two most important decisions you anticipate voting on as school board members, and why are they important/relevant?

Sheree Brown-Kaplan: Brown-Kaplan, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools, with a degree in history from George Mason University. After leaving a position in the Office of Management and Budget, she worked in government affairs for a Fortune 500 company and, later, advocated for the interests of a trade association representing small, family-owned businesses. She has two children in FCPS. For more information, go to www.brownaplan4schoolboard.com

"The two most important decisions I anticipate the new School Board must decide center on the best uses of our public resources. The most important decision the School Board must make is to ensure that it keeps down class sizes and maintains a strong curriculum. We need to focus resources on class sizes that are most appropriate for both student learning and teacher effectiveness. I support keeping teacher-student ratios low and will make reasonable class sizes a top priority. I also support offering a range of curriculum choices for our students, especially those who are not academically ready for college level courses yet insufficiently challenged by general education classes. Every student should have options that will further their opportunities not a one size fits all approach that discounts individual need."

Secondly, the School Board must address ways to maintain highly skilled teachers for our world class school system. An excellent teacher is the single most defining feature of student success. Our teachers make less than their counterparts in other jurisdictions. That does not bode well for teacher retention and morale. I support compensating our teachers in a way that values their contributions and benefits our students."

Ilryong Moon: An attorney with two sons who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Moon immigrated to the United States from Korea as a teenager. He attended T.C. Williams High School and has a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies from Harvard University. He received a J.D. from the College of William and Mary. The only incumbent running for an at-large seat, Moon has served three terms on the School Board. A resident of Kings Park West, he served as the School Board's vice chairman in 2005 and chairman in 2006. For more information, go to www.moon4schools.com.

"Superintendent's Contract: The superintendent is the most important employee of the school system. The current contract expires on June 30, 2013 and the contract renewal decision is generally made about a year before it expires. We need to make sure that the school system has a superintendent whose leadership inspires others working in the school system and helps all of our students reach their full potential."

"Budget Decisions: With the economy still lagging, the next School Board will be faced with more difficult budgetary decisions. I recently proposed a motion to increase the ability of the School Board to conduct administrative efficiency reviews and audits because I believe we need to ensure no dollar that could otherwise go into the classroom or to teachers is wasted through bureaucracy. The current school Board has been very successful putting in place budget cuts and adjustments that did not impede our school system's continuing academic improvement. So while our per-pupil cost has fallen, test scores and other indicators of academic achievement have been on the rise."

Ted Velkoff: A Rocky Run resident, Velkoff has lived in Fairfax County for 19 years. A software architect, Velkoff has a master's degree in conducting music and computer science from Indiana University, and a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Cincinnati. He served as an officer in several PTAs, including Poplar Tree Elementary School, Rocky Run Middle School and Chantilly High School, where he served as president for two years. He also served as campaign treasurer for Sully District School Board Member Kathy Smith, former Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67). For more information, go to www.tv4sb.org.

"The most important decision the School Board will make is the hir-



Brown-Kaplan



Moon

SEE 11 VIE, PAGE 13

11 Vie for 3 At-large School Board Seats

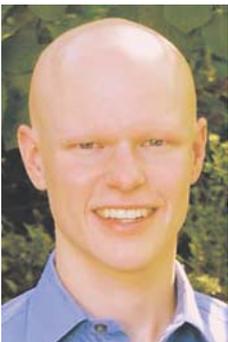
FROM PAGE 12

ing of a superintendent. As the public face of our school system, the superintendent represents FCPS both internally to staff and families and also externally to educational institutions, governmental agencies, and the public at large. At a minimum, the superintendent is responsible for administering the school system in accordance with the goals and objectives set by the School Board. Beyond this role, however, he or she must have the full trust and confidence of the School Board and the Board of Supervisors; teachers and employees; parents and students; and also local citizens and our business community. During the upcoming term, no decision will have greater influence on the vision for the future of our schools.

"The School Board must complete a thorough review and revision of its values and goals as one of its first orders of business. Since the superintendent must be held accountable for reflecting the values of the community as represented by the School Board, the newly elected School Board must establish the values and goals that will guide its work during the upcoming term. While such a review has been undertaken periodically, the turnover in School Board membership this fall makes this review essential. In order to guide its own work and that of the superintendent, School Board members must have a shared vision of their goals and the values that drive those goals. It is not adequate that newly elected board members inherit a governance plan that was created before their time. Nor is it acceptable that they operate without such a plan. I look forward to creating a shared vision with the new Board and with input from FCPS' constituents."

Ryan McElveen:

Born and raised in Vienna, McElveen attended Marshall High School, where he served as class president and graduated with an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) employed him from 2005-07 as an assistant testing coordinator. He currently works in the



McElveen

International Operations and Policy Office of the Boeing Company and is a Mandarin Chinese tutor. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from The University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and East Asian studies. He has a master's of international affairs from Columbia University with a concentration in human rights. He is the author of "Challenging Yellow: Decoding Skin Color in Urban China and the Confluence of Tradition and Globalization," which won the 2008 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Award for the best essay in the study of women and gender. For more information, go to www.ryanforschoolboard.com/.

"Voting on the budget is perhaps the greatest responsibility of School Board members, as it outlines priorities for the upcoming year and sets a course for the future. In budget debates, it is imperative that we look for ways to eliminate athletic fees, increase teacher compensation and expand foreign language programs while continuing to



Velkoff

provide the world-class education and extracurricular programs that set Fairfax apart.

"In the coming term, we will also have the opportunity to make the school system more transparent and accountable. By voting to employ an independent auditor, we will find redundancies that will lead to savings for taxpayers. By hiring ombudsmen for teachers and parents, we can ensure that the concerns of both groups are heard, evaluated and relayed to the superintendent and School Board."

Lolita Mancheno-Smoak:

A resident of Fairfax Station, Mancheno-Smoak currently serves as an adjunct professor at Strayer University and the University of Phoenix, where she teaches business. She currently volunteers as board president for Hispanics Against Child Abuse & Neglect. She is also on the Advisory Board of CrisisLink, which assists the Northern Virginia community in suicide prevention. Mancheno-Smoak, who is fluent in Spanish, emigrated from Ecuador as a child. She earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Columbia University; a master's degree in engineering from the University of Miami, and a DBA from Nova Southeastern University. She has four grown stepchildren. For more information, go to www.lolita4schoolboard.com/.



Mancheno-Smoak

"Vote on motion to reformulate the School Board's strategic governance to return greater accountability and fiduciary responsibility to the Board with direct access to all operational data.

"The board is elected by the people and for the people and as such has the responsibility to have direct oversight and control over the entire school system operations, as stewards of the people's tax investments — \$0.53 of every Fairfax County tax dollar goes to the FCPS system's budget of \$2.2 billion. The School Board needs to be more responsive to the community it serves while maintaining fiscal prudence and it can best do this by reinstating its accountability through strategic governance reform.

"Vote on motion to re-establish formal, regular and open communications with FCPS employees so that the true voice of the teachers can be heard and acted upon.

"Today's teachers are being encumbered with excessive administrative activities that detract from their principal vocation — to teach our children. The School Board needs to take a proactive stance in ensuring that the learning environment is at its feasible optimum for all students and teachers. Even if you are part of the 75 percent of Fairfax County residents that don't use the public school system, we all have a vested interest in maintaining its excellence. So, we need to establish regular, open dialogue with community advocates, parents, teachers, and the School Board to engender innovative responses to our educational challenges.

Lin-Dai Kendall: A resident of Fairfax Station, Kendall is a Fulbright Scholar and small-business owner, with training in business management, architecture and urban planning. She has an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and obtained her master's degree in urban planning and public administration on a scholarship in Madrid, Spain. After being appointed the youngest chief of urban planning for the metropolitan area of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, she spent more than 15 years in architecture. She has four chil-

dren. She owns a design studio in Fairfax Station. For more information, go to www.lindai.webs.com/.

"A much-needed change in the current strategic governance arrangement which would restore the rightful balance and authority of the School Board to manage FCPS. I've observed throughout the past three years a blatant lack of representation and utter disregard for the voice of the parent and taxpayer. An analysis of the management relations between Fairfax County's Public School System and its superintendent and the School Board reveal an inverse relationship to the one that the School Board was elected to execute, the management of the public school assets and structure on behalf of the taxpayer. Loss of autonomy and an abdication of responsibilities from the part of the School Board bear a negative impact on their relation to the electorate. The School Board needs to listen and consider the voice of the electorate overlaying their needs to the existing framework of resources within the county's education system.

"A much-needed change in the audit functions of FCPS, pursuing the reporting of financial information, budgeting and program evaluations be provided to and monitored by the School Board as ombudsmen elected by the people to manage FCPS. Currently, auditing functions are exercised by FCPS internally. Is the fox watching the hen house? The composition of any current FCPS audit committee should change so that it is independent of FCPS management. FCPS management ideally should not be part of an auditing committee. Audit committees should include School Board members possibly in a rotational manner and should perhaps even include members from the Board of Supervisors.

Steve Stuban:

Stuban received a bachelor's degree in engineering, and a commission as a second lieutenant from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He served more than 24 years on active duty as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer. Retiring in 2004 as a lieutenant colonel, Stuban became an acquisition program manager within the Department of Defense. He earned a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri, and a master's and Ph.D. in systems engineering from George Washington University. He is a licensed professional engineer. He has served as a coach, assistant and team volunteer for many youth sports. For more information, go to www.stubanforschoolboard.com/.



Stuban

"What are the two most important issues I anticipate voting on? I don't believe there are a 'top two.' All the School Board's decisions are important in that they all have impacts on FCPS' ability to achieve its mission. I am more focused on two areas and concerned about a potential future scenario. My first priority is to restore the entire community's trust in FCPS and the way the School Board conducts itself. This ties back to the values

of transparency, accountability, common sense, and engaging the entire community.

"My second priority is ensuring that everything FCPS does supports its mission of inspiring, enabling, and empowering students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship. The belief that every student matters must be demonstrated in everything FCPS does and every decision the School Board makes.

"The potential future scenario with which I am most concerned is where our country's recent economic downturn persists, the FCPS student population continues to increase, and the 2014 suspense for achieving the No Child Left Behind mandate of 100 percent of students achieving state standards approaches — a veritable 'perfect storm.' Under this scenario, there will be enormous demands on FCPS' staff and resources. While I have confidence that our country's economic fortunes will improve, and similar confidence in the ability of our teachers to meet the challenge, the negative consequences should this scenario prove true are too great to risk. Rather than wait until 2013 to consider this scenario, I intend to immediately engage my fellow board members in assessing all of FCPS' programs and policies with an eye toward ensuring that they directly support FCPS' mission. Resources are limited. Every family knows it cannot be extravagant nor live beyond its means. Similarly, FCPS cannot assume it will always receive whatever increased funding it requests from the Board of Supervisors.

Catherine Clark:

Clark has a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree in early childhood education from California State University and another master's degree in special education from George Mason University. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from International University in Los Angeles. In California, she founded and directed a preschool for families with special-needs preschool children. She also developed a private practice as a marriage and family counselor. In Virginia, she taught at Phillips programs in Annandale, and interned for a George Mason pilot program for college-age students with learning and/or emotional disabilities.

"Every issue deserves to be addressed with study and open discussion. In particular, I think it very important, after taking care of immediate needs, to be asking how education systems might need to change. What should be taught to whom? What is the intended outcome? Is 'universal design' in curriculum plausible, possible and desirable? Where students should be taught? They don't need grand edifices. Is there a viable possibility of using vacant spaces in office buildings, libraries, parks? ...

"When should classes take place? Some experts talk of starting classes for adolescents in the afternoon, so they can get the hours of sleep they need. Online classes are gaining recognition as viable ways to deliver course material and exercises. What about providing for study of one subject at a time, changing subjects over the course of a year? These options are in use already. Are there studies being done to assess their outcomes?

How should curriculum be delivered. Is available technology being well used? Its utility may be more obvious for administrative purposes than for daily teaching. Computers and software cannot replace teacher-student interactions for setting the context in which learning best takes place. But they do grab and hold attention across a startlingly wide range of abilities and interests. Why? Why are we willing to tax ourselves to educate everyone? Because 'the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.' And it takes education to understand that quote.

Editor's Note: Maria Allen and Jeannie Armstrong did not respond to The Connection's requests for replies. For more information on Armstrong, go to www.jeanniearmstrong.com/.

COLLEGE NOTES

Joshua R. Hafer of Springfield has been selected to receive the Susquehanna Engineering & Manufacturing Society-Gravell

Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to an incoming freshman at Millersville University of Pennsylvania based on academic merit and commitment in an

industry and technology program.

Springfield resident Samantha Feldbauer is the recipient of a 2011

Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium scholarship funded by a donation from the Gates Corporation. GAAS scholarships are awarded in the amount

of \$1,000 to students that are enrolled in a full-time college-level program or a certified automotive technical program.

Rodi, Jamshidi Lead Bruins' District Title Defense

Bruins return three significant contributors from 2010 district championship team.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's 2010 volleyball team entered the Patriot District tournament seeded fifth out of eight teams and lost the first two games of its opening round match at T.C. Williams.

On the brink of a season-ending loss, Lake Braddock battled back to win the final three games and beat the Titans. The Bruins maintained momentum, knocking off top-seed West Springfield in the semifinals before defeating South County for the district crown.

Ten months later, Lake Braddock enters the 2011 season with just three returning athletes who saw significant playing time during the team's district title run. Fortunately for the Bruins, two of those athletes are all-district performers capable of leading an inexperienced group.

Junior setter and opposite hitter Kyra Rodi and senior middle blocker Catherine Jamshidi are the Bruins' top returners. Rodi was a first-team all-district selection as a sophomore, setting and hitting in the Lake Braddock offense, and Jamshidi earned second-team honors. Both stand 6 feet tall and have displayed leadership qualities.

"Everybody wants to talk to me about how great of a volleyball player [Rodi] is," Lake Braddock coach Mike Clark said. "I don't care. She's, like, the best person I've ever been around. I've learned so much from just being around her. She always takes the lead in things [and] she wants to learn. Even though she's the best player out here, she wants to learn more than anybody else does."

Rodi started setting during her freshman season and is still learning the position.

"I feel way more comfortable [than during my] freshman year," Rodi said. "Freshman year I was so scared. But now I'm getting into the swing of things and I'm really starting to understand what it takes. I'm starting to understand the hitters, I'm looking at the blockers on the other side [and] I'm really pushing myself to be a better setter."

Clark spoke highly of the work Jamshidi put in during the club season with her Virginia Elite team.

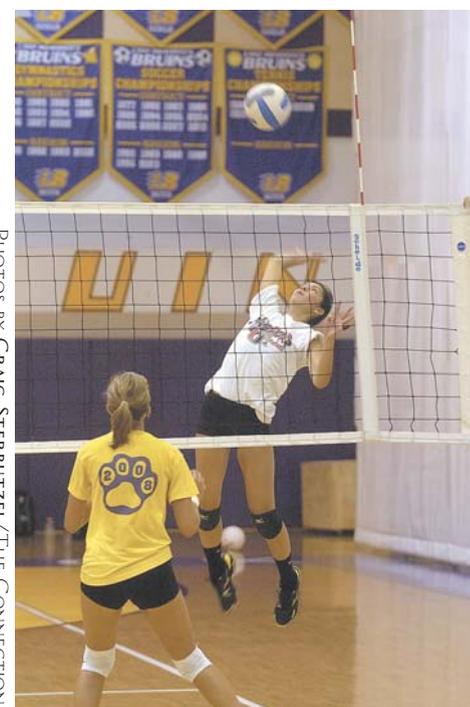
"Catherine is probably our most improved player in the off-season," Clark said. "She's actually going to have to pick it up, and she's going to have to play back row for us this year. She's a middle blocker [but] we're relying on her to play some defense, as well."



Senior middle blocker Catherine Jamshidi is one of three Lake Braddock volleyball players listed at 6 feet or taller.

Jamshidi said she's looking forward to playing in the back row.

"I played back row during club season, so it's not that different for me," she said. "I really like that I get to always be involved. Cheering on the bench is fun, but it's more exciting and you get to be more intense



Senior outside hitter Lauren DeSordi returns to Lake Braddock after playing volleyball in Nebraska last season.

when you're in the game."

Five-foot-7 senior Emily Amburn, who played libero for the Bruins during the second half of last season, is the third returning athlete who saw significant time. Se-

SEE LAKE BRADDOCK, PAGE 15

WEEK IN SPORTS

The annual Parker Monroe Invitational high school cross country event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10 at Burke Lake Park. There will be both girls' and boys' races throughout the morning/early afternoon. Most of the teams throughout the Northern Region will be on hand for the Invitational, which is the official kickoff meet of the fall season.

Several Northern Virginia area boxers will fight undercard bouts at the upcoming Jimmy Lange main event headliner set to take place on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Patriot Center in Fairfax. The undercard score of fights will include Fairfax's Todd "Whiter Lightning" Wilson versus former world champion Eric Aiken (Washington, D.C.); as well as bouts that will include Chantilly's Zain Shah and Reston's Lawrence Jones. Lange, in the scheduled 10-round main event, is scheduled to face Raul "El Toro" Muñoz of Topeka, Kan. for the World Boxing Union's (WBU) vacant 154-pound championship.

The 2011 Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Golf and Tennis Classic is scheduled to take place on Monday, Sept. 19, at International Country Club in Fairfax. The annual fund-raiser event will benefit Inova Spine Institute and the Inova Joint Replacement Program at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. The day of golf and tennis, which will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., will be followed by

a silent auction and reception celebration for all attendees. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Kate Sims at 703-391-4810. Also, learn more about the Classic at the events section on www.inova.org.

NoVa West Lacrosse is accepting registrations for the 2011 Indoor Lacrosse League, opens play Oct. 7. The league is accepting both team and individual registrations but space is limited. Register at <http://www.novawestlax.com/register>. The league is plays indoors at the Purcellville Sports Pavilion.

The Herndon High girls' field hockey team will host its 16th Annual Herndon Invitational Field Hockey Tournament Friday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Sept. 10. Friday evening's game action will run from 5-10 p.m., while Saturday's games will begin at 9 a.m. and run throughout the day with final games set to start at 3:30 p.m. Eight teams are competing: Marshall; Stonewall Jackson (Manassas); Tabb High (Bay Rivers District); Yorktown; host Herndon, under the direction of head coach Phyllis Rojko Pearce; Lake Braddock; Osbourn Park (Manassas); and Wakefield. The cost to attend the tournament is \$5 for one day and \$9 for a two-day pass. For more information on the tournament, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/herndonfhtournament>.

West Springfield Field Hockey Starts 2011 Season Strong

The West Springfield field hockey team took awhile to get going in its season opener at Mount Vernon on Aug. 24, but three goals in the final 27 minutes were enough to make up for a scoreless first half.

Senior forward Savannah Pinnata scored late in a tied game to lift the Spartans to a 3-2 victory over the Majors. Junior forward Tasy Novopachennaia and senior midfielder Eleanor Lamb also scored for West Springfield. After beating the Majors, the Spartans participated in the Under the Lights tournament, where they beat Hayfield (3-2), Thomas Jefferson (6-2) and West Potomac (3-0), and lost to Chantilly (1-0), as part of a 4-1 start to the season.

"We definitely this year have a lot of players that have been working really hard in the off-season, so I know we're going to be working very well together," head coach Rosie Donaldson said after the Mount Vernon game. "Our hopes are to play closer games than we have in the past few years against the better teams in [the Patriot District] and make it further in the district tournament than we ever have and make it on to regionals."

Lamb is in her third varsity season and is one of West Springfield's top players.

"She's really fast," Donaldson said. "She's able to control the ball and distribute it well to either side. I think that definitely helps. Sometimes other players may not know exactly how to distribute it and they watch Eleanor and they see what she does and how calm she does it, and I think that kind of helps everybody else."

Junior Marissa Trujillo and senior Anna DeMarr are returning defenders for the Spartans. Freshman midfielder Brittany Muir and senior goalkeeper Katelyn Lovan are first-year varsity athletes expected to make an impact. "[Muir] has been playing for a long time and she already has great skills," Donaldson said. "So, I think she's able to pick up everybody else's level."

West Springfield will host McLean on Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

New Football Season To Begin

South County and Lee have new coaches; Lake Braddock has back to back region crowns.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

High school football stadiums throughout the Northern Region will be alive with buzz and excitement this Thursday and Friday nights with week one action of the new season.

While some folks are still in a summertime mode, many families within Fairfax County are kicking off the new school year. One of the most recognizable transition signs of the new school year is the start up of prep school football.

South County Secondary went through its first losing season since 2005 last year, going 4-6 in what proved to be Pete Bendorf's final season as head coach of the Stallions.

South County lost several close affairs in 2010, including setbacks to Centreville, 32-28, West Springfield, 7-6, and region champion Lake Braddock, 13-6, a trio of defeats which prevented the team from enjoying a winning record and qualifying for the postseason.

One of the most interesting games of South County's 2010 season came in a week nine 28-7 loss at T.C. Williams. The game with the Titans was his-

torical because it marked the first time the home team ever played at night. Over its long history, T.C. Williams always played its home games on Saturday afternoons.

This year's South County team is under head coach Gerry Pannoni, who in past years has served as head coach at both W.T. Woodson High, where he led the Cavaliers to a region crown, and Centreville. The Stallions will begin the new season this Friday night, Sept. 2 versus visiting Hayfield. The Hawks are coming off a winning season that saw them go all the way to the Division 5 region finals before losing to perennial power Stone Bridge. Hayfield reached the region title game with playoff wins over both McLean and Washington-Lee. The Hawks, for the season, finished 8-5 under coach Roy Hill.

South County, following its season opener meeting against Hayfield, will travel to Oakton High for a week two game on Friday, Sept. 9.

Lee High was just 1-9 last year, getting its only win in a season opener victory over Wakefield. The Lancers' new head coach this fall is Clarence Martin, a former assistant coach with the program and also the current Lee High wrestling coach during the winter season.

Lee football, in 2010, had mostly juniors in the starting line-up, players who will be that more experienced this fall. Former coach Robert Everett believed he had some good talent on last year's squad, but other than the 41-13 week one victory over the Warriors, that talent did not translate into any more wins. The Lancers did play a couple of tough opponents, losing to Woodson, 27-20 and Annandale, 26-

SEE HIGH SCHOOL. PAGE 16

Lake Braddock

FROM PAGE 14

nior outside hitter Lauren DeSordi (5-foot-8) played JV for Lake Braddock as a sophomore and spent last season playing JV for a nationally ranked program in Nebraska. Clark said DeSordi is a strong defender with the ability to be a dangerous hitter.

"Every now and then you see her hit the ball and you say, 'Watch out,'" Clark said. "It's just not quite consistent enough yet."

Junior opposite hitter Natalie Butler is a 6-foot-4 basketball player who is still learning volleyball, but has the size to be a difference-maker at the net.

When Rodi is hitting for the Bruins, senior Hannah Aboulhosn (5-foot-9) will be the setter.

"We do a pretty complex offense with Kyra hitting, so it's really hard to be the setter for her," Clark said. "It's going to be a little bit of a learning curve at first."

Sophomores Courtney Farmer (5-foot-7) and Jenny Hammersley (5-foot-7) will compete for playing time at outside hitter. Senior LeeAnne Neighbors (5-foot-6) and freshman Rachel Tuck (5-foot-4) are defensive specialists, with Tuck also listed as a setter. Junior Anna Zhou (5-foot-9) is an opposite hitter and middle blocker and junior Paola Zubieta (5-foot-9) is a middle blocker.

Lake Braddock will participate in a tournament on Sept. 2-3 and will host Madison on Sept. 6, at 7:15 p.m. The Bruins open district play on Oct. 5 against T.C. Williams.

"I think [winning the 2010 district title] brings a



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock junior setter/opposite hitter Kyra Rodi was a first-team all-Patriot District selection last season.

different level of expectation to the girls," Clark said. "I think it kind of adds a little bit of emphasis to the program as far as, 'Hey, we can be really good and this is what it takes.'"

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Pete Bendorf, in his final season as South County's head coach last year, saw his Stallions lose some close ball games and finish 4-6 overall.

High School Football

FROM PAGE 15

16.

The 1-9 campaign was particularly difficult for a Lee program which one year earlier, in 2009, had put together a solid 9-4 season and made it all the way to the Division 5 region championship game.

The Lancers, with Martin as head coach, will be looking to once again find that winning formula. Their first game is set for Thursday night, Sept. 1 of this week versus visiting Marshall High, which is also coming off a 1-9 season in 2010. Lee's week two opponent will be Edison, which will host visiting Lee next Friday, Sept. 9.

Lake Braddock is on its most remarkable football run in its long history as a program following Division 6 region titles in both 2009 and 2010. The Bruins dominated Chantilly in last year's region finals game.

Head coach Jim Poythress knows each opponent this season will be looking to make their season with a win over the Bru-

ins, whose lone regular season loss last fall came in a week five 10-7 setback to rival Robinson. The Bruins did not lose another game until falling to Battlefield High, 35-27, in the state AAA semifinals.

In 2009, Lake Braddock defeated Woodson High in the region finals and ultimately went all the way to the state championship game before losing.

So the Bruins know all about winning and will give it their best shot this season to capture another Patriot District crown as well as perhaps a third region crown. Lake Braddock will face a tough week one challenge when it hosts Centreville High this Friday, Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The visiting Wildcats experienced a turnaround season a year ago under Chris Haddock and qualified for the Division 6 playoffs before losing to Robinson in a quarterfinals round game.

Lake Braddock will play its first road game next week, Friday, Sept. 9, when it travels to Annandale.



Lake Braddock coach Jim Poythress and his Bruins will host Centreville in their season opener on Friday night.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Burke Facility # 28066
5701 Burke Centre Parkway
Burke, Virginia 22015

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Burke Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of Liquid Phase Hydrocarbon at the Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite 1
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on September 18, 2011. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt Kochan at (703) 583-3821 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until (October 18, 2011) and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2010-3109.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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-Werner Heisenberg

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