

Fall Fun

PAGE 8

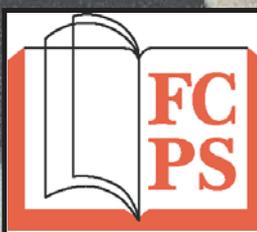
Robinson senior
Chance Rye tallied 23
kills during a Sept. 22
victory against
West Springfield.

Rams Top Spartans

SPORTS, PAGE 16

Second Debate In Braddock

NEWS, PAGE 4



INSIDE
**FAIRFAX
COUNTY
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
State of The Schools Report

PRST STD
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MARTINSBURG, WV
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CIRCULATION
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COUNCIL

Labovitz Sentenced on Misdemeanors

Peter Labovitz, President and CEO of Connection Newspapers, has been sentenced to six months for two misdemeanor counts of failing to fully pay the company's payroll taxes for two quarters in 2007 in a timely manner.

Magistrate Judge John F. Anderson acknowledged Labovitz's long record of leadership in civic and business affairs at a hearing in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on Sept. 27. He cited scores of letters to the court praising Labovitz's commitment to community journalism as head of Connection Newspapers and his years of community service.

Anderson said Labovitz's history of service "weighed heavily" in his decision not to impose a longer sentence, citing "your service to the community, the newspapers and other organizations" and "your support for your family, not just your wife and daughters, but also to your grandchildren." But Anderson said some incarceration was necessary "to give credence to adequate deterrence."

Labovitz will pay more than \$645,000 in restitution.

In a statement in July, when he pled guilty to the misdemeanors, Labovitz took full responsibility and cited economic challenges: "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."

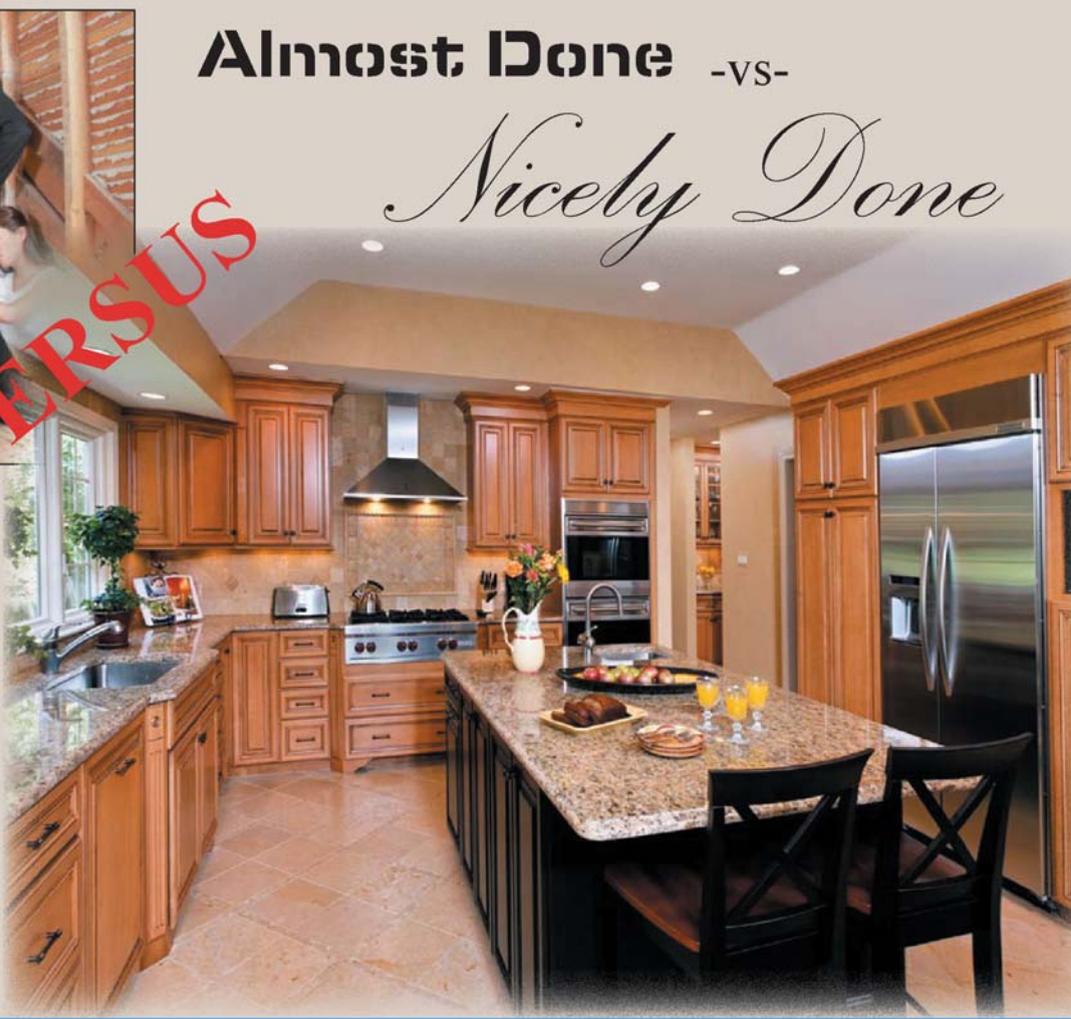
Beware of the Clifton Haunted Trail on Oct. 29

The Clifton Haunted Trail is slated for Saturday, Oct. 29, from 7-10 p.m., in the Town of Clifton's Eight-Acre Park. Tickets are \$12, adults; and \$6, children. Sturdy shoes are recommended; snacks and beverages are available. The trail is not recommended for young children. For more information, see www.cliftonhauntedtrail.org.

More than 100 Clifton residents volunteer to put on the Haunted Trail and act in the scenarios that include everything from ghouls, vampires, witches, ghosts, pirates and zombies to crazed men with chainsaws. It's definitely not for the faint of heart.



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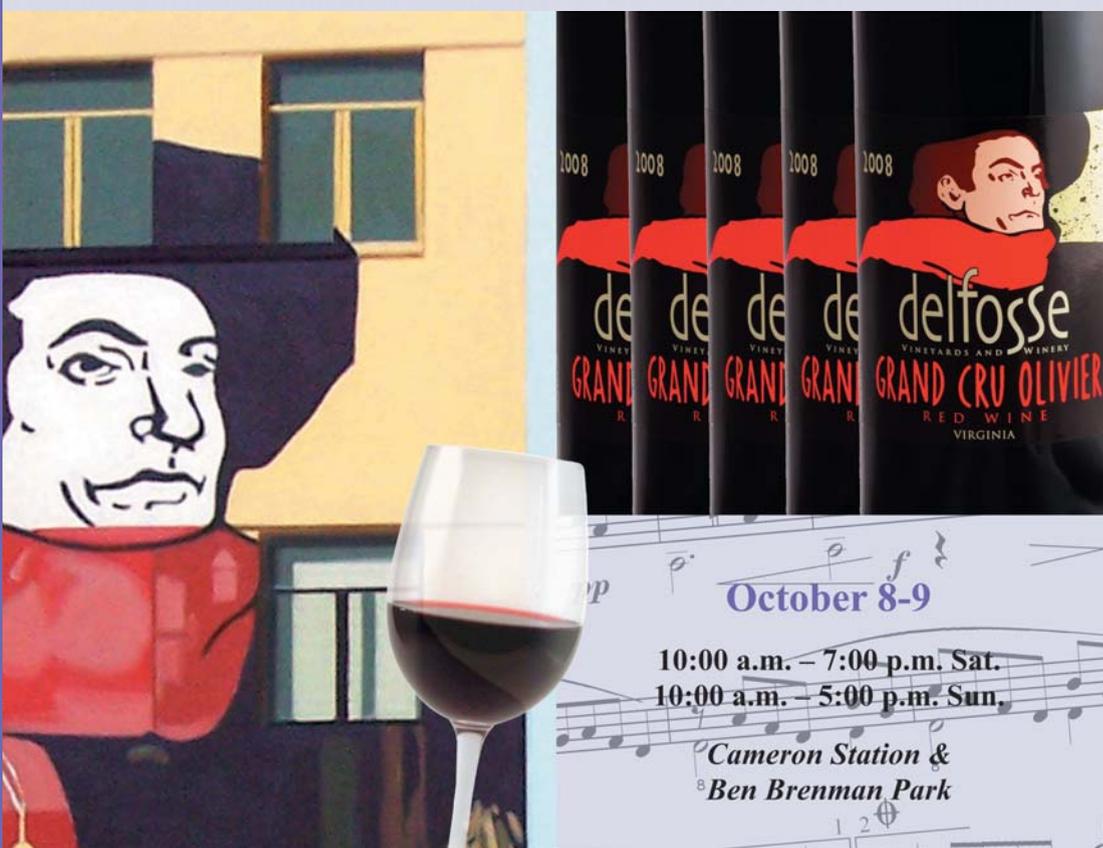


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This publication was made possible through the support of the Alexandria Marketing Fund.

FALL FUN

Of Pumpkins, Pirate Ships and Hayrides

Annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground opens Oct. 1 at Burke Nursery and Garden.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

What does the perfect pumpkin look like? Find out at the 17th annual Pumpkin Playground and Fall Festival at the Burke Nursery and Garden Center, where visitors can peruse 20 tons, or about 1,500 plump, orange pumpkins.

"Fall is such a wonderful time of year to me around here, and the Pumpkin Playground is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to have fun with their children. It's a totally different kind of experience," said general manager Fred Dickinson, who has been organizing the festival with his wife, Casandra, for the past 17 years.

The festival started with one pumpkin fort a few dozen pumpkins for sale, Dickinson said. He said he remembers when the nursery didn't even start selling carving pumpkins until the last two weeks of October.

"When we started this, we had our pumpkins and our pumpkin forts. We were giving hay rides in the field, just playing around, and our customers were very responsive to that, so we decided to turn it into a real old-fashioned fall festival. Kids have a ball," he said.

The event, spread out over four acres, now features several pumpkin forts, hayrides, a 90-foot burlap sack slide, two smaller slides, pumpkins crawls, a merry-go-round, farm animals, face-painting and a giant sand pile, where children can dig

Pumpkin Playground Details

Burke Nursery and Garden Centre will host its 17th annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, and its nursery on 9401 Burke Road.

Festival hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. There are activities designed to be both fun and educational for all designed for children of all ages.

Cost of admission on weekdays is \$9 per person; weekend price is \$12 per person. (Columbus Day will have the same activities as weekends, and the admission price will be \$12.) Children under the age of 2 are admitted free. Each paid admission receives a small patch pumpkin and unlimited hay rides (wheel chair accessible). For more information, go to www.pumpkinplayground.com or call 703-323-1188.

for coins and other treasures.

There is also a food tent with hamburgers, hot dogs, apple cider, popcorn and other goodies.

A popular feature is the festival's produce tent, where visitors can purchase homemade jams, jellies and pick out fall harvest fruits and vegetables.

"Our granddaughter, Katherine, has been every year. She's 11 now, and she still loves it," Dickinson said. "Kids can't always play in the woods, like I did when I was young, so this is next best thing."



FILE PHOTOS

Julio Custillo drives the tractor that pulls the hayride at the Burke Nursery and Garden Centre's Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground in 2010.



Last year's Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground boasted a western scene, complete with a jail and O.K. Corral.



Jennie and Addison Herklotz enjoy the tractor ride last year through the woods at the Burke Nursery and Garden Centre. The 17th annual Fall Festival and Pumpkin Playground runs through Oct. 31 and is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. each day.

Parkways in Fast Lane for 'Primary Roads' Status

At the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, the Board voted to ask the state to change the classification of the Fairfax County Parkway and Franconia Springfield Parkway from secondary roads to primary roads.

"Late last year, I requested the Board consider asking Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to make this change to bring the roads' classification more in line with their actual function," said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). "This should lead to an increase in construction and maintenance focus and dollars by VDOT." Herry said that VDOT officials indicated they will make the change as quickly as possible.

In addition to parkway maintenance, Herry said VDOT completed a study that entailed a comprehensive review of the Fairfax County Parkway between Route 7 and Interstate 95 to determine what measures could be put in place to decrease the number of median-crossover crashes on the parkway and improve overall safety.

"Of several proposals put forth, one that was actually funded was the addition of a barrier in the median of certain portions of the parkway. The contract for this work is expected to be put out for bids in November," Herry said. To view the entire study, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/2-23_vdot_presentation.pdf.

Herry also announced that VDOT will begin paving a section of the parkway between Burke Lake and Lee Chapel roads later this year, and additional sections of the parkway (exact locations not finalized yet) are scheduled to be repaved beginning next spring.

"Some patching work on the parkway has been completed, but the condition of the road remains terrible and continues to deteriorate," Herry said.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Rabies Awareness Week

In observance of National Rabies Awareness Week 2011, Fairfax County Animal Control Officers urge pet owners to "Protect the ones you love; vaccinate for rabies!" as they continue their local rabies awareness campaign.

So far, two foxes and three raccoons have tested positive for rabies since the inception of the campaign in early September. For more information on rabies, check www.cdc.gov/rabies. For information on vaccinating a pet, including periodic low-cost vaccination clinics, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/rabies.htm>.

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

Officers will knock on doors to tell residents 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's home, officers will leave a flyer at the door.

The goal is to prevent human exposure to rabies through education. In addition, residents should report unusual or suspicious wildlife behavior at 703-691-2131. 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.

All dogs 4 months of age and older must also have a dog license; failure to license a dog or inoculate pets against rabies may result in fines of up to \$250. For more information about rabies, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals> or www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/.

NEWS



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

From left, host and timekeeper Denny D'Alelio; moderator Ellen Oppenheim, Carey Campbell (I), Janet Oleszek (D) and incumbent John Cook (R).

Debate Becomes Verbal Scuffle

Braddock candidates focus on transportation, traffic congestion.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

What started as a patriotic, Lincoln-Douglas style debate on the front-lawn of a private home in Annandale quickly devolved into an old-fashioned shouting match between a candidate and the timekeeper over the meaning of free speech.

The second debate in the race for Braddock District supervisor, hosted by Denny and Suzie D'Alelio on Saturday, Sept. 24, included Republican incumbent John Cook, challenger Janet Oleszek (D) and Independent candidate Carey Campbell. After introducing the candidates to the crowd of about 75 people, moderator Ellen Oppenheim called for civility and decorum during the event.

The plea went unheeded. Campbell, who labels himself the "more trains, less traffic" candidate, has tagged Cook with the moniker "borrow-and-spend incumbent," and often refers to Cook's conservatism as "ideological neo-con junk." When Campbell began using those terms Saturday, he was interrupted by host and timekeeper Denny D'Alelio, who warned Campbell not to take verbal potshots at Cook. Oppenheim also warned Campbell that he was breaking the rules by name-calling, and D'Alelio told Campbell to stop his "personal attacks" or he would oust Campbell from the debate.

When Campbell defended his right to "free speech," calling his comments about Cook "statements of facts," the verbal scuffle escalated. D'Alelio called

Campbell "a jerk" a few audience members shouted at Campbell to sit down, and one yelled "Is this maintaining decorum?"

Cook and Oleszek, who ignored Campbell's comments, agreed to move on.

The rest of the debate centered on questions about the traffic congestion, control of local roadways and funding for education.

In response to several questions about traffic and road maintenance, Cook reiterated his stance that traffic and road maintenance would improve with "local control of local roads."

"If you saw the debates with the previous Braddock incumbent, you know those were always gentle."

— Carey Campbell

state," Cook said.

He said local control was a common-sense solution and "our neighborhoods continue to suffer with tall grass and pot-holed marked roads as a result."

Oleszek responded that Cook's "no" votes on the county's budget the last two years have impacted the county's ability to provide core services. She said that tight Fairfax County budgets led to the roads not being maintained through by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, which has been an "authorized agent of VDOT," since 2003.

"Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) needs an advocate not an adversary," Oleszek said, maintaining that she would support the chairman proposed budgets.

Cook countered that "Janet's solution is a band-aid ... the community labor force has not been decimated by the budget cuts."

Both campaigns released post-debate statements

SEE BRADDOCK, PAGE 5

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Braddock Supervisor

FROM PAGE 4

clarifying their position on the issue.

On Monday, Oleszek's campaign announced that Oleszek and Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry (D) agreed to plans to clean up local roadways and cut overgrown medians in the Braddock District.

"The community labor force is non-violent inmates from the Fairfax County Detention Center that are available to work on government property," Oleszek said.

"I have always had a great relationship with Janet and would be happy to work with her on this project" said Barry. "The use of inmate labor saves money for the taxpayers and improves the community."

Barry is the Democratic nominee for a fourth term as Fairfax's sheriff this November. In previous elections, Barry has won every precinct in the Braddock District.

"Our first priority in Fairfax County should be keeping our community safe," Oleszek said. "I will make the expansion of this program a top priority of my office in the next budget." Oleszek also noted that the unmaintained roadways were "unattractive and make us appear to be a community in decline."

"My opponent

doesn't understand this issue," Cook said in a statement released Monday. "In the first debate, she called my proposal 'privatization,' which it is not. This time, she said our roads have tall grass because of county budget cuts. That has nothing to do with our roads, which are all owned and maintained by the state."

Cook said that "the use of inmate labor to mow some roadway grass was never a permanent solution. There aren't enough inmates in the jail to cover all of Fairfax's roads, and the community labor force is still active despite budget reductions."

"The problem is structural," Cook said. "In Virginia, the state funds road maintenance for counties based on the assumption that they are rural and need little funding. Urban roads receive a higher payment from the state."

Cook noted that Arlington receives more than \$16,000 per lane mile from the state to maintain its roads, while VDOT spends \$5,000-6,000 per lane mile in Fairfax. "Any devolution of road responsibility to counties must be accompanied by a more realistic formula," Cook said.

IN RESPONSE to questions about area traffic congestion, including the bottlenecks at Braddock Road and Route 123, Campbell

promoted bike-share programs and passenger Virginia Railway Express (VRE) service.

Cook said he has worked with citizens and a group of bipartisan legislators to launch several initiatives to ease congestion, including the \$15 million West Campus Connector project. In April, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) announced that the connector was

among the list of nearly 900 new transportation upgrades in Gov.

Robert McDonnell's (R) Six-Year Improvement Program.

"The best part about this is that (George Mason University) owns the land, so we already

— Janet Oleszek

have the right-of-way, and it will smooth the way for faster construction. It's a win-win for everyone," Hugo said.

As supervisor, Oleszek said, she would work at the state and federal levels to develop better relationships that would benefit county roadways. Oleszek said the congestion on Braddock and Route 123 could be eased by a simple solution of synchronized signal and two left turn lanes.

One early question involved asking candidates to take a pledge not to accept campaign contributions from real estate developers. Campbell, saying he was the most "fiscally" conservative candidate, said he supported having Fairfax County supervisors sign a pledge not to accept contributions from real estate interests with business before the board.

Oleszek said it was a "questionable question. Would I pledge never to receive real estate donations? No." She added that contributions would not affect her governing decisions. "My values will always guide how I vote," she said.

Cook said he would not sign such a pledge, adding that there are already state campaign finance laws that require all disclosures of campaign contributions.

"Why is it just real estate? Why not unions? The list could go on and on. Where do you draw the line? ... I vote the way I think is right," Cook said.

In closing statements, Cook stressed his community initiatives and the importance of working with local civic groups and seeking resident input. Oleszek, a former School Board member, emphasized her commitment to education and neighborhoods. She reiterated that said she would not reduce funding for education and public safety.

Campbell drew audience laughter with his closing comments. "Listen, I thank you so much. It's been a great joy. ... God bless you all for being here. ... If you saw the debates with the previous Braddock incumbent, you know those were always gentle. ... I have loved every second of this."

"Our first priority in Fairfax County should be keeping our community safe."

"I vote the way I think is right."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

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Overabundance

If you've lived almost anywhere in Northern Virginia for 10 years or longer, you probably remember when it was a bit of a thrill to catch sight of a deer.

Now in some neighborhoods, it can be a bit surprising if you don't see half a dozen deer in a mile at dusk. With the automobile the only active predator, and a remarkable 24-hour buffet set on nearly every block, the deer population is growing. Along with the growing deer population come serious impacts on people, as well as the deer and other plants and creatures.

If you drive in suburban Washington, chances are you know someone who has hit a deer, or had a deer hit them while driving. This has proved to be fatal for the driver in a small number of cases, but nearly always results in death or serious injury for the deer, plus often thousands of dollars in damage to the vehicle.

Lyme disease is an increasing problem, which can have serious health consequences if untreated. Lyme disease is often overlooked as a diagnosis.

The large deer population is hard on other flora and fauna. Not only do the deer consume vegetable gardens and landscaping, they damage habitat needed by other wildlife and impact native plants and young trees.

But even as we admit that something needs to be done about the deer population, it's difficult for many to embrace hunting in urban/suburban areas. Some residents have safety concerns, some are concerned about the suffering of the deer.

EDITORIAL

Last year, Fairfax County's archery program killed 452 deer in 11 county parks, more than half the 815 deer killed through the county's deer management program on parkland. Last year marked the most deer killed since the deer management program began in 1998. Sharpshooting operations, conducted at 15 parks by Fairfax County police, killed another 226 deer. Managed hunts killed 137 deer at four parks.

Bow hunting allowed on private property is also part of county efforts to keep the deer population in check. With the deer population likely more than 25,000, it's not clear that such numbers will make enough of an impact.

Fairfax County will again use bow hunting, sharp shooting and managed hunts from now through March 2012 in efforts to control the population of deer. The sharpshooting and managed hunts will be conducted at selected park sites throughout the county.

Bow hunting began last weekend and will run until February in parks in every part of Fairfax County: Lake Accotink and Accotink Stream Valley park in Springfield; Wakefield Park in Annandale, Eakin Park in Fairfax, Laurel Hill Park and golf course in Lorton, Pohick Stream Valley, South Run Stream Valley and Lake Mercer in Springfield; Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, Confederate Fortifications Historic Site and Johnny Moore Stream Valley Park near Clifton; Eleanor C. Lawrence Park and Cub Run Stream Valley Park in Chantilly;

Adapting suburban, urban sensibilities to controlling deer; adapting deer control to suburban, urban sensibilities.

Sully Woodlands Park and Sully Historic Site; Colvin Run Stream Valley and Difficult Run Stream Valley parks, along with Riverbend Park in Great Falls; Difficult Run Stream Valley and Clark's Crossing parks in Vienna; Sugarland Run Stream Valley park in Herndon, and Huntley Meadows in Mount Vernon. Bow hunting is also used at Fort Belvoir, Mason Neck, and on private property. It is a continuous program with bow hunting allowed six days a week from just before dawn until sunset.

Managed hunts will go forward in two county park authority parks, Sully Woodlands on Nov. 17 and Jan. 12, and Scotts Run Dec. 14-16.

More research is needed. U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) sponsored legislation that would direct more funding to develop a better test for Lyme disease. There are methods under study to apply some insecticide to deer to kill the ticks that spread Lyme disease. Some breakthrough method of curbing reproduction would be a welcome addition to deer management.

What are your thoughts? Have you seen bow hunters in the parks you frequent? Do you have an anecdote to relate about deer? We also welcome your photos.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Vote 'Yes' On School Bond

To the Editor:

Many of our public schools desperately need to be updated so our children have the classrooms and equipment they need to thrive. All Fairfax County citizens can play a role in making this a reality by voting "yes" on the school bond referendum on Nov. 8. The school bond provides low-interest funding to improve more than 20 schools across Fairfax County, with no increase in our tax bills, and without jeopardizing the county's AAA bond rating.

Supporting the school bond means supporting technology upgrades, roof replacements, HVAC replacement, athletic infrastructure, ADA upgrades, security improvements and more. And with interest rates and construction costs at historic lows, there has never been a better opportunity to invest in our schools. With many of the multi-national companies in Fairfax County citing our world-class schools a reason why they decided to locate here, investment in our schools is also an invest-

ment in our economic future.

Supporting the school bond referendum is a great opportunity to support the future of Fairfax County. Vote "yes" on Nov. 8.

Randy Becker
Fairfax Citizens for Better Schools
Springfield District

In Support Of Cook

To the Editor:

My name is Shaw Skurnick. I have lived in the Braddock District for 2.5 years with my wife. We enjoy the safe neighborhoods and all of the opportunities that this area has to offer.

Ever since John Cook was elected supervisor of the Braddock District, I have been delighted by everything that he has done to keep my community and my family safe.

One key example of John Cook's dedication to the community can be seen from his response to last year's massive snowstorms. Rather than packing up and going home, during the snowstorms, even with the power going in and out, John Cook ensured that all of his con-

stituents were informed and safe. Even though our county government has no direct control over snow plowing, John and his staff worked around the clock during the snow storms to answer phone calls and e-mails, keep residents informed through frequent e-mail updates, and pass on our concerns. John even called the Secretary of Transportation in Richmond to ask for plows to be sent to neighborhoods the state had neglected.

In addition to keeping our community safe and informed, John has also worked to promote community unity. He began the Community Engagement Initiative and has successfully launched new neighborhood watch programs, parties and potlucks, and park clean-ups. John Cook recognizes that we all play a role as responsible citizens to promote a positive and prosperous community.

John truly cares about his constituents, and he makes for a fantastic supervisor of the Braddock District.

That is why I encourage every member of my community to vote to reelect John Cook for Braddock District Supervisor.

Shaw Skurnick
Burke

Confused Candidate?

To the Editor:

In the article "One Down, Nine To Go" [Connection, Sept. 21-27, 2011], we learn [Braddock District supervisor candidate Janet Oleszek (D) is confused, about several things. In the terrible, horrible winter of 2009 most residents of Fairfax County learned to their extreme surprise that the county does not control its own roads, and this is an issue that incumbent Supervisor John Cook (R) has taken up as essential for the future of the county. This is what Oleszek took as privatizing roads. Perhaps her campaign manager can school her on the Dillon Rule, which Virginia operates under and which is the reason the county has neither total control of its roads or taxes. Both Arlington and Henrico counties settled this matter with the Commonwealth over 50 years ago, but for Fairfax to do the same there needs to be willing negotiators in place at the state and the county level simultaneously. There are willing partners in the McDonnell administration,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

but not much understanding among the majority on the Fairfax Board of Supervisors.

Oleszek is also in the dark about the Fairfax County pension systems for public employees and may have confused the three distinct plans — police, fire fighters and SEIU workers — with the state pension plans. At any rate, she went to Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and they released a joint statement that made no sense and had the facts totally wrong.

Cook is concerned that the plans are under-funded due to the prevailing and perilous economic conditions. This a problem we have seen play out in other states recently, and he is leading the effort on the board to resolve the issue sooner rather than later. Both Cook and Bulova participated in a decision to hire an outside consultant to determine the breadth of the problem and to make recommendations this fall. The county's citizens and public employees can rest assured that Supervisor Cook is working on their behalf despite the Bulova-Oleszek confusion.

Linda Bartlett
Annandale



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FALL  FUN

Can We Do It All?

GMU student balances school, work and music in pursuit of his dream.

BY STEPHANIE LANHAM
THE CONNECTION

With all of life's distractions, how can one accomplish their dreams? Many young adults living in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area are in constant juggle with what they should do, what they want to do and what the need to do.

Finding balance between an overwhelming assortment of responsibilities and activities can be quite difficult. These typically range from school to extracurricular activities to even working a full or part-time job.

Taking classes at a nearby campus like George Mason University is the norm for most. One particular student worth mentioning is Kamal Kalifa, a senior at George

Mason University.

Kalifa is a triple studies student majoring in communications with a concentration in media production and criticism, along with two minors, one in conflict analysis and the other in psychology. He is currently enrolled in an extremely heavy load this semester, at a maximum of 18 credits.

Kalifa is also the bassist of a pop-rock band called Escape the Armada. He understands the importance of school, alongside his not-so-traditional rock star career path.

"School is extremely important for both me and my band as well," he said. "I have learned a tremendous amount from my classes and am able to incorporate them towards the band."

"The musicians who tend to stray away from college have it all wrong."

— Kamal Kalifa

SEE THE ART, PAGE 9



DONATED PHOTO

George Mason University senior Kamal Kalifa

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FALL FUN

The Art of Balancing

FROM PAGE 8

"The musicians who tend to stray away from college have it all wrong," Kalifa said. "They are assuming they can either play music or go to school, but it's that balance that truly makes a difference." Being involved in both school and a band are imperative to his wants and dreams. They go hand-in-hand with what he wants to do later in life.

"My major currently benefits the band and will in future endeavors as well," he said. "As my concentration being media production and criticism, I have learned the foundation of video, audio and radio production.

Not only does Kalifa focus on his wants, but he also finds time to help out at his family's business, a local flower shop, working an additional 30 hours a week.

Kamal usually has late nights, until 4 a.m., studying for his classes. Between classes, he finds time to meet with his band twice a week, once for practice and another time for brand management and business.

The band works together as a team, as each of member pursues his personal, as well as the band's collective goals. Kalifa gains support from the other band members and manager by implementing a task delegation operation. This helps with everything, including online marketing to studio time.

As a postscript, Kalifa is currently finishing up his last semester at George Mason University, while also getting ready for his band's album, *Monster*, to be released on Oct. 4.

The album will be available on iTunes, Amazon, Rhapsody and other major online music sites. *Escape the Armada* has performed at various local venues, as well as venues along the East Coast. The band has also performed with Shanell from Young Money Entertainment, who also sponsors artists such as Lil Wayne, Drake, and Nicki Minaj. For more information on *Escape the Armada*, visit www.escapethearmada.com.



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One Goes into 'Seven'

Actor stages one-man show of classic film 'The Seven Samurais.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A fast-paced, action-packed, wordless epic story with plenty of sounds," said David Gaines of his one-man creation "7 (x1) Samurai." His show is a take on the celebrated movie "The Seven Samurai" later remade into "The Magnificent Seven."

"Without words but with sounds, I will establish the story of a tiny Japanese village plagued by a band of brutal bandits" leading to a spectacular battle that is the climax of the show," Gaines said.

"Everyone understands the fear of being bullied. Everyone dreams of finding someone to help them with the bullies and the bad guys," said Gaines. "Knowing the original Akira Kurosawa movie is not necessary to understand the show. Don't fear if you don't know it."

Gaines will perform his 60-minute "7 (x1) Samurai" as a mixture of mime, action and non-verbal storytelling. "I do it without visible props such as the expected swords, peppered throughout with rhythmic, non-verbal sounds, but not actual words. It is not a mime or clown show done in silence."

A Falls Church native and George Mason University Professor, Gaines will perform

dozens of roles in the choreographed physical movements in a special two performance, limited run at George Mason University's Laski Performing Arts venue.

"With all the action, gestures and sound effects it is as if the audience will get to see a live version of a Bugs Bunny cartoon doing 'Kill Bill' with images created in the audience's head," said Gaines.

He performs outfitted in specially designed Japanese style attire, pale white make-up highlighted with color along with two Noh-type masks to provide a visual depiction expressing a character's good or bad nature.

"The masks bring the performance to a higher level of theatricality," said Gaines. "They are so very important to the performance. The masks even help me bring characters to heroic levels." So that the shifting of masks does not stop the action during a performance he "changes masks almost quickly and magically while spinning around from one character to another."

When asked about his early mime and clown schooling, Gaines said he received a post-graduate TJ Watson Fellowship in the 1970s that allowed him to be trained at the renowned Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris where he "learned the poetry of theater without words including the grammar and challenges in developing non-verbal story-



PHOTO BY AUDE GUERRUCCI

David Gaines switches masks in '7 (x1) Samurai.'

telling." Gaines has performed the 7 (x1) Samurai" in venues throughout the world.

For Ken Elson, chair of the GMU Department of Theater, Gaines' performance is "a great opportunity for audiences to enjoy themselves and see a dynamic and distinct piece of physical theater. It really is a masterpiece."

Where and When

Performances of '7 (x1) Samurai,' are Oct. 14 and 15, at 8 p.m., at TheatreSpace, Laski Performing Arts Building, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, Virginia. Tickets are \$30. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu or www.gmu.edu. This is a Friends of Theater Mason Special Event, which benefits scholarships.



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There's Never Been a Better Time to Be a Student in Fairfax County Public Schools!

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) bus comes to a stop at the curb in front of the school. The engine continues to hum as the brakes let out a hiss. Standing eagerly at the curb are three smiling staff members waiting to greet the students. Students gather their backpacks and line up in the aisle. The students wait patiently as each child before them carefully navigates the steps off the bus. Their orderly line soon turns into a happy-go-lucky stride as they swing open the door to school, looking forward to seeing their classmates and teachers.



In every classroom, teachers are channeling the enthusiasm of their students and taking them on a journey that will inspire, motivate, and prepare them with knowledge and skills they will need for the future. Everyday, FCPS teachers help their students learn skills that will allow them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and

participate in the global economy. Teachers adjust their methods and techniques to meet the unique needs of individual students and challenge all students.

Look inside a classroom. An elementary school teacher leads a language arts class discussion on synonyms and antonyms. The teacher is using an interactive white board to demonstrate how the words are similar or opposite. Observe other classrooms where students work quietly in centers, or designated areas of a classroom, allowing for small group instruction and learning.

Visit a middle school and observe 8th grade students in the science lab using computers and probeware to study temperature change during chemical reactions. The geometry class down the hall is hard at work using theorems to determine if lines are parallel.

Take a seat in a high school auditorium where students are participating in a seminar about the Cold War, listening to speakers who share their stories as influential players during the war. In another classroom, students log onto their computers and access their online social studies textbooks that offer extra learning resources and interactive maps to enrich their learning.

Hear a tune coming from the band room down the hall? Open the door and your ears fill with the music of Frank Ticheli's *Vesuvius* played by the high school concert band. Beginning in grade 4, FCPS students can play an instrument and be part of the band



or orchestra, or even choose to sing in their school's chorus.

For many students, their day does not end with the learning in the classroom. Thousands of FCPS students participate in extracurricular activities which can enhance what they learn in the classroom and also provide important lessons in teamwork, cooperation, and problem solving.

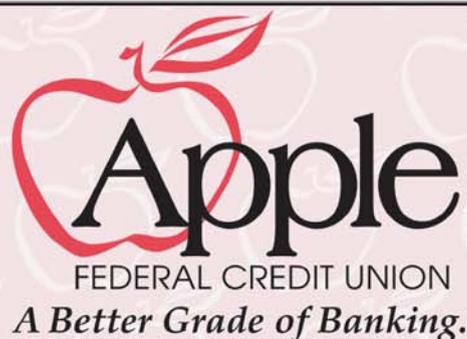
The clapping in the auditorium is coming from yet another sold-out performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Secondary and high schools throughout Fairfax County have established well-known theater programs that produce popular plays and shows.

The athletic fields and gymnasiums at FCPS schools are buzzing with activity most of days of the week as soccer, lacrosse, football, basketball, volleyball, and many more sports teams are

meeting to prepare for their next match.

Students can participate in a wide variety of activities as early as elementary school as members of the safety patrol, student government and school publications. At the middle and high school level, students can choose to get involved with the student newspaper or yearbook, join clubs, run for student government, try out for performance groups and athletics, and become a member of an honor society.

There's never been a better time to be a student in Fairfax County Public Schools!



This year's *State of Schools Report* courtesy of
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Greetings from Superintendent Jack Dale



Fairfax County Public Schools is fortunate to have the support of an engaged community, involved parents, talented principals and teachers, and motivated students. Our school system ranks among the best in the nation and throughout this State of the Schools Report, you will see why. We are very proud of the hard work and focus of our staff and students, which have resulted in our extraordinary student achievement gains. But there's always more to do to make sure every one of our students is reaching his or her highest potential—academically and personally.

In moving FCPS forward, we have to help each student find his or her element—the meeting point between natural aptitude and personal passion. Our commitment here in FCPS is to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to achieve at the highest levels and help our students discover what possibilities for passion lie within them.

However, the reality is that while the way we educate students remains somewhat static, our world is changing exponentially. Through lots of great interventions and technology, we educate more students to higher levels of success and often at younger ages, but all within the current model of education. I believe it's time to change the paradigm.

What should our education system look like and be like to prepare our students to create the possibilities and opportunities to succeed in the 21st century? We will start to have these conversations during this school year throughout our community. I invite you to join in that conversation by visiting a special web site we have set up where you can share ideas and comments about what the future should look like for FCPS at <http://fcps.uservoice.com>. Ideas will be posted on the site throughout the year. School system employees, parents, and members of the community are welcome to weigh in on these topics, vote for the ideas they prefer, and include their comments.

Thank you for your continued support of our school system, our families, and our students!

FCPS Focuses Relentlessly on Student Achievement....

FCPS has established three student achievement goals as a framework to prepare students for the world of college and beyond:

Academics - Students will integrate academic knowledge and 21st century skills, allowing them to succeed in personal, community, and workplace environments and to understand and participate in the global economy.

Essential life skills - Each student will demonstrate the ability to work with others and develop relationships through effective communication, cooperation, negotiation, honesty, and ethical behavior.

Responsibility to the community - Students will demonstrate an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, and rights specific to a democratic society such as expressing ideas, act-

ing responsibly toward self and others, making informed decisions, accepting accountability and consequences for actions, and practicing honesty and treating others with respect.

Each year, the School Board receives reports on how the school system is progressing toward reaching each of these goals.

... That Results in High Performance

- For the 2010 Standards of Learning tests, 92 percent of FCPS students passed mathematics and 93 percent of FCPS students passed reading.
- FCPS had the second highest graduation rate (91.2 percent) among the nation's 50 largest school districts.
- 91.7 percent of 2010 graduates are attending post-secondary programs.
- 65 percent of 2010 graduates earned advanced studies diplomas.

- All FCPS schools were in the top 6 percent of all American high schools as measured by their student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exams, according to the 2011 *Washington Post* rankings.
- A record 234 National Merit Scholars semifinalists were named from the class of 2011, the most in FCPS history.
- FCPS students earned more than 7,000 industry certifications during the 2009-10 school year, an increase of 86 percent from the previous year.

SAT Scores (Class of 2011)



THE TALENTS OF FCPS STAFF

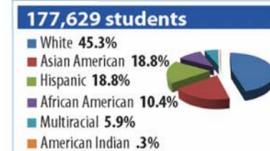
FCPS employs 22,980 staff (92.9 percent school based and 7.1 percent non-school based).

Just as every student brings individual strengths and needs to our classrooms, our teachers and staff bring unique skills and talent to prepare students for the future. More than 9,700 (64 percent) of teachers have master's degrees and more than 360 FCPS teachers are certified by National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential a teacher can earn.

Our principals provide strong leadership and focus on creating collaborative teams that use the best teaching practices to raise the bar

for all students and close the achievement gap. Principals also collaborate throughout the school system to share leadership strategies and success stories.

FCPS has the lowest ratio (0.8 percent) of non-school-based management positions to total school system positions in the entire metropolitan region. So while FCPS enrollment increased by 13,000 from 2007 to 2012, we hired 906 positions in the schools and decreased non-school positions by 130.



THE FACES OF FCPS STUDENTS 2011-12 Projected Enrollment: 177,629 students

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 11th largest school system in the United States with nearly 200 schools and centers.

Diversity is one of FCPS' greatest strengths and is an important part of creating resilient, caring, and innovative citizens of a global community. Our schools support more than 23,000 students who receive services for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and more than 24,000 students who receive special education services. One in four students (or 45,000) is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, the federal measure of poverty.

More Ways Why FCPS is a World-Class School System

- Closing the achievement gap between black and white students and Hispanic and white students is a priority for FCPS. Over the past three years, the black/white achievement gap on Standards of Learning (SOL) reading tests continues to decline from 13 percent to 10 percent. The Hispanic/white achievement gap on SOL reading tests increased from 10 percent to 11 percent. On SOL math tests, the achievement gap between black students and white students declined from 15 percent to 13 percent. The Hispanic achievement gap also declined from 16 percent three years ago to 11 percent.
- FCPS is one of eight school divisions in Virginia to be recognized with 2011 **Excellence Award from the Virginia Board of Education**, which recognizes divisions that exceed minimum state and federal accountability standards and meet or exceed a number of performance indicators. In addition, 98 FCPS schools were honored for Virginia Index of Performance Awards.
- Nine students from FCPS won awards at the 2011 **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair**.
- FCPS received the 2011 **CIO 100 Award**, recognizing innovative use of technology, from *Chief Information Officer* magazine. FCPS was honored for creating and deploying the FCPS Electronic Curriculum Assessment Resource Tool (eCART), which provides teachers and school administrators with access to web-based curricula, assessments, tools and resources that support teaching and learning for grades K-12, and are available anytime and anywhere.
- The Broad Foundation recognized FCPS in 2010 as one of the top performing school districts in the nation for improving African-American and economically disadvantaged student achievement.



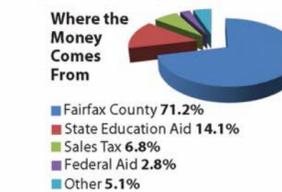
FCPS Manages Its Resources Responsibly

Two primary budgets help to fund the programs and facilities of Fairfax County Public Schools—the annual school operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program budget.

The school operating budget, which is approved by the Fairfax County School Board every year, provides for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the schools.

In FY 2011, FCPS ranks in the middle of other school districts in the Washington metropolitan area with a cost per pupil of \$12,597, a decrease of \$301, or 2.3 percent, from \$12,898. This decrease was due primarily to a lower county transfer and budget reductions. This represents the third consecutive year of declining per-pupil spending, with an overall decrease of \$810, or 6.0 percent, from FY 2008 to FY 2011.

2011-12 Fiscal Year Operating Budget -- \$2.2 billion



FY 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program -- \$805 million

Student enrollment continues to grow each year. More than 177,629 students attend FCPS, an increase of 2,333 students in one year alone. Enrollment has increased by 13,000 students since 2007. Additional space is needed to accommodate our growing student population and the accompanying normal wear and tear on buildings.

Since 2007, FCPS has built three new schools, renovated 10 schools, and completed three school building additions and eight modular additions. In 2011-12, FCPS is currently building two new schools and renovating 10 others. We will begin renovations on two schools and putting additions on nine other schools this year.

Did You Know ?

65 percent of FCPS graduates complete college-level courses in high school.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE PAST YEAR



Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Update

Fairfax County Public Schools is committed to the safety of all students and providing a secure learning environment at school. The *Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R)* handbook helps students understand both their right to be educated in a safe environment, and their responsibility for proper behavior. This year, the booklet has been updated to reflect recent Fairfax County School Board decisions about the discipline process. Some of the changes include:

- Principals will have increased discretion regarding consequences for possession of prescription drugs at school.
- Ensuring that before a student is reassigned from his or her base school, other disciplinary options would be considered, including loss of privileges.

- Providing, if feasible, academic support and other services to a student on out-of-school suspension to maintain academic progress.

Priority Schools Launch

As part of the school system's commitment to closing the achievement gap, 30 elementary and middle schools were designated as Priority Schools. These schools receive additional support in training, resources, and staff to ensure that all their students achieve at high levels. Support teams composed of central office staff provide new ideas and extra attention to the Priority School principals and teacher leaders so that any barriers are removed that might impede success. First-year results show significant gains in reading and math in many of the priority schools.

Online Textbooks for Social Studies

All FCPS students in grades 7-12 began using online textbooks this year in all core social studies classes. Online textbooks offer resources to differentiate and enrich student learning and can include built-in features such as read aloud, highlighting, dictionaries, glossaries, videos, and flashcards.

Full-Day Kindergarten Rollout

Beginning this fall, children entering kindergarten will attend a full-day program in every one of our 137 elementary schools. The completion of the implementation of full-day kindergarten in the remaining 36 elementary schools this year was a critical step that ensures all of our youngest students will receive the same educational opportunities.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Closing the Achievement Gap

While FCPS has made progress on closing the achievement gap, we haven't reached our goal of all students achieving at high levels. School system data show that black and Hispanic students still do not perform academically, as a group, as well as their white and Asian counterparts. A steady focus on best teaching practices, collaborative teams, and using data to drive decisions on teaching and learning strategies will result in the continued narrowing of the gap.



Larger Class Sizes

Fairfax County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. This year's budget provided for an increase of more than 2,300 additional students for the 2011-12 school year at a cost of \$28.4 million. As FCPS enrollment continues to grow, more resources will be needed to accommodate more teachers, learning materials, and classrooms.

Did You Know ?

Approximately 70 percent of high schoolers participate in student activities, and nearly 40 percent participate in Virginia High School League (VHSL) athletic or academic activities.

Teacher Compensation

More is demanded of teachers every year. They consistently update their professional training to improve their teaching skills, and are required to keep up with technology changes in their classrooms and new ways of collaborating together to ensure every child succeeds. In FY 2012, FCPS teachers (and all other employees) received their first salary increase in two years. FCPS believes in its teachers and wants to compensate them for the increase in demands of their jobs.

Fairfax County School Board

We Believe in Our Children

- Each child is important and entitled to the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential.
- High expectations promote high achievement.

We Believe in Our Teachers

- Effective teachers are essential to student success.
- Learning occurs best when instruction is tailored to individual needs.

We Believe in Our Public Education System

- Adults and children thrive in a vibrant, safe, enriching, and respectful environment.
- A well-rounded education enables students to lead fulfilling and culturally rich lives.
- An educated citizenry is critical to sustaining our economy and our system of self-governance.

We Believe in Our Community

- A dynamic partnership among students, parents, teachers, staff members, and the community is critical to exceptional student achievement.
- Our diversity creates resilient, open, and innovative citizens of the global community.



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Chairman,
Dranesville District



Ilryong Moon
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Member At Large



James L. Raney
Member At Large



Patricia S. Reed
Providence District



Kathy Smith
Sully District



Dan Storck
Mount Vernon District



Tessie Wilson
Braddock District



Parents, Citizens Invited to Education Summit on Saturday, October 15

Education is moving away from the traditional industrial model and evolving into an era of customization in which individual student goals drive the learning process. The second annual **Fairfax Education Summit** will explore student goal setting, project-based learning, and new ways of measuring student success. Superintendent Jack Dale will lead a discussion panel composed of educators, students, and business leaders.

Please join parents, school system leaders, and community members at Woodson High School on October 15 from 8 a.m. to noon for this program, "Moving to the Next Level: Customizing Public Education."

For more details, visit www.fcps.edu

Getting to Know Us

Middle School Teacher **Jamie Sawatzky**



For Rocky Run Middle School history teacher Jamie Sawatzky, every new school year is like the opening day of baseball season. The year is a fresh start, a chance to work with a new group of students and help each of them hit an academic homerun.

Sawatzky, the Fairfax County Public Schools 2011 Teacher of the Year, brings history lessons to life for seventh graders at his school. Not only do his students learn about historical events, they participate in role play exercises to reinforce the lesson. For example, his students are assigned a position to debate the merits and expenses of the Social Security program while studying the New Deal or they each assume the identity of an immigrant arriving at Ellis Island.

Sawatzky also serves as a coach in FCPS' Great Beginnings, a comprehensive program that provides support to new teachers through mentoring and professional learning opportunities.

"It is an extensive program designed to inspire teachers who are new to FCPS," he said. "The level of excitement in the new teachers is just great. Fairfax County recognizes that teaching is a profession and they provide the resources to help us on that journey."

Sawatzky has been teaching for 12 years. He is also the recipient of The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award for educational excellence.

Strengthening Schools with Business and Community Partners

More than 350 businesses, community organizations, and individuals have partnered with Fairfax County Public Schools. Through generous donations or time, each person makes a valuable contribution to creating a world-class school system and an environment that values learning. To date, 130 schools, supporting 3,800 students, have active mentoring programs.

If you would like to partner with FCPS, here are five ways to get involved:

- Mentor a child
- Partner with a school
- Partner systemwide
- Support an existing partnership
- Help develop or advance an educational initiative

To learn more about how your business or community group can support the schools, please visit www.fcps.edu.

For more information on Fairfax County Public Schools, visit www.fcps.edu.

Be sure to look for regular updates about Fairfax County Public Schools every month right here in your Connections/Gazette newspaper!



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Did You Know ?

In partnership with the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools was launched this year to support the mission of the world-class school system to inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, as defined by the superintendent, through resource development and business partnerships.

Learn more at <http://www.fairfaxchamber.org>

High School Senior **E. J. Coleman III**



E.J. Coleman's week is similar to many other high school seniors. He's an active member of the Mount Vernon High School debate team, the National Honor Society, the Men of Vision and Purpose program and many other clubs. He is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at his school and he serves as a Battalion commander in the Marine Corps JROTC. He's even a licensed pilot. But the one thing that sets him apart from other seniors? He's the student representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

Coleman said he wanted to serve on the School Board because he is interested in politics.

"I saw it as a way for me to help other students in Fairfax County Public Schools in a more direct way. Before I was elected to the position I spoke at different public hearings and that was a way to help other students. This position allows me to have more of a positive impact on a larger group of my peers," he said.

Coleman has served as class president and was elected Governor at Boy's State last summer. His experience at Boy's State gave him the opportunity to meet students from around the country.

"I'm especially proud to say that Fairfax County Public Schools is one of the best school systems in the country and that it has been recognized internationally," he said. "I am also proud of the fact that some of the best students in the country would give me the honor of representing them on the school board."

Lifelong Partners Through Education Apple Federal Credit Union and FCPS

Apple FCU is pleased to sponsor FCPS' outreach efforts in the *State of the Schools* initiative. This year, Apple and the Apple FCU Education Foundation were named the FCPS Business Partner of the Year and we're honored to be associated with this premier school district.

Serving the Education Community Since 1956

No one understands educators, students and their families better than Apple FCU. Our commitment to the education community is evident through our exclusive product and service offerings and support for student achievement and academic success.

19 Student Run Credit Unions (SRCU). Apple FCU was the first credit union in Virginia to deploy an SRCU program at Robert E. Lee HS in 1995, providing students with invaluable money management skills and financial literacy acumen.

Sponsorship of the Junior Achievement Finance Park. Apple hosts a storefront to provide practical skills and financial education to approximately 14,000, eighth-grade students.

Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive supports Fairfax County families in need with school supplies and backpacks.

FREE Money Management Workshops. Monthly workshops are provided to assist FCPS employees in meeting their financial dreams.

Apple FCU Education Foundation's partnership with the Great Beginnings New Teacher Induction Program.

For details, visit AppleFCU.org or call 703-788-4800.



FAITH

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

Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax, holds choir practice in the Sanctuary every Wednesday at 7 p.m. All are welcome. 703-323-1347

The Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road in Fairfax, has facilities available to help those who are experiencing a separation or divorce. 703-63-200 or www.fxcc.org.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will hold Fall Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays through Nov. 15 at 9:45 a.m. There will be no study on Nov. 8. The topic is "Basic Discipleship," and the cost is \$10. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

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.

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 school is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.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.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Early Morning Service is at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Baha'i of Fairfax County Southwest offers "Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity" for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road,

Burke, 22015.

International Calvary Church Sunday services in English are at 9:45 a.m., Korean services at 11:30 a.m. and youth services at 11:30 a.m. Sunday School classes in English are at 11:30 a.m. and children's classes at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible study and Youth Meeting are at 8 p.m. and Friday Prayer and Youth Meeting at 8:30 p.m. 5700 Hanover Ave., Springfield. 703-569-1918.

St. Leo the Great in Fairfax hosts "Night of Praise" the first Saturday of each month, featuring praise music and Eucharist adoration at 7 p.m. Located at 3704 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

The Immanuel Bible Church MOPS group meets on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. MOPS is a group for pregnant or parenting mothers of children from infancy to kindergarten. 703-922-4295 or www.MOPS.org.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation has services on Fridays, 6:30 p.m. and on Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. The temple is located at 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m., but is not available during the summer. 703-370-9400 or www.bethelhebrew.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, located at 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

Chronic Illness Workshop Series. 10:30 a.m. Woodburn Center for Community Mental Health, 3340 Woodburn Road, Annandale. First of six weekly workshops for people with a history of mental health issues. Free. DFSPIO@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Genealogy Workshop. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library Meeting Room 1, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. For those interested in DAR membership. Sponsored by Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. No registration required. 703-455-9009 or 703-690-7136.

Fairfax Art League Meeting. 10 a.m. Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. With a demonstration of pastels by Bonnie Ferguson Butler. www.fairfaxartleague.net.

MOMS Club of Burke-South Open House Meeting. 10 a.m. The Commons Community Center, 5701 Roberts Parkway, Burke. Children's crafts, snacks, and networking with other parents. Playgroups, mom's night out and more. www.momslub.org or burkesouthmoms@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Volunteers for Change Orientation. 12 p.m. Volunteer Fairfax Office, 10530 Page Ave., Fairfax. After orientation, volunteers can choose from monthly community service projects, including planting trees, bagging food for homeless families, tutoring adult ESL students, playing bingo with the disabled and more. Register at 703-246-3895 or jkivlin@vnteeerfairfax.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 11

Community Pools Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. With Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook. 703-802-3322, TTY 711.

Understanding the Challenges of Alzheimer's Disease for Caregivers. 9 p.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Gain insight into Alzheimer's disease. Learn how to improve communication and minimize behavior challenges. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices.

Caregiver Telephone Support Group: When Home Is No Longer An Option. 7 p.m. Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. One-hour free sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices for more information.

CONNECTION

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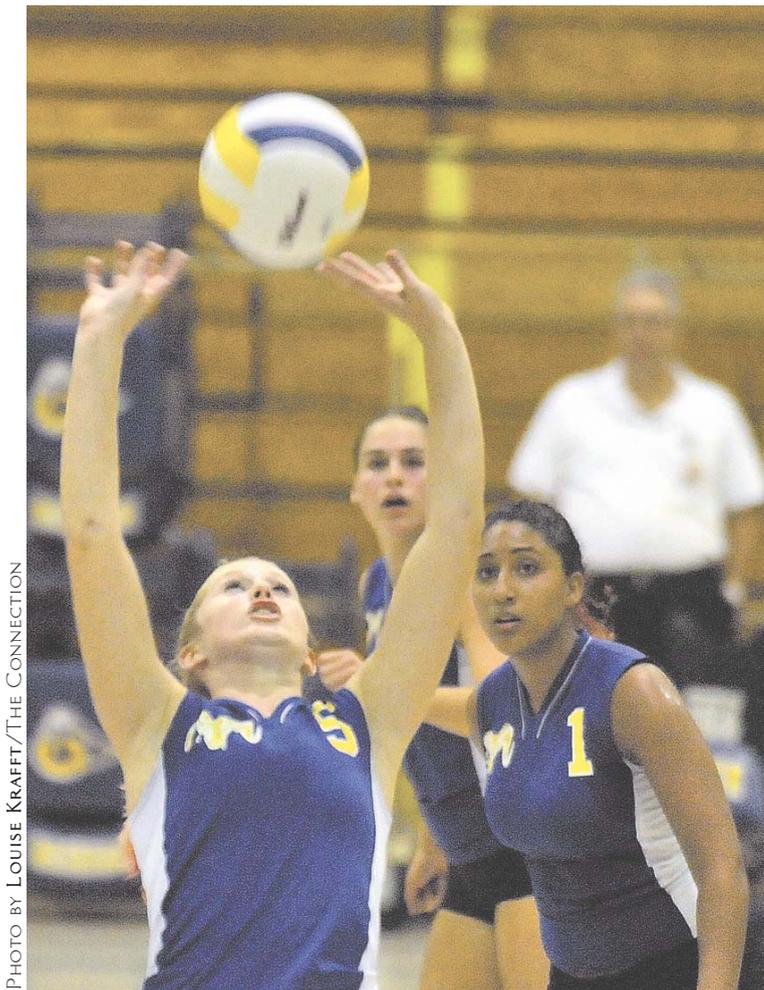


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Robinson's Sarah Miller sets the ball during a Sept. 22 match against West Springfield.

Rye's 23 Kills Propel Rams

Robinson senior helping ease the loss of star Murach.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Last season, Robinson middle/opposite hitter Chance Rye earned second-team all-Concorde District honors while benefiting from the attention to which opponents paid Rams two-time all-state outside hitter Susie Murach.

This season, Murach is a freshman on the Wingate University volleyball team and Rye, now a senior at Robinson, has become the Rams' top offensive threat and the focal point of Robinson opponents. On Sept. 22 against West Springfield, Rye showed she's up to the task.

Rye put down 23 kills and the Rams overcame a late deficit to defeat the Spartans 3-2 (22-25, 25-9, 24-26, 25-13, 15-11) at Robinson Secondary School. The Rams trailed 10-6 in the deciding fifth game, but responded by scoring nine of the game's final 10 points to pull out the win.

"It's amazing how this group has come together team chemistry-wise," Robinson head coach Jill

Pearson said. "They bought into the team-first philosophy and everyone ... understands their roles."

Robinson entered the match with a 2-2 record and ranked No. 6 in the Northern Region. Rye is one of just three seniors on the Rams' roster and she led the way with an impressive performance at the net.

"Obviously Chance, as I think most teams are figuring out, is our go-to girl," Pearson said. "She has a lot of experience through club and can make big plays and can step up when she needs to."

Rye, who said she is trying to take on a leadership role, deferred praise to the entire team for coming from behind to beat the Spartans. Sophomore Cara Cunningham tallied nine kills for Robinson. Senior Brenna Dolan had six kills, and juniors Anna Kulbaski and Somya Leskanich each had four. Senior Paige Brindley had five aces.

"We all trust each other and we all believe we can put the ball down," Rye said. "Susie was an awesome player and we really miss her, but our whole team just picks each other up. We don't have just one player supporting us, we have everybody there."

"We all trust each other and we all believe we can put the ball down."

— Robinson senior Chance Rye

"We all trust each other and we all believe we can put the ball down," Rye said. "Susie was an awesome player and we really miss her, but our whole team just picks each other up. We don't have just one player supporting us, we have everybody there."

After beating West Springfield, which entered the match ranked No. 3 in the region, Robinson defeated Langley, 3-2, and lost to Woodson, 3-2, on Sept. 24. The Rams also lost to Stone Bridge, 3-0, on Sept. 27. Robinson will host Lake Braddock on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 5:15 p.m.

After beating West Springfield, which entered the match ranked No. 3 in the region, Robinson defeated Langley, 3-2, and lost to Woodson, 3-2, on Sept. 24. The Rams also lost to Stone Bridge, 3-0, on Sept. 27. Robinson will host Lake Braddock on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 5:15 p.m.

Area Cross Country Teams Shine at Oatlands

McGorty captures first place in boys' race; Kolonich earns third in girls' race.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The annual midseason Oatlands Invitational high school cross country meet took place Sept. 17 at Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg. Numerous schools from the Northern Region participated in the huge showcase event.

In the varsity "A" boys' meet, consisting of 46 teams, Chantilly High, led by junior Sean McGorty, earned a second place overall finish with 197 team points, finishing behind champion Albemarle High (146 points) of Charlottesville. Other Northern Region teams competing in the "A" boys' race included fourth place Oakton (265), 11th place Jefferson High (282) of Alexandria, 15th place Hayfield, and 20th place Stone Bridge. South County

finished 26th and Annandale 28th. Madison, Westfield, Langley, Fairfax, and Marshall High Schools were also among the schools that competed.

Chantilly's McGorty captured the individual title with a time of 15 minutes, 30 seconds, finishing ahead of second place finisher Ahmed Bile, a senior from Annandale. Chantilly junior Logan Miller also had an outstanding race with a third place finish at 15:49. South County senior Jeff Puhek finished 10th place overall.

Three-hundred sixteen runners in all participated in the boys' race. Other good outings from Northern Region runners included: Stone Bridge sophomore Brady Guertin (23rd); Marshall High sophomore Mackenzie Haight (41st); Westfield High junior Jeff Edmondson (47th); Chantilly sophomore Peter Malander (also 47th); Oakton seniors Greg Petruncio (33rd), Pratik Singh (37th), Chris Jewell (52nd),

and Patrick Eberhart (55th); and Hayfield High's Jacob Miller (58th).

In the girls' "A" race, McLean, Madison, and Jefferson High Schools finished eighth, ninth, and 10th, respectively, in a field of 41 teams. Other Northern Region schools finishing in the top 25 were Oakton (15th), Washington-Lee (16th), Langley (17th), and Stone Bridge (22nd).

Top area individual finishers, included: Lee sophomore Bailey Kolonich (3rd place); Jefferson senior Katherine Sheridan (22nd); Oakton sophomore Hailey Dougherty (25th); Westfield senior Leidy Arias (32nd); McLean junior Hannah Dimmick (36th); South County junior Mary Gate Scully (40th); Madison freshman Amanda Swaak (45th); Langley senior Mary Fouse (50th); and McLean senior Alexa Tabackman (51st).

In the varsity "B" boys' race, Oakton finished sixth overall among 66 teams. Also among the top 25 teams were 11th place Centreville, 12th place Jefferson, and 14th place McLean. Top local individual finishers were: Centreville junior Chan Young-Lee (19th place); Lee High sophomore Biruk

Amare (23rd); Oakton sophomore Jack Stoney (43rd); Jefferson's Elliot Simon (45th); and McLean senior Jason Richards (46th).

In the varsity "B" girls' race, Chantilly High captured the team title with 81 points, finishing ahead of second place Briar Woods of Ashburn and third place Centreville High. Oakton (seventh place) and Hayfield (eighth) finished among the top 10 as well.

Oakton freshmen Allie Klimkiewicz captured the individual title with a first place finish.

Chantilly had three runners finish in the top 10. They were junior Kendall Crowe (fifth), freshman Xaveria Hawvemarle (sixth), and senior Carolyn Carlson (10th).

Centreville runners Rebecca Vinter, a junior, and freshman Jackie O'Shea finished eighth and ninth, respectively, while teammate Joanna Ahn, a freshmen, was 23rd overall.

Hayfield sophomore Abigail Power finished 14th.

SPORTS

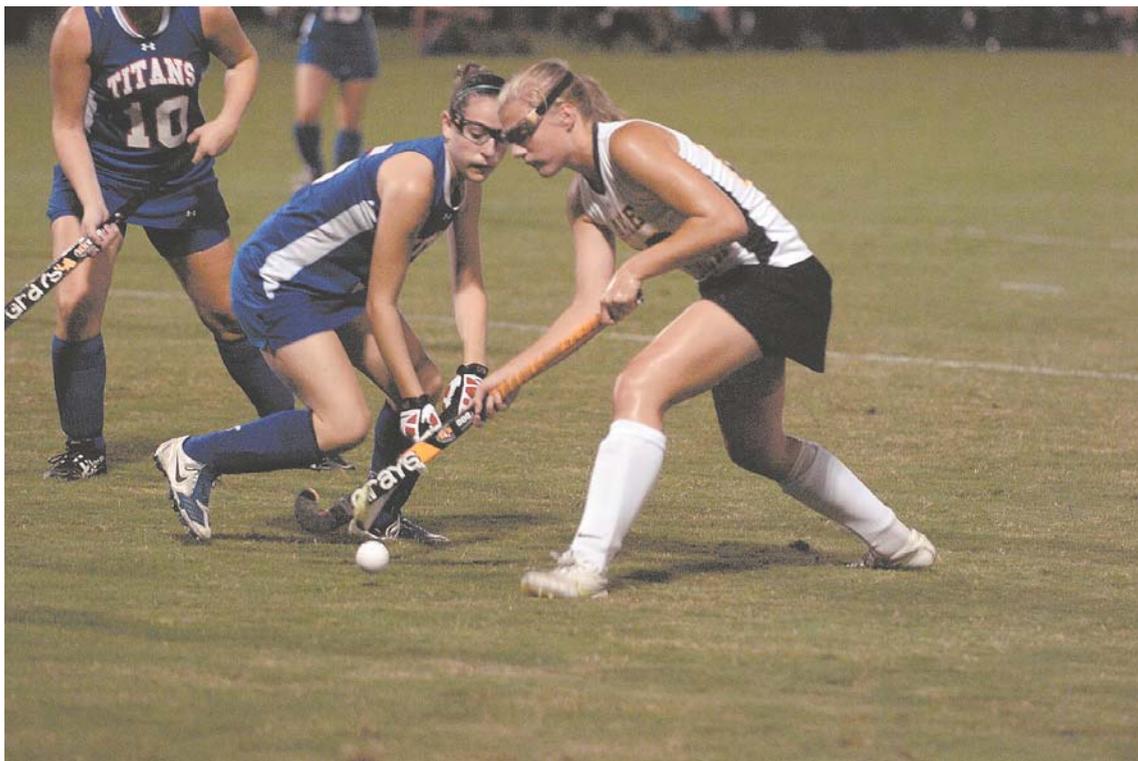


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock field hockey team snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory against T.C. Williams on Sept. 26.

Bruins Beat TC, Snap 3-Game Skid

Senior captain Felschow scores goal on senior night.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Nothing but green grass stood between Lake Braddock senior captain Bailey Felschow and a much-needed goal during a Sept. 26 matchup against the T.C. Williams field hockey team.

Titans' goalkeeper Megan Boyle had moved away from the goal in an attempt to thwart the Bruins' scoring opportunity. However, Lake Braddock worked the ball through the circle and down to Felschow, who stood a few feet away from an open net. The Bruins had suffered three consecutive shutout defeats and were locked in a scoreless tie with the Titans. On top of that, it was senior night for the Lake Braddock and Felschow had a chance to make a memory.

However, what should have been easy initially wasn't as Felschow appeared to struggle getting off a shot.

"I kind of choked a little bit," she said later. "I saw [the ball] and I didn't know if it was going to come through or not, so I thought I should be ready. It came through and I just froze."

After a moment of difficulty, Felschow gathered herself and scored Lake Braddock's first goal in nearly two weeks, propelling the Bruins to a 1-0 home victory.

Lake Braddock lost just two games last season while capturing Patriot District and Northern Region championships. After a 7-0 start this season, the Bruins

eclipsed their 2010 defeat total with a three-game losing streak against South County (2-0), York County's Tabb High School (6-0) and McLean (4-0). Lake Braddock bounced back by beating the Titans and improving its record to 8-3, 2-1 in the district.

"It feels great," Felschow said about the victory. "We finally won after three losses, so it's good to get that off our backs. ... It was hard on us because we're not used to [losing]. It got us down, but we just tried to remain positive and keep our heads up and just fight in every game."

Felschow, a midfielder, is one of nine seniors on the Lake Braddock roster.

"She's a good leader," first-year head coach Amy Worrest said. "When she's on, she's on, for sure. She had a great night tonight and her confidence is building."

"When she's on, she's on, for sure. She had a great night tonight and her confidence is building."

— Lake Braddock head field hockey coach Amy Worrest about Bailey Felschow

Defender Alisha Salomon and goalkeeper Katie Coulter are also senior captains. Midfielders Therese Seifert, Erika Joseck and Madeline Holden, forward Alyssa Dizon, defender Kelly Plescow and goalkeeper Cara Weidinger are the team's other seniors.

Lake Braddock will play its final regular season home game against West Springfield on Friday, Sept. 30, at 7:45 p.m. Worrest said the Bruins need to not be satisfied with past success while moving forward from their three-game losing streak.

"I think it's a lot of talking them into, 'Every season's a new season and you have to do the work,'" Worrest said. "Bottom line is you have to do the work every day. You can't rely on what happened in the past. You have to come out and fill the big shoes that we lost and just do what it takes. Sometimes with girls it's easier to get in that mindset where, 'We've been successful in the past so we're naturally going to be successful' and that's just not the way it goes."

Profit is a by-product of work; happiness is its chief product.
—Henry Ford

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FALL FUN

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

Kids Show: Oh Susannah. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
River James and Mike Mangione & The Union. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

ValeArts Fall Art Show Reception. 7-9 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. More than 150 paintings by nine artists, including Springfield artists Kathy Bodycombe, Marni Maree and Traci Oberle. Free. www.valearts.com or 703-860-1888.
Barefoot Truth and Jamie Kent at 7 p.m., Dubstep Dance Party Featuring Andre Jetson and Special Guests at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults. 703-978-5600.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Motorbike & BodyArt MusicFest at 11 a.m., Ben Rector and Graham Colton at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

www.jamminjava.com.
The 73rd Annual Potomac Rose Society Rose Show. 1-6 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Exhibitors must place rose specimens by 9:30 a.m. Saturday, judging follows. Consulting Rosarians will answer questions. Free. 301-869-4948 or kay.george@verizon.net.
Northern Virginia Light the Night Walk for Leukemia & Lymphoma. 5-9 p.m. Reston Town Center, Pavilion and Market Streets, Reston. Funds raised support the ongoing mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and families. Children's games, local restaurants,

live music and entertainment until 2-mile walk begins at dark. Register at 703-960-1100 or leukemia-lymphoma.org.
Adopt-A-Lab Event. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11201 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Meet Labrador retrievers from shelters, humane societies and more. Bring the family and you may be able to adopt the same day. Event organized by Lab Rescue of the Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac Inc. Free admission. 703-385-3766 or www.lab-rescue.org.
Kids Stuff Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. St. George's Church and Preschool, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Children's clothing infant to size 16, toys, books, furniture, and more. Cash only. jtoreface@aol.com.
Used History Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fairfax City Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Civil War, local and Virginia history, 20th-century wars, biographies, ephemera. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

friends/va_room.
Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lesson 7:30 p.m. Couples specialty dance lesson 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Two Step, Waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.
The 19th Annual Fall For Fairfax KidsFest. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Interactive and educational programs, entertainment and activities for families with elementary and pre-K children. Free admission. 1-800-880-6629.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Avon Walk: Breast Cancer Awareness Festival and 5K. 9:30 a.m. Fairfax Corner Shopping Plaza, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a 5K walk. Vendors, raffle prizes, music and giveaways. www.avonwalk.org.
Joe Brooks and Chelsea Lee. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
The 73rd Annual Potomac Rose Society Rose Show. 12-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Consulting Rosarians will answer questions. Free. 301-869-4948 or kaygeorge@verizon.net.
Organ Recital with J. Reilly Lewis. 7 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Part of the Music and Arts at Providence Concert Series. "Meet The Artist" reception with refreshments to follow. \$10-\$25.

www.providencechurch.org or 703-978-3934 ext. 30.

MONDAY/OCT. 3

Film Screening. 6 p.m. George Mason University Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The documentary "Not Just a Game: Power, Politics and American Sports" will be followed by a question and answer session with sports author and journalist Dave Zirin and former Olympian Dr. John Carlos, who will also discuss their book "The John Carlos Story: The Sports Moment That Changed the World." sbahrami@vt.edu.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 5

Tony Lucca, Jay Nash, Matt Duke and Benny Marchant. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun, The Nighthawks and The Fabulous Mary Ann Redmond Band. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
The Wood Brothers with Clay Cook. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art

and more. paragonartevents.com/fairfax2/
City of Fairfax Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The City will close University Drive from Whitehead St. to Armstrong St. and North St. from Chain Bridge Road to Old Lee Highway. Main St. from West St. to East St. and Sager Ave. from Chain Bridge to East St. will remain closed as in previous years. Shuttle buses will be available from Fairfax High School and George Mason University. Handicapped parking provided at North St. and Old Lee Highway, Main St. and East St. and 4041 University Drive. Sponsors include Fair City Mall, 97.1 WASH FM, Cox Communications and Crystal Springs. 703-385-7858 or www.fairfaxva.gov.
Sesquicentennial Tour Celebrating the Civil War in Fairfax County, 1861. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Caravan transportation from the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Led by John McAnaw of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, to earthworks in and around Centreville, the site of Mt. Gilead and Union fortifications defending Fairfax Station and more. \$25 Fairfax Station Railroad Museum members, \$30 non-members. 703-978-3371.
Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Arts and Crafts Fair. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Doors prizes, stained and fused glass, jewelry, clothing, wood, clay, watercolors, children's items, ornaments, photography and more. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.
Chris Smither. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 18

1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Blues and contemporary roots music. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art and more. paragonartevents.com/fairfax2/

Authority Zero. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Israeli Dance Workshop with Choreographer Ira Weisburd. 7:15 p.m. Jewish community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Weisburd will present dances for beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers. \$15 per dancer, \$14 per JCCNV member and \$10 per student. 301-982-0937 or xtOyes@aol.com; 703-909-0712 or sigi_saadia@yahoo.com.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Arts and Crafts Fair. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Doors prizes, stained and fused glass, jewelry, clothing, wood, clay, watercolors, children's items, ornaments, photography and more. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

Fairfax in 1861 Exhibition. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Take a guided tour of the exhibition with Curator Susan Inskeep Gray and learn about pivotal decisions and events that shaped Fairfax County during the first year of the American Civil War. Free. 703-385-8414.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 12

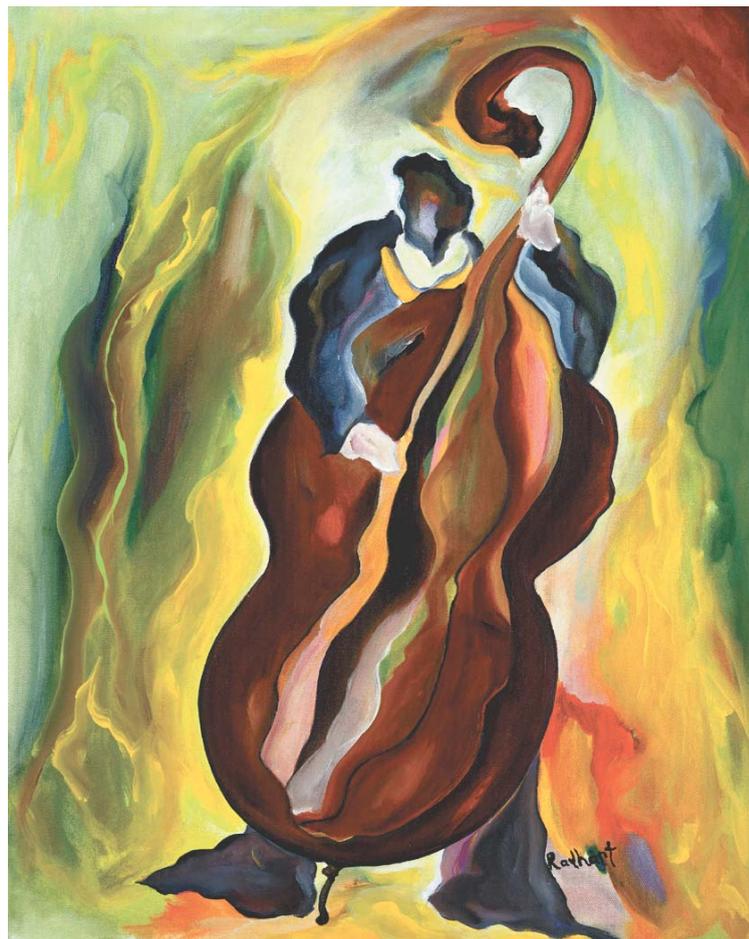
An Evening With The Duhks. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 13

Todd Wright & Friends: A Retrospective featuring members of the Excentrics, The Getaway Car and West Goes East. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 14

Taste of the Vine Fundraiser. 6:30-9 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee



The Fairfax Festival of the Arts will be at Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax, on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Over 10,000 pieces of art will be for sale, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, jewelry, glass, fiber and ceramic art and more. Admission is free. paragonartevents.com/fairfax2/

Highway, Fairfax. Historic Fairfax City, Inc. is sponsoring this fundraiser for Historic Blenheim. Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, music and a silent auction. \$50. For tickets, call 703-282-5818.

HoneyHoney and Joshua James. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Taste of the Vine. 6:30 p.m. Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Wine tastings by Lost Creek Winery, hors d'oeuvres by Villa Mozart and music by Cristian Perez. \$50 per person. 703-282-5818 or BKRutkowski@aol.com.

Center, parking lot C, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Show support for victims and pets of violence during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. DJ, goodie bags, information tables and more. Dogs welcome, but not required, to participate. Sponsored by FCPD and the FCPD Victim Services Unit. Free. 703-814-7009 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police.

PTSA Arts & Crafts Showcase. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Approximately 100 exhibitors with handmade jewelry, decorative items, quilts and knits, pottery, woodcrafts, photography, original artwork, and more. Food available for purchase. Admission \$3, age 65 and over \$2, under 18 free. www.lbspspta.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Fifth Annual K-9 Krawl 5K. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., walk begins at 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government

CALENDAR

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Annandale

3716 Lockwood Ln.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa Schlichtig.....Weichert..609-495-5923
4112 Duncan Dr.....\$474,999.....Sat 1-4.....Valerie Gaskins.....Weichert..703-821-8300
4218 Sleepy Hollow Rd.....\$658,555.....Sun 1-4.....Lesla Jones.....PenFed..703-550-7653
6534 Renwood Ln.....\$659,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cindy Dwyer.....Weichert.....
7334 Hill Dr.....\$568,200.....Sun 1-4.....Mai Carson.....McEneaney..703-525-1900

Burke

9713 Turnbuckle Dr.....\$575,000.....Sun 1-4.....Charles Jackson.....Weichert..703-863-9957
9913 Wood Astor Ct.....\$499,900.....Sun 1-4.....Debbie Mesen.....Weichert..703-201-7723

Centreville

5145 Winding Woods Dr.....\$349,900.....Sat 1-4.....Maritza Munoz.....Long & Foster..703-631-3200
5209 Belle Plains Dr.....\$500,000.....Sun 12-3.....Scott MacDonald.....RE/MAX..703-652-5777
13950 Antonia Ford Ct.....\$349,000.....Sun 1-4.....Deb Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-581-9005

Chantilly

25738 Rawley Springs D.....\$715,000.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Properties..703-864-4894
25521 Beresford Dr.....\$399,900.....Sun 1-4.....Nancy Grasman.....Coldwell Banker..703-864-3175

Clifton

6297 Clifton Rd.....\$949,000.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa Clayborne.....Long & Foster..703-502-8145
12411 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$899,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ann Grainger.....Long & Foster..703-503-1870

Fairfax Station

6220 Sydney Rd.....\$850,000.....Sat 2-4.....Steve Thoman.....RE/MAX..703-564-4155
7951 Kelly Ann Ct.....\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
9206 Bexleywood Ct.....\$825,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cyndee Julian.....Long & Foster..703-201-5834
One Penny Dr.....\$599,999.....Sun 1-4.....Stephan Lefave.....Samson Properties..703-896-5849

Fairfax

12012 Gary Hill Dr.....\$639,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
4071 Fountainside Ln.....\$409,000.....Sun 1-4.....Deb Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-581-9005
2903 Saintsbury Plz #105.....\$352,000.....Sat 1-4.....Alex Hodges..Cottage Street Realty LLC..703-242-0005
3728 Persimmon Cir #3728.....\$299,900.....Sun 1-4.....Ajay Gupta.....Lucky Real Estate LLC..703-625-5425

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5575 Jowett Ct.....\$449,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6186 Windham Hill Run.....\$599,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Springfield

7360 Deansgate Ct.....\$545,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ryan Rice.....Keller Williams..571-212-8339
7111 Rolling Forest Ave.....\$535,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marge Lee.....Long & Foster..703-452-3921
7757 Shooting Star Dr.....\$389,900.....Sun 1-4.....Kathy Peters & Ed Hillebrand..Long & Foster..703-915-2165
8501 Springfield Oaks Dr.....\$314,900.....Sat 1-4.....John Griggs.....Avery-Hess..703-864-1746

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

FCPS Superintendent To Retire in 2013

Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale to retire at end of current contract.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale announced Thursday, Sept. 22 that he would retire in June 2013, at the end of his current contract. Dale, who has been in education for more than 40 years, has been superintendent since July 2004.

As Fairfax County has developed, Dale said he believes Fairfax County Public Schools have become a “destination district,” and “there are pressures that come with that.”

“People and businesses move here to have access to Fairfax County Public Schools, which brings pressure,” he said. “But pressure is what we need to maintain the excellence that has become one of our hallmarks.”

Dale served at a time when budgets went down as school enrollment went up. He said while making cuts were tough, it was important for the school system to know its values.

“When it came to making cuts, I asked the board to prioritize their core values,” he said. “And what was near and dear to their heart was their quest to serve needy children, knowing that if they’re successful, Fairfax County Public Schools will be successful.”

He also said the cuts made in the school’s central office could have long-term affects.

“By diminishing our central office, we’re eliminating opportunities for research and development, and we’ve always been proud of our research and development,” he said. “When you eliminate the ability for R and D, that’s going to create a long term chal-



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale announced that he would retire in June 2013, at the end of his current contract.

lenge for future school boards and superintendents.”

In the seven years since Dale took office, technology has been a driving force in education, often requiring rapid changes to curricula. New tools such as Smartboards require teachers that are trained to use them most effectively, he said.

“Also, technology gives kids access to so much information, it falls to us to show them how to sift through and find the right information,” he said. “We used to have encyclopedias, now

we have Wikipedia, and there’s a huge difference in the accuracy of each.”

Dale also said that he considers Fairfax County’s growing diversity is an asset.

“I’ve spoken to high schoolers who come back and say ‘college wasn’t as diverse as high school,’” Dale said. “I think it allows students to learn so much about the world just from their classmates.”

— Dr. Jack Dale, FCPS superintendent

Dale’s tenure was not without controversy, as issues such as changing grading scales drew much discussion within

the community.

“From my view, changing the grading scale to change the weights of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes helped kids get more merit scholarships,” he said.

On Friday morning, Sept. 23, Dale attended the White House when President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that states could seek waivers from the No Child Left Behind Act. Dale said he would give the act an A- or B+ in intent, but a D or F because of components that he believed would fail over time.

“You have that expectation that 100 percent of students on any given day will pass a test, and if they don’t, your school is deemed to be failure,” he said. “I think Virginia will probably apply for a waiver and create its own accountability.”

Dale says future county staff must figure out a way to deal with the expected growth of the county.

“Birth rates are increasing, and we currently have more kids in kindergarten classes than are seniors,” he said. “As we go through our plans for future renovations, we’ll need to add more space, but not even that might satisfy the need. We could look at building new schools, but we don’t have the land.”

Dale said he plans to spend his retirement visiting family around the country, golfing and flying a plane he co-owns with several other pilots. While he said he would enjoy his retirement, the four plus decades spent in education were well worth it.

“I thought about going into education when I was in college, and since then, I rarely thought about it as going to work, more like going to school,” Dale said. “I never looked at it as a job, but as a passion.”

PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

“I never looked at it as a job, but as a passion.”

Villa, Ramirez Wed

Marcella Villa and Juan-Carlos (JC) Ramirez were married Saturday afternoon, Aug. 20, in Cartagena, Colombia at the Iglesia Santo Toribio de Mogrovejo.

Marcella Villa, 28, is entering her third year of pediatric residency at Georgetown University and is the regional representative for the National Hispanic Medical Association. She graduated from and also received an M.D. degree from Brown University.

Juan-Carlos (JC), 31, is a senior consultant at Grant Thornton in Alexandria and executive vice president of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBAs. He earned his B.S.B.A. from Georgetown University and his M.B.A. from the NYU Stern School of Business.

The bride’s parents Normandy Villa



Marcella Villa and Juan-Carlos Ramirez

and Mariella Villa currently live in North Bergen, N.J. The groom’s parents Juan Ramirez and Scarlett Ramirez currently live in Burke. The newly married couple resides in Arlington.

Spartan Students Plan Mars Mission

West Springfield High School students Connor Chroman, Victoria McGowen, Susanna Mostaghim and Alex Vanden Berghe 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, sci-

entists 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.

Army Pvt. Benjamin Santamaria V has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Benjamin Santamaria of Merridith Circle, Burke. Santamaria graduated in 2010 from Robinson Secondary School.

MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Cpl. Benjamin J.

Kashishian, a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, recently participated in Exercise African Lion in Morocco, along with his battalion and over 900 members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces and 2,000 US service members. The program’s mission is to train military forces side-by-side and strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Moroccan governments.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
BMRM Convenience Store, Inc trading as Fairfax Shell, 11090 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian B. Mullins, President

12 Commercial Lease

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO FILE A PETITION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 8.01-324
American Community Newspapers II, LLC doing business as the Sun Gazette (for McLean, Vienna, Oakton and Great Falls) a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, will petition the Circuit Court of the County of Fairfax for the authority to publish ordinances, resolutions, notices or advertisements in accordance with Virginia Code Ann. Section 8.01-324

25 Sales & Auctions

25 Sales & Auctions

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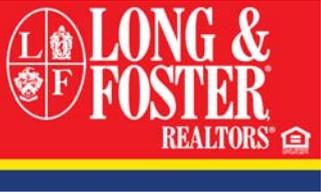
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