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Spring's Ring

SPORTS, PAGE 17

On Friday Nov. 28, Olympian Justin Spring stopped by the Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy in Sterling and his bronze medal wasn't the only piece of jewelry that came with him.

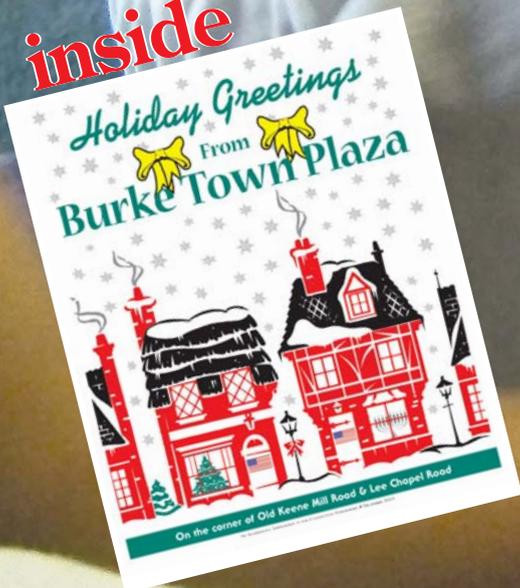
Voices Of Hope

NEWS, PAGE 3

Robinson Grad Traffic Fatality

NEWS, PAGE 3

inside



ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 17 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 15

PHOTO BY JASON MACKAY/THE CONNECTION

Springfield Mall

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'Never Give Up'

South African choir spreads message of hope, happiness in the face of HIV.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Burke resident Alec Zacaroli admits that the first time he saw workers pray at the Umtha Welanga AIDS hospital in South Africa, it frightened him a little. Their prayers were so forceful, so passionate, that they would often stomp their feet and scream at the top of their lungs in their desire to be heard by God.

"God's presence was so strong, he was staring down my face, breathing down my neck," said Zacaroli.

Then he saw how the workers at the hospital, the ambulance driver, the manager, the chief caregiver and other employees went to each patient to sing to them. If a patient could stand, the workers helped him or her up so that they could dance. If they could not, they sat by their bedsides and sang to them.

"A piece of my heart was torn out that day and put on the wall at Umtha Welanga," said Zacaroli. "And it's there to this day."

WHEN ZACAROLI got home, he and his wife Amy helped to form 25:40, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting AIDS in South Africa. On Sunday, Nov. 30 at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church on Lee Chapel Road in Burke, 25:40 sponsored those workers to come to the D.C. Metropolitan area as part of the a cappella group



The Keiskamma Gospel Choir kicked off a six date tour of the D.C. area at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke on Sunday, Nov. 30.

The Keiskamma Gospel Choir. The series of six concerts throughout the region would help raise money for the South African hospital and awareness for World AIDS Day Dec. 1. Using their voices and the occasional tambourine, the group gave speeches, told stories of how AIDS had affected their personal lives, sang and danced for the more than 80 people in the audience.

Eunice Mangwane, manager at Umtha Welanga, spoke of her two daughters and grandson who has been diagnosed with HIV.

"A piece of my heart was torn out that day and put on the wall at Umtha Welanga."

— Alec Zacaroli, 25:40

She recalled the rumors that had spread among the black South African population when AIDS first began to rise. Just out of the shadow of Apartheid, they swore they were being bewitched by white people, who flew airplanes over their villages and sprinkled AIDS powder over them. HIV, she said, had washed away all the hope that Nelson Mandela had brought with

him after his release from prison. The disease was not dropped from airplanes but had an equally devastating effect. Mangwane stressed the importance of being positive, a trademark of the group's gospel choir that was in full effect Sunday.

"The HIV will remain a virus, not a monster. And I will remain a human," she said.

IN INTERVIEWS after the concert, members of the Keiskamma Gospel Choir said their message was one of positive perseverance and deep belief in Christ. Some on the choir were HIV positive, while others had family members and friends who live and die with the disease every day. Nomthie Manjezi said they were all united in their determination to overcome it.

"If you are HIV positive, this is not the end of the world," she said.

Thandi Mcaka shared those sentiments. "We encourage [people living with HIV] to live openly and positively, with no fears," she said.

Zacaroli said God was not on Wall Street or K Street, nor was he in the halls of Congress or the White House.

"Our reactions [to AIDS] range from indignance at the victim to indifference,"

Crash Kills Fairfax Man

University student William Cameron Schlifke dies in three-car crash.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News, Va.

According to a Newport News Police release, on Saturday, Nov. 22, at approximately 2 a.m., Schlifke was parked at a stoplight near Christopher Newport University when a 2006 Acura

slammed into the back of his car, causing it in turn to crash into the Ford Mustang directly ahead. All three drivers involved in the crash were CNU students: Schlifke, 22; Eric Fowler, 20; and an unidentified female, 19. Schlifke was transported to a hospital with critical injuries and the female driver of the Mustang sustained minor injuries. Newport News Police spokesperson Harold Eley said they were still waiting on the toxicology reports, but he did say that the first crash was most likely the ones that ended Schlifke's life.

"He was struck from the rear and that's where he sustained his injuries, yes," said Eley.

Fowler, the driver of the Acura, refused a DUI test at the scene and was arrested at the scene. Police initially charged him with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol. After Schlifke was taken off life support on Monday, just before 10 p.m., police added an involuntary manslaughter charge as well. Fowler is being held without bail while awaiting trial.

Schlifke, who went by his middle name Cameron, was an avid soccer enthusiast, playing for Robinson and later for the club team at CNU. He followed international soccer too, with a particular interest in Germany's national team and the various club leagues within.

A member of the fraternity Pi Lamda Phi, friends say Schlifke was acting as designated driver for his Greek brothers on the night the crash occurred. Nathan Hintz, president of the fraternity's CNU chapter, called Schlifke "easily one of the best friends" he had ever had.

"The first word that comes to mind when



William Cameron Schlifke

DONATED PHOTO



The choir was brought here by 25:40 a non-profit organization created by Alec and Amy Zacaroli to combat AIDS in South Africa.

SEE CHOIR, PAGE 5

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 5

Schools Cuts Could Limit Public Access

Two services that facilitate transparency in Fairfax County Public Schools are on the chopping block as the school system tries to find cost savings in next year's budget.

Fairfax County is trying to close a projected \$500 million hole in its overall budget next year and has asked its school system, which receives over 50 percent of the county's general fund revenue, to brace for cuts.

Under scenarios in which the school system would have to take reduction of \$123 million to \$219 million, Superintendent Jack Dale has proposed eliminating the "public school profiles" from the school system's Web site and televised school board meetings.

The "schools profiles," found at www.fcps.edu, allow parents to compare information on schools' enrollments, test scores, demographics, staffing and safety. Televised school board meetings give parents and activists the opportunity to watch without attending the meeting in person.

According to school system documents, parents and residents are able to find the "school profiles" information on the Virginia Department of Education's Web site, albeit in a less organized fashion. Cutting the program would save \$389,853 next year, according to school budget documents. If the school system ceases to televise its meetings, officials could save an additional \$30,800.

No Trailers To Ease Enrollment Increases?

Fairfax County Public Schools has proposed cutting \$250,000 of its \$3.75 million in "temporary classroom funding" for next year, in spite of the fact that school officials expect to gain as many as 5,000 additional students before the fall of 2009.

County officials are trying to close a projected \$500 million shortfall in Fairfax's overall budget next year. Since the school system accounts for more than half of the county's general fund expenditures, schools superintendent Jack Dale is anticipating major cuts that could go as high as \$218 million in the school system's 2009-2010 budget.

Reducing money for the purchase of temporary classrooms, otherwise known as trailers and modulars, is a bit risky given the enrollment projections. But the schools chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said the school system already owns trailers it is not currently using.

"We haven't bought many trailers in quite some time. Some schools with trailers don't really need them," said Tistadt.

The official said proposals to increase class size will also help mitigate enrollment increases, since some existing classrooms should become available as the number of classes becomes fewer in number.

The main impact of the cut would be on the quality of trailers schools would be receiving. Most schools like work with multi-classroom modulars that come with two to four instructional spaces. Tistadt will not be able to purchase those types of classrooms next year if the cuts goes through, he said.

NEWS

Mixed Results for Retailers

Loyal customers help some independent shops weather tough times.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

George Adeler's specialty jewelry shop in Great Falls experienced a "traumatic slow down" in October so it was quite the surprise when sales surged in November.

"Right now, I am in an upswing. This November's sales are ahead of last year's," said the independent business owner whose store, Adeler Jewelers, focuses on one-of-a-kind and custom-made items. He designed more than 95 percent of the jewelry on display in his small showroom. His shop has a track record of doing

istics with Adeler Jewelers.

South Moon Under, a regionally owned upscale clothing chain at the Reston Town Center, and Maison Du Vin, a Great Falls wine shop, also said sales were good over the weekend.

"This past week was pretty crazy. We are doing better than expected," said Vital Hiek, the wine shop owner. Hiek's sales are up so much that he is expanding and opening a second store, called Market Cellars, in the Reston Town Center.

But some small businesses and specialty stores are also struggling in the current economy.

In a shopping center across the street from Adeler Jewelers and Maison Du Vin, another locally owned shop, BedHeaders Home, has not seen the same bump in sales. The store carries items like seasonal serving dishes, Christmas decorations and balsamic reduction salad dressings.

"Things are going really slowly," said owner Joan Barmat, about the post-Thanksgiving sales.

Games Workshop, which sells figurines used in popular science fiction and fantasy board games, did not meet its sales mark. The store in Springfield Plaza is one of about 50 in the United States and several hundred worldwide, said employee Mike Amon.

Department stores and other "big box" retail chains also account for a large portion of the local sales.

Many of these national retail outlets will release detailed information about their countrywide sales later this week, but management at the local outlets appear pleased with their sales.

"We are on pace with sales from last year on black Friday," said Omar Gordon, an assistant store manager at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in the Tysons Corner mall.

Sales at Macy's in the Springfield Mall were "trending very well," said floor manager Jason Monk and employees at the Home Depot across the street said sales at the home improvement super-chain were only slightly down from last year.

The county and the state governments partially depend on consumer spending to pay their bills. Virginia levies a sales tax of 4 percent and Fairfax County collects an additional sales tax of 1 percent.

The county, Virginia's largest locality, is the biggest source of sales tax revenue in the commonwealth. The state collected a little over \$3.4 billion in sales tax revenue in Fairfax from April to June 2008. Henrico County was a distant second during the same time period, with \$1.2 billion.

"If the economy goes sour up here, it has a dramatic effect on the rest of the state," said former Del. Vince Callahan, a McLean Republican who led the House of Delegates budget committee for a decade before retiring last year.

Gov. Tim Kaine (D) has warned that actual sales tax revenue may not be as high as the state initially projected and that mid-year budget cuts could be coming as a result. The state will not know how much money was generated during the holiday sales until February 2009.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Crowds crammed into the eatery at the Springfield Mall in the days following Thanksgiving.

well in times of uncertainty.

When people are unsure of the future, they focus on their loved ones. They are more likely to buy a personalized necklace than, lets say, a plasma television, said Adeler.

"One of my best Christmases was the one after 9/11. People wanted to express their emotions," he said.

OTHER FACTORS may allow Adeler's business to flourish when others appear to be struggling.

Even in tough economic times, Adeler's customers are also the people who still have money to spend. Most live within an hour's drive of the store and are from the "upper end," of the income spectrum, he said.

The jeweler has been around for 30 years and has an established, loyal customer base.

"Eighty percent of my clientele goes back with me more than 10 years. My goal is to maintain relationships. That is part of why I do well in moments of distress," said Adeler.

A few other Fairfax County stores that reported positive returns at the start of the holiday season share these character-

"If the economy goes sour up here, it has a dramatic effect on the rest of the state."

— Vince Callahan, former chair of House of Delegates budget committee

Robinson Grad Killed in Crash

FROM PAGE 3

I think of Cameron is probably 'loyalty,'" said Hintz. "He and I were very similar, we knew how to push each other's buttons, get on each other's nerves, and work each other up. But if I needed anything he would be the first person there to help."

In addition to school, Schlifke worked as a cook at a local bar. Hintz said the combined work load took away much of his friend's free time during his senior year, preventing him from attending as many games and practices as he had in the past.

"School and work had kind gotten a little bit in the way of it," said Hintz.

Brad Barna, also a member of Pi Lambda Phi, had known Schlifke for 15 years and played soccer with him at Robinson.

"He was always full of energy. Very hyperactive as a kid, he was always running around. Even as he matured, he never really lost that," said Barna. "You never knew what to expect with him. He was always attacking life."

Schlifke was interested in law enforcement and government work and considered going to law school early in his college career. Friends say he was still weighing his options.

Barna said their long relationship had given him

the opportunity to watch his friend grow and mature, especially over the last year and a half.

"I had an opportunity to see him from the very beginning. Just seeing where he was at, he was on his way to bigger and better things. It just makes it even harder," said Barna. "He was already great but he was making himself even better."

Hintz and Barna described their friend as active in Republican politics, and attended a John McCain rally two days before the 2008 Presidential election. He also loved music and enjoyed seeking out little known hip-hop artists who were not mainstream.

"He didn't let a lot of people get close, but if you got close he definitely took care of you. You never had to worry about him doing something behind your back," said Hintz.

A MEMORIAL service for Schlifke took place Tuesday, Dec. 2 at CNU. According to Barna, details for a funeral have yet to be finalized. Barna said that the family was still working out funeral details. He said that Schlifke's remains had been cremated so there was less urgency to have a service right away, especially with so many of his friends on Thanksgiving break. Both Barna and Hintz said they expected a memorial service would happen after students finish the semester Dec. 13."

Choir Shares Message of Hope

FROM PAGE 3

he said. "When we turn our back on AIDS, we turn our back on Jesus."

Some members in the audience expressed awe at the positive attitudes displayed by the choir. Fairfax Station resident Kaite Linder said she had learned about the disease in school and on the news, but coming face to face with people diagnosed with it was a new experience for her.

"Sitting in front of them, it's a completely different experience," said Linder.

Springfield resident Zoraya Stern said she was surprised and moved at how happy the choir members were despite the hardships they had endured.

"What struck me the most was listening to the power of their voices and with such joy."

— Zoraya Stern

"What struck me the most was listening to the power of their voices and with such joy," she said.

The choir repeated the forceful prayers Zacaroli spoke of at the concert Sunday. Bernardino Berrio, from Texas, said the style contrasted with the prayers one would normally encounter in an American church.

"That was like a teaching for us. It shows that we don't know how to express our love and pain," he said.

The Keiskamma choir also performed at James Madison University on Tuesday Dec. 2. They will also be performing Friday Dec. 5 at the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington D.C.; Saturday, Dec. 6 at Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Fairfax; Sunday, Dec. 7 at Westmoreland United Church of Christ in Bethesda, Md. and

later in the day at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in College Park, Md.

Black Friday Not So Black?

FROM PAGE 4

"This is the worst budget in at least 20 years. ... I think it is safe to say that every program is going to have to be cut and programs that we have never cut are going to have to be cut," said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who has sat on the State Senate budget committee for 12 years.

The Fairfax County government does not rely a great deal on the sales tax. Real estate taxes, the car tax and business and professional license fees all generate more for the county than the sales tax, according to Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), chair of the county's budget committee.

Still, the county is worried about the downward trend they have seen in sales tax revenue.

"It is not one of our primary sources of revenue but it is an indicator of how other things are doing," said Bulova.

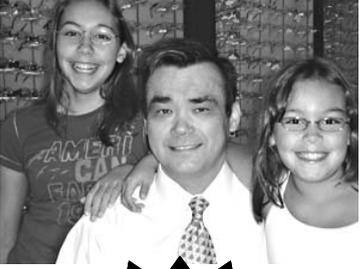
The drop off in sales statewide also could profoundly impact Fairfax County Public Schools.

The school system anticipated receiving about 7.2 percent of its budget, or \$155 million, in sales tax revenue from the state this year.

After Kaine warned of a downturn in consumer spending, school officials reduced the amount of sales tax money they had included in the system's budget by \$5.5 million. Even if sales hold steady for the coming year, the school system could still be facing as much as a \$220 million shortfall.

"Every dime is a concern these days," said Paul Regnier, schools spokesperson.

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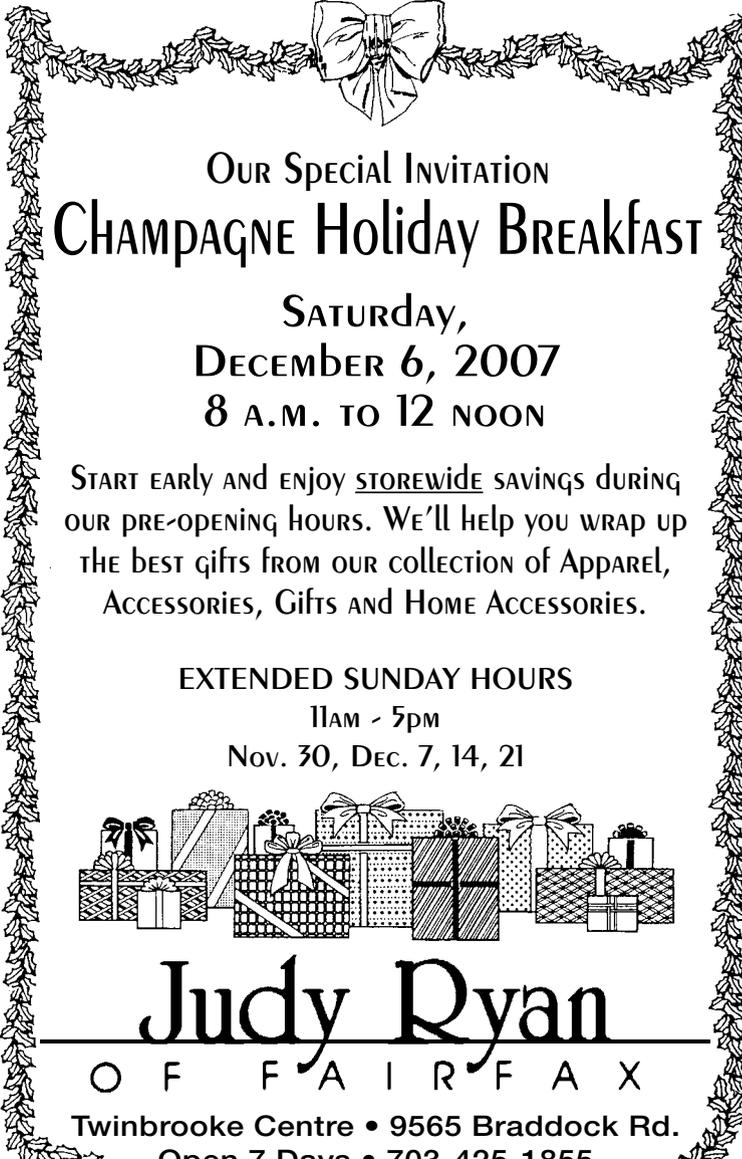
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Goldbranson Helps Map Their Futures

Burke woman receives award for starting club to help adults with disabilities.

BY LINDSAY GSELL
THE CONNECITON

Two years ago, Donna Goldbranson began a program that would change the lives of 12 adults and their families. Goldbranson founded Specially Adapted Resource Clubs (SPARC), an organization that aims to change the blueprint of long-term care for adults with disabilities by providing life-long learning opportunities for adults 22 and older with a physical and/or developmental disability.

“Every parent involved with SPARC shares the same feelings about Donna and everything she does for our kids.”

All of that hard work recently paid off for Goldbranson, a resident of Burke, who was selected by the Washington Area Toyota Dealers and WJLA-TV as one of seven recipients of the 2008 Tribute to Working Women, now in its 14th year.

Goldbranson, along with fellow recipients and guests, were treated to a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Nov. 7. Keynote speakers including Alison Starling of WJLA-TV as well as sponsor Tamara Darvish. Many other prominent women of the Washington, D.C. area

were present, including Susan Swain, Co-Chief Operating Officer of C-SPAN, who sat at Goldbranson’s table during the event.

“It was just spectacular,” said Goldbranson.

Much to her surprise, Goldbranson was nominated for the award by the 12 adults in SPARC and their supportive families, who each wrote a letter to accompany Goldbranson’s nomination.

“Every parent involved with SPARC shares the same feelings about Donna and everything she does for our kids,” said Mary Burger, whose son Kyle is one of Goldbranson’s “SPARC-les.”

“She has had such an impact on these young lives and certainly we need more people like her in the world,” said Burger. “All the work Donna does is for the benefit of others.”

“In two years, these families and adults have been so impacted by the program that they just took it upon themselves to do this,” said Goldbranson. “That’s when you know you’ve done something right.”

Each year, past recipients of the Tribute to Working Women award attend the event as well, providing countless networking op-

— Mary Burger



Donna Goldbranson poses for a photo with Adam Toobin and Hazem Eldarwish, members of the Specially Adapted Resource Club.

DONATED PHOTO

portunities and an annual chance to renew relationships.

“I had so many great conversations with previous winners of the award. One of the things I am most excited about is getting to come back to this event every year. It’s wonderful for women to help each other like this,” said Goldbranson. “It is truly a tremendous group of women.”

“All of these women, when you hear their stories, it make you just want to jump out of bed and do something,” said Tim Brown, a volunteer with SPARC and a member of the SPARC Advisory Board. “These women are civic minded, dynamic women out to change society for the better, and Donna

has now officially joined that group.”

The mother of a teenage special needs child, Goldbranson created SPARC as an option for individuals based on the health club model familiar to most adults. Run out of the Southgate Recreation Center in Reston, SPARC’s positive team environment allows club members to focus on each other’s unique abilities, support each other, foster self-advocacy, respect each other and provides opportunities for club members to contribute to their community.

“We have tremendous support from our county partners, I know that this organization will be able to grow all over Northern Virginia,” said Goldbranson.

VIEWPOINTS

What are you thankful for and what is your favorite Thanksgiving food?



“I’m thankful for my family cause everyone is going to come and visit. Turkey.”

Daphne Essimi-Menye



“My cousins cause I have someone to play with. Mashed potatoes.”

Sana Tahir



“Games like board games, Battleship. Stuffing.”

Jonathan Hernandez



“Ice cream and video games, war and action. Ice cream.”

Daniel Moore

CANNON COOK

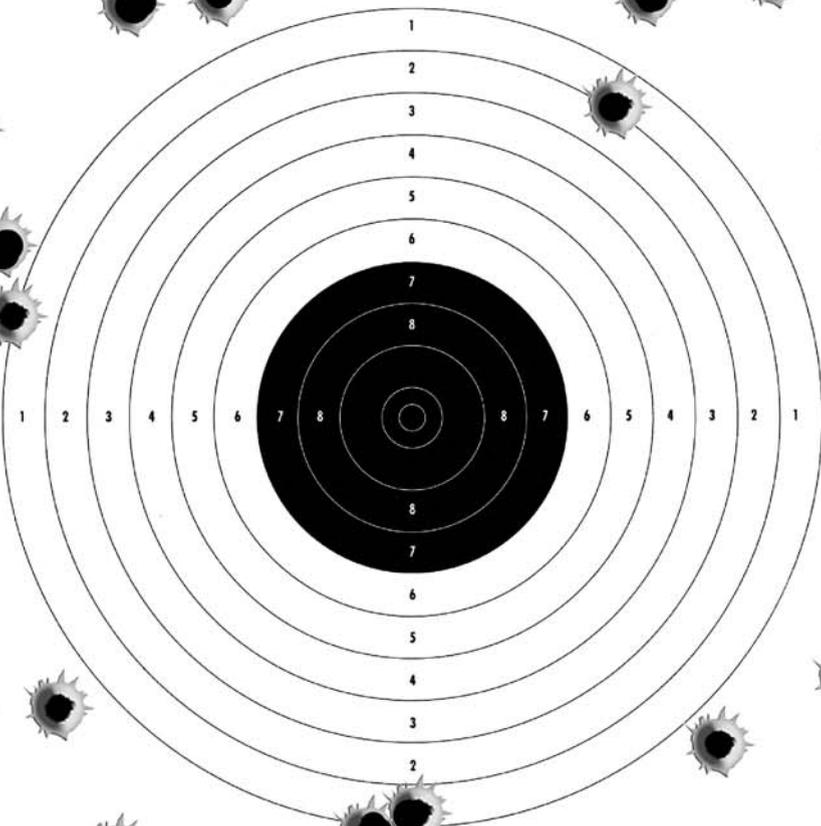
Venturing Scouts Earn Triple Crown

Four members of Burke-based Venturing Crew 1346 — Christopher Gaul, Michael Dold, Rob Brese and Ryan Holleran — recently earned the Triple Crown Award for having participated in high adventure treks to all three of Boy Scouting’s national high adventure facilities: Philmont Scout Ranch, a backpacking venue in the Sangre do Cristo mountain range of Northeastern New Mexico; Florida Sea Base, a sailing, scuba diving and marine study facility co-located in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas; and Northern Tier, a backcountry canoeing facility in the Boundary Waters area straddling Minnesota in the United States and Ontario in



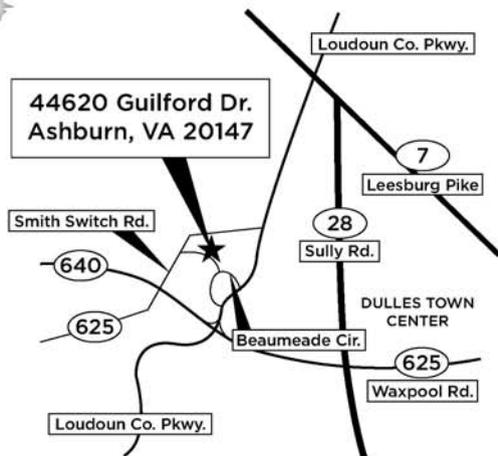
Philmont Crew Contingent atop Tooth of Time peak.

Canada. These four Triple Crown recipients received their award on Oct. 29 at the local Boy Scouting council’s annual Bison Banquet at the Kena Temple Shiner’s Hall in Fairfax.



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OPINION

Don't Lump Poor Students Together

Boundary changes should not create schools with high concentrations of poverty.

Under one proposal, one new elementary school in Fairfax County, Coppermine in Herndon, would open next fall with almost 60 percent of its students poor enough to qualify subsidized meals.

Meanwhile at Oak Hill, the most affluent of the six elementary schools in this boundary change decision, the percentage of poor students would drop from 4.4 to 3.4 percent.

At the other end of the county, the opening of another new school, Laurel Hill, will bring a boundary change there as well. In one proposal, Lorton Station would see its percentage of poor students increase to 41 percent, up from 35, while another school in that boundary study, Silverbrook, would see its percentage of poor students drop to 3 percent from 11 percent.

Students achieve more in schools that do not have high concentrations of poor students, and the county should use boundary change opportunities to improve these ratios.

There is no easy way to change school boundaries, as members of the Fairfax school board can no doubt attest. They are in the midst of another round of redrawing school boundaries, this time because of the imminent opening of

two new elementary schools.

Some of these families have been through multiple boundary studies and changes. In the last decade, homes in the northeastern Floris district have undergone six major school boundary changes.

But some of the proposals on the table both in the north and south part of the county should never have made it to the drawing board, because they would cluster poor students in schools at a much higher rate than the county average.

Overall, about 20 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to receive subsidized or free meals. These are students from families who are poor by any reasonable measure.

Research shows that performance lags in schools with high concentrations of poor students, and one set of guidelines suggests that school populations should be no more than 40 percent students who are poor.

There are places where this is nearly impossible, whole school districts that have high concentrations of poverty. Not so here in Fairfax where the average household income is more than \$100,000, the wealthiest county in the country by recent measures.

Yet in 31 elementary schools in Fairfax County, more than 40 percent of the students are poor. That's 31 out of 137 schools, or more than 22 percent of the county's elementary schools with a student body with a very high poverty rate, defined as 40 percent or more students receiving subsidized lunch.

cent decrease.

What does that mean?

State revenues are dependent on retail sales, real estate sales and income. With our retail sector flat and unemployment rising, there is less revenue from these traditional sources. The collapse of the housing and stock market simply exacerbates the downward trend.

In the state Assembly, we have a constitutional mandate to balance the budget. We will do that because we have no choice.

Across-the-board pending reductions are going to occur. That's obvious. However, we also must review the special interest tax breaks doled out over the past five years. For example, it's not acceptable to cut salaries for teachers and police during a recession but retain the tax exemption for million-dollar inheritances.

I will be reviewing every possible alternative to balance our state budget while still preserving core services. I look forward to hearing from constituents, both residents and business owners, with ideas on these critical issues. Please feel free to contact us at 703-349-3361 or www.fairfaxsenator.com.

Poverty Concentrated

On average, about 20 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor. Some schools with high concentrations of poor students:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL POVERTY RATE
Annandale Terrace, Annandale 57.19%
Bailey's, Arts and Sciences 54.09%
Beech Tree, Falls Church 41.81%
Belvedere, Falls Church 43.06%
Braddock, Fairfax 49.33%
Bren Mar Park, Alexandria 47.76%
Bucknell, Mount Vernon 53.85%
Cameron, Alexandria 55.61%
Crestwood, Springfield 55.51%
Dogwood, Reston 60.28%
Garfield, Springfield 42.90%
Glen Forest, Falls Church 67.44%
Graham Road, Falls Church 76.76%
Groveton, Mount Vernon 58.44%
Hollin Meadows, Mount Vernon 44.48%
Hutchinson, Herndon 45.29%
Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon 81.11%
Lynbrook, Springfield 67.92%
McNair, Herndon 41.66%
Mount Eagle, Mount Vernon 75.17%
Mount Vernon Woods, Mount Vernon 77.99%
Parklawn, Alexandria 59.22%
Riverside, Mount Vernon 60.61%
Timber Lane, Falls Church 51.91%
Washington Mill, Mount Vernon 42.64%
Westlawn, Falls Church 47.95%
Weyanoke, Alexandria 67.73%
Woodburn, Falls Church 41.39%
Woodlawn, Mount Vernon 55.41%
Woodley Hills, Mount Vernon 55.39%

Seventeen elementary schools in Fairfax County have a poverty rate of more than 50 percent, with some much higher.

It's one more reason for the school board to consider a county-wide boundary study. (Another big reason: some schools are overcrowded while others have many open seats.)

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

On the Web

Read more about the current boundary changes at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Bleak News for Virginians

Bad economy will lead to cuts in state budget.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN
D-34

This past week, I spent two days in Fredericksburg for the State Senate Finance retreat. We had a chance to hear from the top financial experts in Virginia. The news is bleak. Like most states, Virginia is facing a significant budget deficit, which will be about \$3.5 billion or 10 percent of our "general fund" budget for 2009.

The economic indicators are pointing down. First and foremost is our housing market. The subprime meltdown has led to general collapse in housing prices in Northern Virginia, which is the state's economic engine.

While values in central Fairfax County have stayed comparatively stable, the bottom has dropped out in the outer suburbs. Currently, in Prince William County, over 70 percent of real estate sales are from foreclosure. The average sale price has dropped from \$389,000 to \$177,000. That's a shocking 130 per-

Thanks for 'Yes' on Bond

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for

your support of Fairfax County parks. The \$77 million Parks and Park Facilities Bond on this year's ballot was approved by nearly 68 percent of voters on Election Day. Throughout the Park Authority's 50-year history, you have overwhelmingly supported park bond referendums, authorizing over \$400 million for land acquisition and park development. Without your continued commitment to parks, the

LETTERS SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Fairfax County Park Authority would not be able to protect open spaces or to provide nationally recognized recreational facilities that make Fairfax County such a desirable place to live and play.

The voter approved park bonds will be allocated to the Fairfax County Park Authority to fund land acquisition, park development, park and building renovations and stewardship projects. The bond will allow us to continue towards our goal of 10 percent of open space in park ownership in Fairfax County. With this new funding authority, we will also continue to address the countrywide shortage of rectangular fields by converting existing fields to synthetic turf. The trail network will continue to improve, connecting people with recreational facilities and the natural world, and many aging facilities will also receive long-needed renovations and repairs to extend their service life.

A new stewardship category was included to fund capital projects that promote the protection, enhancement and interpretation of natural and cultural resources. As part of this initiative, Huntley Meadows Park will see its wetland restored through an ambitious project designed to preserve its unique and irreplaceable freshwater marsh.

Again, we thank you for choosing to vote "Yes" for parks. The Park Authority Board values your trust and confidence in our fiscal responsibility as we navigate these uncertain economic times. Be assured that your unwavering loyalty to parks is greatly appreciated.

Harold Strickland
Chairman
Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Election Day A Success

To the Editor:

There will be many memorable images from election 2008, but perhaps none is more heartening than that of Americans voting in staggering numbers at the polls. It is an affirmation that our democracy is alive and well. Voters deserve to be congratulated for their deep commitment to voting and for their patience and perseverance. They showed real dedication by voting early, standing in long lines when necessary and making sure their voices were heard.

In Fairfax County, 78.7 percent of the 665,674 registered voters voted for president/vice president. Election Day went smoothly, and after the early morning rush, there was little waiting to vote at most precincts. Voters were greeted with the option of using the "old" WinVote computer or the new optical scanning paper ballot. The paper ballot option sped up voting and seemed to be well received by those who chose to use it.

Democracy got a big boost this election with such enthusiastic participation from voters, especially younger voters ages 18-29, but there is always more to be done to make it work well for all Americans. The challenges we face will require our continued participation in this democratic process. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area works year-round to inform our community about candidates and advocate on issues that affect our daily lives. We were immensely gratified to see so many people engaged in the political process this year.

Sherry W. Zachry
President
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

New Year's Eve Fun Starts at 4 o'clock
14th annual

MADD 5k Red Ribbon Run

Benefiting Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern Virginia

Put on your running shoes before putting on your party shoes

A Great New Year's Eve Family Event

When:	Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 4:00 PM
Where:	George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) - 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concern Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com .
What:	USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration:	\$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th and on race day
Packet Pick-up:	Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: (& Packet Pick-up)	GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM

Register online at www.racepacket.com

For info, see www.maddnova.org
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Celtic A Capella Music for the Holidays

Anuna to perform at Fairfax Borders

Anuna, the Celtic a cappella group, will be performing on Sunday Dec. 7 at the Fairfax Borders bookstore, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Anuna is currently touring at Borders locations across the country to promote the release of their new CD and DVD "Christmas Memories." The Connection spoke with John McGlynn, of Anuna to talk about the show and the tour.

Describe your music and style for this tour.

For this set of shows, we're doing pretty well known seasonal pieces. We have some Irish pieces mixed in as well. We're a choral a cappella, with some brass instruments, harp, violin included. It's all very seasonal.

How did you get started writing and playing Celtic music?

I started when I was very young in Ireland, playing piano with my mother. Since I was a very small child, since I could speak, I was singing. The band Anuna has been around for 22 years now. Throughout our history we've had somewhere 120-130 members, we've changed cause we've had to. There are 39 active members, and we have 12 on this tour. What's interesting is



Anuna will be performing at the Fairfax Borders bookstore on Dec. 7.

the average age of our members has been dropping steadily over the last few years. I see more and more young singers going back to expressive music. We've become a sort of breeding ground for young artists.

What is the most satisfying part of what you do?

The fact that everyone we sing to is touched by the music in the same way, seeing the universal understanding of this music is incredible.

Where does the name Anuna come from?

It is derived from An Uaithne, or the three different types of ancient music — lullaby, lament and happy song. This is not just specific to ancient Irish and Celtic music, it is a worldly music.

What are you looking forward to, or hoping for on this tour?

Major success for a start. (Laughs). We've done four shows so far. It's tough touring,

doing the whole hotel room thing, finding a place to cook your chicken noodles. We arrive at a venue and people expect to hear you and that's a good thing, I hope it continues till Seattle.

Where does the tour take you?

We're going all the way down the East Coast, to San Antonio then the West Coast. It's an adventure.

What have you enjoyed the most, and least, about touring?

Arriving in New York and leaving. But we have the Baltimore show coming up and we're excited about that.

What can people expect at one of your shows?

Christmas. Leave all your woes at home, you'll be expected to sing as well.

Is there anything you would like to say to people who might be coming out to one of your holiday shows?

Please come along with an open mind and an open wallet (laughs), and be prepared for some fun. Get a chance to talk and meet us, and get your CD's signed.

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Huge thanks to Borders. They're fabulous. I'll be doing all of my Christmas shopping at the Borders in Seattle our last stop on the tour.

— CANNON COOK




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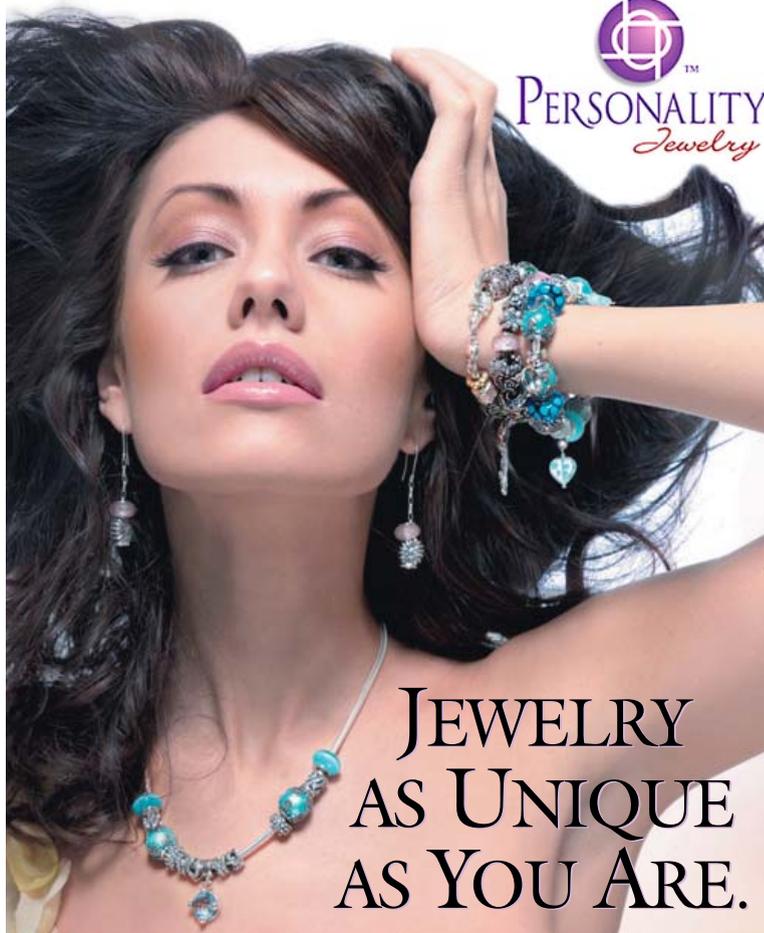
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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, email southcalendar@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

W.T. Woodson Symphonic Band Holiday Tunes for Tots, 10 a.m., in the W. T. Woodson High School gymnasium, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Appropriate for ages 3-7. Tickets are \$3. 703-385-5561 or lynnhill@yahoo.com.

Schooner Fare, 8 p.m. Maritime tunes and high-energy folk at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Jewish Historical Society lecture, on the growth and development of the Jewish community in Northern Virginia 12-2 p.m. Bring a dairy or parve lunch. Dessert, coffee and tea will be served. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. JCCNV members free, non-members \$3. 703-537-3064 or Info@jhsjgw.org.

Adrian Legg, Fingerstyle guitar. 7:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Lamb Tales, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and activities for age 13-23 months with adult. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Flu Vaccinations, \$25 or Medicare Part B. Must be 18 or older. Call Inova, 703-698-2424. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600.

Animals in Winter, 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Animal stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. Pohick

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Home for the Holidays

Festival of Lights & Carols
Dec 6th 4-11AM-7PM Old Town Hall and Kitty Pozer Garden

Concerts each weekend in Old Town Hall
Dec 5th-Theatre of the First Amendment in Old Town Hall
Dec 12th-Alte Kameraden: A German Christmas
Dec 19th-Bob Brown Puppets: Children's Series
Dec 26th-Sior Og: A Celtic Christmas

Fairfax Art League Gallery open every weekend 4-9PM

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Date for your holiday calendar: Dec 31st 'First Fairfax-a Night to Remember!'

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Bull Run Regional Park
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville

www.nvrpa.org

FROM PAGE 11

Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Schooner Fare. 8 p.m. Maritime tunes and high-energy folk at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Kennedys. Acoustic/pop/folk. 7:30 p.m. \$18. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Numa and Politicks. Rock/soul/reggae 10:30 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-

1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Lunch bunnies. 12 p.m. Bring lunch, listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600.

Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$44-\$86. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

'First Fridays at the Old Town Hall,' with music and dance by "Doc" Nix and Adriane Fang, 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-993-22195.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Festival of Lights and Carols in Old Town Fairfax. Free. 11:30-7 p.m. Santa Claus, caroling, ice sculptures, s'mores and hot apple cider, a Yule log, the lighting of the Christmas tree and light display in the Kitty Pozer Garden, next to Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive.

Holiday Open House with cookies and punch from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Free. 703-385-8414.

Decorate a gingerbread house for a local homeless shelter, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main St., Fairfax. Free. 703-385-8414.

The Kennedys. Rock for children. 11 a.m. \$8. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Tyler Hilton full band, Curtis Peoples and Dave Yaden. Pop/rock. 7:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Braddock's True Gold," Providence Perspective Project and the Jamestown 400 Legacy Book Fairfax County Stories 1607-2007, with Gerry Connolly, Sharon Bulova, Linda Byrne, Kathy Marinucci, Mary Lipsey, Cora Foley and more. 3 p.m. at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Registration required. 703-242-4020.

Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love," 2

p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 1:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$48-\$98. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Pet Photos with Santa, 12-2 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4245 Summit Corner Drive, Fairfax. Every pet gets a treat. Proceeds benefit H.A.R.T. (Homeless Animals Rescue Team). 703-227-0894 or www.fairfaxcorner.com.

The 19th Annual Model Train Display, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Station, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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vs. Phoenix Suns	Jan 26th	@ 7pm

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vs. New York Knicks	Jan 16th	@ 7pm
vs. Indiana Pacers	Feb 8th	@ 6pm



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Dear Santa,

Please ask Mommy and Daddy to take me to the

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's "Holiday Pops,"

3 p.m., Sunday, December 14th, at GMU's Center for the Arts.

They can get tickets at www.fairfaxsymphony.org or by calling 888-945-2468.

Love,
Clara

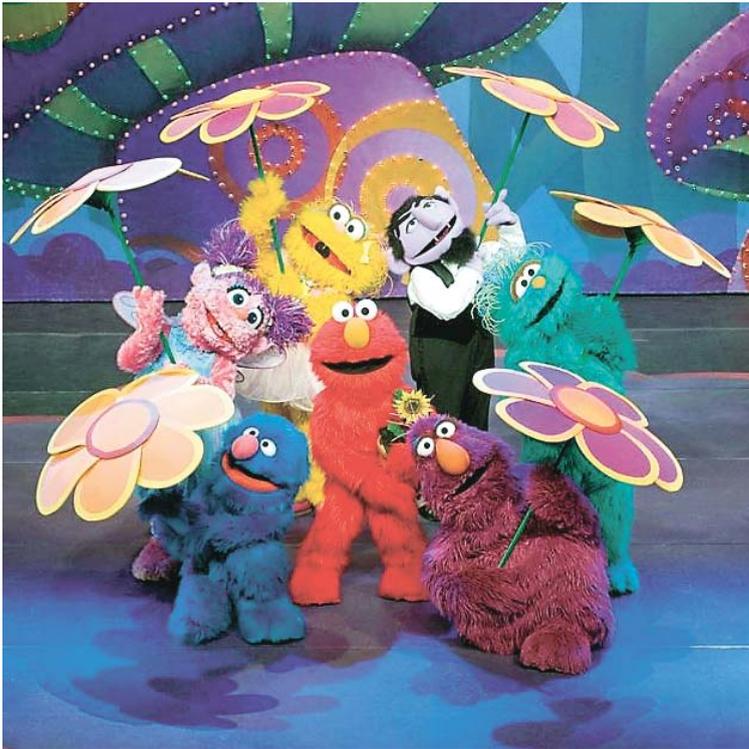
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CALENDAR



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF VEE CORPORATION

Sesame Street Live 'Elmo's Green Thumb' will be at George Mason University Patriot Center from Thursday, Dec. 11 through Sunday, Dec. 14.

FROM PAGE 12

railroad museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many different gauges, all moving, including a Garden gauge around the building. Bring model train problems to "The Train Doctor". Weather permitting, Model A autos will be on display. Caboose and gift shop open. Visit by Santa. \$4 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfaxstation.org.

22nd Annual Rudolph's Red Nose 10K Run, Santa Baby Jogger Boogie 10K and 5K Reindeer Run, at the New School of Northern Virginia, Silver King Court, Fairfax. Cozy bonfire, cookies and cocoa, artist-designed race T-shirt. Register online at www.Racepacket.com, or register onsite race morning. www.newschoolpa.org or e-mail RudolphRedNose10K@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Festival of Lights and Carols in Old Town Fairfax. Free. The Kitty Pozer Garden, next to Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive.

Annual Mid Atlantic Song Contest Awards Gala & Concert. 7 p.m. \$7 in advance and for SAW members, \$10 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Holiday Book Mart. 2 p.m. New and used books. Authors will be available to sign their books. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

Anuna will perform and sign copies of the CD "Christmas Memories" at 7 p.m. in Borders Bookstore, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

The 19th Annual Model Train Display, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Station, 12-4 p.m. at the railroad museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Rd. Fairfax Station. \$4 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfaxstation.org.

Holiday Concert, 7 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Old seasonal favorites, carols and an audience sing-a-long. The George Mason University ensembles performing include the Chamber Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra, University Chorale, University Singers and Select Women's Chorale. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Charge tickets at 888-

945-2468 or www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The Filene Center 40th Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 4-5:30 p.m. The United States Marine Band will lead the audience in traditional holiday songs. Free admission, no tickets required. Gates open at 3 p.m. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the entrance for Toys for Tots, but are not required. Bring bells and participate in a "Jing-A-Long," during which the audience will use their bells to join in on "Jingle Bells," and a traditional performance of "Silent Night," accompanied by a picturesque candlelight procession exiting the Filene Center. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 8

The Classic Crime, A Change of Pace, Jet Lag Gemini and Tyler Read. Rock. 6:30 p.m. \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Nicolo Whimsey's Holiday Show. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600.

Vision Speaker Series: Preventing Genocide, 7 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

MC Lars, MC Frontalot and YTCracker. Rap/punk. 7:30 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jan Brett's Hedgie the Hedgehog. 10:15 a.m. Stories and activities. Bring a camera. Age 3-5 with adult. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

Fairfax Bibliophiles Book Collecting Group. 7:15 p.m. Bring your own books. Adults. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group. 1 p.m. "The Uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett. Pohick Regional Library, 6450

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



38th ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6

A Christmas Marketplace
Thursday, Dec. 4-Saturday, Dec. 6

Taste of Scotland
Friday, Dec. 5th at 8:00 pm-10:30 pm

Scottish Walk Parade
Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.

Designer Tour of Homes
Saturday, Dec. 6th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

More Activities
Heather and Greens Sale • Children's Tea • Celtic Concert

Presented by The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center,
The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, D.C., and the City of Alexandria.

Join Us Again at
The George Washington Masonic Memorial!

The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services. For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center's efforts, please visit www.campagnacenter.org or call (703) 549-0111.

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 548-0111.
Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

Support



Official Drop-Off Point

Tues., December 9, 3-5 PM

Santa Visits Kenwood

Join Kenwood students in welcoming Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots and join the fun!

Fri., December 12, 7-10 AM

Breakfast to Go Party

Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate and enjoy hot coffee and doughnuts as a "thank you" for your support.

Our Toys for Tots drive continues through December 15th. Please drop any new, unwrapped toys at Kenwood or Grasshopper Green Schools. Bring the kids to visit Santa on the 9th and breakfast on the 12th.



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31st Annual Holiday Art & Craft Show



Audrey Moore RECenter at Wakefield Park

8100 Braddock Road • Annandale, VA 22003
703-321-7081

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

10:00 am – 3:30 pm

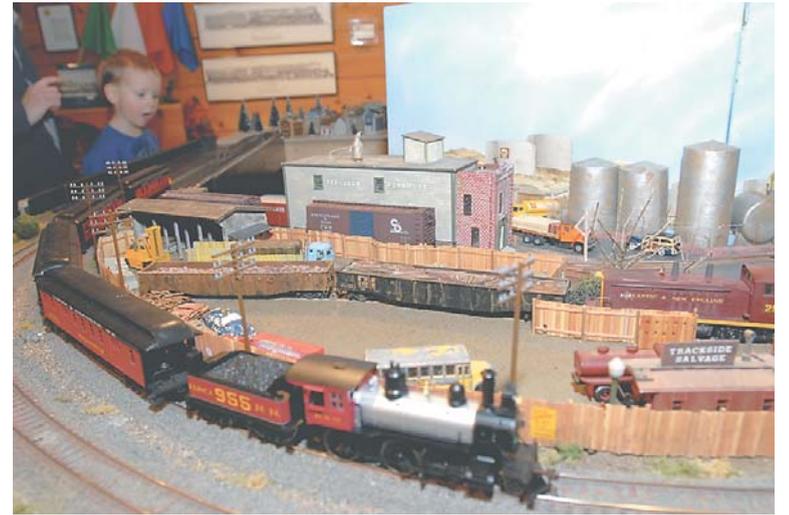
*Shop for quality
art & crafts offered by
over 130 juried artisans*

**Admission \$2 per person
over 12 yrs**

Door Prizes will be Awarded!



Americans with Disabilities Act
(ADA), please call 703-324-8563,
TTY 703-803-3354



The 19th Annual Model Train Display, sponsored by the Friends of Fairfax Station, will be at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Dec. 6-7.

FROM PAGE 13

Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

Mothers First of Burke/Fairfax, 10 a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.

GMU Wind Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

Graham Colton, Michael Tolcher, Bryan Greenberg and Tim Brantley. Acoustic/pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Science and Stories. 4:30 p.m. Simple science experiments. Age 4-6. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. Search for your ancestors on the library databases. Age 13 and up. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

Frosty Tales. 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600.

Performance and Demonstration of Dandia Raas, folk dance from Western India. Instructor Archana Chhaya. 7:30 p.m. Age 14 and up. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Green Thumb". 7 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$75 at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Swing Speak, 8 p.m. at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free swing lesson at 7:30 p.m. Admission \$10. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

Bedtime Stories with Jan Brett's Hedgie the Hedgehog. 10:15 a.m. Stories and activities. Bring a camera. Age 3-5 with adult. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

Financial Planning for Separation and Divorce, 7 p.m. at Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. 703-281-2657 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

Alte Kameraden German Band: traditional German Christmas Carols and seasonal favorites. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS.

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Green Thumb". 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$75 at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

"Oklahoma!", 7 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. 703-750-7500 or www.tjhsst.edu.

Robbie Schaefer with John Jennings. Acoustic/folk. 8 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Over the North Pole", 8 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$17 adults, \$15 students and seniors 703-222-5511 or www.ensemble-tap.org.

"Home for the Holidays," featuring Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax Campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, will be at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44, children 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Green Thumb". 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$75 at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

"Oklahoma!", 7 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. 703-750-7500 or www.tjhsst.edu.

Elizabeth, Phil, and Chris. Acoustic trio. 6 p.m. \$12. Jammin'

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR



The annual Festival of Lights and Carols in Old Town Fairfax, with Santa Claus, ice sculptures, the lighting of the Christmas tree and more, will be Saturday, Dec. 6.

FROM PAGE 14

Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jeremy Enigk. Rock. 9:30 p.m. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Classy Glass. 1 p.m. Make decorative, reusable window clings. Age 12-18. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Microsoft Powerpoint. 2:30 p.m. How to put together a presentation. Age 13 and up. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. 703-293-6227.

"Over the North Pole," 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Ernst Theatre, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$17 adults, \$15 students and seniors 703-222-5511 or www.ensemble-tap.org.

Christmas Concert with Victor Lopez and the Lopez Performing Arts Youth Choir, 12-3 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tickets \$30-\$75 at 703-787-0071, ext. 100.

A Celtic Christmas, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8888 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Toy Train Show and Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Operating train layouts, train repairs, Santa, door prizes. Adults \$5, Military, Scouts in uniform, children under 12 free. Hope Danielson, 703-743-2152

Fairfax County Kinship Respite Day, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. will provide relatives who are raising a child for another family member a day off while providing fun for the children, who can be part of a theatrical production or participate in a variety of games, arts and crafts. Fairfax County children ages 3-15 can be dropped off at one of three community centers, and the children will be bused to James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road in Falls Church. Participation is free, but pre-registration is required. 703-324-3517, TTY 703-449-1186. Transportation available from:

- ❖ **Gum Springs Community Center,** 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria.
- ❖ **Mott Community Center,** 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax.
- ❖ **Southgate Community Center,** 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

An Afternoon with a Colonial Fiddler, with musician Michael McDonnell. 2 p.m. Free. Fairfax

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Call 703-385-8414 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov.

Sesame Street Live "Elmo's Green Thumb." 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$75 at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Anna Shulman: The Queen of H Street. 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Recommended for fourth-seventh grades. JCCNV members \$3, non-members \$4. Contact Laurie Albert at 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," 2 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

"Oklahoma!," 2 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. 703-750-7500 or www.tjhsst.edu.

Carrie Rodriguez full band and Carsie Blanton. Roots/country. 7 p.m. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Over the North Pole," 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$17 adults, \$15 students and seniors 703-222-5511 or www.ensemble-tap.org.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops Concert, with the Fairfax Choral Society and W.T. Woodson High School Select Vocal Ensemble, 3 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

"The Battle of Monocacy," lecture by Marc Leepson at 6 p.m. during the monthly supper of the Frank Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans at the Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Open to the public \$5; order off the menu. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Holiday Pops, 3 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, Fairfax. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 15

Sophie the Performing Dog. 10:30 a.m. Sophie, a Cairn terrier, performs tricks and stunts. All ages. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.



Old Town Plaza
SHOPS & DINING

Holiday Arts & Crafts Marketplace
Weekends from now until January 1
Shop for unique gifts, and fun 'stuff'!

Entertainment & Music
Every weekend 3:30-6pm
Local schools and performers

Saturdays with Santa
Visit with Santa at the Old Town Plaza
Saturday December 13 & 20 3:30-6:30

Festival of Lights & Carols
December 5 6-8 Holiday Jazz on the Plaza
December 6 11-7pm
Santa comes to Old Town Hall & Kitty Pozer Garden
4pm-6pm Children's Holiday music on the Plaza
6pm-8pm Holiday Music on the Plaza

Fairfax Art League Gallery
Open every weekend
Friday & Saturday 12-9pm
Sunday 12-5pm
Enjoy music in the Gallery while you enjoy the art and shop for someone special

Save cooking! Enjoy family dining, or a meal with friends in Old Town Plaza

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Panera Bread	Sport & Spine Rehab	
Metro Silver Diner	Foster's Grille	
Austin Grill Express	Pacers Running Store	

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Paws and Claus

Santa Loves Pets!

Tis the time of year to bring your furry four legged friend in to have their picture taken with Santa!

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Sundays, December 7, 14 & 21

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
6458 LAKE MEADOW DR	5	4	1	BURKE	\$850,000	Detached	0.59	EDGEWATER		
9019 ADVANTAGE CT	5	4	0	BURKE	\$655,000	Detached	0.26	SIGNAL HILL ESTATES		
6722 STONECUTTER DR	5	2	1	BURKE	\$570,000	Detached	0.71	CHERRY RUN		
6103 LUNDY PL	4	3	1	BURKE	\$565,000	Detached	0.21	BENT TREE		
9616 STAYSAIL CT	5	3	1	BURKE	\$509,850	Detached	0.19	LONGWOOD KNOLLS		
10231 MARSHALL POND RD	4	3	1	BURKE	\$500,000	Detached	0.17	BURKE CENTRE		
5018 PRINCE CASPIAN LN	3	2	0	BURKE	\$449,000	Detached	0.20	MEADOWS OF NARNIA		
9508 BURNING BRANCH RD	3	2	1	BURKE	\$435,000	Detached	0.23	CARDINAL GLEN		
9011 BROOK FORD RD	5	3	0	BURKE	\$405,000	Detached	0.19	BURKE STATION SQUARE		
9097 ANDROMEDA DR	5	3	1	BURKE	\$388,000	Detached	0.21	ROLLING VALLEY WEST		
6362 TISBURY DR	3	2	2	BURKE	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.04	BRITFORD		
9401 WILLIAM KIRK LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.06	CAROLINE OAKS		
5601 CASTLEBURY CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$359,000	Townhouse	0.06	CROWNLEIGH		
5824 WYE OAK COMMONS CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.08	WALDEN AT BURKE CENTRE		
9142 SILCHESTER CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$345,000	Detached	0.08	WAVERLY WEST		
5926 POWELLS LANDING RD	3	2	2	BURKE	\$340,000	Duplex	0.07	BURKE CENTRE		
12290 WYE OAK COMMONS CIR#105	3	1	1	BURKE	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.03	BURKE CENTRE		
5737 BURKE TOWNE CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.03	TOWNS OF BURKE		
6215 ERMAN ST	5	2	1	BURKE	\$322,000	Detached	0.25	ROLLING VALLEY WEST		
5652 SUTHERLAND CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.04	CROWNLEIGH		
5828 CANVASBACK RD	3	2	1	BURKE	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.08	BURKE VILLAGE		
6043 TICONDEROGA CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$312,500	Townhouse	0.04	HERITAGE SQUARE		
6203 GEMINI CT	3	2	0	BURKE	\$311,000	Detached	0.23	ROLLING VALLEY WEST		
12298 WYE OAK COMMONS CIR	4	3	1	BURKE	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.03	WALDEN AT BURKE CENTRE		
9917 LAKEPOINTE DR	3	2	1	BURKE	\$303,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKEPOINTE		
5643 SUTHERLAND CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.04	CROWNLEIGH		
5908 ROBERTS COMMON CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.05	BURKE CENTRE		
5877 KARA PL	4	3	1	BURKE	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.05	BURKE STATION SQUARE		
9774 HIGH WATER CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKEPOINTE		
5806 HIGH BLUFF CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE VILLAGE		
5916 PEREGRINE DR	3	2	0	BURKE	\$275,000	Detached	0.25	CARDINAL ESTATES		
6102 POND LILY CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$274,000	Townhouse	0.03	BURKE CENTRE		
5666 OAK TANAGER CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.05	BURKE CENTRE		
10218 FAIRE COMMONS CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$262,500	Townhouse	0.03	BURKE CENTRE		
6306 TEAKWOOD CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$260,000	Townhouse	0.04	OLD MILL COMMUNITY		
10254 QUIET POND TER	3	2	1	BURKE	\$257,700	Townhouse	0.03	BURKE CENTRE		
5806 BRIDGETOWN CT #11	3	3	0	BURKE	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.04	OAKWOOD COMMONS AT BURKE		
5943 HERITAGE SQUARE DR	3	3	1	BURKE	\$239,900	Townhouse	0.04	HERITAGE SQUARE NORTH		
5542 CROSSRAIL CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$238,500	Townhouse	0.04	GREENFIELD FARM		
10865 OAK GREEN CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE CENTRE		
5117 ARRIT CT	3	1	1	BURKE	\$210,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKE BRADDOCK		
6346 FENESTRA CT #127	3	2	1	BURKE	\$206,000	Townhouse	0.03	KEENE MILL WOODS		
5821 COVE LANDING RD #101	2	2	0	BURKE	\$202,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	BURKE COVE		
5443 CROSSRAIL DR	3	2	1	BURKE	\$195,000	Townhouse	0.03	GREENFIELD FARM		
9414 PACKARD WAY	3	1	1	BURKE	\$195,000	Townhouse	0.05	BURKE MANOR		
5912 COVE LANDING RD #201	2	2	0	BURKE	\$190,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	BURKE COVE		
6094 OLD LANDING WAY #57	2	1	0	BURKE	\$160,680	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	WOODWALK		
6366 PINE VIEW CT #62A	2	2	0	BURKE	\$156,500	Townhouse	0.03	KEENE MILL WOODS		

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For more information on MRIS, visit www.mris.com.

To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.

HEALTH NOTES

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Life with Cancer has a variety of support programs for cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Family Center, 2700 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax. 703-776-2841 or www.lifewithcancer.org.

The Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia will meet Sunday, Dec. 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Physicians' Conference Center, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Fairfax. Stephanie Campbell discusses life with Crohn's Disease, ostomy and more. 703-802-3457 or www.ostomysupportofnova.org.

The Clifton Presbyterian Church has a Caregiver Support Group that meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-related problems. Call Rebecca Daniel-Burke at 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

Body & Soul Fitness classes are cardio and strength training sessions set to contemporary Christian

music. Mondays and Fridays from 9-10:15 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Until Nov. 23. For more call Suzann Albanese at 703-372-2332 or e-mail salbanese@cox.net.

Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at www.lamaze-dc.com or by calling 703-549-2226.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. For more, call Greta at 703-204-4664 or visit www.alzheimersfcdc.org/classes.htm.

The **Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area** offers the following support group opportunities:

♦ **Fairfax Sully Group and Exercise Class.** The Support Group meets monthly on the fourth Saturday, from 10-11 a.m., with an exercise class at 11 a.m., at the Fair Oaks Sunrise Assisted Living Facility, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. 703-378-9213 or www.parkinsonstories.com.

♦ **Fairfax Little River Glen Support Group** meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1 p.m., at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. 202-966-4450.

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Headlines Gotcha Down?

Don't believe everything you hear on the news! Here at Weichert Realtors, we believe we have hit the bottom & we have the facts to prove it. According to the National Association of Realtors, pending homes sales jumped unexpectedly to the highest level since June 2007. Call now to find out more about why this is a great time to buy and sell.



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Fairfax Sta/So. Run \$724,950
3/4 Acre Lot

This lovely Colonial sits on a picturesque cul-de-sac w/3/4 acre flat fenced yard, eat-in kit w/granite & newer appl, finished bsmt w/full bath & custom bar, 2-lvl deck, dramatic MBR w/cathedral clngs & walk-in closet, MBA w/skylt & granite, replaced roof, siding & HVAC, walk to Burke Lake & comm pool & more.



Burke \$424,950
Sold in 4 Days

Enormous 2400 sqft TH in mint cond w/new hrdwd flrs & carpet, fresh paint, eat-in kit w/ Corian, sunrm w/skylts, vaulted clngs, huge fin walkout bsmt, 2 frplcs, MBR w/ walk-in closet, lux bath w/ sep tub & shower & skylts, deck, fenced yard & walk to shops.

Kathleen Quintarelli
703-862-8808



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OPEN HOUSES

SAT./SUN. DECEMBER 6 & 7



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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Springfield

7714 GRALNICK PLACE	\$643,800	Sunday	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
8374 FORRESTER BLVD	\$274,900	Sunday	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
6003 WATERBURY COURT	\$295,000	Sunday	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
6003 HAVERHILL COURT	\$409,900	Sunday	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
7918 BENTLEY VILLAGE DR #14A	\$279,900	12/7 2-4	Everything	Christopher Owens	703-313-1118

Kingstowne Alexandria

6236 JEAN LOUISE WAY	\$724,999	12/7 1-4	Long & Foster	John Steele	703-298-3149
4511 BEE ST	\$474,000	12/7 1-4	Century 21	George Rader	800-388-4291
5231 BALLYCASTLE CIR	\$470,000	12/7 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Kathleen Eckert	703-451-2500
6851 ROLLING CREEK WAY	\$700,000	12/7 1-4	Weichert	Marianne Weids	703-863-1320
5488 CLONMEL CT	\$719,900	12/7 1-4	Re/Max	Stephen Meehan	800-873-6298

Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill

8200 CRUSADE DRIVE	\$899,900	Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	Larry Askins	703-850-8176
11715 WINTERWAY DRIVE	\$1,250,000	Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	Laura Burroughs	703-909-1162
8121 HADDINGTON CT	\$788,967	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Shirley/Bob	703-407-4700
8013 CHIPPEHAM CT	\$749,967	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Shirley/Bob	703-407-4700
8728 FOXHALL TERR	\$729,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bob Lovett	703-407-4700
8506 OAK CHASE CIR	\$859,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Shirley/Bob	703-407-4700
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All listings due by Mon. at 3 p.m.



PHOTO BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION

Olympian Justin Spring, a Burke native and Lake Braddock graduate, signs autographs and helps with a youth clinic at the Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy in Sterling last Friday, Nov. 28.

Ring To Go with Medal

Justin Spring drops by Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

In the past four months, Lake Braddock graduate Justin Spring has traveled to Beijing, winning a bronze medal with the U.S. Men's Gymnastics team, canvassed the country on the 2008 Tour of Gymnastics Superstars and even made an October stop at Capital Gymnastics in Burke.

It was a whirlwind chain of events that often left Spring exhausted, nowhere near his new home in Champaign, Ill. and hundreds of miles away from his girlfriend of nearly five years, Tori Tanney.

Oh, how times have changed.

Spring was back in town over the holiday weekend, helping out at the Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy's youth clinic on Friday, Nov. 28, but his bronze medal wasn't the only piece of decorative jewelry that made the trip.

When the gymnastics tour performed at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall on Nov. 5, Spring proposed onstage to Tanney.

"I set up this whole elaborate thing at the show, and she had no idea it was coming," said Spring, who like Tanney, graduated from the University of Illinois. "We put her in the front row, and in between one of the acts I came out, said my piece and it

worked out perfectly."

Tanney accompanied Spring to NVGA last Friday, watching her fiancée help flip, coach and encourage children at the Sterling gym. The group of 20 to 30 students participated in an all-day camp with Spring, breaking for lunch and the chance to ask the Olympian a few questions and later snag an autographed photograph.

"It was different because he's homegrown," said NVGA owner Mike Comini. "We've had 30 to 40 Olympians here, but I think this is the first one from Virginia. It always makes it real for the kids to actually meet an Olympian."

PRIOR TO the question-and-answer session, a television played Spring's high bar routine from Beijing. Despite the 24/7 coverage of the Games, Spring hasn't seen his routines much.

"I totally got chills running up and down my spine," Spring said. "That's a moment that I will always remember."

Although he plans to compete in the 2012 London Games, Spring's life has slowed considerably since August, when he and his teammates surprised most of the world with a third-place finish in Beijing.

He's been working as an assistant coach for the Illinois men's gymnastics team, where he was a 12-time All-American and named the 2006 Big Ten Gymnast of the Year as a senior.

The engaged couple has yet to set a wedding date but Spring admitted that it's probably not too far away.

"We're meeting with the wedding planner on Friday," said Spring.

"It always makes it real for the kids to actually meet an Olympian."

— Mike Comini

WEEK IN SPORTS

Robinson's Barron to Connecticut

Tory Barron, a senior on the Robinson girls lacrosse team, has committed to play the sport next season at the University of Connecticut. A Fairfax Station native, Barron is a three-year letter winner for the Rams, earning all-Concorde District honors during her junior campaign as a midfielder. She's also a member of the Capital Lacrosse Club and helped the Rams (12-4) this spring to a Concorde District title game victory over Chantilly.

"Tory will add tremendous leadership and athleticism on the defensive end," said Huskies coach Angela McMahon in a press release issued by the school. "She has an innate ability to control the draw and her work ethic is contagious."

Barron will be joined in making the collegiate jump by teammates Megan Dunleavy (Virginia), Sarah Moody (Villanova), Sam Barber (Maryland), Kelsey Zinck (Connecticut) and Dana Sparks (Presbyterian).

Massie Catches on at Bentley

West Springfield graduate Lauren Massie, a freshman guard on the women's basketball team at Division II Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., made the first start of her collegiate career on Nov. 15, playing 26 minutes and scoring four points during a 76-54 win over Mercy. Since that point, Massie has become a fixture in the Falcons' starting lineup, averaging 6.2 points per game after the promotion and 5.3 overall. Massey has logged an average of 26.6 minutes per game in nine contests for the Falcons (4-5). She's second on the team in steals per game with 1.7 but also leads Bentley in personal fouls (32) and turnovers (36). At West Springfield, Massie guided the Spartans (18-9) to the Northern Region quarterfinals and the Patriot District final as a senior.

Ex-Cavalier Surges at Tufts

Despite suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament at the end of her freshman season on the Tufts University (Division III) field hockey team, 2007 W. T. Woodson graduate Tamara Brown emerged healthy and better than ever this season. Brown re-wrote the school's field hockey record book, scoring 28 goals and a total of 61 points for the Jumbos (19-2), smashing the previous marks of 18 goals and 41 points. Tufts (Boston, Mass.) suffered a double-overtime 3-2 loss to Bowdoin in the NCAA championship game on Sunday, Nov. 23. In the NCAA tournament, Brown scored a total of six goals, including two in the title game. In addition to being recognized as an NCAA second team All-America performer, Brown was named first team All-Conference (NESCAC) and first team All-New England Region West (NFHCA).

Paul VI Swimming Touches Off

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, the Paul VI swim team competed against Bishop Ireton at St. Alban's. The boys team, powered by seniors Pat Lytle, Alex Spina and Joe Clarke, dominated the Cardinals by winning nine of the 11 events en route to a 110-60 victory. The girls team, led by seniors Natalie Fitz, Jackie Orsa and Michelle Young, also had a number of strong performances and personal-best times despite dropping a 109-61 decision. The Panthers' next meet will be against St. Alban's and National Cathedral on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. at St. Alban's.

Edison Throws Fund Raiser

Edison High School will have a fund raiser for the boys and girls basketball teams on Saturday, Dec. 13 in the school's gymnasium. Members of the Charlottesville Cardinals, a championship wheelchair basketball team, will be on hand to help with the fundraising efforts. The event will include a live auction with autographed sports items and a series of giveaways featuring overnight hotel stays, snowboarding and goal accessories and even a Christmas tree. For more information, e-mail Mary Counts at mary.counts@cox.net.

Town of Clifton Celebrates Christmas

Holiday homes tour, horses on parade, kicks off the holiday season this Saturday.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The Historic Clifton Candlelight Tour will take place Saturday, Dec. 6 in downtown Clifton. Co-chairing the seventh-annual event are Lynn Garvey-Hodge and Jennifer Chesley.

It all begins Saturday from 2-3 p.m. with the Caroling on Horseback Parade along Main Street followed by costume judging, cookies and caroling at King Field on Chapel Street.

From 4:30-7 p.m., five homes will be festively decorated for the holidays. The event includes strolling Dickens Carolers, live music in the town churches and the neighborhood decorated with luminaries. The Clifton Baptist Church will host the musical duo of flutist Gail and her friend Karen on the harp, followed by Marcio Botelho's string trio. Chantilly High's choral singers will be performing holiday favorites at Clifton Presbyterian Church.

From 7:30-8 p.m., caroling will take place in the Ayres Town Square along with roasting of marshmallows, hot chocolate and the

lighting of the Christmas Tree at 8 p.m.

The homeowners who will be showing their festive homes are:

❖ Tom and Wendy Burdette, Clifton Heights Lane. This warm and inviting home is a "newcomer" to Clifton, sitting at the end of a pipe-stem situated at the edge of the Town of Clifton proper. Decorated in a Country French style with antique oak accent pieces, the owners prefer a traditional Christmas and holiday theme. The ornaments on the Christmas Tree have been collected for 23 years and reflect the life of a growing family.

❖ Jim and Becky Witt, Clifton Heights Lane. As one steps into this lovely home, one will hear the music of harpist Robin Brinkmann. Note the copper accessories throughout the home, which were bought while the couple traveled overseas to Greece and Turkey. The over-sized ceramic teapot in the living room is from Japan, setting the stage for a number of Asian decorative elements found through the home: six woodblock prints in the living room and one in the dining room by Japanese artist Kiyoshi Saito as well as antique cast iron Japanese teapots in the family room.

❖ Paul and Arlene Posner, Main Street. This charming Clifton home's architecture is typical of the early farmhouse style seen in abundance throughout the town. The first mayor of Clifton, Robert R. Buckley built this home in 1896. He later served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. It is a home with many fun "secrets" and "treasures." Of significance was a previous owner, Jeffrey Arch, who wrote the book "Sleepless in Seattle" while living there. The Posners have traveled the world and the treasures they have found abroad now adorn their home.

❖ Steve and Kim Bittner, "Mayhugh Tavern" on Chapel Street. The Bittners are relatively newcomers to Clifton and have found the history of their home and decorated it in a complimentary fashion. The home was moved to its current location in the 1970s. It originally faced the railroad tracks. It was originally a tavern and the exterior window and door combinations attest to a door for the tavern and a door for sleeping rooms.

❖ Brant Baber and Kathy Kalinowski, Ford Lane. This Victorian era home was built by the Ford family in 1880. The Fords owned the General Store in Clifton, which was located on the site now occupied by the Heart in Hand Restaurant. Baber and Kalinowski have lived here since 1980. In 1987, local architect Jim Hricko designed an addition for the owners that created a library for the

first floor and extended the basement apartment. In 2002, Hricko designed a new kitchen and dining area within the confines of the original structure.

Also on tour are:

❖ Clifton Baptist Church. The Clifton Baptist Church stands as a reminder of our American heritage and the freedom to worship together. Clifton Baptist Church was admitted into the Potomac Baptist Association in August 1875. Services were first held in the home of George W. Tillet along with other men who served with Mosby's Rangers during the Civil War. The first building was constructed in 1988 at the intersection of Main and Chapel Streets. The cornerstone of the present building was laid at the same intersection in Nov. 24, 1910.

❖ Clifton Presbyterian Church, Richardson Lane. The Clifton Presbyterian Church has been serving the community as a place of worship and community life since its founding in 1870 by the families of soldiers who fought in the Civil War and who settled here after the war. In the early part of the 1900s, the church acquired the manse next door and then in the 1950s added the annex for classroom, office and fellowship space. Tickets are \$15/adults and \$5/children under 12, and are available at most Clifton shops. For more information, contact Lynn Garvey-Hodge at 703-322-1811 or Jennifer Chesley at 703-830-2129.

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FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

'Amahl and the Night Visitors,' presented by the George Mason University Opera Workshop on Friday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. \$20 adults, \$10 students and children. Proceeds will benefit the Fairfax Lamb Center Day Shelter, the GMU Music Department and St. George's music program. www.stgumc.org.

Hanukkah Sing-Along on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m. in the Kitty Pozer Garden with the Kol NoVa Multigenerational Community Choir, as part of the City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. S'mores and cider available. 703-250-0554.

Pancake Breakfast with St. Nicholas and Holiday Mini-Bazaar, Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Breakfast, \$5. Photo with St. Nicholas, \$5. Children 6 and under, breakfast and photo, \$5. Ornaments, crafts, baked goods, stories, live music and more. St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 6320 Hanover Ave., Springfield. www.saintchristophers.net.

Springfield Church of Christ Wonders of Winter, on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 7512 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield. Bible lessons, games, crafts and songs. Lunch will be provided. Pre-register at 703-451-4011. Leave a message with the names and ages of each child attending. springfieldchurch@yahoo.com or www.springfieldchurchofchrist.org.

Christmas Tree Sales at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke, on Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Proceeds benefit the outreach mission of the Church. 703-323-5400 www-good-shepherd.net

Chabad of Reston-Herndon is having several Chanukah events. Contact www.chabadva.org or 703 426 1980 for tickets and information.

❖ **A Magical Chanukah at Fairfax Corner Chanukah World**, on Sunday, Dec. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4245 Summit Corner Drive, Fairfax. The Great Zucchini, Katie's Balloons, magicians, giant Menorah lighting, Chanukah children's chorus and raffle. Free Chanukah refreshments, Dreidels and balloons. Paint-your-own Dreidel or Menorah. \$5 per person.

❖ **December 25th, What's a Jew to Do?** Thursday, Dec. 25 from 5:30 p.m., at 3939 Prince William Drive, Fairfax. \$20 per person all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet, a Jewish movie, Menorah lighting, latkes, Dreidels, and chocolate "gelt."

❖ **Chanukah on Ice**, on Sunday, Dec. 28 from 5:45-7:15 p.m. at the Fairfax Ice Arena, 3779 Picket Road, Fairfax. Menorah lighting, ice-skating to Chanukah music, hot latkes and donuts. Chanukah Crafts, \$12 per person.

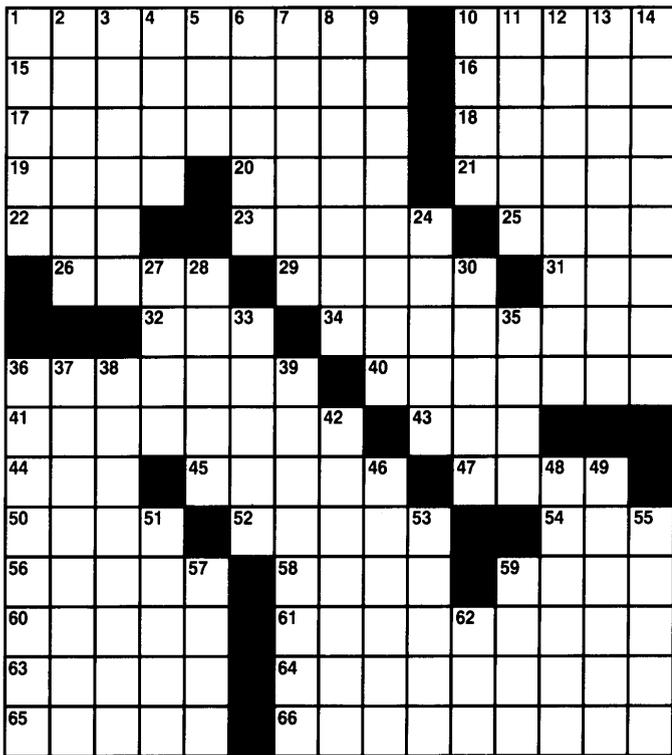
The Church of the Nativity in Burke offers a Grief Support Group for all who have suffered the death of a loved one and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, in the school building, 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, and are open to all adults at no charge. 703 533-2951.

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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0410-2



Puzzle by A. J. Santora

ACROSS

- 1 1969 Katharine Ross role
- 10 Old man
- 15 Put out
- 16 World record?
- 17 "Tell Me More" author
- 18 Forward-looking group
- 19 Mrs. Alfred Hitchcock
- 20 Suffix with leather
- 21 Not novel
- 22 Father's hermana
- 23 Slip cover
- 25 Kind of column
- 26 "Rigoletto" trio
- 29 Calla lily or cuckoo pint
- 31 Cato's craft
- 32 "— true!"
- 34 Never-failing
- 36 Skipping syllables
- 40 Like some professors
- 41 Diana, for one
- 43 Kind of no.
- 44 Mushroom ends?

- 45 Pass twice on the track
- 47 Rifle part
- 50 Handwriting on the wall
- 52 Ends of the earth
- 54 Good butter
- 56 "Splish Splash" singer, 1958
- 58 Flies home?
- 59 Bring into being
- 60 Pointed arch
- 61 Newbie
- 63 Mad plea?
- 64 Goes in front of
- 65 Elysiums
- 66 Saga of the heart

DOWN

- 1 Bravura
- 2 Sister of Clio
- 3 Apron, of a sort
- 4 Old Mogul capital
- 5 "I don't mean to —"
- 6 Went for
- 7 Grieg's dancing temptress
- 8 Court figures
- 9 Barely beats
- 10 After the hour

- 11 Alamogordo's county
- 12 Like many landscape paintings
- 13 Theater area
- 14 Did a taxing task?
- 24 Designing woman
- 27 Work on one's knight moves?
- 28 "You're Sixteen" singer
- 30 Supergiant in Cygnus
- 33 Kind of cycle
- 35 Japanese fish delicacy
- 36 Sci-fi writer Sturgeon
- 37 Sifted (through)
- 38 Gooselike
- 39 Provided that
- 42 City taken by Allied forces in 1943
- 46 Two reals, in days of old
- 48 Old radio tube
- 49 Roof worker
- 51 Best Actor of 1958
- 53 Like a bluff
- 55 Collection of brains
- 57 Kind of brief
- 59 Bandleader Fields
- 62 Two or three chevron wearer: Abbr.

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ABC LICENSE
Spicy Moon, Inc. trading as Sushijin, 5624-A Ox Rd, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jin K. OH, President

ABC LICENSE
Tong Xia Lin trading as Blue Pearl Buffet, 6820 Commerce St. Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tong Xia Liu, President

NOTICE
As of October 13, 2008, Mr. Lenin (Butch) Lobaton is no longer a manager of ASIAN IMPORTS, LLC of 8249-K Backlick Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Mr Lobaton is not authorized to engage in any business transaction on behalf of Asian Imports, LLC

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
6632 Reynard Drive, Springfield, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Janor I. Allen, dated May 27, 2005, and recorded May 31, 2005, in Deed Book 17339 at page 1597 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 12:15 p.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:
Lot 20, Section 1, Orange Hunt Estates as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 2690 at page 236, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6632 Reynard Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$45,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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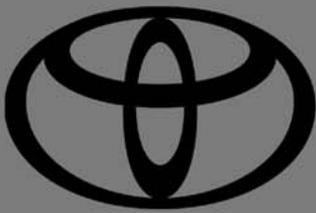
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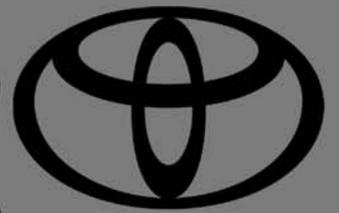


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