

### WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### Crash Kills Fairfax Man, 32

A car crash Monday night took the life of a 32-year-old Fairfax man. He was identified as Brener Omar Llamas Rivera, of Summit Manor Drive.

Fairfax County police rushed to the area of West Ox Road and Polo Drive shortly after 9 p.m. on Sept. 8 in response to a report of a pedestrian being hit by a vehicle. Officers began investigating and Crash Reconstruction detectives were summoned.

Police say preliminary investigation revealed that Rivera had allegedly walked eastbound from the grassy median onto the northbound lanes of West Ox Road and wasn't in a crosswalk. At that time, a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu driven by a 50-year-old Alexandria man was traveling northbound on West Ox Road just north of Polo Drive.

According to police, the Malibu struck the pedestrian as he walked into the roadway. The driver remained on the scene. Rivera was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police say speed and alcohol "were not factors for the driver. It has not yet been determined if alcohol was a factor for the pedestrian." The investigation continues.

— Bonnie Hobbs

### Government Center Farmers Market

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for Sept. 11 and Sept. 18.

#### Fall for the Book

Area residents may meet world-renowned, prizewinning authors, attend readings and book discussions and celebrate the reading and writing of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and more at Fall for the Book.

The annual festival is held in and around the City of Fairfax, George Mason University and the Washington Metropolitan area from Sept. 11-18. A complete schedule is at www.fallforthebook.org. For more information, call 703-993-3986.

#### Child Carseat Checks

City residents may have their children's carseats checked or installed by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. For an appointment, call 703-385-7830.

### Fairfax City Farmers Markets

Two farmers markets are still open in the City of Fairfax. They'll run through Nov. 1 at the corner of West and Main streets. The Downtown Fairfax Coalition Community Market is held Saturdays, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The Sunday Farmers Market will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call 703-642-0128.

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2 \* Fairfax Connection \* September 11-17, 2014

# News

### Board of Supervisors Approves 2015 Revised Budget Plan

### FCPS full-day Mondays at discussion forefront.

BY TIM PETERSON The Connection

hen students at the 142 public elementary schools around Fairfax County stayed there the full day on Monday — the first time in about four decades — they likely weren't worried about the cost. That's between the school board and board of supervisors. Grown-up stuff.

On June 26 this year, the school board voted 10-1 in favor of banning early-dismissal Mondays. Then the board of supervisors followed suit at its Sept. 9 meeting, passing the fiscal year 2015 Revised Budget Plan 8-2, that includes continued budget "guidance" from the FY 2014 carry-over that would help "accommodate" the school change into the 2015-2016 school year.

THE COUNTY would offer additional money to the schools to help cover the cost of full-day Mondays for both the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, as well as tentatively extend a three percent increase in the transfer. Both of which would factor into the next school budget.

Funded by a salary placeholder of \$7.6 million (from the school board), with an additional \$600,000 (county supplement), the proposal would bankroll the extra class time. The allocations include increasing health services, changes to School Age Child Care (SACC) and projected losses from changes to recreation and nature centers that would lose Monday programming.

Language in the motion caused Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth to question the amount of latitude being given to the school board.

"That \$7.6 million is a very round guestimate," said Smyth. "The schools are saying they think it's going to be less than that — they just don't know how much yet. How long does this go on? Every year are we going to be paying for full-day Mondays again?"

But other supervisors clarified the estimating was a necessary evil and meant as a bridge to reaching the 2015-2016 budget-planning.

"Once we get to next year's budget," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, "we're going to be weighing this against everything else. This is singularly one of the most important things they could've



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

**Braddock Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-**Lee) addresses the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 9.

Sully Supervisor Michael Frey was similarly frustrated with the way the motion reflected on the board itself, with respect to credibility.

"The fact is we are giving the schools more money for an item that wasn't considered important enough to put into their budget request last spring," Frey said. "We're rewarding behavior I think is simply picking and choosing what they think is most popular at the moment."

THE MAJORITY SENTIMENT, however, was that the school board amending its budget request, partially as a result of the excessive snow days last winter, was unique timing, justified and necessary.

"This is guidance at this point in time," said Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity. "I can support it as guidance. But this is a decision, basically, that increased their structural deficit. We'll have to look at it. It was the right thing to do, I'm happy we did it, but it increased the structural

**Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins** echoed the team, role-playing sentiment. She said, "That is the most difficult part for us: We say in one breath that they set their own policy. And we fund it. We're not setting their policy. They're now ready to do it, but it is their process."

### Hunger for Awareness

### **Amos Desjardins** runs 500 miles for hunger awareness.

By Abigail Constantino THE CONNECTION

unner Amos Desjardins, of Alexandria, is running 500 miles in Virginia to raise awareness for hunger and food insecurity.

Del. David Bulova (D-37) said that he feels fortunate to be able to join him for part of his run through the 37th district.

"What he's doing is very practical in partnering with the Virginia food banks and actually getting folks to act on the problem, maybe make it so fewer children and adults go to bed hungry," said Bulova

Leslie Van Horn, executive director of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, said that in addition to raising almost \$5,000 for the organization, Amos' solo run delivers the message that hunger affects over a million people in the state every year.

Amos got the idea for the run while volunteering in the kitchen at Carpenter Shelter in Alexandria. He realized that many people used the shelter for food and packaged foods. and he started thinking about ways to bring fresh food to people who struggle with food issues.

"He wanted to do something kind of amazing," said Abigail Desjardins, his wife. Amos initially scheduled the run in May but moved it to September for Hunger Action

The run started in Old Town on Saturday, Aug. 30. From there, he went to Fairfax, Winchester, Harrisonburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, Fredericksburg and back. He averaged about 50-60 miles each day, starting at 6 a.m. and finishing around 7:30 p.m., or when it gets too dark or dangerous

On the first night of the run, on Route 7, Abigail said that visibility was very low, making it dangerous to run on the road. "We found a high school track and he ran there to make up the miles," she said. When Amos and his crew got to the hotel, he ran around the hotel some more.

Amos was joined by several people throughout his journey, who either biked or ran along side of him.

His favorite scene during his trek was on Route 11, going south from Winchester. "Route 11 is gorgeous."

The heat and humidity hindered Amos from running 500 miles, but he completed 310 miles. He is proud that he has achieved



Photo by Abigail Constantino/The Connection

From left, Abigail Desjardins, Amos Desjardins and Del. David Bulova (D-37) run on Ox Road towards the aid station Pacers running store in Fairfax. Pacers is one of the sponsors of the 500 mile run to raise awareness for hunger.

what he set out to do - to raise awareness other people ran or biked with Amos durand start a conversation about the issue of hunger in Virginia.

Abigail said that it takes a village to solve the problem of hunger. "It's not up to one person to do something about the issue," she said. She believes the miles she and ing his journey amount to 500 miles.

"The people I've met along the course are just wonderful," said Amos, who remains upbeat and optimistic after running the equivalent of 11 marathons in five days.



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### News

Serena Gregory in her Korean-language classroom.



### Attending Classes in a Foreign Country

By Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

ormally, Serena Gregory would have just begun her last year at Chantilly High, caught up in the excitement of new classes, old friends and the thrill of being a senior. She'd also be playing volleyball, basketball and lacrosse for the Chargers.

Instead, the former Korean-language student at the Fairfax Academy is now in another part of the world,

> spending the school year in Korea. She was one of just 15 American students selected to study there and live with Korean families. She received a full scholarship from the National Security Language Initiative for Youth, sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

> Gregory, 16, left for Korea on Aug. 28; but before she did, both she and her Fairfax Academy teacher, Song Johnston, spoke with The Connection. And both were delighted with the teen's good fortune.

> "I found out over spring break," said Gregory. "I got an email at the airport going from S.F. to L.A. while doing college visits. I cried tears of joy because this was my second year applying for this scholarship; I didn't get it last year."

"She has an excellent work ethic and was one of the top students in Korean I," said Johnston. "I recommended she skip Korean II because she was learning very fast, so she went to Korean III and IV this past year."

And, said Gregory's Korean teacher, "She did a beautiful job; she paid attention in class, studied at home and was always ready to take tests. But her motivation genuine interest in learning the language."

"When my brother was a sophomore in high school, his best friend was a Korean exchange student

### Fairfax Academy student will spend school year in Korea.

who'd been living with an American family here," explained Gregory. "And often, he'd spend weekends and summers at our house. I got to know him well and he taught me about Korean language and cul-

Then, as a Franklin Middle eighth-grader, she made friends with Korean students who taught her to read and write the language. "Even though you're using Hangul characters, Korean is still phonetic," said Gregory. "Compared to Chinese, it's easier, because each Chinese character represents a different word. But in Korean, you can spell out words with the characters, just like we do in English."

So, she said, "I found Korean interesting and unique. My friends also introduced me to Korean music, or K-Pop, which I still listen to. But I didn't start taking formal, language classes until I came to the Fairfax Academy for them every day during my sophomore and junior years."

GREGORY said Academy classes are more intensive and the students in them are there "because they really want to learn, so that makes it more enjoyable." Last year, about 90 students total in five classes took Korean at the Academy, learning more than just

"In class we did a lot of cultural activities," said Gregory. "We learned how to make traditional. Korean dishes like Kimbap, served with rice and vegetables and/or meat, and how to do the traditional fan dance. We got to perform at GMU and it was really fun and definitely a cool experience."

The students also learned how to play the buk drums - like an American drum line with a Korean rhythm and music written in Korean. "We learned about the life and culture in Korea," said Gregory. "And we did creative projects, such as drawing our room and explaining its layout in Korean."

For her end-of-the-year project, she translated an wasn't just for a grade – she had a American song – Chris Brown's "Next to You" – into Korean and a friend helped her record it to put on YouTube. Then, with the friend singing and Gregory playing guitar, they also performed it together for

SEE BACK TO SCHOOL, PAGE 5

### News

### Back to School, in Korea

From Page 4

their peers.

Meanwhile, Johnston told Gregory about the scholarship and suggested she apply. Ten Fairfax Academy students applied, but only Gregory got the prize. During an interview, the scholarship committee asked her why she wanted to go to Korea, why she took Korean and what she planned to do after high school.

"As a junior, I was in the Academy's highest level of Korean, so there was nothing else here for me as a senior," explained Gregory. "And I wanted to continue taking the most advanced course I could to get as fluent and proficient as possible."

She also had to write three essays describing herself and her future plans. After graduation, she intends to double major in college in Korean and International Relations. She's considering UCLA, and Johnston approves because of its strong, Korean-language program. Eventually, Gregory wants to become a diplomat or foreign-service officer.

"I'm so proud of her," said Johnston. "I wish more students could have this opportunity. She'll do very well in Korea; I just hope finishing high school won't be that difficult for her in math, science and Korean history."

But Gregory's not worried. "I consider myself an independent person," she said. "I've switched schools before and adjusted quickly. Obviously, this is a bigger adjustment.'

And, added Johnston, "She'll have to wear a uniform, just longer for her since she's 5 foot 9. And she'll have two or three host families."

"I'm looking forward to being fully immersed in the culture and seeing what it's like to go to a regular high school in another country," said Gregory. "School started in March, so I'll be coming in the middle of the school year, during break; but school will start again about a week after I arrive."

SHE'LL BE STAYING in Seoul or Incheon and hopes to visit Namsan Tower "where you can see the



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are student Serena Gregory and teacher Song Johnston.

whole city of Seoul," she said. "I also want to see some music concerts, take a hip-hop dance class and visit my brother's best friend, who's now in the military there."

Gregory also hopes to become fluent in Korean and is looking forward to experiencing the world outside America in a non-English-speaking country. "I want to learn their views of life," she said. "From what I know about Asian countries, their level of respect for other people is astonishing – and we could probably learn from that."

### Willow Springs Elementary Teachers Learn New Ways to **Teach Science**

Next fall, students in Fairfax will join a growing movement of innovative science achievement and learning in Virginia. Teachers from Willow Springs Elementary were selected to join a year-long, free professional development project designed to change the way science is taught in schools across the state.

Funded by one of the biggest grants ever awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) teaches teachers how to shift from the traditional lecture-led classroom to problem-based learning.

Problem-based learning is about examining "real Phalon attended the Elementary Science Institute world" problems and thinking like scientists to find

Ashley Hart, Michele Panczyszyn and Christine



Ashley Hart helping with a water density experiment.

on the George Mason University campus, which ran from June 26 to July 24. This year's theme was marine science.



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# OPINION

# Change Is Coming, Right?

Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

ith former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes. EDITORIAL

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and

gifts is not good for government, not good for any one candidate and \$10,000 total, cumulathe public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven

> states - Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits.

These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources un-

In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to

tively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and \$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

 MARY KIMM, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## The Legacy of Bob McDonnell

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

had no idea what to expect when the jury announced it had reached its verdicts on the charges against former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen, but when the verdicts were announced I was stunned. The jury of seven men and five women left no doubt in their findings: 11 counts of guilty for the former Governor and nine counts of guilty for his wife! All the efforts to explain away their behavior, redefine their relationship, and nuance words and actions were not successful. Virginia has now achieved the level of disdain we have held towards governors of other states in similar circumstances. We have a former governor found guilty of corruption in office. Somehow with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson having occupied that seat, it was not supposed to happen in Virginia.

Bob McDonnell is the last person anyone would have thought would have brought this legacy to Virginia. He served his country in the military. He has three degrees from a Christian university. He married a professional cheerleader from a major league football team. The thesis for his masters' degree spelled out an old-fashioned morality that he thought was essential for how people should behave. He was a prosecuting attorney finding others guilty of crimes in order to keep his community safe. He represented his community in the House of Delegates where he introduced bills that included one for a covenant marriage. His first statewide elective office was Attorney General responsible for seeing that Virginia's laws were fairly interpreted. His win for Governor was by a wide margin. He appeared squeaky clean.

The jury heard in detail what happened during his term as governor and determined he was guilty of corruption. That is the way our system of justice works. Not only is his legacy tarnished so too is that of his wife and family. For the Governor and his family on a personal level, they have my thoughts and sincere prayers. There will be an appeal no doubt. Whatever the criminal justice system does with the case under appeal will not restore the man to the elevated position he had in the public's mind when he became governor.

We need to turn our attention now to the legacy for Virginia. Maybe we Virginians had it coming for we had become somewhat pompous over our reputation for the clean government we thought we had. Despite some cynics' views, virtually all elected officials and government employees are honest, hard-working people who want to do their best for the Commonwealth.

For those who do not fit this category we need to participate in a whistle-blowing exercise that will expose any who are putting their selfish gain above the public good. And the legislature needs to do more work on its conflict of interest and ethics laws. Maybe those changes can become the legacy of Bob McDonnell.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Focusing on Suicide Prevention

To the Editor:

To kick off National Suicide Prevention Week (Sept. 8-12),

the American Foundation for its goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in the United States 20 percent by 2025.

Last year in the United States, 39,518 people died by suicide—

natural disasters combined. And help. the annual suicide rate has been steadily rising for over a decade.

It's time we take action. A Suicide Prevention is announcing grassroots movement—in part catalyzed by AFSP—is gaining momentum. More people are speaking out about mental health and suicide prevention, and fighting against the prejudices that more lives than war, murder, and keep people at risk from seeking

Talk can save lives, but it takes a village. If we are to be successful, suicide prevention must become everyone's business.

Our local AFSP chapter is hosting a walk this fall to raise awareness and support for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Donations will fund research to find better ways to prevent suicide,

education programs to raise awareness in schools and workplaces, advocacy initiatives to support public policy that makes mental health and suicide prevention a priority, and support services for survivors of suicide loss.

The walk in Washington, D.C. will be held on Sept. 20 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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### **■** Fairfax

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### OBITUARY

### Hayes Roosevelt Woods, 77, Dies

Hayes Roosevelt Woods, 77, of Sanford, N.C., passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014 at Duke Hospital, in Durham, N.C. Hayes went to Lee County Training School and New Hope School. His last job was in the city of Fairfax.

He was preceded in death by his parents Joe and Lessie Woods, four siblings, one daughter Alice Renee Woods, and one grandchild Latisha McIntyre.

After retirement he reunited his membership with Temping Congregational Church, Sanford, N.C.

He leaves to cherish his memories his wife Lula Mae Woods, his loving children daughters Margaret Clay of Manassas, Lanna Woods, Vicki Woods (Thomas), Katina Woods, Gail McIntyre all of Fairfax, Shirley Campbell, Katheryn White (Jackie), Charlene Harrington, Bettina Holder, Jacqueline West, all of Sanford, N.C., his sons Hayes B. Woods of West Vir-

ginia, Larry McIntyre (Marcia) of Sanford, N.C., Michael McIntyre (Carolyn) of Manassas, and Gary Harrington of Sanford, N.C., his brothers Carl Woods (Sarah), Melvin Woods (Brenda), both of Sanford, N.C., his sisters Lucille McMillian, Josephine Graham (Leroy), Bertha Mae Woods all of Sanford, N.C., Claretha Johnson of Fairfax, and Patricia McKeithen of Sanford, N.C., one uncle James Baldwin (Vandaliah), two brothers-in-law Mark and Maurice Cobbs of N.Y, 34 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, 6 great-great grandchildren, several Godchildren, and a special Godson Steve Horton, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral Services were held Monday, Sept. 8, 2014 at Tempting Congregational Church, Sanford, N.C. followed by burial in church cemetery. Arrangements by: Knotts Funeral Home, 719 Wall Street, Sanford, N.C.



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#### WEEK IN FAIRFAX

From Page 2

### Fairfax Church to Host Health Fair

The Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax is hosting its annual Health Fair on Saturday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The theme for 2014 is "Prevention to Prosperity" (3 John 1:2) and the purpose of this Health Fair is to provide a free innovative and comprehensive program that addresses the major health needs and financial awareness our community at

large.

This event is free and offers a number of free health screenings, and health wellness and financial seminars conducted by various industry professionals. In addition, there will be a Kid's Corner with a moon bounce, arts and crafts, face painting and aerobics demonstrations. Door prizes and healthy snacks will be given throughout the event. The Health Fair is open to the public and it will be an educational, informative, and fun-filled event for all ages. Greater Little Zion Baptist Church is located at 10185 Zion Drive in Fairfax. www.glzbc.org

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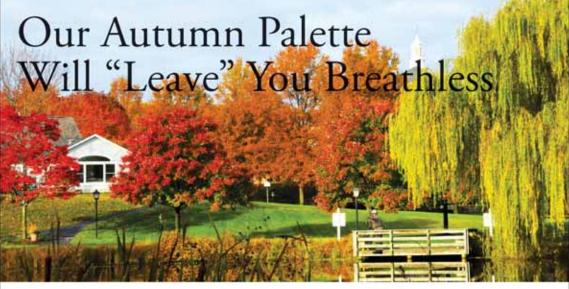
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# Home LifeStyle

'Recession Ripple Persists'

Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

here's no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. "That said, we're not Detroit."

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University's Mason Inn.

At this year's summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. "In 2013, job growth ground to a halt," he said at the event last Thursday. "July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?"

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: "Detroit."

Versal was back again for 2014, along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syn-



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

Panelists (from left) at the 2014 NVAR Economic Summit: Mitchel Kider, Dr. Michael Frantoni, James Dinegar and David Versal.

dicated column "The Nation's Housing."

New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider, chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

**THE THEME** of this year's summit was "Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery."

SEE PANELISTS, PAGE 10





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### Home Life Style

### Panelists Hopeful, Patient for Housing Market Improvements

From Page 9

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the recession is not over, growth is slow and home sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We're all still here.

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. "We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement," he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, "just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we've removed."

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don't exactly help a housing market that's light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

"Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000 houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not," said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn't creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market's midsection.

But that's not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013's remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what's being built is rental property, which doesn't produce sales and doesn't help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many "cool factors" of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area "America's Coolest City."

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world.

Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals to the area, or keeping them here.

"You have to get your head around the Big Ten," Dineagar gave an example. "The BTN reaches 52 million households. We're not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We're on radar screens now we haven't ever been on."

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater overall pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation's capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to.

"Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they're not aspirational movers," he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as "millennials." And they're a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, "They're different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don't know why."

**A MILLENNIAL'S HESITANCY** to buy property probably doesn't have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We're off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We're still here.

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### News

### Gaelic Football Comes to Fairfax

### The sport combines elements of soccer, rugby, basketball, volleyball and American football.

By Abigail Constantino THE CONNECTION

hat sport are they playing? It's not soccer." said a park visitor, watching people use their hands to throw and bounce a soccer ball on an open field, on Sunday, Sept. 7 at Providence Park in Fairfax.

Gaelic football combines elements of soccer, rugby, volleyball, and football. Michael McCarthy, co-founder of the Grim-Mickey's Football Club, describes it as "rugby light."

The similarities to different sports are apparent in the skills required of the game. The ball can be served, as in volleyball. It can be kicked, as in soccer, rugby and football. It can even be dribbled, like in basketball. But unlike soccer, hands can be used. Unlike rugby and football, tackling is not allowed.

McCarthy got involved with the sport while attending an Irish festival last year. "I'd seen it on TV a lot but never really paid much attention to it even though I'm Irish," he said. He was leaning against a tree when a team playing Gaelic football invited him to play. "It's a very welcoming game. Anybody who wants to come out to play can play," he said.

He started the Grim-Mickey's FC, along with friend Greg Grimes, because he knew a lot of people in Fairfax who wanted to play. "Sure enough, a lot of people show up," to practice, he said.

Jillian Stringer, of Arlington, learned about the game last year through McCarthy, who works with her at Modern Luxury Magazine. "I was terrified that I was going to

make a fool of myself. But they're all really nice," she said. McCarthy assured her that the game would come naturally to her because she played soccer.

He recruited a lot of the players who came to practice on Sunday. Igal Svet, of Washington, D.C., met McCarthy at a party and was recruited after he remembered an editorial on Gaelic football McCarthy wrote for Modern Luxury. He also played soccer.

THIS HYBRID of basketball, soccer, football, volleyball and rugby involves a lot of different skills. "It's just weird putting them together" at first, said

Greg Powers said that the diversity of options keeps the game interesting. "It's fantastic."

Steve Tombres played last spring and said that the A PLAYER can keep the ball without playing it for best part of the game is the exercise. "Instead of just running, it's just a hard cardiovascular workout."

The Grim-Mickey's FC will have its first match on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Irish Folk Festival in Fairfax against Michael Collins Gaelic Football Club of Alexandria. The team practices on Sundays at 10 a.m. at Providence Park in Fairfax.



Michael McCarthy (center), co-founder of the Grim-Mickey's FC, explains Sunday's practice workout at Providence Park in Fairfax.

Photos by Abigail Constantino/The Connection



"There's a lot of opportunities to get down field and score and kick through the goal post," said Michael McCarthy.

GAELIC football has been hailed as Ireland's most popular sport. At the 2013 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final between Dublin and Mayo, attendance reached almost 83,000, which equals that of the 2014 Super Bowl.

The game is played on a pitch measuring 145 meters long and 90 meters wide. On each end of the field are goals similar to soccer goals but with posts on each side. Players can score by kicking the ball into the goal for three points or between the goal post for one point.

There are 15 players on each team—a goalkeeper, three players in the back, three half-backs, two midfielders, three half-forwards, and three forwards.

only four steps. After four steps, the player must bounce the ball, do a solo, or pass the ball to avoid a foul. A solo, or toe tap, is using the foot to bounce the ball to the hand.

For more information about how to play the Gaelic football, visit the Gaelic Athletic Association's page at http://www.gaa.ie/about-the-gaa/our-games/football/

#### Calendar

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 11 -SATURDAY/OCT. 4

**Wake Up Call.** Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new collection of contemporary art curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective.

http://www.epicurecafe.org/

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 11-18

16th Annual Fall for the Book Festival, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A week-long, multiple venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

#### FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

Old Town Plaza Series Performance by Fairfax-McLean Brass & Drums. 7

p.m. Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Come out and enjoy the shops and restaurants at Old Town Plaza, along with live music, weather permitting. www.oldtownplazafairfax.com.

Genealogy Help Desk. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist you. Ask the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227. Teens and adults.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 12 – THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Experience Peru. 11 a.m. Fair Oaks Mall, I-66 at Route 50, Fairfax. Learn about Peru: its culture, natural beauty, music and

#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

**Historic Fairfax City Walking** 

Tours. 11 a.m. Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main Street, Fairfax. Take a walking tour of historic Fairfax and learn about the famous sites, such as the Old Courthouse. Admissions: Under 6, Free. \$3-\$15. 703-385-8414.

CCE Fairfax Irish Folk Festival. 12-8:30 p.m. Sherwood Community Center and Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax and The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. There will be live traditional Irish dancing and music at multiple stages at the Sherwood Center and the pub stage at the Auld Shebeen.

www.CCEPotomac.org Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street,

friends of fair faxcity library @gmail.comCity of Fairfax Library Friends Fall Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Join the Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library for the Fall Children's Book Sale. Choose gently-used books for children, for yourself or as gifts. All ages.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. **Genealogy Help Desk**. 2 p.m. City

of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Bring your family history stumpers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to

assist you. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227.

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Woodward and Lothrop: A Store Worthy of the Nation's **Capital.** 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Book signing with Michael J. Lisicky, chronicler of "Woodies," a department store in Washington D.C. that operated from 1887 to 1995. 703-385-8414.

**Author Katrina Moore Book Signing Event.** 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Moore, a resident of Ellicott City, Md., will be available to sign copies of

her book, "So Long Gnop-Jiye." **Doggie Splashdown.** 7 p.m. Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Fairfax Swimming Pool goes to the dogs for its annual doggie swim. A \$5 per dog donation is requested, with all donations going to the Humane Society of Fairfax County. (Exact change is appreciated.) Dogs must be kept on a leash until the whistle blows. The swim will start around 7:15 p.m. and last about 15 to 20 minutes. www.fairfaxpool.com

Accotink Fest. 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. There will be food, games, prizes, crafts, carnival fun, a bounce house and live music by Daniel Michael and Dragonshead.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Virginia Cycle Fest. 7:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Cycle Fest benefits the Wounded Warrior Project and Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). The ride is open to all experienced riders who are comfortable riding on roads with traffic — with a suggested minimum age of 12. For registration information, please visit www.active.com or email Paula.Cole@jccnv.org. Call 703-323-0880 or visit www.jccnv.org for details.

Family Foreign Language Film Festival: Despicable Me 2. 5 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Language Stars, the national leader in early childhood foreign language education will expose children and their families to movies in other languages. The second film in the festival, Despicable Me 2, will be played in Spanish with English subtitles.

#### MONDAY/SEPT. 15

Children's Performance Series.

10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring music, movement, and interactive storytelling, performances are open to children of all ages but are particularly enjoyed by toddlers through preschoolers. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts, the Children's Performance Series is free and open to the public, but donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, visit www.fairfaxarts.org or call 703-352-ARTS

#### TUESDAY/SEPT. 16

**Evening Book Discussion**. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Library on 10360 North Street, Fairfax. The discussion will be on The House Girl by Tara Conkin.

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#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Multi-Family Yard Sale. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Daniels Run Elementary School, 3705 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Sales benefit Fairfax High School Crew Team. Rain or shine.

Louis Bayard. 2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Author Louis Bayard discusses his latest book, Roosevelt's

Dog Adoption. 12 - 3 p.m. Sat. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-817-9444 or visit http://www.hart90.org/

**HIV/AIDS Prevention Faith Summit for** Adults and Teens. 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Antioch Baptist Church, 6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The summit will address how stigma drives the HIV epidemic and examine HIV stigma experiences through different lenses. Visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/ ereg/registration.aspx?groupid=26 to register.

#### MONDAY/SEPT. 15

American Red Cross Blood Donation. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant, 9399 Richmond Highway, Lorton. redcross.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS.

**English Conversation Group**. 7 p.m. Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. For more information contact Glora Monick at gsmonick@aol.com.

#### TUESDAY/SEPT. 16

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English.

Morning English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills.

English Conversation Group. 5:15 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English conversation skills. Adults.

#### TUESDAY/SEPT. 17

Connected on the Homefront. 7-9 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Road, Springfield. Monthly meetings that provide dinner, fellowship and guest speakers to minister to wives and women of active duty, reservists and retired military. Visit www.immanuelbible.net or 703-941-4124.

Hospitalization Happens. 1:30 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, formerly Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. A trip to the hospital for a person with dementia can be stressful for everyone; join in to discuss ways you can prepare for both planned and unexpected hospital visits. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

New Voting Equipment Demonstration. 11a.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Staff from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will provide an opportunity to see and try out the brand new voting machines and equipment that will be used in the upcoming elections.

Library Tech Help. 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your libraryrelated electronic resource questions answered. includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Bring your library card, eBook reader

### Letter

From Page 6

To register for the Washington, D.C. walk, visit www.afsp.org/walks or call 301-523-

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**Cynthia Ruffner** 

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Crown Castle is proposing to expand the compound of the tower at the following site: #856865 Glenistar located at 6500 Byron Ave in Springfield - lat: 38-6-45.9 long: 77-12-7.6. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party that believes the proposed action may have a significant impact on the environment or on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engi-neering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling Barbara Hamilton at 724-416-2564, during normal business hours. Comments must be received at Crown Castle USA - 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 attn Legal Dept. by Sept. 30, 2014.



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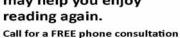
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# Sports

### Lake Braddock XC Delivers Strong Showing at Monroe Parker Invite

Motivated boys' team seeks state title after finishing 2nd in 2013.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

he Lake Braddock boys' cross country team placed second at the 2013 VHSL state meet, finishing just two points behind 6A champion Chantilly. As Bruins head coach Michael Mangan recalls, Chantilly had two runners edge Lake Braddock harriers near the finish line, snatching a state title from the Bruins by a paperthin margin.

Lake Braddock returns several members of last year's team, including individual state runner-up Alex Corbett. Is falling just short of a state title something the Bruins think about?

"Every single day since that Saturday in November," Mangan said. "They know how close they were."

### "Every single day since that Saturday in November: They know how close they were."

- Lake Braddock XC coach Michael Mangan about how often the Bruins think about just missing a state title in 2013.

The Lake Braddock boys entered the 2014 season as a motivated group looking to capture a state title. The Bruins put on a strong performance on Saturday, Sept. 6, winning the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park. The Bruins finished with a score of 58, with four runners in the top 10. West Springfield finished at a distant second with a score of 190, followed by Robinson (third, 197), Patriot, (fourth, 201), Thomas Jefferson (fourth, 201) and two-time defending state champion Chantilly (sixth, 231).

Due to high temperatures with debilitating humidity, Mangan said the Bruins (and other teams) ran a conservative race. Lake Braddock harriers took it easy for the first mile-and half before picking up the pace.

"They did a great job," Mangan said. Kevin Monogue placed second for Lake Braddock, finishing with a time of 15 minutes, 24 seconds. Corbett placed third (15:25), Colin Schaefer



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

was seventh (15:50), Ben Fogg took ninth (15:58) and Cavanaugh McGaw finished 37th (16:38).

Monogue and Corbett figure to be two of the Bruins' top harriers throughout the sea-

"They have slightly different skill sets," Mangan said. "If they work together, it's really going to help us out. Alex is probably a little bit stronger and can probably handle carrying the pace early on. Kevin [is probably a stronger finisher]."

The Lake Braddock girls' team finished second with a score of 99, 24 points behind first-place Madison (75). Patriot finished third with a score of 140, followed by Washington-Lee (178), Osbourn Park (214), Battlefield (219) and Robinson (228).

"That's outstanding for us," Mangan said

#### FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

The Lake Braddock football team improved to 2-0 with a 13-9 victory over Stone Bridge on Friday, Sept. 5. The Bruins will host rival Robinson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12. The Rams improved to 2-0 with a 57-12 win against Woodson.

Woodson's lopsided loss dropped the Cavaliers' record to 0-2. Woodson will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Fairfax (0-1) dropped its season opener to West Potomac, 14-7.

South County improved to 2-0 with a 37-

of the runner-up finish. "... Those girls are very young. Only [junior] Sonya Butseva, our No. 2, has any real experience in a championship cross country race. All the other kids are replacing kids from the year before."

**Daly Ferguson** (626) placed

sixth for the Lake Braddock

girls' cross

tional on Saturday,

Sept. 6.

country team

at the Monroe

Parker Invita-

Daly Ferguson, a junior, was Lake Braddock's top finisher, placing sixth with a personal-best time of 18:52. Butseva placed 11th with a time of 19:12. Freshman Sarah Daniels finished 12th for the Bruins with a time of 19:16, sophomore Kate Murphy was 26th (19:44) and sophomore Taylor Kitchen finished 44th (20:14).

"I think we're going to be phenomenal over the next couple of years," Mangan said. "This is the year to get the experience, but at the same time, our goals are the same every year at Braddock."

31 win over Hayfield. The Stallions will travel to take on Mount Vernon (0-2) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Hayfield (0-1) will host Westfield (1-0).

Lee dropped to 0-2 with a 38-15 loss to Chantilly. The Lancers will travel to face Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. The Eagles lost to West Springfield 34-0 on Sept. 5, evening their record at 1-1.

West Springfield's shutout of Edison improved the Spartans' record to 1-1. West Springfield will travel to face Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.



Robinson's Lauren Berman placed third in the girls' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6.

### Beaman Takes Third

### Robinson's Lauren Berman finishes 3rd at Monroe Parker Invite.

obinson's Lauren Berman finished third in the girls' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

Berman finished with a time of 18:29, helping the Rams to a seventhplace team finish. Robinson totaled a score of 228. Madison won the event with a score of 75, followed by Lake Braddock (99), Patriot (140), Washington-Lee (178), Osbourn Park (214) and Battlefield (219). West Springfield (262) finished 10th, South County (299) was 12th, Edison (510) finished 20th, Woodson (588) was 23rd, Hayfield (712) took 26th and Paul VI (727) was 27th.

Madison's Amanda Swaak won the individual title with a time of 18:06. Chantilly's Xaveria Hawvermale finished runner-up with a time of 18:10.

South County's Louisa McPherson placed 10th with a time of 19:10.

In the boys' race, Lake Braddock won the team title with a score of 58, followed by West Springfield (190) and Robinson (197).

Chantilly's Ryan McGorty placed first among individuals with a time of 15:04. Lake Braddock's Kevin Monogue placed second with a time of 15:24, followed by Lake Braddock's Alex Corbett (third, 15:25), Westfield's Johnny Pace (fourth, 15:41), Annandale's Aviad Gebrehiwot (fifth, 15:48), Robinson's Patrick Meyers (sixth, 15:49), Lake Braddock's Colin Schaefer (seventh, 15:50), West Springfield's Timothy Ward (eighth, 15:51), Lake Braddock's Ben Fogg (ninth, 15:58) and Pope John Paul the Great's Sean Tully (10th, 16:04).

Alex Maguire of Fairfax finished 12th (16:06), and Edison's Jeffrey Gibson took 15th (16:12).

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