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Voices Of Faith

NEWS, PAGE 3

Robinson Grad Traffic Fatality

NEWS, PAGE 3

Cavs Tip Off

SPORTS, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 19 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 15

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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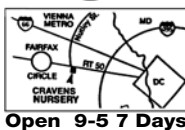
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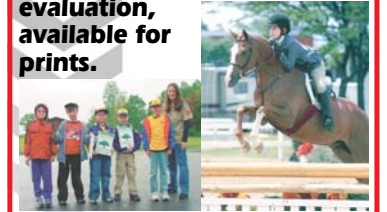


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'Never Give Up'

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.

Schools Cuts May Limit 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 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.

5-Month-Old Child Dies

Gabriel Fombang Fominyam, 5 months old, died Sunday Nov. 23, at his home in Fairfax. Gabriel was the son of Henry Fominyam and Keasha Lee; brother of Ellese Fominyam; grandson of David and Mary Lee and Nicholas and Grace Fominyam; great grandson of Mary Carter and Martina Forgwe. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives and friends. Private services will take place at a later date. Arrangements for the services are provided by Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax.

Correction

The article "Sombres Looks To Tweak Recycling Ordinance" [Fairfax Connection, Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2008] contained an error. The City of Fairfax collects recycling from residences using its own workers and trucks. The city uses a contractor at the recycling drop-off center on Pickett Road. That service is separate from residential recycling.

Black Friday Not So Black?

Loyal customers help some locally-owned 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 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 characteristics with Adeler Jewelers.

Davelle, a locally owned store in the Reston Town Center, has seen only a slight downturn in revenue. The clothing shop, which opened 17 years ago, specializes in upscale and custom-made suits and sees a lot of repeat customers.

"We serve upscale professionals. ... Most of our new business is referral," said Marc Soules, the company's chief operating officer.

The Fairfax Surf Shop, which opened in the City of Fairfax 32 years ago, also had steady sales in the weekend following Thanksgiving. The store focuses on skiing and snowboarding equipment and clothing.

"We were kind of afraid of that at first, but [the economic downturn] doesn't really seem to be affecting us that badly," said Kevin Hughes, an employee.

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.



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

"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.

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.

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 lead 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.

"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

CRIME

Activities reported by the City of Fairfax police department through Nov. 28.

BURGLARY / ASSAULT

4200 Block of Chain Bridge Road.

On Nov. 21, at 11:30 p.m., the victim reported the two suspects entered his home and struck him in the head several times with a blunt object. The suspects then stole his wallet containing cash. The suspects are described only as two black males with long braided hair wearing all dark clothing. The two men left the scene in a small gray car. The victim was treated for his injuries at Inova Fairfax Hospital. The Criminal Investigations Division is investigating the case.

FRAUD

10390 Willard Way / CVS Pharmacy.

On Nov. 23, at 2:55 p.m., store employees reported to police that a suspect in a previous case of credit card fraud was in the store. The suspect left the store prior to the arrival of police, but an officer stopped the suspect nearby. Subsequent investigation revealed the suspect to be in possession of a fictitious Washington, D.C. drivers license and several credit cards issued to the same name. Charles

SEE CRIME, PAGE 9

Home Care NEWS

Presented by
Laura & Michael
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In many parts of the country, snow and ice removal is vitally important in a place where senior citizens are coming and going; therefore, consider a heated track. A heated track continuously melts snow and ice, keeping a walkway clear and safe. The track also has a chevron pattern for added traction. The mats are portable and do not have expensive installation costs. The track not only offers safety, but it also eliminates the mess that rock salt and other ice melting products bring in a home. The mats are custom designed to fit the area in which they are intended. The cord can be on whichever side the customer needs so that it will reach the closest electrical outlet.

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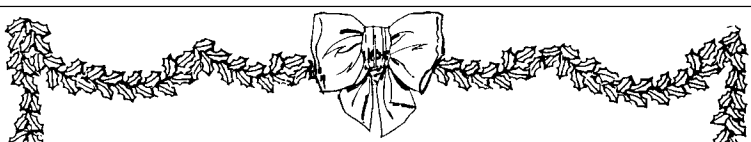
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PEOPLE

Gesher Jewish Day School Goes Green

School on Shirley Gate Road incorporates Jewish studies into its habitat.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Those who run the Gesher Jewish Day School in Fairfax have a vision of turning the 57-acre property “green” and help promote Jewish environmental education.

“The Gesher Green program is our way of actualizing a commitment we have to promoting Jewish environmental education,” said Dr. Zvi Schoenburg, head of school. “It’s a way of teaching the children the values of Judaism, about sustaining and stewarding the land.”

TO THAT END, science teacher Jeanne Leckert has different grades work on “stations” that help maintain the forest of oak and beech trees, wetlands, meadows and gardens on the property. The school has 171 students in grades K-8, and tuition is \$15,000 a year with discounts for multiple family members.

“In all of the stations, we are trying to incorporate some of the Jewish learning that they do,” said Leckert, who is also the environmental curriculum coordinator.

Students feed suet to the wrens, finches

and cardinals at six bird houses and feeders. They recycle paper, cans, bottles, plastic and glass.

“They’re learning the concept of a full circle,” said Leckert, who says they compost their lunch scraps. “They can see how that turns into soil and we use that in the gardens.”

She said her objective is many-fold. “We want to make the environment part of their education from all directions.”

Her goal is to raise students

that will care for and protect the earth in all of its aspects, by making them aware of all the habitats — from the science perspective as well as the Jewish perspective.

“It’s very powerful to build our Jewish identity as being caretakers of the land,” said Matisyahu Tonti, who adds that the Jewish community thinks a lot about the land. He teaches Judaics and started the Gesher Green program with his wife Julie and Leckert.

Tonti said God’s Second Commandment is to work and guard the land. “We can use it, develop it and grow things, however we must protect [the land].”

“In our morning prayers, we thank God for giving sight to the blind. It’s opening up

“It’s very powerful to build our Jewish identity as being caretakers of the land.”

— Matisyahu Tonti, teacher of Judaics



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Teacher Jeannie Leckert adds lunch scraps to the composting bin.

our awareness to God’s creation and to see those miracles through this lens.”

“**THE LONG-RANGE** benefits are when children are exposed at a very young age ways to treat the environment properly and to save energy and to become familiar with nature in the Jewish tradition. It’s something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives,” said Steve Adleberg, senior administrator, assistant head of school. “And they will transmit this to their own children, making it a perpetual value.”

Gesher is 26 years old and moved into its new space off Shirley Gate Road in September 2007. Staff and students quickly went

to work clearing paths and invasive plants and creating educational opportunities in the woods.

The land is blessed with its own wetlands and a vernal pond that can support amphibians and insects. The grounds include a grain garden that grows winter wheat and barley as well as a fallow field that grows golden rod. They hope to plant milkweed for monarch butterflies to feed on.

A Sabbath garden grows flowering bulbs planted by the second graders. They created this holy space for prayers and meditation as the students spend 40 percent of their day learning Hebrew and other Jewish concepts.

“The main thrust is that life doesn’t happen in the classroom,” said Leckert. “Life happens everywhere so learning has to happen everywhere.”

FOR EXAMPLE, an English assignment might take students outdoors where they could write poetry, so the land is being incorporated into the English curriculum. When they sing about the Sabbath, they’ll go out to the Sabbath garden.

The American history teacher would like to plant peanuts in the garden because that’s what soldiers ate during the Civil War.

Leckert said whatever their interests are, whatever direction their professional life takes them, the goal is for them to understand how the earth has helped to form them personally and the responsibilities they have as individuals to protect the earth.

“It’s a start. We’ve made a lot of progress,” she said. “I think we’re moving at a good clip, but we have tons of things we want to do.”

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

Saunders Named to MS Volunteer Hall of Fame

Carol Saunders was inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame at the Society’s National Conference, held in Chicago Nov. 5-7. The director of Patient Care at the Neurology Center of Fairfax, Saunders has been involved with the National MS Society, National Capital Chapter for 15 years, and has served on chapter committees, helped shape client programs, facilitated MS support groups and led a Walk MS team.



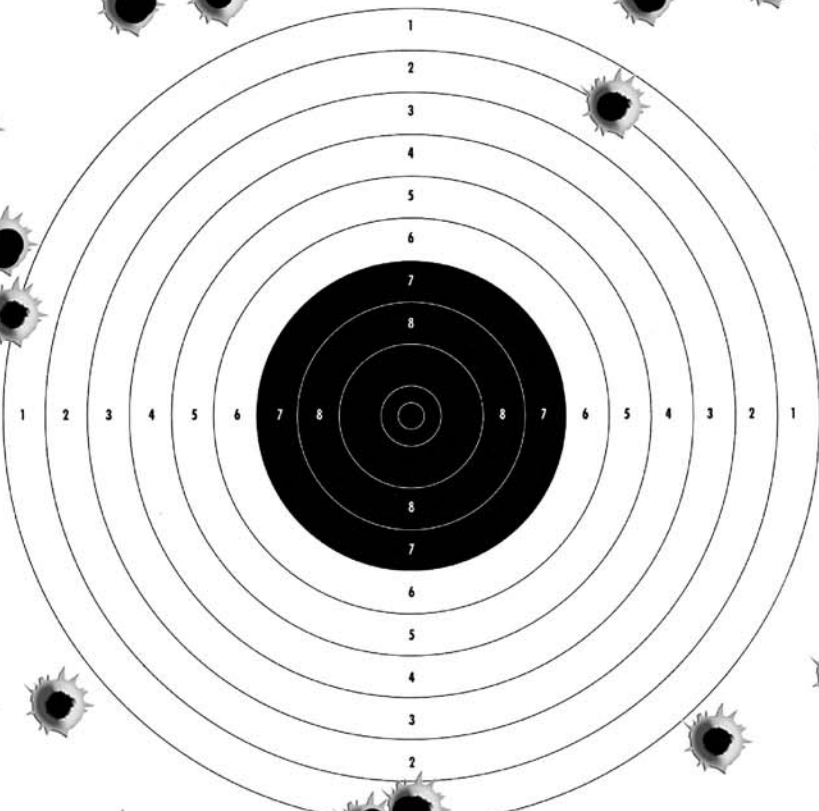
Carol Saunders

As a member of the National Capital Chapter’s Chapter Programs Committee since 1993, Saunders has worked to design and develop programs to help local individuals affected by MS cope with the disease.

ber of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, the American Nurses’ Association, and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. She has also served as a Board Member for the International Organization of MS Nurses.

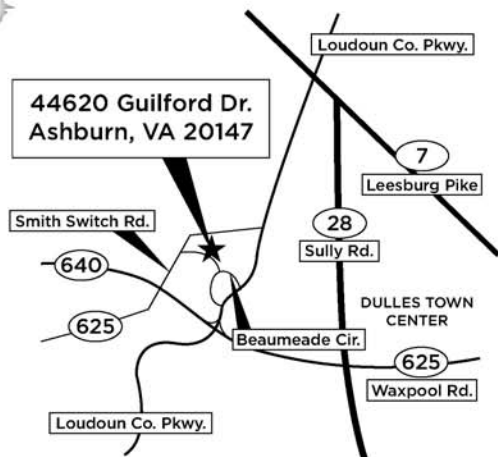
In 2001, she also joined the Clinical Advisory Committee, through which she works to educate health professionals about MS in order to promote professional development and improve patient care.

Saunders served on the National MS Society’s MS Medicare Coverage Coalition in 2004 and 2005. In 1998, she received the National Capital Chapter’s Services Award to acknowledge her extensive work with Chapter programs. Through her work at the Neurology Center of Fairfax, she has led support groups for 20 years, and is an active mem-



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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.

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CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

Deandre Antonio Harris, 29, of Spindrinth Circle, Baltimore, was charged with using fictitious identification. His bond was set at \$2,500.

IDENTITY THEFT

10100 Block of Calvary Drive. On Nov. 25, at 12:36 p.m., the victim reported that sometime between 2006 and 2008, unknown person(s) obtained his personal information and used it in another state for employment purposes.

3100 Block of Flint Lock Road. On Nov. 25, at 4:28 p.m., the victim reported that sometime between Nov. 1 and Nov. 25, unknown person(s) obtained her personal information and used it to obtain a credit card.

LARCENY

10500 Block of Assembly Drive. Sometime between Nov. 19, at 10 p.m. and Nov. 20, at 8 a.m., unknown person(s) smashed out a window on a vehicle and stole a GPS unit.

4200 Block of Sideburn Road. Sometime between Nov. 19, at 11:30 p.m. and Nov. 20, at 8 a.m., unknown person(s) smashed a window of a vehicle that was parked in front of the residence and stole a GPS unit.

10300 Block of Sager Ave. Sometime between Nov. 19, at 9:30 p.m. and Nov. 20, at 8 a.m., unknown person(s) smashed out a window on a vehicle and stole a purse.

11100 Block of Rock Garden Drive. On Nov. 21, between 12-7 a.m., unknown person(s) smashed out a window and stole a GPS unit.

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P082009 11/16/08

CALENDAR

FAIRFAX CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR FAIRFAX@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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@jhsgw.org.

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

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 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 by phone 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.,

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.



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.

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 railroad museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Many

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

different gauges, all moving, including a Garden gauge around the building. Bring model train problems to "The Train Doctor". Weather permitting, Model A autos displayed. 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.newschoollpa.org.

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,

SEE CALENDAR PAGE 12



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Scotto's Rigatoni Grill

Subway

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

\$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.

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. www.jamminjava.com.

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

Home for the Holidays



Festival of Lights & Carols
Dec 6th 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 15th—Bob Brown Puppets: Children's Series

Dec 19th—Sior Og: A Celtic Christmas

Fairfax Art League Gallery open every weekend 1-9PM

Music and Entertainment every weekend in Old Town Fairfax

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Date for your holiday calendar:

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

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 Hedge 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.

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.

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. 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. www.fxplayers.org.

Bedtime Stories with Jan Brett's Hedge 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. 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 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. www.patriotcenter.com.

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

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

"Over the North Pole," 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.

"Home for the Holidays," featuring Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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CALENDAR



The Friends of Fairfax Station present the 19th Annual Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Dec. 6-7.

FROM PAGE 13

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. Tickets are \$22-\$44, children 12 and under half price. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

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. 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.

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 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' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna.

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12596 MISTY CREEK LN	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$800,000	Detached	0.30	CENTURY OAK		
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3801 PARKLAND DR	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$695,000	Detached	0.17	PENDERBROOK		
3449 BRIARGATE CT	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$586,000	Detached	0.33	FRANKLIN FARM		
13502 VIRGINIA WILLOW DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$570,000	Detached	0.27	FRANKLIN GLEN		
10462 BRECKINRIDGE LN	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.07	COURTHOUSE SQUARE		
13108 WILLOUGHBY POINT DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$547,000	Detached	0.17	FOXFIELD		
4164 RUSH ST	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$526,500	Townhouse	0.02	CENTERPOINTE		
4576 CREWASHORE DR	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$494,990	Townhouse	0.04	FAIR CHASE		
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13311 JASPER RD	5	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$452,000	Detached	0.23	FOXFIELD		
12005 JOHNS PL	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$439,900	Townhouse	0.04	PENDERBROOK		
3620 BEVAN DR	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$430,000	Detached	0.86	EL HOGAN		
4331 MAJESTIC LN	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$425,000	Detached	0.35	GREENBRIAR		
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12452B LIBERTY BRIDGE RD #203B	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$365,000	Townhouse		E MARKET AT FAIR LAKES		
3122 PLANTATION PKWY	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$365,000	Detached	0.28	MOSBY WOODS		
13116 WILLOW STREAM LN	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$360,000	Townhouse	0.05	FAIR LAKES LAND BAY 4D		
4212 PENNER LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$355,000	Detached	0.22	GREENBRIAR		
3809 FOXFIELD LN	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.03	FOXFIELD		
13122 PELFREY LN	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$350,000	Detached	0.19	GREENBRIAR		
3867 ZELKOVA CT	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$347,000	Townhouse	0.04	FAIR WOODS		
4009 MAPLE ST	5	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$346,000	Detached	0.21	WILLIAMS WESTMORE		
4117 MAPLE ST	5	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$335,000	Detached	0.32	WARREN WOODS		
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3875 SCIBILIA RD	3	1	1	FAIRFAX	\$315,000	Detached	0.31	CHANTILLY FARM		
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12107 GREENWAY CT #101	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$212,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK		
12153 PENDERVIEW LN #2034	1	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		PENDERBROOK SQUARE		
9453 FAIRFAX BLVD #101	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$177,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		FOXCROFT COLONY CONDOS		
9493 FAIRFAX BLVD #303	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		FOXCROFT COLONY CONDOS		
10023 MOSBY WOODS DR	3	1	1	FAIRFAX	\$151,000	Other		MOSBY WOODS TH CONDOS		
9475 ARLINGTON BLVD #103	2	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$132,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		FOXCROFT COLONY CONDOS		
10722 WEST DR #103	3	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$100,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		FAIRFAX WEST CONDOS		

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2665 PROSPERITY AVE #205	\$330,000	Dec 14 from 1-4	Weichert	Mary Kathleen Shea	703-691-0555
10313 LATNEY RD	\$335,775	Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Robert Woods	703-797-2300
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All listings due by Mon. at 3pm.



Literary Award

Novelist Michael Cunningham was the recipient of the 2008 Fairfax Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Literary Arts. This award was funded by the Fairfax Library Foundation, at the 10th annual Fall for the Book Festival. The Fairfax Library Foundation Chair, Alvah Beander, presented the award at George Mason University's Harris Theater on Friday, Sept. 26. The award recognized Cunningham as an award-winning novelist including the Pulitzer Prize for The Hours. The author of 'A Home at the End of the World,' 'Flesh and Blood' and 'Specimen Day,' accepted the 2008 Fairfax Prize for an author whose works have contributed significantly to American or international culture.

“I’m excited to see what we can do.”

— Annie Griffin



Coach Pat Neri will try to match or surpass the W.T. Woodson girls basketball team’s record of 20-8 last season. The Cavaliers advanced to the Virginia AAA quarterfinals.

Cavaliers Fill the Void

W. T. Woodson girls basketball team aims to repeat last season’s wins.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

To say the W.T. Woodson girls basketball team has four rather large shoes to fill would ring true both in a literal and figurative sense. The Cavaliers lost two of their leading scorers from a season ago, which works out to just about half of the team’s offensive production.

Five-foot-10 forward Ashley Thompson averaged 8.6 points per game while teammate and good friend, 6-foot-3 center Sarah Schoof, contributed 17 points and nine rebounds per night.

“We would love to have them both back, but there was a great excitement after last season and an eagerness to get started again,” said fourth-year coach Pat Neri, whose squad finished 20-8 last season and lost to Heritage in the Virginia AAA quarterfinals.

With Schoof now playing at Iona College and Thompson attending Lynchburg, a strong backcourt and a well-groomed center will provide the keys to whether or not W.T. Woodson can repeat last year’s run.

Annie Griffin, a 6-foot-3 center who worked alongside Schoof last winter, appears ready for a breakout season. A co-captain with her frontcourt mate last year, Griffin was voted unanimously as the Cavaliers’ on-court leader this season.

THIS OFF-SEASON, Griffin worked to improve her physicality and even signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Division II Stonehill College outside of Boston, Mass.

“It was fun playing with [Schoof] last year,” Griffin said. “I learned a lot from her, so I’m excited to see what we can do.”

Her near five-points-a-game average may spike this

season, and W.T. Woodson has been spending extra time in practice working on fundamentals such as entry passes into the talented post player.

“A lot of the teams that we’re playing are not as big as us, so we’re just going to pound it in,” said junior guard Melissa Gallo, who started all of last season and will be counted upon to account for Thompson’s slashing drives and shooting touch.

“When I came in as a freshman, I was not very good at making post entries,” Gallo said. “So I really had to learn and develop those skills. Coach Neri has really gotten on me a lot about that, but it’s a great thing to learn.”

Neri joked that during the off-season he’d ride a stationary bike at Lifetime Fitness and watch Gallo enter the gym to play pick-up basketball with some of her male friends. He praised the enthusiasm she brings to the court, and it’s been evident early on.

THOUGH THE Cavaliers suffered a season-opening 51-27 loss at West Springfield (2-0) Tuesday night, Gallo poured in a team-high nine points and was still diving after loose balls with the Cavaliers down by 30 in the fourth quarter.

“The girls know that we lost some key players and we’re working hard,” said Gallo, who averaged 12 points per game last winter. “Annie and I need to lead the team and take it to the max.”

In addition to Griffin and Gallo, Neri will look to senior point guard Becca Bajkowski for offensive leadership and stability. Bajkowski averaged three assists per game last season, often sacrificing scoring with her pass-first, shoot-second approach. Junior guard Leah Bonuccelli should also take on a larger role after adding 5.3 points a game last year.

Regardless, while W.T. Woodson lost two of the Northern Region’s top offensive players, last year’s underclassmen should have the experience and skill necessary to help the Cavaliers follow last year’s success.

“We’re trying to replace two really great kids,” Neri said. “We’re sorry Sarah and Ashley are gone, but I don’t sense a fear that we can’t be competitive without them.”

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 fund-raising 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.

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.

Mixed Bag for Holiday Sales

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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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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.

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-

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.

Election Day

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.

Sherry W. Zachry
President

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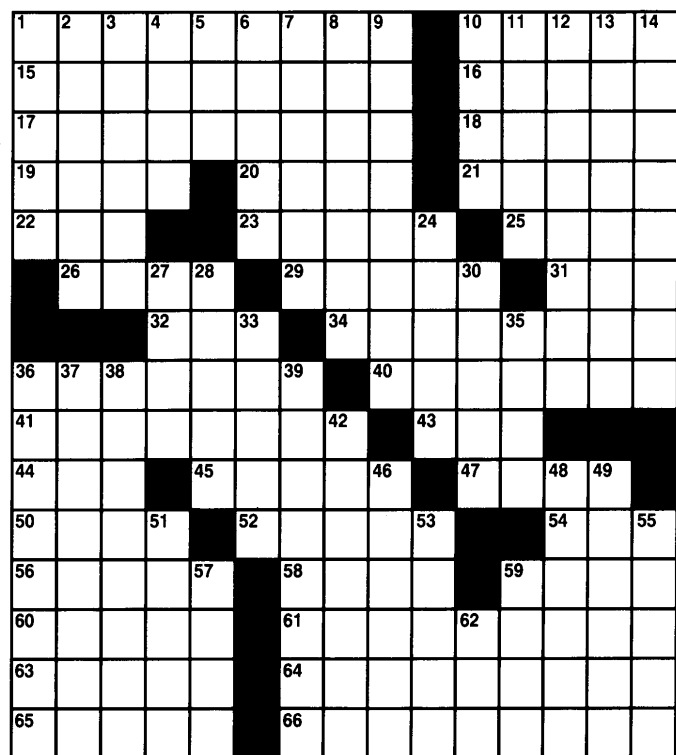
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NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

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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

- 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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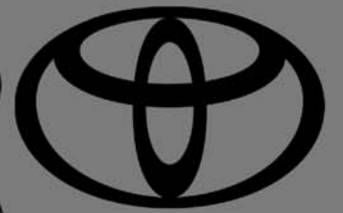


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